

Dear Chair Alfonso Leon and members of the committee,

My name is Carol Greenough and I am writing in support of HB2001 with one reservation.

As director of a federal Alaska mental health manpower grant many years ago (you can tell how many by the non-pc title) I am aware of how hard it is to recruit people representing diverse communities. This is particularly true now as awareness of equity drives recruiting in so many fields. An educator who brings diversity to the classroom is precious. I am particularly aware of how important it is to have cohorts of educators representing diverse communities. A lone minority teacher is much more likely to move on. So, yes, HB2001 is essential.

I recognize the threat this bill could pose to current teachers who may be displaced at some time in the future because of funding challenges. It is important to assure that any reduction in force doesn't reflect either ageist choices or decisions based on choosing people with lower salary requirements. The challenge is to respect the service of those who may be displaced while moving to make the education workforce more and more diverse.

Thank you for your attention,

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.
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