

[REDACTED]

From: Kae Iwata [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2024 7:10 PM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: HJR18

Categories: Constituent

Rep. Alyse Galvin,

I saw your youtube message about urge to remove Alaska from the WEP/GPO. I'm currently teaching at a public school, worked for 20 years. It is concerning when thinking about the retirement for Alaskan. Thank you for your work in helping people who will be affected by this.

Sincerely,
Kae Adams

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Annie Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 3:30 PM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Cc: Meredith.Trainot@akleg.gov
Subject: Support for House Joint Resolution 18

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representative Galvin,

Thank you for introducing HJR 18 urging the repeal of the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

Alaska is the most impacted state by these unfair penalties that diminish earned Social Security benefits; as I'm sure you already know.

In the 30 years before retiring while working in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, I saw many teachers stressing about their retirement, and taking on extra jobs to try to try to get social security somehow figured into the retirement equation.

You are truly appreciated for your hard work on HJR 18.

Sincerely,
Annie Baker
[REDACTED]
North Pole, AK 99705
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Sonja Benson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2024 1:14 PM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: Re: Alyse's Anchorage Article

Thank you Alyse!

I have thought many times how ridiculously unfair the GPO and WEP are, they affect lower-income people the most. But this is the first I've heard of anyone trying to do something about it!

And I support fully funded education. Very sorry the legislature didn't decide to override Dunleavy's education-funding veto from last year.

Thanks again, I appreciate all you are doing.

All the best to you!

Sonja Benson

Fairbanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Amy Coleman
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 10:00 AM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: A modest pension for public service

Dear Representative Alyse Galvin,

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, frontline 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.

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,
Amy Coleman

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99517 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Mel Langdon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2024 9:23 AM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: HJR 18

Dear Representative Galvin,

I support your efforts on HJR18, asking Congress to rollback the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision (GPO-WEP).

Thanks for all you do,
Mel Langdon

[REDACTED]

From: Gary Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2024 12:06 AM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: Re: Alyse's Anchorage Article

Thanks for the resolution on GPO and WEP. I lose several hundred dollars every month because I worked for the State of Alaska and City and Borough of Juneau.

You are such a great legislator.

Gary Miller

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Marilyn Pillifant [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 11:33 AM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Cc: Rep. Laddie Shaw
Subject: HJR 18 = WEP/GPO

Good Morning Representative Galvin and Representative Shaw,

I wanted to say thank you Rep. Galvin for putting forth this resolution discussing the situation with the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset act. I also would like to encourage you, Representative Shaw to assist in moving HJR18 forward to the full House for a vote - hopefully in the positive to pass and move the Resolution to the noted United States Congress.

I listened recently to the Congressional Ways and Means Sub-Committee hearing where several folks testified on this topic. Interestingly enough, all speakers stated they knew nothing of this penalty act until they were ready to retire after decades of public service. Some had to find other jobs to supplement their retirements because their Social Security benefits were cut/diminished/stolen from them.

I too as a retired public elementary school teacher of 28 years, did not know of this punishing legislation until I was retiring! It is quite unfair to learn about this at the end of my career, but just as unfair to take away money I paid into the social security system, planning for my retirement, only to be penalized by WEP/GPO.

Please, please, please rectify this money grab by supporting HJR 18. It is imperative that Congress understand the consequences of their uninformed actions.

Thank you for listening and your efforts to eliminate WEP/GPO.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Pillifant
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Barbara Stek [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 5:19 PM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: Yeah, yeah, yeah - let's get rid of GPO/WEP!!!

All efforts to eliminate GPO/WEP are appreciated. I fall under both categories in my retirement from education in Anchorage and have lost a significant portion of my Social Security. I applaud your efforts and the efforts of others whose goal is to end GPO/WEP. Let me know if there is more that I can do to further this effort.

Again my thanks!!

Barbara Stek

[REDACTED]
Anchorage 99504

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Jeanne Swartz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2024 10:22 AM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: RE: Thank you, thank you, thank you for sponsoring HJR 18!

Dear Representative Galvin,

I am deeply grateful for your sponsorship of HJR 18, advocating the rollback of the cruel policies of GPO and WEP. I worked for state government for over 20 years and recently retired. Yes, I am lucky to receive a pension and fine supplemental health benefits, but before my employment with state government, I worked in the private sector for 20+ years. As a government employee, even though my work was highly specialized and technical in nature, my wage was lower than it would have been if I had chosen to be a manager of a retail store. I am not scornful of any type of retail work, only pointing out that if I had left state government and take up the same work as a consultant, as many of my former colleagues chose to do, my salary would have doubled. Cynically, I observed that the only people who choose to stay in state government employment are those who have a high-earning spouse or have personal or family health problems that can't be addressed by private insurance. Everyone else gets credentialed and gets out, usually out of state. If I had been paid more as a state employee, my pension would have been higher. With the GPO and WEP policies adding to a lowered pension, I am caught in a cycle of reduced retirement income. For the years I worked and paid into social security, I will receive very little because of GPO, and that's if I wait until 70 to collect it. I would receive even less if I took half of my husband's social security, even though he is at the highest level of remittance and didn't start collecting until he was 70. There are many people who have much worse problems, so I don't like to complain. However, my situation is shared by many and there is no way we as a state will address the attrition of talented, working age people until some of these short-sighted policies are changed.

