

From: [K Kreiss](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB69
Date: Monday, April 07, 2025 9:46:44 AM

I request that the senate finance committee support the \$1000 BSA increase in order to support our public schools. For too long, our students in Sitka and elsewhere have not had support that kept up with inflation. We need to strengthen our public education to support our economy and our future generations.

Kay Kreiss

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sitka AK 99835

From: [Kelly Buxton](#)
To: [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support for HB 69 – Request for Hearing and Action on BSA Increase
Date: Sunday, April 06, 2025 6:13:12 PM

Dear Senator Stedman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to schedule a hearing for House Bill 69 in the Senate Finance Committee and to support its advancement with a \$1000 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

Alaska's public schools are facing unprecedented challenges due to inflation, aging infrastructure, and growing demands on educators. Districts across the state have made difficult cuts, and without meaningful increases to the BSA, the quality and accessibility of public education are at risk.

The Alaska Constitution, Article VII, Section 1, mandates that "The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State." This mandate includes ensuring our public schools are adequately funded so that every student—regardless of zip code—has access to a high-quality education.

A \$1000 BSA increase is not just a number—it represents restored support for teachers, smaller class sizes, safe facilities, and critical programs that prepare Alaska's youth for the future. HB 69 passed the House with strong support, and now I respectfully ask the Senate Finance Committee to provide this vital legislation with a fair and timely hearing.

Thank you for your leadership and service to the people of Alaska. I hope you will stand with students, educators, and communities across the state by moving HB 69 forward with a meaningful BSA increase.

Sincerely,
Kelly Buxton M.Ed.



From: [Retha Winger](#)
To: [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Sunday, April 06, 2025 12:53:04 PM

Hello,

I am writing to support HB 69. Education is critically important. Please support our educators by increasing the BSA.

Thank you,
Retha Winger
Sitka

From: [wendy.alderson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support HB 69 \$1,000 BSA increase
Date: Sunday, April 06, 2025 10:11:35 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please schedule a hearing on HB 69 and please support the \$1,000 BSA increase.

I have lived in Sitka for 35 years and I'm so pleased to see many of my friends' adult children choosing to return home and raise their families here in this community. It has never been terribly affordable to live anywhere in Alaska, especially Southeast, but the families trying to make a go of it are willing to make that financial sacrifice for the quality of life this small tight knit community provides.

One sacrifice they will not make, however, is the quality of public education provided their children. Without this raise in the BSA, that quality will suffer to the point that we WILL start losing families. A recent report on population dynamics noted the exponential rise of transient workers in Alaska. We are losing residents at an alarming rate. I strongly believe a larger PFD is not going to keep families here, but investing in their children's education will.

Thank you for your time,
Wendy Alderson

From: [Ariane Goudeau](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Please support our schools
Date: Sunday, April 06, 2025 10:02:53 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am sending you this letter urging you to vote for school funding. I understand that the deficit is a serious concern and that balancing the budget is needed. However multiple studies have shown how investing in our schools is an investment in our future economy. A study published in 2015 showed that increasing the per-pupil spending each year for the 12 years of public schooling by 10% led to 0.27 more completed years of education, 7.25% high wages and 3.67% reduction in the incidence of adult poverty ([Jackson et al., 2015](#)). Less poverty means less coming out of the state's social safety net. Keep in mind, this is an average, Results were even more significant for those coming from more impoverished households. Another study, showed that the same 10% increase (\$1000) in Michigan, led to those students being 3% more likely to enroll in college and 2.3% more likely to earn a postsecondary degree ([Hyman, 2017](#)). Lastly, a 2021 study showed that, again, just that 10% increase of \$1000 per pupil led to a decrease in violent crime. Those students who had received greater financial support during their K-12 years were less likely to be arrested before the age of 30 ([Ades & Mishra, 2021](#)). This also translated to a cost savings for the state as well as a better quality of life for its people.

Let's talk Alaska specific. A study conducted by the University of Alaska Anchorage found that in this state, we spend a good chunk of change on our students. In 2022, K-12 spending came out to \$20,191. This is higher than most other states. Since then, inflation has only increased, not decreased. However, if cost of living is accounted for, per pupil spending is 15% below the national average whereas in 2017, Alaska was only 2% below the national average. We are not keeping up. In 2017, local funding accounted for 22% of the funding for schools, in 2023, it was 23%. State funding, however decreased from 64% to 55%. The remaining chunk came from the federal government and was mostly related to pandemic relief which is now gone. Additionally, from 2017 to 2022, inflation increased by 19%. We are expecting our schools to do more, with less ([Berman & DeFeo, 2025](#)).

Zooming into my district, Sitka this has painted a very sad picture. Since 2014, we have lost 31% of our teachers with 19% of that being last year. Since 2014, inflation has increased 28%, but the BSA from the state has only increase 5%. After cutting the significantly last year, our district is facing even more cuts. Just to break even, we need out BSA to be at \$1460 per student. I found out earlier this week that both of my kids' teachers are probably getting cut. They have both been teaching for many years and came to the school district with that experience. My youngest is in kindergarten and isn't a fan of going to school. She will regularly say "I don't like school, but I love Ms. Pearson. My oldest, second grade come home excited to be learning "4th grade stuff." Mr. Jenson has been so good at meeting each student with where they are at. They were both up for tenure this year, which would have given them a bit more safety with their position. My kindergartener's school had to cut the librarian last year. The music teacher position was also cut. To adjust, the PE teacher is now also the music teacher. Many parents have also stepped up to volunteer their time to subsidize the funding cut. For example, my second grader has a parent going in and teaching them art on a weekly basis. I also

go read with them on a weekly basis. I love the creative solutions that our district has come up with and I love and trust that this community will continue fighting for our children's education. However, there is only so much that can be done by our community alone. We need the state to step up their support.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this. I understand that you are in the tough position to balance everything and are constantly having to make hard decisions. Please let this be one of your easier ones. We need this funding. We need to do right by our future generations. We need to keep our people here. We need to keep Alaska strong and competitive against other states.

