

From: [Jen LaRoe](#)
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
Cc: [Julia OConnor](#); [Rep. Andi Story](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#)
Subject: Support SB 88
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 7:40:30 PM

I am writing to ask for your support in passing SB 88 and reinstating a pension plan for public employees in Alaska. We deserve a secure future not based on volatile investments in the market.

I wish there were also medical coverage included.

*Jen LaRoe
5134 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801*

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: BSA, parents rights
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 2:06:04 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Margaret Tyler <tylerstimes3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 12:20 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: BSA, parents rights

Cathy,

Thank you for attending the gbos meeting last night. I appreciate your work funding education, supporting retirement structure that encourages employment, and methods to raise funds to pay for these essential government functions.

Please also dismiss the ridiculous parents rights bill proposed by the governor. This is a damaging distraction from real government.

Sincerely,
Margaret Tyler

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Restore a Real Retirement for Alaska Public Employees
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:27:59 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: elizabeth.barnlinger@everyactionadvocacy.com <elizabeth.barnlinger@everyactionadvocacy.com>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 8:44 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore a Real Retirement for Alaska Public Employees

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, public servants, and public safety officers hired after 2006 are without a pension option, and most don't have access to Social Security benefits. This combination has led TRS III and PERS IV participants to label their retirement plans as the "Death Tier", meaning that they will almost certainly outlive their retirement savings or work until they die.

Alaska's current approach to retirement has led to increased turnover rates, particularly among public school employees. Every year, 20% of teachers, education support staff, and administrators leave their jobs at an annual cost to the state of \$20 million.

When surveyed by the Governor's Teacher Retention and Recruitment Task Force in 2021, Alaska's school administrators identified addressing retirement issues as the number 1 priority for improving recruitment and retention.

Other states offer public employees a shared risk pension system that protects the state while offering career public servants the opportunity to earn a modest pension. Last legislative session, an analysis of HB 220 projected cost savings to the State of Alaska over the first 6 years of offering a defined benefit option to current TRS III/PERS IV employees and new hires. HB 220 underscores the crucial link between increased teacher retention and associated student outcomes.

As an Alaskan who wants to remain in our state, please support all legislation to restore a real retirement system for Alaska public employees.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Redlinger-Eklund
2720 Kempton Hills Dr Anchorage, AK 99516-2776 elizabeth.barnlinger@gmail.com

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Amendment Suggestion for SB88
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2023 3:25:20 PM

From: Jacob Bera <jacobbera77@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 2:49 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce <Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov>
Cc: KARI KONRATH-BERA <krunkerkb@gmail.com>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Amendment Suggestion for SB88

Good afternoon,

My name is Jacob Bera, and I am a teacher at Eagle River High School. I testified yesterday during the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee meeting in favor of SB88, a bill which would give current public employees the option of staying in a defined contribution (DC) retirement plan or moving to a defined benefit (DB) plan.

I spoke by phone towards the end of public comments and suggested an amendment that I believe would help ensure the benefit calculator for the new DB Tier in SB88 doesn't negatively impact our public employees who take leave to have and care for a new child.

As SB88 is currently written, the benefit calculator for those who move to a defined benefit plan would take into account the average of a member's highest 5 years of consecutive service.

**Previous DB tiers (1 and 2) calculate the average of a member's highest 3 years of service (not consecutive).*

For SB88, my suggestion would be to strike the word **consecutive**. In other words, a member could average their highest 5 years of service, no matter when they took place. Lowering the average to 3 years would make the benefit consistent with previous DB tiers, but I'll leave that up to the committee for consideration. The important issue is the word consecutive.

My wife and I started teaching here in Alaska at the same time (2003). I currently have 20 years of service and she has 17 because of the time she was on leave when we had our three children (now ages 8, 11 and 13).

Not only did my wife sacrifice her progress on retirement benefits in order for us to start a family, but she also saw a significant decrease in her salary during the years when our three children were born. These years of reduced pay would have interrupted her highest 5 years of consecutive service if SB88 passed in its current

form and she participated in the new DB tier.

Although completely unintentional, I believe the current language in SB88 could have an unfair negative impact on female public employees who take leave for the birth of a child. This could be resolved by striking the requirement that the 5 years of service need to be consecutive.

Our family unit is stronger because of the sacrifices my wife made in order for us to start a family. Watching her navigate the birth of our children, healing, and returning to the classroom at such a high level is something that I'll always greatly admire (and frankly never have to experience myself). It made me think of all our public employees who follow a similar path, and return to serve in the critical positions we now struggle to attract and retain new employees for.

I believe the more we craft public policy that creates a more level playing field for everyone, the better off our State will be. Thank you for your consideration.

Very respectfully,
Jacob Bera
24217 Platsek Drive
Chuguak, AK 99567
907-854-5447
jacobbera77@gmail.com

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Restore a Real Retirement for Alaska Public Employees
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 6:32:23 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jennifer Burkholder <jburkholder@everyactionadvocacy.com>
Date: April 16, 2023 at 6:01:31 PM AKDT
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore a Real Retirement for Alaska Public Employees
Reply-To: jburkholder@gci.net

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, public servants, and public safety officers hired after 2006 are without a pension option, and most don't have access to Social Security benefits. This combination has led TRS III and PERS IV participants to label their retirement plans as the "Death Tier", meaning that they will almost certainly outlive their retirement savings or work until they die.

Alaska's current approach to retirement has led to increased turnover rates, particularly among public school employees. Every year, 20% of teachers, education support staff, and administrators leave their jobs at an annual cost to the state of \$20 million.

When surveyed by the Governor's Teacher Retention and Recruitment Task Force in 2021, Alaska's school administrators identified addressing retirement issues as the number 1 priority for improving recruitment and retention.

Other states offer public employees a shared risk pension system that protects the state while offering career public servants the opportunity to earn a modest pension. Last legislative session, an analysis of HB 220 projected cost savings to the State of Alaska over the first 6 years of offering a defined benefit option to current TRS III/PERS IV employees and new hires. HB 220 underscores the crucial link between increased teacher retention and associated student outcomes.

I am a TERS TIER 3 ASD employee who was hired in August 2009. This is my 14th year working with primary age students as an elementary school counselor. It has been a good job for many reasons, most notably, for allowing me to be on a similar schedule as my children. My husband of 23 years and I have raised two daughters in the Anchorage School District; both our daughters are now off to college.

No longer needing a kid friendly schedule, I weigh staying with the district due to lack of security with no pension or Social Security. The pay is quite low as well.

I need a retirement that I can rely on. I need a retirement that provides safety and security financially and medically. Please add a medical coverage component to SB88. The DC plan lacks security financially and medically.

As an Alaskan who wants to remain in our state, please support all legislation to restore a real retirement system for Alaska public employees.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Jennifer Burkholder
13100 Killey St Anchorage, AK 99516-2891
jburkholder@gci.net

From: [Laura Capelle](#)
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
Cc: [Julia OConnor](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Rep. Mike Cronk](#)
Subject: SB88
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 9:24:24 PM

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 88.

Returning to a responsibly-funded defined benefit for public employees will value and show respect to people who are invested in professions benefitting all Alaskans. We need to mitigate and reverse the crisis in attracting and retaining educators, public safety employees, DOT workers, public health workers, and other state employees to keep Alaska moving in the right direction, and keep our state strong.

Thank you for your work on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Laura Capelle
Fairbanks

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88 Pension choice
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:10:07 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Carolyn Gray <dcgray@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 1:46 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Forrest Dunbar <Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov>; Sen. Matt Claman <Sen.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Löki Tobin <Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88 Pension choice

Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of SB 88. Defined Benefit is the only way we will be able to even retain the qualified teachers and public employees we have now. It has been a long time since TRS Tiers 1 and 2 provided any type of a retirement for teachers. Public employees in PERS have earned only a Defined Contribution plan. as well. We do not have Social Security. Without Defined Benefit, employees will not only not buy homes with 30 year mortgages and shop for all of the necessities that go with homes and raising a family as well as using medical and dental services which meet the needs of our population., They will leave the State and take their money with them.

Our daughter teaches in Anchorage and her school is already making plans for losing teachers in Tier 3. I sat in on a televised hearing when TRS Tier 3 was discussed in committee and remember it was commented that the state would keep track of teacher retention after passage of Tier 3. Please let me know if that was ever done. I just met the head of Career Services at UAF yesterday who had taught Outside and taught 2 years here in Fairbanks until she was pink slipped and told she would have to wait until July to hear if she would be hired back. She immediately looked elsewhere for employment and will not go back to K-12 teaching thanks to the uncertainty. We have one less elementary teacher now as a result. Too many uncertainties in the profession and online education by Outside companies in Anchorage did not deliver the same quality as in person education. We need to do our own hiring of highly qualified teachers and other public employees and reward employees who are willing to move to this harsh environment with a solid retirement.

We need all Public Employees and Teacher having a strong retirement system,

Thank you for paying attention to this matter and please pass SB88.

Malie Carolyn Gray
399 Hillside Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99712
907-457-5737

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB88
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 1:07:51 PM

From: Frentzel_Mark <Frentzel_Mark@asdk12.org>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:07 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB88

Dear Senator,

Please oppose SB88. Alaskans cannot afford additional defined benefits, and in a climate of increased costs due to careless federal spending, we cannot afford a state income tax or sales tax. Thank you.

From: [Paula DeAngeles](#)
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: SB88
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 9:07:42 AM

Dear Senator Giessel and Senator O'Connor, I moved to Ketchikan to begin my teaching career after 20 years of raising my kids. My deceased husband was a school teacher in Colorado for 25 years. I inherited his teaching retirement account when he died my first year of teaching in Alaska in 2019 and have been using it to supplement my teaching income. As I learn more and more about my Alaska tier and the lack of a retirement, lack of affordable medical and see my very small retirement balance after 4 years of teaching I am looking at making decisions that I do not want to make. I purchased a home here. I love my teaching job. I feel safe raising my 13 year old son here by myself, but I only have 15 more years until I am 65 and am very concerned at what retirement will look like in Alaska. There are a lot of other states with better pay, retirement and medical offerings that would create a better quality of life for my son and I. I really hope that the Alaska government can fix the retirement program so that happy highly qualified teachers like me stay in Alaska. I just enrolled in a Masters degree program to look at doing a job I do not want just to make more money and try and have a retirement. I am a great elementary music teacher. The state of Alaska needs to do more to keep me in my current teaching position. I do not see the State of Alaska keeping teachers here when they learn about the retirement tiers they will be in.

Best,

Paula DeAngeles

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank You
Date: Sunday, April 9, 2023 9:28:41 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Roy Getchell <rgetchell@hbsd.net>
Date: April 9, 2023 at 9:19:24 AM AKDT
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank You

Dear Senator Giessel,

I do not want another day to go by without me saying thank you for your support, advocacy, and leadership in regard to SB 88. Having a sustainable defined benefit will be a game-changer for our school districts in regard to retention and recruitment. People I speak to are shocked when they learn that teachers here don't contribute to or even have the promise of Social Security upon retirement. As you know Alaska is one of the 16 states that "opted out" of Social Security in favor of a defined benefit. SB 88 will restore financial security for our retirees and fulfill Alaska's original commitment to them.

On a side note, I was a new superintendent in 2018-19 and preparing a budget for FY 20 was my very first experience in that regard. I watched you navigate that situation masterfully and have always been a great admirer as a result. Thank you for all you do and I hope you will reach out if I can ever be of assistance.

Take care,

Roy Getchell

--

Roy Getchell, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Haines Borough School District

Empowering Excellence Every Day

March 13, 2023

Senator Jesse Bjorkman
Chair, Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801
Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

RE: AHHA Supports SB 83 Temporary Professional Licensing

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Committee Members,

For 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare partners across the continuum of care. AHHA members play an invaluable role, both as community providers and essential employers, in cities, towns, and villages across Alaska.

AHHA supports Senate Bill 83, Temporary Professional Licensure legislation. This bill will help streamline the licensing process for the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing and allow applicants with an out-of-state qualified professional license in good standing to begin working right away. We hope this legislation will make the process shorter and smoother for professionals seeking to obtain an Alaska license.

Alaska is experiencing workforce shortages for virtually all licensed health care professions, and it is critical that we streamline the process to allow qualified professionals to get to work quickly in Alaska. The [AHHA 2022 Healthcare Workforce Analysis](#) shows that approximately 7,500 new healthcare workers must be hired across Alaska every year to keep up with service needs (growth and replacement).

AHHA supports the improvements a temporary license process could bring to Alaska, however, this is not an alternative to enacting the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). We agree with the Division of Professional Licensing that the NLC is the very best option to address the nursing shortage in Alaska and reduce application processing times. Only the NLC will reduce the number of applications that come into the state.

We believe this legislation will complement the NLC as it will allow a pathway for qualified nurses from non-compact states to obtain a temporary license quickly and get to work. This legislation will create consistency across licensing boards on the process to obtain a temporary license.



AHHA urges the swift passage of SB 83 to provide one more tool to solve Alaska's healthcare workforce challenges.

Sincerely,

Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development

Corporations, Business, & Professional Licensing
Board of Pharmacy

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
Main: 907.465.2550
Fax: 907.465.2974

March 20, 2023

Senate Rules Committee
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Senate.Rules@akleg.gov

Re: SB 83 – Professional Licensing; Temp Permits– Letter of Support

Dear Senate Rules Committee,

The Board of Pharmacy (“board”) is submitting its position on SB 83, an act relating to professional licensing; relating to temporary licenses for some professions; and providing for an effective date. During its March 20, 2023, meeting, the board discussed SB 83 and voted to support it because it accomplishes the following:

- Expands the temporary licensing period the board currently has in place from 90 days to 180 days
- Provides an efficient pathway for pharmacists and technicians to not only work under a temporary license but also to obtain permanent licensure in Alaska

The board supports this legislation and will continue to be a collaborative resource for ensuring efficient licensing processes while protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of Alaskans.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Schaber".

Ashley Schaber, PharmD, MBA, BCPS (Chair)
Alaska Board of Pharmacy



Governor Dunleavy,

The Alaska Dental Society supports SB83/HB85 but feels modification to the bill would help Alaskan consumers and new graduates from dental and dental hygiene schools.

SB83 and HB85, as currently written, would reduce wait times for dental professionals looking to relocate to Alaska but would not reduce the time for new graduates from dental professional schools. There is a demarcation line for applicants for dental or dental hygienist licenses – those with over 5 years work experience can apply by using their work history (credentialing) and would be expedited under SB83 and those with less who would continue to wait for their license applications to be processed.

Dental and dental hygiene licensure in Alaska has been a slow process for decades but the recent staffing shortages at Professional Licensing have greatly increased wait times for applicants. University of Alaska Dental Hygiene grads made the news last year when it was discovered some of the applications were taking 6 months to process.

Alaska, like the other 49 states, is currently experiencing a severe shortage of dental hygienists. New graduates faced with a wait of multiple months are taking job offers elsewhere compounding the shortage here in Alaska. The dental hygiene shortage is already causing a shortage of available appointments for consumers and leading to increased dental costs.

We ask the Legislature to recognize this problem and allow new graduates without the requisite work experience to qualify for the temporary license in SB83 and HB85.

Sincerely,

Heather Willis, DDS
Governmental Affairs Chair, Alaska Dental Society

Version one, for all professions

Sec. 08.01.062. Temporary license. (a) The department shall issue an applicant a temporary license under this section to engage in a profession regulated under this chapter if

(1) the applicant

(A) is licensed or credentialed to practice the profession in another state or territory of the United States or province or territory of Canada that

(i) has requirements for a license to practice the profession that are substantially equivalent to or greater than the requirements listed in the applicable chapter of this title; or

(ii) authorizes a scope of practice substantially equivalent to the scope of practice of the corresponding license in this state; **or**

(B) has graduated from a US accredited professional school within the past 2 years

Remaining part stays the same but is relettered.

Version 2, just for dental

Sec. 08.01.062. Temporary license. (a) The department shall issue an applicant a temporary license under this section to engage in a profession regulated under this chapter if

(1) the applicant

(A) is licensed or credentialed to practice the profession in another state or territory of the United States or province or territory of Canada that

(i) has requirements for a license to practice the profession that are substantially equivalent to or greater than the requirements listed in the applicable chapter of this title; or

(ii) authorizes a scope of practice substantially equivalent to the scope of practice of the corresponding license in this state; **or**

(B) has graduated from a US accredited dental or dental hygiene school within the past 2 years



March 6, 2023

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
Senate Bill 83

Senate Labor & Commerce

Senator Bjorkman, Chair

Senator Bishop, Member

Senator Dunbar, Vice Chair

Senator Gray-Jackson, Member

Senator Merrick, Member

Chair Bjorkman, & Members of Senate Labor & Commerce,

According to the Goldwater Institute¹, a quarter of all jobs in the U.S. require an occupational license, which is essentially a government-issued permit to work². Moving to another state can be a challenge for licensed and qualified workers because they must take additional tests or training, and pay extra fees, to obtain a license in their new state for the same job.

Overall, licensure can oftentimes be excessive, limit competition, raise consumer prices, and have an unequal impact on minorities and low-income residents.

Temporarily accepting out-of-state occupational licenses with training or testing requirements that an applicant has already completed will eliminate costly, time-consuming, and often unnecessary barriers to employment. In addition, there is a need for more skilled workers in Alaskan industries, such as school bus drivers,

¹ <https://www.goldwaterinstitute.org/policy-report/low-income-families/>

² <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/the-de-licensing-of-occupations-in-the-united-states.htm>



speech pathologists, workers in construction and transportation services, and other healthcare professionals.

Universal licensing may benefit businesses and organizations dependent on these professionals. For example, states like Arizona adopted universal licensing reforms and saw a growth in the number of professionals working in diverse fields, such as medicine and engineering³.

Occupational licensing can restrict job opportunities, particularly for low-income and disadvantaged workers⁴, and can lead to higher prices for goods and services⁵. Reducing licensing barriers and increasing occupational mobility can increase competition, lower prices, and boost economic growth.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Erick Cordero Giorgana
Vice President of Operations

³ <https://www.goldwaterinstitute.org/policy-report/universal-recognition-hb-2569/>

⁴ <https://www.ncsl.org/labor-and-employment/the-national-occupational-licensing-database>

⁵ <https://ij.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/licensetowork1.pdf>



Support for SB 83|HB 85: Universal Temporary Licensure

The Archbridge Institute is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization dedicated to lifting barriers to flourishing and increasing opportunities for upward social and economic mobility. We are proud to work with a variety of academic and policy experts to offer research and solutions oriented toward increasing the opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds to climb the income ladder, particularly across generations. To that end, we are writing in support of SB 83 and HB 85, which would implement processes for qualified professionals to acquire temporary occupational licenses in the state of Alaska.

