

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:12 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84
Attachments: REVISEDDear Lesgislators docx 110326.docx

From: Rios_Rick [mailto:Rios_Rick@asdk12.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:06 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson
Cc: CTE_coordinators@list.state.ak.us; Comeau_Carol; Dave Rees <daverees@gci.net> (daverees@gci.net)
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senators

Please recommend, approve, and pass SB 84 in 2011. For more than ten years Alaska vocational education and training providers have diligently pursued the ability to educate and prepare students for the world of work, by re-establishing and renewing vocational education programs that were abandoned in the 80's and 90's. Finally the right Bill, SB84, has reached the Capital. It is on the porch steps of your committee today. It has a State of Alaska CTE Plan to follow, unanimous Alaskan community support, and sustainable funding to make performance measurable in three years. Don't let the Juneau legislative process deny what Alaska wants, needs and is willing to sacrifice for. Pass Senate Bill 84 this year!

Attached is a presentation given to the joint House/Senate Anchorage Caucus earlier this month.

Sincerely,

Rick Rios
Coodinator – Career & Technical Education
Anchorage School District
2650 East Northern Lights
Anchorage Alaska, 99508
(907) 742-8942 fax. 742-8978

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:13 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Constituents in Noatak

From: Robert J. Kirk [<mailto:rkirk@maniilaq.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:22 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Constituents in Noatak

Senators,

Please consider SB84 for increased funding. We are asking that the senate please give the education system the funds needed to allow our schools to operate at levels that give our children the opportunity to obtain a quality education in our communities. Our communities need the quality education to grow our children. I ask again, with many of our parents voices, urging you to increase the funding needed.

Robert J. Kirk

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:13 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Sally Spieker and Jeff Slaughter [<mailto:spieker@ptialaska.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:31 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: SB 84

Good Morning,

Please support SB 84. Alaska needs long-term funding to support career, technical and vocational education (CTE). All students need the services provided by CTE and schools need the assurance that funding will be available to provide these services.

Our expectation as a society is that individuals will work to provide revenue to support their families. CTE helps students explore, develop career pathways, and develop skills for work. It is for all students, including those who will develop skills to go directly into the workforce, those who will seek short-term training after high school, those who complete an apprenticeship, and those who go to college.

Families, businesses, and students will benefit from direct support through legislation. If you or your staff are interested in success stories, please let me know.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sally Spieker Slaughter
Anchorage

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:14 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Request to support SB 84

From: Michelle Zenger [<mailto:MZenger@hecla-mining.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:42 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Request to support SB 84

4/5/11 8:35am

The Honorable Joe Thomas
Senator_Joe_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator:

As a member of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) as well as a concerned Alaskan, I am seeking your support of SB 84 as it designed to:

- Increase the base student allocation (BSA) for the next school year
- Specify the BSA increases for the next three years
- Add additional funds for Career and Technical Education

Last year the AWIB passed a resolution in support of the Alaska Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan (Resolution #10-03). SB 84 has the intent of providing funding for CTE as well as allowing school districts to better manage the planning process by providing specificity about the next three years BSA.

Although the proposed substitute SB 97 would most likely increase education funding in the short term; as a community revenue sharing allocation tied to oil price (revenues), there is no predictability for the future. It also does not directly support CTE as there are no directions for spending the funds.

To sum up, the predictability and direction for the funding in SB84 makes more sense than a one time or short term influx of money with no guidelines for spending attached.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you choose to support SB 84.

Regards,
Michelle M. Zenger
Alaska Workforce Investment Board – Vice Chair (Business & Industry seat)
Juneau/Alaska resident

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:14 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW:

From: Randy Hughey [<mailto:hughey@mail.ssd.k12.ak.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:32 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject:

Dear Senators

The time has come for SB 84. For decades vocational programs in Alaska have languished, underfunded, and undervalued. Having taught in the state for 28 years in three communities I have witnessed the steady decline of vocational education. Lets change that pattern.

I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,
Randy Hughey
Sitka High School

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:14 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84 - please help it get approved

From: Jennifer Mannix [<mailto:jenak05@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:57 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Subject: SB 84 - please help it get approved

Good morning,

My name is Jennifer Mannix. I live in Juneau, and I have a 9-year-old daughter in the 4th grade at Glacier Valley Elementary School.

I am writing to ask that the Senat Finance Committee do what it needs to do to recommend approval of SB 84 and forward the bill to the floor for a vote. I strongly believe that as far as education is concerned, the more support the better. The increase in funding of the base student allocation, as well as increased support for vocational and technical ed programs at the high school level are important steps in that direction.

Thank you in advance for your support of education! And thank you, in general, for your time and efforts serving in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mannix
8496A Thunder Mountain Rd.
Juneau, AK 99801

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:16 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84, FFA Funding

-----Original Message-----

From: Eisemann, Jane [<mailto:Jane.Eisemann@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:26 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84, FFA Funding

Dear Senator Thomas,

As an educator for the past 20 years in the community of Kodiak, I URGE you to please support the passing of SB 84. The State of Alaska needs SOLID/PREDICTABLE funding for our educational programs. Funding that is not influenced by the rise and fall of oil prices.

On another note, I believe there has been a request to fund a State FFA Coordinator for the sum of \$50,000.00. I hope you will support that budget request as well. I am the FFA Advisor at Kodiak High School and have first hand knowledge of the benefits that leadership, agricultural and natural resource education brings to our state. It is a VERY WORTHY investment that brings huge dividends to our state as we prepare our youth to take over the stewardship of our vast resources.

Thank you for your efforts and all you do for the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jane Eisemann
Kodiak High School
Maritime Science and Technology
Natural Resources
FFA Advisor

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:16 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB84

From: Jackie Smith [mailto:unagsiq_wtk@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:39 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB84

My name is Jackie Smith. I live in Rural Alaska. I have a child who is in Jr High. I am a concerned parent.

I am asking you to please pass SB84.

Alaska is receiving a strong financial return from high oil prices and it is appropriate to invest more in Alaska's future through K-12 education.

The tremendous benefits that districts, teachers, support staff, families and students enjoyed with our recent three-year forward funding package that allowed for more precise budget planning and eliminated much of the upheaval that occurs with staff layoffs and program reductions.

SB 84 provides additional funding over 3-years that will assist all districts in addressing ever increasing inflationary costs and help invigorate vocational/career tech.

SB97 is a good solution for high energy costs and when available in FY13 would be a welcome tool to assist school districts and communities with high energy costs.

The cost of living in Rural Alaska is outrageous. We are paying \$8.99 for gas & heating fuel in Noatak. When we get our next load of fuel our cost is going up. We will be paying over \$10 a gallon for gas & heating fuel. They are going to cut 2 teacher positions in our school next year. They are both Jr High teachers. Like I said I have a child who is in 7th grade. Next year they are going to be 36 students in Jr. High and one teacher. I don't see how my Son will get the adequate education he needs to enter high school.

