

In Anchorage, we pay \$6500 a year in property tax on a slightly-above median value home that was built in 1964, has had only minor renovations over the years, and is less than 2000 square feet in West Anchorage. This home is appraised for \$400,000. Of that \$6500 in property tax that we pay (which is as high as the property tax that my brother pays on a home in Seattle worth twice what ours is worth), over \$3200 of it goes directly to the school district. We are ALREADY paying A LOT for our schools. There is no way you should be assessing another huge fee on top of that, especially one that targets people who are middle to upper middle class and have worked like dogs to get there. While your proposed taxes are reasonable up to 150,000 of gross income, above that level they are frankly obscene.

If you want to impose this kind of tax, you should have a flat percentage of 1% rather than the obscene jumps that you are proposing for families who make over 150,000. Most families who make over 150,000 of combined gross income have two working parents and take big risks to make that income, possibly working many slow fishing seasons before having one that allows them to bump over 150,000. These incomes often are unstable from year to year so that the families need to SAVE some of what they earn in a good year in order to weather the bad years. They cannot do that if you are taking everything away in tax dollars in a good year.

I am a liberal democrat with a current Alaska teaching certificate and I **DO NOT** support this bill. Please try to raise taxes in ways that do not inordinately burden hard working families in Alaska who make their living by weathering bad years to get to a good one.

Holly

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You are crazy if you think people will stay in Alaska after you implement a state income tax like the one you proposed. Why not a sales tax? We are calling a real estate agent next week to place our house on the market. We will pull the equity out of our home and leave. Between federal taxes, social security, Medicare, property taxes and a new Alaska state income tax, we will be paying over 53% of my yearly income in taxes. Add on top of it the high cost of housing, food and utilities here in Alaska and limited resources for medical we have decided to move. Once again the working people will pay while others collect benefits. It's not right to make less than half the population pay for everything. I am beyond disgusted.

Lesa Andrews

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Senator Claman,

With all due respect your recent bill really just smoke and mirrors. You are looking to gain support under the "guise" of education when the bill clearly states the funds can be used for other government expenses. The Alaskan people are not seeing the cuts that need to be made in order to support income or sales tax. Senator, there are not enough income earners in Alaska to fund the deficit issue. Governor Walker said that himself. The professionals are tired and running out of money too.

We live in the Mat-Su Valley and pay over \$4,500.00 per year in property taxes that in large goes to education. I am a teacher and my husband works as a Tech at Providence. We work 100+ hours a week together with commuting times. Because we make over \$149,000.00 (barely) per year you are looking at adding \$412.00 per month out of our budget (wow, you took a huge leap **doubling the tax** from \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00 based on \$149,999 to \$150,000). We are still raising 4 children and pay 100% of **everything** we get. You cannot keep taxing the wage earners and try to level everyone out. My husband served 4 years in the military AND we took student loans (still paying them off) to earn the incomes we have now. We have worked hard and paid our own way. You can't assume that people above \$149,999 should be penalized unequally and can even afford your "doubling" tax at that level. The American Dream was never income distribution.

Our family is fully expected to pay 100% of our children's college. Next year, I will have 2 kids in college so if you keep taking money from us how are we expected to help them?

Think about it. If you deduct federal income taxes, social security, medicare, retirement, health care insurance, property taxes plus your tax there will be nothing left for us. Alaska has a high cost of living. We inherited property from my grandfather who was a homesteader and built a conservative home. Last year we had to purchase 3 sets of studded tires in our family (there go the dividends). We are grateful to have jobs in this economy but when the Alaskan government starts taxing the wage earners we are going to leave. Food cost is high, healthcare costs are one of the highest in the nation, heating is high, electric is high.

Maybe we can trim Alaska's programs such as the \$1 cell phone? Maybe Alaskans should earn their cell phone or live without one? Having a cell phone is not a God given right. People led productive and full lives before the 90's came and cell phones came out. There is a budget cut for the state to consider.

Please, cut the budget, trim spending in education (I'm a teacher and I see there is room for improvement). We have more natural resources than the rest of the country put together. Develop them responsibly. If anything, start talking about a **sales tax**. The families that have made good choices and work hard are tired of seeing the 40% of Alaskans that don't work spend their money on big screen televisions.

Your tax proposal is not equal and have you even considered the burden you are putting on elderly that don't even have children in school? They pay the federal government and property taxes too.

I would support a sales tax but everyone needs to stop thinking of creative ways to tax the income earners ONLY. How about an income tax on those that **don't live** in this great state. The 50%+ that are on the slope and only support Starbucks at the airport on their way out. Why not a big penalty for them and leave the rest of us out that are invested in Alaska out of the income tax. We are the parents, volunteers and community members that make this a great state to live in.

I interact with people at our church, friends and family and people in our circle are clearly more receptive to a sales tax, major budget cuts (including the per diem) and developing resources. We all know if a few years when the economy recovers you will certainly not propose taking the income tax away. You and I are going to be stuck with it.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Short  
Valley Resident

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This bill is not constitutional to Alaska. This money would not be legally designated to schools. With this information this money would be a general tax that would go to the general fund. Since there is no legal way this money would only go to the school this tax should not go through. This bill is a money grab hidden under the smoke screen of school funding. This bill is a lie for what the money would be used for.

On top of that the schools do not need any more money. Alaska has the highest cost per child with almost the lowest academic scores throwing money at the issue will not solve the problem. We need to keep the good teachers and cut the bad teachers and excessive administration staff. Also, stop building fancy buildings. The children need to learn. Teachers need to teach. Fancy architectural buildings, excessive administration staff, and bad teachers do not help the children, families, or our community.

Cuts need to happen not an increase to the money wasting.

Thank you for your time,

Emery Schramm

Wasilla, Alaska

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**Subject: State income tax for schools?**

No way! Bad idea.

The State needs to move away from funding local schools.

Also slash UAA and increase tuition and fees.

Wes Nason