



ANCHORAGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Connecting Educators • Inspiring Students

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau AK, 99801

March 9th, 2023

Dear Senator Giessel,

On behalf of the Anchorage Education Association, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 88.

The Anchorage Education Association represents nearly 3,000 certificated teachers, nurses, school counselors, librarians, speech and language pathologists, all school-based certificated staff minus principals.

First, thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88. As you know, Senate Bill 88 responds to the critical educator recruitment and retention crisis plaguing the Anchorage School District (ASD) and all of Alaska.

Anchorage used to be one of the top destinations for educators in the country. Alaska offered a competitive compensation and a benefits package that attracted and retained top-notch educators nationwide. Sadly, this is no longer the case. There are 538 open positions at ASD right now. This includes 6 unfilled Career and Technical Education teacher positions, 57 elementary school teacher positions, 64 special education teacher positions, and 11 math teacher positions.

Our students can't achieve their full academic potential without professional educators in the classroom.

Alaska has always been a net importer of teachers. But, in recent years, a national teacher shortage has also developed. Alaska can only be competitive with a proper retirement system that guarantees some level of income at the end of a career. In conversations with teachers leaving the district, the lack of a pension system and no Social Security benefits are among the most frequent reasons cited.

Every day that Alaska fails to take steps to keep our best and brightest and attract new educators to fill vacancies, we slip further and further behind public education systems in other

states. Senate Bill 88 represents a critical turning point for all public employees and will yield benefits for our state for years to come.

Senate Bill 88 invests in growing and retaining our Alaska education workforce. We thank you for your leadership and commend you for supporting Alaska's educators.

Thank you,

Corey Aist, President
Anchorage Education Association



KPESA

Schooling the Kenai

Susanna Litwiniak, KPESA President

Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association

(907)260-2023 office

4-D Building, Suite 101B, PO Box 198 Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am the President of the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association, the union representing support staff employees of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, and I am writing to thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88. I work as school secretary of Moose Pass School and as KPESA President represent hundreds of classified employees across our district. We are a diverse group of education support professionals. We are the school secretaries, paraeducators, nurses, custodians, food service workers, library specialists, drivers, warehouse workers, theater technicians, IT services, clerical employees and administrative assistants. We work hard to provide the safe, healthy, environments students need to learn successfully.

Restoring a defined benefit option for Alaska public employees is critical to addressing the workforce shortage our schools are facing. Fully staffing our schools this year has been incredibly challenging and we have seen an extraordinary number of vacant support staff positions this year. Education is a team sport. When a school is missing one of the team members, whether they are a custodian, a special education aide, a secretary, or a food service worker, it impacts the learning environment for students. Every vacancy creates additional workload on those in the school and takes energy away from student learning.

I thank you and the sponsors of Senate Bill 88 for understanding the issue and taking bold action towards addressing it. Restoring a defined benefit option will allow more Alaskans to see working in education as a viable career path that is incredibly fulfilling where you can retire with dignity. Legislation like SB88, which recognizes the important contribution of public employees, is critical to addressing the workforce shortage and ensuring every student has a fully staffed school in which to learn.

On behalf of myself and our members, thank you again for introducing Senate Bill 88.

In Solidarity,

Susanna Litwiniak

Susanna Litwiniak

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Fairbanks Pioneer Home issues
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 7:12:49 AM

From: David Leslie <kenske@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:42 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fairbanks Pioneer Home issues

Hello there! I'm David Leslie, an activities aide at the Fairbanks Pioneer Home, and also the ASEA 52 union steward there.

I tried to stop by your office in Juneau during the Political Education Leadership conference a few weeks ago, but I unfortunately missed you.

I'm very worried about the state of our Homes. Fairbanks, in particular, has been under 75% staffing for both ALAs/CNAs and nurses. This means the workers are doing an extreme amount of mandatory overtime, to the point where we can't keep people, as their lives- picking up children, going to classes, being able to spend holidays with their families- is impossible, unless they go on-call.

That ends up making the few full-time people we have working multiple 16-hour days, sometimes even four of them, each week. As you know, nurses aren't allowed to work more than 12 hours as to prevent medication errors, but the Homes make ALAs and CNAs pass meds, unlike most other places like the Denali Center, so residents are more at risk for getting the wrong meds, or missing their meds entirely.

This comes along with the January rent increase of 8.7%, which means residents are paying more for not just sup-par care, but workers that may actually harm them, all because we cannot hire and retain workers.

This is a two-sided problem. As a new hire, I'm not paid enough to rent a one bedroom apartment, as they cost over half of what I make in a month. I've had to move in with three people I didn't know in a three-bedroom with no kitchen, and I wash my dishes in the bathroom next to my toilet.

The other side is that we're losing long-time employees because our retirement plan is failing to be competitive with other places, as we no longer have a defined benefit with a secured pension. We lose the institutional knowledge these workers have accumulated over the years- not just in care for the residents, but in how to demand better workplace policies and management.

What we are left with is a small group of new employees who have never seen a functional workplace, which is necessary for the Homes to thrive.

This is exacerbated by the fact many independent seniors are trying to avoid congregate living

facilities in the face of COVID. I understand fully, given we are currently under the worst surge in COVID at the Fairbanks Pioneer Home I've seen in my year and a half working there. If you can avoid living in an assisted living facility, you will, because otherwise you will most likely be exposed, if not contract, COVID, multiple times, reducing your quality of life and literally reducing the days and years of your life.

This means the people who are moving in need higher cares, and since the Homes have a mandatory vacancy rate, they are filling it with people who are not independent- people with disabilities, but more specifically, people with dementia.

We are taking care of more people with dementia than ever before, and those people do not remember to wear a mask, nor stay in their rooms while actively contagious. This leads them to expose the other residents, leading less people to want to move in, thus creating a vicious cycle where less employees are continually providing more and more care while having less and less staff, not to mention that families will risk COVID themselves visiting their loved ones.

Please, we need things to change if we want our state to continue to care for our aging population. Both my mother and grandmother are old enough to move into the Home, but I want it to be better than what it is now before they do. I hope you want the same.

If you would like to talk more, I'm more than happy to do so. We need more help than what we're being given, and it will mean allowing our Elders to live not just more days, but more years, which will allow them to contribute to our community before they pass.

Thank you for your time,
David Leslie
907-799-3364

3/9/23

Senator Cathy Giessel

Alaska Senate, Juneau AK

I want to sincerely thank you for introducing SB 88. I have been on the state level Saving our Alaska Retirement committee for six years. I am so grateful that this is getting introduced the first year of the session. Let me know how I can help your efforts.

