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**From:** Tristan Knutson-Lombardo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:34 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Pass SB 140!

Dear Alaska House Finance Committee,

Please pass SB 140 (as amended) out of committee.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session.

Our children are worth it!

Tristan Knutson-Lombardo  
Juneau

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**From:** Jen Gunderson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:27 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Pass SB 140!

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Jen Gunderson

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**From:** Tamara Cooke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Increase BSA

Hello,

As a parent of children in the Anchorage School District and a speech pathologist employed by ASD who sees the impact of school funding firsthand, I implore you to pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. Alaska is unable to retain quality educators due to our absolutely dismal retirement program and the inability of districts to provide consistent, competitive salaries. Costs have risen over the years, but our BSA has remained stagnant. How can we expect positive things in the future of our state if we are continually cutting funding to the students, our future? A permanent increase to the BSA this session is vital for the success of both our children and our economy, and essential for the future of our children and our state.

Many thanks to Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Please pass SB 140 and permanently increase the BSA!

Thank you,

Tamara Cooke

*Tamara Cooke, Ed.D., CCC-SLP*

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**From:** Hannah Dolphin <HDolphin@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:35 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Increase BSA

Good Morning,

I am writing as the current assistant principal of Mountain View Elementary in Kenai Alaska. Next year, I will be the principal of this school. **Please take action and permanently increase the BSA.**

It is hiring season. I am desperately attempting to retain and recruit teachers and other staff members for my school. Mountain View Elementary is a wonderful place. We are a Title I school and we have the largest special education program in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. We have excellent staff retention, with the majority of our teachers having worked here for 10+ years.

All of that being said, teachers and school staff are tired. COVID-19 was hard on educators across the state and country. Staff are still recovering. They are working with significant student learning loss, both academically and socially. My 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are working to teach 27+ students in all subject areas with student ability levels ranging from beginning Kindergarten to late middle school. They are doing this alone, with very little academic support in our classrooms. Our interventionists are swamped attempting to assist all of these students, and are only serving the students functioning far below average. While working to meet students where they are at academically, teachers and staff around the state are dealing with decreased attendance, increased behavior issues, and increased parent apathy.

Teachers and school staff members are miracle workers, yes, but they can't work miracles with insufficient resources. Teachers are leaving our state, and new ones aren't coming to replace them. School districts need money to fund school staff fully and provide financial incentives for people to want to work in our state. I am faced with class sizes of approximately 30 students in each of my third, fourth, and fifth grade classes next year due to staffing cuts.

From a school employee perspective, it seems that there is a war waging against public education. Nasty rumors are spread daily about what is happening inside public school walls. I hear words like "indoctrination", "woke teachers", etc. There is no hidden agenda in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. We are working diligently to help kids learn both academically and socially. We are teaching and shaping our country's future. Increasing the BSA is not "throwing money at a problem", it is giving highly trained, highly qualified educators the incentive and support they need to teach effectively in Alaska.

Please help us do this by permanently allocating the funding we need to prosper.

Thank you,

*Hannah Dolphin*  
**Assistant Principal**  
**Mountain View Elementary**

**(907)283-8600**

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**From:** Temperance Tinker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:53 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Subject:** Please increase School Funding this session!

Dear House Finance Team,

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

As a parent and ASD employee, I want you to be on the right side of history with this vote. Funding education funds our future!

Temperance Tinker Kays

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**From:** Lessens\_Kelly [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 8:25 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Sen. James Kaufman; Bellamy\_Margo; Bryantt\_Jharrett; foster\_amanda; Lon Garrison  
**Subject:** Please hear and move SB 52 out of House Finance

Dear members of the House Finance Committee and Senator Kaufman,

Good morning to you all. Last week, SB 52 passed the Senate and was referred to your committee. **I want to briefly and respectfully urge you to hear SB52 and move it out of committee as soon as today.**

SB 52, like HB 65, would codify a \$680/student increase to the Base Student Allocation. But SB 52 also contains an additional 11% increase to Pupil Transportation.

As a member of the Anchorage School Board, I am confident that the BSA increase would amount to **~\$49 million for ASD in FY24** and that the Pupil Transportation increase would bring an **additional \$2.5 million to the district next year.** These formulaic changes would give ASD a **historic funding boost** that would allow the district to **focus on student outcomes during FY24 and prepare a balanced budget for FY25.**

As I've shared before, ASD has already prepared and approved a balanced budget for FY24, based on \$65 million in one-time funds and a +1 increase in pupil to teacher ratios across the K-12 system, but is projecting a **\$85 million deficit for FY25.** The passage of SB 52 would enable ASD to retain most of the \$49 million from FY24 and apply those funds to those received for FY 25. Given that ASD will prepare and approve the FY25 budget in February 2024, the timeliness of SB52 is of the essence!

**I am grateful that when my own Senator, James Kaufman, supported the final passage SB 52,** he asserted that "we have to provide funding. You can't improve a process if it's in a critical state of failure." I urge each of you to do the same in this committee and thereby allow your colleagues the opportunity to improve public education across the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your service and dedication, and best wishes for the end of this legislative session.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Lessens

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**From:** crmarkis@gci.net <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 12, 2023 9:55 AM  
**To:** House Finance; Senate Finance Committee; House Rules  
**Subject:** Please support SB52, Defined Benefits, HB46 & 89, Income tax HB156 and SB114

Dear Legislators,

Thank you for all of your hard work during this legislative season with the monumental task of creating a budget that best serves all of the state of Alaska. This email is to give you my insight as a constituent of what I feel priorities for our state need to be. My first request is that you don't "kick the can down the road" which to so many Alaskans feel has been happening for too many years. We need a steady source of revenue to build our infrastructure and get our state back on track as the robust state we can be. As we have learned from our continuous outmigration over the last 10 years, our financial forecast is sinking Alaska if we continue on the path we have been. Inadequate state support for K-12 schools and the university system, lack of available housing, a shortage of child care and better economic opportunities elsewhere have been cited for our weak economy. Therefore, we need to provide the resources to correct this.

Most important for your consideration is to pass SB52, the Base Student Allowance to support our kids and give them the resources they need. Our school districts are struggling under the weight of inflation and a nationwide labor shortage which has made it increasingly difficult to hire teachers and school support staff. Therefore, we also need to bring back the defined benefit/pension program for state employees including teachers, peace officers, and firefighters. Along with this would be HB46 & 89 helping parents with child care legislation. These are some of the measures that will increase the financial security and an easing of mental health of our state.

