

Murray Richmond

From: The Murphy family <sitkakids@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 1:02 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: Re: Increase in School Funding

Dear Governor Parnell & Alaska State Legislators,

My husband & I live in Sitka and have 3 children attending the Sitka School District.

Please pass legislation this session that increases the Base Student Allocation.

In Sitka our school district is facing a severe budget shortfall that will translate into fewer teachers and significant cuts in extracurricular activities. One of our state's priorities must be education. Graduates of schools with low student to teacher ratios & opportunities to participate in a wide range of school related activities will become the work force of the future our great state needs. In turn this workforce will want to remain in Alaska raising their children here in order to have them attend our state supported schools.

Thank you for putting education first in Alaska.

Sincerely,
Gerald & Richelle Murphy

From: Murray Richmond

Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 4:03 PM
To: chris.pastro@k12northstar.org ; brprietila@yahoo.com ; jenclarke11@gmail.com ; akbarnhills@gmail.com ; hammad99829@yahoo.com ; kjanssen@ptialaska.net ; landrew@swrsd.org ; mailto:bill.watkins@www.kibsd.org ; clark.putt@gmail.com ; ehhilt@gmail.com ; Kris Benson ; Tom Conley ; Robert Thomason ; Cindy Reilly ; Eddie Campbell ; Lon Garrison ; Watkins, Bill ; scrawfor@alaska.net ; Sally McLaughlin ; kgearhart@crsd.k12.ak.us ; Kathy Gearhart ; dldmevenden@hotmail.com ; dihles@gci.net ; wmcleod@dlgsd.org ; sbutterfield@chathamhsd.org ; mdavis@cordovasd.org ; Ex_Steve@asdk12.org ; shelagh.sands@gmail.com ; darsie@live.com ; Dave Rees ; sitkakids@yahoo.com ; amy_kesten@jsd.k12.ak.us ; andimike@ak.net ; alweinberg@hydaburg.k12.ak.us ; jbirdreed@gmail.com ; mailto:jane.eisemann@www.kibsd.org ; mbyer@hbsd.net ; kcleary@aptalaska.net ; Janet_capito@jsd.k12.ak.us ; rdm@gci.net ; jnygaard@cordovasd.org ; erin_mitchell@jsd.k12.ak.us ; Kennedy_Crystal@asdk12.org ; Slyon@KPBSD.k12.ak.us ; mailto:Lindsey.Cassidy@www.kibsd.org ; jayamylloyd@earthlink.net ; timitullis@yahoo.com ; kristie@alaskaglacierseafoods.com ; brianna.pannell@gmail.com ; jrellis@gci.net ; schwartz.jp.lf@gmail.com ; mailto:annekilkenny@hotmail.com ; Neel_julye@asdk12.org ; shelagh.sands@gmail.com ; wjacobsen@cordovasd.org ; Ty Mase ; Liebner Sue ; Mary DeSpain ; Nancy lehnhart ; Roach Wade ; friedman_jeff@asdk12.org ; mpcollins@acsalaska.net ; jnygaard@cordovasd.org ; dcollins@cordovasd.org ; dcaposey@skagwayschool.org ; lucafrances@asdk12.org ; sgoudreau@valdez.cc ; ballen@kuspuk.org ; alweinberg@hydaburg.k12.ak.us ; Ellen Pavitt ; schoolboard@thurstons.us ; scrawfor@alaska.net ; Klawock School ; wmcleod@dlgsd.org ; Olson_Robin@asdk12.org

Subject: Increase in School Funding

Dear Parents, Teachers, Administrators and others who care about our children,

You are receiving this letter because you wrote us last year concerning an increase in school funding through raising the Base Student Allocation (BSA). As you probably know, the measure passed the Senate, but was stripped out of the House bill. There was a one-time \$20 million put in, but that did not affect the overall BSA.

Senator Thomas and the Senate Education Committee will be introducing another BSA bill this year, and we welcome your support. Currently the bill is being introduced, and does not have a number at this time. (There is a funding increase bill from Senator Davis's office, but we are going to ask for more than the amounts in her bill.)

The bill is currently scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee on January 27 at 8:00 am. We will be looking for some people to testify on that morning, but more important, we can use emails from supporters of school funding. You can send them to me at this email address, and they will be included in the Senate packet for the bill. We are **ESPECIALLY** looking for letters from parents. It is very effective to present a package of emails to the committee, and to say that a large percentage are from parents. But if you are a teacher, school board member or administrator, please go ahead and send us an email of support. Just try to get a parent to send one as well!

We appreciate your support and time. I will keep you posted on the status of the bill. If you do NOT want to receive emails from me regarding this issue, please let me know and I will take you off the distribution list. If you know of someone who should be getting these emails, then forward their address to me.

Again, thank you for your time and efforts.

Murray Richmond

Legislative Aide

Senator Joe Thomas

(907) 465-6443

Murray Richmond

From: bjpagano <bjpagano@uas.alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 12:32 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: Increase in School Funding

To: Senator Joe Thomas,

I am writing this email because of my interest regarding future budget cuts within the Juneau School District.

