

From: [Jenny Warren](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 8:18:13 AM

Hi there,

I am writing to implore you to pass HB 69, not just for the children of Alaska but the financial stability of the state.

My husband was raised in Alaska and we lived in Anchorage for 8 years. In 2020, we moved to Montana and have missed Alaska so much. We were planning to move back this summer but now comparing the education system in Alaska to Montana (another rural like state), we're leaning towards staying in Montana. We're both highly educated and experienced engineers, which I know Alaska is always needing. The lack of funding in the Alaskan education system and subsequent impact on performance of students has directly impacted our decision to move back, despite our deep love for the state. The state will do fine without us, but how many others are facing a similar quandry? How many others are choosing not to reside there because of the impact of the education system not being funded? Not funding the education system there not only impacts the students it impacts the attraction and retention of residents.

Thanks for your consideration,

Jenny

From: [abbie barker](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support HB 69
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 9:19:27 AM

I am writing with my support for fully funding the \$1000 BSA increase in HB 69. Anything less is a cut to funding. Please please please support all the Alaskan children who are depending on you to make quality education a reality for them. Alaskans support adequately funding our public education system and the future leaders of our state. Please stand up for what is right and just. Don't increase prison spending again and keep this BSA uplift whole!!!

Abbie Barker
Alaskan parent
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: [Ocean View PTA](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Please vote to increase the SBA by \$1000
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 8:09:42 AM

Dear Senate Leaders,

Thank you again for working on this topic. I have never inserted myself in politics before and this specifically sparked something in me because I know our kids will suffer with the loss of staff, our staff will suffer being so overloaded. We need an increase in funding and it can't wait.

We created a petition on [change.org](#) and just with pta at our school sending it around, we were able to reach 70 signatures in 1 day!



Thank you!
-Carolyn
President
Ocean View Elementary

From: [Diana Johnson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: SB 69
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:54:57 AM

Finance Committee.

Alaska's schools need a \$1000 increase to our students' BSA. I support HB 69. Please act quickly to pass this bill. Teachers and families are losing more and more faith in our legislature's willingness to support public education and basic governmental services with each passing day without adequate funding.

Diana Johnson
2613 Redwood St
Anchorage AK

From: [Christina Schlegel](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: education
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:36:01 AM

Hello,
please vote yes to pass the HB69 \$1000 BSA. our public school need to be supported. our students need to be supported!
Thank you.

Christina Schlegel
Anchorage, AK
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Amy Olson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB 69/BSA increase
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:34:44 AM

I am a parent of students at Chugach Optional School within the Anchorage School District. Chugach Optional is a high-achieving alternative public school of choice, and we are currently facing the loss of teachers and our librarian, which will threaten our entire program. Please support the current version of HB 69, which includes common-sense reforms and includes major compromises. Do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA!

Amy Olson
3016 e 20th Ave, Anchorage
907-202-2135

From: [Jessica Kuzakin](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: please fund public schools
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 9:23:49 AM

I beg of you to please raise the BSA to \$1000 as a long time parent of students in the anchorage public school system, I have seen first hand how the BSA is in dire need to be raised. We need to support our teachers because they are raising up the next generation to be leaders in our community. Please I beg of you to raise the BSA to \$1000.

Thank you,
Jessica Kuzakin
9076029305

From: [Melissa Norris](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB69 and \$1000 BSA increases
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:24:37 AM

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My daughter attends public school in Alaska, and I am urging you to prioritize funding the education of our children.

Please support HB69 and the \$1000 BSA increase this year, a lower level is simply not enough to fill the gap our schools are facing with inflation and nearly a decade of flat funding. If this increase isn't funded, my daughter's elementary school could possibly cut the Spanish Immersion program that has been a huge asset to her learning, and frankly one of the main reasons I consider her education to be satisfactory in Alaska.

Thank you for considering and please vote for a \$1000 BSA increase.

Melissa Norris
Eagle River, AK

Melissa Norris
Fish Alaska
Hunt Alaska

From: [Kathryn Howell](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: BSA increase
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:23:39 AM

I implore you to vote for the full \$1000 increase to the BSA on HB 69. I have two grandchildren at Chugach Optional School and they are facing the loss of teachers. This will decimate their program. This school is high achieving and deserves the support of funding to keep their program going. Thank you!

Kathryn Howell (retired teacher)

Keh1949@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Birgit Lenger](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support for HB 69
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:22:37 AM

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am a parent of a student Goldenview School within the Anchorage School District. We are currently facing the loss of teachers, increased class sizes, and elimination of some school sports. Please support the current version of HB 69, which includes common-sense reforms and includes major compromises. Do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA!

Thank you,
Birgit Lenger

From: [David Safine](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support for minimum \$1,000 BSA
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:19:31 AM

Dear committee members,

I am a parent of students at Chugach Optional School within the Anchorage School District. Chugach Optional is a high-achieving alternative public school of choice, and we are currently facing the loss of teachers and our librarian, which will threaten our entire program. Please support the current version of HB 69, which includes common-sense reforms and includes major compromises. Do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA! I ask that you please support public education in Alaska.

