

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation. I am a teacher a two-room school house in the interior and I have received a potential non-retention notice last month. If we had this law in place, my district could better plan for the upcoming school year.

Thank you, William Voelkerding, Delta, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

I have been teaching for over 15 years now and I have seen the stress that school staff members feel when the budget is not finalized until late in the session. It affects all teaching staff but those most affected are the new teaching staff members whom we are having a difficult time retaining.

Thank you, E. Topaz Shryock, Juneau, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

As a retired teacher, I know firsthand how much difficult the uncertainty of the pink slip situation causes. So much of our prep-work comes in the summer as we plan for the next year. Not knowing what we will be doing creates much distress and stress and could likely be the cause of many of our teachers leaving the profession.

Thank you. Toby Campbell, Sitka, Alaska

Senator Costello—

From the small community of Petersburg I'm writing to thank you for the introduction of this resolution.

In Petersburg we currently have at least 4 young, dynamic, and critically needed teachers who could be affected by not knowing if they have contracts or not. While each is committed to our kids and our schools, they also have to plan for their futures appropriately. If the anxiety of loss of work despite they excellent performance is too much and they choose to move south or to other destinations we not only lose them next year but for the future. Thanks again and I hope your colleagues will listen and understand the issues facing young teachers in Alaska.

Thomas Thompson, Petersburg

Mia,

I know I can be critical when I don't agree but I wanted to tell you that I do agree with your budgeting bill to lockdown funding education early.

It is a difficult time but I don't want to feel like I live in a third world country just to get a permanent fund check.

Thanks again for your love for our great state ! Sven Jordan, 5628 Grand Teton

Thank you for your education proposal. Keep up the good work!

Stuart Yatsko, Alaska citizen and teacher.

February 25, 2019

Senator Costello,

Our children need great schools to provide them with the education they deserve and our state needs for the future. Alaska cannot provide this if we can't attract and keep excellent teachers! SJR 9 will help our state meet this goal. If we want our communities to continue to be strong and prosperous we need the best teaching staffs. Thank You, Patricia Wren, Houston, Alaska

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

I feel that early funding helps us be able to make the best decision for our staff and students.

Thank you, Stacey Weeks, Kenai, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am a second year teacher in Sitka, if this passes, my family and I will be able to plan our future proactively, rather than reactively. Thank you for supporting education.

Simon Gorbaty

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing this bill. As a member of the Fairbanks Council of PTAs, each year we hear the "need to know the numbers in April" a top request from our Superintendent. Forward funding was supposed to eliminate this stressor. I thank you for taking this approach. I'll be lobbying my local representatives to lend their support. Sharon Baring

Dear Senator Costello,

I appreciate the introduction of Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

While I have yet to be a recipient of the "pink slip" in my district, I know of many others who have, and I also know of many amazing teachers who no longer find this career to be worth the heartache or the constant upheaval and inconsistency. Thank you, Sara Jacoby, Sitka, AK, Mt. Edgecumbe High School

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

I have been pink slipped, and know many others, which in addition to the stress of not knowing if you have a job come fall, causes excessive movement of teachers which breaks up school community and continuity for students.

Thank you, Sandra Hernandez, Anchorage, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

I have been as teacher for almost 6 years now and each year the anxiety and uncertainty of "pink slips" looms over the last part of the school year! Even as a tenured teacher going into my sixth year, this is what I struggle with each year. When I became a teacher I didn't know that my career would be in limbo each and every year from budgeting concerns nor did I know that I would also be funding most items for my classroom or the food that many of my students would eat! I love my career choice and would do it all over in a heartbeat just for these students, but knowing that I had job security would make it more that much easier.

I have seen and known so many teachers that just end up moving out of state to teach just because of the stability that other states have when it comes to job security for education. I was born and raised here in Alaska and I want nothing more than the same for my own four children, however, that may change if certain budgeting concerns aren't addressed. Thank you for taking the time to listen as I truly appreciate it!

Thank you, Samantha Farmer Anchorage, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation. I am a teacher in Brevig Mission. This bill will provide the stability that is so beneficial to the success of my students.