Thank you so much for the work that you do on behalf of your constituents and the state as a whole. — Jeanne Swartz

P. S. I was not able to comment on SB140, but I would add my name to the long list of people who oppose this naked attempt to publicly fund religious schools. Thank you for getting the word out.

[REDACTED]

From: S Lynette Veelman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2024 8:52 AM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: [REDACTED] HJR 18 - Repeal the GPO-WEP

Categories: Constituent

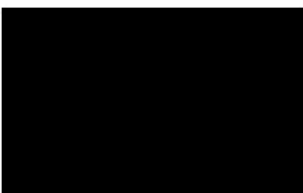
Dear Alyse Galvin,

I had to retire from Anchorage School District in 2018 due to cancer/disability. Primary bone cancer of spin with a surgery left me unable to work in my Montessori classroom. I am writing because in favor of HJR 18 and repeal of GPO-WEP. Even though I worked for 20 years in Alaska at other professional jobs I did not qualify for disability. This was due to the last nine years of employment at Anchorage School District. As a parent of a young fabulous Alaska raised teacher I've advised her to never teach for ASD due to no SS and retirement benefits. Currently she teaches at Snoqualmie School District and has great benefits. It's be nice to have improved benefits for teachers.

Most importantly, I'd like for young teachers to have resource if the should become disabled.

Thank you for this bill!

Susan Lynette Veelman



[REDACTED]

From: Deborah Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2024 11:51 AM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: HJR 18

Dear Alyse - Thank you for supporting public employees by introducing HJR 18. As a longtime public school educator who also worked in the private sector for more than 20 years, I appreciate your efforts to restore full social security benefits to people like me. I have written to, and spoken with members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation regarding the unfairness of WEP/GPO for individuals who paid into the social security system for the required number of quarters. Having support from the Alaska Legislature is such a boost! I'm hoping that HJR 18 includes making changes to WEP/GPO retroactive for those of us who are already being penalized. It doesn't make sense that workers who paid into the system are penalized for also choosing to work in the public sector, often foregoing higher paying private sector jobs. I appreciate your tireless efforts on behalf of "regular folks," and for keeping us well-informed with your newsletters, emails and videos. You have made a difference in just 2 years! Thanks, Alyse.

Regards,
Deb

Deborah Ward
Anchorage, AK
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: C & C Westmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2024 9:45 AM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: HJR 18/WEP/GPO

Categories: Constituent

Hello Representative Alyse Galvin,

I am a teacher for the Anchorage School District. I previously paid into social security in another state from the time I started working at the age of 15 until I moved to Alaska to start work at the age of 31. I did not realize this school district did not pay into the social security system and that I would be penalized at retirement. The WEP does not benefit me, but will be taking away money that I worked hard for for most of my life. I have enough work credits for medicare, but those medicare payments will take the rest of my social security after the government takes their chunk out of my social security due to WEP. It is a punishment. School teachers already don't make enough as it is and to take away our social security seems unfair. Please fight for this to be discontinued.

Thank you,
Christie Westmann

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Heidi Gerrety
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:05 PM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: A modest pension for public service

Dear Representative Alyse Galvin,

Thank you for supporting education! I appreciate you. The following is the canned letter so you have probably read it. 🙄

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, frontline 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.

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,
Heidi Gerrety

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Felicia Harkacz
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 2:49 PM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: A modest pension for public service

Dear Representative Alyse Galvin,

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, frontline 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.

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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,
Felicia Harkacz

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Therese Holtz
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: A modest pension for public service

Dear Representative Alyse Galvin,

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, frontline 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.

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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,
Therese Holtz

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Adam Mackie
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 2:45 PM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: A modest pension for public service

Dear Representative Alyse Galvin,

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, frontline 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.

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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,
Adam Mackie

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED] Brian Malta

Sent:

Thursday, February 1, 2024 2:39 PM

To:

Rep. Alyse Galvin

Subject:

A modest pension for public service

Dear Representative Alyse Galvin,

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, frontline 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.

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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,

Brian Malta

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Nicholas Rothman
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 3:15 PM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: A modest pension for public service

Dear Representative Alyse Galvin,

I'm preaching to the choir, but hope you will support this NEA position.

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, frontline 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.

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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.

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,
Nicholas Rothman

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

Jessica Sedlacek [REDACTED]

Sent:

Thursday, February 1, 2024 2:53 PM

To:

Rep. Alyse Galvin

Subject:

A modest pension for public service

Dear Representative Alyse Galvin,

I've been your neighbor now for 10 years. I'm hoping you can get this passed, I'd really like to be able to stay in education.

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, frontline 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.

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Thank you,

Sincerely,

Jessica Sedlacek

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

Bill Shea

Sent:

Thursday, February 1, 2024 11:01 PM

To:

Rep. Alyse Galvin

Subject:

A modest pension for public service

Dear Representative Alyse Galvin,

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, frontline 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.

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Thank you,

Sincerely,

Bill Shea

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

David Vano

Sent:

Thursday, February 1, 2024 2:47 PM

To:

Rep. Alyse Galvin

Subject:

A modest pension for public service

Dear Representative Alyse Galvin,

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Thank you,

Sincerely,

David Vano

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Chong Vue
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 4:17 PM
To: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: A modest pension for public service

Dear Representative Alyse Galvin,

Alaska public employees have the worst retirement options in America. Educators, frontline 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.

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Thank you,

Sincerely,
Chong Vue

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99503 [REDACTED]