Thanks for your consideration,

Jackie Smith
Noatak, AK

April 5, 2011

Senate President Stevens and Finance Committee Members:

As the principal of Service High School in Anchorage, and I write to encourage the passage of essential K-12 education bills, SB 84 and SB 97. Both pieces of legislation, in their original forms, will help offset inflation and enable school districts across the Alaska to continue at least three key practices that serve Alaska's children well:

1. Early hiring of teachers. The Anchorage School District hires approximately 70 percent of its teachers from Outside. With forward funding, and the ability to offer competitive but reasonable compensation packages, we have been able to successfully compete for the best teachers in our nation. Alaska, just as it does for the oil industry, needs to be an attractive option for professional educators in which to invest.
2. Re-emphasis on Career, Technical, and Vocational Education. Designated funding for C&TE, rather than block grant funding that needs to be spread thinly, will allow us to capture more students whose acumen and interest lies in the vocational fields. Concentration on college readiness will continue, but through the vocational programs both current and in development, we will be able to accelerate more students' readiness to learn by offering them increased relevant curricula. The result will be a more prepared workforce.
3. Extended school day and school year. With the sharp increase in public education students coming from economically disadvantaged families (see ASD Profile of Performance, p.9: http://www.asdk12.org/depts/assess_eval/POP/0910/POP_0910_District.pdf) the need is greater than ever to extend the school day and year. Non-traditional, C&TE (again), and remedial programs are essential to meet the needs of this often underprepared population. The modest increase in the BSA in SB 84 will help provide resources to continue our programs that extend beyond the regular school day.

After regular school hours, Service High School currently offers carpentry, Certified Nursing Assistant, Personal Care Assistant, physical education, and credit recovery classes. We scramble for dollars to fund teachers, materials, and transportation – all necessary to sustain the programs. Keeping students here at school after hours engaged in learning has been a huge benefit. Finding resources to sustain these programs has been a challenge.

Passage of SB 84 and SB 97 will help offset inflation and allow districts in Alaska to continue to meet the needs of our changing public school population. I urge you to act in support of both bills.

Most Respectfully,

Lou Pondolfino
Principal
Robert Service High School
742-8123

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:18 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Our community implores your help

-----Original Message-----

From: rjsnoatak@inutek.net [mailto:rjsnoatak@inutek.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:25 AM
To: senator.donny.olson@legis.state.ak.us; sentator.bert.stedman@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Our community implores your help

Senators, Donny, Bert, Lyman, Joe, Lesil, Dennis, Johnny, and Gary:

Please read these 3 short paragraphs that I've written following a Alaska School Council meeting just yesterday and incorporate them into the bigger picture of our great State's need for educational support and the passing of SB84. When it gets to paragraph 3, I am practically in tears and despair as I contemplate the struggle that our community(ies) face with an enormous imbalance of resources to unmet need. We need YOUR help.

Tina, Please include these comments from the community concerns of the ASC Napaaqtugmiut School meeting held on April 4, 2011.

As a parent when I went to the school at the end of the school day I was approached by 2 community members that said a School Board meeting was in progress that regarded 2 teachers being cut. I assumed one to be Jr. High teacher Darlene Campbell who had spoken of taking a sabbatical and was told the other was Timm Nelson, Jr. High/High School teacher. Seeing that the library was quite full including students, I was prompted to take part since I knew that our students and staff needed help, not "cuts". I had volunteered and subbed for the school this year and last year did school practicums, with any less help our children would have little chance of meeting adequate progress goals and in my opinion actually receive less than adequate education.

2 things I heard were quite appalling to me: 1, that Timm Nelson had received only this morning an e-mail from the NWABSD that said he was being offered either a volunteer transfer to Buckland or to accept an involuntary transfer if he wished to remain in the district. The appalling/shocking part of this news was he had only 24 hours in which to respond; I am sure there are many reasons and other sides we might not be privy to know, but where is the courtesy in this? Timm is highly involved in our students and community lives. He is well accepted and just now getting to a point of where after a couple of years of learning can make a tremendous impact; longevity and less turnover is proven to be a key factor in being able to reach a population effectively.

The other detriment to this happening, is it appears that "ok...Darlene Campbell is leaving, so let's not fill that position". Losing one junior high teacher could be bad enough and is unacceptable but cut another one who also happens to teach high school would leave only 1 teacher to cover our entire junior high population and only 2 teachers to cover all of the high school. 3 teachers in a village of 500+ to adequately instruct all of our jr

high/senior high students? We want our kids to be ready and succeed in college? We want our kids to grab a hold of professions and role model success for future generations? I'm sorry, but 3 teachers do not have the resources, time or expertise in areas to give adequate education to our most valuable resource.

Please accept my comments as a desperate outreach and attempt to right what could be a possible and terrible wrong. Thank you.

Robert Sheldon
Parent and community member
PO Box 77
Noatak, AK 99761
907-485-2297

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:19 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: HB 84

From: Kathleen Galau [mailto:eowynsister@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:53 AM

To: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Chenault; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Governor@gov.state.ak.us

Subject: HB 84

I am writing to urge you to support HB 84. It does three very important things:

- 1) Increases the base student allocation (BSA) by \$110 for the next school year
- 2) Specifies the BSA increases for the next three years (very helpful for planning purposes)
- 3) Adds additional funds for Career Tech and Vocational education (1% of the BSA each year)

Our schools already face cuts due to the loss of stimulus funds. The SBA increases covers the cost of inflation in wages and materials. Textbooks cost at least \$100 each and schools must supply them. Students must have heat and electricity, which are both expensive in this state and with the current state of affairs those costs will outstrip inflation. Without the increase this year, pupil to teacher ratios will need to be increased. Our schools also need dedicated career and vocational funds to create sustainable programs to meet the diverse needs of Alaska.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Iler Galau

3845 Melrose St

Juneau AK 99801

907.789.1740

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Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

Chief Seattle Suqwamish (1786-1866)

Your life is an occasion. Rise up to it.

Mr. Magorium (1764-2007)

April 4, 2011

I am a parent of a 6th grader who will be going into Junior high next school year. We just found out that there might only be 1 (one) teacher for about 35 students. That is not right! We need help in finding for our school to keep our Junior High Teacher. We can't afford to lose another teacher.

Please find a way to help the students and teachers to get educated.

Thank You
Tina Mills, Parent

~~April 4, 2011~~

April 4, 2011

I will be in the 7th grade next year. We just found out there will be only 1 Junior high teacher for 35 students. When I was in 6th grade ~~we~~ had 22 students and everybody didn't cooperate. Some students were always going to the office because everybody talked a lot. Please help us find funding to keep our other Junior high teacher.

Thank you,

Davidann Mills



Message

Tue, Apr 05, 2011 9:52 AM

From: rjsnoatak@inutek.net

To: Tina Mills

Subject: April 4 ASC mtg

Please include these comments from the community concerns of the ASC Napaaqtugmiut School meeting held on April 4, 2011.