I agree that it's ok to receive a full dividend if we generate the resources to pay for it. I don't agree with those who feel you don't want to tax people to pay for a dividend. This is because the dividend provides different levels of support depending on your financial status, ie, the less income you have, the more meaningful and impact the dividend will have on your overall needs. This is the reason I am not a fan of a sales tax. It is shown to be regressive, hurting lower income and rural areas more than others. I am, however, in favor of an income tax (HB56) because this is a much more equitable tax allowing lower income people to be taxed less and also captures people from out of state who come here, use our resources and then leave our state to spend their money elsewhere, but pay Alaska next to nothing for our support of their earnings. An Income Tax would provide stability to the revenue stream in the face of volatility in the price of oil.

I am also in favor of SB114 which allows for greater fairness to Alaska for what we receive for our oil. This would apply the state corporate income tax to all the major producers regardless of the corporate form they choose to use when operating in Alaska and reduce the per barrel credits from \$8 per barrel to \$5 per barrel and link them to actual investment which is a huge improvement to support greater resources for Alaska and would take effect immediately. It is true that the oil industry has provided great resources to Alaska, but it is just as true that Alaska has not negotiated very well over the years to get the best resources for our state. As a state, we get the lowest return on investment than any of the other oil states. The oil companies will argue that it's because of where we are and the added expenses, etc, but this is factored in already and last year the oil companies made record profits. Plus, when SB21 got passed, they made promises they didn't keep, but keep telling us with any possible increase we consider that now is not a good time to make these changes and threaten us with the possibility of losing jobs, etc (while they make record profits). We already are and already have lost many jobs and we need changes to move forward at a pivotal time for our financial survival.

None of these efforts alone will solve the financial woes we now have, but if we enact the above items, I feel it will fill many of the gaps that we now experience and not have to consider drawing from the CBR which will reduce our overall ability to earn money in the long run. Please be brave and break the cycle of pushing the can down the road. Don't let



the oil companies bully you and make a stand to do what is right for ALL Alaskans. Even if you've taken a stance on something in the past like "no taxes" it's ok to change your stand when helping Alaskans to prosper in these difficult times if you explain your rationale and help our state develop a steady resource for the infrastructure we need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Constance (Connie) Markis  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**From:** Janice Banta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:08 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Subject:** Support for SB 140

Dear House Finance Committee and Members,

We have heard a lot about Alaska's many needs this session, especially how to promote business opportunities and to reverse the recent trend of individuals and families leaving our state. However, the single best way to address these pressing issues is to bring stability of funding to our public schools. SB 140, as amended out of committee is our last best option to shore up our schools in this critical time. Families want to live in a community with vibrant educational opportunities. Businesses want to hire local workers, who know and love being here.

As it is, our schools are struggling. In particular, they are finding it hard to attract and retain teachers and other staff. We haven't come close to keeping up with inflation for school funding for far too long...resulting in less and less support for this essential service. Public education is a constitutional mandate in Alaska, and more importantly, it is the one public service that the vast majority of Alaskans support and want to see thrive.

Our family of long-time Alaskans (I've "only" been here for 40 years - the rest are life-long) will be watching your committee's actions closely. We applaud Representatives Stop, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannah, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your support of SB 140 and look forward to others joining their ranks so that we can get schools and Alaska back on a positive track.

Thank you,  
Janice Banta  
Anchorage Resident

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**From:** Ann Rappoport <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:41 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please increase School Funding this session!

Dear Legislators -

It's past time to allocate a MUCH needed increase in the Base Student Allocation!! The BSA has not kept up with inflation or increases in uncontrollable education costs.

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy, our children's future, and the future of our state!

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannah, Josephson, Foster, Edgemon, and Tomaszewski for YOUR courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session. This isn't a one-time issue to continue kicking down the road. You get what you pay for - let's provide a quality education to our kids, it's the future for all of us!

Sincerely,

Ann Rappoport  
Anchorage, AK 99516

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**From:** Bellamy\_Margo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Bryantt\_Jharrett; foster\_amanda; Lessens\_Kelly  
**Subject:** Support for SB 140

Greetings Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your service and for your efforts to support Education!

On behalf of the Anchorage School Board, I write today advocating for the future of our 43,500 students (K-12), their families and over 5500 employees who need your Voice and Action NOW!!

Please, please move [SB140](#) out of committee to be heard and passed tomorrow, the final day of the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Margo Bellamy,  
President  
Anchorage School Board

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**From:** John Meyn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:16 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** BSA increase

Please take the extra effort, empathy and concern for our education system and forward to increase the PSA at least 682 per student which isn't nearly enough but it is a dire need we are already 50th out of all our states in education. Let's kick this thing and get something done. Sincerely, john meyn

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Sharon Zandman-Zeman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:54 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** BSA Increase

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

*Thank you.*

*Sharon Zandman-Zeman*

*[REDACTED]  
Anchorage 99507*

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**From:** Mindy Hunter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 3:15 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Pass SB 140

I am writing in support of passing SB 140 as amended out of committee. This has been a long time coming, and the time has come to show that Alaska's future is bright. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session. You have no idea how appreciated you each are!  
Sincerely,  
Mindy Hunter  
Homer, Alaska

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**From:** Hopkins, Sarah <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:54 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Subject:** Pass SB 140

Hello,

I'm an elementary teacher in Juneau. It is beyond discouraging that this state and its elected officials do not make our schools and children a priority when it comes to state spending. If you can't agree to allocate appropriate money to fund our schools, then tax the citizens of this state accordingly. Otherwise, do your due diligence, and pass SB as amended out of committee. Quit trying to save your political image(s) and do something that might be difficult. I do it everyday at school.

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session*

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Sarah Hopkins

ELL

Sít' Eetí Shaanáx̄ - Glacier Valley



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**From:** Sally Dybdahl [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:21 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Subject:** BSA

*To our hardworking Representatives for ALL (especially Alaska's children),*

*A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.  
Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally Dybdahl  
Hoonah  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Elfstrom\_Carri [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:35 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** BSA

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

Please think of the bigger picture. Funding for schools, funds our future and our community!

Thank you for doing the right thing!

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Peggy Kristich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:25 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** BSA

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. Alaskans care about the education of our kids. School districts need a dependable source of income to pay for the costs of operations! A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for our economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Margaret Kristich  
[REDACTED]  
Palmer. AK 99645  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Susan Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:01 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** BSA

Please increase the BSA! Our schools are hurting!  
Susan Moore  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Tana Hart <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:14 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** BSA

What the heck is happening. Do we only care about ourselves. I want every legislature to spend a day in a school, maybe a classroom. Nobody knows what teachers and staff put up with.  
Please pass the BSA

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Rachel Etcher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 8:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140

**Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.**

A permanent increase is needed to have our schools function well. It is very difficult for our schools to make plans for August when they are not sure what they will be working with until late spring/early summer.