Occupational licensing has been a consistent area of study for our academic researchers and public policy scholars. Occupational licensing restrictions represent the most stringent form of professional regulation, forbidding residents from working in a profession before meeting various requirements including completing minimum levels of education, passing exams, and paying fees to the state. A 2018 study found that in Alaska, nearly 1 in 5 workers are licensed.¹ Moreover, between 1993 and 2012, the state of Alaska added 33 new low-income occupational licensing requirements, which economic research suggests has reduced upward economic mobility by 4 percent and increased income inequality by 9.1 percent.²

Licensing restrictions also represent a significant barrier for professionals looking to move across state lines. Economic researchers have estimated that occupational licensing restrictions reduce geographic mobility by as much as 7 percent.³ The explanation for this reduction is simple: not allowing licensed workers to transfer their license and continue to work in the occupation for which they have already been trained discourages relocation. This status quo effectively prohibits Outside qualified professionals with a license from using their skills and experience to serve Alaskans. These are unnecessary losses that will negatively affect current and future Alaskans for years to come, especially since Alaska already experienced net out-migration in 2022.⁴ Allowing for the temporary recognition of out-of-state licenses would be a major step toward mitigating these problems.

¹ Morris M. Kleiner and Evgeny S. Vorochnikov, *At What Cost? State and National Estimates of the Economic Costs of Occupational Licensing* (Arlington, VA: Institute for Justice, November 2018).

² Edward Timmons et al., *Too Much License: A Closer Look at Occupational Licensing and Economic Mobility* (Washington, D.C.: Archbridge Institute, April 2018).

³ Janna E. Johnson and Morris M. Kleiner, "Is Occupational Licensing a Barrier to Interstate Migration?," *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 12, no. 3 (2020): 347–73.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, *Vintage 2022 Estimates*.

Additionally, allowing for even temporary recognition out-of-state licenses would hardly be an untested risk by a lone state. Over the past few years, 12 states, including Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Wyoming, have enacted broad universal recognition of out-of-state occupational licenses.⁵ Even more states have passed lighter or qualified versions of universal recognition or universal recognition for military spouses.

Overall, allowing licensed professionals to transfer their licenses to the state of Alaska, even on a temporary basis, would provide an opportunity for licensed professionals to move to Alaska and continue working with minimal interruption. This means businesses would have a wider pool of potential applicants available to fill needed roles and licensed professionals considering a move to Alaska would be able to continue serving customers and earning a living by working in the occupation for which they have been trained—all while still protecting Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Wilterdink". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ben" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Wilterdink".

Ben Wilterdink
Director of Programs, Archbridge Institute
P: (907) 538-2332 | E: bwilterdink@archbridgeinstitute.org

⁵ Heather Curry, Breaking Down Barriers to Work with Universal Recognition (Phoenix, AZ: Goldwater Institute, January 2023).



March 8, 2023

Submitted electronically via email

RE: Letter of Support for Universal Temporary Licensure – Senate Bill 83 & House Bill 85

Dear Members of the Senate and House Labor & Commerce Committees,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce is the premier business advocacy organization in the Interior of Alaska, representing over 650 businesses, organizations, and thousands of employees. Worker shortages across all sectors continue to be one of the top concerns of Fairbanks area businesses. We appreciate the administration's and legislature's efforts to help develop meaningful solutions to attracting and retaining talent, supporting the reciprocity of professional licenses for employees moving to Alaska who bring valuable skills to the economy, and addressing the barriers to obtaining occupational licenses.

The Fairbanks Chamber supports Senate Bill 83 and House Bill 85, Universal Temporary Licensure legislation. These bills will help streamline the licensing process for the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing and allow newcomers with an out-of-state qualified professional license in good standing to begin working right away. We hope this legislation will make the process shorter and smoother for professionals seeking to obtain an Alaska license.

According to the Alaska Department of Labor, state economists predict Alaska will add 5,300 jobs in 2023. However, even as the state's economy recovers, the ongoing challenge of filling open positions remains. Universal temporary licensure is a concept many states are adopting. We must continue demonstrating that Alaska is open for business and our state is a great place to live and work.

The Fairbanks Chamber is committed to supporting and encouraging policies and initiatives that remove barriers and facilitate efforts to increase

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McDonald's of Fairbanks
Northrim Bank
Robinson & Ward PC
Sourdough Fuel
Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union
Stewart Title Company – Yukon Division
Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Vivamore Companies

employment across all sectors. Therefore, we encourage and support the timely passage of SB 83 and HB 85 in this legislative session.

Thank you for your service to the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Jeremy Johnson
President and CEO



Patrick Cotter
Board Chair

Cc: Governor Mike Dunleavy, State of Alaska
Members of the Alaska State Legislature
Senator Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senate
Senator Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senate
Congresswoman Mary Peltola, U.S. House of Representatives
Julie Sande, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Community, Commerce & Economic Development
Sylvan Robb, Director of Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing
Kati Capozzi, President, Alaska Chamber
Jomo Stewart, President, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation
Members of the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Oppose Defined Benefit Pension Plan - SB88
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 2:04:01 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: John Frost <jayfak@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 2:01 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Oppose Defined Benefit Pension Plan - SB88

Dear Senator Giessel,

While I do appreciate getting your regular newsletter, I am strongly opposed to a Defined Benefit Pension Plan for State Employees. Those plans were popular many years ago but the lack of sufficient funding and inflation as well as other unpredictable market forces resulted in many States, Municipalities and businesses being unable to meet their obligations. these plans are NOT WISE.

Thank you,

John D Frost

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Defined Benefits
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 5:01:19 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laurie Courtney <lbcourtney@hotmail.com>
Date: March 5, 2023 at 4:40:37 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Defined Benefits

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am stunned that you would resurrect the notion that a Defined Benefits System would fix a recruitment issue. No, it sets up false promise of good returns that ultimately ends in bankruptcy. Look at pretty much any retirement system in California and the story mentions "underfunded". Rather than attracting prime candidates for employment, we would ultimately take anyone who applies in order to collect their contribution to pay those who are reaping their benefits. It is nothing more than a Ponzi Scheme, i.e. a fraud on the employees and the taxpayers.

Please drop this flawed effort.

Respectfully,
Laurie B. Courtney
Willow AK



ANCHORAGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Connecting Educators • Inspiring Students

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau AK, 99801

March 9th, 2023

Dear Senator Giessel,

On behalf of the Anchorage Education Association, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 88.

The Anchorage Education Association represents nearly 3,000 certificated teachers, nurses, school counselors, librarians, speech and language pathologists, all school-based certificated staff minus principals.

First, thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88. As you know, Senate Bill 88 responds to the critical educator recruitment and retention crisis plaguing the Anchorage School District (ASD) and all of Alaska.

Anchorage used to be one of the top destinations for educators in the country. Alaska offered a competitive compensation and a benefits package that attracted and retained top-notch educators nationwide. Sadly, this is no longer the case. There are 538 open positions at ASD right now. This includes 6 unfilled Career and Technical Education teacher positions, 57 elementary school teacher positions, 64 special education teacher positions, and 11 math teacher positions.

Our students can't achieve their full academic potential without professional educators in the classroom.

Alaska has always been a net importer of teachers. But, in recent years, a national teacher shortage has also developed. Alaska can only be competitive with a proper retirement system that guarantees some level of income at the end of a career. In conversations with teachers leaving the district, the lack of a pension system and no Social Security benefits are among the most frequent reasons cited.

Every day that Alaska fails to take steps to keep our best and brightest and attract new educators to fill vacancies, we slip further and further behind public education systems in other

states. Senate Bill 88 represents a critical turning point for all public employees and will yield benefits for our state for years to come.

Senate Bill 88 invests in growing and retaining our Alaska education workforce. We thank you for your leadership and commend you for supporting Alaska's educators.

Thank you,

Corey Aist, President
Anchorage Education Association



KPESA

Schooling the Kenai

Susanna Litwiniak, KPESA President

Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association

(907)260-2023 office

4-D Building, Suite 101B, PO Box 198 Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am the President of the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association, the union representing support staff employees of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, and I am writing to thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88. I work as school secretary of Moose Pass School and as KPESA President represent hundreds of classified employees across our district. We are a diverse group of education support professionals. We are the school secretaries, paraeducators, nurses, custodians, food service workers, library specialists, drivers, warehouse workers, theater technicians, IT services, clerical employees and administrative assistants. We work hard to provide the safe, healthy, environments students need to learn successfully.

Restoring a defined benefit option for Alaska public employees is critical to addressing the workforce shortage our schools are facing. Fully staffing our schools this year has been incredibly challenging and we have seen an extraordinary number of vacant support staff positions this year. Education is a team sport. When a school is missing one of the team members, whether they are a custodian, a special education aide, a secretary, or a food service worker, it impacts the learning environment for students. Every vacancy creates additional workload on those in the school and takes energy away from student learning.

I thank you and the sponsors of Senate Bill 88 for understanding the issue and taking bold action towards addressing it. Restoring a defined benefit option will allow more Alaskans to see working in education as a viable career path that is incredibly fulfilling where you can retire with dignity. Legislation like SB88, which recognizes the important contribution of public employees, is critical to addressing the workforce shortage and ensuring every student has a fully staffed school in which to learn.

On behalf of myself and our members, thank you again for introducing Senate Bill 88.

In Solidarity,

Susanna Litwiniak

Susanna Litwiniak

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Fairbanks Pioneer Home issues
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 7:12:49 AM

From: David Leslie <kenske@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:42 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fairbanks Pioneer Home issues

Hello there! I'm David Leslie, an activities aide at the Fairbanks Pioneer Home, and also the ASEA 52 union steward there.

I tried to stop by your office in Juneau during the Political Education Leadership conference a few weeks ago, but I unfortunately missed you.

I'm very worried about the state of our Homes. Fairbanks, in particular, has been under 75% staffing for both ALAs/CNAs and nurses. This means the workers are doing an extreme amount of mandatory overtime, to the point where we can't keep people, as their lives- picking up children, going to classes, being able to spend holidays with their families- is impossible, unless they go on-call.

That ends up making the few full-time people we have working multiple 16-hour days, sometimes even four of them, each week. As you know, nurses aren't allowed to work more than 12 hours as to prevent medication errors, but the Homes make ALAs and CNAs pass meds, unlike most other places like the Denali Center, so residents are more at risk for getting the wrong meds, or missing their meds entirely.

This comes along with the January rent increase of 8.7%, which means residents are paying more for not just sup-par care, but workers that may actually harm them, all because we cannot hire and retain workers.

This is a two-sided problem. As a new hire, I'm not paid enough to rent a one bedroom apartment, as they cost over half of what I make in a month. I've had to move in with three people I didn't know in a three-bedroom with no kitchen, and I wash my dishes in the bathroom next to my toilet.

The other side is that we're losing long-time employees because our retirement plan is failing to be competitive with other places, as we no longer have a defined benefit with a secured pension. We lose the institutional knowledge these workers have accumulated over the years- not just in care for the residents, but in how to demand better workplace policies and management.

What we are left with is a small group of new employees who have never seen a functional workplace, which is necessary for the Homes to thrive.

This is exacerbated by the fact many independent seniors are trying to avoid congregate living

facilities in the face of COVID. I understand fully, given we are currently under the worst surge in COVID at the Fairbanks Pioneer Home I've seen in my year and a half working there. If you can avoid living in an assisted living facility, you will, because otherwise you will most likely be exposed, if not contract, COVID, multiple times, reducing your quality of life and literally reducing the days and years of your life.

This means the people who are moving in need higher cares, and since the Homes have a mandatory vacancy rate, they are filling it with people who are not independent- people with disabilities, but more specifically, people with dementia.

We are taking care of more people with dementia than ever before, and those people do not remember to wear a mask, nor stay in their rooms while actively contagious. This leads them to expose the other residents, leading less people to want to move in, thus creating a vicious cycle where less employees are continually providing more and more care while having less and less staff, not to mention that families will risk COVID themselves visiting their loved ones.

Please, we need things to change if we want our state to continue to care for our aging population. Both my mother and grandmother are old enough to move into the Home, but I want it to be better than what it is now before they do. I hope you want the same.

If you would like to talk more, I'm more than happy to do so. We need more help than what we're being given, and it will mean allowing our Elders to live not just more days, but more years, which will allow them to contribute to our community before they pass.

Thank you for your time,
David Leslie
907-799-3364

3/9/23

Senator Cathy Giessel

Alaska Senate, Juneau AK

I want to sincerely thank you for introducing SB 88. I have been on the state level Saving our Alaska Retirement committee for six years. I am so grateful that this is getting introduced the first year of the session. Let me know how I can help your efforts.

I have been a special education teacher in Kodiak, AK for 15 years, I missed the pension retirement plan by two years. We have more teachers in our district who were hired in 1997 than we do who were hired ten years later in 2007. We cannot keep TRS-3 teachers in our district or the state. Currently, only 54% of our teachers have been in our district for more than three years. The turn-over in the last ten years is astronomical and increasing every year. Is it estimated to cost the state, and individual districts, approximately \$20,000 to train a new teacher. Certainly, it is more cost effective to put that money into retention efforts than it is to train teachers so they can work elsewhere. How can we expect to successfully implement the Reads Act when we can't keep the teachers we train? Having experienced, quality educators is the single best way to improve student learning.

I love Kodiak and I chose to come here to raise my daughter. I love my job and my community, and I truly wish I could stay here. But coming to Alaska has been the worst financial decision of my life. Every year my wages never increase as much as the cost of living and I have virtually no retirement to fall back on. So, when my daughter graduates in three years, I will be leaving. I am faced with the choice of being bankrupt in my elder years or working into my 70s unless I move to a place with a much lower cost of living. But unless the retirement system changes, I cannot stay.

Sincerely,

Danielle Specht

Special Education Teacher

Kodiak Island Borough School District

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW:
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:39:32 PM

From: L Conner <lucyconner1029@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:33 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject:

Hello Senator Giessel,

Thank you so much for putting forth a bill to offer a better retirement for workers in Alaska. It is a terrific step in improving attracting and retaining valuable people here in our state!

I write you today as I'm very distressed and yes -- angry -- that our Attorney General and the governor's administration has joined in a lawsuit to deny women in our state the right to the abortion pill, as protected in our state's constitution. Not only is it a guaranteed right, it is first and foremost a very personal, private decision that is no one's business except the woman, her doctor(s) and anyone else she chooses.

Living in a state with a shameful record of sexual and domestic abuse, it appalls me that these politicians will deny women in our state access to a medically sound, FDA approved drug!

Please do whatever you can in striving to enforce our state's constitution. Thank you so much for your time, consideration and for all the work you do for all of us in Alaska!

Sincerely,

Lucy Conner
3421 Halyards Cir
Anchorage, AK 99516
907-240-7280

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for Introducing Senate Bill 88
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:51:43 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nicole Jensen <nmariejensen@gmail.com>
Date: March 7, 2023 at 7:28:12 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for Introducing Senate Bill 88

Cathy,

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88. As a teacher in tier 3 retirement, I appreciate the furthering of this matter. I have been teaching for 8 years and deeply worry about my ability to retire as a teacher in Alaska. I am a lifelong Alaskan, and I do not want to leave the state. I grew up in Seward and currently teach in Soldotna. I also believe that it is important to keep Alaskans in the role of Alaskan educators. We need to pay attention as a state to retention of current teachers. Each year we lose new and experienced teachers to our poor retirement in Alaska. Having a strong retirement system will support the longevity of Alaskan teachers in the profession.

Thank you for your continued work for Alaskan teachers.

Sincerely,
Nicole Jensen

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Pension Senate Bill - Thank you
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:51:16 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robanne Stading <icycoldriver123@gmail.com>
Date: March 7, 2023 at 8:01:14 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pension Senate Bill - Thank you

Senator Giessel,
Thank you for introducing SB-88 for the reinstatement of a pension retirement system. With 17 years in TRS Tier 3, I'm interested in how it may all turn out for me and as a way to make teaching in Alaska more attractive for other.
Sincerely,
Robanne Stading
Homer, Alaska

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Thank you!!
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 2:25:38 PM

From: Yung Kwang Kiely <ykiely01@kibsd.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 12:30 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you!!

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,

I am writing to you today with a heavy heart and a great sense of concern about the current state of the retirement system here in Alaska. As a teacher, I have dedicated my life to educating and inspiring young minds, but the stress of the retirement system is taking a toll on me and ultimately impacting the quality of education that I can provide to my students.

The idea of working for the rest of my life is overwhelming and daunting. The thought of never being able to retire and enjoy the fruits of my labor is disheartening. It is a constant source of stress that is affecting my mental and physical well-being. I worry about what the future holds and how I will be able to support myself and my family.

The burden of figuring out other sources of income to supplement a possible retirement takes away from my commitment and quality as a teacher. Instead of focusing on the needs of my students and providing them with the best education possible, I am forced to worry about my financial future.

The students are the ones that ultimately suffer from not taking care of teachers in Alaska. Without the support and security of a reliable retirement system, many experienced and dedicated teachers are leaving the profession or retiring early. This results in a shortage of qualified teachers, larger class sizes, and a lack of continuity in the classroom.

I implore you to take action and work towards a fair and reliable retirement system for teachers in Alaska. It is not only a matter of our financial security but also the quality of education that we can provide to our students. We owe it to them and to ourselves to create a retirement system that allows us to retire with dignity and peace of mind.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yung Kiely

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:51:57 PM

From: Adam Sayler <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:43 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Adam Sayler

Adam Sayler
sayler123@yahoo.com
1702 Phoenix Road
Seward, Alaska 99664

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Alaska's public workfroce deserves a pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:53:54 PM

From: Alex Baker <baker@akaficio.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska's public workfroce deserves a pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

SB 88 is common-sense fix to our recruitment and retention crisis. It's a fiscally responsible bill that will save the state and localities money in the long-run. Furthermore, all workers who dedicate their career to helping move our state forward, whether as a teacher, public safety officer, laborer, etc. deserve a pension. Please support join the cosponsors in supporting SB 88.

Alex Baker
baker@akaficio.org
1571 Nelchina St.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:08:24 PM

From: Betty Barats <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:39 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Betty Barats
bettybarats@gmail.com
1710 Donovan Ave
Bellingham, Washington 98225

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please Support the Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:54:39 PM

From: Bev Gagaring <bevg@afscmelocal52.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:33 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support the Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, all public employees and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Bev Gagaring
bevg@afscmelocal52.org
1820 Bellevue Loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:49:39 AM

From: Brian Clausson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:48 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Brian Clausson
brian_clausson@hotmail.com
8608 Spruce Brook St
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Defined Benefit Pension for ALL Public Employees
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:53:40 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Miller <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 7:00:14 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Defined Benefit Pension for ALL Public Employees
Reply-To: brian.alexander.miller@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

As a longtime public employee in Alaska I'm lucky enough to belong to a defined benefit tier of PERS, and I'm thankful for the security my pension & benefits will grant me in retirement. However, during my time in public service I have witnessed the erosion in both quantity and quality of my co-workers and it's hard for me to express how frustrated and disappointed it makes me feel. There are many reasons for this problem, and fixing it will require a variety of solutions. But if you can't hire quality employees nothing you try to implement will be successful. A return to a defined benefit pension plan such as the one proposed in SB88 isn't sufficient in my opinion, but it's a hell of a lot better than what we are offering public employees today, and I strongly encourage you to pass this bill. Thanks!