My concern and desire to write this email came after I learned that the district is considering cutting 6 of the 10 nurse positions currently being held in the district. I very much understand the need of budget cutting, however, I am not at all in favor of cutting positions that will effect the health and well being of all students while attending school.

My daughter, started kindergarten at MRCS and is now a junior at TMHS, She has Type 1 Diabetes (her pancreas no longer produces insulin) and Celiac disease (not able to digest and process wheat).

When first diagnosed, with Diabetes, my daughter was in the 4th grade.

I spent a great deal of time with the school nurse learning how we would best manage my daughters chronic condition while she was attending school. The first year of treatment required 5 injections of insulin a day, frequent blood sugar checks and readily available snacks - all required to control and bring blood sugar levels to "normal" range. I was at the mercy of the school nurse to provide the needed care, including injections, that my daughter could not self administer and to help guide her with the proper care in order to sustain normal range blood sugar levels. My daughters already restricted diet became even more challenging when she was diagnosed with Celiac Disease in the 9th grade. A further restricted diet alters her care, most "snacks" to raise blood sugars contain wheat. The knowledge and professional care provided by a nurse, someone a parent can trust, allows me to "breathe" leaving my child 7-8 hours a day out of my own personal care.

Confident that the proper care is being administered by a nurse and with the assurance of my child's safety gives me peace of mind daily. (To be blunt and truthful, a diabetic, if not properly treated, within 15 minutes can become unconsciousness, have a seizure or even die.)

Diabetes/Celiac Disease is only one of the many major medical condition in which nurses play a valuable part of during the course of a work day.

Please reconsider the budget cuts in the area of school nurses, the con's far outweigh the pro's.

KEEP OUR SCHOOL NURSES to care for our loved ones who have daily challenges and are entitled to the same education as a healthy child.

The nurses see too it that this is possible!

Please consider an increase in school funding to keep our children safe, and even possibly saving their lives.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Brenda Pagano
POB 211254
Auke Bay, AK 99821

(907) 723-4263

Murray Richmond

From: Jasmine Jackson <jasmine.jackson@Goldbelt.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 11:51 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: BSA Increase

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am a parent of a Juneau School District elementary student and an active member of the Native Cultural education community. I am writing to encourage you to increase educational funding through raising the base student allocation, in addition to other proposed funding increases.

The proposed JSD budget cuts will negatively impact the quality of education our children currently receive. As a Native parent who is actively involved in my child's education I have noticed, at Mendenhall River Community school in particular, the positive impact both the classroom Para educators and the cultural Para educator has had on student learning. These educators give our students the additional one-on-one instruction from an adult that a single teacher cannot provide with large classroom numbers. This is not only a funding issue, but an issue of equity and quality education for our students.

By raising the BSA and other purposed funding increases, you will ensure our children are given the support they need to thrive in school. Please support our schools, our educators and our future, for that is exactly what our children are.

Gunalchéesh!

Jasmine Jackson

Jasmine D. Jackson

Education Projects Coordinator

Goldbelt Heritage Foundation

3200 Hospital Drive, Suite 200

Mailing: 3075 Vintage Boulevard, Suite 200

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Phone (907) 790-1464, Cell 723-8079

FAX (907) 790-4999

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 11:38 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: in suport of SB 171

From: Frank Turner [mailto:ra7rose7@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 11:08 AM

To: Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Charlie Huggins; sen.dennis.egan@legis.state.ak; Sen. Dennis Egan; sen.egan.dennis@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Johnny Ellis; sen.lindsey.holmes@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us; holmes@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Joe Thomas

Subject: in suport of SB 171

Hi

I support SB 171

Let help our children get a good education.

We waste a lot of money, lets find our cuts elsewhere and take care of our children.

Frank Turner

Alaskan Voter

Murray Richmond

From: Jeff Hoover <juneaufour@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 11:18 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: Support of BSA increase

I understand Senator Thomas is introducing legislation to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for K-12 Education. I am a parent of two boys (elementary and high school) in the Juneau school system and I support the increase.

I have worked with school budgets at the elementary school site council level and Juneau district level and I know the school system is not perfect. However, the JSD is facing a large budget deficit due to increasing costs and flat revenues. The JSD budget gets about 63 percent of revenue from the state (includes PERS) and the rest from the city, feds and other grants. The JSD budget is about 90 percent personal services and most of that is invested in the actual schools, including teachers, principals, counselors, librarians, janitors, etc. Even with all this state and federal funding, parents and teachers are constantly doing fund raisers to pay for activities and school supplies. JSD is trying to make changes to improve their programs but it takes monies funded from the BSA. It seems like more funds are needed each year due to federal requirements and to replace lost grant monies (federal and other types). Increasing the BSA is very important to keep the school system stable.

