

*From:* Sharon Hoffbeck  
*To:* RPEA Members  
*Date:* February 14, 2018  
*Subject:* HB83 – Pension Choice

RPEA Members,

Below is an email received today from APEA concerning their support of HB 83--Pension Choice, and they would appreciate your support.

RPEA fully supports legislation that gives State of Alaska employees the choice to select either a Defined Benefit plan or Defined Contribution plan (401K-type plan).

Please direct questions to Cindy Spanyars at 586-2334 or [1-800-478-9991](tel:1-800-478-9991)

***Sharon Hoffbeck***

President

Retired Public Employees of Alaska

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**HB 83 Pension Choice**

The House Labor and Commerce Committee is **taking public testimony on HB 83 Pension Choice at 1:00 p.m. on SATURDAY, February 17.** There will be an overview on Friday; **public testimony on Saturday;** and a hearing on Monday to hopefully move the bill.

There are two ways to contribute:

1. Testify during the hearing by a) calling in directly to the committee or b) in Juneau, attend in person in the Barnes Room 124 of the Capitol c) we are checking on LIO's
2. Email the committee members (and your own legislator) at

[Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov)

[Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov)

[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)

[Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov)

[Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov)

[Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov)

[Rep.Colleen.Sullivan.Leonard@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Colleen.Sullivan.Leonard@akleg.gov)

The basic message is to support retirement security by passing HB 83 which gives new employees a choice between the current Defined Contribution Plan (401-k style) or by providing a modest Defined Benefit Plan (PERS Tier V and TRS Tier IV).

Add your own voice regarding why. For instance, do you know of recruitment and retention issues in your workplace? Have co-workers or subordinates left for other positions due to a lack of Defined Benefits?

If so, what happens in those instances? Do services suffer? How? Are valuable resources diverted to recruiting, hiring, and training a new employee? Where did the employee go: out of state? To a better job?

If you were hired after July 2006, are you concerned about retirement? Do you feel you are on a trajectory to retire? Will having a Defined Benefit establish a stronger commitment to your employer or Alaska? Are you considering leaving after you are vested (five years) and the employer makes the full contribution to your account?

Call me—Cindy Spanyol--at 586-2334 or [1-800-478-9991](tel:1-800-478-9991) for more information including the call in number and basic protocol for testifying. Hint: it's easy!

If you support the bill but aren't comfortable contacting your legislators, please call to share your thoughts so we have more background to help us advocate for you indirectly.

Sponsor Statement from Representative Sam Kito:

[http://www.akleg.gov/basis/get\\_documents.asp?session=30&docid=14672](http://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=30&docid=14672)