-Brian Miller, Anchorage

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Brian Miller

brian.alexander.miller@gmail.com

8921 Forest Village Dr #A

Anchorage, Alaska 99502

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Honor the work of Public Employees through restoring Defined Benefit Pension for all employees
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:05:24 AM

From: Carol Meinen <carol.meinen@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:06 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Honor the work of Public Employees through restoring Defined Benefit Pension for all employees

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Over the past 15 years, I have seen a dramatic change in employee retention, for the Alaska Pioneer Homes. People seek stability and long-term employment, they also look for solid retirement benefits. I will be a recipient of the Defined Benefit Pension, I am so grateful for the opportunity to receive a pension. Please keep Alaska's Public employees on your radar, honor their hard work by supporting restoration of the Defined Benefit Pension.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Thank you,
Carol Meinen

Carol Meinen
carol.meinen@alaska.gov
901 S. Williwaw Dr.
Palmer, Kansas AK 99645

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:46 PM

From: Carole Bookless <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

I never expected that I would live this long. I will be 67 this year. I never expected that I would still be working at this age either. I am still working because the DC retirement plan does not provide me with adequate income to retire after 16 years putting money into it. I am not expecting much, just poverty line would make it. On top of that, my SS will be slashed because I am a teacher so I will wait until I am 70 to apply for SS to max that out. Not only that, I lost \$30,000 of my pension last year due to letting Empower handle my account. Now I have taken control of my funds and, I think, I have my money in secure Treasury Bonds. At the age of 67, I sometimes struggle to keep track of bills, appointments and deadlines let alone becoming my own market analyst for my pension. Help!

Carole Bookless

Carole Bookless
sealettuce-1@yahoo.com
P.o. box 240444
Douglas, Alaska 99824

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:47 PM

From: Crystal Basnaw <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Crystal Basnaw
coliver3@hotmail.com
PO BOX 58191
Fairbanks, Alaska 99711

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:54:08 PM

From: Danielle Logan <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:36 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Danielle Logan
danielle.rynea@gmail.com
4886 Drake St
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:48:26 AM

From: Darlene Anderson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:37 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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When the SOA had the defined benefit pkg they had low turnover in state employees & teachers. Continuity in government offices means less \$ going out for training employees. My daughter worked for CSED and the turnover was ridiculous, I worked for the Federal Govt In Alaska and we would have had/ and did once, a team to come up and do a climate assessment on the division I worked for to see why so many people were quitting and going to other federal, or then, state jobs. Has the state done this? Going back to a defined benefit pkg and or adding social security to their retirement would help. People who only work for the state will have a pretty meager retirement. On what they make now saving additional \$ for retirement is not an option for the non upper management employees.

Darlene Anderson
wheat-oaken.0k@icloud.com
2011 Wenmatt Circle
Anchorage , 9957

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:05:49 AM

From: David Bates <dbates@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:36 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

David Bates
dbates@mosquitonet.com
768 17th Ave
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:25 PM

From: David Leslie <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Hello, you may have met or heard from me a few weeks ago during the ASEA 52 Political Education Conference. I'm David Leslie, an Activities Aide at the Fairbanks Pioneers Home, where I'm also the union steward. We currently are under 75% staffing of both ALAs/CNAs and nurses, which means we are providing subpar care to our Elders.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

David Leslie
Kenske@gmail.com
3514 International st
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:10:46 PM

From: Deirdre Downey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:09 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Deirdre Downey
deirdree06@gmail.com
328 Gold St
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:05:55 AM

From: Dennis O'Connell <doconnell@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:39 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Dennis O'Connell
doconnell@gci.net
2300 Lake George Drive
Anchorage , Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:57:58 PM

From: Dustin Every <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Dustin Every
every17@hotmail.com
2720 Set Net Ct
Kenai, Alaska 99611

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:20 PM

From: Ervin Brown <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:13 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Ervin Brown
brownlyons12@gmail.com
131 e Osprey Ln
Shelton, Washington 98584

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:48:36 AM

From: Francis McLaughlin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:03 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Francis McLaughlin
francismclaughlin@gmail.com
3317 Checkmate Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:29 AM

From: Fred Yawit Jr <fyawitjr@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:03 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Fred Yawit Jr
fyawitjr@msn.com
3535 NEWCOMB DR
ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99508

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:01 PM

From: Gary Miller <gmiller.juneauak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:22 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Senator Giessel, thank you for introducing SB 88, converting all public employees to a defined benefit retirement system.

Everyone deserves a secure retirement when they are old and no longer able to work. This includes all state workers (like in legislators also), and not just police and firepersons (firemen - firewomen).

I am 74, no longer able to work and my wife is 70. We are fortunate to be in tier I.

The three Juneau legislators also support a defined benefit retirement.

No need to respond to my email.

Gary Miller
20135 Cohen Dr
Juneau, AK 99801-8211
(907) 789-3757

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:05:39 AM

From: Gordon Glaser <Mensch@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:56 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Gordon Glaser
Mensch@acsalaska.net
1029 POTLATCH CIR
ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99503

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:07:15 AM

From: Gordon Williams <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:32 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Our biggest problem in this state is net out-migration. This can only be fixed by adjusting the retirement system so that it encourages people to stay in the state, and the two best ways to do that are a pension system and a high quality educational system. Today we're addressing the former.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Gordon Williams
supposenot@me.com
4335 birch lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:03:34 PM

From: Hope Zachman <hope.zachman@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:01 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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As a State of Alaska worker, one of my tasks is to recruit and hire providers for Alaska. During COVID, providers experienced layoffs and firings. Recruitment was at an all-time high with no vacancies. With COVID waning, hospitals and private healthcare providers are providing 20% more pay to the persons I try to recruit with a poor benefit package. I am currently working with 25% vacancies. Offering a comprehensive benefit package has proven helpful but studies have shown Generation Y (millennials) are attracted to a pension retirement option when choosing employment.

Hope Zachman
hope.zachman@alaska.gov
550 W 7th Ave; ste 1800
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:08:31 PM

From: Jacqueline Clausson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:33 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Jacqueline Clausson
mclausson989@gmail.com
8608 Spruce Brook St
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:06:39 PM

From: James Raymond <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:24 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I am a retired federal employee and I am very fortunate to receive a pension. It was a very important reason I decided to take and keep my federal job. Had I not received the pension upon my retirement, I would not have been able to afford to retire and keep the benefits I currently have. We would have most likely have moved out of Alaska because we could not have afforded to maintain the cost of living. That would have meant moving away from our grandchildren and only being able to see them very infrequently. Having my pension allowed us to stay and enjoy seeing our grandchildren grow.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

James Raymond
pacemakerjim@hotmail.com
8660 Rosalind St.
Anchorage , Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:09 PM

From: jayne michelini <roamaround@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:50 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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jayne michelini
roamaround@gci.net
2780 North Windy Bottom Rd
wasilla , Alaska 99623

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:09:51 PM

From: Jedediah Smith <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:08 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

I began my service with the State of Alaska in 2006, shortly before the state moved to a defined contribution plan. I am extremely fortunate to be in the Tier 3 PERS system, and I can tell you that, more than 15 years later, I have worked my way up from a fisheries technician II to a Local Government Specialist IV. A big reason I continue working for the State of Alaska is due to the pension-style retirement system. Many of my peers are not included in this and have struggled to keep up with their retirement contributions, only to see their savings take a big hit during market downturns. This uncertainty is nerve-racking at the least and unsustainable for those with families, and it risks the state losing long-term institutional knowledge, something I find incredibly valuable and increasingly rare in my line of work.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement, one that I am currently fortunate to be a part of.

Thank you

Jedediah Smith

Jedediah Smith
akjed@yahoo.com
4209 Harrison
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17:50 PM

From: Jensyne Mason <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Jensyne Mason
jnsnmason13@gmail.com
8687 N Douglas Hwy
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension plan for public employees
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 6:08:33 PM

From: Jerald Hidalgo <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 6:00 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension plan for public employees

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Jerald Hidalgo
doy_012686@yahoo.com
2606 Lauren Creek Loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:04:43 PM

From: Jillynn King <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:01 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Thank you,
Jillynn King

Jillynn King
momkingjpk@gmail.com
PO Box 400,
GUSTAVUS, Alaska 99826

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:08:10 PM

From: Jo Bennett <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:47 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Jo Bennett
Jb99559@yahoo.com
PO Box 200601
Anchorage, Alaska 99520

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:08 AM

From: Joanne Barthlow <akfreedm@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:45 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Joanne Barthlow
akfreedm@gci.net
19542 Laura Lee Circle
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:00:04 PM

From: Joey Tillson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

First and foremost, you all have become familiar with me. I am not going away. I will continue to fight for staffing the state of Alaska. And how would we do this? How do we make this an enticing place to work and provide services for all Alaskans? Let's start with a better retirement system. I stood on the steps of the capital with my other union brothers and sisters wearing my Viking helmet again, pleading for funding, staffing the state and taking care of our Alaskans. I come to you again today asking, pleading to support this bill. I'm not going away. I kindly ask you to continue to support Alaskans and state services that will be the future of the next generation. Let us not forget the pioneers who built this state, let's continue to take care of them. Let's do it before there's nothing left to take care of.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Joey Tillson
joey.tillson@gmail.com
P.O. Box 8034
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Defined Benefit Pension employees
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17:33 PM

From: Joselyn Biloon <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Defined Benefit Pension employees

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Joselyn Biloon
jbiloon@yahoo.com
4041 Woronzof Dr
Anchorage , Alaska 99517

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:25:38 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joseph Stubbins <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 3:19:01 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Reply-To: Stubbinsak@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Joseph Stubbins
Stubbinsak@gmail.com
1307 W.39th

Anchorage , Alaska 99503

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:58 PM

From: Joshua Henson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:42 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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Joshua Henson
jxhenson91@gmail.com
8450 N Michaelson St
Palmer , Alaska 99645

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:55:09 PM

From: Julie Quilliam <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:30 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Julie Quilliam
quilliam65@gmail.com
1207 Maria Dr
Great Falls, Montana 59404

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:06:05 PM

From: Karen Schaf <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:37 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Karen Schaf
907karen@gmail.com
17428 South Juanita Loop
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:09:54 PM

From: Karol Libbey <klibbey@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:28 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Karol Libbey
klibbey@alaska.net
14901 Wildien Drive
ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99516

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:17 PM

From: Keith Moniz <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:47 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Keith Moniz
keithmoniz@gmail.com
8157 Keegan Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:53:17 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laura Costanios <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 7:02:36 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Reply-To: lauracostanios@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Laura Costanios
lauracostanios@gmail.com
1734 Eastridge Dr

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:26:35 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Leanne Quirk <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 3:26:09 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Reply-To: leanne.quirk@yahoo.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining qualified civil servants like myself and my colleagues who deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Leanne Quirk
leanne.quirk@yahoo.com
12324 Crested Butte Dr

Eagle River , Alaska 99477

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:06:50 PM

From: Lucas Judkins <lucas.judkins@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:05 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Lucas Judkins
lucas.judkins@alaska.gov
411 wedge wood dr l19
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:09:58 PM

From: Margaret Pohjola <mkenney@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:09 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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Margaret Pohjola
mkenney@gci.net
2811 Iris Dr
Anchorage , Alaska 99517

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:54:16 PM

From: Martha Robinson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:35 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Martha Robinson
mrobinsonak@gmail.com
2606 Kelsan Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:06:29 PM

From: Moksha Martino <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:24 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Moksha Martino
Mokshamartino@gmail.com
3428 Orion Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension System
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:54:24 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Clark <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 6:35:08 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension System
Reply-To: aknickclark@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

As a firefighter and husband of a teacher for over 10 years in Alaska, thank you! We must get this across the finish line this year.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Nick Clark
aknickclark@gmail.com
Po Box 80151
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17:24 PM

From: Olivia Orsborn <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:16 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Olivia Orsborn
olivia_orsborn@hotmail.com
9152 Jerry Dr
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:51:23 AM

From: R. K. Bezdecny <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 8:42 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

R. K. Bezdecny
Rebecca.bezdecny@gmail.com
PO Box 650
Kenai, Alaska 99611

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:28 PM

From: Rebecca Morrissey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:08 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Rebecca Morrissey
remorriss85@gmail.com
8114 Sundi Dr
Anchorage , Alaska 99502

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:06:47 PM

From: Robert Zajac <robert.zajac@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Robert Zajac
robert.zajac@alaska.gov
7061 Serenity Cir
Anchorage , Alaska 99502

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:05:32 AM

From: Ryan Andrew <randrew@ibew1547.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:01 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Ryan Andrew
randrew@ibew1547.org
3421 Dickson Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:57 AM

From: Shoshanah Stone <shanah.stone@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:53 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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Shoshanah Stone
shanah.stone@gci.net
2425 Marian Bay Cir
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 6:08:40 PM

From: T.J. Duffy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:37 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

T.J. Duffy
juneauduf@gmail.com
415 WILLOUGHBY AVE
JUNEAU, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:02 PM

From: Tamara Ramsey <ramseytm@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:51 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Tamara Ramsey
ramseytm@gci.net
6910 Apollo Dr
Anchorage, Alaska 9950r

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:16 AM

From: Terri Moore <hdovrhls@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 8:23 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Terri Moore
hdovrhls@msn.com
8128 Poplar Ave
Juneau, AK 99801, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:25:23 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Therese Thibodeau <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 3:21:53 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Reply-To: theresethib@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Therese Thibodeau
theresethib@gmail.com
426 Gold St.

Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:53:24 PM

From: Tom Snyder <tom3@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:39 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Tom Snyder
tom3@gci.net
4400 Riverton Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:12 PM

From: TRINA RODRIGUEZ <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:18 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Thank you!

TRINA RODRIGUEZ
trina_richards@yahoo.com
1115 Hayes Ave Apt 3
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17:17 PM

From: Valerie White <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:16 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Valerie White
valerie.j.white@gmail.com
2100 E. 75th AVE #3
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:35 AM

From: William Arnold <wobbly@posteo.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:32 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this important bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

William Arnold
wobbly@posteo.net
PO Box 22730
Juneau, Alaska 99802-2730

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:53:00 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: William Tompkins <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 7:25:06 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Reply-To: williamrtompkins@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

William Tompkins
williamrtompkins@gmail.com
1075 E 26th

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:53:41 PM

From: Amy Burke <amy.burke@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement. As a supervisor I have struggled the last few years to hire and retain employees. This bill will help in that effort.

Amy Burke
amy.burke@alaska.gov
1416 4th Street
Douglas, Alaska 99824

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Thank You
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:10:58 PM

From: Audra Lopez <audra_lopez@lksd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:10 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank You

Dear Senator Giessel,

I just wanted to say thank you for your efforts in restoring a decent retirement for Alaska's teachers and other public employees. I'll be keeping my fingers crossed for Senate Bill 88 to pass!

Thanks again!

--

Audra Lopez
Instructional Coach
New Teacher Induction Lead
DLE Trainer
English Language Arts Facilitator (Reach for Reading K-6, www.myngconnect.com)
Ext.4813

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Hope for a pension, finally!
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:07:24 AM

From: Brianna Utter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:22 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Hope for a pension, finally!

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Big congratulations for pushing forward for the chance to give Alaska state employees a pension! Lately it's felt like state workers are being left to flounder, with little to make the state appealing over the private sector. As many know, there are many jobs going unfilled, many employees turning away from the state, and more pressure than ever for current employees to fill that gap. A pension is a hugely desirable incentive to stay with the state.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Brianna Utter
brianna.a.utter@gmail.com
7762 Boundary Ave
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:53:02 PM

From: Charlene Taranto-Avril <CHAR.AVRIL@MATSUGOV.US>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:39 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Charlene Taranto-Avril
CHAR.AVRIL@MATSUGOV.US
3524 East Wanamingo Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:08:37 PM

From: Corey Hallgren <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:32 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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Corey Hallgren
mustng691@gmail.com
4301 N Farm Loop
Palmer, Alaska 99645

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:52:26 PM

From: James Christenberry <james1969@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:42 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I myself being a tier 3 (defined benefit) municipality employee, know that since going to the tier 4 (defined contribution) our ability to attract and maintain good knowledgeable employees has declined. I believe that reinstating the tier 3 system is the best way to get our state back on the right step. Thank you for your time and the hard work you put in to try and do what you believe is best.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

James Christenberry
james1969@gci.net
7821 Chaimi loop
Anchorage , Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:52:05 PM

From: Jeff Kasper <jkasper@apea-aft.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:43 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Jeff Kasper
jkasper@apea-aft.org
3523 Forest Grove Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Support for Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:08:17 PM

From: John Bennett <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:42 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Without a return to a defined benefit pension plan our state will be emptied of qualified, long-term public employees. We all suffer when public money is diverted to constantly going through needless interview and hiring processes, and having either vacant positions, or under qualified people in those positions.

I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

John Bennett
hydrojohn@gmail.com
1479 Farmers Loop Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please vote to reinstate a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:58:20 PM

From: John Ferree <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please vote to reinstate a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. Please vote to reinstate a public employee defined-benefit pension retirement plan.

Respectfully,

50 year Alaska resident John Ferree

John Ferree
jferree939@gmail.com
2711 Chief Alexander Drive
Fairbanks , Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:51:18 PM

From: John Jensen <norwejohn@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

John Jensen
norwejohn@gci.net
12900 Patrick Rd
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:51:45 PM

From: John Johnson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:45 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

John Johnson
john.johnsonak@gmail.com
3830 Boek Circle
Anchorage , Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Help make a change for public employees
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:53:57 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: John King <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 6:47:13 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Help make a change for public employees
Reply-To: kingj31@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

Re-establishing a defined benefit pension system for all public employees is the first step in getting Alaska back on track and ensuring Alaska's public employees have a retirement that honors their service to our state.

When I started working for the state in 2015, my friends and I were moving to Alaska to be public employees, now many of them have lost interest and moved out of state. A defined benefit system would greatly help in enticing

public employees to stay in Alaska.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

John King

John King
kingj31@gmail.com
3235 Bresee St Unit E6
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Alaska's public workforce needs a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:58:10 PM

From: Kate Quick <kate.quick@unac4996ak.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska's public workforce needs a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

The Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, university faculty and staff, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Sincerely,
Kate Quick

Kate Quick
kate.quick@unac4996ak.com
1555 N Rader Dr
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: It's time to return public employees to a Defined Benefit Pension with SB 88
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:57:16 PM

From: Kimberly Hays <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:16 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: It's time to return public employees to a Defined Benefit Pension with SB 88

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

As an individual who works in the private sector and who is fortunate enough to have access to a defined benefit pension, I understand the peace of mind it will give our hard working public employees who have dedicated themselves to working here in Alaska as many others leave for other opportunities.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Kimberly Hays
kimhays@outlook.com
5703 Big Bend Loop.
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:53:32 PM

From: Nicole Thomson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:39 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Nicole Thomson
nicoleinalaska@gmail.com
4851 S Bearpaw Cir
Wasilla , Alaska 99687

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:50:22 PM

From: Robert Clark <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:47 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Robert Clark
1robclark@gmail.com
1328 Kinnikinnick Street
ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99508

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:49:28 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Rpea Secretary <secretaryrpea@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:54 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Dear Senator Giessel:

I cannot express how important it is that you introduced this bill. I am a public retiree. I cannot imagine how I would have amassed the where-with-all of managing a 401(K) investment and social security in such a way as to replace enough of my income post-retirement to make it in Alaska today. Neither my parents nor my educational system, which was a good one, taught me about investing money in the market.

I now mentor many younger public employees in my field of law. Some of these are very highly placed public employees who command a good salary. They are now in the tiers that are defined contributions. It is clear as a bell now that there is no way that these public employees are on track to replace even 70% of their current income. That the current standard, and yet inflation makes that completely unrealistically low. Each of these public employees relate to me that they are so concerned about this that they are foregoing having children, they are only planning to stay in public employment until they amass the skills that the private sector wants and will pay them for, and they do not see themselves making a lifelong commitment to Alaska as residents.

I am so impressed by your willingness to see the challenges to government that eliminating pensions has made, and also your views on health care issues.

As we Alaskans age, it is these two issues, and education of our next generations, that dictate whether we will have enough Alaskans to fill out a robust workforce and a strong economy.

Very best,

Stephanie Rhoades
1338 F Street
Anchorage 99501
(907) 229-3016

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Returning to a Defined Benefit - SB88
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:53 PM

From: Tyler Watson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Returning to a Defined Benefit - SB88

Senator Cathy Giessel,

As a public employee in Alaska I'm excited to see SB88 introduced today by Sen. Cathy Giessel alongside so many cosponsors.

The State of Alaska and our public schools across the state are facing staffing crises and our most vulnerable neighbors are the ones paying that cost with larger class sizes, closed schools, SNAP backlogs, and rural areas that go without public safety.

In my own, short time with the State I've seen firsthand the increased employee turnover and resulting burnout for the state workers who stay at their jobs.

I believe that returning to a defined benefit pension system for all public employees will be a powerful tool in addressing our staffing crisis.

Thank you for all your work in support of our state.

Tyler Watson
tylerjwatson49@gmail.com
3321 Shamrock St
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 88
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:09:34 PM

From: akpaww@gmail.com <akpaww@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:27 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 88

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for introducing SB-88. I understand it will reinstate defined benefits for Alaska's public employees and teachers. I have long been a proponent of defined benefits, and feel it is critical for Alaska to attract and retain qualified public employees and teachers. I worked for the State of Alaska for 30-year, and having a pension has allowed me to stay in Alaska. I am also on the board of the Retired Public Employees of Alaska. Our organization supports the return of defined benefits as an option for all public employees, not just law enforcement.

I plan to read the bill in detail and if I have any specific comments, I will send them to you. Again, thank for introducing this bill!! I am glad to have you back in Juneau looking out after the people of our state.

Best regards,
Wendy Woolf
Indian, AK.

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 7:09:20 AM

From: Christine L Bair <Christine.bair@north-slope.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 8:34 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Christine L Bair
Christine.bair@north-slope.org
PO Box 1834
Barrow, Alaska 99723

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:01 AM

From: Clint Thomas <clinton.thomas@anchorageak.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 5:15 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Clint Thomas
clinton.thomas@anchorageak.gov
1150 S. Colony Way Ste #3 PMB198
Palmer, Alaska 99645

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:58:29 AM

From: JEFF WOJTACHA <jeff.wojtacha@matsugov.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:55 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

JEFF WOJTACHA
jeff.wojtacha@matsugov.us
1420 south industrial way
Palmer, Alaska 99645

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:48:17 AM

From: JEFFREY BRUNDAGE <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 12:48 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

JEFFREY BRUNDAGE
jbrundage@hotmail.com
7971 RESURRECTION DR.
ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:48:11 AM

From: Mindy Hunter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:38 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Mindy Hunter
erik.mindy@gmail.com
, 4135 Hohe St.
Homer, Alaska 99603

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:48:02 AM

From: rob mac naughton <macsalsa@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:42 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

rob mac naughton
macsalsa@gci.net
3982 eastway loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Restore a Real Retirement for Alaska Public Employees
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 11:24:12 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: gehring_brian@everyactionadvocacy.com <gehring_brian@everyactionadvocacy.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 12:16 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore a Real Retirement for Alaska Public Employees

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,

I hope that you read my message as the specific numbers, and often ignored legal conditions, will provide an illustrative perspective of the predicament that many state employees experience.

As a math, physics, and computer science teacher, I have done sufficient research and spreadsheet calculations to know that teaching in Alaska is a very poor economic decision and ultimately unsustainable. My wife (also a teacher) and I continue to live and work here because of the natural beauty and freedom living in Alaska affords, but every time I review our retirement plans it is clear that we cannot continue to teach in Alaska without a change in retirement options.

I will offer you the shocking numbers that are predicted by our state retirement website, Empower. The "retirement planning tool" predicts that after 35 years of teaching with maximum paycheck contributions to the 401a that I will have a retirement equal to \$800 in today's dollars (based on an optimistic average 3.25% inflation). Obviously this is not a "retirement", and pales to the \$2200 (today's dollars) the social security calculator predicts... social security that I will not be getting since we do not pay into that system.

Legally, it is surprising that courts have allowed the state to put employees in this pickle. As described in the Code of Federal Regulations, a government employee's defined benefit plan meets the requirements if and only if, on that day, the employee has an accrued benefit under the system that entitles the employee to an annual benefit commencing on or before his or her Social Security retirement age that is at least equal to the annual Primary Insurance Amount the employee would have under Social Security. (IRC Section 3121). Unfortunately, Safe Harbor laws provide an exception calculator so providers of retirement benefits get to violate IRC Section 3121. Safe Harbor laws were not designed for large organizations and the State of Alaska is abusing this loophole to violate regulations that exist to provide humane treatment of employees.

Realistically, changes must be made. Workplaces across the state are full of experienced people who are leaving, and vacancies that are not being filled. Please restore a reasonable retirement.

Sincerely,
Brian Gehring
16930 Kings Way Dr Anchorage, AK 99516-6960 gehring_brian@asdk12.org

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 5:58:24 PM

From: DaveAndSheila Hanson <hanson907ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 5:49 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Hi Cathy,

Excellent job laying out the need for and solutions through SB 88. It is so reassuring to have a competent and caring leader like you in Juneau.

Thank you.

Dave Hanson

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: State retirement system
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:30:13 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: manderson@acsalaska.net
Date: March 4, 2023 at 8:56:52 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: RE: State retirement system

Thanks for the explanation, the bill sounds more attractive. However, to back up my comment: The PERS newsbreak, winter 2023, number 127 says the State of Alaska's FY 2021 average annual DB pension is \$25,269. I googled up the average annual social security payment and found that in 2022 the average payment was \$29,806. Thus if social security is a poverty level benefit, you'll need a lot more than SB 88 is likely to pay. I still think it would be better to be eligible for both, adding the two together, you'd have more security in retirement.

Below is the notice I received using SB 88 as the subject line:

Your message did not reach some or all of the intended recipients.

Subject: SB 88
Sent: 3/2/2023 9:36 AM

The following recipient(s) cannot be reached:

sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov on 3/2/2023 9:36 AM
550 5.7.1 322IZgjZ024727 This message has been blocked
for containing SPAM-like characteristics.

My only change was the subject line.

Thanks for what you do,
Mary Anderson

From: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 2:12 PM

To: manderson@acsalaska.net

Subject: RE: State retirement system

I have a deluge of emails with header: SB 88!
Perhaps it was something else that blocked your email, Mary.

I don't know if you receive social security benefits but...a lot of seniors would tell you that it is a poverty level benefit.

Teachers in Alaska opted-out of Social Security several decades ago. Other Alaska public employees receive social security.

The teachers themselves voted to opt-out several decades ago.

I thought you'd like to have that information.

I don't know any other professionals (like physicians, geologists, etc) who rely solely on social security.

But then, those professionals are not reliant on annual budgets to know whether they have a job next year...or not (as public school teachers do).

Here are the facts of this bill:

The previous DB Tiers put most of the cost on the State. There was a generous healthcare provision in previous DB plans.

Here is the link to the bill, SB 88:

<https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/33?Root=sb%2088>

This article in the Alaska Beacon summarizes the contents of this new DB system:

<https://alaskabeacon.com/2023/03/01/alaska-senators-introduce-bipartisan-bill-intended-to-revive-a-pension-program-for-state-workers/>

Public employees would be required to pay more than they did under the old system, and that amount could rise if state retirement experts say it's needed.

Unlike the old system, no health insurance is included, though there would be a small health savings account to cover the time between retirement and the minimum age for Medicare.

Current state employees would be given an opportunity to switch from the state's existing 401(k)-style retirement system to the new system, and all new employees would be required to use the new system.

Police, firefighters and other public safety employees would be able to retire at age 50

with 25 years of service (or at age 55 with 20 years), while teachers and other public employees would be allowed to retire at age 60 or with 30 years of service. Retirement payments would be based on an employee's highest five consecutive years of salary, and benefits wouldn't be available for anyone who works less than five years. There would be no cost of living bonus for retirees who live in Alaska, and the state's supplemental benefit system — which allows employees to sock away an additional (matched by the state) 6.12% of their income — would remain untouched.

This new DB has adjustment provisions that the Alaska Retirement Management Board can use to raise the employee contribution, if the fund is not meeting 90% funding goal.

While a new actuarial analysis is not presently available, essentially the same bill, though limited to fire and police only, had actuarials last year.

https://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=32&docid=92884

Have a great day.

Best Regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel

Alaska State Senate, District E
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition
(907)465-4843
Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov

From: manderson@acsalaska.net <manderson@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 1:44 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: State retirement system

Evidently your spam filter does not accept emails with the heading SB 88 on them.

From: manderson@acsalaska.net <manderson@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 9:35 AM
To: 'Senator Cathy Giessel Newsletter' <sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Hi Senator,

The solution to fixing the states retirement system is to simply

participate in social security. It would cost the state almost nothing and there is huge benefits to participating. When the state originally went away from the defined benefit plan, I thought it was probably time to move on to traditional 401(K) type plans. That was before I knew how social security really worked, now I know that when they moved to a defined contribution they should have also gone into social security. Municipal employees have no issue because the cities and towns across Alaska also participate in social security. Note it's only state employees and teachers, and it's state employees and teachers that have made a career with only the state as an employer. Everyone else who has participated in social security does not have an issue with retirement. I'm not going to type forever here so if you'd like to hear more details please feel free to call me at 907-382-7846.

Thanks for what you do,
Mary Anderson
Anchorage

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: State of Alaska Can do Better!
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:51:47 AM

From: Susan Kessler <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 8:18 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: State of Alaska Can do Better!

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

As a public servant who has recently moved from a non-profit to State of Alaska employment, I was surprised to see that my retirement benefits at the state are not competitive, even compared to a non-profit! As I work to oversee important programs, I also need to be able to recruit highly qualified employees. The salary and retirement benefits I am able to offer are not rewarding enough to allow me to recruit the staff I need. Infants and toddlers with disabilities across the state need our leadership to help them develop to their full potential.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Susan Kessler
sekessler68@gmail.com
4679 Bluegill Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB 88
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 9:19:31 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Darwin Feakes <d2darwin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 4:38:35 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Thank you so much for bringing this bill to the session. Alaska has fallen so far behind in retirement and it continues to make it difficult to draw new teachers to our state. I fully support you and this bill to be passed this session of the legislature.

Darwin Feakes
Haines, Alaska

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB 88 Defined benefits option
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 1:55:53 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Cathy Giessel, RN, APRN, Fellow-AANP
Senator, Alaska Senate District E
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: psfisher@gci.net
Date: March 3, 2023 at 12:01:27 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Click Bishop" <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Gary Stevens" <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Scott Kawasaki" <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Bill Wielechowski" <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson" <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Matt Claman" <Sen.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Forrest Dunbar" <Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Jesse Kiehl" <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Löki Tobin" <Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88 Defined benefits option

Thank you for sponsoring and supporting SB 88, the return to defined benefits.

This legislation, supported by AARP, is greatly needed to improve recruitment and retention of state employees.

Your support is very important.

Patricia Fisher
Mat-Su Resident

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 9:17:16 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Becky <rebeccasueking@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 5:00:56 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Senator Giessel,
Thank you for introducing SB 88 and attempting to fix the broken retirement system for Alaska's public servants. All Alaskans will benefit from Alaska being more competitive for teachers and other public servants.

This bill is especially meaningful to me. I've been a resident of Alaska since coming here with the Air Force in 1999. I recently earned my masters degree in education and became a teacher in Alaska. Becoming a teacher in Alaska caused me to lose most of the social security benefits I'd already paid into. The current contribution plan isn't enough to support a family in retirement years, so I, like so many others, am considering my options. I am hopeful that the changes you proposed will turn into a reality so that I can continue teaching in Alaska and support myself and my family in my retirement years.

Thank you,

Rebecca King

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you
Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023 11:05:22 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jenifer Singleton <uma_mai@hotmail.com>
Date: March 4, 2023 at 10:59:07 AM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Senator Giessel,
Thank you for introducing SB 88. As an educator I am grateful for your support of myself and others in my profession. As a constituent in your district, I am grateful that you were reelected.
Jenifer Singleton

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: With Gratitude
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 9:20:29 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Jenell Hartman <jenellhartman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 2:55:21 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: With Gratitude

Senator Giessel,

As an educator in the Anchorage School District I wanted to write you a note of gratitude for introducing HB 88. I am currently in my fifth year of teaching, and therefore fall into the Tiers III category.

It is worrisome to me as I have seen and continue to see many colleagues leave the profession of teaching to either teach in other states that offer a defined benefit retirement, or switch career fields all together.

Education is an investment in our economy, our growth and our future and there must be incentives for educators to stay in this profession, as well as recruit new educators to the profession. A defined benefit package would accomplish this. It would offer folks who have been teaching to feel like they have longevity and job security, and would offer a bright future for new educators as they begin their career.

Being an educator is hard work and thus deserves to have a secure retirement when reaching the age of 60 or thirty years of service. The majority of people who go into teaching want to continue to teach for the tenure of their career. This Senate Bill would strive to provide security for educators to stay, grow in their practice and better our K-12 student bodies around our state.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and wishing you well as this bill is moved forward with support.

Warm Gratitude,
Jenell Hartman

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB88
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:29:32 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Liz Jackson <copperliz@hotmail.com>
Date: March 4, 2023 at 1:45:12 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB88

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for sponsoring and supporting SB 88 - RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT. This Bill is supported by AARP and its members, and your support of this bill is greatly appreciated.

I will be watching as it moves through committees, and again – many thanks for your work on getting this bill to the finish line.

Lisbeth (Liz) Jackson
copperliz@hotmail.com
907-232-2063

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you
Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023 9:15:22 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tasha Morse <tasha.morse@gmail.com>
Date: March 4, 2023 at 8:10:02 AM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Dear Senator,

I wanted to thank you for trying to fix our broken retirement system. I have been a teacher in Alaska for the last fifteen years, and am a part of Tier III. As a new teacher to Alaska back in 2008, I was just so happy to have a job in a good school that I wasn't looking forward to retirement and what the next chapter of my life will bring.

Now that I have been in my school district for so long, I am able to think about the future and what that might bring. It's been depressing to think that I will have to teach until I'm in my 70's or 80's for any sort of retirement, or that I may have to sell my home and seek employment somewhere else (a different state) that has a better retirement system in place.

In all the years I have had in my district, I have seen new teachers come and go. One of the reasons I have heard for people not staying is our retirement system. Folks will come to our state for adventure and then leave to seek employment in a state that they can retire with peace of mind, and the ability to apply for Social Security when they reach that age.

So, thank you for trying to help those of us in this tricky situation, and to help bring good educators and public servants to Alaska to stay. Not just to come a few years for an adventure and then leave for greener pastures.

I am hopeful that this legislation may help people like me who are faced with the

reality that our lives we have made in Alaska may not be the best for us in the next chapter of our lives, and that we may have to make the incredibly difficult decision to move out of state just to be able to survive what should be our golden years.

Sincerely,
Tasha Morse

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Retirement
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:00:00 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Cathy Giessel, RN, APRN, Fellow-AANP
Senator, Alaska Senate District E
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Anne Love <annem.love@yahoo.com>
Date: March 5, 2023 at 7:56:55 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Retirement

Hello,

My husband and I both are teachers in Homer. We are both Tier 3. We are watching and praying the pension returns. The teacher turnover on the Kenai has become a serious problem because of the lack of a retirement. For those of us that stay, we struggle with what to do next because retiring at the moment is not a future option.

Thank you,

Anne M Love

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for SB 88
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 3:59:16 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen <lovegreensnorth@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 3:57:03 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for SB 88

Thank you for introducing SB 88 to allow teachers and other public employees to choose a defined benefit retirement. As you know, this will help recruit and retain quality educators and other public servants. I appreciate your work on this issue.

Cheryl Lovegreen

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Senate bill 88
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:05:35 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Jim and Sherry Brown <jimandsherry66@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 11:13:29 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate bill 88

Thank you, thank you, thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88 making it a bipartisan effort to correct a big problem created in 2006.

Recently Senator Murkowski addressed the legislature imploring them to help stop the out migration of Alaskans. Governor Dunleavy recently lowered the bar for professionals to fill positions leading to down grading our schools.

Your efforts are to be applauded. Thank you again. Keep up the good work.
James Brown
Retired teacher. 1987

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB 88 Thanks!
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:05:58 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Janet Balice <whitelos@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 7:59:57 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88 Thanks!

Thanks!

I am a Tier III teacher and I see what is happening to teacher retention due to poor retirement benefits.

For myself after many years of fun teaching as I approach retirement age I have no pension only the state retirement savings account that will run out after a few years.

Janet

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB88
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:03:07 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Bs Bs <cohomojoe@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 1:50:18 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB88

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you so much for introducing SB88. It is very encouraging to see so many senators sign on to join you, especially my Senator, Senator Stevens. This is an issue that he and I have discussed many times over the years, and I am ever hopeful that it will continue to move forward and pass.

