

SJR 10 Written Testimony

To whom it may concern:

I am a product of the ASD, East High 1972. I spent a career teaching in the ASD. I have two grandchildren who are being homeschooled to prevent them from online education. I have a long term vested interest in the education of Anchorage children. On line classes have been a disaster for the vast majority of ASD students. We cannot allow the NEA & AFT to dictate educational policy.

As a teacher I saw student regression over the summer. I can only fathom the educational regression after a year and a half out of the classroom. We cannot return to this model!

Ken McCormick

Voter and retired ASD

To whom it may concern:

In-person learning should be the principal learning method and online learning should be used only during emergencies.

Interacting and being with other students in an in-person learning environment is a very important part of a child's education.

Allowing an online environment except during emergencies will provide substandard education. Any declaration of emergency that prevents in-person learning should be as short-lived as possible.

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Whitham D. Reeve

Dear Alaska Legislators,

I am writing to voice my consent to passing Senate Joint Resolution 10. As a retired teacher with 25 years in the Anchorage School District, I know firsthand how vital in-person learning is for our students. If we truly care about their social-emotional wellbeing, then we must allow them to be physically present in safe environments, where their teachers and peers can encourage them to succeed.

Thank you for your service to our state,
Ardy Robertson Anchorage, AK

Hello, I want to express my support for Sen. Res. 10 regarding in-person learning. I am the father of a current public school first grader in Anchorage. Will have a Kindergartner joining her this fall. My family endured significant challenges this past year with our daughter not being able to engage with her teacher or classmates in person. While online is helpful as a stopgap, it is vastly inferior to the in-person experience.

I am a family law attorney and have heard countless similar stories from clients the past year as well. It has also been devastating particularly on single working parents.

Please pass Resolution 10 and limit the use of online only in the future.

Ian Wheelles

99502

I believe students should be in school, and stay away from online learning as much as possible.

Dear Senators,

One of the saddest and most avoidable side effects of the COVID-19 pandemic was the way our children were treated as pawns in a sick political game.

For a time our daughter had to do distance learning. I can tell you the term is an oxymoron. A child can not learn if there is distance. We found her so horribly distracted having to stare at an iPad half the day. She got depressed, her grades dipped. She put on weight. Saddest thing of all was to hear her wish to see her friends again. It is still sad to see them further victimized by pointless mask mandates. The good news is they will grow up knowing who did this to them.

All adults know COVID-19 was politicized. OK...we are grown ups. But we need to leave our kids out of it. They are (thank God) the lowest risk group: 99.98% survivability rate. The unions milked this tragedy and played an oversized political role in our lives. This traumatized children and caused extreme hardships on parents.

I strongly urge you to support SJR 10 so that distance learning is never done on a whim and during Disaster Declarations only.

Best,
Dean Cannon

We have had two children struggle with online learning this year. Children need in person learning to flourish. They need interaction with their peers and contact with their teachers. They need activities such as sports, music, drama, dance, debate and vocational training - that cant be effectively done online. Prolonged stoppage of in person activities and learning will be detrimental to our kids, our community, our state and our nation.

Statistics show that youth are not at risk to Covid, and that schools haven't been the super spreaders many thought they would be. Many people are vaccinated. Its time to bring everyone back. Back to school!

thanks
Howard Hoen

While I support the spirit of Senate Joint Resolution 10, I am deeply concerned about the implications for publicly funded schools that operate as distance education programs. This would include alternative high school completion programs and homeschool support programs. With the current wording of this resolution is unclear to me how those programs would continue to operate.

Furthermore, individual schools may have problems with facilities or staffing that do not warrant an emergency declaration for the community, but could best be handled by distance learning instead of a temporary closure. Defining a time limit for these temporary situations might be helpful.

I propose that this resolution be reworded to specify that school districts (rather than schools) be required to provide in-person education.

Thank you -

Margo Jones, teacher

Anchorage

This Joint Resolution placing limits on local school districts is precisely the wrong approach.

I fully support the underlying intent to get our kids back to school and other activities in person with as few restrictions as possible as soon as possible. This is absolutely best for their education and development.

But the way to do that is not to issue an edict limiting local communities' options.

The way to get kids back in school is to end the pandemic.

The way to end the pandemic is to get as many people vaccinated as possible, and to engage in robust contact tracing and quarantining of close contacts.

If you truly care about our kids and the quality of their education, please focus your efforts on ending the pandemic so that the schools can focus on educating our kids.

Denmer Wells

North Shore Dr, Anchorage

As a parent of a middle schooler I support in person at school learning. Hands on in person learning is the best for students.

Online learning just does not compare.

Get our kids back in school and playing sports.

Sharon Padilla

Dear Senators,

One obvious exception to providing in-person learning, is if the student has a contagious disease. But there are more. What about when the schools close for icy roads? What if there is an active shooter? This resolution is ill-considered and should be stopped now.

Sincerely,

Marin Granholm, MD
Anchorage

My answer is Yes, pass it!

I don't agree with online school for children. Children need in-person schooling. We don't need our next generation becoming less social. Social media is doing that fast enough already.

I hope that this resolution also includes a prohibition against teaching critical race theory in schools, colleges and to government employees when any State funds are used to support that agency. This is a hate ideology designed to corrupt young impressionable minds with false teachings by making them believe that everything in their life is predetermined by the color of their skin. It in itself is racist by design. Many states (AZ just passed it) have passed bills to prohibit these false teachings.

Tom Sullivan

Hello, Senators:

I am a grandmother who spent 7 years raising her granddaughter. We moved to the valley from Anchorage several years ago and had our granddaughter in school when the Covid hit. Her mother then decided she wanted to take her daughter, and her mother lives in Anchorage.

Our granddaughter was learning to add, subtract and read. In the past year, she has regressed in her ability to do these things. Her mother has AD/HD and had major difficulties in getting online learning and keeping up with the schedule. While schools in the valley opened as usual (with Covid restrictions and practices in place and online learning available for those who weren't comfortable with in-school learning), Anchorage dropped the ball. My granddaughter's education has suffered greatly because of this.

While her mother had good intentions in her daughter's learning, it has not benefitted my granddaughter. I am now very worried about my granddaughter's ability to catch up and keep up. I am also concerned about her social skills. She's an only child and interacting with other students her age is an important part of growing up.

Sincerely,

Manda J. Gershon