



April 10, 2026

Office of Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Senate Bill 23-Civics Education

Dear Senator Stevens,

Alaska Children's Trust offers our strong support for Senate Bill 23, which would introduce a civics education component to Alaska's public education system. ACT supports policies that encourage and empower children and youth and create educational foundations for their future success. Senate Bill 23 does this by ensuring Alaska's youth are provided with opportunities to learn about the responsibility of civic engagement.

Senate Bill 23 provides direction to the State Board of Education to develop and implement a one semester civics graduation requirement for Alaskan high school students. Additionally, it provides this guidance for all learning options offered by Alaska's public education system, encouraging discussion among families about civic engagement. Research has shown that youth benefit from a sense of belonging and connection. Empowering youth with the knowledge they need to be able to fully engage and participate in their government provides a meaningful connection between their daily lives and the larger world around them.

Senate Bill 23 would support Alaska's children and youth as they grow up to become voters and engage in society. Informational civics education is important for equipping Alaska's next generation with the knowledge and skills necessary to actively participate in their communities and contribute to democracy. Thank you for bringing forward this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJS', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Trevor J. Storrs
President & CEO
Alaska Children's Trust