As a parent when I went to the school at the end of the school day I was approached by 2 community members that said a School Board meeting was in progress that regarded 2 teachers being cut. I assumed one to be Jr. High teacher Darlene Campbell who had spoken of taking a sabbatical and was told the other was Timm Nelson, Jr. High/High School teacher. Seeing that the library was quite full including students, I was prompted to take part since I knew that our students and staff needed help, not "cuts". I had volunteered and subbed for the school this year and last year did school practicums, with any less help our children would have little chance of meeting adequate progress goals and in my opinion actually receive less than adequate education.

2 things I heard were quite appalling to me: 1, that Timm Nelson had received only this morning an e-mail from the NWABSD that said he was being offered either a volunteer transfer to Buckland or to accept an involuntary transfer if he wished to remain in the district. The appalling/shocking part of this news was he had only 24 hours in which to respond; I am sure there are many reasons and other sides we might not be privy to know, but where is the courtesy in this? Timm is highly involved in our students and community lives. He is well accepted and just now getting to a point of where after a couple of years of learning can make a tremendous impact; longevity and less turnover is proven to be a key factor in being able to reach a population effectively.

The other detriment to this happening, is it appears that "ok...Darlene Campbell is leaving, so let's not fill that position". Losing one junior high teacher could be bad enough and is unacceptable but cut another one who also happens to teach high school would leave only 1 teacher to cover our entire junior high population and only 2 teachers to cover all of the high school. 3 teachers in a village of 500+ to adequately instruct all of our jr high/senior high students? We want our kids to be ready and succeed in college? We want our kids to grab a hold of professions and role model success for future generations? I'm sorry, but 3 teachers do not have the resources, time or expertise in areas to give adequate education to our most valuable resource.

Please accept my comments as a desperate outreach and attempt to right what could be a possible and terrible wrong. Thank you.

Robert Sheldon
Parent and community member
PO Box 77
Noatak, AK 99761
907-485-2297

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:21 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: CONSTITUENT: support SB 84

From: Jayne E. Naze [<mailto:jayne.naze@k12northstar.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:11 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: support SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I write to you as a voting resident of Alaska and educator of our future adult citizens. Our state is not in a budget deficit and currently proposed budget cuts impacting education are severe and uncalled for. SB 84 is about kids. Reasonable class sizes (25-30) and critical tutoring programs are at stake and so is the student drop out rate. Programs that support transition to high school, like the 9th grade teaming program, have influenced a lowered drop-out rate in our local high schools. Programs like these and many more which foster student success hang in the balance. I implore you to continue to be an advocate for our youth and their future. Please support Senate Bill 84.

Thank you,

Jayne Naze
P.O. Box 80101
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:21 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

From: Tommy Thompson [<mailto:thompsot@jsd.k12.ak.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:11 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Tommy Thompson
Juneau, Alaska 99803
Supporting SB 84 and Increased Education Funding
Dear Senator Thomas:

I am a 47 year resident of Southeast Alaska and have worked in the fisheries industry and in the education field. My grandfathers came to Alaska in the early 1900's and had successful careers in the fish business and the medical field.

Knut Thompson in Petersburg and Dr. Joe Rude in Juneau were both men who worked in private practice and held SE Alaska and their communities in highest regard. Both of them also knew how important education was for their own children and for developing and sustaining an informed, involved, and contributing citizenry.

I am a father of two students in the Juneau School District and I know first hand from the district budget meetings that flat funding for our district means the loss of important programs and jobs. Already the district has cut funding for needed high school counselors and extended learning programs (to name just two) that are detrimental to the education of our children. Further cuts, due to flat funding, will erode our programs and what we can offer to our students even more so.

Investment. It is a choice. I believe supporting, encouraging, and funding our educational system to fullest extent is an investment we can't ignore. My children's teachers have been fantastic, caring, involved, and empowering. Flat funding education, I believe, sends a message from the legislature to the public NOT that you are tightening your belts, but that you don't believe investment in our children is worth it.

Please increase the student allocation in Alaska and continue to support our very diverse state that has so many kids from so many places depending on you.

I appreciate all the work you do, and I hope you make the right choice regarding education.

Sincerely,

Tommy Thompson
PO Box 32820
Juneau, Alaska
99803
tjomslan13@yahoo.com
thompsot@jsd.k12.ak.us
907-723-4752
--

523-1579 JDHS Math
<http://www.jsd.k12.ak.us/~thompsot/>

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:23 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Pass SB84

From: S.E.AK. Career Consortium [<mailto:edu@ak.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 12:59 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Pass SB84

Dear Senators

PLEASE pass SB 84 Today! I have put in decades of work toward better preparing our youth to live, WORK and succeed in Alaska. Our best economic driver is the young adults today! We absolutely must provide the early training in career awareness and industry skills in order for youth to see how they fit into the Alaskan economy. Without this, we will continue high non-Alaskan employment rates. In construction alone, 21% of the workforce DO NOT live here. What a drain on our economy- millions of dollars leaving our state every month! Career & vocational education are the key to our economy! This is much more than funding for schools - this is Alaska's future! Thank you. Karen Martinsen

Karen Martinsen, Director
Sitka Education Consortium
S.E. Alaska Career Consortium SEACC
P.O. Box 58
Sitka Alaska 99835
907 966 1355 work
907 966-1353 FAX
907 738 6999 cell NEW

"There ain't no rules around here. We're trying to accomplish something" Thomas Edison

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:25 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB94

From: stan vanamburg [<mailto:kvan6@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:09 PM
To: senator.donny.olson@legis.state.as.us
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman; senator.lyman.hoffman@legis.state.as.us; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; senator.gary.sstevens@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: SB94

I am concerned parent and community member of Noatak. Just yesterday I was informed of major teacher cuts across our school district. My heart goes out to these young people who want to have the opportunity to better their lives with education and training options after high school. If our district is forced to cut teaching positions, it will greatly impact the quality of education our children will have. Teachers are already overworked and going the extra mile to help students be successful, cutting more teacher positions would be detrimental to their education.

With that being said, I am requesting that you support the Base student allocation. Our schools and teachers need this support and our children and students deserve the benefits of having a chance at the best possible education. I want to help provide that for them. I trust you do as well.

Doris Van Amburg

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:48 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: funding for education

-----Original Message-----

From: Dillard, Bonnie [<mailto:Bonnie.Dillard@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:43 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: funding for education

Senator Thomas,

I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 84. In order to provide for our children, our richest resource, we MUST increase funding for education. The future of Alaska, of the world, depends on young people having access to QUALITY education.

Thank you for your time,

Bonnie Dillard
Kodiak, Alaska



April 5, 2011

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau Alaska 99811

RE: Support for SB 84 "An Act relating to funding for high school vocational and technical instruction as a component of funding for public schools; increasing the base student allocation used in the public school funding formula; and providing for an effective date."

