

February 9, 2009

Senate Committee on Education and Finance

Senator Ellis

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Ellis,

I am an international student at Kodiak College and the President of the student government here in Kodiak. I came to Kodiak as a high school student and decided I would like to go to college in the United States. By doing so, I agreed on paying for my tuition and other expenses. In order to do that, I had to get a student loan from my home country Germany.

I am one of many students here in Kodiak who have to struggle hard to stay a full time student and pay for tuition and other expenses like books, fees, etc. The tuition expenses are high (especially for out of state students) and many student cannot afford to take all the classes they would like to take. Many of those may not even finish their college degree they wanted to get because of their financial need.

Senate Bill 33 would not affect me personally because I am, as an international student, not FAFSA eligible but I know a great amount of people who would highly appreciate financial help through more scholarships and grants. I ask you to keep supporting this very important bill and hope that there will be more funding for students with financial need.

Sincerely,

Fabian Philipp

President of the Student Government at Kodiak College

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