



BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

March 14, 2011

The Honorable Chris Tuck
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Tuck:

I am pleased to write in support of HB 49 currently under consideration.

Best Beginnings' vision is that all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed. While it may seem easy and efficient to develop a one-size-fits-all program, in reality we need a variety of high quality programs and learning experiences for young children in our state.

A large and growing body of research provides increasing evidence of three related tenets: (1) brain growth and development occur at an astonishing pace in young children; (2) nurturing and brain stimulation during those years have a profound impact on how children fare in school; and, (3) a child's readiness for school is a powerful determinant of how he will do later in life.

Parents and other concerned community members are in the best position to identify problems, design solutions, and improve coordination to meet local needs. Personal visiting programs such as Parents as Teachers can be a critical component of a menu of services offered to assist parents in preparing their children to be ready to succeed in school and in life.

Best Beginnings has been working with a variety of partners at the state and local level to develop a comprehensive and integrated early childhood system. There is a definite need for personal visiting in this kind of coordinated system.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Abbe Hensley
Executive Director

3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 104A • Anchorage, Alaska 99501
t. 907.297.3300 • f. 907.297.3304 • BestBeginningsAlaska.org

Best Beginnings is a public-private partnership that mobilizes people and resources
to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed.



Office of the President
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1726

March 10, 2011

Representative Chris Tuck
Alaska State Legislature
Room 426
Mailing Address
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Tuck:

On behalf of the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, a tribal government representing over 27,000 Tlingit and Haida Indians worldwide, we extend our whole-hearted support to House Bill 49, the "Alaska Parents as Teachers Act".

Alaska's children are the brightest hope for our future and most precious asset. Passing House Bill 49 will help ensure the best education possible is provided to each and every child as well as empower Alaska's parents to guide their child through this crucial time of development.

Your dedication to this bill in past and present legislative sessions is admirable and appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward K. Thomas".

Edward K. Thomas
President



March 14, 2011

Representative Chris Tuck,

I am writing this letter in support of Parents as Teachers home visiting programs in Alaska. The philosophy of Parents as Teachers is parents are children's first and most important teachers; empowering families to begin a lifelong involvement in their child's development and education.

Our Head Start program uses the Parents as Teachers curriculum for home visiting and can see the benefits to children and families first hand. For one parent who was deployed, receiving mailings with updates and pictures of his child and the Parents as Teachers handouts about developmental milestones helped to keep him connected while away.

Families in Alaska can be isolated from others. Parents As Teachers offers child development knowledge, parent support and encouragement. The key to strong communities is quality early learning programs that build on family's strengths and provide evidence-based knowledge. Parents as Teachers give families the tools and the State healthy communities.

Sincerely,

Laura Frisone
Family Services Coordinator
Thrive Alaska Head Start Birth to Five
1949 Gillam Way, Suite A
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907)452-4267 Ext. 235

"2008 Program of Excellence- Awarded by the National Office of Head Start"

MAR 08-2011 TUE 05:29 PM TANACROSS COUNCIL

FAX NO. 907 883 4497

P. 02/02

Native Village of Tanacross Tanacross Village Council

Po Box 76009
Tanacross, Alaska 99776
(907) 883-5024 office
(907) 883-4497 fax

March 9, 2011

The Honorable Allan Dick
Capital Building Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Allan Dick:

As a resident of Tanacross and a parent, I am writing to ask for your support of House Bill 49. This bill would support funding for Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs in our community.

We know that the most important development of a young child occurs in the first few years of life, and our state priorities need to reflect that knowledge. Through the education and support of parents of young children, the Parents as Teachers program has proven effective in increasing children's school readiness, improving their later school success, and increasing their parents' involvement in school. If passed, this legislation would help our children start school ready to learn.

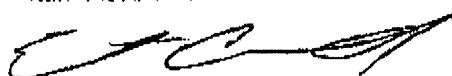
I have witnessed the impact of Parents as Teachers in my own family and others from my village.

PAT can save our community dollars through early identification of development delays. In our case my daughter Shayna received assistance in expressive language delay.

I urge you to support this important legislation. Investing in the early years saves us all money later on. I would appreciate a written reply that states how you voted on this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Your ongoing support of Parents as Teachers is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Earnest Arnold



Tanacross Office:

P.O. Box 76009, Tanacross, AK 99776 • Tel: (907) 883-5024 • Fax: (907) 883-4497
www.nativevillageoftanacross.org

Aurah Landau

From: Jane Bailey [jbailey@chugachschools.com]
Subject: Friday, March 11, 2011 10:07 AM
To: Aurah Landau; Rep. Chris Tuck
Subject: public testimony HB49

Hi Chris and Aurah,
I called in today for public comment on HB49 but was not called on to speak. I've attached my comment below if you would like to distribute it.
Thank you!