***Sincerely,
David Safine***

From: [Ckykr](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Education Funding
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:18:08 AM

I am a grandparent of students at Chugach Optional School within the Anchorage School District. Chugach Optional is a high-achieving alternative public school of choice, and we are currently facing the loss of teachers and our librarian, which will threaten our entire program. Please support the current version of HB 69, which includes common-sense reforms and includes major compromises. Do not settle for less than \$1,000.

Russell Howell

Anchorage

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Chelsea Sternicki](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: \$1,000 increase to BSA
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 9:33:27 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing today about an issue that directly impacts the lives of my children and other children across Alaska. I respectfully ask that you pass House Bill 69 with a permanent \$1,000 increase to the Base Student Allocation.

I have two children in the Anchorage School District. One attends elementary and the other middle school. Both of my kids' schools are facing reductions in staffing and services due to the continued failure of the legislature to increase the BSA. I cannot imagine the long ranging negative impacts to both my children and others if the legislature does not pass a \$1,000 increase to the BSA. The Anchorage School District has already committed to using an increase to the BSA directly in classrooms. This is exactly the type of accountability that members of the legislature have requested.

I also urge you to consider diversifying state revenue through taxes. The state has reached a point where relying solely on oil is not sufficient to fund basic core services. I would welcome sales or income taxes and/or a reduction or complete elimination of the PFD. Alaska cannot prosper through continued cuts to services. You must increase state revenue so that services can be funded at adequate levels.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these crucial topics.

Respectfully,
Chelsea Sternicki
chelseasternicki@gmail.com

From: [Lindsey](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Increase BSA by \$1,000
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:13:26 AM

Hello,

As hard as it's been to pass a bill that benefits some of our most vulnerable population in an effort as upstanding as providing education and a safe place to attend during the day, we owe it to the children of the community to increase the BSA by \$1,000.

This not only more adequately makes up for years of a lack of increase with inflation, but will help cover our future if passing a budget increase continues to be as difficult as it is.

Thank you,

Lindsey Sam
1161 Westbury Dr
Anchorage, AK 99503

From: [Esteban Acevedo](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Chugach Optional School
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:12:04 AM

Good morning,

I'm Esteban Acevedo, a parent of a student at Chugach Optional within the Anchorage School District. We are currently facing a potential shortage of teachers and librarian, which threatens the school's ability to provide the outstanding education and services to students which is the intent of this high-achieving institution. Please support the current version of HB 69 which includes common sense reforms and major compromises. Please don't not settle for less than \$1000 BSA.

Thanks for taking care of our students!

Esteban Acevedo

From: [Madsalmon AK](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Vote for budget increase in schools
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:09:10 AM

Dear Senators,

Please pass HB 69 quickly and with at least a \$1,000 permanent increase to the BSA - and nothing less. While we all understand that the budget is tight, education should be the first priority for spending. My children (and every other child in Alaska) deserve a quality education. Please pass HB 69 quickly so our schools and teachers have the resources they need.

Thank you!

**Erica Madison
9083060803**

From: [Benjamin Histan](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:04:01 AM

Hello, I'm a parent of a child attending public school in Anchorage. I feel strongly that our schools need stable funding, and that the cuts proposed currently to deal with the potential shortfall will have significant negative impacts. I hope this committee will support a \$1000 increase to the BSA.

Thank you,
Ben Histan

Doniece Gott

From: Adrienne Voss <ahvoss267@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 11:32 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: support HB 69 for Education Funding

I am writing in support of HB 69 for Education Funding and Increasing the BSA. I am an Anchorage constituent, my address is 550 W. 21st Ave. 99503. I am a Registered Nurse and have previously worked for the Anchorage School District (ASD) in both roles as a School Nurse and Certified Nurse Aide Educator. I have maintained contacts within the ASD, and see and hear the stress the budget shortfalls have placed on public educators.

Alaskan public school educators and students deserve the respect to have a reliable budget supporting education. The historical one time increases to the BSA have been helpful, yet not sufficient to retain qualified educators and recruit new educators. It continues the cycle of stress on our communities. It shows a lack of commitment to public education, which should be a core pillar of our state.

Attaching a BSA increase to Governor Dunleavy's desire to increase school choice and home school programs misses the mark. I do not support his mission to increase school choice and home school programs. We have public schools currently in crisis because of a lack of a reliable and sufficient budget. School choice is good in theory, yet it caters to a small group of students and parents. Support our public schools and public school educators by passing HB 69 and providing an Increase to the BSA.

