

March 6, 2013

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
State Senate
State Capitol Room 510
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Opposition to SJR 9 to Be Included in the Bill Packet

Dear Senator Dunleavy:

My name is Betsy Brennan and I am president of the Nome Public Schools Board of Education. As a former school board member, you know school boards have a huge responsibility to educate all of our children. The goal of public education is to take ALL children that come to us and help them grow, learn and develop. When students leave our district we want them to have the tools to be successful in whatever they choose to do in life. The outcome of public schooling is important to the future of Alaska and our Country. Nome Public School staff are working hard to make progress in student learning and to address the challenges.

I oppose SJR 9. I believe the outcome, if this resolution were to pass, would be extremely harmful to our public education system. Your resolution would take more money away from our public schools, which would weaken public education opportunities for our children.

SJR 9 creates a dual education system in Alaska. Public funds would be diverted to private and religious schools, which would not be required to account for how the monies are spent. Unlike our public schools that serve ALL our children, private and religious schools can choose the students they wish to educate.

I am proud of Nome Public Schools and I am proud of the education our students receive. I am not interested in seeing state and taxpayer monies go to schools that have a for-profit or non-secular agenda. It is important that we continue to improve our children's public education through adequate funding and not through a diversion of public monies to non-public schools. **I oppose SJR 9.**

Please include this letter in the bill packet.

Respectfully,



Betsy Brennan, President
Nome Public School District School Board
PO Box 131
Nome, Alaska 99762