

Doniece Gott

From: Maya C <mayacurtis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please Support the Current Version of HB 69 and Fully Fund Education

Dear Senators,

I am writing as a concerned parent of students in the Anchorage School District—one attending Chugach Optional School, and another Central. I urge you to support the current version of HB 69, which includes vital reforms and significant compromises. Most importantly, I ask that you do not settle for anything less than a \$1,000 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

Chugach Optional School is a high-achieving, alternative public school of choice. It has created a thriving educational environment for students through a dedicated and innovative team of educators. Unfortunately, we are now facing the very real threat of losing teachers and our beloved librarian—cuts that would severely undermine our entire program and its unique, student-centered approach to learning.

My middle schooler will also be directly affected by as she has been deeply involved in after-school sports, which are now on the chopping block due to budget shortfalls. These programs are not luxuries—they are lifelines. Middle school sports offer students opportunities to build friendships, gain confidence, and engage in healthy, structured activity during a crucial time in their development. Cutting these programs will negatively impact the mental and physical well-being of countless students.

I attended the recent Town Hall in Anchorage and was moved by the passionate outpouring of support for increased education funding. Parents, students, teachers, and community members came together with one clear message: we need action, and we are even willing to be taxed to ensure our schools are funded adequately. This is a statewide emergency, and at the very least, we need the BSA to be increased by at least \$1,000 now.

As Dr. Bryant stated during the Anchorage School Board meeting this past Tuesday, “every day the legislature delays action is another day the district is unable to hire teachers.” The time to hire is now—not in June, when most qualified candidates have already accepted positions elsewhere.

HB 69, as currently written, would allow Anchorage schools to:

Doniece Gott

From: Johnna Kohl <johnna.kohl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:17 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for public school funding and BSA increase

Good afternoon,

I would like to voice my support for HB69 and an increase to the BSA for Alaska schools.

Our public schools can no longer sustain the level of services and opportunities that our students need without funding that keeps up with inflation at a minimum.

Without adequate funding, we are losing the clubs, sports and opportunities that help keep students engaged in school or that provide an opportunity for college scholarships. It is heartbreaking to me that my kids will not have the same opportunities my husband had attending public schools in Alaska.

I spent time volunteering in the classroom when my kids were in elementary school. With every increase in the size of classes, we are making it harder for our teachers to address the wide variety of learning needs that exist within each single classroom.

I know that in rural communities, the situation is even more dire. We are talking about funding that allows for proper maintenance of schools and simple things like keeping the heat on.

Just like pitching in on a group gift for a baby shower, our money goes farther when we pool our resources.

I believe the BSA increase should stand on its own without being tied to the separate school choice debate. BSA increases support all students.

Please vote to give our public schools the same increases in state funding afforded to other departments to allow it to keep up with inflation and provide essential services and opportunities to Alaska students.

Thank you,

Johnna Kohl MD

Doniece Gott

From: Becky Lipson <rebecca.lipson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:17 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. Please pass HB 69 quickly so our schools and teachers have the resources they need.

Anything less is not in the best interests of your constituents.

Thank you!

Doniece Gott

From: Kate Hammer <katewues@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:17 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB69 and \$1,000 BSA Increase

Good morning,

I'm writing today to encourage you to please support HB69 at the full BSA increase of \$1,000.

Lack of consistent and adequate funding for Alaska schools is hurting families, hurting the current and future Alaskan economy, and is a shameful break from lawmakers constitutional duty to "establish **and maintain** a system of public schools open to all children of the State".

By supporting HB69 you can ensure school districts across the state have the funding they need to support teachers as they educate our children to become the next leaders and business owners and workers to support and hopefully even grow the Alaskan economy. The hard fact is right now families are fleeing our state and one of the major reasons is because of poor support of public education. I was born and raised here and received an excellent education in the 1990s through ASD. I never thought I'd consider leaving Alaska but my husband and I are now discussing moving to the lower 48 if the State does not demonstrate a commitment to education by increasing BSA by a meaningful amount. That means leaving our careers, leaving our families, and leaving our hometown. BSA needs to be increased by more than \$1000, please do not consider slashing it to a lower amount.

In Anchorage, 185 ASD teachers were recently "displaced" due to the budget crisis. About 30% of them have resigned completely from the district. That means that if/when BSA is increased, the pool of qualified teachers remaining to fill teacher jobs has decreased and we won't be able to hire enough teachers. This happens every year, even if the percentage is larger this year. This is such a waste of time, energy, and money. By increasing BSA by at least \$1000 and preferably adding inflation proofing to the formula, we'd create a much more efficient system for our school districts. It's absolutely ridiculous how much energy goes into this discussion year after year.

The fact that test scores have decreased over the last decade is not an indication that teaching methods are insufficient. It's an indication that our public education system is being strangled. I want to continue to have the choice to send my children to our neighborhood school. I don't want them to go to a charter school, a private school, and I'm absolutely not interested in trying to figure out how to homeschool my kids.

The math is simple, the 1999 BSA of \$3,940 adjusted to today's dollars is \$7,438. That's a difference of \$1,478 when compared to our current BSA of \$5,960. ASD was one of the best districts in the nation when I graduated in 2002, our test scores were high and our students went on to achieve many amazing things. How can we expect any institution to maintain superiority when we fund it at 80% of what it needs to succeed.

Please support a BSA increase of \$1,000 or more by supporting HB69. Please inflation proof BSA. We are at a critical tipping point and you have the power to decide the future of our state. I recognize the budget

Doniece Gott

From: Shelly Wade <shellywadeak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support \$1,000 BSA

I am a resident within the Anchorage School District who cares about the education of our future leaders. 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!

Shelly Wade
Cell: 907-242-5326
Email: shelly@agnewbeck.com

Doniece Gott

From: Amy Conklin <amycynowa@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Urgent finance committee

Dear Finance Committee,

I am a parent of students at Mears Middle School and Sand Lake Elementary 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 for listening,

Amy Conklin

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Olga Hayes <olgavhayes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: RE: VOTE TO INCREASE BSA NOW!

Hello,

I am a parent of two students at Polaris K-12 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!

Thank you,

Olga Hayes
Anchorage, AK.

Doniece Gott

From: Blueberry Hill Photography <sarah@blueberryhillphotography.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: RAISE THE BSA!

Dear Senators,

I am writing to urge you to swiftly pass HB69 with a permanent increase of at least \$1,000 to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

While I recognize the state's current budgetary constraints, I believe that education must be the first priority. Our schools have been absolutely gutted, and this cannot continue. Every child in Alaska deserves access to a quality education, and it is crucial that our schools and teachers have the necessary resources.