Thank you, Rebecca Siegel, Brevig Mission, AK

I support Senate Joint Resolution 9. School Districts need to know as early as possible what they can count on in order to budget for the school year and also be able to hire needed staff as soon as possible.

Thank you, Randy Busch, Kodiak, Alaska

I encourage your support of SJR9 which would set an earlier deadline for confirming the education budget. This would relieve school districts of sending needless layoff notices and take away a stressful situation from the many teachers who have received them, sometimes for several years in a row. It would also lead to less turnover in our teaching staffs, where teachers look elsewhere, often Outside, for jobs that offer more security.

Phyllis Rude, Retired teacher from Anchorage

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

I am a retired teacher, and I know how important this funding is to our education system. Our children are the future of Alaska. They need a great education

Thank you, Patricia Stark, P.O. Box 82525, Fairbanks, Ak 99708

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

Funding for education should not equate to pink slips and the unknown for educators, students, and their families. All too often, quality educators experience the stress of packing up a classroom without knowing if they'll have a job that following school year. If they do have a job, they don't always know where it will be until after the school year starts, sometimes after they have already set up their classroom somewhere else. I also know we have lost some excellent teachers who have either left the field of education or simply moved out of state.

A happening close to home involved the second graders at my school during this current school year. Based on the budget, projected numbers versus actual numbers, plus a family matter of one teacher involved, many second graders at my school had three teachers within the first month of school. That was disconcerting at best, and traumatic for many students. I thank you again for prioritizing public education and its funding.

Sincerely, Pamela Stahl, Wasilla, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

Every year, we lose good educators because we have to pink slip. Or we lose them because they can't stand the uncertainty of whether or not they have a job. Then, when the legislature finally does get its act together, it's too late to hire anyone good from out of state because they sorted their hiring in the lower 48 in March or April. These are real problems, and schools and students shouldn't be forced to endure this just because education is the state government's favorite political toy.

SJR 9 is one of the few reasonable things I've seen this year. Please help make it happen.

Thank you, Nathan Erfurth, Kenai, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

I am an itinerant school counselor of the Southern Kenai Peninsula serving Homer FLEX High School, Nanwalek K-12, Nikolaevsk K-12, Port Graham K-12, and Susan B. English K-12 (Seldovia) weekly. I also serve Chapman K-Middle in Anchor Point on consult. I am greatly concerned about the turnover that will continue to impact my students in communities if this resolution is not passed.

At Nikolaevsk this year we have 2 tenured teachers out of 6 full time teachers. The potential for 4 teachers being pink slipped will be devastating to our school and community. We have an incredible dedicated and knowledgeable staff. They have established relationships with out students and community that cannot be immediately replaced by other tenured teachers. In addition, these educators have the multicultural lense of working in this particular Russian Orthodox community and serving its' wonderful students.

This is just one example of many of the schools that I serve. At 7 years I am the longest serving itinerant school counselor for my schools. The relationships that educators possess with their students are often time a students' life line and safety net. Suicide risk assessments have grown exponentially in our school district. Often times it is a concerned educator or a student reporting to an educator about themselves or another student that save lives. This relationship takes time and educators leaving out of fear of pink slips or being pink slipped impacts the safety of our students.

I have seen a great deal of educators leave in order to seek new opportunities and retention in rural schools can be challenging. However, the tides are turning and the last thing that should happen is that educators that strive to remain in their positions are pushed out. This is exactly what will happen if we do not have a budget deadline that is sustainable. I applaud your efforts for proposing this very important legislation.

