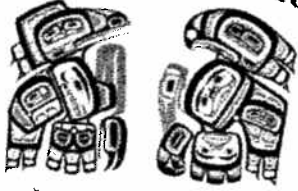


Central Council
Tlingit and Haida



Indian Tribes of Alaska

CENTRAL COUNCIL
tlingit and haida indian TRIBES of alaska
ANDREW P. HOPE BUILDING
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1726

February 12, 2009

Dear Honorable Legislators:

As the elected President of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council), I am writing to express my support for House Bill No. 69 (HB 69), an act "establishing in the Department of Education and Early Development a voluntary parent education home visiting program for pre-elementary aged children and establishing a rating system for early childhood education."

Alaska's children represent our future and with our poor graduation rates, it is important that we support any attempts to improve our children's success in education. HB 69 would give thousands of Alaskan parents a chance to provide their children with the benefits of early education. Studies have shown that children's intellectual development is especially important before age six and early childhood education has proven to have great outcomes as it has shown to increase graduation rates, college attendance, and job earning potential.

I hope that the Alaska State Legislature will consider the positive outcomes of early education and support our parents in the effort to insure a bright future for our children and Alaska.

Sincerely,

William E. Martin

President

Louie Flora

From: Ingrid Gavalya [gavalya@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 7:35 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Cc: Rep. Bill Stoltz@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Fw: HB 69

Dear Mr. Seaton & Stoltz:

I am forwarding an e-mail I sent to Rep. Fairclough. Through communication with her office I was told she is no longer on Ed. committee.

I don't know what studies the authors of HB 69 are citing. I looked up several on Wed. & the common factor appeared to be parent involvement and not any particular program.

I know from speaking with teachers that parent involvement is key to a child succeeding in school. I don't know if that involvement can be legislated. If a parent doesn't have any interest in helping with homework, feeding their children nutritious food, and making sure their children get appropriate amounts of sleep, it is going to be difficult for the best of teachers.

I come from a long line of individuals that never participated in a pre-k program, but still pursued higher education because it was a value in our family. The government didn't step in telling us how to do it.

We should not have laws based on those that won't step up to encourage their children to receive the free education offered in our state. The more people that won't take personal responsibility force the rest of us to be under government control.

Wouldn't the money be better spent with children that have already come through pre-k & elementary school but are slipping off during jr. & sr. high?

I apologize for the somewhat incoherent ramblings. I have my own family that I am in a hurry to tend to.

I hope that you will consider what I have said.

Sincerely,
 Ingrid Gavalya

----- Original Message -----

From: Ingrid Gavalya
To: Representative_Anna_Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 7:39 AM
Subject: HB 69

Dear Ms. Fairclough,

I have a number of objections to HB 69. First of all, I thought that there was a budget crisis in our state. I don't think state dollars will be best utilized on something parents and their family doctors are already able to do. When children are school age any issues that are present will be detected and addressed.

My biggest objection to this bill is the governments intrusion to families. I understand that it is "voluntary" but, for how long.

My now 11 yr old daughter was told when she was 3 that she had AD/HD. We were at a Halloween party and

2/13/2009

another guest, an ophthalmologist that was some how partnered with the school district, told me she had training with ADD & AD/HD. She was very intent on telling me to get my daughter help. I took it seriously & spoke to my pediatrician's office nurse. She laughed! My daughter had been their patient since birth & they saw no indicators through our visits or conversations. This nurse told me after raising 4 children of her own & being a pediatric nurse for years, her experience was all 3 yr olds have "AD/HD". Needless to say my daughter does not have AD/HD. She excels in academics and is definitely high energy so she swims, runs, & hikes.

If a counselor came into my home to so my then toddler in one snippet of life would we have decided to medicate & treat her like she had a disorder? I have 2 more children with different personalities. My 8 yr. couldn't read when she started kindergarten would we have labeled her & put her into another program? My third child is 3 yrs old, and is prone to temper tantrums. Should I put her in an anger management program? My dog doesn't always come when she calls. Does she need a hearing program or is she passive aggressive? Maybe I am the common factor & need to begin **mandatory** parenting classes accompanied by shock therapy. Where does the insanity end?!?!?

