

Fields' Notes

Serving House District 17

Dear Neighbor,

I'm happy to announce key defined benefit and child care legislation is receiving hearings early this session.

Defined Benefits for First Responders:

Rep. CJ McCormick's Community and Regional Affairs Committee already has started hearings on legislation to restore defined benefits for police and firefighters this week ([HB 22](#), introduced by Rep. Andy Josephson).

Restoring defined benefits is one of my top priorities this year, and I'm glad this legislation is receiving the attention it deserves.

BSA Education Funding:

Hundreds of Alaskans rallied in support of a BSA increase at the Capitol this week, and I joined legislators of all parties and caucuses at the rally. I was also happy to see the Governor [express confidence](#) that the legislature will increase BSA funding this year.

Child Care Legislation

Many legislators are working together on legislation to strengthen our childcare sector. Along with Representatives Jennie Armstrong, Rebecca Himschoot, Cliff Groh, Andy Josephson, Andrew Gray, Alyse Galvin, and Maxine Dibert, I introduced HB 46, which is similar to childcare legislation that the House passed last year but was marooned in former Senator Costello's Senate Labor and Commerce Committee.

HB 46 will be heard in House Labor and Commerce on Monday, January 30th. If you want to submit public comments supporting [HB 46](#) on child care, just [send me an email](#) and we'll help compile comments for the record.

State Boards and Commissions:

The Governor's office is asking legislators for help identifying participants for state Boards and Commissions. If you're interested in serving, you can review [board and commission openings here](#) and apply using [this link](#). If you want me to advocate for your appointment, just let me know when you put in an application.

Municipal Bond Update:

The Anchorage Assembly is finalizing bond proposals for the April 4th municipal election, and several of the bond proposals would benefit our district. For example:

- The Anchorage Roads and Drainage Service Area bond includes much-needed improvements to Forest Park Drive.

- The Parks bond is proposed to include matching funds to complete the Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean project, upgrade Ship Creek Trail (which will be connected to the Coastal Trail in 2024), improve Sullivan Arena and Chester Creek greenbelt safety, and make improvements to the Fairview Recreation Center.

Final public hearing on these proposals is on February 7th. If you support these important park proposals, you can email wwmas@muni.org in support of finalizing the bond package on February 7th.

Federal Tax Incentives to Improve Your Home and Reduce Energy Costs:

[The Inflation Reduction Act's](#) ambitious energy incentives are available for you to use right now. This White House summary of tax incentives can help you understand how to use tax credits for installation of rooftop solar panels, purchase of a new or used electric vehicle, installation of more energy efficient windows and doors for your house, and other efficiency upgrades to save money and reduce carbon emissions.

See you around the neighborhood,

Zack

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Zack', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.