The current version of HB 69 includes important compromises and common-sense reforms. I urge you to support it without settling for an amount less than a \$1,000 BSA increase.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Sarah Freije

Doniece Gott

From: erika green <erikadgreen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA increase

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 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!

I do not support one year teacher bonuses or setting up new charter schools. There are so many reasons that Governor Dunleavy's ideas are bad ones - too many to list here since it's not under consideration right now. What is imperative right now is getting additional funding for our schools.

Sincerely,
Erika Green
Anchorage, AK

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Doniece Gott

From: Erika Monahan <erika.monahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Hb 69

Dear finance committee,

Please support HB69. The school system is being dismantled. This is not only contrary to Alaska's constitution it is a foolish direction to take people that care about the future of Alaska will invest in public education for Alaska's kids.

Sincerely,

Erika Monahan

Doniece Gott

From: Yuki Varnell <yuki.varnell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:13 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee

I am a parent of students at Central Middle 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!

Thank you.

Yuki Varnell

Doniece Gott

From: Lisa Wells <dennyandlisa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:13 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB 69

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 includes major compromises. Do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA!

Lisa Wells
3309 North Shore Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-350-1143

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Nancy Krehlik <nkrehlik@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:12 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. Alaskan children deserve a quality education. Please pass HB 69 quickly so our schools and teachers have the resources they need.

The future of Alaska and every Alaskan depends on quality education

Thank you!
Nancy Krehlik
10501 Ann Coleman Rd
Juneau AK 99801

Doniece Gott

From: Brenda G Lester <brenda.g.lester@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:11 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SUPPORT HB 69!!!!!!!

Please. Find the funds. Please STOP taking away from our children!!!

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: apolonowski@icloud.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:12 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

Greetings Finance Committee,

We are a parents of students at Government Hill Elementary and Romig Middle School in the Anchorage School District.

As you all are very aware of, the district is 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. **Please do not settle for less than \$1,000 BSA increase!**

Sincerely,
Anna and John Polonowski

Doniece Gott

From: River Gates <hrivergates@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:11 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69

I am writing to express my support for HB 69 with the \$1000 increase to the BSA.

I am a parent of students at Bear Valley Elementary 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!

Thanks,
River Gates, Bert, Simon and Logan Lewis

17520 Snow Crest Lane
Anchorage, AK 99516

Doniece Gott

From: Jen Klugh Collins <jenklugh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:11 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please pass HB 69 with a \$1000 BSA increase

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 two 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!
Jen Collins

Doniece Gott

From: Tanya Iden <tanyaaiden@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:09 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB 69 - fund education!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I understand you will be hearing SB 69 on April 10, in your committee. Please support this proposed legislation.

I am a parent of students at both Romig Junior High and West High School within the Anchorage School District. As a community we must support our children's education and provide the resources needed to help kids and families thrive.

Our schools are 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,
Tanya Iden
401 w 12th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-205-0108***

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: lindsey flagstad <lindseyflagstad@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:08 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Do the right thing! Fund a full BSA!

Good evening,

I am a parent of three students at South High 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! We elected you to ensure the constitutional right of our children to a FULLY funded public education system.

Lindsey Flagstad

Doniece Gott

From: Jessica Cochran <jcochranak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:07 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School Funding

Dear Senators,

Please pass HB69 quickly and with at least a \$1000 permanent increase to the BSA.

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,
Jessica Cochran
907-947-9086

Doniece Gott

From: Melissa Heuer <heuer.melissa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:06 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: PASS HB 69 - FUND OUR SCHOOLS!

Dear Senator,

Alaska's kids can't wait — our public schools are in crisis, and we need bold leadership now.

As someone who was born and raised in Alaska's public schools, a mom with young kids in public school, a business owner, a taxpayer who has never missed an election, and someone who hopes to be a long-term, tax-paying Alaskan — this issue is deeply personal. I want my child to grow up learning in a well-supported public school. I want our fellow Alaskans — no matter where they live — to have equal access to quality public education. And I want to build a business in a state where strong, well-educated young people are ready to step into the workforce.

HB 69 is already a compromise, reducing the originally proposed \$1808 increase per student to just \$1000. Please fight to maintain this \$1000 BSA increase. It is the bare minimum our students need.

A \$680 increase is not enough. It will lead to larger class sizes, program cuts, reduction of important programs, and more crumbling school buildings. That's not the future we want for our kids — or our state.

I implore you to fully fund the \$1000 BSA. Stand up for Alaskans, our future, and our now.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Melissa Heuer
3131 Regis Ct
Anchorage, AK
907-242-4779

Doniece Gott

From: Rebecca Emerson <rebecca_bailey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:07 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please support \$1000 BSA Increase!

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!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Emerson
12825 Lindsey Circle
Anchorage, AK 99516
rebecca_bailey@yahoo.com
907-590-0648

Doniece Gott

From: Susannah Magrane Fives <susannah.magrane@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:06 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for the education of our Alaskan Children

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.

With sincere thanks,
Susannah Magrane Fives
Anchorage, AK

Susannah Magrane MSN, FNP-BC
susannah.magrane@gmail.com
cell.973.986.6908

Doniece Gott

From: Serra Fairbanks <letitbealaska907@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:03 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA Increase

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,
Voting Alaska Resident - Serra Fairbanks

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Doniece Gott

From: Liane Erickson <liane.erickson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:02 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!

Doniece Gott

From: Beth <ekdrewes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 3:31 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please Fund our Schools

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to urge you to pass HB69 in support of the \$1000 BSA increase. Anything less will be inadequate. We are a young family in Anchorage with children attending public school (by choice). We believe in the public school system, and we feel that the State of Alaska is failing our students by underfunding the system. If you want a vibrant state with young families staying in Alaska rather than relocating to the Lower 48, then prioritize the SCHOOLS! Thriving schools = Thriving State.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Drewes-Todd

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Colleen M Bolling <colleenmbolling@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 3:43 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please support HB 69 with a \$1,000 increase to the BSA

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my STRONG support for HB 69 with a \$1,000 (or more) increase to the BSA. We have flat funded education for far too long and our schools are starving. We are failing our students, our educators, and the future of our great state.

The Alaska constitution requires that we provide quality public education for all Alaskans, and this obligation is not even close to being met. Classes are large, programs are being cut, and rural schools are literally falling apart. It is your obligation to provide quality public education, and it is your job to find the funds to carry out this obligation. It is time to get creative about new sources of revenue in our state so we can sustainably fund public education.

Thank you for your work. Please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,
Colleen Bolling
Anchorage, AK
907.301.4522

Doniece Gott

From: Sarah Schoen <schoensk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 3:48 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Increase the BSA!

