

# ALASKA AFL-CIO

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VINCE BELTRAMI  
Executive President



JAKE METCALFE  
Secretary / Treasurer

April 15, 2019

Senator Click Bishop  
State Capitol Room 121  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chair Bishop and members of the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the Alaska AFL-CIO and over 50,000 members (half of which are public employees), we would like to thank you for considering SB 46, a bill that would restore defined benefit plans for Alaska's public employees.

As it stands, Alaska's newly hired fire fighters, police officers, troopers, educators, public health care workers, and other state and public employees won't have a reliable pension when they retire. Additionally, many of our public employees will not receive Social Security benefits. This makes recruitment and retention of public employees and educators increasingly difficult.

Alaska's current defined contribution plan is not competitive in a market place for attracting quality public employees and the pool of qualified applicants for public sector jobs in Alaska is shrinking.

And finally, the closed defined benefit system for PERS and TRS has actually exacerbated the unfunded liability --- a liability caused by malfeasance on the part of an actuarial firm. Infusing the defined benefit system with new employees would be a step in the right direction to reducing the unfunded liability while providing our public servants with a more secure retirement.

Thank you again for considering SB 46.

Sincerely,

Vince Beltrami  
President, Alaska AFL-CIO