

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 14

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 145

"An Act establishing the parental choice scholarship program to be administered by school districts for the purpose of paying the cost of attending grades kindergarten through 12 at public and private schools; and providing for an effective date."

House Bill 145 could well be the next critical step in allowing today's Alaskan children to compete with the world on an equal footing educationally. We do not hear of parents who do not want the best education for their child. It goes without saying that a child's parent or guardian is in the best position to make a choice of which school is appropriate for their child, especially when some of our schools are plagued with high drop-out rates and lack of success.

Parents or guardians are the most important part of the education experience and HB 145 gives them an appropriate opportunity to participate. They will review the local options available and decide where their children need to go to get the best education possible. Public, private, correspondence schools will all be on the table to compete for the funding that the legislature sends to school districts each year.

HB 145- **"The Parental Choice Scholarship Program"** brings the quality of K-12 education to a new level. Graduating seniors will be better prepared for the next step in their lives. Schools will face competition, which means they must rise to the goal of excellence.

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