

Doniece Gott

From: Juliana Shields <shields.juliana@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:04 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

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,

Juliana Shields, MD

907-830-5730

Senate District E, House District 10

Doniece Gott

From: Miranda McCourt <mlmccourt@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:04 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Pass HB 69

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Pass HB 69 and give Alaska the gift of a financed, educated workforce. I have worked for the public schools of Alaska for 16 years as a teacher, special ed teacher, and department chair. I am the parent of 2 Alaska elementary students. I have seen the quality of Alaska's educational programming consistently decline as educational funding has failed to keep up with the cost of living. It is disheartening to hear teachers told to do more with less year after year. Inconsistent funding has created disjointed reactionary policies, increased class sizes, and impeded teacher retention. The \$1,000 increase to the BSA for next school year is the bare minimum to ensure that typical school opportunities that were afforded to you as a child are afforded to the next generation. Anything less is an insult to the people of our great state.

Thank you,
Miranda McCourt

Doniece Gott

From: Britni Brown <britniabrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:01 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA

Please pass the HB69 for the \$1000 BSA increase! It is needed and can be done. Thank you! -Britni Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Leah <lhdubber@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:00 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69 K-12 Public Education Funding

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am once again emailing to ask you to maintain the proposed \$1000 permanent BSA increase in HB 69 and reduce the PFD amount to pay for it. If you will not reduce the PFD to cover the costs, then please make a plan to tax Alaskans.

We have to pay for state services somehow and oil taxes and the money we are getting from the Permanent Fund is clearly not enough revenue. It's time to change the approach. Continuously cutting state services such as education is not building a bright future for Alaskans.

Thank you,
Leah Meyring

Doniece Gott

From: Lindsey Edwards <lphovden@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:50 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Save our Immersion Programs!

To Whom it May Concern,

I am emailing you as a parent, Japanese Immersion Program alumni, former teacher and PTSA President. My children are in the Sand Lake Japanese Immersion Program. A program I graduated from in 2005. I chose to live in Alaska and put my children in the same school and program that shaped my life for the better. The lack of funding in our schools is going to be absolutely devastating for all immersion programs in ASD. These programs are the best thing about our state's education system. If you do not approve a \$1000 BSA increase this year, Sand Lake Elementary will lose 5 of our 18 amazing teachers. This will make it impossible for our school to provide a Japanese class and English class for each grade. This means some students might have to spend the whole day with their Japanese teacher, learning English subjects from a non native English speaker. This will have long term negative impacts on their reading development. This is just one example of how the lack of funding will negatively impact the education of our children. I am also appalled that funding cuts will cut our school nurse for half a day each day! The critical medical needs of students will not be met without a medical professional on site during the day. This is just dangerous!

I urge you to please, save our schools and our children. They deserve so much more than what the state is providing them. Increase the BSA by \$1000. Invest in the future of our state.

Lindsey Edwards

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Sara Gilk-Baumer <akbaumer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:50 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support hb 69

I am a parent of students at Bear Valley Elementary and Goldenview Middle schools 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!

Sara Gilk-Baumer

Doniece Gott

From: Stephanie Holmquist <stamm.stephanie@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:49 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

I am writing in support of passing HB 69 with a \$1000 increase to the BSA. This increase is necessary to address years of flat funding for education and to avoid proposed cuts in school district budgets. A lesser increase to the BSA, including the proposed \$680 increase, is not enough to address this issue. Please solve this issue now by forwarding HB 69 with a \$1000 increase to the full Senate.

Please fund our schools!
Stephanie Holmquist

Doniece Gott

From: Holly Fisk <hollyfisk1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:49 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69

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!

Holly M. Fisk
APRN, FNP-C

Doniece Gott

From: Rachel <ragoldberger615@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:48 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you as an Anchorage resident with 2 young children and a healthcare worker. I am a deeply invested member of our community and am increasingly concerned about the continued lack of funding for public education in Alaska. As you know, our state's constitution mandates that the legislature provide for and fund our public schools. This is a fundamental obligation to our children and the future of our state.

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,

Rachel Goldberger, District 20-J

Doniece Gott

From: Ellen Jaimes <ellenparryjaimes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:47 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69 - \$1,000 increase and nothing less

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. I understand some legislators are leaning towards an increase of \$680, but this simply isn't enough after over a decade of flat funding. My children (and every other child in Alaska) deserve a quality education, and the State of Alaska is constitutionally obligated to provide quality public education to all Alaskans and it is legislators' job to find the funding for this obligation.

Please pass HB 69 quickly so our schools and teachers have the resources they need.

Thank you!
Ellen Jaimes

--

Dena'inaq etnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)
I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina. (English)

Doniece Gott

From: Nathan Kasukonis <nathanjamesk@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:46 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA.

I am a parent of a student at Chugach Optional School in the Anchorage School District. Chugach Optional is currently facing the loss of teachers and our librarian. Please support the current version of HB 69. Please do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA!

Doniece Gott

From: Thea Agnew Bemben <tabemben@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:46 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please Support HB 69

Dear Senators,

I attended public school in Anchorage, so did my husband. I launched and grew a successful business that now employs 35 people; my husband became a physician and lives and works in Anchorage. Our son recently graduated from West High and received excellent schooling there. Our daughter will enter high school in the fall. Our schools are the core of our communities. We cannot attract workers, raise our children to be productive adults, or maintain vibrant economies without them. Please raise the BSA by \$1,000 and put us back on a sustainable path. With so much disruption nationally, we must care for our schools, communities, and economies. Put education first, we're depending on you,

Thea Agnew Bemben
Anchorage
907-632-0648

Doniece Gott

From: Megan Sarnecki <megsarnecki@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:46 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69 fully fund!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am a parent of a student 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 2 critical teachers and our librarian, and our band teacher which will threaten our entire program.

I am also the parent of a student at Romig Middle School. Romig is facing cuts to all sports (how do we expect to get our kids healthier, off screens, and doing something good for them after school??) as well as cuts to teachers and many other programs. I see the stress in the administration and the teaching staff. It's already impacting our kids. Please invest in Alaska's future.

Please support the current version of HB 69, which includes common-sense reforms and includes major compromises. Please do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA. We are all counting on you to give our children a bright future.

Megan Sarnecki
2612 Lord Baranof Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517

Doniece Gott

From: Mackenzie Slater <mackenzieslater@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:44 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69 support

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!