Huge thanks to Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Rachel Etcher  
Concerned Citizen  
Petersburg, AK

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**From:** John Polonowski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 3:45 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please Pass SB 140

To whom it may concern,

Please pass SB 140 as it provides a permanent solution for the SBA. I have 2 kids in elementary school on Anchorage. They deserve the same resources we had when we were kids. Sincerely, John Polonowski

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage AK  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Lori Deschamps [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 3:01 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

*Sincere appreciation,  
Lori Deschamps*



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**From:** Dave Blanchet <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:48 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140

Dear House Finances Committee,

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Sincerely,

J David Blanchet

Anchorage, Alaska

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**From:** Beth Short-Rhoads <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:23 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

I'm writing to urge you to please pass SB 140 as amended. Seven years have passed without a BSA increase. It's time to support Alaska's students, the future leaders of our state, and model courage and wisdom by investing revenues in one of our most important public resources--our schools.

Sincere thanks to all Representatives who voted to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session.

Thank you for your service,

Beth Short-Rhoads  
Sitka

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**From:** Amy Horstman Ingram [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:41 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please Pass SB 140

Dear House Finance Committee,

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Thank you,

Amy Ingram

Fairbanks, AK 99712

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**From:** rachel stephl [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:16 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140

I am a public school teacher and a parent in Anchorage. For the last 13 years I have seen the irrevocable damages to our children as a result of flat-funding. Increased class sizes, reduced teachers, counselors and support staff year after year are hurting our children and I am scared to see what happens to Alaska in the coming decades as a result of these deep cuts.

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Thank you,  
Rachel Stephl  
Anchorage resident

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**From:** Sharlay Mamoe <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:11 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140

**Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.**

**Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!**

**PLEASE FUND OUR FUTURE!!!!**

**Thank you!**

**~Sharlay Mamoe**

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**From:** Hickox\_Molly <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:43 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140

Members of the House Finance Committee,

As an Anchorage School District principal, I am writing to urge you to move SB140 out of committee to be heard and voted on before the end of the session. I am encouraged that you have combined the BSA increase into this bill. Stable and adequate funding to achieve our school goals, particularly related to the Alaska Reads Act, is key to being able to staff our teaching and paraprofessional positions. I am currently trying to build a master schedule for my school for next year, but without knowing the final BSA, I have too many contingencies to make an adequate plan. We are finally poised to make some significant growth in the coming years, but we must have stable funding. Our students deserve this!

Thank you for your service and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions about school funding at the elementary school level from my lens.

--

Molly Hickox, Principal  
Huffman Elementary School  
Anchorage School District

[REDACTED]



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**From:** Debbie Cary [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:44 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140

Dear House Finance Committee,

As we wind up this year and are busy attending graduations across our district, I must say I was excited when I exited Homer High School Graduation and heard the news that you had incorporated a "permanent base student allocation" as well as the much needed increase to the student transportation budget in Senate Bill 140. I would encourage you to stay strong and do what is right for the future of the students of the state of Alaska.

Thank you for taking on the hard task and recognizing the needs of our students first.

Respectfully,  
Debbie V Cary  
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District  
Board of Education President

Education is more valuable than money, in the long run.  
Robert T Kiyosaki

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**From:** Margo Bellamy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:51 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140

Greetings Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your service and for supporting Education!


Our students can't wait and need your Voice and Action NOW!!

Please, please **move SB140** out of committee to be heard and passed tomorrow, the final day of the legislative session.

Sincerely,  
Margo

 Personal Email: [REDACTED]

 President,  
Anchorage School Board  
Email: [REDACTED]

 Adjunct Professor,  
UAA EDL Program  
Email:  
[REDACTED]



**From:** Bill Hill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:12 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for being so committed to Alaska. Your careful deliberation and long hours in considering BAG, Pupil Transportation, and BSA funding are appreciated.

Please know that the large majority of Alaskans support increased education funding. Your position on the House Finance Committee representing all Alaskans is one of great importance. All of the community members I've spoken to in the Borough are supportive of a significant increase in education funding.

There have been a number of misdirected messages claiming that education does not need additional funding. Messages that say we spend too much money on administration or that we have large fund balances that negate the need for a significant increase. Messages that say we have not been accountable for the funding we currently receive.

I am retiring after this year and want to be very clear about where education is. Without a significant, secure increase to the BSA, education will suffer from catastrophic decreases in staffing and programs. Additionally, class sizes will increase, and the things that students love; sports, music, art, etc. will be diminished. Your choices this year will determine the fate of education in Alaska and the fate of my five grandchildren, who will soon be students.

Please provide a significant increase to the BSA. Please make good on the commitment that Alaska has to its children. Please do the hard work that is required to ensure that our next generation of adults is prepared to join Alaska's workforce **and** that they can build their futures in this Great State of Alaska.

Chin'an (Thank You) for the hard work you have ahead of you.



Bill Hill, Superintendent  
Bristol Bay Borough Schools



*Ymj@wjfysjxx&k&@itr r zsn~&x& txy&hhzwfyjq& jfxzwji&g~&mj@itr ufxxtsfyj&hytsx&k&  
nx& jr gjw3%&H&hty&Prsl*

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**From:** Rebecca Dunne <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:02 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. Our students and communities deserve and need the support of a permanently increased BSA.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon, and Tomaszewski for voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Dunne  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

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**From:** Pendleton Arts <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:13 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Re: SB 140

**To Whom it May Concern:**

**Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.**

**Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!**

Sincerely, Cynthia M Pendleton, Anchorage, AK

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**From:** SteveandCarolyn Black [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:05 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140

Dear Senate Housing Finance Committee

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA. This session is critical for the health of the economy, and all of our children's futures. I know I want my son's future with a solid education and one that is fully funded.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Black

Have a great day filled with smiles!!

---

**From:** Wendy Bursiel Weber [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:07 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SB 140

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

*The kids need us to stand for them. They will be our doctors, nurses, engineers, etcetera.*

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage AK, 99501

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:32 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SB 140

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Funding outside of the BSA is funding that is unpredictable, and results in the loss of high quality staff. That turnover ends up being quite costly to the state.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

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**From:** Chuck Hansell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:47 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140

PLEASE pass the bill that will make the increase to the BSA permanent.

