



April 6, 2013

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Opposition to SB 90 to Include in Bill Packet

As president of NEA-Alaska and chairperson of the Trustees for the NEA-Alaska Health Plan, I am writing in opposition of SB 90.

The NEA Health Plan provides direct services to over 17,000 residents in the State of Alaska. It does so in a way that meets the needs of school districts and their employees.

I wish to express deep concern over the Legislature taking up this bill during the last week of session. This bill deserves a thorough vetting as to its short and long term consequences.

The NEA Health Plan has the ability to be nimble in a volatile health insurance market. Unlike the State plan that uses a restrictive and antiquated procurement process.

In the end, NEA Health Plan has been able to work with school districts to provide a level of benefits that a district needs to recruit and retain qualified staff. Alaska must be able to remain competitive, when we recruit over 70% of our teaching staff from the Lower 48.

On behalf of my nearly 13,000 members, I am expressing our opposition to this bill and ask that this letter be included in the bill packet.

Sincerely,

Ron Fuhrer
President

Cc: Senate Education Committee, State of Affairs and Senate Finance Committee