Dr. Mackenzie Slater
Anchorage, AK 99508

Doniece Gott

From: Aesha Pallesen <pallesen.aesha@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:43 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support \$1,000 minimum BSA!

Good evening members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am a parent of two students - a 3rd grader and a kindergartener - at Chugach Optional Elementary 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, our librarian, and our nurse, which will threaten our entire program.

My two boys love Chugach, and they learn and thrive there every day. Speaking frankly, anything less than a minimum \$1,000 BSA will mean that the school they love will simply not be the same when they return next fall.

The budget is tight, and the decisions you face are tough ones, but I urge you to think of Alaska's future. There is no better investment than our children.

Please support the current version of HB 69. Do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA!

Thank you,

Aesha Pallesen (mom of Luca and Gabriel, Chugach Optional Elementary)

Doniece Gott

From: Marisa Jaso <marisa.jaso@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:43 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

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. Our community will suffer greatly if our children do not receive a quality education. Please pass HB 69 quickly so our schools and teachers have the resources they need.

Thank you,
Marisa Jaso

5060 Vance Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

Doniece Gott

From: Catherine Steele <steele.catherine@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:43 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please Pass HB 69!

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!
Catherine Steele

Doniece Gott

From: Jessica Nyce <jessica.s.nyce@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:42 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please Pass HB 69

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,
Jessica Nyce
Homer, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Whitney Just <whitneyjust@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:42 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

I am writing to you today to encourage passing the full \$1000 increase to the BSA in HB 69, and not to settle for \$680.

I am a parent of two students currently in the Anchorage School District, and the cuts that will be made without the full increase will cause the already struggling district to fall even farther behind in its duty to provide a quality public education.

Without the full increase our elementary school will lose two teachers and only have a librarian and nurse part time. Are children expected to only need a nurse part time? What about students who need medications through the day? That task will fall to teachers or possibly office staff, when it should be a school nurse handling those things. Our current librarian not only helps children discover a love of reading in the library, she assists classroom teachers with their language arts curriculum- something that is absolutely necessary because our school has a combo class that combines two grade levels. When we lose two teachers we will likely have two more combo classes, meaning three teachers will have to split teaching time between two different curriculums. How is that a quality education when the teachers have to bounce back and forth between two grade levels all day?

No increase in the BSA will also mean increased class sizes. My third grader is currently in a class of 29 students. When she was having a hard time with something and I told her to ask her teacher for help, she said her teacher doesn't have time to help them during class time because it takes too much time out of the day. Imagine how little time there will be for the teacher to help students if the class sizes increase to over 29 students because of cuts!

My children's elementary school is far from the only school facing major cuts and changes to how they will be operating next year if this increase does not pass. So I urge you to pass HB 69 with the full \$1,000 increase to the BSA.

Thank you,
Whitney Just

Doniece Gott

From: Amy Lundell <lundellamy907@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:42 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Bsa

We support strong public schools for the vitality of the state increase the bsa

Amy and Bob Lundell
3334 vassar dr
Anchorage, ak
Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Todd Grebe <grebetodd@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:42 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Todd Grebe - Parent of Chugach Optional School

Dear Senate Finance Committee -

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!

Thank you,

Todd Grebe

Doniece Gott

From: Molly Krehlik <mollyannekrehlik@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA

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!

Molly Tarby

Doniece Gott

From: Kelly Tschida <kelly_tschida@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Urgent Request: Please Support Full \$1000 BSA Increase – Support HB 69

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to fully support HB 69 with the \$1000 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

As a parent of three children who attend public school, I see firsthand the impact that underfunding has had on our classrooms, teachers, and students. We cannot afford another year of deep cuts, larger class sizes, fewer resources, and unstable staffing. A modest or partial increase simply will not meet the real needs of our students and schools — we need bold action now.

Strong public schools are the foundation of strong communities. They are critical not just for our children today, but for the financial health and growth of Alaska's future. Without stable, reliable investment, we risk losing talented educators, limiting opportunities for our kids, and undermining the vitality of our communities and economy.

Please support HB 69 with the full \$1000 BSA increase. Our children and the future of our state are depending on you.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Kelly Tschida

East Anchorage

Doniece Gott

From: Will Bemben <willbemben@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA increase

Dear Senate Finance Committee-

I am a parent of a student at 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 increase to the BSA, please support adequate funding for Alaska's youth.

Will Bemben

Doniece Gott

From: amy sexton <amybethsexton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: swiftly pass HB69

Dear Senators,

I urge you to swiftly pass HB69 with a permanent increase of at least \$1,000 to the BSA—no less. While we recognize the budget constraints, we must prioritize education. Every child in Alaska deserves access to a quality education. Please expedite this process so our schools and teachers can access the necessary resources. I strongly support the current version of HB 69, which incorporates sensible reforms and significant compromises. Let's not accept anything less than a \$1,000 increase to the BSA!

Sincerely,
Amy Sexton
11026 Northfleet
Anchorage

Doniece Gott

From: Kate Wimmer <kwimmer85@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69

Good evening,

I am writing on behalf of all students within the various school districts of Alaska urging you to pass HB69 with a \$1,000 BSA in tact. A BSA of \$680 is not sufficient and would in fact be a cut of funding. Our students are the best investment we have -our future- and without adequate support these students will be subjected to incredibly difficult learning environments and increased lack of resources. The future of our state greatly depends on the success of our students.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Kate Osborne

Doniece Gott

From: Christoff Furin <cfurin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

Hello,

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!

Sincerely,

Christoff Furin

Doniece Gott

From: Justin Gillette <justin.gillette@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:37 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA Increase

Good evening,

I am a parent in Anchorage and my child attends second grade at Chugach Optional, a school within the Anchorage School District. Chugach Optional, like so many other schools all across the state, is facing drastic budget cuts that will severely impair the school's functioning and will also lower the quality of education. I request that you support HB69 and a \$1,000 BSA increase because it is absolutely necessary for our state's public education system to survive.

Sincerely,
Justin Gillette

Doniece Gott

From: Blake Smith <blakesmith@pga.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:37 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69

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,
Blake Smith

Doniece Gott

From: Katie Schurig <schurig.katie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:35 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Chugach Optional Elementary

Hello,

I am a parent of students at Chugach Optional Elementary 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!

Katie Schurig
907-903-9232

Doniece Gott

From: Genevieve Cason <genevievehairspray@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:35 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: \$1000!! Increase Please!!

I would like to express my support for the HB 69 with the \$1000 increase to the BSA. \$680 is not enough to do right by our children. Thank you for your consideration.

