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**From:** Dan Maclean [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2022 3:03 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please support HB 220

House Finance Committee:

I am writing this letter to urge your support for HB 220. I am a concerned parent of three children in the Anchorage School District, a fifteen year teacher there, and a super voter.

A child's classroom teacher more of an impact on their education than any other factor. The present Alaska retirement system actively discourages people from becoming teachers and encourages teachers to leave.

Alaska has a teacher shortage now. The Anchorage School District alone has 100 teaching for which no one has even applied. My understanding is that many rural school districts throughout the state have an even higher percentage of vacant positions. Predictions are the shortage will just continue to get worse.

Teacher turnover alone costs the state approximately \$20 million dollars per year. Just by becoming a teacher, you lose social security benefits earned at other jobs. The sooner you quit teaching, the sooner you can start re-earning the social security already lost. Under the present system, teachers have to leave teaching and it costs the state money.

HB 220 and a return to a defined benefit would cost the state and school districts no more than the present system. But it would increase teacher retention and reduce turnover costs.

There are multiple safe guards built into HB 220 to prevent another unfunded liability for the state.

Please support HB 220. It will save money immediately and provide a foundation for the future of Alaska.

Dan Maclean

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**From:** Lisa Nikirk [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2022 3:58 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please pass HB 220

Dear Honorable Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee, I respectfully urge you to pass HB 220, a cost neutral bill that would help decrease high rates of turnover among Alaska's public employees by allowing them a chance to earn a more secure retirement.

I am an elementary school teacher in Anchorage and have been teaching here for 14 years. I am finding it harder and harder to stay in Alaska. Due to being on Tier III, my retirement is unstable, at best. That scares me. I am reaching a point where I will have to decide if I should move out of state for financial stability in my retirement. Please help make that decision easier for me and teachers like me and pass HB 220.

Thank you for your consideration and public service,

Lisa Roberts  
Anchorage

Sent from my iPhone