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of public education.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Voss

Doniece Gott

From: Kevin Voss <kevin_voss@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 8:02 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: In Support of HB69

Dear Senators and Fellow Alaskans,

As a Title I secondary school educator in Anchorage for 18 years, I have sadly been witness to what can only be described as a gradual deterioration of our public school system, and the worst part is that it is impacting the children who most rely on a quality education. Over the last eight years, the pupil-to-teacher ratio in my classroom has increased by 20% (resulting in my average class size being 32 students), ancillary positions from English Language Learner counselors to technology support have been cut, and there has been a shocking exodus of staff who have left state or the profession altogether.

In the face of such diversity, I have been humbled by the job that my school continues to provide. There are truly great things that are happening in our school. Despite these efforts, however, continuing in this manner is not sustainable, and the cracks are beginning to show. We were unable to fill five full-time positions with certificated staff. For the first time ever, we needed to recruit teachers on J-1 visas and allow student teachers to take on emergency teaching responsibilities. These educators show promise, but they are simply not as capable as a veteran educator.

The proposed cuts for next year go beyond anything our society should ever be okay with. There is most certainly a point when not only will the quality of education suffer, but I start to wonder whether schools can actually keep their kids safe. The fact that my school has seen a reduction in staff of about 25% over the past eight years means there are that many less adults monitoring the lunch room, the hallways, and the playground.

A substantial increase to the BSA is needed. Every single one of us would struggle if we were expected to live off the same income that we had in 2015 given the high costs of inflation, yet that is exactly the position our districts are in. Further, one-time funding is causing too many problems for districts who are having to lay off the very educators that we hope will be around for 20 years or more. We need a long-term solution and stability in our state's model for funding education. Please support HB69 and do what is right for kids.

Sincerely,
Kevin Voss
(907) 331-9296

Doniece Gott

From: Stephen Williams <sfwillia_70@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69 EDUCATION FUNDING: INCREASE BSA

Dear Senators Hoffman (co-chair), Stedman (co-chair), Olson (co-chair), Merrick, Kaufman, Kiehl, and Cronk,

When you as a committee, and your fellow members of the Senate consider HB69, I urge you to increase the BSA back to \$1808 or at a minimum maintain the current amount of \$1000. Any lesser amount is a disservice to our children/youth, the professionals at all levels who serve them, and all Alaskans. We all are relying on them to help lead us and Alaska's growth in the future.

Alaska is indeed facing challenges on several fronts...economic growth, reduced revenues (oil, federal, etc.), climate changes and workforce. If Alaska is to not just weather, but survive these challenges and be stronger as a result, there must be the requisite investment in the education of our younger and future generations. The funding for Alaska's schools and our education system as a whole has been not only unstable and underfunded for years.

This has led to career Alaska professionals leaving their profession early or leaving our state completely, brain drain. Furthermore, it has led to higher teacher/student ratios, programs being reduced or eliminated, children/youth experiencing special needs not receiving the full inclusive education and supports to which they are entitled, and the degradation of school facilities and infrastructure.

The result are profound negative impacts to our children/youth, the future of Alaska AND the ability to recruit and retain a professional, skilled, and competent workforce across all employment sectors in our State.

HB69 as originally introduced included a BSA of \$1808. This was one critical piece required to not just maintain, but rebuild the education system for our children and the growth of Alaska. The House passed a version that reduced that amount to a base student allocation of \$1000.

I urge you to increase the BSA back to \$1808 or at a minimum maintain the current amount of \$1000.


Thank you for your consideration and public service.

Steve Williams (Anchorage, AK)

Doniece Gott

From: Danielle Smith <dsmithz_70@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2025 3:26 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please support the \$1,000 BSA increase for Alaska's schools

Dear Senators Hoffman (co-chair), Stedman (co-chair), Olson (co-chair), Merrick, Kaufman, Kiehl and Cronk:

I write today to ask you to support a minimum increase of \$1,000 (and nothing less) to the BSA, as outlined in HB 69 .

Alaska's public schools are in crisis and I genuinely see this as a crisis not just for our students, families and teachers but for communities like mine across our state.

Alaska is nothing without good public education systems. Who wants to live in or move to a community that doesn't have good public schools? No one! This is among the most important investments we can make in building our future leaders and citizens and thriving economies and communities.

I'm a proud product of a family, community and public school system that valued quality teachers and safe facilities. I will never again take what I had for granted and I believe every Alaskan student deserves the same.

Thank you all for your time, service and consideration,

Danielle Williams
30+ year Alaska resident
2029 Blueberry Street
Anchorage, AK 99503

Doniece Gott

From: Tim Bisson <tbisson123@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 4:32 PM
To: Senate Education; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Raise the BSA!

I support raising the BSA as is in HB69. It's way overdue to help educate our youth and provide stability and predictability to our school districts and teachers.

Also public education is the best way to ensure all kids get a good education.

