

Written Testimony of Anna Neidig, Vice President of Alaska International Dyslexia Association

SCR5-Alaska Reads Day

Good afternoon, Senate State Affairs Committee members and Chairman Meyer, for the record my name is Anna Neidig. Thank you for this opportunity to support SCR 5. I am testifying in support as a member of the Alaska Reading Coalition, and also as Vice President of the Alaska International Dyslexia Association.

I want to tell you the value of passing an Alaska Reads Day resolution. When I learned about this resolution I did not realize it had not yet completed the full legislative process toward enactment. Under this misunderstanding, I reached out to my local library in excitement to schedule a collaborative event. Loussac Library staff heartily embraced the idea. They immediately saw it as a great opportunity to grow their already scheduled Dr. Seuss birthday celebration into a larger, more encompassing, outreach event.

On March 2, 2018, (also known as) Dr. Seuss' birthday, the Loussac Library in Anchorage will be hosting three Dr. Seuss book readings in the Wilda Marston Theater, and has opened its newly renovated atrium to local outreach organizations. So simply the RUMOR of an Alaska Reads Day has already created an effective platform for collaborative community outreach to families at high risk of low reading proficiency. Public and private organizations are already rallying around Alaska Reads Day.

Our collaborative event is geared to increasing exposure in language and other pre-reading skills that help children succeed. We will have fun activities for children, a checklist for identifying reading struggles, and information about resources for struggling readers.

So with great enthusiasm, despite a little legislative process misunderstanding, speaking on behalf of the Alaska Reading Coalition and the Alaska International Dyslexia Association please pass SCR 5 because in our minds you already have.

Thank you,

Anna Neidig

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