

ALASKA STATE SENATE

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Senator Mike Cronk

Sponsor Statement for SB 204

“An Act relating to substitute teaching; and relating to the qualifications of school board members.”

The number one priority in education should always be our children and our families. In the conversation about how to improve our state’s education system, simple, yet meaningful, reforms need to be thoroughly examined in the Legislature.

Senate Bill 204 accomplishes two things. First, this bill allows for members of regional and municipal school boards to substitute teach in their schools. Second, it prevents anyone convicted of a felony, under both state and federal law, from serving as a member of a school board.

Our students deserve to be surrounded by the best individuals Alaska has to offer. In Alaska, it is nearly impossible for a convicted felon to be hired as a teacher – and parity should be the minimum standard for a school board member. SB 204 would deem all convicted felons ineligible from serving on a school board.

Secondly, schools nationwide are dealing with teacher shortages. SB 204 would provide a common-sense provision to make our schools more adaptable by allowing school board members to substitute teach in the schools they oversee.