Dear Legislator;

Southeast Conference is an organization that promotes workforce development and encourages entrepreneurial success and resource development for Southeast Alaska. Because of these goals we fully support SB84.

SB84 is the most promising of the school funding bills currently before the legislature. It does three things that we feel are very important:

- Increases the base student allocation (BSA) by \$110 for the next school year.
- Specifies the BSA increases for the next three years which is very helpful for planning purposes. BSA increase allows school districts the opportunity to plan better for future years and budget more wisely.
- Adds security as well as additional funds for Career Technical and Vocational education. (1% of the BSA each year) This component will offer school districts more security to further develop the options that are so desperately needed for our region and around the state. There are significant advantages to the increase in funding for Career Tech, but the security in having a "permanent" increase is invaluable to our students -- a one-time or short term influx of money is not enough to allow districts to develop viable career tech programs.

Southeast Conference is a regional, nonprofit corporation that advances the collective interest of the people, communities and businesses in Southeast Alaska. Members include municipalities, native corporations and village councils, regional and local businesses, civic organizations and individuals throughout the region. Our goal is to support policies that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment for Southeast Alaska. We are the State-designated Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR), the federally-designated Economic Development District (EDD), and the federally designated Resource Conservation and Development Council for Southeast Alaska. Each of these designations requires Southeast Conference to take an active role in regional resource management and economic development planning.

We thank you for your service to our state and strongly encourage you to support SB84. Our state is in a precarious situation, our population is aging and our young people are not prepared to continue the resource development that is so important to our future success. It is imperative we give them the education and training they need. SB84 will put us another step closer to this goal.

Sincerely,

Shelly Wright

P.O. Box 21989 612 W. Willoughby Avenue, Suite B, Juneau Alaska 99802

(907) 523-4350 (907) 463-5670 Fax info@seconference.org

www.seconference.org



Executive Director

Letter sent via email to:

Senate Finance:

[Senator Lyman Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Lyman_Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Bert Stedman@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Bert_Stedman@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Donald Olson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Donald_Olson@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Dennis Egan@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Joe Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Joe_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Johnny Ellis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Lesil McGuire@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us)

House Finance:

[Representative Bill Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Anna Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Anna_Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Bill Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Bill_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Mia Costello@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Mia_Costello@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Bryce Edgmon@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Bryce_Edgmon@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Mike Hawker@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Mike_Hawker@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Reggie Joule@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Reggie_Joule@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Tammie Wilson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Tammie_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Mike Doogan@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Mike_Doogan@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Les Gara@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative David Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_David_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Mike Chenault@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Mike_Chenault@legis.state.ak.us)

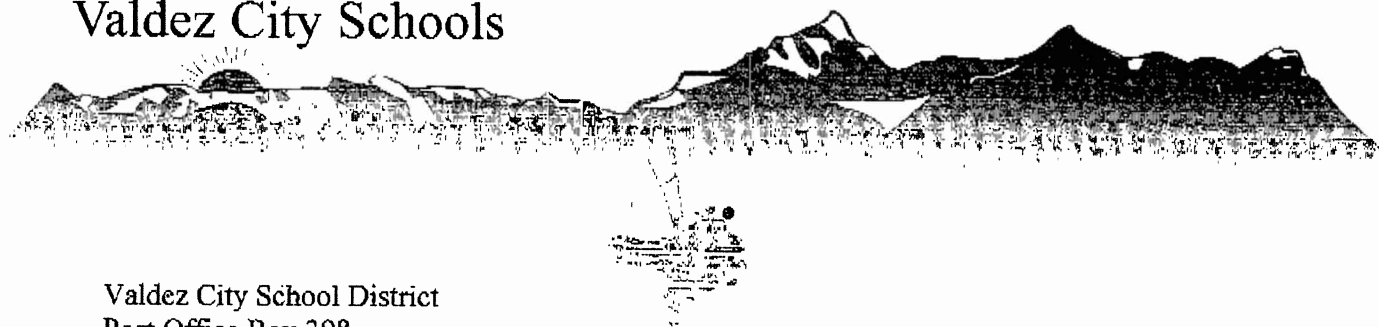
Governor@gov.state.ak.us

P.O. Box 21989 612 W. Willoughby Avenue, Suite B, Juneau Alaska 99802

(907) 523-4350 (907) 463-5670 Fax info@seconference.org

www.seconference.org

Valdez City Schools



Valdez City School District
Post Office Box 398
Valdez, AK, 99686

March 10, 2011

Senator Joe Thomas
Mail Stop 3100
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, AK, 99801

Re: Support of Senate Bill 84

Dear Senator Thomas:

On behalf of the Valdez City School District Administration, Board of Education, and Staff Members we wish to thank you for your sponsorship of Senate Bill 84. This funding is helpful to our school district in many ways: 1. It allows us to strategically plan for the next three years; 2. It allows the continuation of many new and innovative programs for students; 3. It allows the VCSD to consider the expansion of current highly desired programs.

Over the last few years the VCSD has worked hard to expand and create additional learning opportunities for students. We currently have many programs that are unique to Valdez and we would like to be able to expand on those successes. We have forged a very strong collaboration with Prince William Sound Community College and we are able to offer many concurrent enrollment options for our students. We also are working together with industry professionals to not only prepare our students for college, but also prepare them of the workplace upon graduation.

The VCSD strongly supports Senate Bill 84 and we encourage swift passage to allow us to plan for the future.

Thank you,

Jacob Jensen, Superintendent
Valdez City School District

Daniel Walker, President
Valdez Board of Education

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Rachel Sherman [kellyriver12@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:41 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: SB84

As a parent,community member, and substitute teacher for Noatak School I strongly support the passing og SB84.We do need more staff here in order for our children to achieve whatever goal they want to pursue. Thank you Rachel Sherman Box 33 Noatak, Alaska 99761

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Gordon Wrobel [gordonwrobel@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:19 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Honorable Senator Thomas:

I am writing in support of SB 84. This bill provides essential funding to create permanent funding for Career Tech and Vocational education. Making this funding permanent will provide educators with the ability to engage a long term planning process. This will result in the creation of new and innovative educational opportunities that will keep Alaska competitive.

This bill will also support a more effective budgeting process for elementary and secondary education. By raising the base student allocation districts will be able to temper the anticipated cuts and retain key staff and programs.

I encourage you to support passage of SB 84.

Gordon Wrobel, Ph.D.
Elfin Cove
907-321-1009

Joe Hardenbrook

From: neici becerra [neicibecerra@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:22 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: Current Session

My name is Neici Becerra and I am from Kodiak. I feel that it is critical that you push for House Bill 143 or Senate Bill 84 to increase the base student allocation. I believe this is an investment in our future and I believe that it is critical that funding be increased during this session to support the continuation of current programing in our schools.

I hope you will fight to see an increase for our public schools during this legislative session!