Thank you,

Tim Bisson
Anchorage, AK

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Eric Paule <ef.paule@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 3:59 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Base student allocation

I support the \$1000 increase in the base student allocation as part of a whole-hearted effort to save Alaska's crumbling public school system. I also ask that you avoid using special allocations to fund extraneous and harmful policies such as private school tuition and extracurricular activity support, which have little to do with public education.

This may well require additional state revenues, and we should not shy away from this responsibility. The idea of the natural resource extraction sector once again pulling its own weight, as it once did, gives me zero heartburn.

Thank you.

Eric Paule
3701 Laron Lane
Anchorage AK 99504

Doniece Gott

From: Tracy Fischbach <tracy.fischbach@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 6:44 AM
To: Senate Education; Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Matt Claman; Rep. Carolyn Hall
Subject: Please support HB69 for the full \$1000 BSA increase

Dear Senate Education and Finance Committee members,

I am writing to **support HB 69 for the full \$1000 BSA increase**. I know it's a lot of money, but I also know that the governor is ready to sign off on a \$3800 PFD. As a long-time Alaskan, I want my PFD to be decreased to allow for fully funding the BSA.

Why does funding help? Because there are three things that lead to an exceptional outcome. We all talk about hard work and talent, but we seldom talk about the most important ingredient to success – investment. A meritocracy is all about people “pulling themselves up by their boot straps,” but that’s only about hard work and talent. It ignores what we all know is as important or more important – investment. We see it over and over in sports. Two children are excellent hockey players, but one has parents that can send them to camps and pay for the child to be on a traveling competitive team. Who do you think is going to earn that scholarship and maybe a ticket to the big leagues? It’s the same for academics.

We are also now facing the additional specter of lost federal funds. In Alaska, 301 of our 502 schools qualify for Title 1 federal funding. If the Department of Education and its programs are dissolved, then we will be even more behind. As I understand it, 12% of our school funding is federal.

I am pro-**whole life**. That means I strongly believe that when we bring children into the world, we must support them to our fullest ability. HB69 does that.

Please fully fund the BSA increase of \$1000 with \$400 increases for each of the next two years, plus inflation proofing.

Thank you for your time and important work for our amazing state,

Tracy Fischbach
3217 Redoubt Ct
Anchorage, AK 99517

Doniece Gott

From: Rachel Munger <munger.rachel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 12:29 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

To whom it may concern,

My name is Rachel Munger and I am a parent of a student in the Anchorage School District as well as a constituent in West Anchorage.

I was once an employee of ASD and moved back to Alaska to raise my child here. I believe in the quality of our schools but they need additional funding by raising the BSA. Put Alaskans first!

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Bridget Paule <silene.acaulis@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 9:41 AM
To: Senate Education; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony: Please Increase the Base Student Allocation

I'm writing to urge you to increase the Base Student Allocation. We need this increase to keep our schools intact and minimally functional. With the potential to lose federal education funds and our very own Congressman Begich telling us not to depend on federal funds, we really need to step up and take care of our kids - mine, yours - and our future society. The proposed increase of \$1000/student is one step in the right direction. Please do not hesitate to take this step.

Thank you,

Bridget Paule
(907) 230-9903
theworkingbodyak.com

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on Dena'ina Etnena

Doniece Gott

From: michal <michal_1939@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 9:18 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please increase school funding

Hi

I'm a dad of two Anchorage public school students, and I'm asking you to please increase school funding. Our schools are having budget problems, leading to increased class sizes and the possibility of cutting all middle school extracurricular activities. Please support our kids, our teachers, and our future.

School funding is my top priority as a voter, and I will make my voting decisions accordingly.

Thank you for your time.

Michal Stryszak

Anchorage, AK 99517

Doniece Gott

From: Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen <lovegreensnorth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 1:35 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for serving Alaskans.

Some say that we shouldn't give more funding to public education until scores improve. Let's think about that logic in terms of transportation. If we have bad roads due to low funding, and tell DOT to fix them all while short staffed with only picks and shovels, do you think roads would dramatically improve? No, we'd need to give them more resources first. It's the same thing with schools.

As you know, our state has a public education crisis. HB 69, while not perfect, provides a way forward that will get our schools back on track. Please vote to support this bill, and encourage the governor to let it become law. We need permanent, adequate funding in order to improve public schools. We need this NOW to make a difference for next school year.

Thanks for your time,

Cheryl Lovegreen
Anchorage

Doniece Gott

From: Elliott_Tammy <Elliott_Tammy@asdk12.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:56 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support our schools

Please invest in our future by voting for the increase in the Base Student Allocation. Alaskans deserve to have a good education. Please don't give up on us. We are not all leaving Alaska; the population in Anchorage has gone up. Our future can be run by educated people or non-educated people—your choice. Please represent what the people in ALASKA want and need.
Sincerely, Tammy Elliott

Doniece Gott

From: Anna Marie Kupilik <amkupilik@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 3:42 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69 - Education Funding

Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to you to implore you to raise the BSA. The reduced \$1,000 amount is the bare MINIMUM. We need more. Please do not reduce it anymore than it already has been. This should not be a partisan issue, kids from ALL walks of life and parties attend our public schools. Education is a right not a privilege.