I'm writing to urge you to please vote yes on HB 69. I strongly support increasing the BSA by at least \$1000!

Sincerely,
Sarah Schoen
13530 Venus Way, Anchorage, AK 99515

Doniece Gott

From: svea bergstedt <sveabergstedt@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 3:56 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA increase

Please support HB 69 with the BSA increase of 1,000\$ per student. Alaskan children and schools need your help! Please support the 1,000\$ BSA increase.

Thank you,
Svea Lunoe

Doniece Gott

From: Carolyn Kirchner <carolyn.kirchner@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 3:58 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69

Please support our schools by passing HB 69.

We need \$1000 BSA increase to support our students and teachers and adequately fund public schools.

A PFD distribution is not critical to operating our state.

Doniece Gott

From: Brittany Goodnight <goodnight.brittany@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 4:06 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Ryan Kingrea
Subject: Please increase the base student allocation to \$1,000

Good afternoon and to Whom it May Concern on the Senate Finance Committee:

My husband and I are concerned about our schools and believe that increasing funding to education should be a top priority. Please support an increase in the base student allocation to \$1,000 per student.

We were both born and raised in Alaska. My husband was born on Kodiak and grew up in Valdez, Fairbanks and Eagle River. I was born in Anchorage and grew up in Chugiak. We met on the debate team at Chugiak High School, and have been together since then. We now work and live in Anchorage with two little kids. Our oldest goes to Government Hill Elementary School.

Alaska is a beautiful and amazing place to raise a family. To attract and keep families in Alaska we need to invest in our schools. It is stunning to witness the cuts to public education since our own public educations here. Please help reverse this trend. Please help build a strong public education system in our state. Please support an increase in the base student allocation to \$1,000 to make this happen.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brittany Goodnight & Ryan Kingrea

Anchorage, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Lorinda Jensen <lorinda.jensen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 4:09 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: House Bill 69

Good evening,

My name is Lorinda Jensen. I am a parent to a first grader and an incoming kindergartener in the Anchorage School District, as well as a previous elementary school teacher in the district.

I am writing to urge you to pass and implement House Bill 69 with an increase of at least \$1,000 per student BSA. An increase of any less will result in the permanent cuts to hundreds of ASD teachers, many of which have at least 10 years of experience. The current cuts would leave only 1 kindergarten teacher at our neighborhood school (which during the 21/22 school year had 5 kindergarten teachers). As a result, class sizes will skyrocket and student achievement will continue to decrease.

My children attend a charter school, which is very transparent about finances. I have listened to meeting after meeting this year where the Academic Policy Committee as the school tries to balance an impossible budget. With the current BSA, they are unable to fully fund their staff next year.

Budget cuts have had a major negative impact on the Anchorage School District year after year. Flat funding has resulted in school closures, increased class sizes, less access to athletics and activities, and more. By passing House Bill 69, we would be able to stop our downward trend and start improving the educational outcomes for Alaska's children.

Again, I urge you to put the children in our state first and increase funding in our schools by passing House Bill 69.

Thanks,
Lorinda

Doniece Gott

From: skinordicak@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 4:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: \$1000 BSA Increase

Please increase the BSA by \$1000. The expected cuts to education without this increase are absolutely devastating. We are treating our teachers like second class citizens by laying them off, increasing class sizes so much they can't possible provide high quality instruction, and telling them they are responsible for increasing test scores. Do more with less is not an option; too much has already been taken from our public education system.

It's time for a tax, income or sales tax. We need to stop paying out a PFD and raise money to support critical systems like education.

Thank you for your time and I hope a \$1000 BSA increase is approved quickly.

Beth Elliott

Doniece Gott

From: Elke Gustafson <elke.mazzeo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 4:32 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA increase

Senators ,

Please vote to support the much needed BSA increase . Our schools need to be adequately staffed in order to keep our children safe and in an environment where the student to teacher ratio fosters learning and enables our children to reach their full potential . Our state will have no future without them and we need to prepare them to be the successful leaders of tomorrow .

Please support our kids and our future by passing HB 69 with a \$1000 BSA .

Thank you ,

Elke Mazzeo

Doniece Gott

From: Sarah Dugal <sdugal@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 4:37 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Base Student Allowance Increase

I am writing to urge you to vote for an increase to the BSA of \$1000 per annum. You are constitutionally bound to provide quality public education to all Alaskans. Anything less than this will result in cuts to essential programs, increases in class sizes, and a general decrease in the quality of the education that Alaskan children receive. Do your duty to the citizens of this state.

Sincerely,
Sarah Dugal

Doniece Gott

From: Richelle Jamison <briarrose1234@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:00 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please save our schools!

To Whom it May Concern,

I am emailing you as a parent, Japanese Immersion Program alumni, teacher and PTSA member. My child is in the Sand Lake Japanese Immersion Program. A program I moved to Alaska to make sure my children can partake in it. 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.

Doniece Gott

From: Rachel E Huisman <rachel.huisman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:00 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Increase the BSA by \$1000

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am the parent of two students in ASD. I implore you to fulfill your obligation to provide quality public education to the children of Alaska by funding a \$1000 increase to the BSA. This action would be a step in the right direction to make up for years of flat funding to schools around the state. We all feel inflation in our everyday lives, whether it is the increasing prices at the grocery store, increasing cost of housing, or the increasing cost of medical care. Why would our schools not suffer from this same pressure? While an individual can hope for an increase in wages or look for a better paying job, the schools rely on you, the legislature, to help their budgets keep up with inflation and you have fallen woefully behind.

The impact of this failure will be felt by middle schoolers who desperately need the physical and mental benefits that sports can provide, but can't afford to participate in extracurriculars outside of school. It will be felt by students in my neighborhood who won't have the opportunity to learn from the incredible and inspiring teacher my 4th grader had this year because she has been displaced from our school. It will be felt by my own children who will no longer have the Ignite program to challenge them and expand their thinking in ways that their regular classroom experience does not provide.

Our children are the future of our state. We cannot afford not to invest in them, their education, and their futures. Thank you for standing up for Alaska's children.

Sincerely,
Rachel Huisman

Doniece Gott

From: patrick jamison <patrick.jamison22@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:59 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please save our schools!

To Whom it May Concern,

I am emailing you as a parent, Japanese Immersion Program alumni, teacher and PTSA member. My child is in the Sand Lake Japanese Immersion Program. A program I moved to Alaska to make sure my children can partake in it. 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 loose 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.