Sincerely,

Ariane Goudeau

Citations:

Ades, J., & Mishra, J. (2021). Education and crime across America: Inequity's cost. *Social Sciences*, 10(8), 283. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci10080283>

Berman, M., & DeFeo, D. (2025). Per pupil spending update. Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage.

Hyman, J. (2017). Does money matter in the long run? Effects of school spending on educational attainment. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 9(4), 256–80. <https://doi.org/10.1257/pol.20150249>

Jackson, C. K., Johnson, R. C., & Persico, C. (2015). The effects of school spending on educational and economic outcomes: Evidence from school finance reforms (NBER Working Paper No. 20847). National Bureau of Economic Research. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w20847>

From: [Lorene Bertagnoli](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Saturday, April 05, 2025 2:52:49 PM

Hello,

I am a Petersburg Constituent and I am asking the Senate to match the house and pass a \$1,000 BSA increase: \$680 is too low and will force our district into deficit spending.

I also support SB112, 113, 92 and 109.

Thank you for your time.

Lorene Bertagnoli

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Petersburg 99833

From: [Joel Jenson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: 2nd Grade, Keet Gooshi Heen, Sitka
Date: Friday, April 04, 2025 3:14:39 PM

Dear Finance Committee,

My name is Joel Jenson of Keet Gooshi Heen in Sitka. We have been learning about writing persuasive letters. With the budget cuts possibly in store for our district, my students were more than willing to address our situation. I can recognize the challenge that is before you, which many of us don't know the "big picture" of what all has to be considered.

Last year Sitka lost 19% of our teaching staff. This year there will be at least 6 or more that will be cut again, I being one of those being cut.

Thank you for your time and I hope you have a chance to read what my students have written.

Thank you,
Joel Jenson

From: [Brian Farley](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support for HB 69
Date: Friday, April 04, 2025 1:40:38 PM

Senate Finance Committee

Alaska State Legislature

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to support the HB 69 bill funding our schools. Education is a top priority for our family, and many of our major life decisions—including where to live—are based on access to high-quality public education.

Two years ago, our family moved to Sitka from Ann Arbor, Michigan. In our first year here, we were deeply impressed by the strength of Sitka's public schools. Our children thrived in smaller class sizes—they received heightened attention from teachers and participated in artistic programs that helped build their confidence and creativity.

Last year, our oldest daughter was identified for the Gifted and Talented program, where she found both academic challenge and a community of peers. It was a transformative experience. Unfortunately, this year, we've already seen significant cuts to both the GT program and many artistic programs. The quality of education that once excited our children is now at risk.

We are deeply concerned about the future of public education in Sitka and across Alaska. Continued budget cuts not only threaten the success of our children but may also influence whether families like ours choose to stay in the state. We want to raise our children in Alaska—but we will only do so if we believe they can receive a strong education.

Please vote in favor of HB 69. The proposed \$1,000 increase to the Base Student Allocation is an essential step toward restoring and sustaining the quality of Alaska's public schools. Investing in education means investing in the future of our communities, and it is an investment that will keep Alaskans who care about education here in Alaska.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to public education.

Sincerely,

Brian Farley



Sitka, AK 99835

From: [Mike and Kristie Wall](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB69
Date: Friday, April 04, 2025 12:57:48 PM

Yes - I fully support this bill... It's about time we invest , rather than divest in our future citizens of Alaska.
Kristie Wall
Life time Alaskan resident
40 year retired teacher
Mother of 3 (2 of which remain Alaskan residence)
Grandmother to 5 future residence.

From: [Kathleen Brandt](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Educ #69
Date: Friday, April 04, 2025 1:05:27 PM

Dear Committee Members

We all know education funding has suffered due to various factors over the past several years:

- 1. Gov Dunleavy vetoes and threatens of same**
- 2. Panic over price of oil**
- 3. Legislators who don't fully support public education**
- 4. Limits placed on local taxation**

HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOW REACHED A TRUE CRISIS POINT. I listened to a remnant of the Ketchikan HS Principal testifying before the legislature. Here he is, probably one of the very best administrators in Alaska stating:

1. "I have my application out many places, especially Oregon, where I can get defined retirement benefits, higher salary, more sensible work load and I don't have to get plane tickets to go somewhere." I know this is not a precise summary, but the essence of what he says sums it up.
2. He is ready to move to Oregon if things don't get better.
3. Uncertainty about schools, offerings in the curriculum, class size and such are affecting the mental health of educators, students and even members of the community.

The Ketchikan HS Principal also stated that it is extremely difficult to find applicants for administrative jobs with the public schools in Alaska. That the leadership of public schools is suffering.

In plain English, public education needs more funding and more stable funding, more timely funding. It is time for the legislature to step up. Senators ,I know you take a lot of heat from all sides of the planet. Being in a leadership position, you most certainly hear about many different NEEDS for Alaska's people. But, priorities must be established and public education is paramount when one thinks about a good foundation for our social order, our economy, our stability as a state (our population is static due to many issues -- one of which is lack of stable/sufficient funding for our public schools).

Senators, we ask you to do the right thing. It is time to ACT. The request for a \$1,000 increase is on the table. Let's get this job done. We are grateful for your hard work and this is going to be a heavy load, but we ask you to do this and move this funding legislation on to a successful conclusion.

Harvey and Kathleen Brandt, Sitka

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Kathleen C Brandt

[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK 99835

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Lorene Bertagnoli](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Fwd: HB 69
Date: Friday, April 04, 2025 12:06:05 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:


From: Lorene Bertagnoli <lorenejb@gci.net>
Date: April 4, 2025 at 11:49:33 AM AKDT
To: Lorene Bertagnoli <joybertag@gmail.com>
Subject: HB 69

Hello,

I am a Petersburg Constituent and I am asking the Senate to match the house and pass a \$1,000 BSA increase; \$680 is too low and will force our district into deficit spending.

I also support SB112, 113, 92 and 109.