Good morning Mr. Chairman and committee members. Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of HB49. My name is Jane Bailey and I am the Early Childhood Coordinator for Chugach School District. I am a trained Parents as Teachers parent educator and supervisor. I oversee a federal grant that provides for preschool and Parents as Teachers for 3-5 year olds in 24 rural Alaskan villages in Chugach, Kuspuk, Bering Strait, and Lake and Peninsula School Districts. This coalition has successfully worked together to help provide high quality early learning opportunities for the past 4 years however, our grant cycle will end as of July 1 and all 24 villages will lose preschool and PAT opportunities without your help. I want to share with you briefly what an impact the combination of Parents as Teachers and preschool has had on the children in the villages we serve.

Our data shows significant increases in the percent of children scoring proficient and above on developmental milestones measured by a test called the AGS Early Screening Profile. This data clearly shows a strong positive correlation on student achievement. From 2006-2010 scores in Verbal Concepts increased 32.06 percentile points, Cognitive Language scores increased by 18.86 percentile points, and Basic School Skills increased by 16.14 percentile points.

Education begins at home and parents are children's first and best teachers. Supporting and educating parents about how to be involved in their child's early education and development is a critical if Alaskan children are to thrive. The PAT program is one key way to ensure that children enter school ready to learn. Our Partnership originally focused on implementing the PAT program for our preschool students ages 3 - 5.

Our hope is to be able to extend PAT to the unserved prenatal to 3-year-old population in our villages, but at this point we are fighting for the survival of our existing program. Please support HB49 and help Alaskan children get the head start on their education that they deserve.

--
Jane Bailey
Early Childhood Coordinator
Alaska Native Education
Chugach School District
907-522-7400



Klawock City School District

P.O. Box 9 Klawock, Alaska 99925 907-755-2220 Fax: 907-755-2013

Richard E. Carlson
Superintendent

Jim Holien
K-12 Principal

March 14, 2011

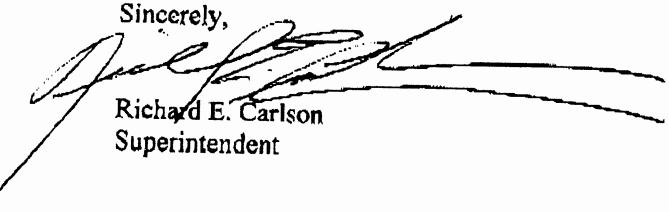
Chairman Alan Dick and Members of the House Education Committee

Dear Chairman Dick:

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong support of HB 49. As an educator for nearly 40 years, 30 years of which has been spent in rural Alaska, I have found no single factor more important to a child's success in school than parental engagement, especially early in the child's life. HB 49 provides an opportunity for parents to become involved with their child's learning at an early age in a structured and supportive manner. HB 49 is a low-cost, high-impact, voluntary program that can significantly change the lives of many children.

I would ask for your support and the support of the House Education Committee to pass HB 49.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Carlson
Superintendent

cc: Rep. Chris Tuck

Chevak Company Corporation
Box 276
Chevak, Alaska 99563
19078587920 Ph. No.
19078587311 Fax No.
chevakco@hotmail.com

March 17, 2011

RurAL CAP
Parents as Teachers
731 E 8th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Attn: Debi Baldwin
Child Development Director

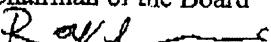
RE: RurAL CAP Parents as Teachers

We, all know how important the home based program within rural areas is for early development of those who are just starting out within their journey for education.

When young children are exposed at their early lives with pre-school education can be our success as a community's investment for the future.

We, would like for RurAL CAP to continue seeking funding and support for this very important component of the early development of our future work force and up coming leaders of tomorrow.

If you have any question(s) or need further clarification(s) feel free to contact the above address. Thank you.