Doniece Gott

From: jimaël.johnson@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:59 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for HB69 with \$1000 increase to BSA

Please support the \$1000 BSA increase. Our kids and educators deserve NO LESS.

Thank you,
Jimaël Johnson
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-242-5292

Doniece Gott

From: Bre Baines <brebaines94@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:59 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Middle school sports

>
> Hello,
>
> We absolutely need middle school sports. They are protective factors that our youth desperately need. Often structured activities like this give kids healthy outlets and opportunities. It helps them cope with the trauma they're enduring. Make it a priority. Invest in our future.
>
> Breanne Baines
> Director of residential services for VOA Alaska
>

Doniece Gott

From: Richelle Jamison <jamison.richelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:59 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please save our programs, our teachers, our kids education!!!

To Whom it May Concern,

I am emailing you as a parent, Japanese Immersion Program alumni, teacher and PTSA member. My child is in the Sand Lake Japanese Immersion Program. A program I moved to Alaska to make sure my children can partake in it. 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 loose 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.

Doniece Gott

From: Elain Gentner <elain.gentner@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:59 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Vote to INCREASE the BSA

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am a parent of students at Chugach Optional Elementary 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 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!

Respectfully,

Elain Gentner

Doniece Gott

From: Katie Butler <katienclint@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:58 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Urgent

Hello, I am a parent of students at gov hill, romig, and west high 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!

Sincerely, Katie Butler

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Rachel Crawford <rmcrwfrd@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:58 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 - nothing less. While we all understand that the budget is tight, education should be the first priority for spending. Every child in Alaska deserves a quality education. Please pass HB 69 quickly so our schools and teachers have the resources they need.

Best,

Rachel Crawford

Doniece Gott

From: Rebekah A. Theriot <rebekahas@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:58 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: I support HB 69 \$1,000 BSA

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I support the HB 69 with the \$1,000 increase to the BSA. If an increase to the BSA by \$1,000, the KPBSD and ASD can avoid most of the cuts included in the new budget. This committee is constitutionally obligated to provide quality public education to all Alaskans, so please do your due diligence to find the funding for this obligation. Our schools are starving! Our future is in our youth.

Thank you for considering the \$1,000 BSA.

Sincerely,
Rebekah Theriot
A KPBSD employee and mother of 2 teens

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Doniece Gott

From: Ryan McCourt <rpmccourt@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:58 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Pass HB 69

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Pass HB 69 and give Alaska an adequately funded education. I have lived in Alaska for 16 years and for 10 of those as a parent. Over this time, I have seen the quality of Alaska's educational programming consistently decline and quite frankly, the quality of life of our community as a whole. As a result, I have seen many well-educated contributors to society leave the state for better jobs, better education for their children, etc. The \$1,000 increase to the BSA for next school year is the bare minimum to ensure that typical education opportunities that were afforded to you as a child are afforded to the next generation. Please invest in the communities you claim to represent and serve.

Thank you,
Ryan McCourt

Doniece Gott

From: Miriam Walker <walker.miriame@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:57 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69 WITH \$1000 BSA

Hello,

Please pass HB69 with a \$1000 BSA intact. Education in Alaska depends on it.

Thank You,

Miriam Walker

Doniece Gott

From: Devon Evans <DevonEvans907@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:56 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

Good Evening,

I am emailing to express support for HB 69 with the \$1,000 increase to the BSA. While we appreciate the consideration of a \$680 increase, this isn't enough after over a decade of flat funding. My daughter is entering Kindergarten next school year, and we are actually nervous to have her attend the language immersion program she was accepted into, because of the ASD slashing the budget. My daughter also receives ASD speech services through our neighborhood school to help get her on track for Kindergarten next school year.

It's projected at her school that half of the immersion teachers would be eliminated with proposed cuts. They would also be getting rid of half of the special education support at her school. Despite the ASD being constitutionally obligated to provide quality public education to our children, they are not delivering without the budget being modified.

Because I do not want my daughter to miss out on the opportunity to attend her new school, so I have actually contacted her ASD speech pathologist, who works with her twice a month, to discuss terminating the very services she needs with speech and to be successful entering Kindergarten. I don't want my daughter on the chopping block being labeled as a high needs student, the school not being able to accommodate her needs and potentially being kicked out of the program. Because of this, we are considering having her go without services just to keep her in school. She deserves a great public education and without the \$1000 budget increase, other children won't have the successful outcomes they deserve.

Respectfully,
Devon Evans, Anchorage resident

Doniece Gott

From: Corrina Rinella <corrinarinella@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:55 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB 69

I am a parent of a student at West Hogh School within the Anchorage School District. We are currently facing the loss of teachers, increased class sizes, and elimination of important extra activities. 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!

Corrina Rinella

Doniece Gott

From: danielladelozier@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:54 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please support HB69 fully

Good evening,

Please support the full BSA increase tomorrow morning as a smaller increase will not be enough to provide the stability in the system, restore ASD's significant cuts, and to keep us from having to do this work year after year.

Thank you,

Daniella DeLozier

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: sarahbaldwin5687@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:53 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please increase the BSA to \$1000

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.

We are already a large outmigration from Alaska. Please don't give more families a reason to leave by not increasing the BSA.

Thank you!

Sarah Baldwin

Doniece Gott

From: Annette Rearden <alauria@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:52 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Increase the BSA

Good evening madams and sirs-

My name is Annette Rearden and I am a proud parent of two ASD children, one at Bear Valley Elementary and another at Golden view middle school.

I am writing to ask your support for

HB 69 that will increase the BSA \$1000 dollars for the upcoming academic year.

As we all know, the state budget for public schools has not kept up with inflation over the years nor has adequately funded the BSA in many years. As a result, we are facing the loss of gifted and caring teachers, middle school and some high school sports, cuts to school nurses, as well as specialized programs that celebrate the diversity and brains of our youth to name a few.

As a nurse educator at APU, I see first hand the impacts of a strong primary and secondary education on our college students, workforce, and overall health of our state. Social determinants of health clearly link access to quality education as a means to a healthy society. In addition, if we want to make our state attractive to investors like oil and gas, it is a must that we have healthy and robust public schools.

So please do what is right and best for our most precious state resource, our children.

Thanks for making the choice to support our future and our state.

Increases the BSA,
Annette Rearden
Alauria@alaska.edu
907 258 0135

Doniece Gott

From: Lem Wheelles <lem_ffa@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:52 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB69

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am a lifelong Alaskan, a graduate of Dimond High School, and a parent of a Dimond student. I have taught US Government at Dimond for the past 21 years. I want to share a few thoughts about the current state of education funding and its impacts on the Anchorage School District and Dimond High School specifically.