Our kids are our future and a good education is key for a positive future for them. Schools need to have increases permanent so that they are able to plan and budget without the volatility we seem to frequently experience.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage AK 99507

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 5:35 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SB 140

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A strong public education system is far more important to the Alaska economy and families than an unrealistic PFD.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Cordially,

Martha Freeman

Anchorage, AK



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**From:** Allison Brandt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 6:59 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SB 140

We aren't going to be able to grow our state's economy without attracting and retaining talent young families and new businesses. Both of those groups want communities with healthy school systems to ensure vibrant futures for their children and a well educated workforce. Alaska can have an attractive school system if we fully fund and inflation proof the BSA. Set our state up for a right future by passing SB 140.

*Schedule a floor vote for SB 140 as amended before the end of session. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thanks!  
Allison Brandt*

Sent from my very affordable refurbished iPhone 8

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**From:** Deanna McDonald [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:15 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Re: SB 140

I would like to know why Craig Johnson refuses to schedule SB 140 for a vote? That seems very unconstitutional. You're job is to represent your areas. Not just avoid bringing bills to the table that you don't want to pass.

Please do the right thing and schedule the vote! Give our children the education they deserve!

---

**From:** Robbin La Vine <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:57 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Subject:** SB 140

*Dear House Finance Committee and representatives,*

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

Robbin La Vine

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Ernie Kirby <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:07 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Subject:** Re: SB 140

Representative Johnson, Quit micromanaging SB 140 and move it to the floor so the representatives we sent there can do the work we sent them to do.

Thank you,  
Ernie Kirby  
[REDACTED]

On Tue, May 16, 2023 at 8:56 PM Ernie Kirby <[ejmkirby@gmail.com](mailto:ejmkirby@gmail.com)> wrote:

*Pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*If it needs funding, institute a statewide sales tax to generate funds that ONLY! go to fund education.*

--

Ernie Kirby  
[REDACTED]

--

Ernie Kirby  
Anderson Products Co.  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Helen Nienhueser [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:13 PM  
**To:** Rep. Craig Johnson; House Finance; esentative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov  
**Subject:** SB 140

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

*Helen Nienhueser*

*Anchorage*

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**From:** Janet Schichnes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:55 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140

Please SB140 as amended. Our schools need the support. Alaska is falling behind in education and we are shortchanging our students.

Thank you,

Janet Schichnes  
Fairbanks

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Cindy Epperson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:37 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140

I hope you will pass this bill and assure schools will be funded.

Cynthia Epperson  
Anchorage

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Elayne Hunter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:51 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140

Please pass SB 140.

Our educational system must be funded for our children and our future as a thriving and healthy state.

Elayne Hunter



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**From:** Jessica Louwse [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 8:17 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SB 140

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*



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**From:** Ralph Crosslin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 8:27 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB140

Dear Finance Committee Members:

On behalf of the students and the board of the Yakutat School District I respectfully ask for your support in moving SB140 out of committee to the floor for consideration and passage. Each of the components of SB140 is critical to YSD as it continues the struggles to maintain the most basic programs and services to its students.

Respectfully,  
Ralph Crosslin, Superintendent  
Yakutat School District

--  
Ralph Crosslin, Temporary Superintendent  
Yakutat School District

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**From:** Juliet Eames [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SB140

I am so disheartened by what appears to be a failure to pass the BSA this session.

I urge you to reconsider. I sent a letter earlier this year detailing several hardships our district in FBX is facing and how it's affecting our kids and staff. It feels as if we are on the cusp of complete failure. This is so discouraging.

I applaud those that have championed it, and urge the others to do whatever is necessary to push this through.

We add our voice to the plea below.

Juliet and Wendell  
Fairbanks

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

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**From:** Helen Smeaton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:28 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB140

Members of House Finance Committee,

Thank you so much for passing SB140 out of committee and supporting education! This bill could go a long way in providing districts with funding to continue our efforts to improve the educational outcomes of Alaskan students. Thank you again for both this and all of the work you are doing for our state, I know it's a humongous and often thankless job.

Helen Smeaton  
Dillingham City School District  
Board President

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**From:** Kimberly Hughes [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB140

Dear Rep of House finance committee,

Please move SB 140 out of committee toj the floor to get a vote on it before you adjourn !

thanks  
Kim Hughes  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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**From:** Kristi Wood [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 9:13 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140 as amended

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Thank you,  
Kristi Wood, Anchorage resident

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**From:** R J Potter [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:52 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140 as amended

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

A one-time increase is unacceptable. The increase in costs due to inflation is here to stay; a one-time funding increase does almost nothing to stabilize our school districts and slow down the outflow of talented teachers.

My neighborhood school was on the chopping block last year because of the impending fiscal cliff at ASD. I saw first hand the harm done to kids, families, teachers, and my community. The only way we can improve education is by creating a more stable, predictable fiscal environment. A failure to do this has ripple effects on communities, negatively impacting our population rates, jobs, crime, etc. In the absence of commitments to a stable financial future for our schools, those who can, will leave the state.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joel Potter

Associate Professor of Philosophy, UAA

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**From:** Rebecca Bernard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:16 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140 as amended

Dear Co-Chairs Edgmon, Foster and Johnson, and members of the House Finance Committee:

I am a longtime Alaska resident and parent of two children attending public schools in Anchorage. Our schools and our students need you to support them by raising the BSA after several years of flat funding. These years of flat funding during a time of significant inflation have taken their toll on our schools, and families are leaving Alaska as a result. Please show your commitment to our state's future by voting for a meaningful increase to the BSA. At the moment, that means passing SB 140 as amended out of committee.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Respectfully,

Rebecca Bernard

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99501



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**From:** Christopher Sis <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 11:51 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB52

Elected & Trusted Representatives of the House Finance Committee -

I'm an Alaskan parent very concerned about underinvesting in public education. Shortfalls due to inflation are apparent in our school district and are unsustainable, even in the coming year.