Best regards, Natali Jones

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

I am an educator without tenure in Alaska. I waited for ten years to be able to move myself and my family to Sitka. I am now facing the possiblity of giving up our Alaskan dream and heading back down south due the K-12 budgetary concerns and my districts decision to RIF all non-tenured teachers. SJR 9 could ensure that my current reality will not be that of future Alaskan educators. Thank you, Mindy Samman, Sitka, AK

Thank you for proposing this bill! Mindy Hunter

Thanks very much for doing this! What a fantastic idea. Melinda Smodey

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for understanding that the future of our state lies with our children. Funding education should be our primary focus. Thank you for introducing SJR 9. Sincerely, Maura Morson, Anchorage AK

Dear Mia Costello,

I just want to write you and thank you again for your work on SJR 9. I was just talking to Starr Marsett yesterday, Chair of the Anchorage School Board. She was telling me that she was still worried about pink slips and worried about backdoor deals that could happen overnight in the senate or house to undo that forward funding we had already passed and signed by Governor Walker last year. We need predictable and sustainable education funding so that we do not continue to churn in and churn out teachers. Our state cannot afford this churning system that most of all sacrifices a quality education to our students. Sincerely, Marnie Hartill, Vice President of Programs, Anchorage Education Association

Please help schools to be able to manage their budgets by knowing what their next year funding looks like earlier in the school year. Please support SJR 9,

Thank you, Mark Lyke

Dear Senator Castillo,

I am writing to you in support of Senate Joint Resolution 9. This is my twenty-second year as a teacher in the Anchorage School District. Funding education in a timely manner does not only prevent unnecessary pink slips it allows all school employees to focus one hundred percent on their job. Five of my twenty-two years everyone in my department was displaced due to lower funding. We continued to do our job, but it was only natural for us to struggle giving our job the full attention due to wondering where we were going to end up the following school year. I can't imagine the impact of wondering if I would even have a job! The amount of lost productivity lost due to the lack of timely funding can't adequately be measured, but I guarantee it is very expensive! I hope this will provide additional information for you to get Senate Joint Resolution 9 passed.

Thank you, Lynda Van Winkle, 2454 Tulik Dr, Anchorage, AK 99517

Please support this bill. I remember how stressful it was when both my husband and I were pink slipped.

Loretta Curgus

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

As an educator that was displaced a few years ago, caused me a lot of undue stress. During the time that I was being displaced, March through May, I had to go on many interviews to be picked up from another school. I should have been at school prepping for my class during that time and spend time with my family. This job already takes a lot of time away from family in order to be prepared for the next day, let alone grading. Also, the funding is so important so the students get teachers who are not stress about if they will have a job or have to transfer to another school or state. We have so many great teachers! Let's not lose them because we can't fund the most important job, educating our future! Thank you, Lonna DePaepe, Anchorage, AK

Senator Costello,

I'll keep this brief, but I can't pass up the opportunity to say thank you for sponsoring SJR9. This is a much needed amendment and a step in the right direction. Education funding needs to be done early. It will also be quite beneficial to remove education funding from the negotiations of the main operating budget. It is an essential and constitutionally mandated service provided by the state, and it deserves this priority attention.

Also, thank you for attending the Anchorage Caucus on Saturday (though you missed a great discussion in the break out session).

Looking forward to seeing you in Juneau the week after next! Lem Wheelles

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

As a teacher any additional certainty is helpful as we work to maintain continuity of instruction and environment for our students. Thank you, Laurie Hueffer, Fairbanks, AK

On behalf of the students in the Delta/Greely School District, I would like to thank you for your efforts to improve our funding situation with your introduction of SJR9. Your assistance is greatly, greatly needed and appreciated.

Laural Jackson, Superintendent

Delta/Greely School District

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

I am a school counselor in an Alaska school district. I have such respect for my colleagues who work every day to make the schools where I am employed engaging, safe and positive spaces for students. I appreciate the effort you are making to reduce uncertainties of employees. Thank you, Lakota R. M. Holman, Anchorage, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

I can't thank you enough for introducing SJR 9.

With the pending budget cuts to education, this is a much needed move towards teacher retention.

I currently work for LYSD and will not be offered a contract until the district understands what will happen with the budget.

While I know this is specific to this year's events, in the past I have had many friends on the pink slip roulette game.

I very much appreciate and support all your efforts to end this cycle. Thank you, LA Piper, Alakanuk – LYSD

Dear Senator Costello:

Please support SJR 9 the Constitutional Amendment: Appropriation Bill for Public Education.

My reasons:

1)Such a fundamental corner stone of our democracy should be firmly supported- perhaps this will slow down the persistant and growing efforts to dismantle our system.