Thanks again,
Kathy Simpler
Kodiak

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 88
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 3:12:01 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Trisha <pstark@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 1:44 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 88

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for introducing this bill. It is so important to have a Defined Benefit Retirement system in order to recruit and retain state employees. Thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,
Patricia Stark
Fairbanks

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88 Support
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 3:11:49 PM

From: Riki Lebman <riki_lebman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 1:49 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88 Support

Dear Senator Giessel,
Thank you for sponsoring and supporting SB 88, the return to defined benefits.
This legislation, supported by AARP, is greatly needed to improve recruitment and retention of state employees.
Your sponsorship and support is very important.
Thank You,
Riki Lebman
Hillside Constituent

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for Introducing Senate Bill 88
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:51:43 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nicole Jensen <nmariejensen@gmail.com>
Date: March 7, 2023 at 7:28:12 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for Introducing Senate Bill 88

Cathy,

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88. As a teacher in tier 3 retirement, I appreciate the furthering of this matter. I have been teaching for 8 years and deeply worry about my ability to retire as a teacher in Alaska. I am a lifelong Alaskan, and I do not want to leave the state. I grew up in Seward and currently teach in Soldotna. I also believe that it is important to keep Alaskans in the role of Alaskan educators. We need to pay attention as a state to retention of current teachers. Each year we lose new and experienced teachers to our poor retirement in Alaska. Having a strong retirement system will support the longevity of Alaskan teachers in the profession.

Thank you for your continued work for Alaskan teachers.

Sincerely,
Nicole Jensen

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Pension Senate Bill - Thank you
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:51:16 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robanne Stading <icycoldriver123@gmail.com>
Date: March 7, 2023 at 8:01:14 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pension Senate Bill - Thank you

Senator Giessel,
Thank you for introducing SB-88 for the reinstatement of a pension retirement system. With 17 years in TRS Tier 3, I'm interested in how it may all turn out for me and as a way to make teaching in Alaska more attractive for other.
Sincerely,
Robanne Stading
Homer, Alaska



Retired Public Employees of Alaska, APEA/AFT

8005 Schoon Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99518

PO Box 110650, Anchorage, Alaska 99511-0650

Phone: (907) 274-1703

Email: manager@rpea-ak.org

Web site: rpea-ak.org

March 13, 2023

The Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate Majority Leader
Alaska State Capitol – Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing on behalf of the Executive Board of the Retired Public Employees of Alaska (RPEA) to thank you for your introduction of Senate Bill 88, legislation that offers a return to defined benefit PERS and TRS systems.

The RPEA believes that successful passage of this important legislation to return to a defined benefit retirement system will greatly improve the ability of public entities across Alaska to hire and retain qualified, professional staff. As retirees, we have seen the impact on the public workforce since 2006, when Alaska left a defined benefit system, including the impact on our own extended families, with sons, daughters, and grandchildren opting not to stay in the state in which they grew up. Providing a defined benefit to public employees is a matter of workplace and workforce fairness.

Please do not hesitate to contact the RPEA if we can be of any assistance to you and the co-sponsors of this important legislation in advocating for passage of this bill.

Very truly yours,

Randall Burns
President
Retire Public Employees of Alaska

cc: RPEA Executive Board



ALASKA STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Local 52

Alaska State Employees Association Letter of Support for SB 88
March 10, 2023

Dear Senator Giessel:

On behalf of the Alaska State Employees Association (ASEA) and the 8,000 hard-working public employees we represent, I write to express our appreciation for sponsoring SB 88. Returning to a defined benefit pension system will squarely address the recruitment and retention crisis facing public employers. SB 88 provides a path to stabilizing employment in public service for the benefit of families and communities across our great state.

The current defined contribution retirement plan has placed a turnover tax on the delivery of essential public services across Alaska. Qualified employees at all levels of government can find better pay and promising retirement elsewhere. A defined contribution retirement rewards short term interests of additional work experience and a portable investment account. With marketable experience and a nest egg, many employees soon look for new jobs that offer certainty in retirement.

This revolving door of employment reflects the tragically easy choice between a career in public service versus long-term retirement goals. As Alaska's public sector workforce continues to be replaced and retrained, there are undeniable downstream impacts for the vulnerable beneficiaries of government agencies, services, and programs. Turnover in some state agencies has become so acute that 40% vacancy rates in certain divisions are now commonplace. Bonus schemes have been employed as a stop-gap measure to shore up retention in the Office of Children's Services, state correctional facilities, Alaska Pioneer Homes, and dozens of other agencies. In fact, turnover is so significant across the executive branch that Governor Dunleavy has removed by executive order the higher education requirement for most state jobs to recruit from a larger pool. While we understand the motivation, that action alone is a half measure to increase the candidate pool without offering an incentive to stay.

Our members safeguard our water and manage our natural resources. They clear our roads and inspect our bridges. They shelter our children and connect families to vital services. Our members are Alaskans who make Alaska work. With your support behind SB 88, a defined benefit retirement option will incentivize our members and many more working Alaskans to stay in their jobs, while attracting more qualified workers to public service. A defined benefit offers Alaskans the opportunity to retire with dignity, which they deserve for their service to our great state.

Sincerely,

Heidi Drygas
Executive Director
ASEA/AFSCME Local 52





Confidential Employees Association
APEA/AFT (AFL-CIO) Local #6133

March 11, 2023

Dear Senator Giessel,

My name is Danelle Beck, President of the Confidential Employees Association (CEA), the human resources, and classified staff union for the State of Alaska. On behalf of our 175 members, I commend you for sponsoring Senate Bill 88, as well as your co-sponsors, and urge the entire legislature to show the same support for retirement security.

The Confidential Employees Association members are the people who process payroll, the people who approve recruitments and hires, the people who ensure state positions are classified according to the merit principle, and the people to whom the State of Alaska confers with when department leaders need guidance for personnel matters. The value our members provide is indispensable to the efficient administration of state government.

As human resource professionals we recognize that recruitment and retention problems for state employees are driven by myriad issues, but first and foremost among them is the lack of a reliable retirement system in the public sector. Creating a sustainable pension program is the first and most important step in returning state and local government jobs to their former status as attractive careers.

Our human resources community has seen significant attrition as many employees have retired and not been replaced or have fled to the private sector. This reduction in staff has had severe consequences to our ability to be efficient conducting even ordinary state business. Over the last two years, the payroll section has **experienced a 40% vacancy rate**. This means that we are consistently on the precipice of 14,000 state employees not being paid. Payroll employees often are covering three or four times of what should be their normal workload.

Reductions in recruitment services has meant that Department of Administration lacks the people power to fill vacancies. Classification studies that were promised to bring employee salaries to more competitive rates at a minimum of at least two years out. Labor Relations is experiencing staggering caseloads with less staff than any point in recent memory. This comes at the same time as state supervisors are dealing with performance and behavioral concerns due to burnout and understaffing among their direct reports. Turnover and working conditions have career state employees deciding to leave state service, and often the state overall for better quality of life. Countless PERS Tier IV members recognize they are facing a potential financial free fall due to low wages now, and in retirement, because they know unless they hit the market just right their defined contribution plan will be inadequate. In this market our members are struggling to buy homes, pay for childcare, and are sacrificing time with their families by working two or three jobs to make up the difference.

Our members are professionals. Many of us wish to work full careers in public service and continue to pour ourselves out to serve fellow Alaskans, but our ethic of sacrifice should not be used against us. The sad truth is even the most giving are nearing their limit out of sheer exhaustion. Morale has taken a huge hit across SOA and the public sector in general. Service to the public should be met with a retirement plan that allows us to retire with dignity. By passing Senate Bill 88 employees, employers, retirees, and the public would all be incentivized to ensure that our retirement plan will be successful by sharing the risk, and the benefit. Out of all the bills introduced this session, Senate Bill 88 is the most significant way to show your constituents you believe in Alaska and Alaskans as much as we do, and is a vote of confidence in your employees, and the in the services they provide to the public overall.

Defined Contribution Plans have proven unsuccessful and it's time to make a change forward to a plan that Alaskans can be proud of. Let's show the next generation of young Alaskans that giving back to your community through public service is worth the sacrifice and can lead to a fulfilling life and secure future for them and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danelle J. Beck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danelle" and last name "Beck" clearly legible.

Danelle J. Beck
President, Executive Board
Confidential Employees Association
Local 6133, APEA/AFT

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB88
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 11:45:18 AM

From: Elizabeth Redlinger-Eklund <enreklund@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 11:17 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB88

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 88. I appreciate your introducing this bill and recognizing the importance of a defined benefit retirement plan for teachers and other public employees. As a mid-career teacher, I see the value in creating a retirement program that encourages my colleagues to stay in Alaska. Our students benefit when we can recruit and retain high-quality teachers.

With gratitude,

Elizabeth Redlinger-Eklund
Senate District E Resident

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Restore Pension for Alaska Teachers
Date: Saturday, March 11, 2023 12:43:41 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gloria Cluff <cluff@gci.net>
Date: March 11, 2023 at 11:28:46 AM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore Pension for Alaska Teachers

Senator Giessel,

I am a teacher in the Anchorage School District. I have been a full time teacher since 2011 so I am on tier 3. I was a substitute teacher for 10 years prior to being hired full time. I chose to stay home with my children as they were growing up. But what this did was to make it impossible for me to “retire” from teaching from the state of Alaska due to the tier structure and the minimal amount that is put aside in the defined contribution plan.

I am now within 4 years of when I am going to stop teaching. I am seriously considering taking my experience out of state (Wyoming has a plan that you can retire vested in their pension plan for only 4 years of teaching). I hate to do this because my home and heart will always be in Alaska, but I just can’t afford to keep teaching here. I am a special education teacher so I know my services will be valued and appreciated anywhere I choose to go. I only wish that it could be staying here so I can retire with money enough to be able to live in Alaska.

Sincerely,
Gloria Cluff

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Senate Bill 88
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 1:51:42 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laura Eastham <lauraeastham50@gmail.com>
Date: March 12, 2023 at 1:06:03 AM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 88

Senator Giessel,

I am a teacher of 17 years. I missed tier 2 by two weeks. With the threat of medicare being taken away by the current national administration I am thinking that I will never retire. The stock market where I have my retirement linked to is unpredictable. I try not to think about the investments that are made on my behalf, but my fund is not growing as much as I would like. When I was in college back in the 80's I was told that a 401 k would have to be at 250,000 in order to retire. That was then, I'm sure the amount has changed. The thing is even though I have been saving aggressively for all my teaching career my fund is still not at that marker. I feel like a pension would alleviate the worry I feel about retirement. I am approaching 60, and would feel less worried if I knew I would have a base monthly allowance that would not disappear when the market drops.

I've known so many great educators who left the field because the benefits do not out way the hard work educators must put in to become successful teachers. I feel a pension would be an incentive worth investing in to keep good educators in Alaska and in the field. Please bring back a pension to Alaska public employees. We are all hard working, dedicated, and loyal workers and need the peace of mind a pension would bring.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Eastham

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 11:42:25 AM

From: Tim Parker <tparkerak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: Julia OConnor <Julia.OConnor@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Dear Sen. Giessel,

Thank you for introducing SB 88. This is a balanced fix to the current TRS III and PERS IV problems.

It is clear that current TRS III and PERS IV employees in public education are being left behind with an inadequate plan for retirement. Most don't know it when they are hired and a large number leave Alaska's schools when they figure it out.

I have had the sad job of informing thousands of public education employees about the specifics of their TRS III and PERS IV plans. The most common reactions are shock, anger, and tears.

While a small percentage of employees step up to tackle the inadequacy of the current system, most don't have the energy, time, or ability to do this. What they have been asked to do since 2006 requires a high level of financial acumen, and the reality is that scant few have made proper plans. That means that the majority of public education employees will suffer greatly when they reach their golden years.

The reality is that Social Security provides a floor for almost every employee in the United States with the exception of some PERS IV and TRS III employees in Alaska. Two choices made this happen: the decision by some PERS and all TRS employees to opt out of Social Security (made decades ago), and the decision in 2006 to switch from a defined benefit to a defined contribution style retirement. The decision to remove the floor puts thousands of Alaska public employees in a situation where they can run out of money when they are in their 60s, 70s, 80s, or 90s. Nobody knows how long they will live, but for those who happen to outlive their savings, we have a moral obligation not to leave them penniless. That is a promise that the United States made to all employees when Social Security was enacted almost 100 years ago, and it's a promise that we owe all of our public sector employees in Alaska.

SB 88 provides a fair balance between risk for the state and risk for employees.

Thank you for supporting this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Tim Parker
Past president, NEA-Alaska

United Academics
AAUP/AFT local 4996
P.O. Box 755895
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5895
unitedacademics.net



March 10, 2023

To Senator Giessel,

On behalf of the 1,099 University of Alaska faculty members of United Academics, thank you for sponsoring SB88 to return Alaska's public employees to a defined benefits system. A robust and competitive retirement system is a crucial part of fixing the faculty recruitment and retention problem increasingly experienced by the University of Alaska. According to a recent Board of Regents presentation, UA employee turnover is at 10.6%, leading to significant costs for recruitment and training. This is money that could be better spent on existing employees and serving the UA mission.

UA competes with institutions in the Lower 48 to attract and retrain the top scholars in their fields. Those scholars teach UA students and conduct important research, all of which benefits Alaska's future and brings money to the state. However, our compensation packages can't compete with outside institutions anymore, due to UA's lower-than-average wages and Alaska's lackluster defined contribution retirement system. Too many faculty members come to UA for a few short years and leave for better compensation.

A robust defined benefits system would help make our compensation packages more competitive when compared to Lower 48 employers. SB88 would help UA retain and recruit faculty members. A defined benefits system would help ease the high turnover at UA and across the state, keeping our talented workers in the state to fill necessary jobs and contribute to Alaska's economy.

We are counting on the Alaska Legislature to do what's right for Alaska's public workforce and Alaska's economy: pass SB 88.

Sincerely,

Abel Bult-Ito
President, United Academics AAUP/AFT Local 4996
Professor of Neurobiology and Neurophysiology
Department of Biology and Wildlife
University of Alaska Fairbanks



Hello,

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Employees Association supports SB 88, the defined benefit pension bill and would appreciate your supporting it as well. Public service used to be a respected career that offered good pay and good benefits, this is however no longer the case. The individuals who work as public employees do so now because they want to serve their communities and their communities and law makers need to show the same support back.

There is a severe recruitment & retention crisis for public employees and not just at the state level; local governments are struggling through the same issues with less resources available to deal with it. The proposed new shared risk plan will save the state money in the long term and provide public employees with desperately needed retirement security. With proper pensions retirees contribute to a strong local economy by spending their money locally. With proper pensions we can start to recruit the young people from our communities to work in public service by giving them the option for stability to raise their families and know that when it is their turn they have a secure retirement to turn to and to retire with dignity.

We personally see the problems with recruitment and retention on a daily basis by taking on the huge burden of not only serving our community through the jobs we signed on for but also multiple other jobs that are empty. Whether those positions are filled or not the work must be done, or Alaskans go without the services they need. There is a huge amount of burn out from these added burdens which further contributes to the recruitment and retentions problems. My coworkers and I dedicate our lives to this state, and we deserve to retire with dignity. Please pass SB 88 for a better future for our state!

Thank you,

Stephanie Pearson
FNSBEA Vice President
Phone: (907) 459-1257

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local 1547

3333 DENALI STREET, SUITE 200
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-4038

TELEPHONE
(907) 272-6571

DISPATCH
(907) 276-1547

DUES FAX
(907) 274-4126

DOUG TANSY
BUSINESS MANAGER • FINANCIAL SECRETARY

VINCE BELTRAMI
PRESIDENT



March 20, 2023

Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol
Room 427
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing on behalf of the more than 4,000 IBEW members from across the state to thank you for sponsoring SB 88.

The IBEW 1547 represents workers in many diverse construction classifications including power linemen, inside wiremen, power plant workers and technicians, mechanics, warehouse workers, line clearance tree trimmers and heavy equipment operators. Traditionally, people think of IBEW members as people who work with electricity—but over the years, other classifications have joined our ranks. We represent many public sector employees who work as clerks, accounting specialists, engineers, city and municipal employees, property management workers, maintenance custodians, gardeners, librarians, plant services workers, and programmers.

In both the private and the public sector, our members know the value of defined benefit pensions both as a guarantee of a secure income when their working days are done, and as a lever available to management that encourages long term patterns of employment.

The inability of the public sector to reliably recruit and retain employees has a direct impact on the ability of the electrical industry to operate. To do our work in a timely fashion we rely on municipal and state inspectors, permitting offices, and certifications. Vacancies in these agencies hamper our ability to keep projects on track, Alaskans employed, and ultimately to keep powering Alaska.

We compete with the rest of the country for a highly sought after workforce, and the quality of our schools, community safety, and the ability of the state and local governments to provide basic services factors into our competitiveness when recruiting journeymen to Alaska.

With the infrastructure bill and defense appropriations, Alaska is at the precipice of a huge windfall of construction work. A strong public sector is essential for us to capitalize on this unprecedented opportunity to grow our workforce and economy.

We encourage the legislature to pass SB 88 and provide a defined benefit retirement for public employees.

Sincerely,

Doug Tansy
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
IBEW 1547



Supervisory Unit, Local 4900, APEA-AFT (AFL-CIO)

Honorable Cathy Giessel
State Senator District E
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

On behalf of SU APEA/AFT Local 4900, the state supervisor's union, I wish to express our gratitude to you and your colleagues for introducing Senate Bill 88. Many of our members have decades of service at the state and have watched the decline in the state's ability to find people willing to take jobs in public service. Many of our long-term members are in defined benefit tiers, and can attest to the incentive that a defined benefit pension created for our members to stay in their positions. We have also watched our younger members, and direct reports in other bargaining units start work, stay for two to five years and leave taking their employee contribution and employer match with them.

To deliver the vital services that Alaska residents expect, the state needs to attract and keep trained staff. As managers who do recruitments our members routinely encounter smaller pools of applicants, and even fewer applicants willing to take job offers. Our members recognize the delays and disruptions to public services that are caused and exacerbated by interminable vacancy rates. The inability of the state to successfully hire and retain employees has resulted in many of us taking on additional duties caused by vacancies, and managing employees who are experiencing low morale from having to increase their workloads, with fewer resources. This has lowered the efficiency of state government overall.

We support pensions not only because of the benefit to our members, but also because restoring a pension option is a sound financial decision on the part of the state. Pensions have features unavailable to individual market accounts including longevity risk pooling, higher and professionally managed investment returns, and investment portfolios that are balanced for the highest yield to members and the system in aggregate rather than individuals trying to guess at how long they will live.

While SB 88 includes provisions that are less generous than the prior DB tiers, we appreciate that this plan balances affordability with a meaningful retirement benefit. We are committed to the success of this bill.

