

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Doniece Gott](#)
Subject: FW: To be added to the Record for Public Comment re: Education Funding
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 4:24:59 PM

From: Shana Sheehy [mailto:shanasheehy@outlook.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 4:24 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen.Mile.Dunleavy@akleg.gov; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: To be added to the Record for Public Comment re: Education Funding

Senators

I write to express my dismay at the idea that Alaska's education budget be reduced. I understand that the Legislature is facing a most significant challenge at the moment regarding the state budget.

It is the wrong path to target Education funds to save money.

Because you don't save money. You lose it, in the long run.

Hard working families that contribute to a state's economy want schools to be strong. Until very recently, Alaska schools were seen as strong - good places for children to learn. There's been an erosion of that idea in recent years. More cuts will hasten that change in both reality and perception.

Families won't move here and therefore they won't contribute to the economy. Families that are here won't stay here. They will move to where things are better for their children.

I was educated in Alaska during a time when this state was able to recruit and retain excellent teachers, the best in the nation. That's the kind of reputation we want as a state when it comes to education. That's the kind of place we want to be for families.

We get farther and farther from that reality with every cut that hurts the education system. Any more cuts too badly hurt our education system.

I also wonder if these large, proposed cuts in the Education Department isn't an underhanded tactic to promote so-called School Choice by way of sabotaging the public school system. If that is a conversation that is going on behind the scenes - a strategy the leadership is working toward - I, and many of my fellow Alaskans, would be disgusted and disappointed.

Thank you for adding my comments to the public testimony being sought on this topic this week.

Shana Sheehy
parent and life-long Alaskan