2) Allow our educators/administrators/communities to channel their efforts into strengthening our system instead of juggle two or more "maybe" budgets each year.

Seriously – with the constantly changing standards, assessments, and budgets – being in education is too much like being Charlie Brown playing football with Lucy--- We get close—then the target gets reset!!

The education of my children and grandchildren is too important to our future for us to continue this game of Political Football.

Thank you, Kristie Wall

Life long Alaskan resident, fisherman, educator, parent and grandparent

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation for one big reason. If this became law, it would offer school districts, like mine, the ability to keep the teachers we have and not force them to pink slip, while waiting for state funding to finalize. It allows school districts to plan for their future and focus on their programs and students, rather than plan on areas to cut in their budget, which hurts the future of our state. Stabilizing the budget makes our school districts stronger, and knowing what that it is early on in the legislative session is a win-win for us all. Sincerely, Kathy Simpler, Kodiak

Thank you for this bill. Our children are the future. We all gain from all children being educated fairly!

We don't need the PFD. That is not why I moved up here. The PFD is a luxury and while we worry where that money would go once in hands of some legislators, we need funds so people can afford to buy a house. I'm selling mine partly due to the taxes being so high and then bank interest etc. Go 4 ed!

Ms Kathleen S. Neumaier, M.Ed

Thank you for introducing SJR nine I support this legislation .

I was born and raised in Alaska my children were born and raised in Alaska and I am an Alaskan teacher. It is important that teachers in Alaska are able to plan for their livelihood and forward funding education would help retain quality teachers and avoid laying off teachers just because of uncertain budget cycles.

Thank you for this legislation. I hope it passes. Karl Jordan, Sitka, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am in support of this legislation.

The reason I support this legislation is not just personal, but as an educator my students interest and needs come first. I have been teaching for 14 years. This is my first year in Alaska. I've enjoyed my experience here and would love to return. When the district I work for notified all non tenured teachers they may not have positions next year because of the budget, I was saddened. I was not only saddened for myself, but for my students and future students. The students deserve consistency and the right to know that some adults, like educators, want to be there for them. I think most human beings want to know as early as possible if they have a job. The uncertainty of a budget may lead teachers to give up a satisfying position for a more secure one elsewhere. This is very heartbreaking for students who already have a lot of inconsistency in their lives.

Therefore, in the best interest of the students it would be beneficial to pass Senate Joint Resolution 9.

Thank you, Karey Herbert, 3rd Grade Teacher, Emmonak School, LYSD

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

Thank you, Jeffrey Clay, Sitka, AK

Dear Mia,

On behalf of the students who suffer when excellent but new, non-tenured teachers are pink slipped each year, thank you for introducing SJR 9.

I am a 20+ year experienced & seasoned teacher, but taught for all but 2 of those years outside ASD. For purposes of staffing, I am one who would be pink slipped without forward funding. I am also a 35 year Alaska resident, and dedicated to working with the students who have had the LEAST advantages in life.

I work with mostly immigrant, refugee & other students learning English for the first time. They are amazing kids! They deserve every advantage that we can offer in our schools, since life has handed them almost none.

I view my job as a race against time & the odds stacked against them, to help them learn everything they can in school: to not just survive, but THRIVE in Alaska or wherever and whatever they choose to do in life. Public education should provide nothing less.

Thanks for your steadfast support. Keep fighting! I am right there with you (just inside the classroom, rather than inside the capitol)! With Gratitude,

Jeanne Larsen, Academic English Learner Teacher: Fairview, Northwood, Turnagain, Chugach

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for your support of public education. Our school districts desperately need the support of our state legislature, and SJR 9 will guarantee our kids will not have to go without, and our teachers will not receive pink slips at the end of the year.

Thank you so much! Janet Copping, Anchorage, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

I myself went back to school to earn my teaching certification as a second career as I feel that educating our young people is of paramount importance. I was truly impressed by my children's school (Rilke Schule) and their experience there thoroughly solidified my support of the Anchorage School District. I am currently teaching there as a first time, full time educator and I now face potential layoffs.

