

Konrad Jackson

From: Tanya Roust <tanyaroust@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 1:18 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support for HB 78 - Teacher Testimony

Dear Members of the House Labor & Commerce Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 78.

I have been a public school teacher at Sayéik: Gastineau Community School in Juneau for 13 years. Throughout my career, I have been enrolled in a defined contribution retirement plan. While I am committed to teaching, the lack of a defined benefit option has made long-term retirement planning uncertain and incredibly stressful, especially given Alaska's abysmal education funding and the tumultuous economy.

Defined contribution plans place significant financial risk on individual employees, especially in a profession with modest salaries and limited opportunities to recover from market downturns. This uncertainty contributes to burnout and makes it harder to retain experienced educators in Alaska.

HB 78 is important because it restores choice. It allows public employees the option to participate in a defined benefit plan that offers *predictable, stable* retirement income. I believe this kind of security would make Alaska more competitive in recruiting and retaining teachers and would demonstrate that the state values long-term public service--a benefit to *all* Alaskans.

I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 78.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Tanya Roust
Teacher, Sayéik: Gastineau Community School
Juneau, Alaska