-Genevieve Valimont (ASD mom)

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Rachael Posey <rkposey@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:34 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69

Co-Chairs Hoffman, Olson, Stedman, and Members of the Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB69 out of committee with a minimum \$1000 BSA increase. I know our state budget is very tight, but schools can not be ignored any longer. Schools across the state are crumbling (literally and figuratively) and districts are struggling to provide services while state funding hasn't even attempted to keep up with inflation. Alaskan children can't wait until next year, their childhood is now. The legislator's job is to fund education, there are several revenue bills that have been introduced this session that could help with this, or maybe Alaska needs to bring back a state income tax. As a constituent at the Anchorage Town Hall testified last week, "It is patriotic to pay taxes." Regardless of where the money comes from, the legislature needs to find a way to adequately fund our schools, and increase the BSA by a minimum of \$1000.

Sincerely,
Rachael Posey

Doniece Gott

From: Jen Ireland <jenireland50@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:34 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please raise the BSA

Hi,

I am a parent of a 2nd grader at Chugach Optional School (and a preschooler at Nunaka Valley Elementary) within the Anchorage School District. Chugach Optional is a high-achieving alternative public school of choice, and we are currently facing the loss of 2 teachers, which will threaten our entire program. I'm also very concerned about our lower performing schools - how can they possibly do better with less? Please support the current version of HB 69, which includes major compromises. Do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA! It's the least we can do for our kids and our state. We're a young working family and quality education is extremely important to us remaining in Alaska.

Sincerely,
Jen Ireland
99508

Doniece Gott

From: Susan Lewis Hayner <lotafe.susan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:33 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sumner_Carrie; Little_Allison; Akers_Joel; Maya C; Edwards_Heidi; Joling_Susan; ostroski-krueger_sophia; Myers_Amber; berg_jacob@asdk12.org; Long_Celeste; Fulp_Clare; heinle_kathleen@asdk12.org; Jeffrey M Hayner
Subject: I humbly ask you to Increase the BSA to \$1,000, for the good of ALL.

Hello,

My name is Susan Hayner. I have three children in the Anchorage School District. Chloe (8th grade at Romig), Woody (5th grade at Chugach Optional) and Tirzah (3rd grade at Chugach Optional).

*Please support an increase to the BSA of at least \$1,000. Without a substantial and sustained **increase** to the BSA our school will lose valuable teachers, have increased class sizes, and lose half of our nurse and librarian's time and student access. We will also lose Ignite, band/orchestra, ALL Middle school sports, and High School Hockey, gymnastics and swimming. Beloved teachers will be relocated. Teachers and staff will leave this state in search of more consistent and supportive districts.*

Our community as a whole will suffer from the lack of attention to education. It will have generational repercussion.

Families will emigrate--as their public school system is showing cracks. Emigration will cause brain drain, and create long lasting negative impact to our community both economically and socially.

Build Up Alaska, by promoting and saving our public school system. Quality public education props up Everyone!

One disturbing fact that I recently learned was the budget for prisons has increased by greater than 40% over the years, whereas funding for our public education has gone down by ~ 5%. This should change. Our priorities should be in educating the whole child, by fostering the development of well rounded productive citizens. This investment will pay off by creating healthier, safer, happier and productive communities. Education keeps giving dividends.

Our family loves our public school system! We can say firsthand, as we have sent one of our children to a private school in Anchorage for two years, and had her return to ASD for 7th grade.

*Public school is something to be cherished and nurtured! We left private school as we believe public school has more to offer our children and family, **from an education, sports, social and emotional development and world perspective. Keep this option sustainable and viable.***

Our children's schools operate with vitality and intention. Our teachers and staff are dedicated to our children and teens' social and academic growth. Support them and keep our communities alive.

Please do everything to safeguard our school homes.

Please continue to advocate for our children and fight for public education! Public education is important to my family and our quality of life.

Doniece Gott

From: Jeremy Littell <jeremy.s.littell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:32 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69

Dear Senators,

Please [PLEASE!] pass HB 69 quickly and with at least a \$1,000 permanent increase to the BSA - Not a dime 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.

Jeremy Littell-Anchorage

Doniece Gott

From: Katrina Busse <katrina_busse@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:30 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please Support Full Funding for Our Schools – Pass HB 69 with \$1,000 BSA Increase

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Katrina Busse, and I am a proud parent of students at Chugach Optional Elementary School in the Anchorage School District. I am also a hopeful future parent of a student at Steller Secondary.

I'm writing today because I am deeply concerned about the devastating impact flat funding is having on our public schools. At Chugach Optional, we are currently facing the loss of multiple teachers and our beloved librarian—cuts that would severely undermine the heart of our unique, high-achieving program. I fear that Steller Secondary, another incredible alternative school, may face similar losses if the legislature fails to act.

Please support the current version of House Bill 69. It includes common-sense reforms and significant compromises, and most importantly, it reflects the urgent need for a meaningful increase to the Base Student Allocation. Our schools cannot function—let alone thrive—without at least a \$1,000 increase to the BSA.

As a parent and a community member, I'm asking you to stand with Alaska's children, families, and educators by fully funding our public schools.

Sincerely,
Katrina Busse

Doniece Gott

From: Nicole N <temptacit@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:30 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB 60 - \$1,000 BSA Increase

Good Evening,

I am a proud parent of two thriving 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 to save our teachers!**

Our school is currently over 100% capacity. The strategic nature of our 50+ year old program is multi-age classrooms, so the removal of any teachers would not be able to be evenly distributed amongst the students. We currently exceed the district's student ratio requirements and will face elementary school classrooms with over 40 students if the funding is not increased.

Although I was not raised in Alaska, I was excited and passionate to relocate here as a young adult. I have cherished the idea of raising our family here and growing my husband's business. The loss of our school and the issues facing ASD due to the low BSA is a significant concern to our family. I have always stood firm with my love of Alaska and desire to stay here for almost 20 years. However, facing the reality of our school district falling to pieces has me questioning if this is a sustainable place to keep our family. I want to be here and support everything Alaska currently has and has the opportunity to offer, but I have to prioritize the opportunities for my children and ensure I am providing them with an appropriate school culture and education if the State isn't able to invest in our children. The children we are all raising and growing now will become the future of Alaska, please help us to provide them a strong education to become future leaders

Thank you,
Nicole Neeson

Doniece Gott

From: Eva Gardner <evagardner@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:26 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Supprt HB 69 with a \$1k BSA increase

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am a parent of two ASD elementary school students, with a third kid set to join in 2026. I'm writing to urge you to support the current version of HB 69 with a \$1k BSA increase.