To ensure that our state retains high quality educators it is necessary to change the current system as your bill proposes. I already took a substantial pay cut to go into the teaching profession as I felt that it was the right thing to do however I do want and need to retain my position. Thank you, Jane Wahlman, Anchorage, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for considering SJR 9. Over the past 20 years working in education I have yet to have a year where uncertainty in funding has not impacted our school climate. We deserve consistency.

I strongly support this resolution! Thank you, Jake Parrett, Homer, Larsen Bay, Ouzinkie

Please support Public Education in Alaska. As a product of our public education system, a graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and a public school teacher in Alaska for the last 21 years, I know first hand the value of our public education system.

Please support funding public education so that Alaskan children and young adults may continue to become our future leaders. Ingrid Petrie

Thank you so much for your support and for remembering Alaska's children our the future.
Thank you, Hillary Thomas , Matsu District

Thank you, Senator Costello, for supporting education and early funding. We have a teacher crisis in the nation and with a retirement system in Alaska for new teachers, or teachers that once paid into the social security system, that ranks literally at the bottom, we are facing growing shortfalls of educators in the state. Your joint resolution is a great first step to recognizing the issue, and addressing the problem head on.

Again, I think you for realizing how important early funding is in attracting and retaining educators to our great state. Sandi

Dear Senator Costello,
Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation. My grandmother taught in Alaska in the '60-70's, my mother in the '80-90's and I'm on my 21st year as a special education teacher. I grew up in this great State, want to live here and am able to work as a carpenter if need be, otherwise I probably would have left years ago as I was pink slipped each of my first 3 years before gaining tenure. As a special education teacher I was able to continue teaching but many of my fellow teachers left the profession and many left the State. Early funding for education needs to be a priority, not sure why it has taken this long to figure that out. Thank you, Eric Willets, Soldotna

Dear Senator Costello,
Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation. As a teacher, I see first-hand the brain drain that occurs every year as our best teachers leave for more secure climes out of state. In Sitka, we use to have upwards of 30 people apply for jobs, now, positions have become difficult to fill, and we rarely get superstars to fill the positions. Until the funding problem is fixed, Alaskan students will not have the education they deserve. Thank you, Emily Demmert, Sitka, AK

Dear Senator Costello:
Thank you for introducing SJR 9. I have taught for two years in rural Alaska and am now looking for a job because my school doesn't have a budget yet. Thank you. Emily Annas, Emmonak, Alaska

Dear Senator Costello,
I would like to let you know as an educator on the Kenai from a rural village school, that I am in support of SJR 9. I have seen over the past 20 years that we have lost many great educators because of the dreaded "pink slips" that happen every spring to almost half of our hired staff. Then the additional scare of having to leave your school that you are devoted to because there is no education budget passed until summer or fall. Your bill would be a solution that has existed in this state for the past 21 years!

I raised my children here on the Kenai and felt Alaska's public school system was the finest and was one of the main reasons I moved my family to this state from Michigan.

Today I am concerned that Alaska's education system and funding is close to dead last in the nation. Why does the legislature do this to education every year when it is written into the constitution of the state. Thank you for your sponsorship of this bill. Sincerely, Elaine Chalup

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation. It is very difficult to plan for my students if I am not sure if I will remain employed. Students need routine and structure. Thank you, Donald Hennessey, Anchorage, AK

I'm a new teacher in the state of Alaska. I earned my master's and my teaching certification from UAF.

This awful uncertainty is one reason I'm going to a teacher job fair in Portland. It's personal now.

Budgets like Dunleavy's, the undeserved stress of losing my job, and the embarrassing retirement for teachers are all disrespectful to Alaskan teachers. I see where we stand.

Please help us. Thank you, Denise Kamm, MSBSD teacher

Thanks for standing up for teachers. There are many reasons I support this bill, mainly because Alaska desperately needs to attract GOOD teachers. We cannot expect to have good public education if the budget is uncertain every single year.