Please consider my opinion.

Thank you for your time,

Neici Becerra

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Janet Reed [jbirdreed@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:20 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Hoffman,

I am writing in support of SB84. Due to high returns from oil profits, the increase in education funding should be affordable and should be a priority to our state. Forward funding only makes sense. It allows schools to do sensible future planning that avoids staff layoffs and limiting program offerings for our students, including the vocational education that is so important to our state's workforce. While SB 97 will be a help offset rising energy costs when it's available in 2013, it will not offset those increasing costs that our schools are experiencing now.

Thank you,

Janet Reed

Valdez, AK

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Wall, Kristie [Kristie.Wall@kodiakschools.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:33 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

My name is Kristie Wall. I'm writing from Kodiak, asking you to support Senate Bill 84. Our school district has started several promising instructional improvement initiatives-- Forward funding is a crucial component to being able to see the full benefits these program changes. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration, Kristie

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Ruth [cottagesonmonastery@alaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:39 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Support SB84

Senator Thomas -

I am a local business woman who also has a daughter graduating from high school this year. I am writing to ask you to support SB84. It is vital for our school systems to have this increase in the Base Student Allocation for the next few years. Plus the additional support for vocational education where it is also much needed and well used for our young adults in giving them a solid base starting out. We all need to keep on track in supporting the education of our children instead of cutbacks that will cripple vital programs.

Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Ruth Ann Stough
Cottages on Monastery
Sitka

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Heather Mildon [northernheather@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:57 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I write to urge your support of SB 84, which will increase the base student allocation and includes a high school vocational/technical education funding factor, and a tax credit for businesses contributing to educational institutions.

It is vitally important that Alaska's schools realize an increase in the BSA in order to continue serving our students in a manner that furthers their learning and development. In Anchorage, this additional funding will allow us to recommend restoration of programs with demonstrated effectiveness that have been cut due to funding limitations in our recently approved budget for 2011-12, programs our students need.

Thank you for your consideration,
Heather Mildon

Anchorage

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Annette Freymueller [alaskapt@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:12 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Bob Miller; Sen. John Coghill
Cc: nharun@mosquitonet.com; 91-Liz Styer
Subject: Please vote FOR SB#84

Imagine the following editorial cartoon:

A bunch of fat, corporate oil men with \$1 billion spilling out of their pockets,

Stomping over a bunch of school children with signs that say, "We only wanted an extra \$20 million."

With legislators in the background saying, "Because that's how we decided to vote."

PLEASE, invest in our school children. Money spent on education will save in the long run. By cutting spending in education, you will see an even *higher* drop-out rate, and, for those who graduate, higher numbers of children with poor preparedness for jobs.

The increase in the base student allocation in the last few years has helped our school district fund programs that are making a huge difference in our kids lives. Students fail to learn when class sizes are too large, and it becomes classroom management, rather than a learning environment.

Schools, like any financial structure, will go backwards if this allocation does not keep up with inflation.

Kids are Alaska's future. We should fund programs that are making all the difference in our children's lives NOW and in the future.

Vocational and technical training are critical to Alaska's future. These programs not only keep kids in school, they also provide a trained workforce for our economy and support business. If vocational and technical training is not funded, individuals will suffer and Alaska's economy will suffer.

Annette Freymueller
1258 Viewpointe Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907 479 3550

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.
Henry David Thoreau

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Ed Hays [hays6780257@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:38 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Please pass SB84 this year.

Dear Senator Thomas,

Please recommend, approve, and pass SB 84 in 2011. As an Alaskan vocational educator, I know that we work hard to prepare students for the world of work. In our school we have re-established vocational education programs that were abandoned in the 80's and 90's. This looks like the right bill to provide sustainable funding and to make performance measurable in three years. It also provides a State of Alaska CTE Plan to follow.

Pass Senate Bill 84 this year!

Thank you.

Ed Hays
CTE Teacher
Haines High School
Haines, Alaska

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Lori Holcomb [lholcomb@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:40 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB84, SB97

Senator Thomas,

I would like to thank you for your work on the Senate Finance Committee and ask for your continued support of SB84 and SB97.

I am a teacher in the Mat-Su School District as well as a parent. It is budget time and we are feeling the impacts of possible cuts throughout our district.

This causes a tremendous amount of anxiety each year and anything we can do to make the budgeting process more consistent and stable the more people will be able to focus on their jobs as they relate to students, instead of worrying about what to do when cuts are made.

Again I thank you for your work. I am grateful for the forethought of the people who created SB84 and SB97. I would like to see these two bills move forward to the full senate.

Lori Holcomb

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Buchinger, Michael [Michael.Buchinger@kodiakschools.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:54 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Hi Senators,

My name is Mike Buchinger and I'm emailing from Kodiak, Alaska. I am asking for all of your support of Senate Bill 84.

Thank you for your time.

Mike Buchinger

Joe Hardenbrook

From: PATRICIA-JOHN GEORGE [prgeorge@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:55 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB84

I would like to ask that you support and pass out of committee SB84. The additional funding is needed to support vital programs that will be cut from school district budgets. I recently testified at the Juneau School Board meeting for the need to reinstate the literacy coaches at the middle and high school levels. Many teachers who have been coached testified to the quality of the program and the benefit of having on going professional development. This program and the vocational education funds are vital if we are going to meet the needs of all students as well as increase the high school graduation rate.

Thank you for all your work to support literacy for all Alaskans.

Patty George, 3328 Fritz Cove Road, Juneau, AK 99801

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Bridget Kauffman [ak.bridget@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:16 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: SB84

Please support Senate Bill 84. The cost of education has continued to increase and the money available does not meet all of the needs of the educators and the students. Fees for classes and programs continue to increase. Fees for extracurricular activities increase as well. Students and athletes rely increasingly on donations from businesses in the community and fundraising (garage sales, door to door collection of change, raffles) to meet the financial needs of the various programs. How many of you must work 2 - 3 jobs and engage in fundraising so children can attend and participate in school programs or pay your own salaries? Many programs all students should have access to have become programs for students of well to do families. Education is less and less for all people and only for those students of families who can afford to pay the additional fees. These last few years have presented many financial challenges for myself, my family, and others Sitka families. No children should be excluded from opportunities for financial reasons. I have received school fee bills stamped with a message stating if the school fees are not paid by graduation my children will not be able to graduate. This month we have been asked to pay \$115.00 per child so they can attend music fest in Ketchikan. We have 2 children attending. I asked for a scholarship and was then asked to chaperon. Chaperoning will cost me 5 days of wages. Neither of my employment situations offer paid vacation time. Soccer fees are \$250.00 paid this month as well. How many more fees will be asked of parents? How many more programs will be cut or substantially reduced? How many more positions will be cut? Please support Senate Bill 84. If we want our children to succeed they need to be offered a quality education. If we want people to want to move to Alaska we need to offer a quality education. If we want to keep people here we need to offer a quality education. Our schools need funding they can count on, not funding that fluctuates with the flow of oil. Please increase funding for the education of our children and for the future of this state and our country. Two foreign exchange students sat at our dinner table this weekend and said they are just getting dumber the longer they are here. I have heard this from several exchange students and from students who have moved here from the Lower 48. The education we offer our children in the state of Alaska must keep pace with the education offered to students from the Lower 48 and around the world. We cannot afford to teach to the lowest common denominator any longer. Thank you for your time. Bridget Kauffman

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Rob Goldberg [artstudioalaska@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:00 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I hope you will support SB 84. Funding for our schools is so important for our future.

