

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GRETCHEN GUESS

## **SPONSOR STATEMENT HB 478**

*“An act relating to the Alaska teacher recruitment loan assumption program; and providing for an effective date.”*

### **Purpose**

House Bill 478 would create a loan assumption program for the purposes of providing financial assistance to newly hired teachers who agree to complete a period of teaching in the public elementary and secondary schools of this state.

### **Background**

As a shortage of qualified teachers in the public elementary and secondary schools exist in this state and as competition is increasing among other states for qualified teachers, the necessity for teacher incentive and recruitment program becomes crucial.

States throughout the country already have incentive based systems in place. In a state facing a tremendous teacher shortage, something must be done.

### **Solution**

In acquiring newly hired elementary and secondary teachers, individual eligible education loans may be assumed by the state up to a total of 10,000 dollars per new employee.