Sincerely,
James J. Ayuluk
Chairman of the Board

Roy J. Atchak
Corporate Manager

CC: File



Chevak Traditional Council
P.O. Box 140
Chevak, Alaska 99563
(907) 858-7428 fax (907) 858-7812
chevaktc@gmail.com

Qissunamiut Tribal Government

March 17, 2011

**To: Debi Baldwin, RurAL CAP
Child Development Director**

RE: Support letter for the Parents As Teachers Program

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Chevak Traditional Council, we are pleased to submit this letter of support for RurAL CAP's Parents As Teachers Program. This program is a necessity because it supports the parents as they raise their children in the early years.

We support RurAL CAP's goal of providing the community members resources necessary to involve local residents in providing education for their children and wellness activities within the community through the PAT program.

Having this program available in Chevak will help each family in the early years of their children's life as it has when this program has been available.

This program has helped families out with the development screenings, health screenings and home visits. Chevak Traditional Council fully supports this program and would like this program to continue as a service in Chevak.

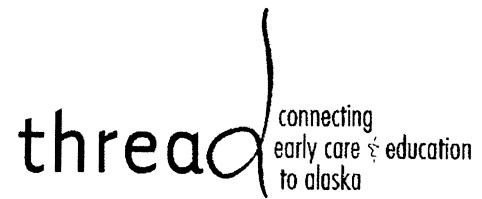
Quyana Cakneq,

A handwritten signature in black ink.

James Ayuluk

Chevak Traditional Council Chief

Cc: file



March 9, 2011

Dear Representative Chris Tuck,

I am writing this letter in support of House Bill 49, which will expand support and resources for the Parents as Teachers home visiting program. This legislation makes it possible for parents and families to receive the necessary supports needed to ensure their child's healthy development. Home visiting programs and support for families with young children addresses a critical need throughout Alaska.

As the Child Care Resource and Referral Network in Alaska, thread works to strengthen early care and education. Specifically, we work with parents to assist them in finding early care and education programs; we provide training to early care and education professionals to help prepare them for their work with children; and we work with the community to develop resources for the industry. This work enables us to keep a pulse on the needs and issues families are facing. Over the past several years we have seen an increase in families' struggling to meet basic needs for their family including necessary resources to support their child's healthy development. House Bill 49 would be a positive step toward meeting the needs of young children and ensuring that Alaska's families can find and access the services they need.

Several studies have demonstrated the long-term implications to high quality early learning, including home visiting programming. Specifically, research shows that parental involvement in their child's learning is linked to the development of the child's academic skills, including reading and writing. Investment in early childhood and family supports is critical as we now know through brain development research that brain development that occurs in the first six years of life, especially between birth and three years of age, is the most extensive and the most important that occurs in our lifetime. This time in life is when the brain is being developed and hardwired for future learning.

thread supports parents as their child's first and most important teacher. We know parents are the most influential people in their children's lives and that is why we support House Bill 49 and investments in Parents as Teachers. If we want to develop a healthy and productive society in our state, we must make and impact with parents and invest in them. It is without reservation that I recommend the adoption of House Bill 49. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions or if you would like additional comments. Thank you for considering this important legislation that will help support families and children throughout Alaska.

Sincerely,


Stephane Berglund, MSW
CEO of thread, Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Network
907-265-3101
sberglund@threadalaska.org

Aurah Landau

From: Norman Eck [norman_eck@nwarctic.org]
Subject: Saturday, March 12, 2011 10:31 AM
To: Rep. Alan Dick; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Peggy Wilson;
Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: Aurah Landau
Subject: Parents as Teachers Testimony
Attachments: 03.10.11 Testimony PAT.pdf

Dear Honorable House Education Committee Members,

This is the testimony I provided Friday (yesterday) morning on House Bill 49, Parents as Teachers.

I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have for me. You can send them to me on email, or you can give them to Representative Tuck's aide, Aurah Landau, and she will send them to me.

Thank you for this honor.



Dr. Norman Eck
Superintendent
Northwest Arctic Borough School District

Testimony to the House Education Committee

March 11, 2010

Respectfully Submitted by Norman Eck, Ph.D.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify this morning. For the record, I am Dr. Norman Eck, Superintendent of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District. I have been employed as an administrator in this District for 13 years and this is my 6th year as superintendent. Two years ago I was the Alaska State Superintendent of the Year.

I am in support of House Bill Number 49. This Bill will provide a solid base to prepare parents and their children for when their children enter school. Many parents when they have children ages zero to 4-years, do not know what sort of activities that they can engage in with their children that will promote positive cognitive development. Parents as Teachers does that.

It is important that early childhood programs implemented in Alaska follow the guidelines of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. I firmly believe that evidence-based, non-mandatory, parent engaging efforts that meet high standards are the marks of good pre-Kindergarten programs and will meet the need of Alaska's children.