I am frustrated, because we have been asking nicely for years, yet it seems to be falling on deaf ears. Something drastic needs to change, we are hemorrhaging good teachers and cannot attract or retain new ones. I have two young children one in first grade at Kincaid and one heading into Kindergarten next year. I love Anchorage and want what is best for our community and our state. A strong public education system is vital to a healthy community.

Best,
Anna Marie Kupilik

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Anna Marie Kupilik
907.748.2625

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Anna Marie Kupilik
907.748.2625

Doniece Gott

From: Zoe Styron <zoestyron@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 8:51 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Senate Finance Committee: Testimony in support of HB69/\$1000 BSA increase

Dear Senators Hoffman, Olson, Stedman, Merrick, Keihl, Kaufman, and Cronk,

I am writing as a parent of two young children in the Alaska public school system to urge you to retain the full \$1000 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) in HB 69. While this amount is already significantly less than the \$1500 the Anchorage School District needs to maintain all positions, it is essential to preserving class sizes and vital programs across our state. Without it, schools will continue to lose teachers, programs will be cut, and the quality of education in Alaska will decline even further.

I understand the challenges of the state budget, but cutting education is not a sustainable solution. We often hear the argument that a household budget cannot spend beyond its means—but in reality, responsible households also ensure they have enough income to cover essentials. Alaska must take the same approach by addressing revenue, whether through adjustments to the oil and gas tax credits or an income tax. The days of relying solely on oil revenue and investment income are over; we need a long-term plan that invests in our children, our workforce, and our state's future.

Public education is not a luxury—it is the foundation of a thriving economy and a strong community. Raising my children in Alaska should not mean putting them at a disadvantage. If we want to retain families, attract businesses, and ensure our state remains a great place to live, we must prioritize education.

I urge you to support the \$1000 BSA increase currently in HB69 and to consider sustainable revenue solutions that protect Alaska's future. Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to our state.

Sincerely,

Zoé Styron

[Senate District F]

Zoé Styron
907-202-1813

Doniece Gott

From: christowclark@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:35 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Senate Education
Subject: Request for a Permanent and Guaranteed BSA Funding Increase

Dear Members of the Education Committee;

The legislature must pass HB 69 to raise the BSA to pre-2011 funding levels and override the Governor's veto when received. We owe this to our children and the great state of Alaska.

I am writing to strongly support a permanent and guaranteed funding increase for public K-12 education that adjusts for inflation so that our school districts can adequately operate and educate our children. Funding has fallen behind inflation for almost two decades, and our schools, students, teachers, and the State of Alaska suffer.

We are in a vicious cycle of underfunding, which directly impacts performance. This, in turn, doubles down on further reduced funding and lower performance. This is a downward cycle in which no one benefits and dramatically diminishes our children's opportunities.

The lack of BSA funding means schools will continue facing layoffs, program cuts, and operational challenges.

Dunleavy's education package ties targeted funding increases to specific policy changes rather than offering broad, sustainable funding for public education, and it falls short of addressing the real crisis facing Alaska's schools: chronic underfunding, inequities in resources, and an unprecedented teacher shortage. The proposed education budget will result in the elimination of a significant number of teacher positions, leading to class size increases, reduced course offerings, and reduction of sports and extracurricular activities that provide a valuable way for students to enjoy school, have well-rounded interests, and create a community at their schools.

The Alaska constitution requires that the legislature "establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the state," the lack of adequate funding for our public education system for well over a decade does not carry out this mandate. Schools are closing, teachers are leaving the profession, families are leaving the state, and companies are having difficulties attracting talent because we have failed to invest in our kids and Alaska's future.

We deserve a public education system that provides our communities with a strong, stable, and non-polarization foundation. We all benefit from cross-cultural and cross-socioeconomic exposure that predominantly happens through our diverse public schools. Our communities need less polarization and segregation, which are only amplified through private and charter schools.

Thank you for your time and service to our great State.

Sincerely,
Christopher Clark

(Lifelong Alaskan, a proud product of the Alaska public education system, father of two (5 and 7), and professional civil engineer)

christowclark@gmail.com
907-306-7384
Anchorage, AK 99502

Doniece Gott

From: Wilson, Melany L (DOT) <melany.wilson@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 6:47 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support House Bill 69 and Base Student Allocation increase

Dear Members of the Alaska Legislature,

I appreciate the work you do on behalf of Alaskans and your dedication to addressing the needs of our communities. As you deliberate on the **FY26 budget**, I urge you to **fully fund public education by supporting House Bill 69** and increasing the **Base Student Allocation (BSA) by at least \$1,000 per student**.