Respectfully,

Liam Carnahan
President
SU 4900

CC: SU Executive Board

Northern Regional Office
c/o 825 College Road
Fairbanks AK 99701

Southcentral Regional Office
c/o 3310 Arctic Blvd, Ste 200
Anchorage AK 99503

Southeast Regional Office
c/o 211 4th St, Ste 306
Juneau AK 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please restore pension
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 10:25:15 AM

From: Scott, Sherri L (FCS) <sherri.scott@alaska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 10:22 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please restore pension

Dear Ms. Giessel,

Please, please advocate for the restoration of the defined benefit plan. Thankfully, I am a tier 3 employee who returned to state service sacrificially as because coming in I literally took a 20 year pay cut, but did so to become vested in my pension and work toward the medical plan. Despite this, my pay again was a 20 year pay cut in my field. As a clinical supervisor, the only way I can make this work is to consider that I have loan forgiveness, however, this can occur at any nonprofit or state or government position. As an employee of the division of juvenile justice, I have gone up to a year or more without being able to secure clinicians, who are sorely needed for our youth in corrections. Once they hear about our pay and benefits coupled with working with the most difficult youth in the state, and often the nation, we have become a laughing stock. Even though they may have a passion to work with you say, cannot afford to work at DJJ because it's what they make as a case manager years earlier and this just simply is egregious. I am a 30 year career, behavioral health professional, who has now worked my way up through doctoral education, two masters degrees, and 30 years working in behavioral health with the past 20 as a clinical supervisor. In the division of juvenile justice, mental health clinicians are some of the lowest paid in the community, and I advocate hard just to keep a full team, it truly is so unfair, and such a disservice that we have to choose our passion to serve youth in such high needs, as we serve at the division of juvenile justice, and sacrifice even an equitable wage. I see it every single day with the juvenile justice officers, who get spat on, assaulted severely, and have some of the toughest jobs and again to not receive equitable pay is just not right. We work with the top one to 5% of the most difficult kids and I must say DJJ because of leadership and evidence-based programs has an exceptional astounding ability to stabilize youth that we can't even place in the best facilities in the lower 48 because they literally go out and break staff bones only to be sent back to us where we can stabilize them. However, as you know the severely mentally ill youth do not belong in correctional facilities, but we've become the place where they call home because there's no other place in or out of state that can work with them, nor stabilize them as we can. Again, please advocate for fair compensation with the restoration of the defined benefit plan, as well as equitable pay for the mental health, clinician team by advocating for a community survey to compare how low our wages in comparison and efforts to increase an equitable wage, Sincerely, Sherri

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From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88 support
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 5:42:50 PM

From: Dustin Madden <maddend_2003@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 5:11 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88 support

Dear Senator Giessel,

My name is Dustin Madden I have been a State of Alaska worker for the last two and a half years proudly working at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport under tier four retirement.

Its no secret that economic times are tough across the global especially after the recent pandemic drastically changed the way everyone conducts day to day business. Everywhere you look there's a sign on the door saying help wanted. -

Everyone is aware that that attracting and just an importantly retaining quality employees is a challenge. As a state worker, I see the effects of not being able to keep quality employees in the workforce. Employees are walking away from state jobs as a result of no guarantee of retirement and low pay. I have seen comments on social media making a mockery of starting wages for state jobs.

Why is the state of Alaska facing criticism on social media about the pay and having to offer emergency pay incentives to keep the airport running when we should be seeing people flocking to work for the state? The answer is simple, there is no incentive to stay with the state. People are ditching a "dream opportunity" to work for the state because they can not survive on a paycheck alone. They need to be able to save for retirement. This is why Senate Bill 88 needs to be passed and show Alaskans that being a state employee is not a joke. Being a state employee is a worthy job and the state cares about them as a employee and citizen to keep Alaska moving towards a bright future.

I personally believe SB 88 and returning to a defined benefit for public employees is necessary to not only attract but to keep quality employees working for our great state! SB88 will keep employees working for the state instead of getting trained and heading out of a revolving door a few years after they get experience as they look for more sustainable work elsewhere.

Thank you to Senator's Giessel, Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Tobin, Wielechowski, Gray-Jackson, Dunbar, and Senator Claman for sponsoring SB 88.

Best regards,

Dustin Madden

Anchorage, AK

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88 Testimony from Anita Evans
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 3:04:19 PM

From: anita evans <anitalcevans@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 2:51 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88 Testimony from Anita Evans

Dear Senator Giessel,

I would like to offer a personal testimony in support of Senate Bill 88. On a personal note; I worked full time for the Juneau School District from January 1997 until I retired in May of 2019. As a member of the support staff, I looked forward to an eventual retirement through the PERS system with the State of Alaska. Now, as a retiree in my 70's; I am very grateful to have earned a defined benefit package, which has helped to provide financial stability and given me the courage to move forward into my senior years.

But for those who go into teaching today, why would anyone want to devote years (or decades) to the profession; when there are other more lucrative professional options available? Professional choices that would offer a defined retirement benefit, and provide a more stable future for aging seniors!

Also, I do take issue with Governor Dunleavy's proposal for issuing temporary annual bonuses to teachers throughout Alaska. First of all, this is just "putting a band aid" on the situation; and probably wouldn't affect long-term retention at all. Secondly, why not use that money towards increasing the Base Student Allocation, support our teachers by increasing salaries, and establish a viable defined benefit package for those who reach retirement age? As people who have dedicated their lives to teaching in Alaska; they should be rewarded for their loyalty and commitment.

Lastly, rather than offering outsized Permanent Fund Dividends to the Alaskan Public; I think it is time for our administration to look at how Alaska can provide incentives for all of our public workers - encouraging their long term retention, as they continue to contribute to the quality of life we enjoy in Alaska.

Respectfully,
Anita C. Evans
Juneau, AK
(907) 780-8674 Home
(907) 209-4743 Cell/Text

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Thank you for your work on SB 88
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 8:53:08 AM

From: Sarah Nugent <mzt1999@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 8:49 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for your work on SB 88

Dear Senator Giessel,

As an Alaska educator, I want to thank you for prioritizing Alaska students and public education in the budget. I especially would like to thank you for your work on SB 88.

As you now know, Alaska educators have the worst retirement system in the country, and the turnover it's causing is correlated with poor student achievement.

I have taught in Alaska for the past 16 years, all of them for the Kodiak Island Borough School District. I love teaching. I love working with students and enriching their lives. However, I fall under the Alaska tier III retirement system. This is not a good system. Currently I have a defined benefit 401 account that simply will not allow me to retire with dignity. When I consider the fact that I will have zero guaranteed benefits beyond the amount in my 401 account my resolve to stay in the profession I love waivers. Not only my desire to stay in teaching, but also my desire to stay in the state of Alaska.

According to Dianne Hirshberg of the UAA Center for Education Policy Research at ISER:

The 5 school districts with the LOWEST turnover had 85.8% of students scoring proficient in reading. The 5 school districts with the HIGHEST turnover had only 46.9% of students scoring proficient in reading.

Teacher turnover is hurting our students.

SB 88 represents the possibility of a return to a real retirement system for educators and other public employees in Alaska. This change would have a positive impact on our students, our communities, and our state and local economies.

Currently, educators hired after 2006 like myself have no access to Social Security and only a defined contribution retirement option. This system means those educators will outlive their retirement savings.

I love my job, I love working with students, and I love Alaska. However, without any access to a secure income in retirement for myself, or any educator entering our system, I'm losing hope.

SB 88 represents a chance to reverse this devastating trend and provide a real retirement option to thousands of dedicated public employees like myself. I implore you to continue to review this issue, work on SB 88, and pass this bill before the end of the session.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Sarah Nugent

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Thanks for Updates - Defined Benefits for Educators
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 7:29:22 AM

From: Kathy P <kprivratsky65@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2023 9:16 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thanks for Updates - Defined Benefits for Educators

Please consider educators / the public sector, not just police and firemen firewomen, when looking at reinstating the Defined Benefits. We need more teachers - good teachers and we want them to stay in Alaska or come to Alaska and teach our kids. Reinstating Defined Benefit will make a big difference as will *raising the base student allocation (BSA)*. Legislatures also have to stop saying "we won't pay you more until you improve scores". How many more years will they continue to say that!! I believe this has gone on for years!

If there is any way to reinstate Social Security for teachers that would be excellent. Teachers are quite surprised when they get ready to retire and realize they do not get social security unless they have worked for a long time outside of Alaska or if they have been in another type of job. I was fortunate I had 25 years working as an educator outside of Alaska and a few years in Alaska in an organization that paid into social security. Teachers who are in Tier III and have no social security are leaving the state or leaving the education profession. They will never be able to afford to retire! Can the state legislatures for this?

Please support Defined Benefits for public education and provide more BSA to schools. Thank you again for the work you are doing and thank you for your very informative updates. They are great!

Kathy Privratsky

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Restore a Real Retirement for Alaska Public Employees
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 4:36:20 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Stefanie Kondro <stefaniekondro@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2023 8:41:02 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: Julia OConnor <Julia.OConnor@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore a Real Retirement for Alaska Public Employees

Dear Honorable members,

I have been a public school educator in Alaska for over 10 years. Every year, exceptional teachers are hired and move to Alaska. There were seven new hires just in my school this year, all from out of state, some even from a foreign country. I have watched these exceptional teachers leave year after year. Every year, 20% of teachers, education support staff, and administrators leave their jobs at an annual cost to the state of \$20 million. The turnover rate is outrageous. Our students are missing out. We need to keep quality teachers in our schools. Fixing the retirement system is one crucial step we need to take action on.

As an Alaskan who wants to remain in our state, please support all legislation to restore a real retirement system for Alaska public employees.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Kondro
2267 Forest Dr Kodiak, AK 99615-7227
stefaniekondro@gmail.com

From: [marla smoothie](#)
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
Cc: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: HB 88
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:30:54 AM

Dear Cathy,

I am writing to you today in hopes you can support HB 88. I recently turned 61 with no hopes of retiring simply because Tier III does not have a sustainable retirement plan. Most teachers I have met do not stay with ASD for this very reason.

I am an Alaskan and a special education teacher. Please help us pass this bill and give some of us hopes for a day when retirement is a possibility.

Thank you,
Marla Jones

--

Peace

From: [Nicole Lyke](#)
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Julia OConnor](#); [Rep. Craig Johnson](#)
Subject: Please support SB88
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 9:37:10 PM

Good evening,

My name is Nicole Lyke. I am originally from Michigan, but chose to leave home to begin my career as an educator here in Alaska - the Land of Opportunity. I was originally drawn to Alaska for the adventure, high salary (compared to Michigan) and the stories I had heard of pensions that promised a livable retirement after years of service.

I have been a public school educator in Alaska for 9 years now. My husband, the son of 2 Anchorage School District employees, is also an educator. While his parents have since retired, we know that we don't have the same comfort and security of a pension waiting for us. For this reason, unfortunately as much as we love living and working in Alaska, we often find ourselves exploring our options for more security with districts in the Lower 48 that do offer defined benefits.

I know at least half a dozen other families in the same boat. We all love it here, we have started our families here and now call Alaska home - but with no defined contribution plan, we are all always teetering between staying and going.

Please help to attract and retain great educators by passing SB88.

Thank you for your consideration,
Nicole Lyke
907-513-1669

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: *****SPAM***** Thank You SB88 personal letter
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 7:37:58 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

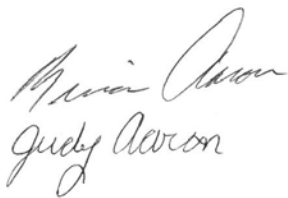
From: Judy Aaron <jbaaron44@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 7:50 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: *****SPAM***** Thank You SB88 personal letter

March 8, 2023

Senator Cathy Giessel,

My husband and I would like to personally thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88. We have taught in Alaska (Kodiak Island) for nine years and love our jobs. However, every month we struggle because we must save an additional \$1,200/month in our 403B account to compensate for the current retirement system. We would enjoy staying in Alaska after retirement, but the current system doesn't support living costs in this state. Thank you for helping Alaska educators.

Sincerely: Judy and Brian Aaron



Judy Aaron

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 88
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 12:04:43 PM

From: Heidi Cabral <hcabral@pcsd.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 11:58 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 88

To Whom it May Concern,

It is time for the state to **restore a defined benefit pension for public employees**. If we do not see restoration of our retirement we will lose many good employees, especially teachers. We will also not be able to attract new employees to Alaska. **This is our future!** My husband and I are both teachers but *my family will not be able to continue to live in Alaska* if we do not do something about our retirement system!

We are happy to find jobs somewhere down south where they appreciate teachers by showing it in their retirement systems. Please consider restoring a defined benefit pension for public employees and teachers to ensure Alaska can continue to function appropriately and be able to serve students with the quality education they deserve. Thank you!

--

"Live & Learn"
Heidi Cabral
Special Education Teacher
Rae C. Stedman Elementary
Petersburg School District
877-526-7656

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From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: This is a good thing
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 12:05:15 PM

From: kenneth hoff <kenneth_hoff2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 11:49 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>
Subject: This is a good thing

This is great to see this bill
I would like to give my testimony
I am a retired Correctional supervisor from lemon creek corrections
Thank you for your service and I will continue following this bill
I will be back in Juneau on Monday 3/27/2023
If there's a time that I can have a minute to talk about this with you or staff I would be grateful for that
Kenneth M Hoff

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88 SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 12:13:11 PM

From: Chandra McGee <chandra.mcgee@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 12:12 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88 SUPPORT

Good morning,

My name is Chandra McGee, I am from Fairbanks and I would like to submit written support of SB 88 to restore a retirement with dignity for public service employees.

I grew up in Fairbanks and two of my uncles retired from public service with the State of Alaska - one from Fish and Game and the other from Environmental Conservation. Both retired under the Tier 1 system with respect and honorable careers.

I have continued in the same career path and have been with the Department of Environmental Conservation for over 10 years. However, I am a Tier 4 employee and my future retirement is uncertain at best. Our department sees frequent loss of highly qualified staff who move to federal jobs with a better retirement system. Frequent turnover makes our already lower paid jobs even harder. To top that off we are opted out of social security. In the past 10 years the state has continued to whittle away at benefits for state employees and those starting now earn less leave than when I started. If I remain with the state, I will retire at a much lower quality of life than either of my uncles.

I support SB 88 because I love my job with the state and love my work. The state needs to give its public employees the same support they give to Alaska - and a chance for a secure future.

Thank you.

Chandra McGee
2011 Weston Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Alaska Public Employees Association/AFT (AFL-CIO)

State Headquarters

151 3rd Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Phone: (907) 586-2334 / (800) 478-9991

Website: www.afea-aft.org



Honorable Cathy Giessel
State Senator District E
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

On behalf of the thousands of hard-working men and women of the Alaska Public Employees Association I thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88. APEA/AFT is an association of twenty-four public employee unions. The Association represents thousands of workers in every region of Alaska, and in every legislative district. We represent school support staff and teachers, local government employees, faculty, and staff at the University of Alaska; State Supervisors including State Troopers and Correctional Officers, Classified Employees at the State of Alaska; and several non-profits that provide services in education and mental health. While our members work is diverse, the common denominator among them is selfless and professional service to the people of Alaska in the public interest. APEA/AFT member leaders have consistently passed resolutions calling for a return to a Defined Benefit.

Senate Bill 88 is the result of years of hard work, and consensus among effected employee groups, and does not include everything our members would like to see in a final product including a status quo health care plan that falls short of the benefits offered in the legacy PERS and TERS tiers. Despite this, we will not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. We support Senate Bill 88 because it threads the needle by providing a pension benefit that our members can rely on in their retirement while imposing risk sharing features that will ensure the plan is successful long term. We are committed to the success of SB 88.

For many years, the employment pattern among Alaska public employees was to work a full 30-year career and retire, while the wages in the public sector remain uncompetitive with the private sector, the promise of a secure and reliable retirement was enough to balance the equation and long term employment was typical among our membership. When the state moved away from a pension plan in 2005, opting instead for 401(K) style plans alone, employees no longer have an incentive to work a full career in public service. This has led to a new employment pattern where employees come to work for the state, are trained, stay for five years, and then cash out their 401(k) and move to the private sector to higher paid jobs, or out migrate to work in public service in other states like Washington, Idaho, or Montana. All of which offer defined benefit pensions.

The abject failure of the state to recruit and retain public servants affects each and every Alaska citizen, business and family. When Alaska got rid of pensions we were the guinea pig for the rest of the country, and our experience is a 17 year study in what not to do. Now the legislature knows better. We encourage the legislature and the administration to consider Senate Bill 88 favorably and work with us to make careers in public service attractive for employees.

Respectfully,

Jeff Kasper
Business Manager
APEA/AFT

Anchorage Field Office

3310 Arctic Blvd., Ste 200, Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (907) 274-1688 / (800) 478-9992 * **Fax:** 277-4588

Fairbanks Field Office

825 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Phone: (907) 456-5412 / (800) 478-9993 * **Fax:** 456-7478

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: In Support of SB 88
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 10:14:07 AM

From: Jon Kulhanek <jon.kulhanek@g.kpbsd.org>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 10:12 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: In Support of SB 88

Dear Senator Giessel,

As an Alaska educator, I want to thank you for prioritizing Alaska students and public education in the budget. I especially would like to thank you for your work on SB 88. As you now know, Alaska educators have the worst retirement system in the country, and the turnover it's causing is correlated with poor student achievement. I have taught in Alaska for the past 12 years, all of them for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. I love teaching. I love working with students and enriching their lives. However, I fall under the Alaska tier III retirement system. This is not a good system. Currently I am part of a defined contribution plan that simply will not allow me to retire with dignity. When I consider the fact that I will have zero guaranteed benefits beyond the amount in my retirement account my resolve to stay in the profession I love waivers. Not only my desire to stay in teaching, but also my desire to stay in the state of Alaska. According to Dianne Hirshberg of the UAA Center for Education Policy Research at ISER: The 5 school districts with the LOWEST turnover had 85.8% of students scoring proficient in reading. The 5 school districts with the HIGHEST turnover had only 46.9% of students scoring proficient in reading. Teacher turnover is hurting our students. SB 88 represents the possibility of a return to a real retirement system for educators and other public employees in Alaska. This change would have a positive impact on our students, our communities, and our state and local economies. Currently, educators hired after 2006, like myself, have only a defined contribution retirement option. This system means those educators will outlive their retirement savings. I love my job, I love working with students, and I love Alaska, however, without any access to a secure income in retirement for myself, or any educator entering our system, I'm losing hope. SB 88 represents a chance to reverse this devastating trend and provide a real retirement option to thousands of dedicated teachers like myself. I implore you to continue to review this issue, work on SB 88, and pass this bill before the end of the session. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jon Kulhanek

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:51:03 AM

From: Bobby Burgess <robert.a.burgess.ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:15 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Hello Senator Giessel,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 88 to improve retirement benefits for state employees. Please share this with the rest of the labor and commerce committee.