Keeping students engage in the classroom in the 21st century takes more technology (and monies) than in the past - pens and paper are far cheaper than computers. It is also important to have a low pupil to teacher ratio as kids get more exposure to the teacher and can learn much more. Both of my kids are good students and I can personally say it was due to good and committed teachers leading small classrooms. It is amazing to think teachers are trying to teach our kids when the odds are 26 (or more) to 1. I have a hard enough time teaching my 2 boys at the same time let alone 24 other kids. I don't think we appreciate teachers enough and I don't think they are overpaid for the work they are doing with our kids. They may not work all year, but the time they spend in the classroom is well worth the investment in education.

Thank-you for your support of education.

Jeff Hoover
4416 Ichabod Lane
Juneau AK 99801

Murray Richmond

From: Elissa Borges <elissa.borges@Goldbelt.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 10:58 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: Parent Support for BSA

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am a parent of a Juneau School District elementary student and I am writing to encourage you to increase school funding through raising the base student allocation in addition to other proposed funding increases. Obviously the proposed JSD budget cuts will negatively impact the quality of education our children currently receive. By raising the BSA you become part of the village we need to ensure our children thrive in school. Please support our schools and our children.

Gunalchéesh,
Elissa Borges
Lead Curriculum Specialist
Goldbelt Heritage Foundation
3200 Hospital Drive, Suite 202
(work) 790-1468 (cell) 321-6801

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 8:08 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Education Funding

From: Lillian Wilder [mailto:silverworksbylillian@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 12:08 AM

To: Sen. Joe Thomas

Cc: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Rep. Chris Tuck

Subject: Education Funding

Senator Thomas,

I applaud your move to increase per student base rate funding for education! I am a senior who, looking back on my life, realize how important my education was, not only in my ability be an active citizen but also to add to our family income and even to support myself as a widow.

Alaska needs to invest in today's children so they can become successful graduates and contribute to our communities and state.

Alaska's wealth make this easily affordable.

Thank you,

Lillian Wilder

7521 Margaret Circle

Anchorage, AK 9918

Murray Richmond

From: Grier Hopkins
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 8:07 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

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

From: Poms@legis.state.ak.us [mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:49 PM
To: Grier Hopkins
Subject: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Jacqueline Scholle
Po Box 58701

Fairbanks 99711-8701,
jackiks1@gci.net

It would be beneficial to everyone in the state to increase the base student funding allocation so that school districts have adequate resources to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind as well as continuing to provide high quality educational opportunities for our children.

January 27, 2012

Dear Senate Education Committee: Members:

My name is Debbie Lowenthal and I am a parent of two children in the Juneau School District. I am here today to represent the Gastineau Community School Site Council. The Gastineau Site Council appreciates the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 171 which will increase the BSA in each of the next three years. This will help the Juneau School District continue to provide small classroom sizes which has been shown to be one of the greatest ways to ensure that children succeed in school. Furthermore, services for children in extended learning could continue, ensuring appropriate challenges for the highest achieving students. Paraeducators are a crucial part of the education team at Gastineau and support students who have extra educational needs. Our specialists at Gastineau and the other elementary schools give children rich experiences in music, art, literature and physical education, all which have been shown to improve student achievement. School nurses are a vital part of each schools education team and help keep all children healthy and safe, and this BSA increase would keep school nurses at each school site. For some children the school nurse is their only link to health care. Thank you for recognizing the need for more funding for education in Alaska schools.

Sincerely,

Gastineau Site Council

Members:

Dave D'Amore

Tony DeSanto

Kirk Stagg

Becky Enstrom

Catherine Pusich

Kelly Shattuck

Debbie Vance

Heather Crondahl

Kathi Yanamura

Monica Haygood

Peter Cross

Murray Richmond

From: Jasmine Jackson <jasmine.jackson@Goldbelt.com>
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Jasmine Jackson

Jasmine D. Jackson
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Legislative Aide

Senator Joe Thomas

(907) 465-6443

Murray Richmond

From: Jeff Hoover <juneaufour@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 1:49 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: Re: Support of BSA increase

Just to clarify. I don't work for the Juneau school system, but I volunteered my time on review of school budgets. Thanks Jeff

From: Jeff Hoover <juneaufour@yahoo.com>
To: "murray_richmond@legis.state.ak.us" <murray_richmond@legis.state.ak.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 11:17 AM
Subject: Support of BSA increase

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Thank-you for your support of education.

Jeff Hoover
4416 Ichabod Lane
Juneau AK 99801

Murray Richmond

From: Edra Morledge
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 3:31 PM
To: Murray Richmond; Tim Lamkin; Lila Hobbs; Thomas Obermeyer
Cc: Lindsay Williams; Jonathon Taylor
Subject: FW: SB 139 and SB 171

From: Bob Pawlowski
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 3:28 PM
To: Edra Morledge
Subject: FW: SB 139 and SB 171

From: Comeau_Carol [mailto:Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Cc: Comeau_Carol; Laule_Marie; Stiteler_Chad; Level I; School Board; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacs.org); Karen.Rehfeld@alaska.gov; mike.hanley@alaska.gov
Subject: SB 139 and SB 171

Dear Senators:

I am not able to testify on Senate Bills 139 or 171 tomorrow morning due to another commitment so I hope these comments can be entered into the record for your consideration.

