



January 31, 2020

Representative Andy Josephson
Member House Finance Committee
State Capitol Room 502
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Josephson,

Thank you for introducing House Bill 30.

At the NEA-Alaska Delegate Assembly on January 18th, 2020 NEA-Alaska members voted to support an adjustment to Alaska's Worker's Compensation rates for whole person partial permanent impairment (PPI). It is clear that after 19 years since the last update, and in comparison to other states, a modernization to Alaska's Worker's Compensation PPI rates is long overdue.

Like many working Alaskans, our educators can face regular threats and injury while working in our classrooms and schools. In particular, our Special Education teachers and paraprofessionals are often subject to violence and physical harm while working with students.

For example, a Special Education teacher had her toe smashed by an aggressive student. After some healing and recovery, the student stomped on her foot again leaving her with a permanent impairment to her body. This injury will be with her for the rest of her life. As a result of her lifelong, permanent disability, she was awarded a modest amount in worker's compensation. The amount of compensation for her injury was almost an insult and did little to compensate her for the pain she will endure for the rest of her life.

NEA-Alaska strongly supports House Bill 30 and urges its swift passage.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to supporting House Bill 30 as the legislative process unfolds.

Sincerely,

Tim Parker
President, NEA-Alaska