I have been a special education teacher in Kodiak, AK for 15 years, I missed the pension retirement plan by two years. We have more teachers in our district who were hired in 1997 than we do who were hired ten years later in 2007. We cannot keep TRS-3 teachers in our district or the state. Currently, only 54% of our teachers have been in our district for more than three years. The turn-over in the last ten years is astronomical and increasing every year. Is it estimated to cost the state, and individual districts, approximately \$20,000 to train a new teacher. Certainly, it is more cost effective to put that money into retention efforts than it is to train teachers so they can work elsewhere. How can we expect to successfully implement the Reads Act when we can't keep the teachers we train? Having experienced, quality educators is the single best way to improve student learning.

I love Kodiak and I chose to come here to raise my daughter. I love my job and my community, and I truly wish I could stay here. But coming to Alaska has been the worst financial decision of my life. Every year my wages never increase as much as the cost of living and I have virtually no retirement to fall back on. So, when my daughter graduates in three years, I will be leaving. I am faced with the choice of being bankrupt in my elder years or working into my 70s unless I move to a place with a much lower cost of living. But unless the retirement system changes, I cannot stay.

Sincerely,

Danielle Specht

Special Education Teacher

Kodiak Island Borough School District

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW:
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:39:32 PM

From: L Conner <lucyconner1029@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:33 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject:

Hello Senator Giessel,

Thank you so much for putting forth a bill to offer a better retirement for workers in Alaska. It is a terrific step in improving attracting and retaining valuable people here in our state!

I write you today as I'm very distressed and yes -- angry -- that our Attorney General and the governor's administration has joined in a lawsuit to deny women in our state the right to the abortion pill, as protected in our state's constitution. Not only is it a guaranteed right, it is first and foremost a very personal, private decision that is no one's business except the woman, her doctor(s) and anyone else she chooses.

Living in a state with a shameful record of sexual and domestic abuse, it appalls me that these politicians will deny women in our state access to a medically sound, FDA approved drug!

Please do whatever you can in striving to enforce our state's constitution. Thank you so much for your time, consideration and for all the work you do for all of us in Alaska!

Sincerely,

Lucy Conner
3421 Halyards Cir
Anchorage, AK 99516
907-240-7280

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for Introducing Senate Bill 88
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:51:43 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nicole Jensen <nmariejensen@gmail.com>
Date: March 7, 2023 at 7:28:12 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for Introducing Senate Bill 88

Cathy,

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88. As a teacher in tier 3 retirement, I appreciate the furthering of this matter. I have been teaching for 8 years and deeply worry about my ability to retire as a teacher in Alaska. I am a lifelong Alaskan, and I do not want to leave the state. I grew up in Seward and currently teach in Soldotna. I also believe that it is important to keep Alaskans in the role of Alaskan educators. We need to pay attention as a state to retention of current teachers. Each year we lose new and experienced teachers to our poor retirement in Alaska. Having a strong retirement system will support the longevity of Alaskan teachers in the profession.

Thank you for your continued work for Alaskan teachers.

Sincerely,
Nicole Jensen

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Pension Senate Bill - Thank you
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:51:16 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robanne Stading <icycoldriver123@gmail.com>
Date: March 7, 2023 at 8:01:14 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pension Senate Bill - Thank you

Senator Giessel,
Thank you for introducing SB-88 for the reinstatement of a pension retirement system. With 17 years in TRS Tier 3, I'm interested in how it may all turn out for me and as a way to make teaching in Alaska more attractive for other.
Sincerely,
Robanne Stading
Homer, Alaska

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Thank you!!
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 2:25:38 PM

From: Yung Kwang Kiely <ykiely01@kibsd.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 12:30 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you!!

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,

I am writing to you today with a heavy heart and a great sense of concern about the current state of the retirement system here in Alaska. As a teacher, I have dedicated my life to educating and inspiring young minds, but the stress of the retirement system is taking a toll on me and ultimately impacting the quality of education that I can provide to my students.

The idea of working for the rest of my life is overwhelming and daunting. The thought of never being able to retire and enjoy the fruits of my labor is disheartening. It is a constant source of stress that is affecting my mental and physical well-being. I worry about what the future holds and how I will be able to support myself and my family.

The burden of figuring out other sources of income to supplement a possible retirement takes away from my commitment and quality as a teacher. Instead of focusing on the needs of my students and providing them with the best education possible, I am forced to worry about my financial future.

The students are the ones that ultimately suffer from not taking care of teachers in Alaska. Without the support and security of a reliable retirement system, many experienced and dedicated teachers are leaving the profession or retiring early. This results in a shortage of qualified teachers, larger class sizes, and a lack of continuity in the classroom.

I implore you to take action and work towards a fair and reliable retirement system for teachers in Alaska. It is not only a matter of our financial security but also the quality of education that we can provide to our students. We owe it to them and to ourselves to create a retirement system that allows us to retire with dignity and peace of mind.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yung Kiely

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:51:57 PM

From: Adam Sayler <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:43 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Adam Sayler

Adam Sayler
sayler123@yahoo.com
1702 Phoenix Road
Seward, Alaska 99664

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Alaska's public workfroce deserves a pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:53:54 PM

From: Alex Baker <baker@akaficio.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska's public workfroce deserves a pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

SB 88 is common-sense fix to our recruitment and retention crisis. It's a fiscally responsible bill that will save the state and localities money in the long-run. Furthermore, all workers who dedicate their career to helping move our state forward, whether as a teacher, public safety officer, laborer, etc. deserve a pension. Please support join the cosponsors in supporting SB 88.

Alex Baker
baker@akaficio.org
1571 Nelchina St.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:08:24 PM

From: Betty Barats <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:39 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Betty Barats
bettybarats@gmail.com
1710 Donovan Ave
Bellingham, Washington 98225

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please Support the Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:54:39 PM

From: Bev Gagaring <bevg@afscmelocal52.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:33 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support the Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, all public employees and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Bev Gagaring
bevg@afscmelocal52.org
1820 Bellevue Loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:49:39 AM

From: Brian Clausson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:48 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Brian Clausson
brian_clausson@hotmail.com
8608 Spruce Brook St
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Defined Benefit Pension for ALL Public Employees
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:53:40 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Miller <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 7:00:14 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Defined Benefit Pension for ALL Public Employees
Reply-To: brian.alexander.miller@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

As a longtime public employee in Alaska I'm lucky enough to belong to a defined benefit tier of PERS, and I'm thankful for the security my pension & benefits will grant me in retirement. However, during my time in public service I have witnessed the erosion in both quantity and quality of my co-workers and it's hard for me to express how frustrated and disappointed it makes me feel. There are many reasons for this problem, and fixing it will require a variety of solutions. But if you can't hire quality employees nothing you try to implement will be successful. A return to a defined benefit pension plan such as the one proposed in SB88 isn't sufficient in my opinion, but it's a hell of a lot better than what we are offering public employees today, and I strongly encourage you to pass this bill. Thanks!

