**Sponsor Summary for House Bill 85**

*“An Act relating to college and career readiness assessments for secondary students; and relating to restrictions on the collection, storage, and handling of student data.”*

Article I Section 22 of the Alaska State Constitution states that, “The right of the people to privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed.” As the educational system merges into the Digital Age it is our legislative duty to diligently continue to protect the privacy, security, and confidentiality of our citizens, including their student data. Throughout Alaska, and our country as a whole, there has been growing public concern about the collection of personal data. House Bill 85 addresses these concerns, strengthens student digital privacy laws and eliminates unnecessary costs.

House Bill 85 will enhance data collection transparency to parents and guardians by requiring the State Board of Education to make publicly available an inventory and index of all data elements with definitions of individual student data fields currently in the statewide longitudinal data system. This legislation will also require the establishment of a comprehensive state-wide data security plan.

In addition to enhancing security, House Bill 85 will increase options for parents. This legislation will allow families to opt-out of the ACT or SAT and still be eligible to a High School diploma. As Alaska tightens the purse strings, it is critical that we ensure funding reaches the students and teachers of our great state rather than getting lost in a myriad of administrative costs and excessive testing. This legislation will also eliminate the state funding for a student’s ACT or SAT fee, which was estimated to be a $535,000 reoccurring annual expense.

I urge your support of HB 85. Working together we can protect student data security in an increasingly digital environment and give parents a greater voice in educational options for their children.