I was hired in 1994 by Mat-Su and because of funding I wasn't hired full time until 1997. I sub-taught and worked one year out on Kodiak (leaving my family here). In 1998 I was "pink slipped" ie; laid off! So...I subbed for another year. Believe me that gets real old after awhile. So many disgruntled teachers, not feeling very appreciated, college loans to pay off as well as many raising families. And to top it off, I lost two years of seniority because of that so my retirement pension is smaller than planned.

I absolutely loved teaching middle school and finally finished 20 years and retired. Today, all I hear from the state legislature is what a heavy burden our pensions are. No mention of the fact that I paid into it for over 20 years to the tune of \$100,000. Because of our self-pay system my social security was cut by 40% as well!

Again thank you for doing (again) what Gov. Walker intended and what is the right thing to do.

Debra L Buzdor, Retired Mat-Su teacher, Debra Buzdor

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

As a teacher in the Matsu School District, I have been lucky enough to never get a pink slip or worry about my retention for the next year. If i had to go through this, I might not be able to stay in the profession. SJR9 could keep this nightmare from happening to other teachers and will keep teachers in the profession and in the state.

Thank you, Dana Avugiak, Wasilla, Alaska

I support Senate Joint Resolution 9. School Districts need to know as early as possible what they can count on in order to budget for the school year and also be able to hire needed staff as soon as possible.

Thank you, Dan Busch, Kodiak, Alaska

I support Senate Joint Resolution 9. School Districts need to know as early as possible what they can count on in order to budget for the school year and also be able to hire needed staff as soon as possible.

Thank you, Dan Busch, Kodiak, Alaska

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing SJR9. I am writing to you in support of this legislation. As a classroom teacher in rural Alaska, budget stability plays a huge roll in my daily life. the annual uncertainty around the budged can be very troubling for not only myself and colleagues, but also for my students as well. Students wonder if their teachers will still be here next year, they wonder if our school will be able to purchase enough supplies for them. Living in a small rural village, community is incredibly important. Teachers all over our great state impact students every day, but I truly believe that those of us in rural positions impact them in a different way. We celebrate their birthdays, their first catches of the season, the lives of elders, new births, and even the deaths in the community. Being a teacher in a small village isn't just about teaching and going home, it's about becoming a full-on member of the community- for this reason, when teachers are uncertain about their future in our state it provides a rippling and crippling effect to our communities. Thank you again for your support,

Cory 'Aigailnguq' Hughes, ext 6815,

Department Head: Social Studies

Certified Secondary Social Studies

Anna Tobeluk School Memorial School

Nunapitchuk, Alaska

Dear Senator Costello,

I am writing in support of Senate Joint Resolution 9. Thank you for introducing this to Legislation.

I have been in education three years, and every single Spring I become anxious; not knowing if I have a job come next fall. I feel that this Resolution will bring many School Distict employees comfort and ease. I am excited to see what happens next! Thank you so very much!

Carrollynn Peterson, Paraprofessional, Kenai Peninsula School District

Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing SJR 9; this change is needed and way overdue.

A concerned constituent, Carolyn Tague, Sand Lake

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

As of today, 12 March, 2019, there are over 40 teaching positions open in Anchorage School District. In May, when the "pink slips" go out, some of those teachers leave Alaska to teach elsewhere. It is difficult enough to teach all we need to each day to reach our children. It's even more difficult to teach when we have 40+ less teachers in one district. When there are shortage of teachers, other teachers may take up double duty during the school day or other positions/subject areas go unaddressed. A huge deficit for all our students.

Please support SRJ 9 to prevent more teachers from leaving our State and the profession.

Thank you, CarolAnne Mocarski

Special Education Department Chair/Special Schools

Anchorage School District

(907) 742-4094 work

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for all you do.

Education is THE most important thing in our country. Weren't we always taught to invest in our future? Alaskan Children are the future and we need to do better for them. Our educators need YOUR HELP to be able to nourish our children's minds and hearts so they can THRIVE, not just struggle to make it through. The future of Alaska depends on it. Thank you for your time. Carly Jones-Maurer

Thanks for introducing this legislation! Brittany Bauman, Anchorage, AK

Senator Costello,

I'm writing today to express my support for SJR 9. Alaskan educators, especially those entering the profession need to see earlier budgets so that they can have peace of mind in their employment. It's crazy that teachers don't know their employment status until, in some cases, weeks or days before the school year starts. Instead of applying for jobs and preparing for the worst, educators should be focusing on professional development. This can only be good for our educators and students.