The cuts that will result without a \$1k increase are devastating. For example, one of our kids' schools will lose two teachers and its nurse and librarian will drop to half time. This will force extra duties onto the remaining teachers. The dramatic class size increases will also further degrade the educational experience. Families and teachers will leave Alaska because of this, worsening the State's outmigration problems.

Please do the right thing for all Alaskan kids and vote to invest in their education through a \$1k BSA increase.

Thank you,
Eva Gardner
Anchorage

Doniece Gott

From: Anne Severin <anneatblueskystudio@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:25 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

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!

Invest in our children and the future of our state!

Anne

Doniece Gott

From: janevonb@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:25 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support kids

HB69 needs \$1000 increase!!! Kids are our future! Children need teachers! Classrooms need lower sizes! As a 40 year teacher I am doing my part everyday! Do your part! Vote for kids!

Jane vonBirgelen

Anchorage

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Heather Johnson <hjohnson.ovis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:25 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

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 top priority for spending. My child (and every other child in Alaska) deserves a quality education. There are multiple viable options to fund this critical need. Please pass HB 69 quickly so our schools and teachers have the resources they need.

Thank you so much,
Heather Johnson
Anchorage resident (16240 Baugh Circle)

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Maura Wharton <maura.wharton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:25 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please support education for children

Hello,

My daughter attends Chugach Optional School in the Anchorage School District. Due to lack of funding Chugach is facing the loss of teachers and their librarian which will threaten their whole program. Class sizes will go up to 40 students per teacher and all student's learning will suffer. Please support the current version of the HB 69, this bill includes reforms and compromises. Please do not settle for less than the \$1000 base student allocation. Our schools desperately need support.

Thank you,

Maura E. Wharton
(907) 433-9694

Doniece Gott

From: Anne Severin <anne-w@callbluesky.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:23 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

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!

Please invest in our children who are our future!

Thank you, Anne

Anne Severin, AIA

BLUE SKY STUDIO LLC

3000 Princeton Way
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Cell (907) 727-3187
Office (907) 677-9078
<http://www.callbluesky.com>

Doniece Gott

From: Casey <blindninja907@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:23 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Stick with \$1,000 no less on HB69

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!

Doniece Gott

From: sarahtatiana@juno.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School budget cuts

To who it may concern,

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!

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Sarah DeGraffenried

Doniece Gott

From: akstaciem <akstaciem@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Raise the BSA!!!

It's long past time for our State government to prioritize investing in Alaska's young people and fulfilling your constitutional obligation to fully fund education. This has been put off and put off for far too long. I truly believe we're at a tipping point from which our state won't recover if this bill isn't passed and the BSA isn't increased to AT LEAST \$1000.

I am a parent of two kids in the ASD. My youngest child is at Chugach Optional School, a high-achieving alternative public school of choice. We are currently facing the loss of two teachers and our librarian, which will threaten our entire program. My older son is at Steller Secondary and they are slated to lose 3.4 teaches and their nurse half time. These cuts would be detrimental to both of these high performing programs, both over capacity already, with long wait lists.

Further more, the message you're sending to our youth AND to our teachers is that they don't matter. They don't feel valued or invested in. I know multiple teachers who are seriously contemplating leaving Alaska for good. We're driving away families that have investing in US by not investing in them. It's just not right.

Please do what's right and necessary and 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,

Stacie Morris
Anchorage, Ak

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

Doniece Gott

From: Hally Cooper <hallymcooper@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:20 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: \$1000 BSA

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As you know, Alaska's public schools are facing a crisis.

HB 69 is already a major compromise that reduced the needed education funding from \$1808 per student to \$1000.

Please fight to maintain the \$1000 BSA in HB 69. \$1000 is the minimum that our students need. \$680 (BSA) is insufficient to meet the needs of our students, and will lead to increased class sizes (36 elementary aged students to one teacher is unacceptable) program cuts, and further deteriorating facilities.

We urge you to publicly support a minimum increase of \$1000 in the BSA. This level of funding is essential to allow our districts to limp along without further school closures and loss of treasured programs and experienced educators.

Anything less than a \$1000 increase will result in cuts and further damage to our education system.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Hally Cooper

Doniece Gott

From: Songho Ha <songhoha@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:20 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Songho Ha. I am a parent of a student 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 significant compromises. Please do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA!

Sincerely,

Songho Ha

Doniece Gott

From: nazime Downing <naz.downing@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:17 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee

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!

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Jennifer Hazen <jenniferdhazen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:19 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please increase the BSA

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,
Jennifer D. Hazen, mom of two awesome ASD kids

Doniece Gott

From: Susan Joling <susanjoling@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69

To the Alaska Finance Committee,

I support HB 69 with at least a \$1,000 increase to the BSA. An increase of \$680, is simply not enough after over a decade of flat funding. An increase in the BSA by \$1,000, will avoid most of the cuts included in the new ASD budget. You are constitutionally obligated to provide quality public education to all Alaskans and it is your job to find the funding for this obligation.

Sincerely,

Susan Joling

Doniece Gott

From: Lia Calhoun <lialoth@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please support \$1000 BSA increase for all Alaskan children

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to urge your support for HB69, which proposes a \$1,000 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). This funding is essential to stabilize Alaska's public schools and to ensure that all Alaskan children have access to a quality education.

My husband and I are both proud graduates of Homer High School ('00 and '01), where we each earned the distinction of valedictorian. Alaska's public education system gave us an excellent foundation—one that allowed us to earn our four-year university degrees and led me to complete a Ph.D. in English. We chose to return to Alaska, the place we love, to raise our two young sons among our extended family.

Unfortunately, we are devastated by the current state of public education in Alaska, and we are experiencing the consequences firsthand. Since returning home and enrolling our sons in our local public school, we have felt the strain of inadequate funding in deeply personal ways:

- Our beloved neighborhood elementary school was listed by the KPBSD School Board for elimination or consolidation, as were all public schools in our Homer community, in this year's budget conversations.
- Homer Middle School Principal shared that a decade ago, advertised teaching positions would receive 30 or more applicants. Now, they are lucky to receive even a handful of applications. This is the one middle school available to my children.
- Families are leaving—not because they want to, but because they feel they have no choice when schools are under-resourced and unstable.
- Teachers are leaving—Just this week, my third-grade son's extraordinary teacher told us she is considering leaving the profession if our school closes. She is the first teacher who has truly ignited his passion for learning, and under her instruction, he has flourished—scoring in the 98th percentile for math and the 87th for reading. The thought of my kindergartener never having the opportunity to learn from her is heartbreaking. And she is not the only one considering this choice. Many teachers and administrators have already received notices or are choosing to leave, and our high school administration is facing massive turnover.

