

From: [Clinton R Hodges II](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: SB 207 and SB 209
Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 2:12:31 PM

Dear Co-Chairs and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Please accept this email as my testimony on SB 207 and SB 209 of which I am in support of. Additionally, I would like to rebut the letter sent to your committee by Superintendent Graff of the Anchorage School District.

Superintendent Graff is yelling the sky is falling but he's not being very forthright with the truth. The Anchorage School District and the Municipality of Anchorage is not taking our revenue situation seriously; teachers and muni employee continue to receive salary and benefit increases and teachers were giving a 1k bonus even though the ASD is 11.5 million in the red. Then on top of this the school board is requesting a huge increase in BSA.

As Rep. Reibold so eloquently pointed out today, government can not maintain the status quo and in my opinion we need to cut overall spending to 2008 levels or 6.5 billion. Everybody supports cuts but this remedy has fallen on deaf ears. No cuts no new revenue and definitely no restructuring of the Permanent Fund.

The ASD costs continue to skyrocket in the face of declining enrollment, their budget is out of control and he can not accept that our state is in a serious financial situation. Our student population is declining, important business are laying off people-with good paying jobs and several of our schools are at 80% capacity. And yet there is no real immediate serious discussion concerning closing these schools, laying off the excess staffing or even combining to save money. What explanation does Graff give that it's ok to lay off private sector employees and not government employees; especially employees hired after 2007?

I support these bills and tell Superintendent Graff to worry about doing his job instead of yours. There's enough work that needs to be done to go around.

Respectfully submitted,

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