**Please hear and pass SB52 as soon as possible to prevent a huge public education funding crisis in our state this next year.**

Thank you,  
Chris Sis  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Andy Cizek [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 12:32 PM  
**To:** Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Matt Claman; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Senate Education; House Finance; governor@alaska.gov; House Judiciary; attorney.general@alaska.gov  
**Subject:** SB 52

Why do you all continue to steal from the people of alaska to support a public school system that is so top heavy and defunct that there's no way money will ever fix it. I've seen the public school system in alaska continually get mega funding for decades and it continues to make it more defunct with ever worsening outcomes. Try following the law for once and quit thinking you're above the law. You should be the most upstanding citizens ever produced! What an example you set for the peons. Especially you so called republicans like Steven's who has been sucking off the system for years with a good old boy attitude spending tax dollars like there's way too much. Open your eyes and cut the budget and control your special interests spending with other people's money. You don't know how to spend my money better then I do so stop and if you can't then please resign and let even a kindergartener take your place who can understand spending better then you bought off blind guides can! That was for those of you who try to throw christianeze in your little info letters but still do what's against the law. Wow. What upstanding citizens!!! Oh and yes. Now you get to cost the state more money by your shenanigans with the house majority and running into extra legislation time. Just remember the house is put there to have an equal voice and not just to be run over GARY!!!! MR SENATE LEADER!!! Whose been in position way too long AND HAS HELD THAT POSITION BEFORE. Please retire and move to a communist country since that's what you're obviously pushing for. Maybe that'll change your mind on the way you do things! Thanks Jesse for helping give the senate this power even though you represent the most conservative district in the whole state! What a hero! Please have the balls to run as the democrats you all are instead of hiding behind the Republican veil until elected. It's too bad people are that stupid to keep falling for that age old trick. Bottom line. DO YOUR JOB ACCORDING TON THE OATH YOU TOOK UPON ENTERING OFFICE! Simple huh?

Keep looking up!!!!

Andy Cizek  
[REDACTED]  
Soldotna Ak 99669  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** John & Jo Ann Gruber [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 12:39 PM  
**To:** Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Neal Foster  
**Cc:** House Finance; Rep. Jamie Allard; Sen. Kelly Merrick  
**Subject:** SB 52 (EDU INFO;INCREASE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION)

Dear Representatives Edgmon, Foster, and Johnson,

Last week the Alaska Senate passed SB52. As co-chairs and leaders of the House Finance Committee, I am writing to you today to urge you to hear SB52 and pass the bill from your committee.

Our public education system and its students need and deserve stable, dependable funding. I expect no less for them.

Please get this bill heard and passed from your committee as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jo Ann Gruber  
Eagle River, AK

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**From:** Erin Dougherty Lynch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:15 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov; Representative.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov

Dear House Members:

I am a constituent in House District 10 and I am writing to urge you to pass SB 140 as amended out of Committee.

My daughter is in first grade this year and my son will start ASD kindergarten next year. I have not submitted any previous public comments on this issue this session, but I have been monitoring the legislation, as have other parents I know who are in House District 10 and other areas of Anchorage. Enough is enough. A permanent increase to the BSA this legislative session is critical for Alaska's kids, our schools, our ability to retain teachers, and the overall health of Alaska's economy. Again, please pass SB 140 as amended out of Committee.

Warmest regards,  
Erin Lynch

P.S. Sending my thanks to Representatives Foster, Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for supporting the BSA this session.

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**From:** Mary Geddes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:17 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Concerned about the BSA increase

Dear Committee members;

I have lived and voted in Alaska for more than 35 years. I was married here and have had a family. Our children have done fine in life because back then there was adequate state funding and support for their education.

I want the same support for our grandchildren who also live here. Otherwise, I am afraid our children's families will join others who have left the state for locations where children and public education are better valued.

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Mary C Geddes  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Tam Agosti-Gisler [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:31 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Subject:** Pretty please with sugar on top!

House Finance Reps:

Please, please, please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA is long, long, long overdue.

I've been making this request for the past 13 years if it seems like I'm repeating myself.

Sincerely,

Tam Agosti-Gisler

Anchorage

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**From:** Tracy Fischbach <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:31 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Pass SB140 as amended out of committee

Hello,

I am writing to you to show support for SB140 as it was amended to include a permanent increase to the BSA funding. We all know how our schools are struggling and we know the reason - lack of funding. Without adequate funding, we can't get and keep enough staff to support our students in the way they need to be supported. **This is an investment, not an expense.**

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon, and Tomaszewski for acknowledging this need and voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session.

Thank you,  
Tracy Fischbach  
[REDACTED], Anchorage, AK 99517

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**From:** MarkaAnne Brooks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:42 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** School funding

Please, please do not give up on Alaska's children. We need the BSA increase this year. I don't understand why we can give tax breaks to oil companies who make billions of dollars in profits and ignore what is our greatest resource and legacy. If you pass a capital bill without increases for schools it will be a very very sad day for Alaska

Marka Anne brooks  
Anchorage



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**From:** Jeff Merkel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:50 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please Pass SB 140 out of committee!

Dear Representatives,

I am a parent to two talented and committed children in West Valley High School in Fairbanks, and very concerned about how Alaska has limited education funding. We have endured many cuts, which have gutted the school music programs here – which affects my daughter and her colleagues’ work as they play in the Fairbanks Youth Orchestra – not to mention causing our school board to close several elementary schools, increase class sizes, and increase stress among hard-working teachers – some of whom have simply packed it in and left the state.

This is no way to run Alaska’s economy.

It may indeed contribute largely to the RUIN of Alaska’s economy.

I hope you will quickly pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Sincerely

Jeff Merkel

*(Please let me know if you rather not receive posts from me – and thanks!)*

J e f f   M e r k e l  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



Teaching music  
is not my main purpose.  
I want to make good citizens.  
If children hear fine music  
from the day of their birth  
and learn to play it,  
they develop sensitivity,  
discipline & endurance.  
They get a beautiful heart.  
--Shinichi Suzuki



Virus-free [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

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**From:** Anna Polonowski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 3:19 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please show your support for Alaska Education

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

*The children are truly our future! Please act!*

*Anna and John Polonowski*

*Anchorage, Alaska*

*Parents of 2 Elementary School aged children*

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 3:24 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** NAACP: Support SB 140 and full funding for schools  
**Attachments:** Duty of the House May 2023.docx

Dear House Finance,

Please pass SB 140 out of committee and support it on the floor.

Indeed, schools need a \$260 million increase in the BSA (22%).

Thanks,

-Mike Bronson, NAACP Anchorage education committee ( and no relation to the mayor )

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**From:** Sally Rue <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 3:41 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Frank Rue  
**Subject:** Support BSA increase

Dear Finance Chairs Edgmon, Foster, and Johnson,

I am writing you with a sense of great urgency, as I watch Alaska's education system being degraded by severe underfunding for years.

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Thank you for reading these comments. Please do this for Alaska's future.

Sincerely,

Sally and Frank Rue

Juneau

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**From:** Suzanne Smerjac [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:07 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Increase the BSA!

Hello - please vote to increase the BSA by passing SB140. The flat funding is hurting our children and our state. Please vote for a permanent increase to school funding. Better yet propose an annual increase that is tied to inflation to make a lasting impact on the future of our state. You can make a huge impact on Alaska's future by passing this bill.

