

HB 152 Written Testimony

Rec'd 4-30-25

Stuart Relay

From: Connie Markis [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:59 AM
To: House Finance; House State Affairs
Subject: HB 152 - Education Tax

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am strongly in favor of HB 152 – Education Tax. It's a fair and equitable way to provide a resource for education which we desperately need. I hope for your favorable consideration. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Constance (Connie) Markis
Anchorage, Alaska

Stuart Relay

From: Bev Lewanski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2025 12:57 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am urging your committee to pass HB152 on to the legislature for a vote. Alaskans need to be funding our government. We cannot allow our budget reserves to continue to diminish.

According to Representative Galvin, the 150/150 bill could have funded a BSA increase of \$1,000. Years ago, Alaskans paid a school tax. I strongly agree, we need to fully fund our schools!

Sincerely,

Bev Lewanski

Sent from my iPhone

Stuart Relay

From: Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2025 3:27 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear House State Affairs Committee,

I am old enough to remember the old "education head tax" when everyone paid \$10 out of their first paycheck of the year to help support public education. Most people were fine with it--as a matter of fact, I remember feeling great pride when I was able to contribute for the first time.

Today, HB 152 is another opportunity for Alaskans to help support public education. Based on the crowds at pro-education rallies and testimony in favor of increasing the BSA, I expect most Alaskans will support this bill. I know I do. I want to be part of the solution of the current education crisis and pay to help create a better future for our children.

Please vote to pass HB 152.

Thanks for your time,

Cheryl Lovegreen
Anchorage

Stuart Relay

From: Christopher Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 11:33 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 52 Education Tax

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing today to express my full support of HB 52: Education Tax. We are failing to meet our constitutional obligation to adequately fund education, and going back to a broad based education tax makes complete sense.

Thank you for your service to our great state.

Respectfully,

Christopher Brown
Homer, AK

Stuart Relay

From: Crystal Dean [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 12:21 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 152 Education Tax

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please support HB 152

I am a life long Alaskan. I am Alaskan Native. I am a mother and grandmother. I work in a public elementary school.

PLEASE support this bill. We need our schools funded. We need to be fully staffed and trained. We need counselors and aides and to be able to keep wonderful teachers!! We need our schools funded!

Please support our schools, our children, our future!

Crystal Dean

Pre-K Special Needs Aide

Seward Elementary

Stuart Relay

From: Daniel Perry [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 1:38 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 52 EDUCATION TAX

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I fully support the Education Tax bill HB 52.

We need revenue to support education in the state and this is a simple, easy, painless way for all wage earners to do this.

Using the PFD as an option to pay the \$150 tax means no direct out-of-pocket payment is required. Those folks earning over \$150,000 and getting taxed at a 4% rate on excess earnings is also a reasonable way to spread the cost. It is especially important to me to see that non-residents working in Alaska also would contribute.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Daniel Perry

[REDACTED]

Homer, Alaska 99603

Stuart Relay

From: Jennifer Ransom [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 2:17 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 152 a smart choice

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello,

My name is Jen Ransom, a life-long Alaskan and a resident of Seward, Alaska.

I believe HB 152 is an excellent way to help Alaska's education funding gap.

My husband I and earn far less than \$150,000 total, and paying \$300 per year out of our dividends to have our children have a better education is an easy decision - if we can do it on our small income, so can others. It's a simple plan that allows for great rewards. I had an amazing "oil-flow" education experience as a youth - I'm willing to pay some taxes for my three children to have the same type of experience. Heck, two of my kids have summer jobs (14-year-old part-time, 16-year-old full-time) and when I asked them how they felt about paying to get a better education they said yes! If a 14-year-old boy is willing to part with a little of his first job's hard earned cash to get a better education, I think most Alaskan's are willing to do the same.

Thank you and please support HB 152 to fund education.

Jen Ransom

Sent from my iPhone

Stuart Relay

From: Nina Faust <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 7:25 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Education Funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Representatives,

I support HB 52. This finally will help address the shortfall of education funding that has plagued us for so many years. I have always thought the State made a mistake in doing away with this tax. I also like the addition of the S-Corporations into this bill. They pay no corporate tax so this will provide a good source of revenue to help meet our education budget shortfalls. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust
[REDACTED]
Homer AK 99603

Stuart Relay

From: mary griswold [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 26, 2025 12:12 PM
To: House State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: HB 152 Education head tax and income tax

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I support HB 152 establishing a public education head tax and flat rate income tax for the reasons described in the sponsor statement. We must have additional revenue to fund essential government services. I do not want the legislature to further rob the CBR. This provides one source of additional funding. We will need more.

Mary Griswold
Homer

Stuart Relay

From: Tam Agosti-Gisler [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 6:09 PM
To: House State Affairs
Cc: Rep. Alyse Galvin; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson
Subject: Why do I support the school tax in HB 152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear State Affairs Committee members:

I grew up in Anchorage. When I was a teenager, I got a part-time job and was eagerly looking forward to my first paycheck. When it came, I balked at the \$10 Alaska School Tax deduction in addition to the SS tax. Although a very small amount, it was substantial portion of my meager paycheck. My mother told me to buck up and explained that this tax was only taken once per year from the first paycheck earned. She said we all needed “skin in the game” and that I in particular was benefitting from public education to which that tax went. That was my first lesson in the concept of the social compact from my devoutly Republican mother.

At just \$10, the tax yielded \$2.6 million of revenue in 1979. The school tax and the state income tax were repealed in 1980 with the flow of oil dollars to the state. Now in 2025, it is long overdue. Please BRING IT BACK and obviously assess more than \$10 of every man, woman and young person who EARNs money in the State of Alaska, including non-residents! \$150 seems fair. This assures that everyone has skin in the game.