The erosion of public education funding is taking a toll on our children, our communities, and our future workforce. It is clear that current funding levels are not sustainable. Without a meaningful increase to the BSA, we risk losing not only our educators and families but also the promise of a strong, vibrant Alaska for the next generation.

Raising the BSA by \$1,000 is the minimum needed to address inflationary pressures and to begin restoring stability to our schools. It is a crucial step toward demonstrating that we value our children's futures and are committed to giving them the same opportunities for success that we enjoyed.

Please support a \$1000 BSA in HB69. Support our students, our educators, and the future of Alaska.

Doniece Gott

From: Emily Rohrbaugh <erohrbaugh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for HB 69

Hello Senate Finance Committee,

I am a parent of 2 students (kindergarten and 1st grade) 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 both common-sense reforms and major compromises. Do not settle for less than a \$1,000 increase to the BSA. The Anchorage School Board has clearly communicated to families that this is the minimum amount needed to maintain staffing levels at our school.

With all of the work that the legislature needs to get done in the next few years, please just take care of education funding now so that we can avoid devastating cuts to programs that are working, like my kids' school, and you can focus on other projects in Alaska that desperately need attention.

Thank you for all that you do for Alaska,

Emily Rohrbaugh

Doniece Gott

From: Kim Gilbert <kkanderson.3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for HB 69

Please fully fund our public schools and support HB 69 and the \$1,000 increase to the BSA.

Teachers, smaller classroom sizes, librarians, nurses, sports, extracurricular activities, etc. My kids and all kids in the community need it all. Please don't let it disappear.

Sincerely,
Kim Gilbert

Doniece Gott

From: Claudia <jackfishak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Save our schools

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thanks for your service to our state. I know there are a lot of urgent issues you are wrangling right now, but, as a mother of two kids who attend Alaska public schools, 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 children will lose the Japanese immersion program which has been invaluable in their education. The immersion program is one of the things that makes our district great and its loss will be a disservice to our children.

We love living in Alaska, but the unwillingness of many leaders to prioritize education (and as a result our schools, teachers and students suffering) makes us entertain leaving the state for a place that chooses to prioritize investing our youth. These kids are our future residents, innovators, volunteers, business owners, and leaders....they deserve a strong start and they can't do that without the expertise, resources and predictability that a fully funded education system provides.

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

Claudia Jackson
Anchorage, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Heidi Willoughby <heidi.s.willoughby@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:14 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; schoolboard@asdk12.org
Subject: Public education is our best investment in Alaska's future - FUND HB69

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Public education is our best investment in Alaska's future and we are failing due so many years of funding not keeping up with inflation. This is urgent; Alaska's future depends on fully funding schools. Please support a permanent, sustainable and substantial increase to the BSA for education. For more than 10 years the budget to schools has been stagnant and inadequate to meet the needs of students, parents and educators. Families and professionals are leaving our state and our class sizes to teacher ratio is hurting everyone. Please fight for a significant and sustained increase in the BSA (HB69 or other legislation) and not reach for the compost heap and settle for \$1000 BSA, but reach for the ceiling to \$1800 and lift up Alaska's future.

More information about our ASD school and how the current changes would affect our community:

Chugach is at risk of the two Chugach classroom teaching positions cut in ASD's 2025-26 budget not being reinstated. The loss of these positions means we could have multiple **family groups with 40-plus students next year.**

1. **Chugach Philosophy:** Chugach Optional currently operates a successful model of alternative public education. Our program operates with a two-year curriculum cycle with multi-age classrooms as an essential component (this is not the same as a combination class). Our program structure also includes differentiated instruction, theme study spanning multiple subjects, and project-based learning. Chugach's entire program is intentionally designed and a change to one aspect will negatively impact the entire program. The loss of even one teaching position uniquely affects us because every aspect of our program has been purposely designed. Our concern is that as we start to pull at the pieces, the program will fall apart entirely.

2. **High Achievement; High Growth:** Chugach Optional students are consistently in the top elementary schools for growth and achievement in the district. Chugach's program is working. Here's some data:

- In the 2024-25 school year, **43% of 3rd-6th grade students within ASD** scored above the 50th percentile on the MAP Growth Math test compared to **67% of 3rd-6th graders at Chugach.**

Doniece Gott

From: Anna Burke <anna.burke@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:13 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB 69 please

Hello,

I am a parent of preschool and elementary children in ASD. Our school, Chugach Optional, is a wonderful alternative school within ASD and is providing excellent education to all its students. 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.

Our kids, who are our states future, depend on their public schools to form the foundation of their education. They deserve the best, and they won't get the best of what our amazing teachers and programs can offer with funding that has been flat for much too long.

Please support HB 69 and at least the \$1,000 BSA increase.

Anna Dugan
Anchorage AK

Doniece Gott

From: Fernanda Conrad <f.e.r@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:13 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please pass HB 69 now!

Hello,

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!

Sincerely,

Fernanda Conrad

Doniece Gott

From: beth mclaughlin <luckeenumber9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:12 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please support HB 69

Hello,
I am a parent of a child in the Anchorage School District and I am asking you to support the current version of HB 69 — our schools, staff, future generations and future of our state depend on this investment.

Thank you!
Beth McLaughlin

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Cami Dalton <camihdalton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 1:27 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fwd: HB69

Dear Senators,

Please, please, please pass HB69 quickly with at least a \$1000 increase to the BSA. This must be a permanent amount and not a penny less!

Yes, the budget is tight. AND, education must be a top tier priority!! Every child in our state deserves a quality, public education. Our schools need good, well paid teachers, trained and qualified staff, safe buildings and so many resources. We are so very tired of having to go to battle every year for the funding to keep the doors open in our schools. The time is NOW to change the scenario and support teachers, parents, students and all of our schools

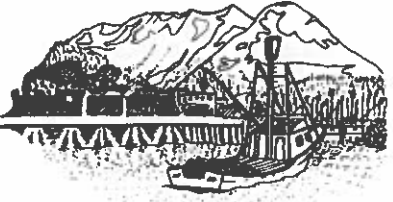
I urge you to support the current version of HB 69. There have been reforms and compromises to it -- and now, it's ready for approval!