My wife and I adopted two boys from Bulgaria. The school here in Haines has done an incredible job with our kids. Starting with English as a Second Language classes and moving on through remedial and special ed, the teachers and staff have given our kids a future they would not have had. Our older son will graduate this May, and will go to UAS Juneau next year to major in computer science.

Please don't shortchange our kids' futures. Please support SB 84. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rob Goldberg and Donna Catotti
Catotti and Goldberg Art Studio
PO Box 1154 Haines, AK 99827 USA
907-766-2707
artstudioalaska.com

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Friedman_Jeff [Friedman_Jeff@asdk12.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:01 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Cc: Comeau_Carol; Olson_Robin; Steiner_John; Kennedy_Crystal; Carl Rose; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: SB 84

Dear Co Chairs and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

I am writing again to urge your support for SB 84. I understand that a revised version will be considered by Senate Finance tomorrow. Any of the versions of SB 84 that have been under consideration would provide important benefits to districts throughout the state. While I prefer some aspects of some versions more than other versions, I am thankful for the support to Alaska's children that each of these versions would provide.

Jeff Friedman
Anchorage School Board
1534 D Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-742-4699 (Home)

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Ruth Baumgartner [boogbomb1@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:48 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Cc: Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz
Subject: Education Funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

I am writing in support of increasing per pupil spending for the 2011 - 2012 school year. With this additional funding, our students at Mendenhall River Community School in Juneau will continue to be provided smaller class sizes, extra support (both extended learning and lower achieving) and most of the services being offered presently.

I understand there are concerns being voiced in the legislature about achievement levels throughout the state. Teaching is not an easy task when you have a varied group of backgrounds, academic, social and emotional needs enter your classroom each and every day. I know as an educator, I strive to provide my students with an educational experience that meets their needs and addresses the standards set forth by the state. This becomes extremely difficult when services are being cut all around you and you are unable, as one individual, to provide support to all children or to have collegial support to do so because the specialists are no longer in your building due to budget cuts based on the per pupil allotment.

I invite each of you as well as all your colleagues to come visit our school (meeting AYP) and those throughout the state to see what transpires throughout the course of a day needless to say the year. You will see the devotion, dedication, focus on learning and all out desire to provide environments (though varied) that support each child's individual needs to succeed not only academically, but socially and emotionally. I strongly encourage and ask that you support the increase in per pupil spending and to work with the Department of Education and Early Development to continue to help those failing districts and schools to support the concerns being voiced by your colleagues.

Again, I ask you to show your support of education in Alaska by providing an increase in per pupil spending this year. This money supports Alaska's future and allows the teachers, like myself, to continue the job of educating students to our best ability

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruth Baumgartner

Teacher, Mendenhall River Community School, Juneau

Joe Hardenbrook

From: King, Sami [Sami.King@kodiakschools.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:51 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: education funding

Good Morning,

It is always interesting and depressing to me when our legislators gather and bash our education system and teachers. They proceed to put more requirements on educators, talk about how we are failing as teachers, and then turn around and expect us to be even better with more work and less funding. If you were continually bashed like that, what would you do? You have a huge voice- why not use it for good? There are some absolutely amazing things happening across this state educationally. Yet, the majority of legislators looks at faulty statistics and has no idea how the educational process works. How many legislators have any experience in education? Have any of you been a teacher? Do you know what it is like to come to work every day and give all that you have to your students? At the end of the day, teachers return home spent and exhausted only to turn on the television and hear that they are lazy or that those who can't, teach. Words and attitudes like this do nothing for education. It does not help the teachers and more importantly, it does not help the students. I beg of you to think before you bash the people who have given their life to the kids of this state. Give teachers the respect that they deserve, I am certain that they have earned it.

Before assuming that all the statistics you read are true, it would behoove you to take a closer look at them. When you look at drop out numbers in the state, do you really know how they are determined? I do. The dropout rate in this state is nowhere near what legislators are claiming it is. If you were to track students when they transfer schools, you will have a more accurate number. Please remember that Alaska is a transient state. It is very common to find that a student will begin high school in Kodiak and change schools partway through their high school career because their parents are transferred. The student has not dropped out but rather is transferring to Sitka High School; however this is recorded as a dropout according to faulty statistical methods. This is just one case where legislators have taken a random number and used it to bash our educational system without fully understanding how the number was obtained. Can teachers do better? Yes, teachers can always improve and are constantly looking at ways to improve how students are educated. I ask you to listen to what the teachers are doing, listen to what they need, and listen to what works and what does not work. Legislators are not there, legislators are not doing the teaching. Please stop making judgments without having a full understanding of what is really happening. I beg of you- talk to teachers! As a teacher of 14 years, I can tell you that every morning when I get up for work, I am excited to be a teacher. I am so happy to know that I get to work with bright and excited students. Not all of these students will go to college but because of all the teachers who have spent countless hours working with them, they will be a productive member of some lucky community. We are proud of the products we are delivering and we are improving those products year after year. Cutting funding is not the way to do it. It is extremely difficult to continue educating the students with the same level of enthusiasm and devotion when more is required of teachers but we are given less funding with which to do it with. Respect the profession. Teachers help to mold the future and we love our jobs.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/darling-hammond-us-vs-highest-achieving-nations-in-education/2011/03/22/ABkNeaCB_blog.html

Please do the right thing and put solid funding for education in place. Do not rely on a dying oil industry to fund the future of the state. Take a stand and do the right thing.

Thank you for your time,
Sami King

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Comeau_Carol [Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:23 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Cc: Sen. Kevin Meyer; School Board; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org); Carl F.N. Rose; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Once again, I want to thank you for your past support for funding education. We have been able to make major strides forward because of the past three years of education funding increases in the BSA and for Intensive Needs students. We are very excited about the possibility of an increase to the BSA and to Career and Technical Education in Senate Bill 84. The Anchorage voters clearly supported our Career and Technical Education bond yesterday, and we are hoping that an increase to the C and TE funding in SB 84 will allow us to enhance our C and TE program. We firmly believe that will lead to a higher graduation rate, and lower drop out rate, for our students.

I realize that there are many issues surrounding education funding, and I hope that some increase to the BSA and C and TE is possible for school year 2011-2012 and beyond.

Thank you all for your service and consideration.

