

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 10

House Bill 30 Sponsor Statement

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

The Spanish American philosopher George Santayana once said "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."¹ The situation today has changed. No longer do our youth not remember our past it is often completely overlooked by the education system. House Bill 30 is written to return American history to the classroom.

House Bill 30 will require the Alaska's Department of Education and/or organized school districts to implement courses for our student's centering on 15 years of American History critical to the creation of our country. The program will concentrate on the documents that so many people have lived and died for over the past 236 years. Included in the course work will be an understanding of the Declaration of Independence, first state constitutions, Article of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution.

Students will be required to demonstrate the knowledge of these American documents. They will understand why they remain important today.

House Bill 30 is legislation necessary to keep Alaska strong in the face of growing opposition to our country and what it stands for from both those foreign and domestic. Support of House Bill 30 will make them aware that we understand our roots and will not repeat past mistakes.

¹ *Life of Reason, Reason in Common Sense*, Scribner's, 1905, page 284"