There is no one single solution to preschool needs. Our state is varied and the needs of students and families are very different. However, one fact is certain,

Testimony by Norman Eck, Ph.D.

and that is that the Parents As Teachers Program is a solid pre-school offering that can make a substantial difference in a child's life.

Let me give a concrete example. In 2003, Northwest Arctic was awarded a federal grant to implement a Parents as Teachers type program. We called our program, Getting Ready to Learn. As funds were limited, we strategically operated it in 5 of our lowest performing village schools. One of the program goals was to assure parents that they are their child's first teacher: "As your child's first teacher you need to provide one-on-one interaction between your child and yourself to develop the brain and language skills to build the best foundation for future learning."

Four major skill areas were emphasized: language and literacy skills, thinking skills, self-control and self-confidence for parents and their children. The teachers worked to foster trust and communication and to provide activities which enhance attachment, engagement, investment and enjoyment of the child by the parents. Playgroups were established and home visits were made.

The homes in these five villages were primarily print free environments. So, family literacy programs were formed in each village. The purpose of those were to encourage families to read together at home by providing them with quality age appropriate books and simple activities that promoted family interactions.

Our federal funding ran out in 2006 and we had to close the Getting Ready to Learn Program. This was a great shame. By the legislature passing this bill, the

Testimony by Norman Eck, Ph.D.

opportunity we had that brought so many of our children to success as students will be able to be offered to Alaska's neediest families. We would hope to be able to re-implement our program.

Over the past 7 years, there have been many things that we have put into place in our district to contribute to improving student academic achievement. We have implemented quality programs, quality teacher training, and we require strict adherence by all teachers to do what is best for children at all times.

What did we find in our test scores that, I believe, were directly affected by the Getting Ready to Learn Program and through our overall quality schools efforts?

Overall student achievement based on the Standards Based Assessments taken by our students in grades 3 through 10 increased as follows: In 2003, 36% of our students were proficient in language arts, by 2008 that percentage had risen to 51%. During the same time frame on the same assessment, our math scores have risen from 2003 with 32% of our students proficient to 51% of our students being proficient in 2008.

It takes many puzzle pieces to construct the entire picture of a successful education. Early childhood education is essential, especially for our underperforming students. Parents as Teachers is an excellent step for our legislature to take toward helping students to be academically successful.

PO Box 101
Hoonah, AK 99829
March 3, 2011

Representative Chris Tuck
State Capitol Building Room 426
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Tuck:

Thank you for your sponsorship of HB 49. PAT is a win-win program, and parents are empowered to take control of their children's learning from birth.

I have been with PAT for 15 years and am continually amazed to see the difference it makes in children and families. Hoonah was the first PAT program in the State, and our "PAT kids" are graduating from high school this year. In my current status as a National Trainer for Parents as Teachers, I periodically train new parent educators from across Alaska.

Parents as Teachers is a **voluntary** personal-visiting program for families with children from prenatal to kindergarten entry. PAT is a "strengths model" which stresses that **parents** are the experts on their children and that the families will set their own goals for their children and family. Empowerment results when the parent educator is the resource who offers research-based strategies and options. It is the parents who choose which options are appropriate for their family and circumstances.

Why PAT? **Because it works for Alaskan families!** The greatest benefits I have seen across the state are: increased school readiness, resolving developmental delays prior to Kindergarten, and building family strengths for supporting brain development at home.

Parent educators offer families personalized visits, which may be conducted at the location of the parents' choosing. Usually it is in the home, but visits also occur at Head Start, child care centers/homes, McDonald's, or church basements. It's where the families choose to visit. The advantage of the homes is that parent educators can coach the parent with the parent-child activity using the materials normally found in the child's environment.

Families love PAT because they are learning how to be their children's best first teachers and because they see their children thrive. All parents want their children to be successful in school, and PAT teaches preparation from birth. We are not advocating super babies, just the maximizing of the brain development that occurs naturally. By the time a child enters Kindergarten, his/her brain is already pruning parts of the brain that have not been used. PAT teaches parents to encourage use of the entire brain with fun activities at home with materials that are readily available.

The State of Alaska cannot provide enough Public Health Nurses or Infant Learn specialists to regularly observe young children in villages across the state. PAT parent educators partner with parents to consistently meet to discuss children's progress. Families love this assurance that they are an active role in preparing their child for school.

