

**From:** [Betty Richter](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** HB78  
**Date:** Thursday, April 03, 2025 12:04:44 PM

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Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB78, which aims to ensure a better retirement system for educators in Alaska. As a public school teacher and a lifelong resident of this state, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges we face in retaining and recruiting talented educators due to inadequate pay and the lack of a teacher pension plan.

Many of my family members, who were born and raised in Alaska, have left the state to teach in regions offering better pay and pension packages. This trend is deeply concerning and highlights the urgent need for competitive benefits to attract and retain quality educators.

I have a seventh-grade daughter who is gifted in teaching, but I cannot, in good conscience, encourage her to pursue a career in education given the current conditions. The absence of a teacher pension plan is a significant deterrent, and it is crucial that we address this issue to secure the future of education in Alaska.

Implementing a teacher pension plan will not only improve teacher retention but also enhance recruitment efforts, ensuring that our students receive the best possible education. I urge you to support HB78 and take the necessary steps to provide a secure retirement system for educators.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Your support will make a meaningful difference in the lives of educators and the quality of education in our state.

Sincerely,

Betty Richter