

Crystal Kennedy

From: Rep. Lynn Gattis
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 1:31 PM
To: Crystal Kennedy
Subject: Fwd: Please oppose HJR1

pls post on basis

Representative Lynn Gattis
Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marty Freeman <martyw@ak.net>
Date: January 31, 2014 at 4:23:21 PM AKST
To: <Representative.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please oppose HJR1

January 31, 2014

Representative Lynn Gattis, Chair

House Committee on Education

State Capitol Room 420
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Gattis,

On February 7, the House Education Committee is scheduled to hear HJR1, a move to change the Alaska Constitution to allow public funding to be applied to private schools. I urge you, as chair, to make this the last hearing and end this initiative without wasting more public time and money on hearings or on a Constitutional referendum.

HJR1 proposes an enormous change in the foundations of democracy in Alaska. Article VIII, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution guarantees that public schools shall be free from sectarian control. HJR1 would allow public funding of school that are under sectarian control, a direct

conflict with separation of church and state. It is an affront to me as an American and as an Alaskan, as well as to my religious beliefs.

Private schools are a move to RE-segregate Alaska. Few private schools reflect the economic, religious, or economic diversity in Alaska. In contrast, our public schools are a model of what our state must be – a place where all can learn to cooperatively, constructively contribute to our society and economy.

My daughter went to East High, Alaska's largest high school. Not only did East prepare her well for college, it also prepared her to live in a diverse world. East High has a stunning range of diversity in its overall student population, and the same diversity on the honor roll -- a huge accomplishment and gift to our state. HJR1 weakens funding for our successful public schools at a time when budgets are already tight.

Please oppose HJR1.

Thank you,

Martha Freeman

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