



# ALASKA STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Local 52

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January 22, 2024

Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol  
120 4th Street  
Juneau AK 99801

Honorable Members of the Alaska Legislature:

I write to express the support of ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 for House Bill 100, a bill establishing paid family leave for state employees. As the representative for thousands of dedicated employees in Alaska's public sector, ASEA is in full support of this legislation not simply for the well-being of our members but for the positive outcomes for Alaskans through increased productivity and morale among public employees.

ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 firmly believes that paid family leave is a fundamental right that should be extended to all workers. Our members are committed to serving the public, yet even the most diligent employees face personal and family responsibilities that often require time away from work.

Paid family leave for state employees will enable our members to care for loved ones during critical life events such as the birth or adoption of a child, a serious illness of a family member, or a time of profound hardship facing a spouse or domestic partner. In these moments the support and understanding of an employer are most crucial. By providing paid family leave, we help demonstrate our state's commitment to the well-being of our employees and pride in the services they deliver.

We understand that paid family leave for state employees will require careful consideration. However, ASEA believes the long-term benefits of this policy far outweigh initial costs. Employees who have access to paid family leave are more likely to return to work after their leave period, resulting in increased employee retention rates and reduced recruitment and training costs.

ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 proudly supports House Bill 100, as it represents a significant step towards creating a workplace that allows for the humanity of state employees while increasing the appeal of state service. We look forward to working with you to make paid family leave a reality.

Sincerely,

Heidi Drygas, Executive Director  
ASEA/AFSCME Local 52