Sincerely,
Ingrid Gavalya

Louie Flora

From: Donna W [soccermomof03@lycos.com]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 1:56 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB69

I would like to say that I hope you'll make the sensible decision to vote against HB69. Most importantly, with today's financial and budgetary cut backs it would not make sense to pass a bill that would have an endless need for funds. Especially for curriculum covering prenatal through age 5! Any parent who cares about their children will pay attention to them, read to them, keep their expanding minds stimulated and love them with enough attention to help them prepare to be a life long learner. It's parents like these who already have nurturing skills who would seek out such programs, not the neglectful, abusive parents the supporters of HB69 think they're reaching out to. They won't seek out accountability. Not only is there no reason for a curriculum, but people with only 37 or so hours of training are not the level of skilled professionals I'd want the children of my country to rely on. There are already many different groups parents can join through doctors' offices, nurses, churches, not to mention friends and family.

If this group is so certain they have THE answers to raising everyone's children, why don't they create their course for parents to purchase or check out at the library! It could be the entire 37 hours-5hours per week for 8 weeks!

I listened to the presentation on February 11, 2009, and it sounds to me like this group would like to set up a big bureaucracy to oversee the many programs that are already out there. And they would of course be in charge! And they want the Alaska budget to pay for their entry into this field of influence, when they themselves state that parents are the most influential with their children. It sound like this group would like to become most influential.

While I'm sure that intentions are truly honorable, I believe this would turn into a mess. When I watch the news and see the mayor take away funding for fire fighters, in other words public safety items of the budget, as a beginning way to balance the budget, I lose patience with politics. Instead, lets not add HB69 to our budget. Schools keep getting more money without proving their worth with results. (Firefighters and medics save lives every day.) This will be more of the same. Parents are best at raising their children by their own creative solutions. They can make the best choices for their children, whom no one but God loves more than they do.

Please vote no on HB69.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Donna Worthen
(mother of 3 wonderful people)

2/13/2009

Louie Flora

From: Swanson [akaloha8@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:20 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB69

Dear Representative Seaton,

Even in the amended form, this bill is not one I would like to see passed. My personal objection is that of funding for the bill at a time when our economy is so bad. Secondly, I do not believe parents need to have someone come to their home to instruct them in how to be "good parents".

PLEASE OPPOSE THIS BILL.

Sincerely,

Kim Swanson

2/13/2009

Louie Flora

From: brian casey [caseyski@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:55 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: House Bill 69

Representative Seaton,

We are writing to you to express our **strong opposition** to House Bill 69. There are many places available for parents to take their young children to be evaluated if there are concerns. i.e.; community health centers, doctors, midwives, schools, churches ect.. Therefore it is not necessary or wise to make intrusions upon individual households even on a voluntary basis. The money that would be used for this could benefit children in a much more efficient and practical manner by simply giving them the basic necessities that they require such as food, warm clothing, shelter and heat. Help a family with basic necessities and leave the parenting decisions to the parent, NOT the state.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Casey

2/13/2009

Louie Flora

From: peacemkr [peacemkr@wildak.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:25 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB 69
Attachments: HB 69.html

Louie Flora

From: Chris Davis [ctdavis@ieee.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:10 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB 69

You may have already received an email from my wife on this subject from this email, but I want to reaffirm that both me and my wife feel this is a bad idea for the state and for the people's rights.

- I believe this is intrusion into parents rights to raise their child as they feel best.
- This increases the size of government at a time when Alaska has a projected budget short-fall. An increase in government is not in the best interest of Alaska. I am against larger government.
- The bill will be very difficult to enforce and
- The "Voluntary" program is simply a lead-in for a mandatory program once the "bugs" are worked out.
- Monthly meetings with a "qualified caseworker" can be very subjective.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Davis, P.E.

2/13/2009

Louie Flora

From: Connie [montana.girl@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:06 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: House Bill 69

Feb. 12, 09

Dear Mr. Seaton,

Please reject House Bill 69 and any other legislation that involves home visits for "help in parenting". The end result of this will be eventual State influence or control of our families. The State can't manage itself, and I have no faith that it can do much good for Alaskan families. If a parent desires help in parenting, there are already many services in place to assist them: pediatricians, grandparents and other relatives, neighbors and friends, day care providers, etc.