Thank you for your courage,

Suzanne Smerjac  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage Ak 99517

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**From:** Lisa Parady [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:10 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Thank You Members of House Finance

**Importance:** High

Dear Co-Chairs Edgmon, Foster, and Johnson and members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for passing SB 140 from your committee today. Your actions through SB 140 will help rural/remote school districts increase their internet speeds and help close the divide of access to technology in Alaska's schools.

We also appreciate the amendments made in the committee to include a critical BSA increase and a much needed funding increase to Pupil Transportation.

Your understanding of the need for predictable and stable funding for Alaska's schools does not go unnoticed.

Thank you again for your support of Alaska's students.

Best regards,

Dr. Lisa S. Parady  
Executive Director



The Alaska Council of School Administrators  
**Leadership, Unity & Advocacy for Public Education**  
Juneau, AK 99801 [REDACTED]

*Our office resides on the unceded territory of the Áak'w Kwáan on Lingít Aaní, also known as Juneau and Douglas, Alaska, which also houses neighboring Xaadas and Ts'msyen peoples.*

This e-mail may contain information that is confidential or privileged. Do not forward this message to any third party. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this e-mail.

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**From:** Craig Fredeen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:16 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Subject:** Pass SB 140 as Amended to SAVE money on schools

Please pass and move to the floor SB140 to raise the BSA this year.

It is important for our School Districts to get a consistent, reliable funding base ASAP. This will help retain teachers and critical staff THIS YEAR.

A consistent BSA will also allow our Districts to complete long deferred maintenance on the schools and hire the trained staff that they've had to lay off from many years of budget cuts and flat spending.

A fully funded School District can fund PREVENTATIVE maintenance which will offset FIRST COSTS and premature REPLACEMENT PROJECTS that come out of the State's budget.

A properly funded school maintenance program results in lowered energy costs and reduced long term operating costs.

One time funding bills are not dependable enough for skilled staff (teachers and facilities) to risk leaving their existing jobs to work for a School District with unstable funding.

Thank you for tackling this very important issue this year!

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Fredeen, PE  
President | Principal Mechanical Engineer

**COLD CLIMATE**  
**ENGINEERING, LLC**





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**From:** Russell Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:23 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Setting aside 140 is the wrong move!

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

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**From:** Lindsey Sprinkle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:33 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SB 140 - please pass!

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

Thank you,  
Lindsey Sprinkle  
[REDACTED], Anchorage, AK 99504

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**From:** Peter Schnurr [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:40 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Education funding

I am writing to implore you to pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. I've got two small children and one will be starting school in the fall. Chronic underfunding of our schools is making their future look pretty bleak, but it's not just family I'm worried about because the collective future of Alaska is at stake. This potential disaster is entirely avoidable. Please help steer us away from that by passing this bill.

Thank you for your time, and thank you to Representatives Edgmon, Foster, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Ortiz, Stapp, and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session.

Sincerely,  
Peter Schnurr

---

**From:** Felicia Riedel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:42 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** So goes education, goes Alaska

---

Hello,

*I always thought that one of the incredible foundational ideas of the U.S., right up there near the Constitution, was that we would fare better as a country if everyone -not just the rich -could get an education. It would bolster the economy with more skilled and creative workers, but also fulfill that radical notion that everyone - not just the rich -should vote and do so as an informed voter.*

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

*Felicia Riedel  
Kenny Lake, AK*

---

**From:** Nancy Mendenhall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:46 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** HB 140

Thanks very much for passing HB 140!

**Nancy Mendenhall**  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Diana Brann <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:50 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Our future depends on this—raise the BSA!

*Our schools are underfunded yet crucial for a healthy Alaska. Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

*Diana Brann*

*Juneau*

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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**From:** Susan Nedza [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:55 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** THANK YOU!!!

Your efforts around an increase in the BSA and increase in internet speed are noted. Our students, families, teachers and staff are watching and listening daily. We are feeling heard and seen each time you recognize our needs in your efforts.

Thank you again,

--

Susan R. Nedza  
Chief School Administrator  
Bering Strait School District  
Unalakleet, Alaska

[REDACTED] Secretary

AK Careline  
[REDACTED]  
Crisis Text Line  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Margaret Gray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 5:02 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Thank You for Your Support

To Whom It May Concern:

I hope you are all doing well. I wanted to take a moment and thank you for your support in regards to SB140.

Sincerely,

Margaret Gray

--

**Maggie Gray**

NACTEC Program Coordinator

Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Teller Highway, Nome-Beltz Complex  
Nome, AK 99762

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Snova Parish [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 5:04 PM  
**To:** House Finance

*Dear House Finance Committee Members,*

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

*With adequate and consistent funding, Alaska's next generation will thrive and contribute to the future of our incredible state.*

*Snova Parish*

*Retired Special Education Teacher, Juneau School District*

---

**From:** Mary Forbes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 5:22 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Increasing the BSA

Thank you to Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannah, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA it is long overdue. I have written before that we were fighting this battle when my youngest child, now 24 was still in high school. PLEASE pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. It is years past time to get this done!

Sincerely,

Mary Forbes  
Kodiak

---

**From:** zack youngman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 5:56 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** School system in crisis fund education.

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

Thank you!!  
Anita Youngman  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

---

**From:** Celeste Foster <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 6:07 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Increasing internet speed for Alaska Schools

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

Thank you so much for passing the request on SB140. I work in a rural Alaska School.

Sincerely,

Celeste Foster  
5th Grade Teacher  
Hogarth Kingeekuk School, Savoonga, Alaska

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---

**From:** Tracey Burke [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 6:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** support for SB 140 as amended

*Dear Legislators:*

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures. I have two children in public schools and a another who graduated from public schools - and just graduated from our public university system. Educated citizens are our future.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

*Thank you,*

[REDACTED], Anchorage, 99504

---

**From:** Laurie Clough [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:04 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** School Funding

Please increase the BSA. It's long overdue. Our schools used to be the best in the country. Our children, who are our future, deserve a first rate education, not a cut rate education.

Thank you.

Laurell Clough

---

**From:** K C [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:10 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140 Please Pass

Dear Finance Committee Members

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

*Sincerely*

*Kathryn Cross*

[REDACTED]  
*Anchorage AK 99507*

---

**From:** michal [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:28 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please fund our schools adequately

Hi

I'm the parent of two children in Anchorage public schools. My kids' education is paramount to me.

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Thank you.

Michal Stryszak

Anchorage, AK 99517



---

**From:** Tom Snyder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 8:42 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Pass a permanent increase to the BSA

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!



