

# *Juneau Youth Services, Inc.*

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February 18, 2015

Representative Wes Keller  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 403  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Keller,

I am writing to request your support for HB 102, Education Funding Equality for Children with Mental Illness. This important piece of mental health and education legislation will assist children with severe emotional or behavioral disorders by giving them the opportunity to receive an equitable and comparable education while they receive intensive mental health treatment.

I would like to go on record as supporting this legislation since it will:

- Increase the educational opportunities and measurable outcomes for children with mental illness so that they can successfully transition back to their traditional school after receiving intensive and sometimes lifesaving mental health treatment;
- Allow the licensed facility to deliver appropriate educational and related services provided to the student by licensed teachers and credentialed service providers while the student is present in the facility;
- Allow for a more comprehensive continuum of care by individualizing each student's academic plan to complement their therapeutic treatment goals;
- Provide the state real time data that will assist with meeting the needs of other special populations such as students residing in rural villages; and
- Increase the length of time students spend in school learning, and track measurable outcomes to be reviewed by state stakeholders.

I ask you to support HB102 as it will improve the provision of educational services to children in Alaska with severe mental illnesses and emotional disorders.

Sincerely,



Walter Majoros  
JYS Executive Director