JUST DO IT! \$1000 BSA. It's the right thing to do.

With appreciation,

Cami Dalton
2551 Foraker Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

CITY OF CORDOVA



April 9, 2025

The Honorable Louise Stutes
Chair, House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol, Room 216
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Chair Stutes,

On behalf of the City of Cordova and its Council Members, thank you for your service on the Alaska's Seafood Industry Joint Legislative Task Force. We appreciate the breadth and detail of the Task Force's report, and the many thoughtful recommendations made in support of Alaska's seafood industry.

I am writing to express our community's strong support for SB 135 that follows up on one of the Task Force's recommendations, to amend the distribution of tax revenue from the fisheries business tax and fishery resource landing tax to municipalities in Alaska.

As you know, the community of Cordova relies on commercial fishing as its primary economic driver, and "raw fish tax" revenues generated by these fisheries are a critical source of funding for maintaining our harbor and shoreside fish harvesting infrastructure. We fully support increasing the municipal share of this tax to at least 60%, and understand that these revenues are intended for use in maintaining and improving Cordova's harbor facilities.

Please note, we do not support making this change at the expense of funds being directed to support fisheries management at the AK Department of Fish & Game.

We appreciate that the AK Seafood Industry Legislative Task Force made recommendations on many aspects of the commercial fishing industry, and look forward to these recommendations being implemented for the benefit of Alaska's coastal economies. With several Prince William Sound disaster declarations in the past 15 years, our fishing industry needs all of these support measures to weather the cross currents of market forces, labor expenses, and volatile returns.

Thank you for your commitment to this important issue,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin Smith".

Kristin Smith
Mayor

cc: Senator Lyman Hoffman, Senator Donny Olson, Senator Bert Stedman

Doniece Gott

From: B Carlson <carlson.bc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:47 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Rep. Andy Josephson; Roger Holland; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Chuck Kopp; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Matt Claman; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Forrest Dunbar; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: Support HB 69 w \$1,000 increase to BSA
Importance: High

Honorable Co-Chairs Senators Lyman, Olson, Stedman, Vice Chair Senator Merrik, and Senators Keihl, Kaufman, and Cronk :

We write in urgent support of HB 69 and emphasize the need for the full \$1,000 increase to the BSA. We have followed this bill and appreciate the hard work that has gone into it, again. Alaska desperately needs this investment in education to be able to provide an educated public and so that families can be sure that there are quality schools for their children. Families have been leaving Alaska in droves in search of better places to educate and raise their children and we need to turn this around. This is devastating to the well being and population of Alaska, not to mention the workforce.

We believe that there should be no PFD unless the duties of the state, such as education, have been fulfilled. The PFD was never intended to be an entitlement and if we use it wisely it will help us take care of our responsibilities as a state.

Again, please pass HB 69 and include at least \$1,000 for the BSA increase.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

Sincerely,

Michael Carlson
Barbara Carlson
6050 W Dimond Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99502

Doniece Gott

From: David Weber <davidweber34@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:46 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA \$1,000

Senators,

I am from Anchorage and we need stable funding for our schools. **I urge you to support the BSA at \$1,000 and do not settle for less.** The Anchorage School District (ASD) has been doing its job to keep costs down and still provides a well rounded education.

We need a stabilized budget with a diverse tax base. We need to not have this conversation about schools every year that drains energy from our communities, who instead of advocating for reasonable funding could be spending that time actually volunteering or working. We need the funding to help stop outmigration from Alaska. **I urge you to support the BSA at \$1,000 and do not settle for less.**

--

Dave Weber
907-575-8894 Cell

Doniece Gott

From: Shannon Dalton <sdalton14@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:45 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Increase bsa

I am a parent of students at bayshore elementary School within the Anchorage School District. We are currently facing the loss of teachers, increased class sizes, and elimination of all middle 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!

Doniece Gott

From: Tami Trotter <tamit49@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:42 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Pass HB69

Respected members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to ask you to pass HB69 with a \$1,000 BSA intact.

I am aware that there are members of senate finance who are pressing for a \$680 BSA increase stating "that we have no way to pay for anything above that". I for one, am not falling for that argument and I hope that you don't either. To be clear, \$680 would be a cut. There ARE mechanisms to pay for the \$1000 increase to the BSA, there just needs to be the political will to do it. There are MANY pathways to increase and diversify revenue in ways the state desperately needs to do, and there are mechanisms to re-allocate existing funding.

Please continue to maintain your political will to get this done. Even with an \$1000 increase to the BSA the state is still falling short in its constitutional requirement to fund education in the state of Alaska. It is imperative that we support ALL of Alaska's children which we have failed to do so within this past decade.

The ball is in your court to make HB69 pass as is, or better. Your constituents have made that clear, so please make sure to represent the majority of us tomorrow when you vote in favor of HB69.

I appreciate your hard work, time and dedication on this matter. Investing in Alaska's children and our state's future is a win for all.

Respectfully,

Tami Trotter

Doniece Gott

From: Mary Krusen <maryclarakrusen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:42 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please increase the BSA by \$1000

Please increase the BSA by \$1,000. Our Alaskan families, kids, teachers/staff and communities need immersions programs, middle school sports, lower PTR, choir programs, etc that otherwise will be cut at ASD that engage and educate our students. Give schools the tools they need to improve Alaska's educational opportunities.

Thank you.
-Mary Krusen
Anchorage resident

Doniece Gott

From: Ashley Arezou Minaei <ashleyminaei@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:36 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: In Support of HB69 and the Full \$1000 Increase in BSA

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Ashley Arezou Minaei and I live in Anchorage. My husband and I both grew up in Anchorage and are both graduates of the Anchorage School District. We now live in Anchorage with our three kids - ages 8, 5, and 2, and we are both public servants working for the state and municipality. I lived outside of Alaska for 15 years, in several different states and cities, while I pursued higher education, earned multiple degrees, and started my professional career. My husband and I - along with many of our childhood friends - wanted to move back to Alaska to raise our kids here. We didn't move back to Alaska because we wanted to escape income taxes or we wanted to have PDFs. We moved back because we wanted to give our kids rich and fulfilling childhoods like the ones that we had - and a necessary component of that is a strong and properly resourced education. We want to raise our kids in strong, educated, vibrant communities. We want to be in a state that values families - and shows that commitment by investing in their futures. We want Alaska to be a place where young professionals WANT to live and WANT to raise their families. In fact, we WANT a state income tax! While that is not part of this bill, it would absolutely help address the concerns of funding with this bill.