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**From:** carolyn tag [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:08 PM  
**To:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson; House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140 - URGENT

*Representatives,*

*I URGE you to pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures. I was a special educator for 32 years, 26 in Alaska. I witnessed firsthand the effects of inadequate funding on our children's educational services. Listen to your constituents, and pass SB 140.*

*THANK YOU, Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA.*

*Sincerely,*

*Carolyn Tague*

*Anchorage*

---

**From:** Lisa Admin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:10 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140 out of committee

Dear House Committee,

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures. I have a 7<sup>th</sup> grader attending Juneau Community Charter School and a Freshmen at JDHS. They need their music, culinary arts, PE and gen education teachers, and their paras and thier Special Ed teacher to stick around for next year. They need their activities to still be there next year. For them, please don't kick this can down the road.

In Juneau we don't have many private schools and I wouldn't want my kids to attend one. Both my husband I work full time, so home schooling is not an option for us. Public school is our choice. Our public schools need more money so we can retain and attract top notch staff, so we can keep programs that keep students engaged like art, music, cooking, and keep extracurricular activities like model UN.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session! Please stay strong, please keep fighting, please know you are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lisa EaganLagerquisit

Douglas, Alaska 99824

---

**From:** Kristie Carlson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 5:24 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Internet speed

As a school counselor in a village, I do a lot of video calls. It's so frustrating when, for instance, a representative from Mt Edgecombe school is doing a presentation for our 8th graders and it keeps cutting out. Yesterday I had a high school student who had an interview scheduled with a school and I had to call the school and explain that the internet wasn't loading fast enough and could we just do a phone call instead. This happens a lot- where the internet connection impedes the students' access to the outside world through video calls. This past semester we had Rep Mary Peltola video call into our school to do a presentation and we had to have a plan B and C because we never know if the internet can handle what we need to do.

PLEASE increase the internet speeds!!!!!!

Thanks,

Kristie Carlson, school counselor in St Michael

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**From:** Shonti Elder <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 7:18 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Raise BSA, pass SB 140 as amended. There's still time to take this positive step for our children.

As a retired teacher, I understand how critical it is to raise the BSA this year.

---

**From:** Anna Mekki [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 8:15 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Extreme thank you

**Importance:** High

House Finance Committee members,  
Thank you for everything you have supported. Our students and future leaders deserve and need support for connectivity and transportation as well as desperate needs within our schools from teachers to meals for student education.

**Anna L Mekki**  
**North Slope Borough School District**  
**Elementary Teacher**  
**Site Tech**  
**Alak School**

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Dawn Adams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 8:28 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Thank you for SB140

Thank you for passing SB52 now SB140 out of the House Finance Committee and giving it an opportunity for consideration with the full House today. I appreciate your commitment to the students of Alaska and hope that you will have the opportunity to continue your support.

Dawn Adams  
Parent  
School Board Member

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 8:41 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SB140 - Please Pass!

Hello,

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Thank you,  
Paula Kangis  
Mother of 2 school age ASD students



---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 8:53 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 40

Please pass SB 40 as amended. Do something for our public schools - they are far behind the necessary funding, thanks to years of socialistic spending on the permanent fund.....

Thanks,

Tom Nelson, Anchorage

---

**From:** Joe Ver [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Support SB 52

I would like the House to support a permanent increase to the BSA and to support SB 52. As a substitute teacher in the Juneau School District for the last 16 years , I still see these dedicated people every-day and they are devoted more time before school and after school so their students can succeed. I subbed at ABES, GVES, and MRCS this week second, third and fourth grade. The number of students ranged from 22 to 27. It is a challenge trying to help one kid with writing and other kids keep interrupting about something else. Today in a second-grade class, I was trying to get a student to do writing, then listen to another student read, and finally help another student finish science writing assignments. There were interruptions all the time, plus talking and kids bothering other kids. So, I know how our elementary teachers feel and that is why many are leaving. I hope members of the House read your commentary and understand the importance in raising and maintaining the BSA. Our children are the future of Alaska, and if they cannot see that then we may end up like some of the states in the deep south.

Joe Ver  
[REDACTED]  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[REDACTED]

*Joe Ver*

[REDACTED]  
US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup  
[REDACTED]

"The Game for All Kids"

---

**From:** Marcus Geissler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:29 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Help Us!!

To Our Legislators,

I have learned that our BSA (base student allocation) has not increased since 2017. Therefore, our schools are now in a critical situation where underfunding has led to poor educational experiences for our students including larger class sizes, downsizing of curriculum, and inadequate school buildings.

With inflation at double-digits for the last 2 years, the cost of fuel, food and other supplies for our schools has skyrocketed while our funding remains the same. This means that the Lower Kuskokwim School District is running into deficit spending to keep our sites including our school Joann A. Alexie Memorial School up and running. We find ourselves in a position where we have to decide on travelling for basketball and other sports based on cost and budgeting. Not only are extra-curricular activities affected, but classroom supplies and experiences must be cut as well.

If teachers are cut from the budget, class sizes will increase and the quality of education will be affected in a detrimental manner. It is important that our teachers and staff stay in our schools to help our students have the best educational experience possible.

I thank you for your time and consideration in reading this letter. I ask that you vote to increase the BSA by \$680 in 2024 and another \$348 in 2025. Please continue your efforts to support quality education in Alaska.

Quyana,  
Marcus Geissler  
6-12 Physical Education and Social Studies Teacher and Athletic Director  
Joann A. Alexie Memorial School  
Atmautluak, Alaska  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Natasha Price [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:56 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Increase the BSA

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and the futures of Alaska children.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

-Natalia Price

Anchorage

---

**From:** Carey Carpenter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:58 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Increase to BSA

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

-Carey

---

**From:** Erin Binek [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:58 PM  
**To:** House Finance; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Cathy Tilton  
**Subject:** PLEASE HELP OUR SCHOOLS!

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you for your support of schools and children!  
Erin Binek  
Anchorage, AK

---

**From:** Marie Husa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:59 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SB 140 Amended

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. Our children and our state deserve this increase and it is your job to have it brought to the committee for a vote.

Thank you!

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

Sincerely,  
Marie Husa

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99515

---

**From:** Jasmine Carter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:04 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov Representative.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov

Hello all,

I am writing to you all today to please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures. Our kids and future workforce deserve to be invested in now.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

--

Thank You,

Jasmine Carter (She/Her/Hers)

*Dena'inaq etnen'aaq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)*

*Yo vivo y trabajo en la tierra de la Dena'ina (Spanish)*

*I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina. (English)*

*Translation by Joel Isaak and Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart*



---

**From:** Jill Still [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:05 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; representative.craig.johnson@akleg.com  
**Subject:** Increase BSA: please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee

School funding needs an increase now.