Thank you ,

Lorene Bertagnoli

Petersburg, AK 99833

from my iPhone

From: [Megan McBride](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Fund Schools!
Date: Friday, April 04, 2025 11:20:22 AM

Senate finance committee,

My name is Megan McBride. I live in West Anchorage. I am a parent of two kids, one who will be starting Kindergarten in the Anchorage School District this fall. I'm also a former high school teacher at Betty Davis East Anchorage High School.

I am writing to urge you to increase the BSA by a minimum of \$1000 and to inflation-proof education funding.

Public education is in crisis, but it is not fundamentally broken. Some say our schools are failing, but the truth is they are starving. This body has the power to change that. With appropriate resources, our public schools in Alaska can continue to provide world class education for our youth.

Our schools have been underfunded for over a decade. High inflation coupled with increases in other costs like health care and technology have left classrooms in dire need. We used to be known for paying teachers well, not anymore. Our education spending is below average for the U.S., and our costs are inherently higher.

You get what you pay for. We are bankrupting our schools and our children's futures. Every child deserves a free, high quality education.

We need a minimum of \$1000 increase in the BSA and to inflation-proof education funding for the future.

Support HB 69! "An Act relating to education...."

And Pass REVENUE to pay for public schools!

Support SB 92 - "An Act establishing an income tax on certain entities producing or transporting oil or gas in the state; and providing for an effective date."

Support SB 112 - "An Act relating to credits against the oil and gas production tax; and providing for an effective date."

Or implement a statewide income tax! Alaskans and the out-of-state residents who work here should be investing in our state.

Too many lawmakers believe taxes are political suicide. But it's not about the taxes - it's about thriving communities, thriving local economies, confidence in our childrens' future. We are happy to pay taxes if they are going to public schools and other services that enrich our communities.

Thank you.

Megan McBride

From: [Beth Short-Rhoads](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Please pass HB 69
Date: Friday, April 04, 2025 9:50:21 AM

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB 69 and raise the BSA. It is our responsibility as adults to ensure Alaska's children aren't made to pay the price for the economic mess we find ourselves in today.

Supporting education is not only the right thing to do, it's also the wise thing—the student's of today are those who will lead in the future. They will be the ones to build businesses, balance budgets, and stick around through thick and thin. To do the excellent job they'll be asked to do, they will need a solid and reliable education. Just as much, they will need role models who demonstrate the courage, uprightness, and fortitude practiced by great leaders.

Thank you for your service,

Beth Short-Rhoads
Parent and business owner
Sitka

From: [Jeremy Peterson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: funding
Date: Friday, April 04, 2025 9:34:36 AM

The United States spends well over half a million dollars per active-duty service member². The total personnel-related costs, including costs for running the Defense Health Program, family programs, and other initiatives, exceed \$200 billion

500,000\$ per adult solder!!

Many of them could have been better people/solders but we only spend 500\$ a year educating them.

Please try and do your part to correct this obvious error.

Jeremy Peterson
Sitka Alaska
Middle School Educator.

From: [Adrienne Voss](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: decrease PFD for HB 69
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 9:51:59 PM

I am an Anchorage constituent, zip code 99503, and previously wrote to support HB69. After further reading, I was reminded how difficult your decisions are in presenting a balanced budget. I feel strongly enough about the importance of passing HB69 and supporting public education with a permanent increase to the BSA, that I am in support of decreasing the PFD to \$1,000 and/or adding a state income tax. Public education must be a top priority in Alaska.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of Alaskans,

Adrienne Voss

From: [Lisa Miller](#)
To: [Senate Education](#); [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support of \$1,000 minimum BSA increase and reduced oil tax cuts
Date: Sunday, March 30, 2025 7:38:12 PM

Good evening, Senate Education and Finance Committee members,

As a parent of a 4th-grade student enrolled in the Anchorage School District, I see firsthand why raising the BSA by a minimum of \$1,000 is critical. I'm encouraged by the progress on HB 69, though inflation-proofing would truly break the cycle we are currently in.

I am writing to challenge the narrative that a BSA increase equals a PFD cut.

I strongly support discussions in the Senate on alternative solutions, including reducing oil tax credits as a means to fund education.

When my son was approaching kindergarten age, I considered returning to my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, to be closer to family. After comparing the Cleveland School District and surrounding districts to ASD, I decided to stay in Alaska because I appreciated the "choice schools" offered throughout the Anchorage School District. By staying in Anchorage, I had access to a wide variety of charter, alternative, and specialized programs through ASD, as well as strong neighborhood schools. My son was selected through the lottery for Polaris K-12 in kindergarten and is thriving in their optional program. The Polaris classroom model of intentionally combined grade levels has allowed him to advance to 5th-grade math. He also receives reading interventions—through his own dedication and phenomenal support from educators, he is part of the "COVID kindergartener cohort" that has made above-average gains in testing and is now reading at grade level.

The work of the educators in his school every day is incredible. Please think outside the box to make high-quality education sustainable in Alaska.

Please note that while I am an ASD employee, this message represents my own opinions and experiences as a parent and does not reflect the Anchorage School District.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Lisa Miller
Turnagain/Anchorage resident

From: [Kacey Hammer](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Kacey Hammer, Petersburg AK
Date: Tuesday, April 01, 2025 5:36:43 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a teacher in training, substitute, and most importantly a mother of 3 living in Petersburg, AK. I am writing today to urge you to increase the per student budget. I have spent quite a bit of time in many classrooms. I think that those who choose to teach are miracle workers. Spend time in a classroom and you will see that we need to make sure the schools are given the proper tools needed to keep the machine running. We are cutting back on PE and swim, in spite of the proven benefits because of funding. I worry that we will continue to cut back on services that are proven to make for better students. This says nothing about the federal government which will likely not provide the kinds of services that they have been at the expense of our kids.

Thank you for taking the time to read my request.