Every time I hear of another of our friends leaving the state because they are worried about the lack of resources and lack of future opportunities, I am sad, but I have stopped trying to convince them to stay - because honestly, I can't blame them. If our leaders are more committed to cutting budgets rather than investing in building our state's future, then why would families want to stay here?

My mother is an award winning retired ASD teacher. She is one of those teachers who lived and breathed her career. She is a teacher through and through. She loved her job and loved her students and their families and she loves this state. She taught and mentored numerous students throughout her career - in fact my son's kindergarten teacher was one of my moms students. Even my mom has said that if she were a new teacher now, she wouldn't stay. Teachers here today do not have the support and resources they need. We aren't investing in them, their careers, or their futures. They don't have the resources to take care of their students now, they don't have the resources to take care of their own families at home, and they don't have the resources to take care of themselves in retirement. So what is the point!? Why wouldn't they move somewhere that supports them? And many of them are doing so.

I implore our leaders to please show us that you actually are looking out for the people who voted for you to represent them. We aren't looking for more tax cuts. We aren't looking for more budget cuts. We WANT to invest in our communities and we WANT to invest in our families. Please allow us to do this. Please give us and other professionals reason to stay in Alaska and raise our families here.

Thank you for your attention on this urgent matter.

Ashley

Ashley Arezou Minaei, MPH, CPH (She/Her/Hers)
ashleyminaei@gmail.com || Cellular: (907) 350-2534

Dena'inaq elnen'ag' gheshtuu ch'q'u yeshdu. | I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina. (Translation by Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart and Joel Isaak)

Doniece Gott

From: Leslie Shroyer <shroyer.leslie@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:36 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: Urgent: Education Funding and HB 69

Dear Senators,

I am a parent of students at Chugach Optional Elementary School in the Anchorage School District (ASD). Chugach Optional is a high-achieving alternative public school of choice, but we are facing the loss of two teachers and our librarian—threatening the integrity of our entire program.

On April 7, I testified before the ASD School Board, urging them to retain our teaching positions and librarian. I wanted to share that testimony with you as well because at the root of this issue is the lack of adequate state funding for education.

Please help fix this problem by supporting the current version of HB 69. This bill includes common-sense reforms and significant compromises. Do not settle for anything less than a \$1,000 BSA increase.

Here is my testimony:

My name is Leslie Boyd, and I am a parent of two students at Chugach Optional Elementary. I am also a proud ASD alum. I am here to ask that Chugach's teaching staff remain at its current level. This includes reinstatement of two full-time teachers and our full-time librarian.

Chugach is a successful model of alternative public education. So much so that we celebrated our 50th anniversary last year.

The foundation of our program includes a two-year curriculum cycle and multi-age classrooms, which are not the same as combination classes. The two-year, multi-age model allows students to develop stronger community and mentoring relationships with peers and supports learning at a student's own pace. It also allows teachers to invest in the growth of the whole child. Our program intricately weaves together theme study spanning multiple subjects, project-based learning, and differentiated instruction. Everything about Chugach is intentionally designed and one change has consequences across the entire program.

Chugach already operates with a lean budget compared to similar schools. We do not have an assistant principal, full-time counselor, or reading coach, and no bussing costs. Based on ASD's 6-year plan, we also currently operate at 108 percent program capacity. Even with our lean operations and already-packed classrooms, Chugach students are successful, consistently scoring among the top schools in the district for GROWTH in reading and math.

Cutting two teachers and the full-time librarian at Chugach isn't just a reduction, it's the beginning of the end for a successful alternative program that has thrived for 50 years.

Doniece Gott

From: August and Erica Lambers <augustanderica@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:35 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support funding to increase BSA to \$1000

To the members of the Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

I ask you to support House Bill 69, and to make a commitment to ALL Alaska school children by right-sizing the BSA. Doing so will help to ensure that our schools have the buying power they need in the current economy to fund not only basic education expenses, but also to fund those educational experiences that enrich students lives and capture their imaginations and creativity and keep our students, teachers and staff safe. Failing to offer these educational and recreational opportunities in our public schools will ensure that our Alaska public school students are less competitive when it comes to college placement, less marketable when it comes to life skills for job placement, and less well rounded when it comes to participation in community and civic life in Alaska.

Key examples -

Music

Foreign language (immersion)

Art

Organized Sports

IGNITE

Full time Registered Nurses in the schools

Please don't fail in your obligation to ensure that ALL Alaska students can freely access a safe, high quality and enriching public education.

Erica Lambers

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: AK Stars <heyni0205@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:33 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HG program ; We need qualified teachers

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.

This is Our story in below,

I am a mother of four children. Among them, three have attended (or are currently attending) the Highly Gifted (HG) program, and they have been receiving a truly high-quality education through this excellent program.

It is hard to believe that families like mine are now facing such a difficult situation.

Many of our school's HG teachers have already left, and sadly, their positions are now being filled by individuals who are not adequately qualified.

As a parent who has been actively involved in my children's education, it feels unfair to face the consequences of such policy changes while doing my best to raise my children well.

I am also a current student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. As someone preparing to educate the next generation,

I cannot help but question how we are supposed to trust and function within a system that lacks sufficient educational resources.

Children need to grow and thrive with the support of their families, and educators must be able to teach in an environment rich in educational assets.

I sincerely urge you to pass HB 69 without delay so that educators and children alike can continue to thrive in well-supported learning environments.

We believe in your sense of justice and leadership until the end.

Thank you.

Best,

Doniece Gott

From: Ellen Chirichella <echirichella@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:27 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB69

Hello,

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. We insist that you do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA.

***Thank you for reps renting us, the people,
Ellen Chirichella, MD***

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Kristen Lewis <kamikazechica@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:23 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Raise the BSA

To Whom it May Concern,

I am emailing you as a parent and PTSA Board member. My child is enrolled in the Sand Lake Japanese Immersion Program. This is a program that began in 1989 and has remained strong for 36 years and is a leader for the immersion language community in Anchorage. I'm a lifelong Alaskan, and I chose to remain in Alaska and put my child in this amazing school and program that gives my child the chance to explore her Japanese heritage and culture. The lack of funding in our schools is going to be absolutely devastating for all immersion programs in ASD. These programs are the best thing about our state's education system. These programs give students the opportunity to become fluent in foreign language and appreciative of the culture, which in turn opens doors for job opportunities in their future.