First of all, I want to thank all of you for being such outstanding advocates for our public schools in Anchorage, and in the state. We sincerely appreciate your support, both financial and in so many other ways! We applaud your service by being on the Senate Education committee.

As you probably know, I have just released my preliminary budget to the public and to the School Board for their consideration. This budget will have two more public hearings on February 1 and February 9; the School Board will probably make some changes to my preliminary budget. After they complete their work, our budget is transmitted to the Municipality and the Assembly by March 5 which is required by our municipal charter. Our Assembly public hearing is scheduled for March 27 where they will set the upper limit of spending and the level of local contribution to the Anchorage School District. After that time, we have to wait until the legislature and the governor complete your work to determine the level of funding we will have access to. If an increase occurs, we revise our budget again, and reinstate what we can, and then we have to go back to the Assembly for permission to spend the funds if they exceed the already approved upper limit.

As you can imagine. This budget cycle undermines our credibility, and takes a great deal of time and energy to continually revise our budgets. The emotional turmoil on potentially impacted employees is destructive to their morale and ability to focus on their important work of educating our students, and doing their jobs.

We are making excellent use of the additional C and TE funds from SB 84 last year and encourage you to visit some of our high schools to see how these funds are being used to expand our career pathway programs. We would ask that you give serious consideration to expanding the flexibility for the use of these funds for at least middle schools and high schools (grades 6-12) so that we can support our career planning in the middle schools. We have had to recommend the deletion of our career guides in the middle schools for next year, and having the flexibility to use the C and TE funds for the middle grades would allow more expansion of our construction, health and pre-engineering academies.

I urge you to support the funding for the next three years as proposed by the Education Committee in SB 171. The years that we had advance notice of our funding increases as a result of the Education Funding Task Force which was co-chaired by Rep. Mike Hawker and Sen. Bert Stedman allowed us to plan and avoid our annual "guessing as to our funding" as I described above. All districts in the state benefitted from this funding and would urge you to reinstate a three year BSA increase that allowed us to compensate, at a minimum, for inflation and increased costs of doing our work.

Additionally, we are urging you to consider reinstating the COLA to the Pupil Transportation funding for all districts which provide pupil transportation. All districts are having to use their instructional revenue to pay the costs of their transportation contracts. Costs are going up for fuel, tires, repairs, and bus purchases.

Again, my sincere thank you for your long-standing support for education. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about these statements, or if you have a need for more information.

Sincerely,
Carol Comeau
Superintendent
Anchorage School District

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 3:35 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 139 and SB 171

From: Comeau_Carol [mailto:Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Cc: Comeau_Carol; Laule_Marie; Stiteler_Chad; Level I; School Board; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacs.org); Karen.Rehfeld@alaska.gov; mike.hanley@alaska.gov
Subject: SB 139 and SB 171

Dear Senators:

I am not able to testify on Senate Bills 139 or 171 tomorrow morning due to another commitment so I hope these comments can be entered into the record for your consideration.

First of all, I want to thank all of you for being such outstanding advocates for our public schools in Anchorage, and in the state. We sincerely appreciate your support, both financial and in so many other ways! We applaud your service by being on the Senate Education committee.

As you probably know, I have just released my preliminary budget to the public and to the School Board for their consideration. This budget will have two more public hearings on February 1 and February 9; the School Board will probably make some changes to my preliminary budget. After they complete their work, our budget is transmitted to the Municipality and the Assembly by March 5 which is required by our municipal charter. Our Assembly public hearing is scheduled for March 27 where they will set the upper limit of spending and the level of local contribution to the Anchorage School District. After that time, we have to wait until the legislature and the governor complete your work to determine the level of funding we will have access to. If an increase occurs, we revise our budget again, and reinstate what we can, and then we have to go back to the Assembly for permission to spend the funds if they exceed the already approved upper limit.

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Sincerely,
Carol Comeau
Superintendent
Anchorage School District

Murray Richmond

From: Edra Morledge
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 3:41 PM
To: Murray Richmond; Tim Lamkin; Lila Hobbs; Thomas Obermeyer
Cc: Lindsay Williams; Jonathon Taylor
Subject: FW: SB 139 and SB 171

SB 171 Support

From: Comeau_Carol [mailto:Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Cc: Comeau_Carol; Laule_Marie; Stiteler_Chad; Level I; School Board; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacs.org); Karen.Rehfeld@alaska.gov; mike.hanley@alaska.gov
Subject: SB 139 and SB 171

Dear Senators:

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Again, my sincere thank you for your long-standing support for education. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about these statements, or if you have a need for more information.

Sincerely,
Carol Comeau
Superintendent
Anchorage School District

Murray Richmond

From: Kris and Nathan Coffee <upcoffee@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 3:41 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: School funding

I support increasing school funding! Thank you for fighting for our students in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kris Coffee
Parent of two Juneau students.