If the State wants to assist in parenting, it can work with local governments to cut property and sales taxes so that families can more easily afford for mothers to stay home and care for their children.

Thank you.

~Connie Akers

Homer

235-9039

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter...They have rejected the law of the Lord Almighty." Isaiah 5

Louie Flora

From: thetaylors@gci.net on behalf of thetaylors [thetaylors@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:57 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB 69

Representative Seaton,

Thank you for your service to the people of the state of Alaska. I am writing to voice my opposition HB 69 - Early Childhood Ed: Rating & Home Visits and I would urge you to vote against it.

I agree that parents are the first and most influential teacher in child's life. However, parents, not state bureaucrats, are also the best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children. In the absence of evidence of abuse or neglect, state officials should not interfere with the upbringing of children by their parents. HB 69 is an infringement of parental rights. What is voluntary today often becomes mandatory tomorrow. The cost of \$3000 per child or family to administer this program is too great. In these challenging economic times we should not be implementing programs that would have to be in place in every city or village whether the parents want the services or not.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Taylor
8050 Pioneer Dr. #1201
Anchorage, AK 99504
333-1297

Louie Flora

From: Beaver [jcb@alaska.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:25 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Regarding HB 69

Dear Representative Seaton,

Please **oppose HB 69**, the Parents as Teachers bill, at the meeting Friday, February 13th at the hearing.

No ammendments to this bill would make it acceptable to responsible families. You know it would not be a good idea to have government officials coming into someone's home and instructing them on how to be a "good"(by whose standards) parent.

Sincerely,

Carol and John Broussard

Nikiski, Alaska

907 776 8676

Louie Flora

From: Jennifer Cox [newfrontiersacademy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 10:42 AM
To: Sen. Kim Elton; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz
Cc: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: House Bill 69, the "Alaska Parents as Teachers Act"

Please vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act, which would interfere with the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children.

Jennifer Cox
Juneau, AK

2/11/2009

Louie Flora

From: Melinda Storen [mstoren@ruralcap.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 10:18 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Alaska needs House Bill 69

Our families in Alaska need House Bill 69. Parents as Teachers is an amazing resource that Alaska needs to adopt for the assurance of our children's success! The answer to change the struggles that our school districts face today is to educate and empower parents to be involved in their child's education, from the beginning! Parents as Teachers is the vehicle that can facilitate that change.

Melinda Storen
Parents as Teachers Coordinator
907-865-7362
mstoren@ruralcap.com

Louie Flora

From: Eileen Ward [eward@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 10:02 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB69

Please vote against HB69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act. This is a ridiculous bill. It would interfere with the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children. It is rightly called the Government Nanny Bill. Give me a break!

Sincerely,

Eileen Ward

2/11/2009

Louie Flora

From: vg4 [vgfour@alaska.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:49 AM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton

Please vote no on House Bill 69 the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act. This is another ridiculous California style big government attack on families and our children's education.

Sincerely

Vince and Shannon Guerra

2/11/2009

Louie Flora

From: Jennifer West [CJWest7@alaska.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:33 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Bill 69

I am writing to encourage you to vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act. Although this sounds like a great opportunity on paper, it interferes with the rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, and not so-called professionals are best qualified to determine what is best for **their** individual children.

Thank you,
Chris and Jennifer West

2/11/2009

Louie Flora

From: rtbunn@ptialaska.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:16 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: House Bill 69

Please vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act, which would interfere with the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children.

This bill concerns me greatly on many levels. Who would "pay" for all of the people to perform these "in home visits." How will it be determined that they are qualified to meet each child's individual needs? Who knows their own child best? A state worker? Or the parent?

It sickens me that our great state of Alaska, the last frontier, the smaller government state has even contemplated this type of legislation. I vote in every primary. I vote in ever official election. I guarantee that whoever votes for this bill will NEVER receive a vote from me or my family members. I will do my best to make sure my friends know who not to vote for as well.

Please vote against House Bill 69

Randall E. and Tammy M. Bunn

Louie Flora

From: huberclan3@gci.net on behalf of Momoko [huberclan3@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:15 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: House Bill 69

Dear Mr Seaton,

I am writing you to voice my strong opinion against House Bill 69. Not only is it a violation of privacy, but it is not the responsibility of the government to raise anyones children. Please say no to House Bill 69.