Sincerely,

Tam Agosti-Gisler
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99508
[REDACTED]

Stuart Relay

From: Toni Kahklen Hoffman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 6:57 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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We are exceedingly alarmed by the funding situation currently facing Alaska schools. A good education system in our cities, towns and villages has a direct impact on the quality of life for all of us in all of our communities. A good education system is a keystone for Alaska's overall economy and the quality and variety of services available to residents. As a retiree, I want to live in a safe, vibrant community. HB 152 would help to move us toward stabilizing our education system across the state. These would be new funds that could be augmented by funds allocated through the legislative process. I strongly support the idea. My children and grandchildren are successful products of the Anchorage School District and now our great grandchildren are preparing to enter school. Again, I support HB 152.

Stuart Relay

From: Pam Flowers [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:07 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support HB152
Pam Flowers

[REDACTED]
Talkeetna, AK 99676
Author of
Alone Across the Arctic, Big-Enough Anna,
Douggie, Sojo, Ordinary Dogs, Ellie's Long Walk,
TOGO and Leonhard,
Iditarod: One Thousand Miles Across Alaska

Stuart Relay

From: Sue Keller [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:09 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Please say yes to HB 152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear House State Affairs Committee,,
I am backing HB 152. This sounds like a great way to fund education in Alaska.

Thank you

Carolyn Keller
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Stuart Relay

From: Christy McMurren [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 1:28 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I'm writing in favor of HB 152. We need a steady income stream for education. Too much valuable time is wasted arguing every single year when the legislature can be working on promoting other sources of income. The days of counting on oil/gas for our livelihood are over. We need new business!

Christy McMurren
Anchorage

Stuart Relay

From: Shirley Evans [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 7:32 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Honorable Representatives,
Please, please support HB 152 to provide a stable progressive revenue stream.
Sincerely yours,
Shirley Evans

Sent from my iPhone

Stuart Relay

From: Rozlyn Grady-Wyche [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 8:05 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for HB 152 – Establishing an Education Tax to Fund Alaska’s Public Schools

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Chair Carrick and Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the NAACP Tri-State Area Conference and in my role as Alaska Education Chair, I submit this letter in strong support of House Bill 152, sponsored by Representative Alyse Galvin and co-sponsored by Representatives Mina and Himschoot. This legislation represents a bold and necessary step toward ensuring Alaska’s children receive the public education they deserve.

Alaska has underfunded its public schools for over a decade. Our current funding structure, which relies too heavily on political maneuvering and one-time patches, has failed students, families, and educators. HB 152 offers a long-overdue solution by creating a dedicated, stable source of revenue through a modest education tax one that prioritizes early education and K–12 public schools.

For far too long, we’ve heard elected leaders say they value education, but refuse to back those words with action. HB 152 puts action behind principle. It ensures that those with the greatest means contribute to the public good, while offering flexibility for Alaskans to use their Permanent Fund Dividend toward the tax if they choose. This is a reasonable, just, and sustainable approach to addressing Alaska’s chronic underinvestment in education.

Our students can’t learn in overcrowded classrooms, under-resourced schools, and with demoralized staff. We can’t recruit or retain high-quality educators without fair compensation and predictable funding. And we cannot close the achievement gaps that disproportionately affect Alaska Native, Black, and other marginalized students without robust, equitable investments.

HB 152 is not just a tax bill it is a values statement. It tells the next generation that their future is worth funding.

I urge you to move this bill forward and demonstrate that Alaska is ready to invest in its children, its communities, and its future.

Sincerely,

Roz'lyn Grady-Wyche

Alaska Education Chair

NAACP Tri-State Area Conference

Stuart Relay

From: Katy Ruff Soden [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 8:24 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for HB 152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Members of the House Senate Affairs Committee,

I am an Anchorage voter and public school parent writing in support of HB 152. We need sustainable funding for education so every year is not a fire drill about how we are going to support our public schools. My 2nd and 4th grade children each have 30 kids or more in their classes, which is way too high for elementary school learning. They are likely to lose opportunities to play sports, music, and have other enriching opportunities if we don't consistently fund our schools, as you are constitutionally required to do. Please give serious consideration to developing a new revenue stream to fund education.

Thank you,

Katy Soden

Stuart Relay

From: Irene Bortnick [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 8:59 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: House Bill 152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please support and pass House Bill 152. Alaska desperately needs more revenue and this is one way to increase it without being a huge burden on anyone. Our children deserve the best education which means school districts need to be adequately funded. Without good schools, the out migration will continue and our economy will suffer even more.

Sincerely,
Irene Bortnick

Stuart Relay

From: Mimzy Wellberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 9:12 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I **REALLY** support

1. A 4% income tax on individuals earning over \$150,000 or couples earning over \$300,000 (filing jointly). This applies to out of state workers and S corps earnings..

Mimzy Wellberg

Stuart Relay

From: Ricky Lind <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 9:20 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB152

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Good morning Committee Members,

Please support HB152 since HB69 was vetoed; I taught music 16 years, but recently left education at Anchorage School District due to burnout. Administration moved all my elementary music classes to an hour (even kindergarten) in lieu of two half-hour sessions to easily accommodate morning, all three lunches, and after-school duties. Short staffing. I had developed two ulcers before year-end so it was healthier for me to leave.

Since AERRC hosts adequate retention and recruiting strategy professional development now (to recruit and retain boomer, gen x, millennial, and gen z applicants), the other half of our education puzzle is funding open positions so HB152 is vital.

Thank you for your service,

--

-Ricky Lind, Jr.
he/him/his
BMusEd., Ed.M., CWE

Southcentral Foundation RAISE Program
NIEA Fiscal Committee