

To the 30th Alaska Legislature:

We, the high school students of the Juneau School District, urge you to reject the recent educational cuts proposed by the Senate Finance Committee. The quality of our education will be greatly impacted if [SB102](#) or [SB103](#) passes the Alaska Legislature. Although these bills aim to help education and ease our budget deficit, they will instead place unnecessary financial burdens on school districts across the state.

SB102 would establish a virtual education consortium accessible to Alaskan schools. However, the bill does not fully consider the number of resources needed to produce successful online curricula. Although we appreciate the intent of SB102, we cannot afford to use our limited resources on creating online curricula that is already available through other avenues.

SB102 is contingent on the passing of SB103's "education innovation grant fund", which would be made available by cutting the Alaska Performance Scholarship. Although we recognize innovation as a key part of a school's success, SB103 standardizes innovation by taking away local control from our school districts. This will only make it difficult for schools to create solutions specific to their own communities because they must comply to state standards that may not help their school. Additionally, 8,600 Alaskans have historically used the Alaska Performance Scholarship to pursue higher education and we expect many more will. In sum, eliminating the Alaska Performance Scholarship to create a fund that will place unnecessary burdens on Alaskan schools is irresponsible.

We recognize Alaska is facing a financial crisis. However, it will be harder for our state to recover if we cut crucial governmental departments like education. Instead, we ask the Alaska Legislature to focus on how we can generate revenue for our state.

Thank you for your attention and work for the state of Alaska. We hope that you consider the input of Juneau students as you make critical decisions for our future.

Respectfully,

*Submitted by Tasha Elizarde*

*Supported by the Juneau-Douglas High School and the Thunder Mountain High School Student Governments, on behalf of their respective student bodies*