-Brian Miller, Anchorage

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Brian Miller

brian.alexander.miller@gmail.com

8921 Forest Village Dr #A

Anchorage, Alaska 99502

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Honor the work of Public Employees through restoring Defined Benefit Pension for all employees
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:05:24 AM

From: Carol Meinen <carol.meinen@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:06 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Honor the work of Public Employees through restoring Defined Benefit Pension for all employees

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Over the past 15 years, I have seen a dramatic change in employee retention, for the Alaska Pioneer Homes. People seek stability and long-term employment, they also look for solid retirement benefits. I will be a recipient of the Defined Benefit Pension, I am so grateful for the opportunity to receive a pension. Please keep Alaska's Public employees on your radar, honor their hard work by supporting restoration of the Defined Benefit Pension.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Thank you,
Carol Meinen

Carol Meinen
carol.meinen@alaska.gov
901 S. Williwaw Dr.
Palmer, Kansas AK 99645

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:46 PM

From: Carole Bookless <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

I never expected that I would live this long. I will be 67 this year. I never expected that I would still be working at this age either. I am still working because the DC retirement plan does not provide me with adequate income to retire after 16 years putting money into it. I am not expecting much, just poverty line would make it. On top of that, my SS will be slashed because I am a teacher so I will wait until I am 70 to apply for SS to max that out. Not only that, I lost \$30,000 of my pension last year due to letting Empower handle my account. Now I have taken control of my funds and, I think, I have my money in secure Treasury Bonds. At the age of 67, I sometimes struggle to keep track of bills, appointments and deadlines let alone becoming my own market analyst for my pension. Help!

Carole Bookless

Carole Bookless
sealettuce-1@yahoo.com
P.o. box 240444
Douglas, Alaska 99824

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:47 PM

From: Crystal Basnaw <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Crystal Basnaw
coliver3@hotmail.com
PO BOX 58191
Fairbanks, Alaska 99711

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:54:08 PM

From: Danielle Logan <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:36 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Danielle Logan
danielle.rynea@gmail.com
4886 Drake St
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:48:26 AM

From: Darlene Anderson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:37 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

When the SOA had the defined benefit pkg they had low turnover in state employees & teachers. Continuity in government offices means less \$ going out for training employees. My daughter worked for CSED and the turnover was ridiculous, I worked for the Federal Govt In Alaska and we would have had/ and did once, a team to come up and do a climate assessment on the division I worked for to see why so many people were quitting and going to other federal, or then, state jobs. Has the state done this? Going back to a defined benefit pkg and or adding social security to their retirement would help. People who only work for the state will have a pretty meager retirement. On what they make now saving additional \$ for retirement is not an option for the non upper management employees.

Darlene Anderson
wheat-oaken.0k@icloud.com
2011 Wenmatt Circle
Anchorage , 9957

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:05:49 AM

From: David Bates <dbates@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:36 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

David Bates
dbates@mosquitonet.com
768 17th Ave
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:25 PM

From: David Leslie <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Hello, you may have met or heard from me a few weeks ago during the ASEA 52 Political Education Conference. I'm David Leslie, an Activities Aide at the Fairbanks Pioneers Home, where I'm also the union steward. We currently are under 75% staffing of both ALAs/CNAs and nurses, which means we are providing subpar care to our Elders.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

David Leslie
Kenske@gmail.com
3514 International st
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:10:46 PM

From: Deirdre Downey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:09 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Deirdre Downey
deirdree06@gmail.com
328 Gold St
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:05:55 AM

From: Dennis O'Connell <doconnell@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:39 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Dennis O'Connell
doconnell@gci.net
2300 Lake George Drive
Anchorage , Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:57:58 PM

From: Dustin Every <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Dustin Every
every17@hotmail.com
2720 Set Net Ct
Kenai, Alaska 99611

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:20 PM

From: Ervin Brown <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:13 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Ervin Brown
brownlyons12@gmail.com
131 e Osprey Ln
Shelton, Washington 98584

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:48:36 AM

From: Francis McLaughlin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:03 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Francis McLaughlin
francismclaughlin@gmail.com
3317 Checkmate Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:29 AM

From: Fred Yawit Jr <fyawitjr@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:03 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Fred Yawit Jr
fyawitjr@msn.com
3535 NEWCOMB DR
ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99508

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:01 PM

From: Gary Miller <gmiller.juneauak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:22 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Senator Giessel, thank you for introducing SB 88, converting all public employees to a defined benefit retirement system.

Everyone deserves a secure retirement when they are old and no longer able to work. This includes all state workers (like in legislators also), and not just police and firepersons (firemen - firewomen).

I am 74, no longer able to work and my wife is 70. We are fortunate to be in tier I.

The three Juneau legislators also support a defined benefit retirement.

No need to respond to my email.

Gary Miller
20135 Cohen Dr
Juneau, AK 99801-8211
(907) 789-3757

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:05:39 AM

From: Gordon Glaser <Mensch@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:56 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Gordon Glaser
Mensch@acsalaska.net
1029 POTLATCH CIR
ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99503

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:07:15 AM

From: Gordon Williams <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:32 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Our biggest problem in this state is net out-migration. This can only be fixed by adjusting the retirement system so that it encourages people to stay in the state, and the two best ways to do that are a pension system and a high quality educational system. Today we're addressing the former.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Gordon Williams
supposenot@me.com
4335 birch lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:03:34 PM

From: Hope Zachman <hope.zachman@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:01 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

As a State of Alaska worker, one of my tasks is to recruit and hire providers for Alaska. During COVID, providers experienced layoffs and firings. Recruitment was at an all-time high with no vacancies. With COVID waning, hospitals and private healthcare providers are providing 20% more pay to the persons I try to recruit with a poor benefit package. I am currently working with 25% vacancies. Offering a comprehensive benefit package has proven helpful but studies have shown Generation Y (millennials) are attracted to a pension retirement option when choosing employment.

Hope Zachman
hope.zachman@alaska.gov
550 W 7th Ave; ste 1800
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:08:31 PM

From: Jacqueline Clausson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:33 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Jacqueline Clausson
mclausson989@gmail.com
8608 Spruce Brook St
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:06:39 PM

From: James Raymond <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:24 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I am a retired federal employee and I am very fortunate to receive a pension. It was a very important reason I decided to take and keep my federal job. Had I not received the pension upon my retirement, I would not have been able to afford to retire and keep the benefits I currently have. We would have most likely have moved out of Alaska because we could not have afforded to maintain the cost of living. That would have meant moving away from our grandchildren and only being able to see them very infrequently. Having my pension allowed us to stay and enjoy seeing our grandchildren grow.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

James Raymond
pacemakerjim@hotmail.com
8660 Rosalind St.
Anchorage , Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:09 PM

From: jayne michelini <roamaround@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:50 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

jayne michelini
roamaround@gci.net
2780 North Windy Bottom Rd
wasilla , Alaska 99623

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:09:51 PM

From: Jedediah Smith <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:08 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

I began my service with the State of Alaska in 2006, shortly before the state moved to a defined contribution plan. I am extremely fortunate to be in the Tier 3 PERS system, and I can tell you that, more than 15 years later, I have worked my way up from a fisheries technician II to a Local Government Specialist IV. A big reason I continue working for the State of Alaska is due to the pension-style retirement system. Many of my peers are not included in this and have struggled to keep up with their retirement contributions, only to see their savings take a big hit during market downturns. This uncertainty is nerve-racking at the least and unsustainable for those with families, and it risks the state losing long-term institutional knowledge, something I find incredibly valuable and increasingly rare in my line of work.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement, one that I am currently fortunate to be a part of.