In February, the Anchorage School Board passed a balanced budget (as required by law) that included draconian cuts to respond to a \$100+ million structural deficit. At Dimond, we are slated to lose 8.2 teaching FTE, plus an assistant principal, a clerical position, and our library assistant. The loss in teachers represents a 16% decrease in teaching staff, against an enrollment decline of about 3%. As a result, I expect next year to have 4-6 more students per class in each of my classes, or 20-30 more total students. That's an increase of 15-30% in student load, a massive increase to my workload, and there's no money for a comparable raise in salary for that work. I do not understand how our public schools are supposed to serve all students, with the unique challenges they bring into our classrooms, with these constantly increasing demands on teachers and our school system.

Over the years, ASD has reduced administrative and support staff positions as much as possible to limit the impact on class sizes. We are past the point of there being no other way to solve this fiscal crisis than significant cuts to teaching positions and significant increases in class sizes. Even if the Legislature comes through with substantial increase to funding this spring, and the Governor doesn't veto it, we still will lose good teachers to the Lower 48 or other professions. Educators cannot wait around for last-minute funding; they will soon start making the choices best for themselves and their families while there are jobs to be found elsewhere.

Please stop the pattern of balancing the state budget using education as an "optional" expense. Please maintain the current increase of \$1000 to the BSA (or better yet, add back in the original 3 years of increases and inflation proofing). Cut other areas of the budget, and/or introduce new revenue sources to balance the budget. It's past time for us to invest in the future of Alaska.

Thank you for your service to our state,

Lem Wheelles

Doniece Gott

From: Larissa Villar Aaberg <aklarissa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:51 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Increase the BSA to \$1,000

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As elected officials, you are the financial voice of our community and are to speak and made judgement in the best interest of our community.

That being said, legislature must take immediate action to approve a \$1,000 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). After over a decade of stagnant funding, this increase is not optional—it is essential. The proposed \$680 increase falls far short of what is needed to maintain quality public education and uphold their constitutional obligation to all Alaskans. By increasing the BSA by \$1,000, the Anchorage School District can avoid the majority of devastating cuts included in the new budget. The time to act is now. The future of Alaska's students depends on bold and decisive leadership!

Increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) offers several benefits for Alaska's education system:

1. **Improved Funding for Schools:** A higher BSA provides more resources to schools, enabling them to maintain programs, hire qualified staff, and address operational costs.
2. **Inflation:** The BSA has not kept pace with inflation over the years. Increasing it helps schools cope with rising costs and ensures sustainable funding.
3. **Preventing Cuts:** With adequate funding, schools can avoid drastic budget cuts that impact student services, extracurricular activities, and essential programs.
4. **Supporting Student Achievement:** More funding allows schools to invest in quality education, which directly benefits student learning and achievement.
5. **Recruitment and Retention:** Increased funding can help attract and retain teachers, administrators, and support staff, addressing shortages and improving education quality.

These benefits highlight the importance of advocating for a significant increase in the BSA to ensure Alaska's students receive the education they deserve. Let me know if you'd like to explore this further!

Please take a long hard look at your decision and think boldly about the importance of INVESTING and DIVESTING in education for the State of Alaska. My husband and I are successful products of the Alaska public school system with 3 of our own in elementary school at Bear Valley in Anchorage. My husbands parents are retired Alaska school teachers and it is terrifying to see such large amounts cut from our education budget.

Do in your heart what you know the right this to do.

Doniece Gott

From: Rachel Samuelson <samuelson.rachel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:51 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: In support of HB 69

Hello Senators,

I am writing with fervent support for HB 69 at the increase of \$1000 for the BSA. Please do anything possible to get this for our children. The kids, need this, business and commerce needs this, the whole state desperately need this . Do not cut from this proposed increase. Do not take from our children. Please take (tax) from oil companies, or me and my neighbor, but not from our children.

Sincerely,

Rachel

Anchorage, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Neil <akneil@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 9:50 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to pass HB69 to fund the full \$1000 BSA increase

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!
Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Sam Cason <samcason@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 10:53 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please fund education

The \$1000 bsa increase is not enough, but it is a start. Our only hope for a future is our kids; voters are watching what happens today.

Sam Cason

Lifelong Alaskan super-voter

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Brij Hall-Potnis <brij_potnis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 10:46 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB 69

Hello,

I am a father of a 5th grade student at Chugach Optional School within the Anchorage School District. Chugach Optional is an incredible school where my child is thriving. It is a high achieving alternative public school of choice, and our Chugach students, families and community are currently facing the loss of teachers and our librarian. These cuts threaten our entire program at Chugach Optional. PLEASE support the current version of HB 69, which includes common-sense reforms and includes major compromises. I implore you not to settle for less than \$1,000 BSA. Thank you for standing up for education, our schools and communities within ASD.

Sincerely,
Brij Hall-Potnis

Doniece Gott

From: Emily Kizzia <emily.kizzia@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 10:42 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for House Bill 69

To the Co-Chairs, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear testimony via email regarding HB 69. My name is Emily Kizzia and I'm 34-year-old resident of Homer, where I work as a Registered Nurse and live with my 4-year-old daughter. I'm writing today to express my strong support for HB 69. I was born in Homer and raised in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. I understand that the state is in an unprecedented spot right now with funding. I hear the arguments that we simply can't afford a \$1000 increase to the BSA. And I urge you to look at the bigger picture for our state, what our priorities are, and what message we want to send to young families trying to make a life here.

When the argument is made that the state simply cannot afford a BSA increase, consider what that will cost our state in the long run. I graduated from Homer High School in 2008, and when I left for college at Stanford University, I was so proud of being a public school kid from Alaska. I had many opportunities growing up in the KPBSD that served me well, sports and AP classes and theater. For some classmates of mine, those activities were what kept them returning to school each day to learn. I moved back to Homer two years ago to raise my daughter, and have been shocked to follow the conversations around KPBSD budget cuts. It is clear the issue lies with lack of consistent state funding.

I currently work in Homer as a Registered Nurse. The state has a significant healthcare worker shortage, chief among them Registered Nurses. I loved growing up in Alaska, I love being here now, and I want to stay and raise my daughter here. But I will not send my daughter to a public school system whose funding is so anemic, that has been so deprioritized by the state, that the KPBSD faces increasing class sizes by 10 students, cutting the theater and the arts and all sports programs, and losing experienced teachers that are the backbone of our schools. As a single working parent, homeschool is not an option for us. It would be enough to make me leave the state, much as it would break my heart. There's only so much one working parent can do when the public school option faces such inconsistent funding. You will lose young working families if you do not do everything you can to help our schools keep pace with inflation.

