



**Alaska Association of Student Governments
Executive Board Resolution
AASG's Stance on Alaska Senate Bill 88
Submitted by: AASG Executive Board
April 21, 2024**

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

- 1. Whereas,** public employees of the State of Alaska who joined the state retirement plan after July 1st 2006 have access to a defined contribution plan;
- 2. Whereas,** public employees who joined the state retirement plan after July 1st 2006 do not have access to a defined benefit plan;
- 3. Whereas,** a defined benefit plan is a pension plan;
- 4. Whereas,** Senate Bill 88 seeks to amend the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska and the teachers' retirement system. It proposes to give certain employees the option to choose between the defined benefit and defined contribution plans of these retirement systems;¹
- 5. Whereas,** Alaska is the only state where teachers do not pay into social security or have access to a pension plan;
- 6. Whereas,** Alaska has a teacher turnover rate of 22%, higher than the national average;²
- 7. Whereas,** there are 2,100 less educators in Alaska today than ten years ago;³
- 8. Whereas,** NEA-Alaska identifies restoring the defined benefit retirement as one of its top priorities;³
- 9. Whereas,** the Alaska Association of School Boards lists Recruitment and Retention as one of its top three legislative priorities;⁴
- 10. Whereas,** according to the Reason Foundation restoring the defined benefit could cost Alaska 8.6 billion dollars in its future;⁵
- 11. Whereas,** the Reason Foundation is a Los Angeles based think tank that works against pension legislation;⁵
- 12. Whereas,** SB 88 has bipartisan support and sponsorships in the Senate;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports Senate Bill 88

Action Statement: if passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be brought to the Alaska Legislature for their consideration.

Sources:

1. <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1588427#:~:text=This%20bill%20seeks%20to%20amend,plans%20of%20these%20retirement%20systems.>
2. <https://apnews.com/article/alaska-schools-teacher-shortage-pension-6b7002da00953cf0721ecb85b6715b3d#>
3. <https://neaalaska.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/our-issues/funding#:~:text=In%20January%202023%2C%20NEA%2DA%20Alaska,funding%20is%20impacting%20our%20students.>
4. https://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=33&docid=1061#:~:text=On%20behalf%20of%20our%20member,5in%20Where%20We%20Stand%202023
5. <https://www.alaskasnewssource.com/2023/03/21/state-retirement-plan-could-return-defined-benefits-system/?outputType=amp>

The resolution passes with unanimous consent

Passed by the Spring 2024 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Barrow High School

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danika Hamm", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Danika Hamm

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Navarre", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre