

From: [Shannon Methe](#)
To: [Sen. Shelley Hughes](#)
Subject: SB 173
Date: Saturday, January 13, 2024 3:25:09 PM

Dear Senator Hughes,

I am writing to thank you for submitting SB 173, Safe Schools Act, in this year's legislative session. I am a high school teacher in Anchorage, and, while nothing I write here should be considered as having any connection with, or on behalf of, my employer, and these words are my own observations, I can tell you that I believe your bill is desperately needed. However, I would like to strongly urge you to review and reconsider certain wordings and phrases, specifically regarding section a.1., lines 21 and 22, and section b.4., line 10, both of which stipulate the requirement of each applicant to meet the same physical fitness standards as law enforcement officers. This will be used by local school districts to disqualify and eliminate almost every applicant, should your bill become law.

Requiring teachers and staff to meet law enforcement physical fitness standards is impractical and unnecessary. I know of very few teachers who can meet those requirements. I run two miles per day, every day, and I could not meet those law enforcement standards. Try to remember that many teachers and staff are now in their 40s, 50s or older. They should not be denied their Constitutional right to self defense based on a physical litmus test. The 2nd amendment is not limited to only those who can meet a given physical criteria. The requirement is also unnecessary as teachers carrying concealed firearms will not be required to perform physical tasks to those standards on a daily basis, if ever. The inclusion of these physical fitness standards will serve to unravel the good intentions of your bill, should it become law.

Again, thank you for having the courage and political will to put this bill forward, and I look forward to supporting your efforts on this issue.

Sincerely,

Shannon Methe