Flat-funding the BSA since 2011 was eventually going to catch up with the state, and the time for difficult decisions around state revenue is now. Even the currently proposed \$1000 BSA increase will not be enough, but it is a start. I am willing to receive a \$500 PFD in exchange for robust school funding; I am also lucky to have a well-paying job, the PFD is not central to my financial planning. Families that rely on the PFD for annual income are hit much harder by its reductions, resulting in an extremely regressive tax on our population. I do not believe in a statutory PFD until the state significantly changes its revenue structure. We have options there. Change our oil tax credit system. Pass SB 92 and increase taxes on Hilcorp. And if that isn't enough, consider a state income tax, one that can also capture revenue from those who come to our state to work but do not live here. While that may be a tough sell, you are no doubt aware that you are already taxing Alaska residents every year the PFD conversation comes back around. An income tax at least shifts that burden more equitably.

Doniece Gott

From: Brandy Head <brandyhead13@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 4:02 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA increase

To whom it concerns,

My name is Brandy Head 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 teachers and our wonderful librarian, which will threaten our entire program. My son started kindergarten in September. He did not yet know how to read, but because of his teacher and librarian, he is now reading chapter books!!

We absolutely cannot lose our full time librarian. The care she has for all of the students and their education is irreplaceable, and her loss would devastate our community. I do not say that lightly. It would literally devastate our students.

It is your responsibility to listen to the wants and needs of the people in your community/state. It would be a mistake and a failure on your part to represent us if you do not 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,

Brandy Head

Doniece Gott

From: Liz <lizmrohloff@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 4:01 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: 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,

Liz Ciufo

Mother of 2 in Asd

Doniece Gott

From: Tim C <tf.conrad16@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 10:02 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB69

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to voice my support for HB69 and its provision to increase the BSA by \$1,000.

As a parent of a child in the Anchorage School District, it is crystal clear that the only course of action is to increase what has been an underfunded portion of the State budget for too long. If this bill is not passed my child will enter school next year in a class of at least 30, and very possibly upwards of 40 students. This is not the environment that is conducive to optimal learning. If we want better results from our schools, cutting funding will not support that goal. It will only continue to erode the education provided to students. We MUST invest in the next generations, and we need to provide the resources for our educators to effectively teach.

Additionally, we need to consider the larger picture for the State. Not increasing the BSA results in reduced workforce as teachers and staff will seek employment elsewhere. If HB69 is not passed, we hurt ourselves twice- degrading the quality of education for students, and disincentivizing teachers to stay or outright putting them on a path to seek employment in another state. This will only set us on a continued downward spiral, and is on top of declining oil revenue, impending gas shortages, and rising inflation and cost of living. Without HB69 the State is adding one more reason for people to question whether this is the place for them to invest their families and careers. HB69 at its core is more than an education bill, it is a pro-economic bill. Don't reduce the positive economic impact that hundreds of teachers and their families provide for this State. Do we really want all of those dollars leaving for other states?

The governor has stated that he wants to see more school options. Well, my child is in an Optional program and has been since kindergarten. Not passing HB69 is going to hurt all of the great charter and optional programs that are currently providing high quality education. Our school is one of the top performing in ASD and it is absolutely fatuous that it would be cut off at the knees when it is currently delivering results and graduating 75 well prepared students every year.

There is no question that we need to pass HB69. There are many levers at the Legislature's disposal to increase revenue if needed. Sales or income tax, reduced oil tax credits, these are options that can and should be utilized to protect our children and secure our future. These children will be the future citizens and workforce of this State, but ONLY if we push forward with the investment required to secure that future.

Sincerely,
Tim Conrad

Doniece Gott

From: EK C <cullisoncrew@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 3:39 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Oppose HB69

Sorry I will need to keep this brief as I have a lot going on in life right now.

I was already not a supporter of HB69 as a \$1000 bsa increase is too extreme and the state can NOT afford it. I would support a smaller increase. And stealing from the PFD that Alaskans use to get thru the winter is not a good idea either.

But I can't support HB69 at all in any way at this point. Last week the Senate Education Committee decided to take a drastic turn and add changes that are oppressive and burdensome on only correspondence students. This is gross inequity. There are not these same restrictions and accountability on brick and mortar public school students. Why are we going after one of the most successful education choices in Alaska? Let's focus on fixing the brick and mortar schools (and money is not the answer) and maybe they wouldn't lose so many students to other school options. Correspondence students aren't even counted as a whole student nor do they get any funding for special education. Now we are having more restrictions placed on us that brick and mortar students don't? Talk about discrimination. I wish I had the time to get into each section and how it is problematic but I don't.

Thank you for your time.

Katy Cullison
Eagle River AK

Doniece Gott

From: Johann Timmers <johann.timmers@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 1:44 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69 Public Testimony

Dear Senators,

I implore you to pass the current version of HB 69. The greatest investment Alaska can make is within the education we provide Alaskan kids. Don't short them of proper funding. Have a blessed session.

Johann Trygve Timmers

Doniece Gott

From: Laurie McKeown <eire13@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 1:39 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69 - Support BSA Increase of \$1000

Alaska Senate Finance Committee:

As a lifelong Anchorage resident of 44 years and proud parent of an Anchorage School District 4th grade student, I support HB 69 with a \$1,000 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). If the BSA is increased by \$1,000, the Anchorage School District can avoid most of the cuts included in its new budget, and all school districts across Alaska will benefit.

An increase of \$680 simply is NOT enough after over a decade of flat funding.

You are constitutionally obligated to provide quality public education to all Alaskans and it is your job to find the funding for this obligation.

Our schools are starving. Please do right by ALL Alaskan students and support a BSA increase of \$1000.

Regards,

Laurie McKeown
Anchorage, AK 99515

Doniece Gott

From: Tara Bivins <tarabivins@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:35 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Raise the BSA

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please support raising the BSA to \$1000!

I recently retired after 30 years of teaching. While substituting for a 6th grade math teacher today, I was reminded of how large class size has a dramatic effect on student learning... and not in a good way. Classes of 37 simply do not allow students to receive the support needed to adequately learn new concepts. I felt sad for the students who want the help, but literally cannot get it when needed. We cannot afford any more cuts that involve increasing class sizes, reducing staff stability, and have other detrimental consequences for our students. Raising the BSA to \$1000 is absolutely necessary to give students a chance for success. Thank you,

Tara Bivins

Doniece Gott

From: Krystin Patterson <krystin.leicey@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:28 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Education Funding

Hello,

My name is Krystin Patterson and I am a lifelong Alaskan. I was born in Ketchikan, grew up on Prince of Wales Island, and moved to Eagle River when I was six years old. I am Tlingit and Haida.

