



April 4, 2025

Senate Finance Committee

Senate Bill 22 Public Testimony

Co-Chairs Hoffman, Olson, Stedman, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. For the record, my name is Kati Capozzi, and I serve as the president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber. I testify today in support of Senate Bill 22.

The Alaska Chamber is the state's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska.

The Chamber has a formal policy position to support the State of Alaska and/or school districts to adopt financial education as a graduation requirement for students and we appreciate the sponsor, Senator Wielechowski, for championing this bill for several years. Introducing financial literacy education in high schools can benefit society as a whole. By empowering youth with essential financial management skills, they can learn to mitigate debt and financial insecurity, enhancing financial autonomy, and ultimately elevating the well-being of both individuals and families. Additionally, the positive impacts of fostering economic stability for individuals will no doubt have a positive impact for the businesses they might end up working for one day.

Personal finance education gives students the information they need to make better decisions about their finances, allowing them to reach their goals more effectively. There are many free or low-cost resources available to support personal finance education detailed in SB 22. The delayed effective date allows school districts and educators needed time to prepare educators, vet and adopt curriculum and determine the best implementation in each school district.

In closing, the Chamber supports SB22 and encourages swift passage of this straightforward and good for business bill. Thank you for considering the Alaska Chamber's comments.



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