Carol Comeau
Superintendent
Anchorage School District

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Kito_John [Kito_John@asdk12.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:00 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Representataive Charisse Millett; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Subject: School Funding
Importance: High

To All Anchorage Legislators and members of Senate Finance:

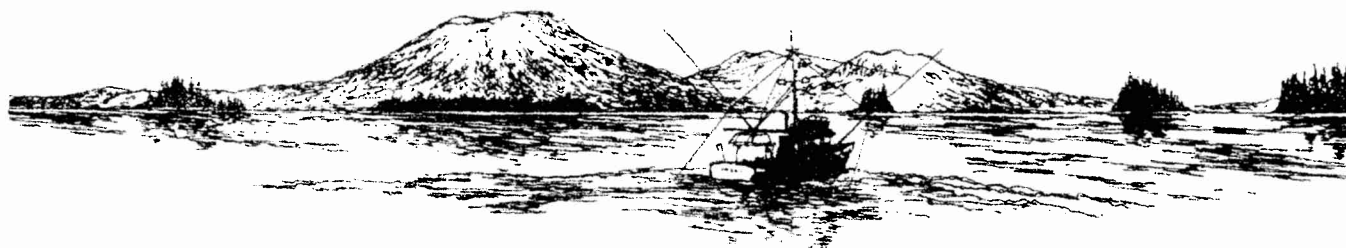
Good morning, I would like to thank you all for what you have done in previous years to support Education in Alaska. I have been working in education and with students for many years and find that there I have a need to ask for your support to continue what we have been successful in doing, educating the children of the Great State of Alaska. Please consider the importance of increasing the BSA and CTE funding in the current Senate Bill 84. This piece of legislation would allow our city to keep up with inflation and to increase CTE offerings. I thank you for your careful consideration to an increase in public school funding. John Kito

John Kito, National Distinguished Principal William Tyson School
2801 Richmond Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99508
742-8000 School 742-8008 Fax

SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.ssd.k12.ak.us

300 Kostrometinoff
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone: (907) 747-8622
Fax: (907) 966-1260



RESOLUTION OF THE SITKA SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution No. 2011-01

SUPPORT FOR THE PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 84

The Sitka School Board resolves to urge the 27th Legislature to pass Senate Bill 84 which provides for a three year funding increase to the base student allocation and incorporates a 1% block grant to be used for career and technical education within school districts.

Passed Unanimously and Approved on April 5, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Garrison', written over a horizontal line.

Lon Garrison, President

"Educating Today's Children to Become Tomorrow's Leaders"

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:34 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SUPPORT SENATE BILL 84

From: Kristen M. Gallo [<mailto:kristen.olive@k12northstar.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:33 AM

To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Bob Miller; Sen. John Coghill

Subject: SUPPORT SENATE BILL 84

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Please consider supporting Senate Bill 84. I am a Special Education Teacher in the State of Alaska. I have seen the benefit of the math tutoring first hand. I also see a need to support Vocational and Technical Programs and promote them in the schools.

I work in a math class with a math tutor, and have had the math tutor in my Study Hall. Students have difficulty and anxiety about math and it makes an amazing difference with student performance and confidence to have 1:1 support in the math area. Students who have difficulty also go and work with our Math Tutor before school. These students come in on their own time to be better learners and master math content. Students want to do well and learn, it is our responsibility as community members and educators to create those opportunities for all students.

Technical and Vocational training are critical to Alaska's future. It is important that we have well-educated, and skilled workers that will stay and work in Alaska. I have personally written letter's of recommendation for students that are excited to apply to the high school vocational and technical program. We need to give students a wide variety of options for their future.

If we do not continue to fund tutoring and vocational programs and have the ability to keep class sizes smaller, our Alaskan community will suffer. Let us support a strong community by educating our students to the best of our ability, by giving them the confidence and the options to let them be all they can be in their lives.

Please Support Senate Bill 84, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kristen Olive

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:34 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: CONSTITUENT - FW: ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS and SB84

From: Roland K. Ginnaty [<mailto:roland.ginnaty@k12northstar.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:41 AM

To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Bob Miller; Sen. John Coghill

Subject: ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS and SB84

Dear Sirs and MS,

I am concerned that if the Senate does not fund the **ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS** that a lot of our most talented Seniors will leave the state to go to school outside and not return.

The Alaska Scholars Scholarship for the top 10% is awarded and not used by most of those that receive them because they are heavily recruited by schools outside. Those that are only a few grade points below the top 10%, even those with 4.00GPA, are left without the same options to go to school in state, funded by the state.

What we are effectively doing is exporting our future.

I also would like to say I do Support SB84.

The increase in the base student allocation in the last few years has helped our school district fund programs that are making huge differences in our children's lives. Math is the best example I can give. In my school there are a number of students who fail to learn when class sizes are too large. Every day I see 5-6 different at-risk students going to math tutoring class at 8:30 a.m.--their own time! They WOULD NOT be passing a math class without this one-on-one instruction.

. We will go backwards if this allocation does not keep up with inflation. Understand that every child is unique, they do not learn new concepts in a one mold-fits-all concept.

. Kids are Alaska's future. We should fund programs that

are making
all the difference in our children's lives now, and in the future.
. Vocational and technical training are critical to
Alaska's future.
These programs not only keep kids in school, they also provide a
trained
workforce for our economy and support business. If vocational and
technical
training is not funded, individuals will suffer, and Alaska's
economy will
suffer. Every year I am asked to write a letter of recommendation
for a student who wants to be admitted to a school to learn auto
mechanics, or nursing. Not every student wishes to pursue
college, we need to keep the appropriate curriculum open for them
to succeed.
. Please support Senate Bill 84.

Sincerely,

Roland Ginnaty

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:35 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84 support

-----Original Message-----

From: Mrs. Andriesen [<mailto:landriesen@hbsd.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:46 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: SB 84 support

Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of SB84. I believe it is important to do forward funding for schools so they can plan their budget in advance. Schools need adequate funding in order to operate all their programs. Our school in Haines is down to a bare bones operating budget. If our district takes cuts in the form of increasing costs, we would have to cut major programs or grade level teachers.

It is important to put our resources into educating our future.

Thank you for listening to me,
Lisa Andriesen
Haines, Alaska

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:35 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Increasing Student Allocations

-----Original Message-----

From: March, Fran [<mailto:Fran.March@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Increasing Student Allocations

Dear Senator,

Thank you for considering increasing the student allocation for Alaskan students. As you know, many students struggle to gain the academic skills needed to compete in the job market. There are many reasons why; but I will speak about two in my letter.