*Best wishes,
Kacey Hammer
She/Her*

From: [Malena Marvin](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Sen. Bert Stedman](#)
Subject: I support a \$1000 BSA increase
Date: Wednesday, April 02, 2025 9:46:11 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As a 10+ year Petersburg resident, I have seen first hand how hard our elected school board works to balance budgets and act conservatively for the best interest of our students and teachers. Petersburg is so small that all of us rely on a healthy school district at the heart of the community. Please show your support for Alaska's rural and remote communities and keep our school districts strong for everyone. Without a \$1000 BSA, we are looking at deficits. We need partners in the legislature who put kids and schools first. Please step up and raise the Senate's proposed BSA increase to \$1000.

Malena Marvin
PO Box 1611
Petersburg, AK 99833

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Malena Marvin


From: [karen.severson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB 69 Petersburg Schools
Date: Wednesday, April 02, 2025 10:15:46 AM

April 2, 2025

RE: HB 69

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

We live in Petersburg and have always been so proud of our school system. Petersburg Stedman Elementary Principle received the highest honor in 2024 and was in DC in March to accept that award. Mitkof Middle School and Petersburg High School have exceptional Educators, Coaches and Administrators.

There has been a decade of underfunding and it has left our schools all across the state in dire straights, and the neglect is no longer sustainable.

We urge the committee to pass HB 69 with the same increase to \$1000 BSA passed by the House. If not passed Petersburg School District will have a \$850,000 deficit for Fiscal Year 2026!

We are so proud of our Educators and Administrators who have put blood sweat and tears into making the most with ever increasing little. Without the \$1000 BSA our schools will further deteriorate, Teachers will be fired, basic programs and activities will be cut. Familie will be forced to leave our communities.

This is heartbreaking and we should all fight to make Educating our Children a priority. They are our future and we should value them with every power of our being!

We would favor other sources of State revenue such as the long overdue fair Oil and Mining tax, and looking at a reasonable income tax. Alaska is headed in the wrong direction and solving our problems and protecting children should be priority.

Thank you for your time!

Karen and Mark Severson

From: [Ann Rappoport](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Kelly Merrick](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. James Kaufman](#); [Sen. Mike Cronk](#)
Cc: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Rep. Ky Holland](#)
Subject: Re: Please pass
Date: Wednesday, April 02, 2025 10:19:49 AM


Hello Senate Finance Committee -

I want to reiterate my comments below: **Please pass an increase of \$1000 for the Base Student Allocation to bring education funding back up to the bare minimum it should be!!** Funding for education has been flat for far too many years while costs have increased and new requirements have added additional costs.

I know the price of oil is down and the projected deficit in our overall state budget has increased. But education is NOT where you should decrease the budget. Please consider instead decreasing the Permanent Fund Dividend - \$1000 is fine. Also please turn your attention to the three bills that could provide some additional new revenue - we need an income tax on large private corporations like Hilcorp; please have hearings and pass SB 92! I believe there are two other bills that would similarly provide some additional taxes. Next session, perhaps you can turn your attention to a fair, income tax. You get what you pay for and Alaskans refusal to consider paying for anything means we get less and less every year in terms of state services and we continue to lose valuable, dedicated public employees. Please also swiftly hear and pass the bill to provide defined benefits for our hard-working public employees!

Your first priority: pass the \$1000 increase in the BSA, NOW!!

Thank you!
Ann Rappoport


Anchorage, AK 99516

On Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 10:30 AM Ann Rappoport <agrappoport@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Senate Finance Committee -

I'm excited that you are having hearings about proposed supplemental funding for education, specifically, that you are considering an increase of \$1000 in the Base Student Allocation (BSA) Program. I urge you to support this increase!! My support is echoed by so many others as you can see as this is the one issue that most people are addressing in letters and opinion pieces in the Anchorage Daily News and was a major concern in last year's election and election results!

This increase in the BSA will begin to make up for 15 years of losses due to inflation. You've seen the headlines that the Anchorage School District and so many other school districts around our state are having to make drastic cuts to their budgets. The resulting increases in class sizes and loss of many programs will have tremendous negative effects on our students around the state. This is unconscionable! Yes we need to improve our student's scores in the basics of reading and math, but maintaining the current low level of funding for education will not do it! Nor will pouring more money into homeschooling and charter schools that only benefit a small segment of our kids - and only the ones whose parents have

the time, transportation, and usually money to provide those options. Too many parents have jobs, disabilities, or other situations that mean their kids need strong neighborhood schools. Moreover, those issues the governor is arguing about can be separately settled, later. NOW, your duty is to swiftly approve this \$1000 increase in the BSA for this year, with increases of \$400 in each of the following 2 years to get our schools back to where they should be.

Please support this significant and sustained funding for K-12 education! Our children are our future!!

Thank you for your attention to these concerns which are echoed by the vast majority of our state's residents!

Sincerely,

Ann Rappoport

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99516

From: [Mary Ellen Anderson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: BSA
Date: Wednesday, April 02, 2025 10:21:23 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

It has been well over 10 years since the BSA has been raised, and every year our school district struggles to cover expenses. We in Petersburg have been fiscally extremely conservative and so have squeaked by over the years, but we are now officially down to the bone. What other industry/entity has to budget with no idea what they will have to spend each year? And why do we keep denying our schools the necessary funds to keep up with inflation while we still offer tax credits to oil and gas companies and we refuse to look for other, perfectly reasonable funding sources, such as a state income tax?

We are aging grandparents with an orphaned teen granddaughter living with us. She arrived as a failing student with a horrifying upbringing, and has blossomed into an honor student with good friends and finally a stable mind-set due to the hard work of our teachers, our coaches, our counselor (whom she meets with daily) and all the resources the extra-curricular programs have to offer. As we look at having to lay off yet more teachers and possibly end our extra-curriculars, I am just getting fed up with our state NOT valuing our children.

There are thousands of out-of-state workers here in Alaska who fly home and take their money with them, paying taxes in their own states since we have no income tax here. While I've never been strongly pro-tax, I think this is a shame. They fly up with suitcases & totes full of stuff so they don't have to buy anything in Alaska, earn their big bucks, then fly home to wherever. Our little community already has a 6% sales tax, property taxes and we are generous to our school. It is time to step up at a statewide level for education. Thank you for listening.

