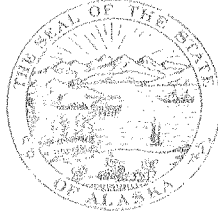


# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-4843  
Fax: (907) 465-3871




District  
716 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2133  
Phone: (907) 269-0181  
Fax: (907) 269-0184

SENATOR CATHY GIESSEL

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 24, 2015

**TO:** Senator Mia Costello, Chair, Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

**FROM:** Senator Cathy Giessel 

**RE:** Request for Hearing, SB 44 Religious Union Exemption

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I respectfully request that **Senate Bill # 44 "Religious Union Exemption: PERA & AKRR"** be heard in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee at your earliest convenience.

SB 44 makes a simple change to allow employees, who are exempt from paying union dues because of religious convictions, to decide to which charity they would like those dues donated.

Currently, the decision lies in the hands of the unions to which the employee would belong, which leaves the possibility of the employee's donations going to an organization whose mission they don't support. This gives the decision directly to the employee, not the union.

Attached you will find:

1. SB 44 Sponsor Statement
2. SB 44 Version W
3. SB 44 Supporting Documents
4. SB 44 Background Information
5. Fiscal Notes forthcoming

Please contact Forrest Wolfe, 465-8180, in my office if you need any further information.