Sincerely,
Allison Huber

2/11/2009

Louie Flora

From: schulz@gci.net on behalf of Sallie Schulz [schulz@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:08 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: House Bill 69

Please vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act, which would interfere with the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children.

Sallie Schulz

Louie Flora

From: The McElroys [themcelroy@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:05 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: No Nanny Bill

We will not support any legislation that infringes on parent's rights to parent their own children. There are already government programs in place to deter abuse. If there is no evidence of abuse or neglect, there should be no government intervention whatsoever. Our state has needs that would be better served with the prodigious budget that would be needed to support such a program.

Thank you for your service to our state-

Dr. Teresa L. McElroy
Palmer, AK

2/11/2009

Louie Flora

From: Karen Pauley [pauley28@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 7:18 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom
Subject: House Bill 69

Please oppose House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act. Parents are best suited to direct the rearing of their own children and government involvement and intervention is not necessary in most cases.

Thank you,

Karen Pauley (House District 18)
5058D Bong Avenue
Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506
pauley28@gci.net

Louie Flora

From: Kimberly Pullen [pulleninalaska@gci.net]

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 6:59 AM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton

Subject: House Bill 69

> "Please vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers
> Act, which would interfere with the right of parents to direct the
> upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are best
> qualified to determine what is best for their individual children."

Louie Flora

From: jrockclimb@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 6:09 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB 69

Dear Mr. Seaton,

Please vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act, which would interfere with the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are the best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children.

Mr. Seaton, though this is masked in 'voluntary participation' right now, it is not necessary and wasteful spending. Anyone I know with kids 0-5 actively seeks out opportunities and does not need this service.

Thank you for your time,

Respectfully,

Erica Johnson
277-1095

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!

Louie Flora

From: Kenneth J Kroeker [kroeker@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 12:30 AM
Cc: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Parent of 8 --house bill 69

Hello,

I'm a parent of eight. I have 2 children under 5 right now. I love this state and having my family here is extremely important to me. I hope all my kids raise families in this state. I figure I have nearly 150 family members in this state currently plus extended family from family. Why would I want the state to create more government? Why would I want to fund more government? When has the state been better for my kids than me and my husband or additional family? Would you want someone coming into your home and watching you? Just because parenting does not come with a complete set of manuals -- does not mean that we want to create programs that could very easily become required participation intrusions. No one says that is what will happen but it will... given time.

Please, for the benefit of current families and families to come, do not vote for the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act. It is a terrible way to spend resources and it is not helping parents and children grow into families. Government really does need to stay out of the home.

Remember that working on these committees and in our government does not mean that it is your responsibility to grow programs - we voted you there for many other reasons... Cutting things is fine with me (programs and taxes/fees).

"Please vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act, which would interfere with the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children."

Thank you for your service. Our family appreciates your willingness to serve this great state. Your self sacrifice is a blessing to me. It allows me the privilege to work with my family and do community service in my local area. I appreciate you doing your part and really -- you are doing even more. Thank you for all the time and energy you give toward learning, doing, and helping us all. We put a lot of trust in your discernment. I know discernment is a big, very giant part of what a legislator needs to have and I hope you each have a been blessed with an over flowing amount of it. Protect our families and this state.

Thank you again,
Hiedi Kroeker
Chugiak, AK

PS -- and to any staff that has to deal with the emails or this topic, thank you for your hard work as well. You are the glue that holds our state all together. You are awesome!

Louie Flora

From: J. Gondek [mr_gondek@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:58 PM
Subject: House Bill 69, Statement of Opposition

Please vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act, which would interfere with the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children.

V/R,

Jess Gondek
PO Box 834
Valdez, AK 99686
907-835-3852

Louie Flora

From: Frank and Kim [frankandkim@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:54 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Concerning HB69
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Seaton,,

Thank you for your willingness to serve our state. I am writing you in reference and concern to Bill HB69. I have grown up in a good family and a fine education neither of which has been controlled by the government. I will never excuse abuse of a child and I know there is measures needed in such cases. I have also seen families who have been torn apart by what the government thought were good choices. I urge you to please vote NO on this bill because even though the government may mean well, they are continuing to take away the rights of the parent to raise their children. Our America was built on the freedoms that made it great. Please stand to fight for that freedom. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Kim Bodiker

_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 3844
(20090211) _____

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

Louie Flora

From: bjorklundsinalaska@juno.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:42 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: hb69

Please vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act. I believe this act will interfere with my right as a parent, and the rights of other parents, to direct the upbringing of our children. **Parents**, not state officials, are best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children.