Thank you

Jedediah Smith

Jedediah Smith
akjed@yahoo.com
4209 Harrison
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17:50 PM

From: Jensyne Mason <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Jensyne Mason
jnsnmason13@gmail.com
8687 N Douglas Hwy
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension plan for public employees
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 6:08:33 PM

From: Jerald Hidalgo <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 6:00 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension plan for public employees

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Jerald Hidalgo
doy_012686@yahoo.com
2606 Lauren Creek Loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:04:43 PM

From: Jillynn King <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:01 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Thank you,
Jillynn King

Jillynn King
momkingjpk@gmail.com
PO Box 400,
GUSTAVUS, Alaska 99826

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:08:10 PM

From: Jo Bennett <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:47 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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Jo Bennett
Jb99559@yahoo.com
PO Box 200601
Anchorage, Alaska 99520

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:08 AM

From: Joanne Barthlow <akfreedm@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:45 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Joanne Barthlow
akfreedm@gci.net
19542 Laura Lee Circle
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:00:04 PM

From: Joey Tillson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

First and foremost, you all have become familiar with me. I am not going away. I will continue to fight for staffing the state of Alaska. And how would we do this? How do we make this an enticing place to work and provide services for all Alaskans? Let's start with a better retirement system. I stood on the steps of the capital with my other union brothers and sisters wearing my Viking helmet again, pleading for funding, staffing the state and taking care of our Alaskans. I come to you again today asking, pleading to support this bill. I'm not going away. I kindly ask you to continue to support Alaskans and state services that will be the future of the next generation. Let us not forget the pioneers who built this state, let's continue to take care of them. Let's do it before there's nothing left to take care of.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Joey Tillson
joey.tillson@gmail.com
P.O. Box 8034
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Defined Benefit Pension employees
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17:33 PM

From: Joselyn Biloon <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Defined Benefit Pension employees

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Joselyn Biloon
jbiloon@yahoo.com
4041 Woronzof Dr
Anchorage , Alaska 99517

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:25:38 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joseph Stubbins <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 3:19:01 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Reply-To: Stubbinsak@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Joseph Stubbins
Stubbinsak@gmail.com
1307 W.39th

Anchorage , Alaska 99503

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:58 PM

From: Joshua Henson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:42 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Joshua Henson
jxhenson91@gmail.com
8450 N Michaelson St
Palmer , Alaska 99645

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:55:09 PM

From: Julie Quilliam <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:30 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Julie Quilliam
quilliam65@gmail.com
1207 Maria Dr
Great Falls, Montana 59404

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:06:05 PM

From: Karen Schaf <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:37 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Karen Schaf
907karen@gmail.com
17428 South Juanita Loop
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:09:54 PM

From: Karol Libbey <klibbey@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:28 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Karol Libbey
klibbey@alaska.net
14901 Wildien Drive
ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99516

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:17 PM

From: Keith Moniz <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:47 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Keith Moniz
keithmoniz@gmail.com
8157 Keegan Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:53:17 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laura Costanios <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 7:02:36 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Reply-To: lauracostanios@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Laura Costanios
lauracostanios@gmail.com
1734 Eastridge Dr

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:26:35 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Leanne Quirk <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 3:26:09 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Reply-To: leanne.quirk@yahoo.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining qualified civil servants like myself and my colleagues who deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Leanne Quirk
leanne.quirk@yahoo.com
12324 Crested Butte Dr

Eagle River , Alaska 99477

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:06:50 PM

From: Lucas Judkins <lucas.judkins@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:05 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Lucas Judkins
lucas.judkins@alaska.gov
411 wedge wood dr l19
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:09:58 PM

From: Margaret Pohjola <mkenney@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:09 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Margaret Pohjola
mkenney@gci.net
2811 Iris Dr
Anchorage , Alaska 99517

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:54:16 PM

From: Martha Robinson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:35 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Martha Robinson
mrobinsonak@gmail.com
2606 Kelsan Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:06:29 PM

From: Moksha Martino <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:24 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Moksha Martino
Mokshamartino@gmail.com
3428 Orion Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension System
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:54:24 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Clark <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 6:35:08 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension System
Reply-To: aknickclark@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

As a firefighter and husband of a teacher for over 10 years in Alaska, thank you! We must get this across the finish line this year.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Nick Clark
aknickclark@gmail.com
Po Box 80151
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17:24 PM

From: Olivia Orsborn <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:16 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Olivia Orsborn
olivia_orsborn@hotmail.com
9152 Jerry Dr
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:51:23 AM

From: R. K. Bezdecny <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 8:42 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

R. K. Bezdecny
Rebecca.bezdecny@gmail.com
PO Box 650
Kenai, Alaska 99611

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:28 PM

From: Rebecca Morrissey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:08 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Rebecca Morrissey
remorriss85@gmail.com
8114 Sundi Dr
Anchorage , Alaska 99502

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:06:47 PM

From: Robert Zajac <robert.zajac@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Robert Zajac
robert.zajac@alaska.gov
7061 Serenity Cir
Anchorage , Alaska 99502

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:05:32 AM

From: Ryan Andrew <randrew@ibew1547.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:01 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Ryan Andrew
randrew@ibew1547.org
3421 Dickson Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:57 AM

From: Shoshanah Stone <shanah.stone@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:53 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Shoshanah Stone
shanah.stone@gci.net
2425 Marian Bay Cir
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 6:08:40 PM

From: T.J. Duffy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:37 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

T.J. Duffy
juneauduf@gmail.com
415 WILLOUGHBY AVE
JUNEAU, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:05:02 PM

From: Tamara Ramsey <ramseytm@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:51 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Tamara Ramsey
ramseytm@gci.net
6910 Apollo Dr
Anchorage, Alaska 9950r

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:16 AM

From: Terri Moore <hdovrhls@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 8:23 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Terri Moore
hdovrhls@msn.com
8128 Poplar Ave
Juneau, AK 99801, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:25:23 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Therese Thibodeau <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 3:21:53 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Reply-To: theresethib@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Therese Thibodeau
theresethib@gmail.com
426 Gold St.

Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:53:24 PM

From: Tom Snyder <tom3@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:39 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Tom Snyder
tom3@gci.net
4400 Riverton Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:12 PM

From: TRINA RODRIGUEZ <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:18 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Thank you!

TRINA RODRIGUEZ
trina_richards@yahoo.com
1115 Hayes Ave Apt 3
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:17:17 PM

From: Valerie White <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:16 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Valerie White
valerie.j.white@gmail.com
2100 E. 75th AVE #3
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:35 AM

From: William Arnold <wobbly@posteo.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:32 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this important bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

William Arnold
wobbly@posteo.net
PO Box 22730
Juneau, Alaska 99802-2730

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:53:00 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: William Tompkins <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 7:25:06 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Reply-To: williamrtompkins@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

William Tompkins
williamrtompkins@gmail.com
1075 E 26th

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:53:41 PM

From: Amy Burke <amy.burke@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement. As a supervisor I have struggled the last few years to hire and retain employees. This bill will help in that effort.

Amy Burke
amy.burke@alaska.gov
1416 4th Street
Douglas, Alaska 99824

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Thank You
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:10:58 PM

From: Audra Lopez <audra_lopez@lksd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:10 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank You

Dear Senator Giessel,

I just wanted to say thank you for your efforts in restoring a decent retirement for Alaska's teachers and other public employees. I'll be keeping my fingers crossed for Senate Bill 88 to pass!

Thanks again!

--

Audra Lopez
Instructional Coach
New Teacher Induction Lead
DLE Trainer
English Language Arts Facilitator (Reach for Reading K-6, www.myngconnect.com)
Ext.4813

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Hope for a pension, finally!
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:07:24 AM

From: Brianna Utter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:22 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Hope for a pension, finally!

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Big congratulations for pushing forward for the chance to give Alaska state employees a pension! Lately it's felt like state workers are being left to flounder, with little to make the state appealing over the private sector. As many know, there are many jobs going unfilled, many employees turning away from the state, and more pressure than ever for current employees to fill that gap. A pension is a hugely desirable incentive to stay with the state.

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Brianna Utter
brianna.a.utter@gmail.com
7762 Boundary Ave
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:53:02 PM

From: Charlene Taranto-Avril <CHAR.AVRIL@MATSUGOV.US>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:39 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Charlene Taranto-Avril
CHAR.AVRIL@MATSUGOV.US
3524 East Wanamingo Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:08:37 PM

From: Corey Hallgren <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:32 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Corey Hallgren
mustng691@gmail.com
4301 N Farm Loop
Palmer, Alaska 99645

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:52:26 PM

From: James Christenberry <james1969@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:42 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I myself being a tier 3 (defined benefit) municipality employee, know that since going to the tier 4 (defined contribution) our ability to attract and maintain good knowledgeable employees has declined. I believe that reinstating the tier 3 system is the best way to get our state back on the right step. Thank you for your time and the hard work you put in to try and do what you believe is best.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

James Christenberry
james1969@gci.net
7821 Chaimi loop
Anchorage , Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:52:05 PM

From: Jeff Kasper <jkasper@apea-aft.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:43 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Jeff Kasper
jkasper@apea-aft.org
3523 Forest Grove Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Support for Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:08:17 PM

From: John Bennett <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:42 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Without a return to a defined benefit pension plan our state will be emptied of qualified, long-term public employees. We all suffer when public money is diverted to constantly going through needless interview and hiring processes, and having either vacant positions, or under qualified people in those positions.

I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

John Bennett
hydrojohn@gmail.com
1479 Farmers Loop Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Please vote to reinstate a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:58:20 PM

From: John Ferree <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please vote to reinstate a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. Please vote to reinstate a public employee defined-benefit pension retirement plan.

Respectfully,

50 year Alaska resident John Ferree

John Ferree
jferree939@gmail.com
2711 Chief Alexander Drive
Fairbanks , Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:51:18 PM

From: John Jensen <norwejohn@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

John Jensen
norwejohn@gci.net
12900 Patrick Rd
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:51:45 PM

From: John Johnson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:45 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

John Johnson
john.johnsonak@gmail.com
3830 Boek Circle
Anchorage , Alaska 99507

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Help make a change for public employees
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:53:57 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: John King <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: March 1, 2023 at 6:47:13 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Help make a change for public employees
Reply-To: kingj31@gmail.com

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

Re-establishing a defined benefit pension system for all public employees is the first step in getting Alaska back on track and ensuring Alaska's public employees have a retirement that honors their service to our state.

When I started working for the state in 2015, my friends and I were moving to Alaska to be public employees, now many of them have lost interest and moved out of state. A defined benefit system would greatly help in enticing

public employees to stay in Alaska.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

John King

John King

kingj31@gmail.com

3235 Bresee St Unit E6

Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Alaska's public workforce needs a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:58:10 PM

From: Kate Quick <kate.quick@unac4996ak.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska's public workforce needs a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

The Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, university faculty and staff, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Sincerely,
Kate Quick

Kate Quick
kate.quick@unac4996ak.com
1555 N Rader Dr
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: It's time to return public employees to a Defined Benefit Pension with SB 88
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:57:16 PM

From: Kimberly Hays <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:16 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: It's time to return public employees to a Defined Benefit Pension with SB 88

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

As an individual who works in the private sector and who is fortunate enough to have access to a defined benefit pension, I understand the peace of mind it will give our hard working public employees who have dedicated themselves to working here in Alaska as many others leave for other opportunities.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Kimberly Hays
kimhays@outlook.com
5703 Big Bend Loop.
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:53:32 PM

From: Nicole Thomson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:39 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Nicole Thomson
nicoleinalaska@gmail.com
4851 S Bearpaw Cir
Wasilla , Alaska 99687

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:50:22 PM

From: Robert Clark <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:47 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Robert Clark
1robclark@gmail.com
1328 Kinnikinnick Street
ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99508

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:49:28 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Rpea Secretary <secretaryrpea@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:54 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Dear Senator Giessel:

I cannot express how important it is that you introduced this bill. I am a public retiree. I cannot imagine how I would have amassed the where-with-all of managing a 401(K) investment and social security in such a way as to replace enough of my income post-retirement to make it in Alaska today. Neither my parents nor my educational system, which was a good one, taught me about investing money in the market.

I now mentor many younger public employees in my field of law. Some of these are very highly placed public employees who command a good salary. They are now in the tiers that are defined contributions. It is clear as a bell now that there is no way that these public employees are on track to replace even 70% of their current income. That the current standard, and yet inflation makes that completely unrealistically low. Each of these public employees relate to me that they are so concerned about this that they are foregoing having children, they are only planning to stay in public employment until they amass the skills that the private sector wants and will pay them for, and they do not see themselves making a lifelong commitment to Alaska as residents.