Our schools are struggling due to chronic underfunding, leading to **overcrowded classrooms, teacher shortages, and diminished learning resources**—all of which negatively impact student success and the future of Alaska's workforce. Without immediate action, we risk **losing teachers, limiting educational opportunities, and weakening our state's ability to retain families and businesses**. A strong public education system is vital to **economic stability, workforce development, and long-term prosperity**.

I urge you to make **education a top priority** this session and take decisive action to provide the funding necessary to keep our schools strong and competitive. **Alaska's future depends on it.**

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the success of Alaska's students.

Sincerely,

Melany Wilson

Doniece Gott

From: Cliff Wilson <cliffordwilson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 8:03 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support House Bill 69 and Base Student Allocation increase

Dear Members of the Alaska Legislature,

I appreciate the work you do on behalf of Alaskans and your dedication to addressing the needs of our communities. As you deliberate on the **FY26 budget**, I urge you to **fully fund public education by supporting House Bill 69** and increasing the **Base Student Allocation (BSA) by at least \$1,000 per student**.

Our schools are struggling due to chronic underfunding, leading to **overcrowded classrooms, teacher shortages, and diminished learning resources**—all of which negatively impact student success and the future of Alaska's workforce. Without immediate action, we risk **losing teachers, limiting educational opportunities, and weakening our state's ability to retain families and businesses**. A strong public education system is vital to **economic stability, workforce development, and long-term prosperity**.

I urge you to make **education a top priority** this session and take decisive action to provide the funding necessary to keep our schools strong and competitive. **Alaska's future depends on it.**

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the success of Alaska's students.

Sincerely,

Cliff Wilson

Doniece Gott

From: Toby Erickson <therick452@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 10:30 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Funding Bill HB 69

Dear Senators,

I am very glad the legislature is trying to pass a bill to increase the BSA. Public education is critically important to the future of our state's economy. Without an educated workforce, the state's economic outlook is bleak. Companies and institutions have a very difficult time recruiting from outside the state, and getting and retaining employees is extraordinarily difficult if the employees feel that the educational opportunities for their children are substandard; they simply move elsewhere. This is already happening, and it is going to get a lot worse if the state doesn't do its part to fund public schools.

I do not support moving funds from traditional schools to charter schools, and I do not support public funds being used for homeschooling.

The most important thing the government does is to provide basic government services to the people, including education, public safety, transportation, and other services.

Kind regards,
Toby Erickson
Anchorage, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Jennifer Phillips <jplovestrees@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 9:06 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Pass SB-69-Alaska's Educational System will crumble without your support

Dear Elected and Esteemed Senators,

Alaska students deserve a permanent increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

Investment in public education is critical—not only for our students and families but also for the future of Alaska's workforce and economy.

For over a decade, Alaska has faced a troubling trend of outmigration, losing working-age residents and families. This decline is directly impacting our economy, and business leaders have repeatedly stated that the lack of investment in our schools is making it harder to recruit and retain a strong workforce.

Military leaders have also voiced concerns, noting that soldiers are choosing not to bring their families to Alaska due to inadequate funding for public schools.

A desperately needed increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA) will help ensure:

- Opportunities for career and technical education and for students to learn real-life skills.
- Reasonable class sizes, giving our students the one-on-one attention they need to succeed.
- Stability in the education workforce, ensuring our schools remain fully staffed.

Your support of a significant investment in public education sends a message to parents and business leaders: Alaska is open for business, committed to developing a skilled workforce, and dedicated to student success.

Please stand with parents, educators, and business leaders in making public education a priority. I urge you to support a significant increase in the BSA.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Phillips

From: Ginger Kane <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2025 4:14 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Increase bsa min \$1000

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to communicate as a parent of two children who will be in the ASD next year, that a bsa increase of A MINIMUM of \$1000 is required to keep our schools somewhat adequately running. After more than a decade of flat funding, I am highly concerned with the ability of asd to adequately educate our children. It is unacceptable to consider less funding and expect adequate education for the next generation. It is imperative for a healthy continuation of our community that we invest in our youth. Additionally it is a constitutional obligation to provide quality public education to all Alaskans.

Data shows money invested in good public education provides the following benefits:

1. Economic Growth and Productivity

- **Increased GDP:** A 2016 OECD report found that a 1-year increase in the average schooling level of a country's population can raise GDP per capita by 3–6%.
- **Higher Individual Earnings:** In the U.S., high school graduates earn about 25% more than non-graduates, and college graduates earn about 75% more than those with only a high school diploma (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- **Improved Workforce Skills:** The World Bank shows that countries investing in education typically see improvements in innovation and adaptability within the workforce.

2. Lower Crime Rates

- **Reduction in Incarceration:** A study from the RAND Corporation found that high school graduation reduces the likelihood of incarceration. Dropouts are 63 times more likely to be incarcerated than college grads.
- **Cost Savings:** Every dollar invested in early childhood education returns \$7–\$10 in public savings through reduced crime, welfare use, and remedial education (Heckman Curve, economist James Heckman).

