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**From:** Nancy Lehnhart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2022 5:25 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** please provide strong support for education

Dear legislators,

I am the one elementary visual art teacher for all of the elementary schools in Juneau and have the privilege of going in and out of every elementary classroom. It gives me a unique opportunity to see and feel the pulse of our classrooms as a whole.

The number one challenge is large class sizes and diverse needs of students.

Children need to be seen and supported as individuals and this is near impossible with 25-30 students in classrooms.

House bills 272 and 273 begin to remedy this issue with a stronger and consistent BSA. Please move these bills forward for the sake of our student's learning and well being!

Another issue we can't ignore is the loss of attractiveness in becoming a teacher and staying with teaching. We are already facing a teacher shortage and it's going to get worse. My daughter is an Alaska-raised young teacher and she is so discouraged about Tier 3 teachers not having a retirement that will amount to anything, she is considering leaving the field for other work. Our future depends on strong teachers joining our work force and sticking with it. We have to give them a reason to do that. Please include teachers in a defined benefits retirement!

Thank you for your work and considering our feedback,

Nancy Lehnhart,

Juneau  
[REDACTED]