

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](mailto:Sen.Anna.MacKinnon)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](mailto:Senate.Finance.Committee)
Subject: FW: SB 208
Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 3:09:58 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Dorrie Dean [<mailto:dorriedean@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 1:06 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 208

Dear senators,

As the parent of a high school junior and a voter in the Mat-Su Borough I urge you to not eliminate the Alaska Performance Scholarship program (SB 208).

My daughter is currently a freshman at UAF. She graduated from Colony High School in Palmer with a 3.87 gpa and is currently studying marine biology and chemical oceanography. She is a Level 1 APS recipient, receiving \$4,755 per year for a total of four years. As the 2015 winner of the Alaska Science and Engineering Fair, along with numerous other awards for her four-year independent study research project on ocean acidification in Prince William Sound, she could have attended numerous universities outside of Alaska for her college education. There are many reasons why she chose UAF, but as a life-long Alaskan who plans to make her home in Alaska after graduation, the APS scholarship certainly influenced her decision to stay here.

My son is currently a high school junior (class of 2017), and eliminating the Alaska Performance Scholarship will directly impact his college plans. His current goal is to receive the APS funding and study engineering/physics at UAF. Without that funding he will be considering attendance at outside universities that can offer him similar amounts of financial aid. He is also a life-long Alaskan.

My husband and I are both proud graduates of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and we hope that our children will continue with that tradition. Along with the money that we have put aside for her education and her APS awards, my daughter should graduate from UAF with no student loan debt. We are hoping for the same for our son. The APS program is definitely a deciding factor in my children's college educations. Although not a "full-ride" by any means (over four years of level 1 awards my daughter will receive \$19,020.00. Her tuition and fees are currently between \$8000-\$9000 per semester), it definitely makes a difference that allows many young people to further their education and become productive members of the Alaskan workforce.

Thanks you for your time. I sincerely hope that you will allow this wonderful program to continue. It has helped over 5,200 Alaskan students continue their education here in Alaska and it is definitely worthy of the State of Alaska's continued support.

Sincerely,

Dorrie Dean
Sent from my iPad