

Dear Senators,

This letter is in support of SB103.

My daughter has been undergoing treatment for depression for nearly 8 months at a treatment facility in Anchorage. We have experienced many challenges in regards to her schooling. Some of these include: little or no contact with teachers and school staff, incorrect placement in courses (she's an honor student placed in basic courses), lack of a direct connection between counselors/administrators and students.

I have come to understand that my daughter's situation is not unique. Coming from Fairbanks to Anchorage and living in a residential treatment facility has required that she use the Anchorage School District Program. If SB103 were to pass it would allow the treatment facilities to work directly with students home districts and keep them on track to rejoin their respective school upon completion of their treatment. SB103 would also improve the connection of parents and students to school staff and student progress. I believe in-house teaching staff could better monitor student's mental health and adjust workloads in conjunction with guidance from a student's therapist.

SB103 seems like it would benefit students who are going through other important struggles in their life and I encourage your support.

Thank you,

Brian Charlton