Mary Ellen Anderson
Retired teacher and school librarian
Petersburg, AK
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Chelsea Tremblay](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Increase BSA
Date: Wednesday, April 02, 2025 10:28:23 AM

Hello, I'm a resident of Petersburg and a proud graduate of our school system. I hope the state takes its responsibility to the next generation seriously by raising the BSA to what we actually need, not what is politically easier to accomplish. Cutting programs and needed positions because we were unwilling to stop prioritizing oil subsidies does us all a long term disservice. Thank you for doing what's right.

Chelsea Tremblay

[REDACTED]

Petersburg, AK

From: [Kathy Bracken](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Education Funding
Date: Wednesday, April 02, 2025 11:11:40 AM

To the Senate Finance Committee
Regarding Education Funding, BSA

My name is Kathleen Bracken. I've been a resident of Petersburg for 50 years, and was a teacher in the Petersburg city school system for 25 years. My two children attended kindergarten through grade 12 in that system.

When they were in school there was ample funding for small classes, adequate school supplies, and many important activities. I know what it takes to keep a classroom running. Since that time, everything has become more and more expensive, and expenses will continue to rise. Alaska will not be able to recruit fantastic teachers, class size will increase, there will be fewer activities because anything extra will be too expensive. This will make living in Alaska very unattractive to young people.

For our children and Alaska's future, keep the funding at a base student allocation of \$1000, as the House has passed. The \$640 you are proposing is less than 3/4 that, and is unacceptable, and leaves districts with deficit spending. They'll have to make more cuts.

Vote for \$1,000 BSA,

Thank you!

Respectfully,
Kathleen Bracken

When the Power of Love overcomes the Love of Power, there will be PEACE.

From: [Courtney Moore](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Raise the BSA
Date: Wednesday, April 02, 2025 11:19:13 AM

For the love of god and all that is holy. Please raise the BSA and stop messing with our children and educators lives. I have 3 children that attend ASD, 2 of which are in the Ignite program, 1 of which will be going to middle school next year, and 1 that needs tutoring or summer school but can't be accepted because there are no funds available so he will continue to struggle for yet another year.


Their school is shutting down and they are having to move to Turnagain, my sporty brilliant daughter that is going to middle school next year will no longer have ignite program to enrich her mind and further her education, or sports to participate in. My children have 2 working class parents that can't afford camps, comp sports fees for 3 children, or child care- are going to be forced into more debt to make sure our kids are engaged on every level to ensure they are having a healthy life and education environment that will hopefully set them up to be successful adults that stay in Alaska- or let them go without because we are drowning.

Rent hikes, expensive groceries, outrageous health insurance premiums, despite trying and working so hard for 25 years each, has left us with nothing but regret and remorse for having children in a state that clearly doesn't give a shit about children and no way to escape, or a solution to look forward to.

I am so sick of this shit. Literal years we've been going back and forth with the budgets, ASD has been in crisis, cutting away at the bones, with no solution in sight. How on earth do you expect these children to be healthy, educated, and supported when you all refuse to do right by these children?? Our governor is a piece of shit hell bent on ruining everything he touches that was elected on a bed of lies. Deena flipping bishop was gleefully in attendance for the dismantling of the Department of Education. This is shameful how our teachers, administrators, and students are being treated at the hands of liars and maga bootlickers.

TAX THE OIL COMPANIES IN FULL AND FUND OUR SCHOOLS. Do not lower the BSA please, I'm literally begging you to give a shit about our children and their futures.

Courtney Moore

Mother of Emily Moore- 5th grade
Charlotte Moore- 4th grade
Henry Moore- 2nd grade


From: [Sonja Paul](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Wednesday, April 02, 2025 4:52:44 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 69 with a \$1,000 BSA increase. As a parent of two children—one in kindergarten and one who will soon join the school district—I feel deeply invested in the future of our education system. I want to raise my boys in Alaska, where they can grow up as Alaskans, learning in a community that supports them, and experiencing the subsistence lifestyle that makes our state unique. But in order for that to happen, we must ensure that our schools have the necessary funding to support their education.

Both my husband and I are dedicated to our community. I work at a local hospital, and my husband works as a mechanic in the fisheries industry. We are committed to staying in our community and supporting it, but the reality is that our school systems need more support from the state. Without sufficient funding, we risk losing the very fabric of our communities as families, like ours, might have to look elsewhere for better educational opportunities.

My kindergartener is just starting his educational journey, and soon my younger child will follow. As a parent, I want to ensure that both of my children have access to high-quality education, which means schools need the resources to hire and retain great teachers and provide the individualized support that every child deserves. If we don't prioritize education funding now, we will continue to see a decline in population across rural communities, as families like mine will be forced to leave to find better opportunities for their children.

House Bill 69 is a critical it's not just an investment in our children but in the future of Alaska. We need to support our schools, our teachers, and our children, so they can become the leaders of tomorrow.

I urge you to support House Bill 69 to ensure that my children, and all children across Alaska, have access to the education they deserve. By investing in education now, we are investing in the strength of our communities and the long-term prosperity of Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your support of this vital piece of legislation.

Sincerely,
Sonja Paul

Senate Finance Committee - Base Student Allocation

Investing in public education is critical to Alaska. Students who receive consistent, quality education in reasonably maintained facilities with access to appropriate technology, standard programs, and favorable pupil to teacher ratios have greater tools for involvement, innovation and investment in Alaska's future. Living in a huge state with a largely rural population presents challenges, but adequate public school funding should not be one of them. A yes vote on funding for public education at the \$1,000 BSA level demonstrates our understanding that Alaska is, indeed, a land of promise and opportunity.

