



# REPRESENTATIVE ALYSE GALVIN

Serving Alaska House District 14  
Anchorage: Roger's Park, Midtown, Tudor, and Spenard

March 9, 2026

**The Honorable Rebecca Himschoot**  
**Co-Chair, House Education Committee**  
**Alaska State Capitol Room 411**  
**Juneau, AK 99801**

**The Honorable Andi Story**  
**Co-Chair, House Education Committee**  
**Alaska State Capitol Room 403**  
**Juneau, AK 99801**

**Re: Follow-up to Committee Questions on HJR 39 (H-1B Visa Fees)**

Dear Chairs Himschoot and Story and Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for listening to our presentation of HJR 39 and for your questions. President Trump signed a proclamation that restricts the entry of H-1B visa holders into the United States or approval of new H-1B visas for individuals overseas unless their U.S. employers pay a \$100,000 fee. This fee shuts the door on many H-1B workers and has disrupted Alaska's education system. Below are follow-up responses to questions posed by committee members at the March 2, 2026 hearing.

**1. Representative Eischeid asked how many H-1B teachers are employed in Anchorage.**

The number of H-1B teachers statewide has been increasing in recent years according to the Alaska Educator Retention and Recruitment Center (AERRC). In Anchorage specifically, sixty-six teachers are on H-1B in the current school year (2025-2026) which is the largest amount thus far. The Anchorage School District's previous hiring shows nine H-1B teachers hired in the 2021-2022 school year, ten during the 2022-2023 school year, and thirty-one in the 2023-2024 school year. While the number of H-1B teachers in ASD has been on a trend increase the past couple of years, the new fee is likely to stop the hiring of these teachers altogether and create teacher deficits within all of Alaska's schools.

**2. Representative Schwanke asked if we know what other states are doing in response to the proclamation.**

Many states are already pursuing litigation as of December 2025. The attorneys general of 20 states, including California and New York, are suing the Trump administration over its decision to impose a \$100,000 fee on H-1B visas. The states are asking a federal court to block the policy

and declare it unlawful due to it drastically limiting staffing options for critical positions, such as nurses and teachers.

The states involved include Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

While legal advice is not our intent, many factors make litigation a viable route for the State of Alaska because of our reliance on international educators. The unique composition of weather, geography, rural sales tax, and lack of competitive viability in terms of pay and benefits for teachers, makes our reliance on H-1Bs comparatively more crucial than other states. Particularly in rural communities, teachers are often young and just out of school. They usually don't last long and move to the lower 48 for more competitive job offers and less challenging locales. If other states have deemed litigation as their chosen response, Alaska perhaps ought to consider similar course of action due to our inability to retain in-state educators. Building local capacity takes time and H-1B's have been an effective solution for many Alaska school districts in filling staff deficits.

**3. Rep. Dibert asked if there is any form of preparation for these educators going into communities and integrating into the culture?**

The AERRC oversees cultural orientation programs for educators entering rural communities. Cultural heritage is not only significant to the way of life for many remote communities, but is integrated into their education curriculum. These programs ensure that new hires enter the community with prior knowledge of the culture, and are requirements of taking the position.

I'd also like to note that Filipino educators are the prevalent frequenters of H-1B's for education in Alaska. In the Kuspuk school district alone, 60% of the teaching staff are H-1B holders, and 100% of those visa educators are Filipino. Filipino culture shares similar values with Alaska Native cultures of community and family ties, and their degree programs are similar enough to the U.S.'s that credential verification is easy. Integration is often seamless for the dominant group that uses H-1Bs. Cultural integration is made easy in part due to the origin of the foreign educators and the programs that AERRC manages.

Sincerely,



Rep. Alyse Galvin