My kids are in elementary school.

Alaska needs an education system that invests in our future, health of our communities, and our economy.

Increasing BSA will save the state money and make our state worth raising our families.

Our 2nd and 3rd generation Alaskans deserve a top notch education.

Our teachers and schools require a base level of funding that is on par.

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

Yes this is courage and you can do it! We are rooting for you!

Jill Still

--

~Jill Still

---

**From:** Arctic Circle Photo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:10 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Alaska needs an educated workforce

Dear House Finance Committee,

I think you all value public education as an investment in Alaska's future, though sometimes the Legislature's decisions leave us wondering if that is true. As a person who was educated in the Alaska public school system and who now has 2 daughters in the system, I can say that public schools are presently struggling from inadequate funding. Please make the investment in our future or we're going to see a continued exodus of bright young people from Alaska.

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

Thanks for your service.

Ken Tape

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rozlyn Grady [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:09 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SUPPORT AMENDED SB 140

*Hello I would like to help encourage you to Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

Roz'lyn Grady-Wyche

An aspiring special education educator - born and raised Alaskan - and community leader 💪!! ❤️❤️

---

**From:** Kayt Sunwood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:17 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee 🙏

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you to Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon, and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

*Representatives Tilton and Johnson, please care about the health of our economy and our children's futures.*

Pass SB 140 as amended out of committee 🙏

Mary Kayt Sunwood

~~~~~

M. Kayt Sunwood, Ph.D.  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
[REDACTED]

~~~~~

*I acknowledge the Dena people of the Lower Tanana Valley upon whose traditional lands the UAF Troth Yeddha' Campus and the land upon which I reside are located.*

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Please consider the environment before printing

---

**From:** Lili Misel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:19 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee

Dear House Finance Committee,

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session.

Thank you,

Lili Misel

Fairbanks

---

**From:** Laura Pomeroy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:23 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Better life for Alaskans

To our finance Committee,

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

It would improve my life as a teacher and provider, as well as those of our students.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

I sincerely appreciate it,

Laura Pomeroy, Kodiak Island School District

---

**From:** Chandra Poe [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:31 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SB 140 BSA increase - please act to move this forward!

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures. Please do not let this opportunity for a brighter future be lost. Our family has two kids in the public school system and we strongly support this BSA increase.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!

Sincerely,

Chandra Poe

---

**From:** Cindy Myers-Parr [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:36 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Base Student Allocation

Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.

Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon, and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session.

Best regards,  
Cindy Myers-Parr  
Anchorage

Sent from my iPad



---

**From:** Amy Paige <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:37 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Our schools need more funds they can count on- Our children deserve quality education

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*Thank you Representatives Stapp, Ortiz, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Foster, Edgmon and Tomaszewski for your courage in voting to pass a permanent increase to the BSA this session!*

Amy Paige  
Grandparent of five public school age kids.

Juneau

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**From:** Gretchen Hopkins [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:38 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** State bill 140

*Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee. A permanent increase to the BSA this session is critical for the health of the economy and our children's futures.*

*As an educator in the Anchorage School District for 30 years, I can tell you the toll it takes on every single part of our educational process to not have a BSA which is predictable and functional. Please please understand how crucial this is, and do the right thing by passing SB 140 as amended out of committee.*

*Sincerely,  
Gretchen Hopkins  
Retired Anchorage School District  
elementary school teacher.*

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**From:** Robert Arnold <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:38 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Discussion on SB 140

Dear Honorable house Finance members,

I would like to thank all of you for the time you put in for this important job. I do agree with some your comments, that we need to have a balanced budget, and part of that is not allowing ourselves to write blank checks to hope that everything works out. This bill needs to be vetted and thought out, every school district is different and every need is different so the cookie cutter approach to budgeting is not what we need. Please keep it real and check the other body, to make sure their numbers add up.

Thank you.

Robb Arnold  
Ketchikan Alaska

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**From:** Christy Everett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:44 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 140 as amended out of committee now

Dear Representatives:

As an Alaskan voter for over 35 years, as well as a mother and grandmother of Alaskans, I urge you to pass SB 140 as amended out of committee this session.

A permanent increase to the BSA is crucial for our children's education now and the future of Alaska's economy. Parents will continue to move out of the state to find a better education for their children, and we will not have the educated workforce we need to succeed. We must invest in our children if we want a bright future!

Sincerely,

Christine Everett  
[REDACTED], North Pole, AK 99705

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**From:** Bruce Parham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:47 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140 - Please Pass

Dear Representatives Edgmon, Foster, Johnson, Coulombe, Cronk, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Ortiz, and Tomaszewski,

This is to request that you pass SB 140, as amended out of committee. This will allow for a permanent increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) this session. This is a critical measure to improve the future of Alaska's children and for the health of the economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

R. Bruce Parham

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99502-1957  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Laura Bonner [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Julie Coulombe; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** SB140 - support as amended

House Finance Committee,

Thank you moving SB 140 with amendments out of committee. It provides funding to increase internet access to rural schools, an increase for BSA that is critical for schools, and provides funding for school transportation costs.

Thank you to Representatives Foster, Edgmon, Stapp, Ortiz, Josephson, Tomaszewski, Galvin, and Hannan for making this possible.

Please pass SB 140 as amended.

Laura Bonner  
House District 11

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**From:** Toni [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:07 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** SB 140 (as amended out of committee)

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I am a lifelong Alaskan, attending K-12 in the Anchorage School District. During those years I don't remember having garbage cans in the hallways to catch water from leaking roofs, paying for school sports or having so many students in a room so that students had to sit at the teacher's desk. All these things are signs of inadequate funding and have become common and even normal. Sadly, things are getting worse. My friend teaches chemistry at East High School and she now has to do the same lab on two different days because there is not enough room at the lab stations for the whole class. This has resulted, predictably, in lower quality instruction.

My elders found the political will and moral fiber to pay for my schooling. Why aren't we carrying that responsibility? We even have a permanent fund that they did not have! It makes me feel ashamed of all the freeloaders who call themselves adults and yet want to have government services for free AND get a PFD on top of that. We are experiencing an outmigration of our brightest young professionals as they see nothing but large classes and poor quality in our school system for their children. We face fewer people accepting professional jobs here for the same reason. I love Alaska and want to see educational funding from pre-K through graduate degrees supported so that we can have a healthy and stable economy.

Please support SB 140 as amended out of committee. We need, not only an increase in education this year, but also a permanent increase in the BSA. We need it THIS SESSION.

With Hope and Commitment,

Antonia Sparrow  
Citizen of South Anchorage

Sent from my iPad