I am so impressed by your willingness to see the challenges to government that eliminating pensions has made, and also your views on health care issues.

As we Alaskans age, it is these two issues, and education of our next generations, that dictate whether we will have enough Alaskans to fill out a robust workforce and a strong economy.

Very best,

Stephanie Rhoades
1338 F Street
Anchorage 99501
(907) 229-3016

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Returning to a Defined Benefit - SB88
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:07:53 PM

From: Tyler Watson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Returning to a Defined Benefit - SB88

Senator Cathy Giessel,

As a public employee in Alaska I'm excited to see SB88 introduced today by Sen. Cathy Giessel alongside so many cosponsors.

The State of Alaska and our public schools across the state are facing staffing crises and our most vulnerable neighbors are the ones paying that cost with larger class sizes, closed schools, SNAP backlogs, and rural areas that go without public safety.

In my own, short time with the State I've seen firsthand the increased employee turnover and resulting burnout for the state workers who stay at their jobs.

I believe that returning to a defined benefit pension system for all public employees will be a powerful tool in addressing our staffing crisis.

Thank you for all your work in support of our state.

Tyler Watson
tylerjwatson49@gmail.com
3321 Shamrock St
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 88
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:09:34 PM

From: akpaww@gmail.com <akpaww@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:27 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 88

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for introducing SB-88. I understand it will reinstate defined benefits for Alaska's public employees and teachers. I have long been a proponent of defined benefits, and feel it is critical for Alaska to attract and retain qualified public employees and teachers. I worked for the State of Alaska for 30-year, and having a pension has allowed me to stay in Alaska. I am also on the board of the Retired Public Employees of Alaska. Our organization supports the return of defined benefits as an option for all public employees, not just law enforcement.

I plan to read the bill in detail and if I have any specific comments, I will send them to you. Again, thank for introducing this bill!! I am glad to have you back in Juneau looking out after the people of our state.

Best regards,
Wendy Woolf
Indian, AK.

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 7:09:20 AM

From: Christine L Bair <Christine.bair@north-slope.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 8:34 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Christine L Bair
Christine.bair@north-slope.org
PO Box 1834
Barrow, Alaska 99723

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:06:01 AM

From: Clint Thomas <clinton.thomas@anchorageak.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 5:15 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Clint Thomas
clinton.thomas@anchorageak.gov
1150 S. Colony Way Ste #3 PMB198
Palmer, Alaska 99645

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:58:29 AM

From: JEFF WOJTACHA <jeff.wojtacha@matsugov.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:55 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

JEFF WOJTACHA
jeff.wojtacha@matsugov.us
1420 south industrial way
Palmer, Alaska 99645

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:48:17 AM

From: JEFFREY BRUNDAGE <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 12:48 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

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I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

JEFFREY BRUNDAGE
jbrundage@hotmail.com
7971 RESURRECTION DR.
ANCHORAGE, Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:48:11 AM

From: Mindy Hunter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:38 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Mindy Hunter
erik.mindy@gmail.com
, 4135 Hohe St.
Homer, Alaska 99603

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:48:02 AM

From: rob mac naughton <macsalsa@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:42 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Return to a Defined Benefit Pension

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

Countless hours of public testimony, legislative hearings, and actuarial presentations have shown that the Defined Contribution (DC) system does not work. It sets our public employees up for failure and inhibits the state from attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. Our teachers, firefighters, public safety officers, and civil servants deserve a retirement they can count on.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

rob mac naughton
macsalsa@gci.net
3982 eastway loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Restore a Real Retirement for Alaska Public Employees
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 11:24:12 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: gehring_brian@everyactionadvocacy.com <gehring_brian@everyactionadvocacy.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 12:16 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore a Real Retirement for Alaska Public Employees

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,

I hope that you read my message as the specific numbers, and often ignored legal conditions, will provide an illustrative perspective of the predicament that many state employees experience.

As a math, physics, and computer science teacher, I have done sufficient research and spreadsheet calculations to know that teaching in Alaska is a very poor economic decision and ultimately unsustainable. My wife (also a teacher) and I continue to live and work here because of the natural beauty and freedom living in Alaska affords, but every time I review our retirement plans it is clear that we cannot continue to teach in Alaska without a change in retirement options.

I will offer you the shocking numbers that are predicted by our state retirement website, Empower. The "retirement planning tool" predicts that after 35 years of teaching with maximum paycheck contributions to the 401a that I will have a retirement equal to \$800 in today's dollars (based on an optimistic average 3.25% inflation). Obviously this is not a "retirement", and pales to the \$2200 (today's dollars) the social security calculator predicts... social security that I will not be getting since we do not pay into that system.

Legally, it is surprising that courts have allowed the state to put employees in this pickle. As described in the Code of Federal Regulations, a government employee's defined benefit plan meets the requirements if and only if, on that day, the employee has an accrued benefit under the system that entitles the employee to an annual benefit commencing on or before his or her Social Security retirement age that is at least equal to the annual Primary Insurance Amount the employee would have under Social Security. (IRC Section 3121). Unfortunately, Safe Harbor laws provide an exception calculator so providers of retirement benefits get to violate IRC Section 3121. Safe Harbor laws were not designed for large organizations and the State of Alaska is abusing this loophole to violate regulations that exist to provide humane treatment of employees.

Realistically, changes must be made. Workplaces across the state are full of experienced people who are leaving, and vacancies that are not being filled. Please restore a reasonable retirement.

Sincerely,
Brian Gehring
16930 Kings Way Dr Anchorage, AK 99516-6960 gehring_brian@asdk12.org

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 5:58:24 PM

From: DaveAndSheila Hanson <hanson907ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 5:49 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Hi Cathy,

Excellent job laying out the need for and solutions through SB 88. It is so reassuring to have a competent and caring leader like you in Juneau.

Thank you.

Dave Hanson

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: State retirement system
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:30:13 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: manderson@acsalaska.net
Date: March 4, 2023 at 8:56:52 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: RE: State retirement system

Thanks for the explanation, the bill sounds more attractive. However, to back up my comment: The PERS newsbreak, winter 2023, number 127 says the State of Alaska's FY 2021 average annual DB pension is \$25,269. I googled up the average annual social security payment and found that in 2022 the average payment was \$29,806. Thus if social security is a poverty level benefit, you'll need a lot more than SB 88 is likely to pay. I still think it would be better to be eligible for both, adding the two together, you'd have more security in retirement.

Below is the notice I received using SB 88 as the subject line:

Your message did not reach some or all of the intended recipients.

Subject: SB 88
Sent: 3/2/2023 9:36 AM

The following recipient(s) cannot be reached:

sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov on 3/2/2023 9:36 AM
550 5.7.1 322IZgjZ024727 This message has been blocked
for containing SPAM-like characteristics.

My only change was the subject line.

