



NEA-ALASKA

Affiliated with the National Education Association

February 18, 2011

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Sen. Bettye Davis
Room 30, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Davis:

Thank you for your introduction of Senate Bill 9, "An Act relating to compulsory school attendance; and relating to the crime of contributing to the delinquency of a minor."

On behalf of NEA-Alaska's nearly 13,000 public school employees and retired members I am privileged to offer this letter of support for the passage of Senate Bill 9.

Each January, for the past 55 years, elected NEA-Alaska delegates from Ketchikan to Barrow gather in Anchorage to set policy for the year. A few weeks ago, those 400 elected delegates affirmed their support for legislation to expand the age of compulsory school attendance and to address the problem of truancy in Alaska's public schools. As president of NEA-Alaska and as a 30 year teacher in Western Alaska I know firsthand the issue of children deciding to end their education on their 16th birthday. In this global economy, a high school diploma is a minimum for Alaska's children entering adulthood.

This legislation will help keep children in school and tracking towards their graduation. NEA-Alaska urges passage of Senate Bill 9 by the 27th Alaska Legislature.

NEA-Alaska applauds your efforts to improve K-12 education in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Barb Angaiak
President