Parent educators conduct periodic developmental screenings to determine if any conditions exist that may interfere with learning. If needed, they connect families with ILP for activities to strengthen areas that may need it. PAT can provide the consistent attention that itinerant specialists

are unable to because of the geographic limitations. Parent educators show parents activities that concentrate on building weaker areas of development. In many cases, children resolve delays and enter kindergarten ready to learn with their peers.

I am pleased that HB 49 specifically names Parents as Teachers to provide services. PAT is a national model that is research-based with periodic revisions to reflect new research. It has been recognized with many prestigious awards. This summer, PAT received one of the highly coveted “i3” grants, **“Investing in Innovation”** from the US Department of Education to provide tribal grants to provide Parents as Teachers services. Alaska received funding for 3 locations.

Most recently, PAT was named one of the evidence-based home visiting models eligible for Federal funding through the Federal Home Visiting Initiative. Again, these designations required rigorous scrutiny prior to their selection.

PAT is a national model, but a local program. We teach parent educators to tailor the visits to fit the culture of the homes they visit. Native materials, languages, and books are used with children. While each program practices fidelity to the model, individual communities adapt components to suit their families’ needs and preferences. I have seen phenomenal visits done in Yupik with parents who speak that language at home.

Thank you for your promotion of Alaskan children and families. I strongly support HB 49 and encourage all legislators to advocate for kids as well.

Sincerely,

Nicki Shelton

GLACIER PEDIATRICS, LLC
Amy Dressel, M.D.
Mary Ellen Arvold, P.N.P.
Monica Gross, M.D.
George Brown, M.D.

1600 GLACIER AVENUE
JUNEAU, AK 99801

Phone
(907)586-1542
Fax 586-1849

March 16, 2011

Dear Representative Tuck and Representative Munoz,

I am writing to give you extra support for House Bill 49 that established state funding for important programs such as Parents As Teachers. I see the overwhelming benefit of this program when I travel to Hoonah every year. While there for a week, I am part of a clinic that looks at children (ages 0-6 years old) and their development—physically, socially, emotionally as well as their overall health. It is amazing to me to see how healthy the majority of these children are and how well adjusted they have become as the result of the Hoonah P.A.T. program. They are such interactive thriving members of this community as the result of such an innovative program (that combines age-appropriate educators with parents and gives them proper support to encourage the best development possible for these young members of the community). Such a program would not only help any community, but also make it all the more stronger. Funding from HB 49 would help continue such vital programs as P.A.T. and I would be a grateful physician if these programs would continue. A small capital investment would (and does) address the dire needs of the youngest members of our communities and ensures a better future for all.

Please feel free to contact me if there are further questions or concerns. Thanks for all you do for the youngsters of our great state!

Sincerely,



Amy Dressel, MD

Homer News

Letters to the Editor

March 11, 2011

Early Learning Bills deserve our enthusiastic support

The legislature is currently working on two very important bills that can have positive long term effects for our children, our schools, and ultimately our economy. Representatives Les Gara, Chris Tuck and Scott Kawasaki have introduced HB49 which supports funding for the Parents As Teachers program. This excellent program is currently serving a few families in Homer, but we would like to see it available to all young families.

HB154 is another important bill deserving of our support. Educational programs for three and four year olds will help ensure that all children enter Kindergarten ready to succeed. Kindergarten teachers in Homer have told me that many children enter school with insufficient vocabulary and unprepared to sit still for a story. Many children have not had preschool experiences that help them develop the social and emotional readiness for school. A strong early education has shown to improve graduation rates and eventual success in the work force. I urge everyone to write letters of support to our legislatures encouraging them to pass these important education bills.

Lolita Brache

Kachemak Kids Early Learning Center, Board Chair

Families First: A Best Beginnings Partnership, Co Chair

Lolita Brache

PO Box 2508 Homer

299 0694 (please do not print)

PS to the editor: I would like to work with my colleagues to write a longer more complete "My opinion" piece on the issues of early education for the Week Of the Young Child April 10th. (or the week prior, if need be) would that be possible?

