



March 2, 2022

Representative Andy Josephson
Member House Finance Committee
State Capitol Room 502
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Josephson,

Thank you for introducing House Bill 30.

It is clear that after 21 years since the last update, and in comparison to other states, a modernization to Alaska's Worker's Compensation PPI rates is common sense and long overdue.

Like many working Alaskans, educators can face threats and injury on the job. In particular, our Special Education teachers and paraprofessionals are often subject to violence and physical harm in their workplaces.

For example, a Special Education teacher had her toe smashed by an aggressive student. After some healing and recovery, the student stomped on her foot again leaving her with a permanent impairment to her body. The amount of workers compensation she received paled in comparison to the consequences of her injury which she'll have to contend with for the rest of her life.

NEA-Alaska strongly supports House Bill 30 and urges its swift passage.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to supporting House Bill 30 as the legislative process unfolds.

Sincerely,

Tom Klaameyer
President, NEA-Alaska