3. Better Public Health

- **Longer Lifespans:** According to the CDC, people with higher levels of education live longer and experience better health outcomes.

Doniece Gott

From: Alex Pastorino <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 9:55 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB 69

I'm writing to ask you to support the increase in the BSA to \$1000. I am not clear if this bill proposes an ongoing increase due to inflation, but, if it doesn't, we need to do that as well. I am convinced you are all on board to support adequate funding for education, and I do realize how difficult funding is right now. I, for one, will give up my PFD to fund ongoing BSA increases for our students.

Please support this bill. Barbara Pastorino, Juneau

Doniece Gott

From: Wilson, Melany L (DOT) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 9:09 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support \$1000 BSA increase

Dear Senate Fincance committee,

Support \$1000 BSA increase Today!

Support our children.

Thank you,

Melany Wilson

Doniece Gott

From: Kerry Clark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 9:02 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69

Please pass the bipartisan bill HB69 and rally the Congress to override the veto that Mr. Dunleavy has promised. Alaska's kids deserve a world class public education so they can thrive and become exemplary citizens. This requires a stable budget year after year that our school districts can count on and plan for and be able to retain high quality teachers. A high quality education must be well rounded, with opportunities to learn languages, sports, humanities, and art.

Please help our kids, families and communities to have access to what they need to succeed. Pass HB69.

Kerry Clark
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99518

Doniece Gott

From: Holly Brooks <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 8:40 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee; james@senatorkaufman.com
Subject: Stop SABOTAGING our kids future!
Attachments: Alaska's lack of revenue.JPG

Stripping out the thoughtful, bipartisan provisions of HB69 is offensive and obviously intended to sabotage an education bill. **The Governor is completely ABSENT from this conversation and NOT DOING HIS job.** This last move feels like an attempt to grab sound bites to say that education proponents "WANT BLANK CHECKS WITH NO ACCOUNTABILITY." This is a downright **lie** and couldn't be further from the truth. The school board amendment shows exactly how a 1k BSA could be used to the advantage of ALL of Alaska's children. The bipartisan provisions are thoughtful and appropriate.

Alaska has by FAR the lowest tax burden of the entire United States and it shows (see graphic attached!) Even a new oil and gas implant from Texas told me our level of taxes and education funding were laughable. The time is NOW to invest in education and we MUST find additional sources of revenue. Someone has to be the adult in the room and protect Alaskan's from themselves. We can no longer afford to give our PFD checks while sacrificing ALL infrastructure in our state.

PLEASE stand up for Alaska's kids rather than pandering to our absent, nonsensical Governor!

--

Holly Brooks (she/hers)

<http://hollybrooks.com>

<https://red-s.com/>

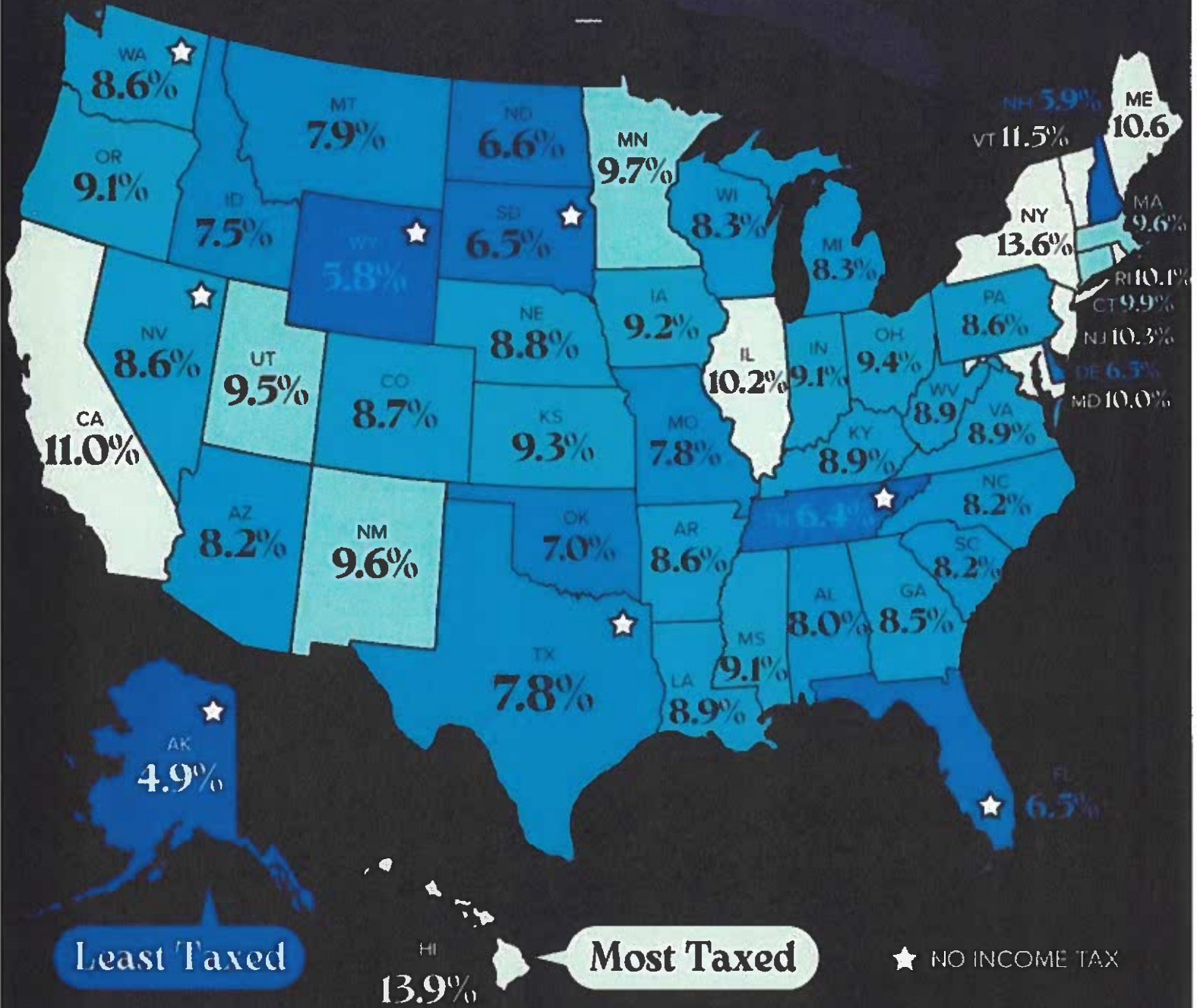
phone: +1 [REDACTED]