Best Wishes, Brandon L. Lewsader, English/Drama Teacher, Ryan Middle School, Fairbanks, AK

I support and appreciate this bill that you have sponsored. It makes sense. Nice job
Benjamin L. Carney, Resident of Juneau

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

I have been a teacher for over 20 years. Fortunately, I am tier 2, however, my younger colleagues do not have the retirement benefits that affords me. Consequently, they already have a reason to move on to another career. In talking to several last year at the teacher academy, two were planning on leaving the state after being pink slipped. Another one was recognized as an outstanding educator, but lost her position to someone tenured, and just doing the minimum in the job. I think all of us have heard these stories.

Funding for education would provide new educators with more stability, and more reason to stay in this demanding profession. At least they would know where they stand for the summer.

Thank you, Becky Forsyth, Anchorage, AK

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation.

I work at the Craig City School District and find that when contract negotiations come around, our school is consistently trying to guess what the budget will allow for employee compensation packages and ultimately results in too conservative of contracts and minimal pay raises. Alaska is a rural state and communities like ours need to be able to attract employees who are competent and can earn a wage that allows them to live comfortably. The decrepit retirement program is no longer a factor in educator compensation packages, the cost of living in Alaska is very high and even homegrown educators are finding it hard to return/remain in our state. Please continue to fight for public education and those who support it. Thank you, Barbara Schneider, Craig, Alaska

Honorable Senator Mia Costello;

Thank you very much for introducing SJR 9. I am a retired teacher from Bethel. I appreciate your assistance for kindergarten through grade 12 public education. I like to see early funding information for school boards and administration. They will be able to hire the best teachers.

I would also like to see our teacher retirement improved to attract and retain the best teachers.

Thank you again. Sincerely yours, Barbara Mosier

Thank you for supporting education and introducing SB9. Year in and year out great educators leave our district and profession because of the uncertainty in their jobs for the next year. Early funding would allow those educators and support professionals to know if they had a job the following year. This would keep great people in our classrooms educating our future generations. Keep up the hard fight, Andrea Thompson

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 9. I am writing in support of this legislation. As a teacher in the Juneau School District, I see firsthand the uncertainty and stress that come every year as districts try to figure out their budgets when state funding is still up in the air. This negatively affects morale as teachers wonder if they'll have a job the following year. By forward funding education, much of this stress will be eliminated.

Thank you. Amy Witt, Juneau

Dear Senator Costello,

I'm writing to you in support of SJR 9. Thank you for understanding the unnecessary stress this causes teachers, administrators and districts in general.

I am a resource aide in a large elementary school and this stress is understandably noticeable. Let's please pass this, and let teachers focus at the job at hand, rather than having to worry about their job security.

Sincerely, Amy Russell, Homer, AK

Dear Senator Castello,

Thank you for introduction Senate Joint Resolution 9 and I am writing in support of this motion. Our schools need to know earlier where the funding stands so our teachers have stability and also don't apply for back up jobs while waiting for funding to come in every year. I work in the Sitka School District and I know that these last few years of unknown funding until late dates are stressful and cause people who are great teachers to leave Sitka, and Alaska as well. We want a strong educational system in out state for the future of our fellow Alaskans.

Thank you, Amy Rowe Danielson

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for your leadership in advancing the logistical needs of K-12 education and proposing funding education first. I am just as eager as anyone to dramatically improve the quality of education our students receive. And truly, the administrators and teachers in our school district work tirelessly to do just that. I am eager to move into 21st century education (as we're already 19 years in...) and am supportive of building new education models that better fit the demands of today's world. I believe that's how we'll see the best reduction in spending while providing world-class education to our students. Trying to fit 21st century needs into a 1950s education model is never going to be cheaper. But planning is a critical part of that process if our goal is to find the best way forward. So thank you for stepping out in support of Alaska's future.

Best wishes, Alisha Hilde, Anchorage School Board member