

**From:** [Lisa Worl](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** SB 139  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 1:58:10 PM

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Honorable Senators of legislative Senate Finance committee,

I'm writing in support of Full funding of the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and the scheduled adjustment of \$50 to the BSA.

As a parent whose children have attended, are attending still, and recently graduated, I can clearly see the impacts of the last five years of cuts to our operating budget. The Juneau School district has had a decrease in our operating budget by nearly 17% in the past five years and eliminated about 100 jobs or positions. Our remaining staff are each working hard to continue providing the best teaching, learning and support possible to all students. Meanwhile the scope of the classes now being offered is vastly reduced (less CTE, fewer electives) as we focus the limited funds to core math, language arts, science and social studies and our class sizes continue to grow. Our families and students are paying more for their public education by holding several fundraisers to fill in the gaps for activities but also for basic like school supplies.

If you were to go into our schools, you would be impressed most by how much all our students are continuing to be positively engaged in learning. If you look at our student data, you might note that we are making progress in closing our achievements gaps with our students who struggle and you'd see our graduation rates have increased. Still, what you would quickly learn from our school staff and families is they are weary and frustrated as they full well know and see that we are not able to keep programs that have been effective at helping all this happen. Funding is greatly diminished for professional development and instructional support, for acquiring the technology to not only help in support of our teaching but also in meeting the mandatory testing requirements, and for maintaining and updating a school building that is in great disrepair and ill-equipped for serving the two student populations it houses. We appreciate and we need your support to provide quality education for all our students. Investing in our students ensures a stronger community.

Finally, I want you to know that, I personally support not only education funding but also creating a responsible fiscal plan that includes the much needed revenue generation such as income tax (most certainly on the 20% of the non-residents who work in Alaska seasonally and then leave the state with their wages), utilizing the permanent fund and additional taxes on other sources.

Thank you for your time and for your difficult though important work as you set our state budget.

Respectfully,

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