I am an educator to 32 fifth grade students who hate it when I am absent from school. On March 31, 2025, I found out I was one of the many in the Anchorage School District to be displaced. My students are furious, as am I. This next year will be my 3rd year in my district, possibly at a 3rd school, teaching yet another grade level. The lack of consistency for our students is unacceptable.

I love my job very much. I've known ever since first grade that I've wanted to become a teacher. That was the year I moved from a tiny village of 700 people, to Eagle River, a predominantly white community of over 20,000 people. I was scared, overwhelmed, and anxious. I became a student who had selective mutism. My first grade teacher, Mrs. Armstrong, became my shining star. She is the entire reason I became a teacher. Her compassion, love, support, and patience are just a few of the reasons why she was so inspiring to me. She embraced me for my differences and made me feel welcome every single day. That is what I strive for each new school year. I aspire to be like Mrs. Armstrong. I want all of my students to feel loved, welcomed, and valued, but it is very challenging when our class sizes are so large.

How can I effectively build a positive classroom community when I have 32 students? I am burnt out. I am stressed. I am considering seeking other employment opportunities, which breaks my heart because I LOVE teaching. It is my passion, but it's such a disappointment to be treated like a pawn from a game of Chess. I am not a pawn. I am an amazing educator. I am a mother to four school-aged children. It's so deflating to know that we are failing our youth.

To close, I would like to read a card that I recently received from one of my 5th graders. "Dear Mrs. Patterson, you are one of my favorite teachers I've ever had, you're very nice, understanding, and I am grateful to have you as my teacher. I'm sorry you might have to move schools again, honestly, I think absolutely everybody deserves to have you as a teacher, but not everyone gets to be in your class, so I'm lucky to have you as mine."

Please help us. Please support HB 69 and increase our BSA. Your Alaskan educators are either drowning or jumping ship. Is that what we want for our youth?

Sincerely,

Krystin Patterson

Doniece Gott

From: Katie and Chris Judge <thejudgepatrol@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:16 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FUND OUR SCHOOLS NOW

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,

Katie Judge

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Tamar Ben-Yosef and I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 69 and in strong support for an increased, \$1,000 Base Student Allocation. I am reaching out to you both as a mother of three Alaskan-born boys who attend three different schools within the Anchorage School District, and as an executive director of a nonprofit organization that provides direct services to Alaskan families with children of all ages.

Governor Dunleavy stated that he wants Alaska to be a place where families want to live and raise their children. And yet, we are finding our children's education and overall wellbeing continuously neglected, sacrificed and held hostage by partisan politics.

As elected officials, we have entrusted you with the privilege of representing the interests of Alaskans. It is your responsibility to consider the impact your decisions will have on Alaskan families and the state's future. This is the time when you get to vote on actually moving Alaska closer to being a state that attracts young families wanting to engage in economic development, military service, medical practice, education or any other sector critical to a thriving state.

Alaska is not currently a state that is friendly to families, business, the military or the medical and education fields. Through my work I see the struggles our hospitals face when trying to recruit medical providers to a state with such low investment in education and child care. The military frequently denies active duty members PCS assignments to Alaska because it lacks the services needed by their dependents. At a meeting I attended in Fairbanks earlier today, a medical provider from Bassett Army Hospital pleaded forgiveness from Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and local community service providers who are about to be flooded with military families needing care due to the shortage in medical personnel at Bassett.

Underfunding public education in Alaska has had and will continue to have trickle down effects across all sectors as less people come here and more Alaskans are forced to leave.

You know very well that any claims about Alaska paying one of the highest BSAs in the nation is utterly meaningless considering the cost of living and providing education services in Alaska, and especially rural and remote Alaska. You wouldn't use those calculations when recruiting in the business sector, so why is it used for something as critically important as education and children's wellbeing??

Voting for a BSA lower than the proposed \$1,000 will move Alaska farther away from the Governor's goal of a family-friendly state.

My eldest son is 13 and attends the Highly Gifted Program at Romig Middle School in Anchorage. He is a bright, funny and creative teenager that is highly distractable and struggles severely with executive functions like time management and organization. He is

loved and supported by his parents and friends, and yet the anxiety and low self-esteem he experiences due to his challenges and external factors that come with being a teen today, have often been disabling for him and extremely challenging for us.

However, participating in Middle School sports and discovering his love for swimming through a local competitive swim team, has brought on significant positive changes in him that are translating to his academic success and mental wellbeing as well. He is learning important lessons and engaging in healthy, non-screen related activities, and is part of a community of peers with similar interests. The thought of him not having a swim team when he attends Betty Davis High School next year is heartbreaking because it's so much more than just exercise. Would you agree to cutting football from high school sports??

With no other choice, we will continue to pay \$200/month for him to participate in competitive swimming next year when he moves into high school because it is the first time he has been this committed to something, and it is so healthy for him. But the vast majority of families in Alaska don't have the privilege or the ability to access competitive swim and hockey, private theater groups, or any number of things in the long list of proposed cuts should the BSA continue to be underfunded.

Please consider your constituents in the Interior, Norton Sound, Southeast... they are the ones who will pay the highest price if SB69 does not pass. This is fact. No amount of policy reform or literacy curricula will help if it doesn't come with appropriate funding. We can opt to pay now for public education now or we can pay much more later in the child's life when they're mentally and/or financially struggling and are requiring more costly public assistance services to survive. Please make the right choice. Support SB69 and see the difference it makes.

Sincerely,

Tamar Ben-Yosef
Anchorage, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Michael Downing <mcdowning33@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:10 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Chugach Optional

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!

My children John and Clayton have thrived at this school. We are very fortunate they are attending this school. Please find a way to keep this wonderful school the way it is. Thank you.

Mike and Nancy Downing

Doniece Gott

From: Kathryn Povolo <kathrynpovolo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:02 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please 🙏 pass Education bill HB69

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to urge you to pass this very important education bill for Alaska schools! I got displaced recently from Goldenview Middle School in Anchorage. I'm deeply saddened by this as I love my school and my students and team teachers! Please pass this bill kids, teachers and families of the Anchorage School District deserve strong schools!!!

Sincerely,
Kathryn Povolo

Doniece Gott

From: Aaron Wagar <aaron.wagar@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:00 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69 support for schools.

Dear Alaska Legislators,

Please do not settle for less than 1,000 dollars.

I am an uncle of students at Chugach Optional School within the Anchorage School District. Chugach Optional is a high-achieving alternative public school of choice, and they are currently facing the loss of teachers and the much-loved librarian, which will threaten its entire program.