Facebook: [Holly Brooks LLC](#)

Instagram: [Holly Brooks LLC](#)

The Most Taxed States in America

Based on **total tax burden** (property, income, and sales taxes) as a percentage of personal income.



Doniece Gott

From: Laurie Montano <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 6:58 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Pls pass education bill

Dear Senators,

Please pass HB69 quickly and with at least a \$1000 permanent increase to the BSA and nothing less. While we all understand that the budget is tight, education needs to be the first priority. Every child in Alaska deserves a quality education. Please pass this quickly so our schools and teachers have the resources they need. I urge you to support the current version of HB 69, which includes common-sense reforms and includes major compromises. Do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA!

Sincerely,

Laurie Montano, MD
Anchorage resident

Doniece Gott

From: Krista Malevich <[REDACTED]@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 8:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: education

Senate Finance Committee,

I am a parent of students at Denali Montessori School and Romig Middle School within the Anchorage School District. We are currently facing the loss of teachers, increased class sizes, and elimination of all school sports. Please support the current version of HB 69, which includes common-sense reforms and includes major compromises. Do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA!

Thank you,

Krista Malevich

Doniece Gott

From: Debbie Ferguson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 6:31 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please Support HB 69 – Our Students Deserve It

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing to respectfully and urgently ask for your support of HB 69, which would increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1,000. This funding is not just a number—it's a lifeline for Alaska's schools, our educators, and most importantly, our children.

Our students are facing larger class sizes, outdated materials, and a shrinking pool of teachers and support staff. Without adequate funding, we are failing to give them the tools they need to succeed—not just academically, but in life. HB 69 is a crucial step toward reversing this trend and ensuring that every student in Alaska, regardless of zip code, has access to a quality education.

The impact of this decision reaches far beyond the classroom. The children in our schools today are the doctors, engineers, teachers, and leaders of tomorrow. The investments we make in their education now will directly affect the future prosperity, innovation, and quality of life in our state—including the care and services we all may rely on a decade from now.

Please consider not just the numbers on the page, but the lives behind them. Supporting HB 69 is an investment in Alaska's future, and one that we cannot afford to delay.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debbie Shroyer

Anchorage, Alaska

Parent, nurse, and realtor

Doniece Gott

From: Leah Maltbie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 5:29 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Senate Education; House Education; House Finance
Subject: All I Want for my Birthday is Education Funding

Good evening state lawmakers,

Today is my birthday. Mid-afternoon, I received word that the Senate Finance Committee stripped HB69 to all, but the BSA increase, ensuring its veto by our governor. This was devastating.

All I want for my birthday is education to be funded to the level of quality as the state constitution commands.

Simple, as adults please stop playing politics with our children's future and fund education in the state of Alaska. Our youth deserve high quality education and that cannot happen without a BSA increase. HB69 is not perfect, but it has provisions that both sides want and the governor is willing to sign into law.

Please, do the right thing and listen to the vast majority of Alaska constituents that are loudly saying, "fund education!".

Thank you

Leah Maltbie

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Wakaga & Niyan