As I have previously testified under past introduced education legislation, I have in the past filled in as substitute staff at our local elementary school, despite having other employment at the time. Because I knew of the tight financial and staff situation in my own community's schools, I agreed to take time from one job to fill in at the school. However, educational institutions should not be in the position of begging people to fill in for staff who need to attend training or deal with family health issues, or address other emergency situations beyond their control because schools don't have adequate resources to cover these situations. HB 69 is not the perfect solution, but it is one that does get us closer to where we need to be across the state.

Schools are not just places of learning. Staff must be skilled multitaskers. They also deal with physical and behavioral health, student citizenship, food insecurity, homelessness and more. Staff deserve adequate compensation for the key roles played in our kids' learning, health, and socialization. They also shouldn't have to work in buildings with leaking ceilings and other structural issues.

Education is a constitutional obligation in Alaska; and while the president may not think education is important, we Alaskans do. The base student allocation hasn't been raised significantly in over a decade. Please fund this important and overdue bill at the proposed \$1,000 per student allocation to maintain reasonable class sizes, and to provide more overall security and stability in our education system. We all will benefit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia Lagoudakis
Petersburg, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Liz Bacom <liz.bacom@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2025 8:50 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA

Hello, my name is Elizabeth Bacom, a constituent from Petersburg. I am asking the senate to match the house to increase the BSA to \$1000. The Petersburg school board has for years been fiscally responsible but with an inadequate BSA, an erosion of services is inevitable.

A friend has lost her special ed teaching job in wasilla, and 100 staff are being cut in that school. With DOE being cut off at the knees, stable school funding for all kids is imperative. I was on our school board for 6 years. You hurt one group of kids, you hurt all kids and it will take years to recover from the gaps created. If you think Covid was bad for education, this will be much worse. I urge you to be creative: Arizona has a flat 2.5% income tax. A power ball lottery. A special Oil tax dedicated to education (k-university). I support creative ways to sustainably, forward fund the youth of today for a great Alaska tomorrow. We need creative thinkers in Juneau right now. Put yourselves on the right side of history.

Thank you for serving our state.

From: [Linda Slaght](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support for HB 69
Date: Thursday, April 03, 2025 9:19:00 AM

Hello, I am writing to express my support for HB 69 which would raise the BSA by \$1,000. This is an overdue partial correction to account for inflation in the years since it was last updated. I live in Petersburg, where the school system is the heart of the community. It has been managed carefully and conservatively over the years, with broad community and local government support. As is the case with many school districts across Alaska, we are now looking at a situation where draconian cuts would have to be made in order to balance the budget. Families with school aged children and employees of the school district would suffer immediate effects, but the community would suffer over the long term as families leave town in search of a stable educational environment for their children. My children have benefited from a safe, secure, quality education in Petersburg, and now my granddaughter, who is in first grade, deserves the same opportunities.

We have been hearing that the finance committee is faced with a difficult decision, balancing the constitutional mandate to provide for a quality educational system in Alaska with the mandate to balance the budget. I hope the committee will take a hard look at reasonable options for new revenues, such as reducing the oil company tax credits and closing oil company tax loopholes. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your service to Alaska!

Linda Slaght
[REDACTED]

Petersburg, AK 99833
[REDACTED]

From: [Dani W](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Oppose HB 69
Date: Thursday, April 03, 2025 9:47:35 AM

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am alarmed that HB 69 has advanced through all its committees and was approved by the House. The Senate Education Committee actually made this bill worse with its additional amendments regarding Correspondence schools. Now this bill sits before you, still as fiscally irresponsible as it was at its inception. How is this bill to be funded? Where is the money coming from? Throwing more money (that we don't have!) at the same problem, expecting positive change without accompanying changes to our educational framework, is the definition of insanity. Alaska already funds its students at a far higher rate than the vast majority of the other 49 States, and yet our performance continues to lag far behind. Why do failing systems deserve more significant funding without proving how they will improve their outcomes?

Meanwhile, the attempt to just bring correspondence students up to a full student for BSA funding purposes has failed as this bill has moved through the legislature, despite the fact that homeschoolers save the State of Alaska a lot of money and provide the most efficient means of educating our students on the taxpayer dime. We should be looking to expand these delivery systems rather than increasing administrative burdens on them and the families that choose this educational path. Why is a school finance bill being used to usher in sweeping changes to only one kind of public school--the correspondence schools? (The only public schools not benefitting from the increased funding in any meaningful way, by the way.) There are no increased accountability measures being proposed for the brick and mortar schools--just a blank check without strings attached. But the latest version of this bill coming out of the Senate Education committee ties student allotments to standardized testing, unfairly singling out one type of student and compelling participation in a specific activity in order to be granted funding. If a parent exercises their right to opt out of testing at a brick and mortar, that student is still funded. Their educational money is not cut off due to this choice. This will not be true for correspondence students who will see their funding cut off if the parents determine to opt out of testing.

Nobody wants to be the one denying "more funding to students." The propaganda around that issue creates a hot button most of you don't want to touch. You don't want to be perceived as harming our students by not increasing funding, even though nobody has really proven how increasing funding will do anything meaningful to help our kids. Instead of finding actual ways to improve our education in Alaska, the easy way out to make it look like you care and are doing something is to increase funding. But that's not the answer here. And you in the finance committee are supposed to be concerned about the fiscal ramifications of a bill and whether or not the expenditures are justified based on expected outcomes. I hope you have the courage to actually do the right thing and kill this bill before sending it out of committee and kicking the can down the road. We have no funding source for it. And until we really look at other options for improving education in Alaska, it isn't going to solve the problems it purports to solve.

This bill looks good on the surface--who wouldn't want to increase funding for schools?!? But it's a terrible bill for the above reasons, among others. I strongly oppose HB 69.

Sincerely,
Danielle Witzak, Palmer

From: [Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Thursday, April 03, 2025 10:02:57 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I support HB 69 approved by the Senate Education Committee. It is vitally important to increase the BSA by \$1000 to remedy the education crisis, and the amendments help assuage other concerns. We can pay for this through a \$1000 PFD and taxing S corporations.

Please pass this BSA increase.