I have worked for the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Division of Spill Prevention and Response, Contaminated Sites Program for about 10 years. Of the employees hired since I joined, a majority have left the department after two or three years, most frequently citing offers of better pay or benefits from consulting firms or regulated companies. The department has also had to lower its standards for hiring due to a lack of applicants, no longer requiring a science or engineering degree for positions that require a strong background in science. The result of this are increased need for investment in recruitment and training, costing the department and state additional money to onboard new staff; as well as creating delays in serving the public, assisting industry in regulatory compliance and spill cleanup, and responding to spills.

Essentially, our department has become a training program for industry and consulting. If we can't recruit and retain qualified people in these positions, it costs the state and its people both in funding and in health and safety of our communities and workforce.

Even more concerning to me is the fact that these same recruitment and retention issues are applicable to teachers and other educational professionals. I joined the Fairbanks Borough School District School Board budget advisory committee this past fall, and a major issue is teacher retention and recruitment. Budget situations are dire, but this bill could help with some of the district's woes by providing better incentives for educators.

Thank you for your work.
Robert Burgess
Fairbanks

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 88
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:47:36 AM

From: Carl Koch <micp1440@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 7:28 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 88

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 88. I am a state employee of 15 years and about 10 years from retirement. I have seen many state employees leave for other agencies or private sector jobs with better salaries but also primarily because of the lack of a defined benefit pension plan. I have also seen many state workers overloaded with more tasks than can possibly be accomplished because colleagues quit for greener pastures and those jobs typically take a year to fill. Passing this bill is the right thing to do for Alaska. It will help retain workers within the state of Alaska and it will help take care of workers who have spent their careers working for the State of Alaska to help make it a better place to live.

Sincerely,

Carl H. Koch
4500 Hillcrest Ave
Juneau, AK 99901

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 88
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:47:21 AM

From: Leah Maltbie <leahmaltbie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 7:04 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 88

Cathy,

To make this short and sweet, I full support the Senate Bill 88 for reinstating defined benefits for state employees including teachers and educators. This move will help our teacher shortage and help retain quality teachers in the state.

Thank you

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Support for SB 88
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 5:23:24 PM

From: Currey, Jeff L (DOT) <jeff.currey@alaska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 5:05 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Senate Labor and Commerce <Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for SB 88

To the Honorable Senator Giessel and SLAC:

For the record, my name is Jeff Currey. I am employed by the State of Alaska's Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) as an engineer, but I am writing on behalf of myself, after working hours. I strongly support SB 88. Please feel free to share any portion of the following testimony.

I came to work for DOT&PF in 2000, from the mining and mineral exploration private sector. I accepted a substantial salary cut switching to State employment, but the benefits, including the PERS III Defined Benefit pension plan, made that decision the correct one for me and my family. When the State switched to the PERS Tier IV Defined Contribution plan in 2006, I did not recognize what a bad decision that was, but since then it has become patently obvious.

Those of us with Defined Benefit pensions joke that they are "the golden handcuffs"-Every year of service increases one's pension. I could make a larger salary in the private sector, and while am proud to be a DOT&PF employee and (mostly) enjoy my job, I have had attractive offers elsewhere. The guaranteed increase in my pension for each year of service has been a strong incentive for completing my career with the State. I know this is true for other Defined Benefit-Tier employees as well-we talk.

On the other hand, the portable, 401K-style Defined Contribution does nothing to incentivize employee retention. On the contrary, as you heard in committee testimony Monday, the Alaska's defined contribution plan provides uncertainty, and its portability incentivizes trained and skilled worker outmigration to states offering a real pension, or to better paying private sector employment. I have seen this happen over and over with less senior, Tier IV DOT&PF employees. I know it is a routine occurrence in other agencies as well.

I supervise a very effective, high performing section in Northern Region DOT&PF. Many of the staff I supervise are PERS Tier IV, and I constantly worry about losing my best employees. Providing them the opportunity to buy their way back into a defined contribution might not shackle them with the "platinum handcuffs" of Tiers I and II, but "silver handcuffs" would still make leaving look less attractive. Without a doubt, creating a Defined Benefits Tier V plan option will improve State of Alaska recruitment and retention. Please pass SB 88.

Sincerely,

Jeff L. Currey, P.E.

NR Materials Engineer, DOT&PF

907-451-2040

Cell 907-750-5989

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB 88
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:45:51 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Guzman, Susan" <SGuzman@kpb.us>
Date: March 22, 2023 at 11:29:40 AM AKDT
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Senator Giessel,

I am writing in support of SB 88. I would like to see the defined benefits returned to government employees. I work for the Kenai Peninsula Borough and returning to the defined benefits package would be one more tool to recruit and keep good employees. We have lost many key personnel to the private sector either due to money or retirement benefits. Your support of SB 88 would be very much appreciated!

Thank you,

Susan Guzman
Exemption Examiner
KPB Assessing Department

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB 88 testimony
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:46:54 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: larafahnlander@gmail.com
Date: March 22, 2023 at 11:11:33 AM AKDT
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: "Sen. David Wilson" <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>, "Rep. David Eastman" <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88 testimony

To whom it may concern,
My name is Lara Fahnlander, I am a teacher in the MatSu school district since 2017 and have been teaching in Alaska since 2007. In 2021 I had a surprise diagnosis of a terminal cancer. There is absolutely no disability support from the State of Alaska, but there is for Tier 1 and Tier 2 teachers. The state website hides the fact that Tier 3 teachers are excluded until you call and find out that none of the disability benefits displayed apply to Tier 3 teachers. Tier 3 workers are also not supported by the national disability system because of our inability to participate in social security. Is it acceptable that person be left with no defined pension, no access to social security, or social security disability and no disability support from their own state?
The situation I'm in is inhumane and I never imagined this would be my fate purely because I dedicated my life's work to the children of Alaska. I wish this fate on no one and pray you will overturn the decision before ruining more lives. As it stands I would never encourage anyone to teach in this state. I hope you will use the power of your position for the good of your students and dedicated workers.

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB 88
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:30:44 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lynnette McNutt <lynnette.mcnutt@juneauschools.org>
Date: March 21, 2023 at 2:27:35 PM AKDT
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Hello Senator Giessel,
My name is Lynnette McNutt and I am a teacher for the J.S.D. working without a pension. Please show your support for educators by supporting SB 88.

Thank you,
Lynnette McNutt

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Senate Bill 88
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 3:02:11 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Becky Charlton <quail@ptialaska.net>
Date: March 22, 2023 at 2:23:41 PM AKDT
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 88

Dear Senator Giessel,

My name is Rebecca Charlton, and I live in Sitka, AK.

I'm writing to thank you for your support for SB 88.

I worked for the Sitka School District for 25 years as a Tier II employee. I have children working for the State of Alaska at Tier 3 and 4. I fear for their retirement years.

The State of Alaska has demoralized their employees. This school year hundred of teachers were lacking in every district statewide. Our local paper for weeks have advertised local city and state positions that have gone unfilled. The bottom line is no one wants these once sought after positions. They lack incentive benefits, offer no pension and no Social Security.

Also, state retirees often get hit with the Windfall Provision Act and the Government Pension Offset making the situation even worse.

The Senate needs to correct a failing retirement system by supporting SB 88. Please return the Defined Benefit Contribution back to hard working employees.

Thank you,
Rebecca Charlton

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Senate Bill 88
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:46:27 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Deb Goodell <debgkiesa@gmail.com>
Date: March 22, 2023 at 11:22:49 AM AKDT
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 88

Senator Giessel,

Thank you for your persistence.

I hope that this bill includes compensation for the current state employees that are not benefiting from the defined benefit system.
The state needs to take care of them for all these years of service with marginal benefits.

As a retired Para-Professional of 20 plus years that receives the Defined Benefit, I have huge compassion for my colleagues that do not have the same security.
The state system needs to take care of its own: the dedicated support staff that provide professional services at barely a living wage.

All state employees should, in my opinion, be included for their years of previous service and from today forward.

Thanks.

Deb Goodell
Kodiak
former KIBSD employee

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:50:53 AM

From: George Hoden <georgehoden@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 10:21 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Please recognize that public employees are civil servants who could be paid much more and receive other benefits working in private industry. Help us with future compensation in our retirements by passing SB 88.

George Hoden - State of Alaska Employee

Pension reform testimony ideas

“Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the committee. *For the record,* My name is Harlee Harvey from Point Hope, AK. I am speaking on behalf of myself and as the 2023 Alaska State teacher of the year and a finalist for 2023 National Teacher of the Year. I am speaking in support of SB88.

I was born and raised in Alaska, grew up in Fairbanks, and now I teach at Tikiġaq School in Point Hope, where I have taught for 9 years. Last year, when I counted how many teachers I have seen come through, I could name over seventy teachers. Over seventy teachers have passed through my building, where we have 23 certified teaching positions employed. Some of these are older teachers, but many of them are younger, who come to Alaska wanting to start a career in teaching. However, once they see the hardships and struggles of teaching rurally, paired with a retirement system that is not going to help them plan for their future or their families’ future, they are disinclined to stay beyond a couple years. These are amazing educators with a passion for working with children, but they also have to make decisions based on what makes the most sense financially for their futures.

I have seen too many friends and colleagues either teaching on the North Slope or who I grew up with that could not stay in teaching here in Alaska because of the lack of a long-term retirement option. They teach here in Alaska for *maybe* five years at most, and take their 401(k) earnings and move to another state where they can continue to add to that while earning a pension. I frequently hear teachers talk about their “five year plan” to stay in the state before moving on.

The educators in our buildings are the lifeblood of our schools and the stability of teaching staff is the greatest contributor to student success in any school. Research has shown that we cannot educate our students effectively when we have the turnover rate we currently have. Recently, I found out that only 15% of teachers in my district stay past two years. I want to work with colleagues for more than one year or two years. I want to work with them for many years, cooperatively building a better school for our students and communities. But our system hurts our teachers and does not encourage that retention. Ultimately, this means the system is hurting our students, which I see every day.

Here on the North Slope, we used to have the highest salary in the entire nation. That is no longer the case, which means we are not as attractive or competitive as we used to be in recruiting teachers both within and outside of the state. Part of this is because we have the worst retirement system in the entire nation. The defined contribution basically means we do not have a pension. We’re the only state in the entire nation without Social Security or pension of any kind for our teachers.

Year after year, my district spends more and more money, trying to recruit teachers from across the country. Retirement is a real obstacle of that. And the cost only grows as inflation increases and the market place for teachers becomes more competitive. Please help my district, help my students, and help students across all Alaska to recruit and retain teachers by fixing the retirement system and adopting SB88.

From: [Allison Smith](#)
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
Cc: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: In support of SB 88
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 7:55:15 AM

Dear Senator Giessel and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 88. I am a teacher in Juneau and was fortunate to be hired in 2005, shortly before the state eliminated the defined benefit system for teachers and state workers.

The lack of defined benefit system for teachers in Tier III and Tier IV has led to a huge amount of teacher turnover. There is no incentive for teachers in these tiers to continue teaching in Alaska until a normal age of retirement. Alaska is the only state in the union where teachers do not have a pension or social security.

The past several years have been incredibly challenging for me as a teacher in part due to the pandemic. Since 2020 challenging student behaviors have increased and we have seen a loss of learning that continues to affect students. The stress of worrying about my students' emotional wellbeing and learning has at times felt like too much to bear.

One of the things that has kept me teaching through these challenging times is knowing I have a pension when I retire. Unfortunately this is not true for many of my colleagues. Having a defined benefit system is critical for teacher recruitment and retention.

Please consider a return to a defined benefit system for teachers and state workers in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Allison Smith
4500 Hillcrest Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Lara Applebaum](#)
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for SB 88
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 4:10:20 PM

To the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am writing a letter of support for Senate Bill 88 to restore a retirement with dignity for public servants. As a career educator and single parent in the Anchorage School District, I devote my public service to our community, and yet I have the least secure retirement among educators in our country. This greatly concerns me as I plan for my and my daughter's future.

It also concerns me that this lack of a secure retirement system will continue to discourage the attraction of quality educators. We are experiencing a shortage of educators, who are the most important component in improving our state's educational system.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lara Applebaum

From: [Ginger Evens](#)
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
Cc: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: SB 88 - Support of
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 3:54:54 PM

Honorable Senator Giessel,

Hello, my name is Virginia (Ginger) Evens and I am a retired educator and resident of Petersburg, Alaska.

I strongly support SB 88 and the return of a defined benefit system for all Alaska Public Employees, which includes teachers. Alaska needs to be able to attract public employees and teachers to Alaska and returning to a defined benefit system is an integral component to making Alaska an attractive place to work and live.

On a personal level, my son, Nels, graduated from Gonzaga with a degree in environmental science and his elementary education teaching credentials. Nels taught for a year in Bethel, AK then left Alaska because of the lack of a defined benefit system. Nels would love to return to Alaska; however, without a defined benefit system, he would rather teach elsewhere.

I fully support SB 88.

Sincerely,

Ginger Evens
PO Box 585
Petersburg, AK 99833

March 21, 2023

Senator Jesse Bjorkman
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bjorkman and members of the committee,

I am strongly in support of SB 88 Public Employees Defined Benefits.

As a retiree, I am appreciative of Alaskans before me who ensured that I would have a secure retirement. It's time for us to ensure today's public servants have a secure retirement.

Before I retired, I worked for one of the larger public employee labor unions, which represented members across the state working for school districts, municipalities, the university, and the state. My work put me in touch with countless public employees hired after 2006 who were dismayed to find they had very little to look forward to after retiring – or even if they would ever be able to retire. New employees found their accounts difficult to read and that financial growth was slow. Recruitment issues appeared early on as evidenced by reports from newly elected Governor Palin's transition team. Today, recruitment and retention has become a crisis as shown by the vacancy factors as well as the statistics on the out-migration of younger Alaskans.

My fellow retirees and myself help provide economic stability in Alaska and provide jobs to the retail, health, and hospitality sectors. We volunteer in our communities and make charitable contributions. We enjoy retirement. And we believe the next generation deserves a secure retirement.

Thank you for hearing SB 88 and I am hopeful it will pass out of your committee.

Cindy Spanyers
Juneau, Alaska

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: ***Defined Benefits for All Public Employees***
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 6:48:34 AM

From: Lori Johnson <yukonjohnson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:11 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: ***Defined Benefits for All Public Employees***

rom: Johnson, Lori <LJohnson@kpb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 10:38:27 AM
To: Miguel Rohrbacher <mrohrbacher@apea-aft.org>
Subject: ***Defined Benefits for Public Employees***

Hello – I would like to say that if given the choice I would much rather have the defined benefits package compared to the 401K that is now offered.

I've been in the public sector for over 15 years and it is a real shame to see my hard earned income disappear into thin air because of the stock market etc.

At least not to see my retire funds totally disappear, at least the monies I contributed over the years should always be there for me as I originally put in. I'm 50 now and at this rate of decline, I may never get to retire and that is pathetic if you ask me.

PLEASE, CONSIDER BRINGING BACK THE DEFINED BENEFITS FOR ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

THANK YOU!

Lori

Lori Johnson

Administrative Assistant

Finance Department

(907) 714-2197 direct

(907) 714-2376 fax

ljohnson@kpb.us

From: jacquedean@aol.com
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Julia OConnor](#)
Cc: [Sen. David Wilson](#); [Rep. Jesse Sumner](#)
Subject: SB88
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2023 1:31:38 PM

Senator Giessel,

I appreciate the proposed SB88 to restore a public pension plan for teachers and public employees.

I have been in Alaska for seven years, have thirty-one years of teaching experience, and know first hand how the current defined contribution plan without social security contributions is impacting the education of our children in our state. We are not able to recruit and retain exceptional teachers with this current plan. I have had at least a dozen coworkers at my high school alone in the Matsu Valley that have left the state for a better retirement system within the last two years. We can not expect teachers to stay in Alaska when studies show 75% of our teachers will run out of their retirement savings after 15-20 years of retirement after a 30-year career. The current plan drives teachers away from our state.

I appreciate the proposed SB88 and hope your colleagues will also support this for the future of education in Alaska. We need great teachers to have a reason to continue to teach in Alaska. This is a profession where experienced teachers make for a better educational system.

Jacqueline Cunningham
Wasilla, Alaska



TOTEM Association of
Educational Support Personnel, Inc.
APEA/AFT (AFL-CIO)

3310 Arctic Blvd., Suite 200 • Anchorage, AK 99503 • Office (907) 562-1183 • Fax (907) 562-0866 • office@totemassoc.org

Honorable Cathy Giessel
State Senator District E
Capitol Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 22, 2023

Dear Senator Giessel,

The Executive Board and Members of the TOTEM Association of Educational Support Personnel wish to thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 88. TOTEM represents educational and administrative support staff in the Anchorage School District including classroom paraprofessional educators preK-12, tutors, front office staff that includes Secretaries, Registrars, and Administrative Assistants in both schools and departments, all of whom are in PERS. With over 1,100 employees we are the largest school support staff union in Alaska. It is not hyperbole to say that without our members schools in Alaska would not be able to function. We resoundingly support restoring a defined benefit pension for public employees.

Our members work in schools because we care about the kids we serve. My own journey as a school support staff employee started twenty-six years ago as a volunteer in my own child's classroom and I've been working in education ever since, but sometimes the satisfaction that comes from working with kids and serving the public is not enough to keep our members in their jobs or attract new people to the field. Currently there are approximately 700 vacant school support staff positions across the state, including 350 in Anchorage alone. These vacancies are only growing.

It used to be that despite low wages many members stuck it out and worked full careers because they knew they would receive a pension in retirement. That made it worth it. Since 2006, that incentive is gone and as a result school support staff jobs have atrocious turnover. Our members are paid too little and many work second jobs on weekends, evenings, and on school breaks to make ends meet. Our lowest paid member makes \$14.79 an hour, and that's just for the school year, 9 months a year. That is not a living wage!

While we will continue to advocate and bargain for higher wages, we know that when it comes to a pension the district's hands are tied. As you know, the ability to restore the pension system for employees hired after 2006 rests with the legislature. **At the very least school support staff should be able to count on a pension, even a modest one, after working a full career in service to the public.**

Thank you for being a champion for a pension benefit. Please be assured of our support in this effort.

Respectfully,

Sandy Thompson Wallace, CAP
President

TOTEM Association of Educational Support Personnel, Inc. 6265

From: [Kemnitz Investments](#)
To: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
Cc: [Julia OConnor](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson](#); [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#)
Subject: Support and Concern for SB 88
Date: Friday, March 24, 2023 12:32:08 PM

Good afternoon Senator Giessel,

My name is Alex Kemnitz, and I am writing to thank you for your incredible work on SB 88 and its informative presentation to the committee on 3/13/23. I have served in the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection for the last decade and have seen firsthand the high turnover and vacancy rates that our current retirement system has exacerbated, so I fully support the proposed changes to the benefit of both the employees and the state we serve.