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 8:17 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 171 Increase in Student Base Allocation

From: Linda Kellen [mailto:celticdivaak@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 10:38 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. Chris Tuck; Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: SB 171 Increase in Student Base Allocation

Dear Legislators:

I spent a good part of two days watching the Anchorage School Board have their working session on the Superintendent-proposed school budget. Because Governor Sean Parnell has flat-funded education in his proposed budget, the cuts to the ASD could be deep and debilitating. The educator testifying in regards to proposed cuts for the high schools stated that we would lose ground gained the last several years in both drop-out rates and graduation rates. All summer school programs would be eliminated and that includes the methods by which high school students can get "credit-recovery" in order to graduate.

My understanding is that the Fairbanks and Juneau School Districts are in much the same shape. I also understand that some of the rural schools aren't sure how they are going to make it through the year.

There is something very wrong with our Alaska State Schools not being funded to cover inflation and other rising costs (like energy) so that they must dig into their education programs just to survive.

Senator Thomas has created a good bill in SB 171. The \$125.00 Student Base Allocation increase is desperately needed. I hope the rest of the Senate is able to see that as well.

Linda Kellen Biegel
(907) 830-9458
Facebook
Twitter

Murray Richmond

From: patty tackett <pattytackett@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 12:53 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: In support of Increasing funding for Education programs

Hello. my name is Patricia S. Tackett

I am member of ANS Camp 2; Juneau Indian Studies Program, Parent Board member and Vice President for Camp 2. I am in favor of increasing funding for educational programs. Thank you for time and energy on this matter, and please include my vote on this matter.

Murray Richmond

From: Grier Hopkins
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 3:12 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

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

From: Poms@legis.state.ak.us [mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 2:08 PM
To: Grier Hopkins
Subject: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Jennifer Malecha
18224 Point Stephens Rd

Juneau 99801,
jenandpat@gci.net
957-0801
523-9301

Alaskan schools are hurting. In Juneau, school nurses are on the chopping block. My son has type 1 diabetes and requires medical care at school. If you know a child with medical issues you understand that having a RN in every school is a necessity. Please support SB 171.

Thanks!

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 3:15 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 171 Support
Attachments: SB 171 Support.doc

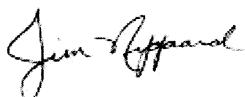
From: Jim Nygaard [mailto:jnygaard@cordovasd.org]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 2:59 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: Jeannie Blake
Subject: Senate Bill 171 Support

Greetings Senator Thomas,

Please accept the attached document as support for Senate Bill 171. Although I was on the schedule to testify this morning, my time ran out due to additional appointments. I very much appreciated the presentation by Murray Richmond regarding this bill, as his detail and data was very impressive.

Thanks for your support of our Alaska Children.

Respectfully,



Jim Nygaard
Superintendent of Schools
Cordova School District
PO Box 140
Cordova, Alaska 99574
Office: 907-424-3265
Fax: 907-424-3271
Email: jnygaard@cordovasd.org

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Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:43 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 171

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

From: Norm Stout [mailto:stoutnw@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:30 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Senate Bill 171

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I ask for your full support of Senate Bill 171; increasing funding for schools and students in Alaska. Education should be the priority for funding and the future of our state. Don't strangle our future leaders!

Thanks again for your support,

Wendy Stout
10130 N. Waldo Reed Road
Palmer, AK 99645

Murray Richmond

From: Sara M. Wood <sara.wood@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 12:22 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: Student Allocation Funds

Dear Mr. Richmond-

I am writing because I am extremely concerned with the lack of support for public education in Alaska! I was raised in Fairbanks and am now a teacher here because I received a great education here in Alaska. I taught my first year out of college in Portland, Oregon and that showed me right away that I wanted to teach in a community and state that supports public education. I moved back to Alaska because public education has been supported so it has been successful. The smartest way we can invest in the future of Alaska is through educating our youth!

The rising cost of utility bills alone in Fairbanks shows that the cost per child needs to increase. The electrical cost has gone up 23% in Fairbanks in the calendar year of 2010. The price of fuel; vehicle and house continues to be higher than Anchorage by 15-20 cents a gallon. If you keep the cost per child the same this is really a cut because operations cost continue to rise when the money allotment per child does not.

Please support an increase in student allocated funds for Alaska.

Thank you for your Time.

Sincerely,
Sara Wood
FNSBSD Teacher

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:02 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB171 - In support of...

From: Jorgensens [mailto:jorgensen@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:25 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB171 - In support of...

Good Morning Senator Thomas,

My name is Cindy Jorgensen, I live in Fairbanks, AK and I am a parent of 3 kids. I was at Alaska Legislative Office in Fairbanks on Friday to testify on behalf of supporting SB171; however, due to many testimonies we were unable to speak at that time – and due to having to work, I was again unable to attend the Monday session. As you know, our district (along with many others I learned at the meeting) is facing large budget cuts this spring. SB 171 will help to restore some of the cuts. I also think it is wise of the legislature to forward fund, as this bill does...for three years. Without the help of the legislature, we are going to see services to students affected. I appreciate your support of this bill.

PS – I would appreciate that the time limits on testimony not be removed to provide everyone an opportunity; however, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to attend, listen, and to voice my support.

