

Doyon, Limited

1 Doyon Place, Suite 300
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-2941
(907) 459-2000
www.doyon.com

Norm Phillips, Jr.
President and CEO
E-mail: phillipsn@doyon.com
Direct Dial: (907) 459-2004
Fax: (907) 459-2060

March 25, 2009

Senator Joe Thomas
State Capitol, Room 510
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

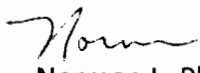

Dear Senator Thomas:

Thank you for introducing SB 57, this bill directly aligns with Doyon, Limited's mission statement, which includes promoting the economic and social well-being of our shareholders and future shareholders. The Effie Kokrine Charter School is important to the Alaska Native community in the interior. With almost 25% of our 17,500 shareholders residing in the Fairbanks community we believe that a culturally sensitive school is essential to the well-being of our shareholders.

Therefore, on behalf of our shareholders, Doyon, Limited supports SB 57.

Thank you again and please let me know if we can do anything else to help. I can be reached at (907) 459-2000 or by e-mail at phillipsn@doyon.com.

Sincerely,


Norman L. Phillips, Jr.
President and CEO

cc: Linda Evans, Principal, Effie Kokrine Charter School



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

501 N. GULKANA

PALMER, ALASKA 99645

Office of the School Board

(907) 746-9272 Fax (907) 761-4076

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 09-002**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD IN SUPPORT OF
SENATE BILL NO. 57 "AN ACT RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING."

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board invites support of Senate Bill No. 57 "An Act Relating To Charter School Funding"; and

WHEREAS, charter schools give opportunities outside of the traditional public schools for innovative programs to be implemented; and

WHEREAS, charter schools gain momentum and interest from a broader larger audience as a program is developed in the initial year of operation; and

WHEREAS, charter schools like all schools have fluctuations in enrollment and losing program gravity because of a slight drop in enrollment below 150 students for one year could have a longer term detrimental impact on the school; and

WHEREAS, a school that is not recognized as a school site for funding purposes receives a reduced financial allocation; and

WHEREAS, being recognized as a school site gives economic relief by bringing a greater dollar amount to the school allowing for more comprehensive and adequate funding; and


WHEREAS, this Bill offers the initial year of operation for a charter school as an opportunity to build community support and student numbers and ultimately strengthens the quality of the program and the potential for program and student accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, encouragement is offered to add language to this Bill to lower the enrollment for alternative school's recognition as a school site from 200 students to 175 as a measure to support an alternative school's need for a smaller learning community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board supports Senate Bill No. 57 "An Act Relating to Charter School Funding."

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board this 18th day of February, 2009.


Jim Colver, Board President


George Troxel, Superintendent

ATTEST:


Stacy Escobedo, Board Secretary



Early Childhood Development Commission

520 Fifth Ave. PO Box 71267 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267 (907) 459-1474 FAX (907) 459-1280



March 26, 2009

To the honorable members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on the federal stimulus funding. My name is Cheryl Keepers, and I am here today in my role of staff to the FNSB Early Childhood Development Commission.

I urge you to accept the stimulus dollars, especially those that could benefit our youngest citizens. Science confirms what our grandmothers told us - that the early years in a child's life are critical in the physical, emotional, cognitive and social development of that individual.

While Alaska has many different programs that serve families with young children, there is no early education system. The one-time stimulus dollars would be well used to lay some of the foundation for such a system.

Examples are many, but in the interest of time I'll mention two:

One way to move a system forward would be to pilot the child care Quality Rating and Improvement System developed for Alaska, as recently released by the Department of Health & Social Services.

Another step toward creating that foundation would be to support the work of Best Beginnings, a private-public partnership. They have requested \$400,000 in the Department of Education & Early Development for early literacy and for early childhood coalitions in local communities to increase collaboration, local decision-making, and efficient use of resources, with the long term goal of developing of a statewide system of early learning.

We should not miss this opportunity to use short-term stimulus funding to move forward on Alaska's needs for young children and their families.

A final note: yesterday we heard that the Senate may be considering using stimulus funds for the child care assistance rate increase. While this increase is sorely needed, it should be funded with state general fund dollars, as reflected in the budget adopted by the House.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cheryl Keepers
Fairbanks North Star Borough
PO Box 71267
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Rules Committee

Committee on HB 199A Dated 3/24/09
 Bill / Subject

My name is Ann Riley Millard. I live in Eagle, AK where I am the part-time site administrator at Eagle Community School. Because Eagle Community School is a small school in a rural community, we struggle to get the instructional materials we need and have no opportunity to address areas that are costing us the most money. I am requesting that the State of Alaska accept the money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, especially the \$20,699,000 which will be appropriated for the Department of Education and Early Development.

Following are a few suggestions for ways to use that money which would create jobs and reduce our expenses at Eagle School.

- ① Over the last 7 years, our average KW usage per month has been ~~7161.6~~ KW and our average expenditure per month has been \$4081.79. If we could get an energy rater to look at our building and suggest ways to reduce this cost and then retrofit our building to produce electricity using alternatives to the diesel generator, it would create jobs and save money.
- ② We need a part-time librarian to catalog the books that have been donated or purchased with Scholastic Book Club bonus points.
- ③ We need more money for instructional aides and to upgrade our computers.

SIGNED:

Ann Riley Millard

Testifier

myself
 Representing

POB 124, Eagle, AK 99738 907-547-2321
 Address / Phone Number

④ We have deferred maintenance on our plumbing system that needs to be addressed. I have other suggestions but since I have run out of space, I will end my testimony. Thank you for your attention.