Increasing student achievement must be a team effort. When I attended college, one of the theorists I studied was Maslow. Maslow said that before students can learn, they must have their primary needs met and feel safe. This is referred to as "Maslow's Hierarchy". Students coming to school from safe environments where they are well fed, provided adequate clothing to keep warm, and given encouragement to "do your best" goes along way to support student growth. Educators, legislators, health and welfare providers need to come together so we can all raise a child to meet their potential. It is a community effort. Big Brothers Big Sisters has come to Kodiak through the and I am thankful we have a program like this to help us "raise" our kids. This effort came through the efforts of the Kodiak Area Native Association as well as with people at the Child Abuse Prevention Summit. They are coordinating efforts with other agencies in our community. This is an excellent example of team work. This involves a system that works together efficiently to serve the needs of all. Legislative funding needs to encourage agencies working together.

We need dedicated educators who are well trained to work with a variety of cultures and in a variety of settings. We need to be competitive with other states in drawing the best teachers to Alaska. We need to grow our own Alaskan teachers who already understand the critical needs of our communities. This does mean adequate salaries, health compensation, and housing for teachers in communities around our state. It means on-going training so our teachers can reaffirm skills or learn new skills. Teachers do make a difference in a young person's life because they work with them daily not only to improve academic skills, but to help nurture a child in becoming a productive citizen. We need the best teachers in front of our students who are willing to work together to increase student achievement so all Alaskan's will be productive in the work place.

Education is expensive, but the results of a good education can make our state a strong competitive environment. Good teachers and administrators are worth every cent. As I reading teacher, I have had students come into my program four to five years behind. Within two years I have caught them up to their peers or advanced them beyond their peers in the area of reading. I have improved my skill through continued training and on-going education. I am

dedicated to our students. I have worked in this profession for over 30 years and am passionate about student achievement. Other less veteran teachers are coming into the profession with no less passion, but will continue to need ongoing training and support to meet the needs of every student. We need to attract the best educators to this profession.

Thanks,

Fran Yates-March

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:35 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: support for SB84

From: Howard and Noelle Carbone [<mailto:carbone@mtaonline.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:52 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: support for SB84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing regarding SB84 to strive for more consistent school funding. This bill is so important for the quality of education in our state and I respectfully urge you to support the passage of this bill. I am a parent and PTA board member at Talkeetna Elementary. Our school is doing so much with so little resources, and as it is budget time again our small school is facing yet more cuts its teaching staff. I am deeply concerned that the school will not be able to function as it is suppose to in the face of more cuts. We need investment in education to ensure that our children have the smallest class size possible. With so much focus on oil and gas issues, we tend to forget that our greatest resource is our children. Alaska can afford to to this for our children and should be proud to do so.

As a small rural school our community has very few resources to tap into when school funds are cut. We are already doing a lot with a little. I am so proud and constantly impressed with our teachers as I see how dedicated they are to our children. Please put education funding as a high priority.

I thank you for the work you do, as I know this is a busy and hectic time for you.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Noelle Carbone
907-733-1237

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:36 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Pass SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Cisco-Robyn Ramos [<mailto:ramos@gci.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:16 AM
Cc: Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz
Subject: Pass SB 84

Thanks for moving this out of Senate Finance. I hope it will have continued success in the House.

The entire state will benefit from this bill passing.

Thank you,
Robyn Ramos
parent of two students in the Juneau School District

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:37 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: CONSTITUENT - FW: Please support SB 84

From: Cheryl Cameron [<mailto:cheryl.cameron@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:52 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. John Coghill
Subject: Please support SB 84

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask you to support Senate Bill 84, which aids school funding in keeping up with inflation. It's unconscionable to have our school districts with budget shortfalls while the State now projects a 3.4 billion dollar surplus. Our schools really do ensure the future of Alaska, and our childrens' education should not be vulnerable because of political machinations.

Increasing the base student allocation does valuable things for our children and our community. The math and reading tutors are fantastic resources, and smaller class sizes benefit every child. Last year my child was in a kindergarten class that was 31 children during the part of the day when afternoon and morning kids were together. It was way too many children - not just for the teacher to teach, but even for the classroom's square footage. This year she is in a class of 20-24 first graders, and there is an enormous difference! Smaller class sizes should be our priority, not larger! With approximately half of entering UA students needing remedial math and reading, I'm dumbfounded about why we would want to not better fund our elemenatary, middle, and secondary school programs.

Thank you for your work representing us in Juneau - please support SB 84.

Cheryl Cameron
Fairbanks

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:59 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB84

From: Heather Lende [<mailto:hlende@aptalaska.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:57 PM
To: Sen. Lesil McGuire
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: SB84

Dear Senator McGuire and honorable senators,

Funding Alaska's public schools well is the best investment the senate can make in our state's future. All five of my children attended the Haines School, two are college graduates, one will graduate from the University of Colorado in May and two are enrolled at UAA. All of them make Alaska home or plan to after graduation. I have a granddaughter who is a few years away from kindergarten and a big reason her parents live in Haines is because of the school. Our community supports it as much as we are able through property tax, sales tax, donations, volunteers, and booster clubs. Please make sure the state contributes at least as well. I'd hate to see young families leave Alaska for better opportunities for their children. This is a wonderful place to live and work, and for many Alaskans, especially in rural areas, the only option for education remains the public school system. Weak schools lead to unstable communities. You don't have to be a college grad to know stable communities make for a stronger Alaska socially and economically. I trust you'll agree with me and the Haines school board and support SB 84.

Thank you,

Heather Lende

<http://heatherlende.com/>
<http://www.facebook.com/heatherlende>

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:59 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: CONSTITUENT - FW: Please support Senate Bill 84

From: Duncan Marriott [<mailto:duncan.marriott@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:25 PM
To: Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. John Coghill; Rep. Bob Miller
Subject: Please support Senate Bill 84

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask you to support Senate Bill 84, which aids school funding in keeping up with inflation.

In a very fundamental way, the economic future of Alaskan communities rests entirely on the skills we teach our children today. The future innovators and leaders of Alaska are today working hard to learn how to read, how to add, how to understand science. The world will judge Alaska by measuring our student's skills and abilities as they take over from us.

Which of them should we not teach?

As inflation acts to reduce the real per-student investment we provide to our schools, to which child should we say "Sorry, we can't afford to teach you how to read well"? As we stash billions of dollars from the budget surplus into savings accounts, to which parent should we say "We could help you prepare your child for college, but we think it is better to put the money in the bank instead"? As oil companies can find fewer and fewer qualified Alaskans to fill their "highly skilled, highly paid" jobs, forcing them to hire people from outside who will bring their salaries back to their home state, should we really say "yeah, but look at how big our surplus was!" ?

Our children are our future. Our schools require more funding to meet current educational needs, not less. The money we spend on education will come back to us many times over in economic growth.

Thank you for all your hard work, and for being my voice in Juneau. Please support Senate Bill 84

Duncan Marriott
Fairbanks

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:37 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: CONSTITUENT - FW: Please support SB 84

From: Cheryl Cameron [<mailto:cheryl.cameron@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:52 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. John Coghill
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Thank you for your work representing us in Juneau - please support SB 84.

Cheryl Cameron
Fairbanks

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