Sincerely, Cindy Jorgensen

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:22 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: education funding

From: dbwally [mailto:dbwally@cvinternet.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:51 AM
To: Rep. Alan Dick; Sen. Joe Thomas; wally
Subject: education funding

To: Alan Dick, Chairman House Education Committee

Last week I sent this letter to Joe Thomas, Co-chair of the Senate Education Committee. Since you are the Chairperson of the House Committee for Education, my District representative, and a concerned educator I believe it is appropriate that I send you a copy of the letter. I noticed with interest that you have taught in the bush but very little about you is on your web page. From your web page I did read an editorial that you wrote on educational reform and learned that you seem interested and knowledgeable about educational issues, especially rural issues. I could not help but notice that you have visited several schools in our area, Delta, Chistochina and Mentasta, in the little time you have been our representative. I realize that you have 46 communities in your district and I think that you know a cook book approach will not work in providing educational services District wide. But I do believe much can be learned by observing and copying what is being done in successful schools, therefore next time you are on a road trip stop in at Kenny Lake. Talk to the teachers, parents and students and I believe you will be pleasantly rewarded with the experience. I further encourage you to use your experience and knowledge in education to help Alaskans to receive the fair and necessary school funding for success in this ever changing world.

Thank you,

Denny Wallace
Kenny Lake, AK.

To: Joe Thomas, Co-chair Senate Education Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion on increasing the basic foundation formula for schools. I have lived in Alaska for over 30 years and have been encouraged with the school funding until now. It is important to know that I spent much of the previous 30 years residing in Valdez. They have adequate funding to run their schools and in the rare instances that they require addition funds they can request it from the city. To my knowledge every time they requested it they received needed funds from the city. As evidenced by their funding level I believe Valdez loves and **supports** their schools.

Two years ago our family moved to Kenny Lake, a rural community of 110 students who travel from 20+ miles in all directions to attend school. Several families who attend Kenny Lake Schools drive 12 miles on an unmaintained road to get to Chitna where the school bus picks them up for an hour trip to school. I asked one of the mothers "why not home school them?" and she said Kenny Lake was such a good school that it was worth her effort to make sure her kids got to school.

In Kenny Lake there is no budget reserve or waste to cut to absorb a lack of school funding from the State. Kenny Lake has no "city" from which we can request additional funds to help run our schools. My wife is currently a teacher at Kenny Lake Schools (Copper River School District) and because I am retired I have spent many hours observing and volunteering at the school. I know how much money she spends on supplies, food, prizes and equipment for her students; most of this is not reimbursed by the school. My wife recently told me that she has never worked so hard or loved a job so much as the one she currently has. After 25 years of teaching I believe the reason she loves her job so much is she sees how hard everyone in this community works to provide quality experiences for their children and she likes being on that team. While at school I have observed a vast volunteer network that cooks meals for extra-curricular activities, sells concessions, fund raises, drives hockey players to games, volunteers in classrooms and conducts school activities such as spelling bees, music concerts and other special events. There is a level of "supporting the schools" like I have never observed, and I have been observing for 65 years. I guess what I am saying is our community is giving all they can to help provide a quality education to our students. At this time there is no waste in our school. The parents have no more money or time to give. We need help from the only funding source that we currently have....the State. We know what to do, we just need to be allowed to do it. Kenny Lake loves and **supports** their schools but like other communities within Alaska we need the necessary funds to adequately operate them.

thank you,

Denny Wallace
Kenny Lake
822-3428

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:51 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 171

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

From: Jessica Dean [mailto:thefourdeans@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:38 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 171

Dear Senator Thomas:

I'm writing in support of SB 171 for many reasons. As a resident of Juneau, a parent of two elementary JSD students (one of which is both medically fragile and has a federal IEP and 504), and a spouse of a JSD teacher, I would truly appreciate your support for an increase in the BSA. The proposed budget cuts for JSD are ridiculous and embarrassing and hurt "the least of these" among the student population. It's encouraging and essential to hear school board members and budget committee members realizing the need for creative funding and less dependance on the State's BSA. In the mean time, medically fragile students, students with disabilities, students with exceptional academic performance, culturally neglected and at-risk students, students invested in nearly every area of the arts, all stand to suffer a significant loss in their education without an increase of the BSA.

Please appreciate the fact that there is nothing more important then the education and empowerment of a child. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Jessica Dean

Murray Richmond

From: Jen and Pat Malecha <jenandpat@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:50 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Cc: Murray Richmond
Subject: School Funding

Dear Senator Stedman,

Thank you so much for your service to our state and for making education one of your top priorities. I'm writing as a concerned Southeast Alaskan parent. My five year old son will be starting kindergarten this fall. As you know, Alaskan schools are hurting and are being forced to make far-reaching cuts. In Juneau along with 66 other positions school nurses are on the chopping block. My son has type 1 diabetes and requires medical care at school. In a matter of a few weeks I've gone from being confident and excited about my son starting kindergarten to feeling uncertain about his health and safety at school.

