

From: [Diana Johnson](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: H1-B visas for educators
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 7:41:59 AM

House Education committee,

Please waive the visa fee for international educators working in Alaska schools. They are serving in vital roles that are difficult to staff. Without them, our schools will likely be staffed by unqualified staff, such as long term subs with no education training.

Diana Johnson

From: [Mary Hacker](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: H1-B Waiver
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 10:00:53 AM

I recently learned that 500 Alaska educators are working under a legal visa H1-B. Our shortsighted government is now charging an extravagant fee of \$100,000 for this opportunity which I fear will have drastic effect on the quality of education for our students.

Please support HJR39 which would waive these fees!

Mary Hacker
Retired educator

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From: [Sherry Eckrich](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HJR 39 Waivers
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 6:56:25 AM

Support for Alaskan teachers who have entered our state from other countries in good faith is essential if we are to have any sort of decent educational system. Neither the individuals involved nor the school districts that have hired them can afford to pay \$100,000 a pop for H-1B visas. Please support this resolution.

Sherry Eckrich

[REDACTED]
Eagle River, AK [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HJR39 Waives teacher H-1B Visa Fees
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 9:00:30 AM

Dear Legislators,

Please, vote on waiving this fee for Alaska teachers with a H-1B visa.
It will increase enormously the cost for Alaskan school districts to maintain the Teachers that work within our schools, our communities!

Respectfully,
Adriana Bryan

From: [Donna Knutson](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HJR39
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 9:45:26 AM

Please support this bill. It is pretty obvious that Alaska cannot afford to pay the \$100,00 per person per year required by the bill.

Sincerely,

Donna Knutson
Girdwood, AK

From: [Charlie Crangle](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HRJR 39 support
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 10:20:35 AM

As a former EED State System of Support School Improvement Coach & Retired Educator, I spent nearly 15 yrs serving rural Districts across Northern and Western Alaska. During that 2nd career, I worked closely with District and Local leadership teams to establish and foster a variety of school-wide improvements aimed at improving student educational opportunities.

During that time, I encountered a growing cadre of foreign educators- primarily Filipinos that were hired by bush districts for positions they were unable to fill through their normal channels. This shortage is a national phenomenon further exacerbated by the challenges of living in the Bush, increasingly non-competitive salaries, as well as a greatly diminished retirement system that shifted away from a defined benefit system in 2006.

The Philippines -through the J-1 & H1-B visa systems- in particular, have provided a rich source of well-trained educators to fill the void over the past decade. Currently, Filipino hirings constitute a considerable % of teaching & administrative staff at many Alaskan rural sites today.

If one looks at the numbers, the preponderance of Filipino hires is stunning with over 300 hired across Alaska. Districts as diverse as BSSD, Kuspuq, LYSD, YFSD and LKSD fill many of their vacancies through this recruitment pipeline. Anchorage School District, our largest district, alone employs 30 Filipino educators by last count.

Many districts have used the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program as a means to hire these foreign workers. This process offers a temporary solution giving temporary status of 3 yrs a & extendable to 5 yrs.

Many districts would like to use the more stable H-1 Visa system but it's current \$100,000 price tag renders it completely unaffordable.

HJR 39 would send a strong message to our congressional delegation that an exemption carve-out for educators within the H-Visa Program is vitally needed in order to provide school districts the means to extend their recruitment sphere in order to fill chronically vacant positions.

This is not an issue limited to Alaska-teacher shortages exist nationwide.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this vital issue.

Charlie Crangle
[REDACTED]
Girdwood, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kerry Clark](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: In favor of HJR39
Date: Sunday, March 1, 2026 10:31:58 PM

I am writing to ask that you support HJR39 to Waive teacher H-1B Visa Fees.

A 2025 executive order raised the cost of acquiring an H-1B visa to \$100,000 per person per year. Currently, Alaska employs close to 500 international educators working in schools on visas, most of them on H-1B visas. The executive order threatens access to education for many children in Alaska.

I have a 4yo in ASD special ed. I would like for her & her peers across Alaska to have access to developmentally appropriate class sizes and high quality educators no matter where they were born.

Thank you,
Kerry Clark



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From: [Michael Bronson](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Lower the Visa barriers for teachers
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 7:08:47 AM

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mike Bronson](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Vote for HJR 39 to waive visa fees
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 3:28:59 PM

Please vote for HJR 39 to waive visa fees for teachers. We cannot afford to create barriers to recruiting teachers to Alaska. It is hard enough as it is.

The state is in dire need of more teachers. We've lost about 2,000 teachers from classrooms since 2009. As a result, class sizes in Alaska have ballooned to among the worst in the US. During that time, reading and math scores have plunged to the bottom in the US, and Alaska students have fallen behind by a full grade-level across the state.

In the meantime, we are losing more teachers than we gain. The university produces only a fraction of our teachers. Teachers are leaving for better retirement benefits and pay elsewhere. More and more, we have better luck recruiting teachers from poor countries like the Philippines rather than Americans who hesitate to move here any more.

Thanks,

-Mike Bronson

[Redacted signature block]