



NAACP

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Anchorage, Alaska Branch – Wanda V. Laws, President

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February 18, 2013

The Honorable Representative Lynn Gattis
State Capitol
120 4th Street, Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Gattis,

One of the goals of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens. Therefore it is essential that all students have access to an equal and high-quality public education by eliminating education-related racial and ethnic disparities in our public schools.

I am writing to inform you that the NAACP Anchorage strongly opposes HB 93. We believe that this bill would undermine the local control of the Anchorage School District. As these new schools open there will be a competition of student enrollments which may force the closure of local neighborhood schools. As it stands now, school districts are able to make sure that the decisions made benefit all students.

Secondly, we believe this bill creates a second tier charter school system that would utilize state funds in order to pay for their administrative costs. Alaskans would pay for duplicate services because the charter schools would be able to take advantage of shared administrative costs currently provided by the school district which would be more efficient and provide costs savings.

And lastly, HB 93 pulls money from our public schools. Alaska's public schools have and continue to make significant cuts because the Base Student Allocation has not kept up with the cost of inflation.

The NAACP Anchorage opposes HB 93.

Please include this letter in the bill packet.

Respectfully,

Wanda V. Laws

Wanda V. Laws
President, NAACP Anchorage