I must voice my concern over one aspect of this bill though, as it will severely impact the viability of retirement for our Fire Program resources. Due to the seasonal nature of wildland firefighting, the vast majority of our employees hold permanent-seasonal positions, including our frontline firefighters, dispatchers, and support positions of every form. Though our demanding, high-stress jobs require us to work more hours than the average work-year in a shorter period, we only receive 'time in service' credit for the seasonal months we work, not for the years of dedication and commitment that the public needs from our services. Secondly, our Fire Protection Program is not recognized as a Public Safety component, making us ineligible for the retirement schedule offered to our fellow firefighters and peace officers.

The combination of these issues would force most of our employees to serve decades longer than our Public Safety counterparts to reach the time in service requirements laid out in SB 88, and if not addressed will likely resign our hardworking employees to remain in the broken Defined Contribution retirement plan. This will only further the recruitment and retention issues we struggle with year after year...

I have many coworkers that would like to express their support and interest in these issues, and we want to thank you again for your time and commitment to solving them!

Konrad Jackson

From: Ashlyn Nutting <nuttingas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Full Support for SB 88

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing to you in support of SB 88. As a prospective Tier III teacher, this bill will allow me to consider staying in the state to continue teaching after I earn my certification. Right now, I plan to move to Washington, California, or another state with decent retirement to finish my career so that I might have livable benefits when I conclude my career. I was born and raised in Alaska and would love to give back to my community by working as an educator here, but I need to know that I will be able to support myself if I want to seriously consider doing so. By passing SB 88, you would be demonstrating that you support current and future educators and want to retain high quality, professional teachers. Please invest in our wellbeing so that we can better invest in our students and communities.

Please consider the implications for students, educators, and Alaska communities as a whole, and fight for this bill. Thank you for your time.

Kindly,

Ashlyn Nutting
Sitka School District

Konrad Jackson

From: Elissa Bjorum <elissabjorum@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 4:22 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support SB 88

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing support of SB 88. I am a Tier II teacher and my husband is a Tier III teacher, and we ask that you support SB 88.

Alaska is the only state without at least the choice of a defined benefit system. Teachers are the only public employees without access to SSN or the SBS system. Teachers already make much less than their peers with the same amount of education which makes retiring tricky in the first place. And Alaska is a very expensive state in which to live.

Thank you for your time. Please support the teachers!

Sincerely,
Elissa Kaminsky
Speech-Language Pathologist, Sitka School District

Konrad Jackson

From: Emily Demmert <demmerte@sitkaschools.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 11:23 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: SB 88

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing in support of SB 88. As a Tier III teacher, this bill will allow me to consider staying in the state to continue teaching. Right now, I plan to return to either Washington or California to finish my teaching career so that I might have some sort of benefit when I retire. Fortunately for me, my husband is a Tier II educator. And that is why we have stayed in Alaska for 24 years.

Any Tier III teacher with even a modicum of understanding about retirement will not and should not stay in Alaska for several reasons:

- We are the only state without at least the choice of a defined benefit system.
- Teachers are the only public employees without access to SSN or the SBS system.
- Teachers already make much less than their peers with the same amount of education which makes retiring tricky in the first place. And Alaska is a very expensive state to live in.

This is more than just a problem for teachers who already work in the state. Our broken retirement system makes it difficult for school districts to attract and retain teachers; fewer teachers are applying each year to work in our state while some teachers give up the profession altogether or leave Alaska for a better employment package. Replacing teachers year after year costs the state of Alaska thousands of dollars and its students immeasurable interruptions to learning.

The aforementioned reasons and many others make fixing the retirement system a common sense move which will benefit everyone, including but not limited to the state's bottom line, Alaskan students, and teacher morale. Please choose a reason that you can get behind, and fight for this bill.

Sincerely,
Emily Demmert
English Teacher, Sitka High School

Konrad Jackson

From: Hanna Boord <hannaboord@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 6:49 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support for SB 88

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing in full support for SB 88. As a Tier III teacher in the Sitka School District, it is important to me to continue providing ample retirement for those of us who choose to serve their community as educators. As a sixth year teacher, the concerns that arise are how to begin preparing now for a long, successful career in education, while also setting myself up for life in retirement. Without this bill, it is a constant concern for how I can remain in this profession while preparing for the future.

This bill would greatly affect my family, as neither of us have a solid retirement. My husband is a police officer and currently serving our community. We both love our jobs and our town but the constant fear of retirement has us considering moving.

We just had a baby and would love to continue to focus on putting our money into her education and future without having to focus so much on our retirement. With the cost of living in Alaska it makes it extremely hard to support our family and try to put enough money away for retirement.

Thank you for considering this bill and the educational and public service careers for Alaskans.

Thanks,
Hanna Boord

Konrad Jackson

From: Jacquie Hedrick <jachedrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 3:12 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support SB 88

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing in support of SB 88. As a tier II teacher, I am very concerned about the future of education in Alaska.

Any Tier III teacher with any understanding about retirement will not and should not stay in Alaska for several reasons:

- Teachers are the only public employees without access to SSN or the SBS system.
- We are the only state without at least the choice of a defined benefit system.
- Teachers make much less than their peers with the same amount of education which makes retiring difficult in the first place.

The tier III retirement system is more than just a problem for teachers who already work in the state. The current system is making it difficult for schools to attract and retain teachers. Fewer teachers are applying and turnover is high. Having to replace teachers year after year costs the state of Alaska thousands of dollars and has a negative impact on student learning.

For these reasons and many others, fixing the retirement system is a common sense move which will benefit everyone.

Sincerely,

Jacquie Hedrick
Teacher, Baranof Elementary

Konrad Jackson

From: Jamie Parker <jamie.l.parker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce; Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Please support SB 88

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing in support of SB 88. As a Tier III teacher, this bill will allow me to consider staying in the state to continue teaching. Currently, my family is considering relocating to the lower 48 so that I can have a reitirement that will support myself when I retire.

I'm sure you are aware that we are the only state without at least the choice of a defined benefit system for teachers. We also have no access to SSN or SBS. Additionally, living in Alaska has a higher cost than living in the lower 48. Resources says that only 30% of teachers in Tier III will succeed in reitirement.

This is more than just a problem for teachers who already work in the state. Our broken retirement system makes it difficult for school districts to attract and retain teachers; fewer teachers are applying each year to work in our state while some teachers give up the profession altogether or leave Alaska for a better employment package. Replacing teachers year after year costs the state of Alaska thousands of dollars and its students immeasurable interruptions to learning.

The aforementioned reasons and many others make fixing the retirement system a common sense move which will benefit everyone, including but not limited to the state's bottom line, Alaskan students, and teacher morale. Please choose a reason that you can get behind, and fight for this bill.

I would appreciate your support on SB 88.

Sincerely,
Jamie Eells
Homeschool Coordinator, Sitka School District

Konrad Jackson

From: Jennifer Grant <grantj@sitkaschools.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 3:15 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support for SB 88

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 88, in an effort to try and remedy the teacher retirement system for Tier 3 teachers in Alaska. I was one of the new teacher hires shortly after Alaska switched from Tier 2, a defined benefit system, to Tier 3, a defined contribution system. It wasn't until I was several years into my teaching career that I was even made aware that I was Tier 3 or what that meant. I was young and just happy to have a teaching job, so I didn't question much.

Fast forward 16 years and I am seriously contemplating whether or not it's time for a career change. I love my job, but I am worried that as it stands, I will not be able to afford basic living expenses once I'm ready to retire. For the first time in my teaching career, I find myself scanning the help wanted ads to see if there's an option that would provide me with a more stable financial future. Additionally, I don't know how districts in Alaska are going to be able to recruit and retain quality educators with the current retirement system. It is truly a broken and unattractive system.

Thank you for your time, and I sincerely hope you will vote in support of Alaska's educators, which in turn benefits Alaska's students.

Jennifer Grant

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Konrad Jackson

From: Jennifer Tulloh <tullohj@sitkaschools.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 6:07 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Advocation

My name is Jennifer Tulloh and I am a 5th grade teacher at Keet Gooshi Heen in Sitka, Alaska. I am writing to you in order to quickly advocate for the support of teacher retirement improvements for TIER 3 and beyond employees. I have been teaching in Alaska for 8 years and have previously taught in Texas. As someone with 13 years in the "system", I am actively looking for another career. The incentives to continue teaching are increasingly becoming less and less compared to how much I love my job. I still have a family to support and a future to consider. Lack of retirement benefits, and a minimal raise over 5 years, is making it a much easier choice for my family and myself. I am not the only one. It's time the state of Alaska starts to think about one of its most valuable individuals. Myself, and many other teachers, are watching. You will lose valuable teachers if something does not change in addition to not attracting new teachers.

It's time. Thank you, Jennifer Tulloh

Konrad Jackson

From: Jon and Ruth Ewig <ewig4him_7@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 9:26 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce; Jon and Ruth Ewig; btyndall@protonmail.com; duncanaands@protonmail.com; jayvsgold@gmail.com; timbyrnes@live.com
Subject: We oppose SB 88

The current retirement system is sufficient. No need for the State of Alaska to provide a defined benefit system.

Jon and Ruth Ewig
2325-30th Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-687-5795

Konrad Jackson

From: DuncanAandS <DuncanAandS@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 9:27 PM
To: ewig4him_7@hotmail.com; Senate Labor and Commerce; btyndall@protonmail.com; jayvsgold@gmail.com; timbyrnes@live.com
Subject: Re: We oppose SB 88

Amen. When we were in Juneau, we testified against it.

Sent from Proton Mail mobile

----- Original Message -----

On Mar 28, 2023, 9:26 PM, Jon and Ruth Ewig <ewig4him_7@hotmail.com> wrote:

The current retirement system is sufficient. No need for the State of Alaska to provide a defined benefit system.

Jon and Ruth Ewig
2325-30th Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-687-5795

Konrad Jackson

From: Julie Zundel <jazundel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 6:12 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: SB 88

For testimony RE: SB 88

To my Representatives:

Greetings,

I am a teacher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD), I have two children currently attending schools in the District, and I am a product of the FNSBSD/UAF system. Fairbanks has treated me well, so I have always wanted to give back to my community as a secondary teacher. I was hired in 2007 (left in 2013 when I had my second child) and then returned in 2018 - so I am tier 3.

As you are probably aware, Alaska has some of the worst teacher turnover in the country (even before the pandemic). National teacher turnover is about 6%, whereas Alaska is 22% (according to research by the Regional Education Laboratory Northwest).

This turnover is correlated with poor student achievement. According to Dianne Hirsheberg of the UAA Center for Education Policy Research at ISER, the five school districts with the **lowest** turnover had 85.8% of students scoring proficient at reading, whereas the five school districts with the **highest** turnover only had 46.9% of students proficient in reading.

In my building, West Valley High School, we are hemorrhaging staff – especially in my science department. Last year we lost two of our biology teachers. Despite our best efforts, including trying to hire teachers from the Philippines, we still did not have replacement teachers by August. Our administration found a UAF professor without a teaching license to teach biology for this school year. I recently learned that, by the end of this year, we will be losing at least two science teachers in my building.

I want to continue teaching in Alaska, but as a tier 3 teacher I do not receive social security nor the defined benefit pensions tier 1 and tier 2 teachers receive. When I was hired (2007) it was difficult to get a teaching job in Fairbanks - when I returned in 2018, there were hardly any qualified candidates who were certified to teach chemistry.

A 2019 analysis by the State of Alaska's Chief Investment Officer showed that after a 30 year career in teaching, only 31% of teachers would have sufficient assets to last 30 years into retirement. This means that without additional retirement savings, up to 75% of 30-year teachers could run out of money 15-20 years into retirement. I would have no backup, since I do not have social security. It is no wonder why the FNSBSD cannot recruit and retain teachers.

I want my own children to receive quality education in Fairbanks - but the recruitment pool grows smaller and smaller each year. When I went through the teaching program at UAF (2006-2007), there

were at least thirty people in the 7 - 12 certification program. Today there are just a handful of people entering the certification program.

Please consider supporting SB88 without a solid teaching pool, education will decline and this will continue to impact Alaska.

I have been waiting for “things to get better” in education for a long time, and I am growing weary. I recently had a conversation with my husband about our future in Alaska and we are seriously contemplating relocating to a state that is more teacher / student friendly. I have large class sizes, I am dealing with students who are behind due to COVID school, I am losing all of my fellow teachers to other careers/other states, and I am constantly worried that my own children are falling behind.

My Grandpa came to Alaska to mine for gold and drive trucks in the early 1930s, my mom was born in Alaska before it was a state, my Aunt still lives in the house she grew up in Slatersville. I love Alaska and I love that I have roots here. I also love teaching - and I want to continue to work in the place I grew up (and where I chose to raise my own children) - yet, I need to worry about my future and the future of my children. Please do something this session to improve the quality of education in Alaska. I cannot keep waiting for things to improve.

Sincerely,

Julie Zundel
Parent, Science Teacher, and Concerned Fairbanksan

Konrad Jackson

From: Kirsten Long <kearstuhn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce; Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Support for SB 88

Dear Lawmakers,

I fully support SB 88. As a Tier III teacher, this bill will allow me to stay in the state to continue teaching.

I came from Washington State, which has a much better retirement system for their educators. I have found that it is much more expensive to live in Alaska and I'm afraid I will not be able to afford to live here after retirement.

Please fight for this bill, as it will benefit everyone, including teachers and Alaskan students.

Sincerely,
Kirsten Long
1st grade teacher, Sitka School District

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Konrad Jackson

From: Laura Bowman <lbowman@cordovasd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 2:11 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: written testimony for SB88

I'd like to provide written testimony on SB88. I am a teacher, and I appreciate the defined contribution plan that my school district offers. However, I worry about my retirement, which is entirely invested in the stock market. The stock market doesn't provide a guaranteed return, so I could end up with less than when I put in.

Many working Americans invest in the stock market as a retirement strategy. However, most working Americans also have the assurance of some social security payments as supplemental income. For reasons that I don't understand, teachers are not allowed to contribute to social security and neither do we have a defined retirement plan to give us a guaranteed income.

I feel like SB88 would right a wrong against myself and other teachers by giving us some form of guaranteed income.

Thank you,
[Laura Bowman](#)

English Learner Support Staff
Mt. Eccles Language Teacher
Cordova Jr/Sr High School Teacher
CHS Cordova Correspondence School coordinator

I am grateful to work and reside on the unceded territories of the dAXunhyuu (Eyak people), coastal neighbors to the Prince William Sound Sugpiaq and the Yaakwdáat Lingít.

Konrad Jackson

From: Laurie Duncan <salnesslaurie1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 6:38 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Full Support for SB 88

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing in full support for SB 88. As a Tier III teacher in the Sitka School District, it is important to me to continue providing ample retirement for those of us who choose to serve their community as educators. As a first year teacher, the concerns that arise includedman@akleg.gov how to begin preparing now for a long, successful career in education, while also setting myself up for life in retirement. Without this bill, it is a constant concern for how I can remain in this profession while preparing for the future.

Thank you for considering this bill and the educational careers for Alaskans.

Gunalchéesh,

Laurie Duncan
1st Grade Teacher
Baranof Elementary, Sitka School District

Konrad Jackson

From: saraheddy1978@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 3:06 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: SB 88

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing in full support of SB 88.

I'm sure you are well aware that:

- Alaska is the only state without at least a choice of a defined benefit retirement system
- Teachers are the only public employees without access to Social Security or the SBS system (Social Security Replacement)
- Studies from the State of Alaska have shown Tier III TRS members to have only a 31% chance of success in retirement (Department of Admin Monte Carlo Analysis 2019 – see attached)
- Studies show that teachers earn 21% less than other professionals with similar education levels
- Studies show that the cost to replace a teacher in Alaska is \$20,000

This is more than just a problem for teachers who already work in the state. Our broken retirement system makes it difficult for school districts to attract and retain teachers; fewer teachers are applying each year to work in our state while some teachers give up the profession altogether or leave Alaska for a better employment package. Replacing teachers year after year costs the state of Alaska thousands of dollars and its students immeasurable interruptions to learning.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Eddy

Kindergarten Teacher, Sitka School District

Konrad Jackson

From: Sophia Armstrong <sarmstrong@hbsd.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 5:20 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: SB 88: Retirement Systems; Defined Benefit Options

I am a life-long Alaskan public educator who was raised by life-long Alaskan public educators. My parents put their hearts and souls into their very lengthy and impactful careers. They gave to the state of Alaska until they were too old to give anymore. After working in school for 40 years, they have retired in comfort. I am glad they have a good retirement so they can finally relax and enjoy their older years with dignity and grace.

I also plan to work in public education in Alaska for 40 years. How awful to think I will have given so much to the children of this state and then have very little comfort and stability in my later years.

There are more convenient places to live. There are easier places to teach. We have students who need to be taught in every city, town, and village of our great state. Teachers already get paid less than other professionals. Something that will still entice teachers to Alaska is if we have good benefits.

I am an expert in child development and instruction. Those are my passions. I am not an expert in the stock market, nor should I have to be to retire with dignity and stability. Please change the retirement system back to what my parents have retired with. Give teachers the respect they deserve with an improved retirement system.

--



Sophia Armstrong (she/her)
"Empowering Excellence Everyday"
1st Grade Teacher, Haines Borough School District

(907)766-6707 | www.hbsd.net | sarmstrong@hbsd.net

P.O. Box 1289, 604 Haines Hwy, Haines, AK 99827

BA in Elementary Education from APU, 2005

AA in Early Childhood Education from UAA, 2002

Create your own [email signature](#)



Konrad Jackson

From: Tiffany Lebahn <tiffanylebahn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 2:56 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Support for SB 88

dear lawmakers,

I am writing in support of SB 88. As a tier III employee of Sitka School District it is important to me to continue providing ample retirement for those who choose to serve their community as educators. By passing this we will set countless employees up for continued success and encouragement to continue their careers in Alaska.

thank you for considering this bill and furthering the educational opportunities for Alaskans.

Tiffany Lebahn
SSD

Konrad Jackson

From: Wendy Demers <wendy.demers@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 6:36 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: SB 88

My name is Wendy Demers. I am a teacher and parent of two school-aged children in Fairbanks, Alaska. I am emailing today to support SB 88. I have mentored new educators throughout the FNSBSD for many years. I have also seen many of the educators I have mentored over the years leave Alaska to teach in a state that had a better retirement system like a defined benefit. At this point, teachers can be vested at five years, and move to a place with a better long-term retirement system. We spend a lot of time and money training new educators, just to see them leave and take jobs outside of Alaska. As an educator, I also know that what is best for students is consistency. We are failing our students if we are not working to retain the good educators who teach in Alaska. Returning to a defined benefit is a huge step in the right direction. Please pass SB 88 so we can retain the quality educators in our state!

Sincerely,
Wendy Demers

3370 Arthor Court
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907)388-6847