



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 26, 2014

Senator Berta Gardner
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Senate Bill 184

Dear Senator Gardner,

We would like to support your efforts to exempt teachers at low performing schools from jury duty with Senate Bill 184. Teachers who are chosen for jury duty on a trial can be absent from class for a week, a month, or even longer. Even being called to report for duty, then not being selected as part of the jury, generally takes a full day from work due to the distance from our schools to the courthouse. It is also difficult to schedule events and activities when a teacher is limited by a three-month commitment to be ready for any potential trial.

We appreciate your efforts to realign this important legislation to changes in how we determine failing schools. Even if we never have cause to rely on this legislation for our district, it is just common sense to keep our teachers in front of students at our most challenging schools in Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "La Burch".

LAUREN BURCH
Superintendent