Thanks for your time,

Cheryl Lovegreen

From: [Paul Rioux](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: School funding
Date: Thursday, April 03, 2025 10:09:57 AM

Honorable senators,

Article VII of the Alaska Constitution states:

"The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State"

The use of the word shall indicates a mandate.

My argument is that failure to maintain funding levels that keep pace with spending power
is a failure to maintain.

School programs are vanishing, infrastructure disintegrating..

I acknowledge that the state's budget is tight for this, but I also acknowledge the legislature has the responsibility
and the power to plan fiscally for this burden, and no other governing body does.

The work lies with you.

The future of Alaska's next generation of leaders lies with you.

Fund the schools

Paul Rioux, Sitka

From: [Cindy Long](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support Our Students
Date: Thursday, April 03, 2025 10:18:10 AM

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am a retired Alaskan teacher. I spent 20 years off the road, living without amenities and dedicated to my students and their families.

I watched the Gavel to Gavel coverage all week to see what is happening. It was painful to relive experiences as a teacher where the school I worked at had poor building conditions and no one cared. I was a displaced teacher for the second half of my 20 years in Alaska. I agree with the testimonies of the administrators, especially the one that described Alaska's education system as STARVED.

I support a \$1000 increase to the Base Student Allocation. Anything less does not keep up w/inflation. If you support AK kids & public schools you will not falter in your support.

Mrs. Cindy Long

[REDACTED]
Kasilof, AK 99610

From: [Chandler O'Connell](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Please call a hearing on H.B. 69
Date: Monday, April 07, 2025 1:31:55 PM

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to request that you schedule a hearing on HB 69 and support the \$1,000 BSA increase.

I am a graduate of Alaska public schools (K-12), I am a parent of Alaskan kids, and I volunteer weekly in my daughter's kindergarten class. I believe that public schools are at the heart of Alaskan communities, institutions where people of all backgrounds can come together to support the next generation and make concrete investments in a better future for everyone. Every challenge can be better handled and every opportunity can be better seized by well prepared and healthy youth.

Alaska's schools need stability. They need to be able to focus on retention and to make hiring and administrative decisions based on what is best for students, families and long term school functioning. The underfunding and uncertainty of the past several years has resulted in waste, inefficiency and demoralization, hurting Alaska's students. It has been incredibly frustrating to witness. HB 69 is a good first step in rectifying this situation and getting us on a better path.

Increased funding for schools is a critical need for Alaska. I support revenue-generating policy changes to support this priority, including rewriting tax law to cover Hilcorp, eliminating the per-barrel oil tax credit, and evaluating and instituting progressive taxes that can diversify the State's revenue sources.

Thank you for your service.

Chandler O'Connell
Sitka, Alaska

From: [Tara Craytor](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Fund education
Date: Monday, April 07, 2025 9:02:57 PM

Please fund education by whatever means necessary.

I have just left the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District School Board meeting and am devastated. Listening to children begging for their education is heart wrenching. Children from Kenai Alt. talking about losing the only place that has ever felt like home, the only place they've felt worthy and capable. Quest (our district's gifted, talented, and enrichment program) students speaking about losing the only environment they've been able to learn in. Teaching our students public advocacy is one thing, but requiring children to beg adults to meet their basic needs is barbaric.

With the current budget proposal our schools are being gutted in Seward. One huge loss for our family will be the shuttering of the Quest program.

This decision will be particularly devastating to my third son. He was identified as needing "more" in kindergarten. His teachers approached his father and I about moving him into the first grade, but we decided to keep him with his peers because it seemed his needs would be able to be met through enrichment and Quest.

He has gone to enrichment with the Quest teacher for reading and math since kindergarten and has been officially in the Quest program since third grade. He is now in 4th grade and in accelerated 5th grade math - we have purposely asked that he be kept at only one grade ahead and enriched instead of accelerated in the curriculum further. This math class and his Quest class are the two times in his day when he can stretch and grow as a student during his school day. We're now learning that this will not be an option going forward.

I am so concerned for my son's mental health and well being. I am unconvinced that Seward Elementary will be able to meet his educational needs, and our family is being forced to look at moving out of state due to our public schools' continued inability to provide for our 4 children.

Please, please fund our public schools. This is our family's number one priority.

Thank you.

Tara Craytor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Seward, Alaska 99664

From: [Sen. Donny Olson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: Support Public School Funding HB 69
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2025 1:56:23 PM

From: Shannon McBride-Morin <shannon@alaskawildernesslodge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 12:15 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kelly Merrick <Sen.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Sen. James Kaufman <Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Cronk <Sen.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; mayor@kpb.us; KCooper@kpb.us; Dunne, Willy <WDunne@kpb.us>
Subject: Support Public School Funding HB 69

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

As an Alaskan who received a great Public School education, I write to implore you to fully fund public school funding and pass House Bill 69. My grown kids got a great education here in Homer as well, and I am disheartened to see massive cuts to Public Schools. They are the heart of our community, and we must support our kids, educators, families and communities by fully forward funding public - not private - education.

Here is some additional info on why I support this bill to fund public education now:

According to the Economic Policy Institute, “a well-educated workforce is the key to state prosperity.” (Report by Noah Berger and Peter Fisher, August 22, 2013)

Major findings:

- Overwhelmingly, high-wage states are states with a well-educated workforce.

- States can build a strong foundation for economic success and shared prosperity by investing in education
- Cutting taxes to capture private investment from other states is a race-to-the-bottom state economic development strategy that undermines the ability to invest in education.
- States can increase the strength of their economies and their ability to grow and attract high-wage employers by investing in education and increasing the number of well-educated workers
- Investing in education is also good for state budgets in the long run, since workers with higher income contribute more through taxes over the course of their lifetimes.

Possible revenue sources suggested by members of the legislature that could increase taxation of oil and gas companies in the state by hundreds of millions annually.

- Reduction in the per-barrel tax credits given to oil companies
- An amendment to the state's tax code to apply corporate income tax on certain private corporations, including Hilcorp Alaska.

