From: Richard Baird

To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Funding

**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 8:27:20 PM

I am writing to urge your committee to fully support the education programs and initiatives identified last year and up for consideration again this fiscal year. I fully appreciate the challenges of stretching limited revenue dollars across the many budget areas. But I encourage you to maintain our education programs and initiatives. Education is the one common key to personal development and income, the reduction of homelessness, poverty and social inequality and the positioning of our state as an attractive site for businesses seeking an educated and able workforce.

I realize this isn't easy, but education must be sustained and supported as a top priority for Alaska. I appreciate your consideration.

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