

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Dan Polta <danpolta@dbsd.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 2:20 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Written Testimony in Support of SB110

My Name is Dan Polta. I am the superintendent of the Denali Borough School District.

Members of that Senate Education Committee, thank you for your service to the children of our State and your consideration opening the state health care plan as an option for school districts.

I'm speaking to you in support of SB110 and ask you to pass this important piece of legislation.

It's nothing new to anyone on the Committee that the expense of providing appropriate health care coverage to teachers and support staff is a driving cost factor for school districts.

Denali Borough School District spends approximately 12% of our annual budget to provide health insurance. From that simple figure you can see how any step to reduce these costs or limit annual increases will help us to use our funding for the daily work of instructing our children.

Providing robust insurance is a critical tool in retaining and recruiting high quality professionals to teach our children.

Passing SB110 will provide districts another option to consider when shopping for this coverage for our employees. By having more options, the Denali Borough School District can make the most effective and efficient choice of how to use our limited funds. Any action we can take to help control the escalating costs of health insurance while simultaneously providing the needed coverage is action we should take.

Thank you for your time and for your support in passing SB110.

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