



A L A S K A

Petersburg School District

PO Box 289

Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Phone/Fax: (877) 526-7656

Feb 23, 2026

Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Carlee Johnson McIntosh, and I serve as the Food Service Director for the Petersburg School District. In the past 15 years I have strongly supported changes to school food. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 187.

In my role, I am responsible for making careful, informed decisions about the food we serve our students every day. That responsibility includes paying attention to the growing concerns around ultra-processed additives, including synthetic food dyes, and their potential impacts on children's health.

Petersburg School District is committed to serving nutritious, high-quality meals. The goal of SB 187; to remove synthetic food dyes from USDA sponsored school meals aligns directly with the work we are already doing. There is substantial research pointing to adverse health effects of these dyes in children, and we have already begun removing them from our meal program whenever possible by incorporating whole foods in their natural forms.

Many of our suppliers have started transitioning away from these ingredients, and based on what I am seeing in our current food supply, I believe this would be a manageable and straightforward change for our district. Schools already operate under strict national nutrition standards intended to support student health. Eliminating synthetic dyes is a reasonable, targeted step that strengthens those standards and supports the direction we are already headed.

I do not anticipate this change would create a significant burden for our district. Schools should be environments where students are set up for success, and access to nutritious meals plays an important role in that success. Establishing these standards in state law would demonstrate Alaska's ongoing commitment to student health, regardless of potential shifts at the federal level.

I respectfully urge you to support SB 187 and continue prioritizing the health and well-being of Alaska's students.

Sincerely,
Carlee R Johnson McIntosh