

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Juli Lucky](#)
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 103 RE: Alaska Performance Scholarship
Date: Friday, April 14, 2017 8:24:56 AM

From: Lori Walsh [mailto:walsh.ljp@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:45 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 103 RE: Alaska Performance Scholarship

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

I would like to state my view on the proposal to phase out the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) under Senate Bill 103.

Our family would be greatly affected by the loss of the APS scholarship. I have two high achieving daughters whom I have encouraged to remain in state for college because of the APS scholarship. One daughter, Ashley is a junior this year and has worked hard in high school and even adjusted her choice of classes to meet the requirements of this scholarship. Ashley's plan next year, fall 2018, is to attend UAA when she graduates or maybe UAF like her brother if she can procure other scholarships. If that scholarship will no longer be available, she will have to seriously rethink her plans.

As a parent of teens thinking through college and career plans, I have encouraged them to stay in state because of this incentive. If it is phased out, I will encourage my daughters to pursue schools outside the state that best fit their career path. Their college tuition and other monies they have earned on the Alaska economy would then be spent outside of our state. The incentives removed will only harm the educational training of Alaska's future work force.

I believe keeping this scholarship available continues to keep money in Alaska. Since this scholarship does not pay all expenses and fees related to the University, out of pocket cash actually retains more money in the State into the university system. I know my son Jacob chose UAF over other schools out of state this fall primarily because of the APS scholarship incentive, and he continues to spend his own hard earned money on the university system here. He has no intention of leaving the state of Alaska. But without that incentive, it would be a whole different story.

This scholarship is only available to those who have achieved a certain level of academic success. If this "in state" incentive is removed, many future students (with high academic achievements) will look more intently at out of state schools when the incentive to stay in state is diminished. This will produce, in the long run, a loss of future workers in the state of Alaska, as they leave and study outside the state and potentially employ outside of Alaska as well. If we want to retain a high achieving, future work force in Alaska, then we need to continue to provide incentives for our students to remain here for further education as well as employment.

I understand that the Senate is searching for ways to balance the budget, but I personally do not believe that this would be the best long term solution for the state of Alaska. Actually, it is destroying the long term growth of our great state. The problem is not that the state is

spending money it shouldn't, to help fund the education of bright students. I believe the bigger problem lies in the overwhelming costs of administration in the UA system in the state of Alaska. Statistically, nationwide, we have some of the highest costs in the US for a state run school. If that problem could be remedied, perhaps this scholarship could be well funded for many years to come.

Thanks for your consideration and for your representation of me as your constituent. I appreciate all you do on behalf of us in Eagle River.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Walsh