Thanks for what you do,
Mary Anderson

From: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 2:12 PM

To: manderson@acsalaska.net

Subject: RE: State retirement system

I have a deluge of emails with header: SB 88!
Perhaps it was something else that blocked your email, Mary.

I don't know if you receive social security benefits but...a lot of seniors would tell you that it is a poverty level benefit.

Teachers in Alaska opted-out of Social Security several decades ago. Other Alaska public employees receive social security.

The teachers themselves voted to opt-out several decades ago.

I thought you'd like to have that information.

I don't know any other professionals (like physicians, geologists, etc) who rely solely on social security.

But then, those professionals are not reliant on annual budgets to know whether they have a job next year...or not (as public school teachers do).

Here are the facts of this bill:

The previous DB Tiers put most of the cost on the State. There was a generous healthcare provision in previous DB plans.

Here is the link to the bill, SB 88:

<https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/33?Root=sb%2088>

This article in the Alaska Beacon summarizes the contents of this new DB system:

<https://alaskabeacon.com/2023/03/01/alaska-senators-introduce-bipartisan-bill-intended-to-revive-a-pension-program-for-state-workers/>

Public employees would be required to pay more than they did under the old system, and that amount could rise if state retirement experts say it's needed.

Unlike the old system, no health insurance is included, though there would be a small health savings account to cover the time between retirement and the minimum age for Medicare.

Current state employees would be given an opportunity to switch from the state's existing 401(k)-style retirement system to the new system, and all new employees would be required to use the new system.

Police, firefighters and other public safety employees would be able to retire at age 50

with 25 years of service (or at age 55 with 20 years), while teachers and other public employees would be allowed to retire at age 60 or with 30 years of service. Retirement payments would be based on an employee's highest five consecutive years of salary, and benefits wouldn't be available for anyone who works less than five years. There would be no cost of living bonus for retirees who live in Alaska, and the state's supplemental benefit system — which allows employees to sock away an additional (matched by the state) 6.12% of their income — would remain untouched.

This new DB has adjustment provisions that the Alaska Retirement Management Board can use to raise the employee contribution, if the fund is not meeting 90% funding goal.

While a new actuarial analysis is not presently available, essentially the same bill, though limited to fire and police only, had actuarials last year.

https://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=32&docid=92884

Have a great day.

Best Regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel

Alaska State Senate, District E
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition
(907)465-4843
Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov

From: manderson@acsalaska.net <manderson@acsalaska.net>

Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 1:44 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: State retirement system

Evidently your spam filter does not accept emails with the heading SB 88 on them.

From: manderson@acsalaska.net <manderson@acsalaska.net>

Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 9:35 AM

To: 'Senator Cathy Giessel Newsletter' <sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB 88

Hi Senator,

The solution to fixing the states retirement system is to simply

participate in social security. It would cost the state almost nothing and there is huge benefits to participating. When the state originally went away from the defined benefit plan, I thought it was probably time to move on to traditional 401(K) type plans. That was before I knew how social security really worked, now I know that when they moved to a defined contribution they should have also gone into social security. Municipal employees have no issue because the cities and towns across Alaska also participate in social security. Note it's only state employees and teachers, and it's state employees and teachers that have made a career with only the state as an employer. Everyone else who has participated in social security does not have an issue with retirement. I'm not going to type forever here so if you'd like to hear more details please feel free to call me at 907-382-7846.

Thanks for what you do,
Mary Anderson
Anchorage

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: State of Alaska Can do Better!
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:51:47 AM

From: Susan Kessler <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 8:18 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: State of Alaska Can do Better!

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I want to thank Senator Cathy Giessel for introducing SB 88 to re-establish a defined benefit pension system for all public employees. I also want to thank the additional co-sponsors Senators Bishop, Stevens, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Dunbar, and Claman.

As a public servant who has recently moved from a non-profit to State of Alaska employment, I was surprised to see that my retirement benefits at the state are not competitive, even compared to a non-profit! As I work to oversee important programs, I also need to be able to recruit highly qualified employees. The salary and retirement benefits I am able to offer are not rewarding enough to allow me to recruit the staff I need. Infants and toddlers with disabilities across the state need our leadership to help them develop to their full potential.

I look forward to seeing this bill go through the Senate committee process and make its way over to the House. I hope I can count on you to support efforts to restore public employees to a defined-benefit pension retirement.

Susan Kessler
sekessler68@gmail.com
4679 Bluegill Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB 88
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 9:19:31 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Darwin Feakes <d2darwin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 4:38:35 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88

Thank you so much for bringing this bill to the session. Alaska has fallen so far behind in retirement and it continues to make it difficult to draw new teachers to our state. I fully support you and this bill to be passed this session of the legislature.

Darwin Feakes
Haines, Alaska

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB 88 Defined benefits option
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 1:55:53 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Cathy Giessel, RN, APRN, Fellow-AANP
Senator, Alaska Senate District E
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: psfisher@gci.net
Date: March 3, 2023 at 12:01:27 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Click Bishop" <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Gary Stevens" <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Scott Kawasaki" <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Bill Wielechowski" <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson" <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Matt Claman" <Sen.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Forrest Dunbar" <Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Jesse Kiehl" <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Löki Tobin" <Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88 Defined benefits option

Thank you for sponsoring and supporting SB 88, the return to defined benefits.

This legislation, supported by AARP, is greatly needed to improve recruitment and retention of state employees.

Your support is very important.

Patricia Fisher
Mat-Su Resident

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 9:17:16 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Becky <rebeccasueking@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 5:00:56 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Senator Giessel,
Thank you for introducing SB 88 and attempting to fix the broken retirement system for Alaska's public servants. All Alaskans will benefit from Alaska being more competitive for teachers and other public servants.

This bill is especially meaningful to me. I've been a resident of Alaska since coming here with the Air Force in 1999. I recently earned my masters degree in education and became a teacher in Alaska. Becoming a teacher in Alaska caused me to lose most of the social security benefits I'd already paid into. The current contribution plan isn't enough to support a family in retirement years, so I, like so many others, am considering my options. I am hopeful that the changes you proposed will turn into a reality so that I can continue teaching in Alaska and support myself and my family in my retirement years.

Thank you,

Rebecca King

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you
Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023 11:05:22 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jenifer Singleton <uma_mai@hotmail.com>
Date: March 4, 2023 at 10:59:07 AM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Senator Giessel,
Thank you for introducing SB 88. As an educator I am grateful for your support of myself and others in my profession. As a constituent in your district, I am grateful that you were reelected.
Jenifer Singleton

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: With Gratitude
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 9:20:29 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Jenell Hartman <jenellhartman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 2:55:21 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: With Gratitude

Senator Giessel,

As an educator in the Anchorage School District I wanted to write you a note of gratitude for introducing HB 88. I am currently in my fifth year of teaching, and therefore fall into the Tiers III category.