If you do not approve a \$1,000 BSA increase this year, Sand Lake Elementary will lose 5 of our 18 amazing teachers. This will make it impossible for our school to provide a Japanese class and English class for each grade. This means some students might have to spend the whole day with their Japanese teacher, learning English subjects from a non-native English speaker. This will have long-term negative impacts on their reading development. This is just one example of how the lack of funding will negatively impact the education of our children. These funding cuts will cut our school nurse time for half a day each day! The critical medical needs of students will not be met without a medical professional on site during the day. As a parent of a child that needs access to an emergency inhaler, I'm extremely concerned for my child's health if they are not able to immediately access their medication in the moment of need, under the supervision of a trained nurse. This is just dangerous!

I urge you to please, save our schools and our children. They deserve so much more than what the state is providing them. Increase the BSA by \$1,000. Invest in the future of our state.

Sincerely,
Kristen Lewis

Doniece Gott

From: Frances Robinson <chevygirlak@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB69

Good evening,

I'm writing to express my support for HB69 with the \$1000 increase to BSA. As a mother of twins who were in preschool when COVID struck, I've watched our kids and their education suffer. They've begun to thrive, let's not harm our children and their education further. I implore you to support HB69.

Sincerely,
Frances Robinson
Proud Parent of Rabbit Creek Elementary Students

Doniece Gott

From: Clint Hammer <clint.s.hammer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Increase BSA by \$1000 or more!

Dear legislators-

Ever since the public debate and controversy surrounding Alaska's education funding began, my lovely wife's stress levels have increased on an exponential curve due to her anxiety about the future of our children's educational opportunities. At this very moment, her mood has reached a point that I fear I will not be able to bear much longer. She complains that I try to talk to her about my hobbies at inopportune times, that I desire to spend money on things that don't bring her joy, and that I randomly forget one or more parts of our kids' bedtime routine - an error which results in tired elementary and preschool aged children who deserve a full night's rest to ensure they can succeed at school.

I have spent a great number of sleepless nights brainstorming solutions to my plight, and I have determined that the only real answer is for the Alaska Legislature to pass a BSA increase of \$1000 or more and to then override an inevitable veto by our Governor. This would drastically reduce my wife's stress levels, creating a new sense of calm in our household, which would in turn lower my own stress levels, likely making me less forgetful of our children's pre-bedtime requirements and allowing them to be more ready to tackle the educational challenges that will set them up to be productive members of our society.

I beg you to save me. Pass a BSA increase of at least \$1000. Please... It is indescribably vital.

Thank you for your time and for your service.

Clint Hammer

Doniece Gott

From: Megan Sarnecki <megan.sarnecki@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:20 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69 - please pass with \$1000

I am the parent of a 6th grader and 7th grader in ASD.

Investing in education is investing in our future. All of this money will go to teaching and enhancing opportunities for our children.

Please, please, increase the BSA by \$1000 to prevent horrible cuts to my children's schools.

The future of our great state is in your hands.

Bob Cummings
2612 Lord Baranof Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517

Doniece Gott

From: Kayse Ericksen <kayseericksen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:19 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

Hello,

My name is Kayse Hinrichsen and I am a parent of a student 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 2 teachers and our librarian, which will threaten our entire program and compromise the success we have had growing students who are thought, curious, creative members of our community.

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! Our schools are drowning and the future of Alaska rests on our ability to grow educated Alaskans and attract families.

Thank you.

Kayse Hinrichsen

Doniece Gott

From: Elissa Brown <elissa.b.brown@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please pass full \$1K increase to BSA!

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 all children in Alaska deserve a quality education. Please pass HB 69 quickly so our schools and teachers have the resources they need.

As a parent of a kindergartener in our neighborhood school, I'm beyond dismayed when I think about the future of education in our state. It's completely disheartening and, frankly, shameful. I volunteer in the classroom and see the challenges teachers are facing, and adding MORE kids to each class is the exact opposite of what is needed. School funding has not kept up with inflation and our kids are the ones who are suffering. Getting a larger PFD will not help save my child's education.

Please pass HB 69 quickly and fully.

Thank you,

Elissa Brown

1308 Annapolis Dr,
Anchorage AK 99508

Doniece Gott

From: Tim Ryan <timwryan@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support \$1000 BSA increase

Dear Senators of the finance committee :

I write to you once more to again ask you to support a \$1000 increase in the BSA. I have discussed this at length with Senator Kaufman who represents my district. I have discussed this at length with the members of the Anchorage school board and staff at my daughters' schools. The truth, as difficult as it may be to hear, is that \$1000 is indeed the minimum required to provide the education my children - and all the children of Alaska - deserve. It is their constitutional right and it is your constitutional duty to provide them with this.

Anything less than this is simply not enough. Rumor has it that some believe \$680 is sufficient. Let me dispel you now of such nonsense. Less than \$1000 will leave class sizes at O'Malley Elementary School with over 50 students in a single class. The catastrophic staffing cuts the school is facing cannot be overcome with token gestures. \$1000 is the amount you need to find.

We can lament (trust me, I do) that chronic neglect of our schools has allowed the funding crisis to grow so dire. Wouldn't it be nice if we didn't have to contend with more than a decade of underfunding? We can lament that HB69 was passed through the House without significant minority support - although my representative Julie Coulombe, understanding these facts, did support the bill. It would be easy if oil was \$100/bbl, inflation was low, and the economy was on stable ground. But that's not the world we live in.

What I ask you to do is to make up for the mistakes and errors and ineptitude of those who created these problems. Your task is made significantly more difficult because of them. We all recognize this. But my kids have a constitutional right to an education that now requires an increase in the BSA of \$1000. It's as simple as that.

Funding this will cause pain. I'm a physician so healing and it's relationship to pain is something I deal with every day. After surgery there is always pain. But you don't cut out half a tumor because of this. Some medicine is bitter. But you still take the full dose.

But analogies only go so far. Last year we tried the one year inexpensive version of a fix hoping things would be better this year. They are now much worse by any measure. The need is greater, oil futures are far lower, and critical teaching staff have left the state. By failing to fix the problem it has grown worse, as it has every year for more than a decade. Half measures such as a \$680 increase will not cut it. Solving this problem will now require bold action.

On the bright side the State has the money to pay for this in the short run and can raise new revenue in time, although the immediate impact on competing priorities will be felt broadly. Your task is to find and build consensus nonetheless.