Our school district, the Kenia Peninsula Borough School District

- Even with a permanent increase of \$1000 BSA to the school district, it doesn't make up for all the years of inflation from 2012 to now when the budgets did not include raises in BSA (With inflation that number should be \$1800 for 2026)
- If funded with \$1,000 BSA, there will be program cuts as there will still be a \$43,888 deficit in the 2026 KPBSD budget.

If funded at a lower BSA, the school district will be forced to eliminate or reduce more:

*teacher and staff positions and/or programs and services

On the KPBSD website, kpboroughsd-budget.abalancingact.com inviting people to provide feedback on the FY2026 Preliminary budget by using their interactive Balancing Act tool. The simulation starts with an estimated deficit of \$17 Million

(\$16,935,754)

Thank you for your work in the Legislature on behalf of us Alaskans. Please pass HB 69 & work to fully fund our public schools.

Shannon McBride-Morin

[REDACTED]

Homer, AK 99603

[REDACTED]

--

Shannon McBride-Morin
Co-Owner & Operator

Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge
China Poot Bay & Homer, Alaska

www.AlaskaWildernessLodge.com [REDACTED]

Please read our [reviews](#) on

[REDACTED]

From: [Sen. Donny Olson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: a 58 year Alaskan asks you to please support school funding HB 69
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2025 4:48:41 PM

From: Michael McBride <michael@alaskawildernesslodge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 3:30 PM
To: Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kelly Merrick <Sen.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Sen. James Kaufman <Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Cronk <Sen.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; mayor@kpb.us; KCooper@kpb.us; Willy <WDunne@kpb.us>
Subject: a 58 year Alaskan asks you to please support school funding HB 69

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

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(\$16,935,754)

Thank you for your work in the Legislature on behalf of us Alaskans.

Please pass HB 69 & work to fully fund our public schools.

--

Michael's personal cell [REDACTED]

For reservations at the

Loonsong Mountain Lake Chalet

My website: [REDACTED]



Nicole Acevedo 04.08.2025 School Board Meeting Testimony

Good evening,

My name is Nicole Acevedo. I am the parent of a very bright Chugach Optional Elementary student.

My husband and I chose Chugach Optional because we felt it was uniquely equipped to keep our son engaged and learning while also providing exceptional social/emotional growth opportunities. Our school's program, philosophy, and curriculum were designed to benefit and grow the whole child.

Every aspect of this program was carefully thought out—from the curriculum, to the number of grades and classrooms, to the building's layout, and the number of teachers. And our program works. Our students consistently rate highly for growth and achievement. (Our school's scores are consistently in the top four.)

We currently operate at 108% capacity. We have a 25:1 ratio of students to teachers; my son's primary class (1st and 2nd grade) has 26 students. Next school-year, primary classes will have 28 and 29 students per teacher, as is. If we lose two classroom teachers, our school ratio would be 30:1, but there would be 43 students per teacher in the primary classrooms. That's insane!

Our school operates a streamlined, cost-effective, successful program in which students thrive. Every aspect of the program is crucial to its success. Shuttering the library during half of the school week will be a significant loss to our students, losing two classroom teachers in addition to that would be a crippling blow that will cost our children dearly.

Please allow Chugach to continue to offer an exceptional alternative education option to Anchorage's children. Please allow us to keep the two teacher positions we are being asked to cut.

Thank you.

Sammy's Testimony for the School Board Meeting on

April 08, 2025

Hi! My name is Samuel Acevedo and I am in 2nd grade at Chugach Optional Elementary.

I would like to ask you to please not take two teachers away from Chugach Optional Elementary, please.

I love learning at Chugach Optional!

This year my class has 26 students. If we lose two teachers next school year, some classes could have more than 40 students. That's too many! It's so much that people would not be able to learn! That would make me feel bored and frustrated. I want to be able to learn.

Please let us have our teachers.

Thank you!

From: [Sen. Donny Olson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: HB-69
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 8:21:36 AM

From: E K <liska.alaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 5:55 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kelly Merrick <Sen.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Sen. James Kaufman <Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Cronk <Sen.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB-69

While stating that South Korea pulled out of the depression by focusing on education is an oversimplification, it most certainly played a huge role in reversing the country's trajectory. Let's do this in Alaska.

I understand that AK is in a fiscal crunch but let's pull our collective pants up and wade over.

I am advocating for funding of the BSA increase of \$1000.

Don't worry your precious cuts will still have to be implemented but not as draconian.

Let's get those corporations paying their fair share. Alaska been touted as this rich resource or are you willing to sell for cheap?

Please support and say yay on HB 69. Let's take care of the kids first!!!!

Elizabeth Kandror.

From: [Lorene Bertagnoli](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 12:21:56 PM

Hello,

This is Lorene Bertagnoli, a constituent from Petersburg, and I am reiterating that I am asking the Senate to match the House and pass a \$1,000 BSA increase; \$680 is too low and will force our district into deficit spending.

I also support SB112, 113, 92, and 109.

Thank you for your time.

Lorene Bertagnoli

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Petersburg, 99833

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bonnie Gurney](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB69
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 2:38:58 PM

I'm writing to state that my support is to pass HB69 with a \$1,000 BSA in tact.

I am a fiscal conservative voter in the south Anchorage location with 3 elementary age children in public school. I understand the challenges of today's environment but the funding not keeping up with inflation with our education is important. It is essential to our future of the state and we all know that Alaska is not a poor state by resources, it is struggling due to the revenue systems in place that benefit only the large corporations rather than its people.

Please stand with our kids.

Bonnie Gurney

From: [Sarah Morehouse](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB69-Pass the \$1,000 BSA increase
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 2:40:11 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to implore you to pass the \$1,000 BSA increase. There are mechanisms to pay for this by re-allocating existing funding. Our children depend on this money. Your constituents do not support only a \$680 increase. We want the \$1,000 BSA increase. Please support our children and our schools.

Sarah Morehouse
Mom of 2 elementary school students
Anchorage, AK