It is worrisome to me as I have seen and continue to see many colleagues leave the profession of teaching to either teach in other states that offer a defined benefit retirement, or switch career fields all together.

Education is an investment in our economy, our growth and our future and there must be incentives for educators to stay in this profession, as well as recruit new educators to the profession. A defined benefit package would accomplish this. It would offer folks who have been teaching to feel like they have longevity and job security, and would offer a bright future for new educators as they begin their career.

Being an educator is hard work and thus deserves to have a secure retirement when reaching the age of 60 or thirty years of service. The majority of people who go into teaching want to continue to teach for the tenure of their career. This Senate Bill would strive to provide security for educators to stay, grow in their practice and better our K-12 student bodies around our state.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and wishing you well as this bill is moved forward with support.

Warm Gratitude,
Jenell Hartman

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB88
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:29:32 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Liz Jackson <copperliz@hotmail.com>
Date: March 4, 2023 at 1:45:12 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB88

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for sponsoring and supporting SB 88 - RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT. This Bill is supported by AARP and its members, and your support of this bill is greatly appreciated.

I will be watching as it moves through committees, and again – many thanks for your work on getting this bill to the finish line.

Lisbeth (Liz) Jackson
copperliz@hotmail.com
907-232-2063

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you
Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023 9:15:22 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tasha Morse <tasha.morse@gmail.com>
Date: March 4, 2023 at 8:10:02 AM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Dear Senator,

I wanted to thank you for trying to fix our broken retirement system. I have been a teacher in Alaska for the last fifteen years, and am a part of Tier III. As a new teacher to Alaska back in 2008, I was just so happy to have a job in a good school that I wasn't looking forward to retirement and what the next chapter of my life will bring.

Now that I have been in my school district for so long, I am able to think about the future and what that might bring. It's been depressing to think that I will have to teach until I'm in my 70's or 80's for any sort of retirement, or that I may have to sell my home and seek employment somewhere else (a different state) that has a better retirement system in place.

In all the years I have had in my district, I have seen new teachers come and go. One of the reasons I have heard for people not staying is our retirement system. Folks will come to our state for adventure and then leave to seek employment in a state that they can retire with peace of mind, and the ability to apply for Social Security when they reach that age.

So, thank you for trying to help those of us in this tricky situation, and to help bring good educators and public servants to Alaska to stay. Not just to come a few years for an adventure and then leave for greener pastures.

I am hopeful that this legislation may help people like me who are faced with the

reality that our lives we have made in Alaska may not be the best for us in the next chapter of our lives, and that we may have to make the incredibly difficult decision to move out of state just to be able to survive what should be our golden years.

Sincerely,
Tasha Morse

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Retirement
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:00:00 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Cathy Giessel, RN, APRN, Fellow-AANP
Senator, Alaska Senate District E
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Anne Love <annem.love@yahoo.com>
Date: March 5, 2023 at 7:56:55 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Retirement

Hello,

My husband and I both are teachers in Homer. We are both Tier 3. We are watching and praying the pension returns. The teacher turnover on the Kenai has become a serious problem because of the lack of a retirement. For those of us that stay, we struggle with what to do next because retiring at the moment is not a future option.

Thank you,

Anne M Love

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for SB 88
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 3:59:16 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen <lovegreensnorth@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 3:57:03 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for SB 88

Thank you for introducing SB 88 to allow teachers and other public employees to choose a defined benefit retirement. As you know, this will help recruit and retain quality educators and other public servants. I appreciate your work on this issue.

Cheryl Lovegreen

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Senate bill 88
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:05:35 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Jim and Sherry Brown <jimandsherry66@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 11:13:29 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate bill 88

Thank you, thank you, thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88 making it a bipartisan effort to correct a big problem created in 2006.

Recently Senator Murkowski addressed the legislature imploring them to help stop the out migration of Alaskans. Governor Dunleavy recently lowered the bar for professionals to fill positions leading to down grading our schools.

Your efforts are to be applauded. Thank you again. Keep up the good work.
James Brown
Retired teacher. 1987

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB 88 Thanks!
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:05:58 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Janet Balice <whitelos@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 7:59:57 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88 Thanks!

Thanks!

I am a Tier III teacher and I see what is happening to teacher retention due to poor retirement benefits.

For myself after many years of fun teaching as I approach retirement age I have no pension only the state retirement savings account that will run out after a few years.

Janet

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB88
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:03:07 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Majority Leader, Bipartisan Coalition

Sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450

From: Bs Bs <cohomojoe@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 1:50:18 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB88

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you so much for introducing SB88. It is very encouraging to see so many senators sign on to join you, especially my Senator, Senator Stevens. This is an issue that he and I have discussed many times over the years, and I am ever hopeful that it will continue to move forward and pass.

Thanks again,
Kathy Simpler
Kodiak

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 88
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 3:12:01 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Trisha <pstark@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 1:44 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 88

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for introducing this bill. It is so important to have a Defined Benefit Retirement system in order to recruit and retain state employees. Thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,
Patricia Stark
Fairbanks

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: SB 88 Support
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 3:11:49 PM

From: Riki Lebman <riki_lebman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 1:49 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 88 Support

Dear Senator Giessel,
Thank you for sponsoring and supporting SB 88, the return to defined benefits.
This legislation, supported by AARP, is greatly needed to improve recruitment and retention of state employees.
Your sponsorship and support is very important.
Thank You,
Riki Lebman
Hillside Constituent

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for Introducing Senate Bill 88
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:51:43 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nicole Jensen <nmariejensen@gmail.com>
Date: March 7, 2023 at 7:28:12 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for Introducing Senate Bill 88

Cathy,

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 88. As a teacher in tier 3 retirement, I appreciate the furthering of this matter. I have been teaching for 8 years and deeply worry about my ability to retire as a teacher in Alaska. I am a lifelong Alaskan, and I do not want to leave the state. I grew up in Seward and currently teach in Soldotna. I also believe that it is important to keep Alaskans in the role of Alaskan educators. We need to pay attention as a state to retention of current teachers. Each year we lose new and experienced teachers to our poor retirement in Alaska. Having a strong retirement system will support the longevity of Alaskan teachers in the profession.

Thank you for your continued work for Alaskan teachers.

Sincerely,
Nicole Jensen

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Pension Senate Bill - Thank you
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:51:16 PM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel
Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
907.465.4843

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robanne Stading <icycoldriver123@gmail.com>
Date: March 7, 2023 at 8:01:14 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pension Senate Bill - Thank you

Senator Giessel,
Thank you for introducing SB-88 for the reinstatement of a pension retirement system. With 17 years in TRS Tier 3, I'm interested in how it may all turn out for me and as a way to make teaching in Alaska more attractive for other.
Sincerely,
Robanne Stading
Homer, Alaska