From: Bonnie Lawrence

To: <u>Senate Finance Committee</u>

Subject: AKLN Funding

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 4:14:05 PM

Greetings Committee Members,

Alaska's Learning Network is an excellent distance delivery program for our state's students. I am an English and social studies teacher at Juneau-Douglas High School. This past summer I had the incredible opportunity to teach an AKLN Alaska History class to an awesome, diverse group of teenagers. These kids needed the social studies credit and by completing the course via distance delivery with me, they were able to free their schedules up to pursue other interests--classes, sports, activities, family travel, jobs, etc. It was so powerful to work with students from around the state and help them collaborate with each other. At the bottom of this page are links to the final projects these students created. Please check these websites out and see for yourself the quality work students can do when given the opportunity.

Technology and distance delivery are not the future, they are the present. Alaska's students deserve options. AKLN courses are taught by local teachers. Would we rather our students learn from out-of-state and out-of-touch instructors? I hope not!

Please fund this valuable program for Alaska students.

Bonnie Shanley JDHS Social Studies and English

www.mrsshanley.com www.jdhschoice.com