If children are truly Alaska's greatest resource it's time for the state to show that we care about our kids and schools by increasing the BSA. Every Alaskan wants to see our schools, achieve more, reduce waste, and be accountable for academic performance but withholding state funds does not fix schools. The sad fact is that withholding funds impacts the students not the system nor the administrators responsible for the state of our schools.

Please help our schools and schedule SB 171 in a timely manner. Again, thank you for your dedication and commitment to our state and to our kids.

Sincerely,
Jenny Malecha
523-9301

Murray Richmond

From: Grier Hopkins
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:36 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: Fwd: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Begin forwarded message:

From: <Poms@legis.state.ak.us>
Date: February 2, 2012 9:23:50 PM AKST
To: <grier.hopkins@legis.state.ak.us>
Subject: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Neil Black
3301 Creekside Dr

Anchorage 99504, nblack
goshrx@yahoo.com
907-742-4333
907-332-2818

Please pass SB171 that increases the base student allocation and provides Alaska's school districts with needed funding for the next three years. Stop the budgeting madness that flat funding causes--no pink slips! It's maddening! Schools do amazing work--please pass SB171. Thank you.

Murray Richmond

From: Grier Hopkins
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:46 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: Fwd: New Pom:HB 145 K-12 Scholarship Program

Begin forwarded message:

From: <Poms@legis.state.ak.us>
Date: February 4, 2012 6:33:09 PM AKST
To: <grier.hopkins@legis.state.ak.us>
Subject: New Pom:HB 145 K-12 Scholarship Program

Neil Black
3301 Creekside Dr

Anchorage 99504, nblack
goshrx@yahoo.com
907-742-4333
907-332-2818

HB145 is clearly unconstitutional, and does nothing to improve public education. The Finland model of education is what will make our schools better, not HB145. No religion in public schools!

Murray Richmond

From: Grier Hopkins on behalf of Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 10:35 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Porposed school budget cuts

From: Michael Annunziato [mailto:mpannunziato@alaska.edu]

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 9:42 AM

To: Sen. Joe Thomas

Subject: Porposed school budget cuts

Sir,

I'm writing this email to let you know that I DO NOT support any proposed school budget cuts. I have three children attending Woodriver elementary school and I don't feel that cuts to the school budget are warranted at this time. All three of my children are already in classes that are overcrowded. These proposed budget cuts would increase the number of students in the classrooms even more. As I'm sure you are aware, countless studies have shown that overcrowding in classrooms leads to poor grades, less student-teacher one-on-one time, poor scores on state tests, higher dropout rates, health issues, higher crime rates, and many other issues that will and are having an enormous effect on our state. Cuts in education is never the answer, it is the problem. A recent study published in the *American Journal of Public Health* showed that decreasing the number of kids in elementary classrooms is more cost-effective in the long run because smaller class sizes produces a larger number of students that graduate from high school, a greater number of students that go on to seek higher education, less crime, better overall health and life styles, and a well educated and productive workforce. All of these benefits are due to properly funding early education, not cutting early education. Our state pays more to treat substance abusers and house criminals than it does to educate our children. **Alaska pays FOUR TIMES as much money to house a criminal than it does to educate a student per year!** You have the chance to start reversing that trend by opposing these cuts to our children's education. Better education is the answer to so many problems that cost so much money.

So, please do the right thing and oppose any cuts to our children's education. You and all the other elected officials in Juneau should be spearheading a bill to create more money for our children's education not discussing ways to cut the little money that we spend on our state's future.

Thank you,
Michael Annunziato

Murray Richmond

From: Grier Hopkins on behalf of Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 10:36 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Parent supporting SB 171

From: Richard Monkman [mailto:rdmonkman@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:55 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan
Cc: sean.parnell@alaska.gov; 'Sally Saddler'; 'Andi Story'; greatalaskaschools@gmail.com; Glenn Gelbrich; 'Janette Gagnon'; 'Frank Coenraad'; 'Richard Monkman'; 'Gaffaney, Kristine D (EED)'; 'Ryan Alsup'; 'Mark S. Johnson'; da.luksta@gmail.com; 'Alan Gross'; dee.pearson@alaska.gov; ruby.steedle@live.com; teal@gci.net; harryhartle543@gmail.com; 'Asia Moreno-Goodwin'; jclbak@gci.net
Subject: Parent supporting SB 171

Dear Senators,

As the parent of two boys in the Juneau School District, and as the chair of the Juneau Douglas High School Site Council, I ask your support for SB 171.

Costs are increasing throughout our educational system—costs that the school districts cannot control or contain. As a result, each year our schools offer less and less. In Juneau, valuable programs that help our children succeed are being cut and are disappearing, one by one, as the budget (in real dollar terms) sinks. Foreign language programs have been slashed; cultural education programs for Native students are being eliminated; the gifted and talented program has been cut to the point where it really doesn't exist any longer.

There is no reason for this. As a parent, I believe that all children are entitled to a high quality public education. The future of Alaska and of our country depends on well-educated, knowledgeable citizens. Every student counts!

Please support SB 171. The increase in the base student allocation is critical, and forward funding SB 171 provides will allow our school districts to plan ahead.

