

Taneeka Hansen

From: Benjamin White <whiteb@sitkaschools.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 6:47 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Neal Foster
Cc: Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: RE: SB 89

Hello,

My name is Ben White and I am the Principal of Blatchley Middle School in Sitka, Alaska. I want to start by thanking you for your time and service to our great state. I also want to express my strong concern over SB 89.

Health education is DIRELY needed at the middle school level today. As I am sure you are aware, health is not mandated, required or supported by the state at the middle school level. Each year, we struggle to get health education to our students and we rely heavily on outside agencies to accomplish this. SB 89, if passed, would severely hinder our ability to relay this critical information to our youth.

While I appreciate the concern surrounding the issue of abortion, I feel like the voices of a small minority may potentially prevent the majority of our youth from receiving critical information. (Just as an “FYI,” at BMS abortion is not presented as part of the health curriculum *and* families have the right / option to opt their student out of any given lesson). Please consider the needs of *ALL* our students when voting on SB 89. Thank you very much for your time.