Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for carefully considering the needs of every Alaskan student and family in taking on this measure and topic to fund our schools using new and existing revenues.

It is extremely distressing to me that our schools are facing such a level of budget deficit and that school and legislative budgets do not align to prevent unnecessary stress on the school employees, parents, teachers, and administrators. We have two children enrolled at McNeil Canyon, one at Homer High School and one receiving early intervention speech therapy at Paul Banks. These schools provide education to our children, social activities and development opportunities, and a chance to make a better future. Closing schools, and/or not funding schools to meet the needs of students will impact my family, my neighbors, my community and our state for years to come. Every child deserves the right to a safe school that provides equal opportunity to quality education and extracurricular activities. Every student should have education tools to meet special needs or learning challenges. I want this for my family, for the families in my community, for the families across our district and for all Alaskan families now and in the future.

Our family would not be able to provide the same level of education to our children if our public schools closed, or if classroom sizes doubled our children would not receive the same quality of education to make them competitive in the global economy.

Should schools close or class sizes increase above what research has shown is ideal number for learning at the different student ages and stages we would work towards moving out of Alaska to a state that puts more resources into the public education system.

I urge you to make the decision to fully fund our schools using new and existing revenue streams and to support increasing the student base rate and inflation proof the base rate for students this year and every year.

Thank you for standing in support of Alaska families and the schools we rely on to provide our children with the best start to life with quality education, teachers and facilities.

Jasmine Maurer