Thank you.

Richard Monkman
957 Gold Belt Ave
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907.586.3542

Murray Richmond

From: Celeste Hodge
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 10:49 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 139 and SB 171

Carol Comeau wanted to make sure her email below is included into the records and hopefully read during future hearings – see email below. Thanks.

Celeste Graham-Hodge, Committee Aide
Senate Health & Social Services Committee
Office of Senator Bettye Davis
716 W. 4th Avenue #400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 269-4049; (907) 269-0148 (Fax)

(While in Session)
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-4906; (907) 465-3756 (Fax)
Toll Free: 1-800-770-3822
Celeste_Hodge@legis.state.ak.us

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From: Comeau_Carol [mailto:Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:18 AM
To: Celeste Hodge
Subject: FW: SB 139 and SB 171

Here is SB 171 support. Please give to the Senator and Tom. Thanks, Carol

From: Comeau_Carol
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Kevin Meyer (Senator_Kevin_Meyer@legis.state.ak.us); Senator Joe Thomas (Senator_Joe_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us); Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us; Hollis French; Gary Stevens (Senator_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us)
Cc: Comeau_Carol; Laule_Marie; Stiteler_Chad; Level I; School Board; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacs.org); Karen.Rehfeld@alaska.gov; mike.hanley@alaska.gov
Subject: SB 139 and SB 171

Dear Senators:
I am not able to testify on Senate Bills 139 or 171 tomorrow morning due to another commitment so I hope these comments can be entered into the record for your consideration.

First of all, I want to thank all of you for being such outstanding advocates for our public schools in Anchorage, and in the state. We sincerely appreciate your support, both financial and in so many other ways! We applaud your service by being on the Senate Education committee.

As you probably know, I have just released my preliminary budget to the public and to the School Board for their consideration. This budget will have two more public hearings on February 1 and February 9; the School Board will probably make some changes to my preliminary budget. After they complete their work, our budget is transmitted to the Municipality and the Assembly by March 5 which is required by our municipal charter. Our Assembly public hearing is scheduled for March 27 where they will set the upper limit of spending and the level of local contribution to the Anchorage School District. After that time, we have to wait until the legislature and the governor complete your work to determine the level of funding we will have access to. If an increase occurs, we revise our budget again, and reinstate what we can, and then we have to go back to the Assembly for permission to spend the funds if they exceed the already approved upper limit.

As you can imagine. This budget cycle undermines our credibility, and takes a great deal of time and energy to continually revise our budgets. The emotional turmoil on potentially impacted employees is destructive to their morale and ability to focus on their important work of educating our students, and doing their jobs.

We are making excellent use of the additional C and TE funds from SB 84 last year and encourage you to visit some of our high schools to see how these funds are being used to expand our career pathway programs. We would ask that you give serious consideration to expanding the flexibility for the use of these funds for at least middle schools and high schools (grades 6-12) so that we can support our career planning in the middle schools. We have had to recommend the deletion of our career guides in the middle schools for next year, and having the flexibility to use the C and TE funds for the middle grades would allow more expansion of our construction, health and pre-engineering academies.

I urge you to support the funding for the next three years as proposed by the Education Committee in SB 171. The years that we had advance notice of our funding increases as a result of the Education Funding Task Force which was co-chaired by Rep. Mike Hawker and Sen. Bert Stedman allowed us to plan and avoid our annual "guessing as to our funding" as I described above. All districts in the state benefitted from this funding and would urge you to reinstate a three year BSA increase that allowed us to compensate, at a minimum, for inflation and increased costs of doing our work.

Additionally, we are urging you to consider reinstating the COLA to the Pupil Transportation funding for all districts which provide pupil transportation. All districts are having to use their instructional revenue to pay the costs of their transportation contracts. Costs are going up for fuel, tires, repairs, and bus purchases.

Again, my sincere thank you for your long-standing support for education. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about these statements, or if you have a need for more information.

Sincerely,
Carol Comeau
Superintendent
Anchorage School District

Murray Richmond

From: Grier Hopkins
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 11:03 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

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

From: Poms@legis.state.ak.us [mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 4:42 PM
To: Grier Hopkins
Subject: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Mary Hacker
3744 Knik Ave

Anchorage 99517, mhhacker

Please pass SB171! Without this per-pupil increase, student performance will be impacted in a negative way! ASD is considering cuts that eliminate graduation support (special education counselors and graduation coaches) reduce library services to elementary schools and cripple the maintenance department. I am writing as a concerned parent and ASD employee to encourage you to support SB 171.

Murray Richmond

From: Grier Hopkins
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 11:04 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

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

From: Poms@legis.state.ak.us [mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 2:32 PM
To: Grier Hopkins
Subject: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Larri Spengler
4545 Thane Rd

Juneau 99801-7706, Larri
LSpengler@ak.net
907-586-9768

Please increase education funding. Juneau must consider a 50 percent reduction in teachers in the elementary school Extended Learning Program. Grade school EL children need special support. Without challenge, these children are likely to become disengaged in school, and to wind up lost to the education system. Please help!