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February 5, 2015

Representative Wes Keller
Education Committee
Alaska State Capitol Building
Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: HB 30 -- An Act requiring school districts to develop and require completion of a history of American constitutionalism curriculum segment; and providing for an effective date.

Dear Representative Keller,

The Alaska Municipal League represents all 164 Cities and Boroughs throughout the State of Alaska. As you may know, all boroughs and all First Class cities contribute a percentage of their property taxes to the schools they operate. As you are also probably aware, there will be a decline in the funds available to schools and municipalities for future operations.

While the concept of teaching our young people the basics of our U.S. Constitution is a laudatory goal, it seems that this is not the time to put one more unfunded mandate in front of all of Alaska's school districts. On introduction of the bill, you mentioned that most schools are already doing this, so you visualize very little cost involved. While Anchorage may be doing this, I am fairly certain that this is not necessarily being done in Craig, Dillingham, Galena, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Kake, King Cove, Klawock, Pelican, Saint Mary's, Seldovia, or Tanana (all First Class cities responsible for their own school district).

For those reasons, keeping in mind the looming deficit that we face, the Alaska Municipal League is opposed to this bill as a prime example of an unfunded mandate.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman
Executive Director