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.

Sincerely,
Aaron Wagar

Doniece Gott

From: Valerie T <vtruncali@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 11:46 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 69

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Valerie Truncali, and I am a resident of Anchorage, a pediatric dental hygienist, and the mother of two boys attending the O'Malley French Immersion Program. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 69, which seeks an increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for Alaska's public schools. I urge you to prioritize funding for HB 69 with a minimum BSA increase of \$1,000 per student.

As a parent and concerned Alaskan, I am advocating not only for my children but for all children across our state. It is a constitutional obligation to properly fund public education in Alaska. The lack of forward funding has already led to the displacement of qualified teachers and specialists, creating instability and disruption within our schools. Additionally, the uncertainty surrounding funding has resulted in wasteful use of time and money as districts scramble to adjust each year. This has a direct, negative impact on the quality of education.

A well-rounded education—including physical activity, music, art, and language immersion—is essential for student success. However, these programs are increasingly at risk due to underfunding. Without a meaningful increase to the BSA, critical educational opportunities will continue to be cut, affecting not only academic outcomes but the development of well-rounded, creative, and capable individuals who will contribute to Alaska's workforce and future growth.

Investing in the BSA is an investment in our children's future and in the state's long-term success. Positive educational outcomes require proper investment, and HB 69 is a necessary step to ensure our schools can hire and retain qualified teachers, provide essential programs, and meet the diverse needs of our students. This funding is essential for reducing class sizes, supporting mental health services, and helping students succeed in a rapidly changing world.

I urge you to support HB 69 and a minimum \$1,000 increase in the BSA. Furthermore, should Governor Dunleavy decide to veto this essential funding, I ask that you stand firm in your commitment to the future of Alaska's children and be prepared to uphold this critical investment in public education.

Thank you for your commitment, time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Valerie Truncali, RDH, BSDH

Sent from my iPad
Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Paris White <parisdawnwhite@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 11:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for HB69

To Whom It May Concern,

Please pass HB69 and invest in our state's future. We deprive our children of a proper education at our own peril, as the negative impacts of not supporting and nurturing our youth reverberate for as long as those children exist in our society. Either we can empower them to become successful, happy people that better themselves, support others, and take part in their community, or we can shirk our duties and reap the consequences.

Best regards,

Paris White

Doniece Gott

From: Sarah Lewis <sarahkayelewis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 11:37 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for HB69

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I hope to reach you before tomorrow morning's hearing on CSHB69. I am writing to urge you to support the passing of this bill with an increase of at least \$1000 to the BSA.

The executive and legislative branches of the Alaskan government have been passing the buck for far too long on many matters, including the mechanisms which fund public education. I'm a third generation, lifelong Alaskan, and I was born at a precise, post-oil-boom moment in time that means that all I've known in my lifetime is reduction: failing revenue streams, budgets perennially slashed, and more and more degradation of public trust in our state's willingness to provide the basic services that make this a place people want to live.

Please join the sponsors of HB69 in taking a stand. Please fund public schools. They are the most foundational basis of democratic society; they are integral to Alaskan life; and they are not optional. They are more important than prisons, even roads, and definitely more so than "statehood defense" funds. They are the basis on which everything else is built, because they are what make families want to live here. If you continue to let public schools take the back burner, you will continue to contribute to the legacy of letting our state devalue the asset that matters the most but is prioritized the least: our state's children.

Please vote to pass a version of HB69 that includes a permanent increase of at least \$1000 to the BSA formula. At least. After decades of underfunding, it's the least the legislature can do.

Sincerely,
Sarah Lewis
Fairbanks

Sarah Lewis
sarahkayelewis@gmail.com
907-347-1135 voice or text
www.sarahlewisphoto.com

Doniece Gott

From: Sarah Grunwaldt <sarahgrunwaldt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 11:22 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please support HB 69

I am a parent of students 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 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.

Both my husband and I are products of the Anchorage School District. We remember a time when our schools were a source of pride—when families moved to Anchorage *because* of the strength of its public education. Today, however, we see families actively seeking alternatives, and we fear we may be forced to do the same if we don't take meaningful action to secure the future of education in our city.

Chugach Optional Elementary has been a model of consistent, cohesive success for over 50 years. Teachers and families rarely leave. Our test scores are consistently in the top five schools in the district. Students are proud to attend, and they go on to thrive in secondary programs.

Our school is already operating at 108% capacity. My children can feel the effects that increased class sizes have on time management, teacher attention, and overall productivity. Chugach already operates with a leaner staff than many other district schools. If we lose teachers or staff, we won't just face larger class sizes—we risk tearing apart a highly specialized, carefully structured, and *proven* program.

Chugach's optional program is not a typical mixed-grade classroom. It follows a unique two-year curriculum at each combination grade level. This model requires a full, trained staff to function effectively. Reducing personnel threatens the very foundation of the program.

We understand that our community faces difficult decisions. None of us are immune to change. However, undermining a program that works—one with strong test scores, long student waitlists, and a decades-long record of success—makes zero sense. Chugach should be protected, celebrated, and replicated, not dismantled.

The future of our students—and our broader community—depends on thoughtful, forward-looking decisions. Please do not punish the very teachers, programs, and students that have made Anchorage schools strong. We urge you: Do not cut our Chugach teachers. Do not rip Chugach Optional apart at the seams. Please support HB 69.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jefferies

Parent, Chugach Optional Elementary

Doniece Gott

From: kellydufort@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 11:19 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support HB 69

I'm writing to express my support for HB 69 with the \$1,000 increase to the BSA. \$680 simply isn't enough after over a decade of flat funding. Please increase the BSA by \$1,000, the ASD to avoid crippling cuts that put kids at risk of losing the most basic parts of any well-rounded education. The state is constitutionally obligated to provide quality public education to all Alaskans. Pass the \$1000 increase to the BSA.

Doniece Gott

From: Lovely Hall <lovelyhall@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2025 11:14 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB69

Hello,

I am a parent of a 5th grade student at Chugach Optional School within the Anchorage School District. Chugach Optional is a wonderful school where my child is thriving. It is a high achieving alternative public school of choice, and our Chugach students, families and community are currently facing the loss of teachers and our librarian. These cuts threaten our entire program at Chugach Optional. PLEASE support the current version of HB 69, which includes common-sense reforms and includes major compromises. I beg you not to settle for less than \$1,000 BSA. Thank you for standing up for our students' education, our schools and communities within ASD.

Sincerely,

Hanna Hall-Potnis

Hanna

🏡 I respectfully acknowledge that I live and learn on Dena'ina land.