



ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

February 24, 2026

Senator Loki Tobin
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 210 – Indigenous Cultural Heritage Education

Dear Senator Tobin,

I am writing to express my strong support on behalf of AFN for **Senate Bill 210: Indigenous Cultural Heritage Education**. This legislation seeking to revise Alaska's education policy by integrating and honoring the cultural heritages of Alaska Natives and American Indians in our public schools is long overdue and is an important step forward to integrating our Alaska Native history and culture into our classrooms.

SB 210 is a critical step toward **creating an equitable and culturally responsive educational system in Alaska**. By encouraging schools to work closely with local tribes, providing teachers with the tools and knowledge to understand Indigenous perspectives, and ensuring students learn about Alaska Native histories, languages, and contributions, this legislation **supports both academic success and cultural preservation**.

Research and best practices from Alaska and other states show that culturally grounded education enhances student engagement, academic achievement, and community connections. Programs like the Yup'ik Math Initiative and the Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools demonstrate the value of integrating local Indigenous knowledge into curricula. SB 210 builds on these proven frameworks to ensure every **Alaska student benefits from an education that is rooted in the place where they live and respectful of Indigenous identities**.

I urge the Alaska Legislature to support SB 210 and advance this legislation through the process to final passage. Its passage will strengthen Alaska's commitment to inclusive, culturally informed education and empower students to understand and appreciate the state's rich Indigenous heritage.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ben Mallott
President
Alaska Federation of Natives