Aurah Landau

From: Daisy VanSlyke [dvanslyke@alaska.edu]
nt: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 1:24 PM
To: Rep. Chris Tuck
Subject: HB 49

Rep. Tuck,

My name is Daisy VanSlyke. I am a 31 year old military spouse with a 2 year old and 4 year old. I am also pursuing my BSW at the University of Alaska Anchorage with a minor in Psychology. The area I am most passionate about is the area of children's mental health and education, especially in the arena of 5 and under. I highly support this bill and hope that is passes and is implemented. In the past decade or so, education through parenting has seemed to slowly diminish which is very disheartening. One of the key reasons I believe it has been on the decline is due to parents being so busy trying to support their families that they tend to not have much time to research resources that may be available to assist them. My implementing this program parents would not only have the resources readily available but also allow for the parents to once again have participation in their child's beginning with education. By focusing on children under the age of 5 I believe it will help to set up a foundation for the child to be more inclined to participate in further education as they grow. After reading the document in regards to how the program can deeply affect military families, I would have to completely agree. I'm sure I am not the only military spouse of small children that probably feels this way. The only way to truely provide a stability in regards to education for our children is to do quite a bit of it ourselves. I wish the best of luck in the continuation of this bill and program and will be eagerly anticipated a more detailed description on the educational materials and resources that would be provided to assist parents.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Daisy VanSlyke

J. Scott Tanner, Sr.
PO Box 76067
TanaCross, AK 99780
(907) 883-8266

March 9, 2011

The Honorable Allan Dick
Capital Building Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Allan Dick:

As a resident of TanaCross and a parent, I am writing to ask for your support of House Bill 49. The Parent's As Teacher's is an awesome program! Junior was in for two years. He got really involved in shapes, toys, colors and got really creative. She provided information that would be helpful to new parents. It was a good transition from the PAT program to the Tok Head Start program. It made it easier for him. Having them come to the house made it easier too instead of us having to travel. PAT made him more familiar with what was going to happen when he goes to school. She helped us identify areas that he was strong in as well as those we needed to work on him more with.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
J. Scott Tanner, Sr.



Carrie Beeman
PO Box 808
Tok, AK 99780
(907) 883-8080

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Allan Dick
Capital Building Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Allan Dick:

As a resident of Tok and I am writing to ask for your support of House Bill 49 "Alaska Parents as Teachers Act".

Located in Tok, the RurAL CAP Early Learning Center provides quality seamless services for families of young children in both Tok & Tanacross. It provides services for 24 families through the Parents As Teachers home base program and 37 other children thorough the Head Start center based program. In addition, I am the Chair of the Upper Tanana Imagination Library which serves over 100 children in the villages Tok, Tanacross, Northway, Tetlin, Mentasta, Eagle, Dot Lake, and the Border.

Our Early Learning Center's vision is that all children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential. Through these programs, children have access to activities and materials to help them grow and develop to their fullest potential. Parents are offered the latest information and tips on parenting to be the best teacher of their children. Families also have opportunities to be involved in supporting the growth and development of the whole family.

Every child deserves a solid foundation for school success and so I urge you to support this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Carrie Beeman

To: Whom it may concern:

My name is Amber Hillary and I'm from Tok Alaska. My sons name is Trey Hillary, and he is 2 and a half years old. He has been enrolled in the Pat program for 2 years now. It is amazing how much it helps us as parents to be the best parents we can be and to learn how our children learn and develop, so as to teach them in the best ways possible. Trey has learned so much. He's only 2 and can count to 25 all by himself. He knows colors, shapes, feelings, and his ABC's and he also enjoys learning new words and songs. I really love the PAT program and what it has done for us. They even helped me to find the job that I have now and gave my boyfriend resources to help him to find a job up North. I think that they really go above and beyond to help families in so many ways.

Sincerely,

Amber Hillary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber Hillary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Amber" on the top line and "Hillary" on the bottom line, slightly overlapping.

Kris Beeman
PO Box 808
Tok, AK 99780
(907) 883-8080

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Allan Dick
Capital Building Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Allan Dick:

As a resident of Tok and a dad, I am writing to ask for your support of House Bill 49, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act.

I received visits home visit thought the RurAL CAP PAT program until my daughters transitioned into Tok Head Start. I enjoyed these bimonthly times to really focus on my daughters. The Home Visitor brought toys, puzzles, arts & crafts, play dough, books, ETC. and loved me getting down on the floor to play with them. She usually left us with a project or activity to in-between times. There were also the monthly groups socials where I got see my girls interact with other children and I got to meet other parents of young children.

My daughter Holly has been diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis. Speech and language delays have also been identified in approximately 68% of preschool children with this genetic disorder. I believe that Holly is not experienced any learning delays in part because of her access to quality early childhood programs she has had access to here in Tok.

Sincerely,



Kris Beeman