



March 28, 2018

Representatives Foster and Seaton
Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Seaton,

On behalf of Alaska's 13,000 education support professionals and teachers, I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 78 to create the Alaska Permanent Fund Education Raffle.

As you probably know, years of flat funding has eroded the ability of our schools to offer reasonable class sizes, one-on-one attention and the rich and varied opportunities the next generation of Alaskans deserve. Athletics, music, art, libraries, and more have been cut as we have seen energy and other costs continue to increase.

We are supportive of this model as it provides an opportunity for Alaskans to share part of their Permanent Fund dividend with the worthy cause of making sure our kids have great opportunities. As educators we know that games of chance already play a big role in supporting our athletic teams and all variety of enriching extracurricular – from school clubs to alumni associations.

We believe SB 78 is one step to ensuring that schools are fully funded. We hope that it is one of the first steps in finding permanent solutions so that schools can be funded at levels that will ensure that our students are successful.

We urge you to hear and pass this important piece of legislation, which will increase the amount of funding, in both the near and long term, available to ensure the resources are available to inspire the next generation of Alaska kids.

Sincerely,

Tim Parker
NEA-Alaska President