

## Koniag-KANA Regional Roundtable

### Resolution in Support of Alaska Native Language Immersion Programs

**WHEREAS**, The Koniag-KANA Regional Roundtable is a group whose membership is comprised of representatives of the Koniag Regional Native Corporation, the Kodiak Area Native Association, and each ANCSA corporation and Tribal entity on Kodiak Island; and

**WHEREAS**, Efforts to revitalize the Alutiiq language in the region have been ongoing for the past twenty or more years; and

**WHEREAS**, Approximately 20% of students in the Kodiak Island Borough School District (KIBSD) are Alaska Native and over 90% in some of the rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, The Koniag-KANA Regional Roundtable strongly supports language immersion education and supports efforts that will result in more quality language immersion education programs in the KIBSD and the state; and

**WHEREAS**, The KIBSD has a shortage of teachers for expansion of immersion programs that possess the required level of language proficiency and who are also able to fulfill the state's teacher certification requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska's current teacher certification laws contribute to the difficulty school districts have in hiring quality language immersion instructors; and

**WHEREAS**, Providing school districts greater flexibility in the hiring of language immersion teachers would give districts, including the KIBSD, more flexibility to offer and expand high-quality and highly-sought after language immersion programs; and

**WHEREAS**, expanding the scope of the existing Type M and Type I limited teacher certificates, as proposed in HB 102 and SB 75, would allow the KIBSD to hire qualified Alutiiq speakers; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Koniag-KANA Regional Roundtable supports legislation such as HB 102 and SB 75 that will provide greater flexibility for school districts to fill teaching positions in Alaska Native language immersion programs.

DATED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017

ATTESTED by:

  
Andy Teuber  
President & CEO  
Kodiak Area Native Association

  
Tom Panamaroff  
Regional & Legislative Affairs Executive  
Koniag, Inc.