Thank you for your time,

Gayle Bjorklund,
parent in Salcha, AK

FTD.com

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Louie Flora

From: Wendy McKinnis [schultz@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:34 PM
To: Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Berta Gardener; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Bryce Edgemon
Cc: Doug and Wendy McKinnis; board@aphea.org
Subject: Please Reject HB 69

Dear State Representatives:

Our comments below relate to **House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act.**

Please stop progress of this intrusive and financially onerous bill.

First:

Please note the title of the bill: "Alaska Parents as Teachers Act" The bill's title sounds great, but after a careful reading of the bill's contents, is clearly misleading. Parents **are**, as the bill states, their children's first teacher. We would like to add for clarity, however, the important accompanying parental role of principal, and think it reasonable that during the first five years of a child's life, parents should, except in rare cases, clearly fill both of these roles.

It is important to note the bill's purpose is not to propose legislation declaring the rights of parents as primary governor of their young children's education. Ironically, it instates a bureaucrat to oversee the parents, effectively stripping them of their reasonable and traditional role of principal overseer and giving it to one or several state government agencies.

The bill should instead be titled: Alaska Parents are No Longer Principals Act, because, if approved by law and taken advantage of by parents, the state would assume the role of the children's principal, leaving the remaining duty of teacher to the parent.

Seeing it this way, the bill's title is true as the parent indeed would be the teacher, but absent from the title is the implication that the government would replace the parental role as principal.

The home visiting program establishes voluntary, regularly scheduled state involvement. At intervals of **no less than** once per month, a state representative would visit the home of the child. This is unacceptable.

Due to the progressively invasive and expanding nature of government, the program is likely to turn into a mandatory program.

This bill opens the door to eradicating or at least obscuring already codified, state-recognized rights of parents, **as principals**, to decide the educational path their children take and could transfer education rights away from the parents to the state. This must never happen in our free society.

Second:

2/11/2009

To approve this financially onerous bill is irresponsible.

How much will this program cost? How many new hires? Training costs? Transportation costs? Per diem? Record keeping? Judiciary concerns?

Can you justify the cost even if you like the provisions of the bill?

Third:

Implementation of this bill will not likely improve the horrible performance and graduation record the state public education system has earned during recent evaluations. Since the state of Alaska has not provided, as a whole, quality education over twelve years of a student's life, it is unlikely the addition of five or more years under the same system will salvage the woeful situation.

Again, please vote against HB 69.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our thoughts.

Sincerely,

Doug and Wendy McKinnis

Louie Flora

From: Andrea [lvgrrrrl@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:00 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: House Bill 69

Dear Representatives:

I'm writing to express my concerns over House Bill 69, which I understand you will be discussing tomorrow. I've read the bill, as well as Chris Tuck's sponsor statement, and while I recognize the good intentions, I'm concerned that this is an attempt at a quick fix to a vast problem which will create an invasive and meddling encroachment into family privacy instead of a fruitful program for parents and children. To be honest, this looks less like an early childhood education initiative than a way for CPS to cast a wider net.

It is concerning to me that, while this program is described as "voluntary", the way in which parents will be recruited isn't clearly outlined, a target demographic isn't specified, and the reasons for discontinuing the monthly visits does not include parental disinterest as an option. This makes me wonder how voluntary this program will really be, and if the goal is in fact to make it far-reaching and mandatory. I also imagine, given the program's vague descriptions and ambitious goals, that the reality will be overburdened caseworkers presenting parents with a basic and generic template for early childhood health and home preschool, utilizing the same sort of standards and methods that are mostly failing students in the K-12 programs instead of showing parents how to utilize their own life experience and easily accessible community resources (such as schools, parks, and libraries).

I've taken a quick look at the National "Parents as Teachers" program, as well as the Perry Preschool Project, and I understand the lure of what look like successful case studies in helping the most at-risk children succeed in school. But I hope you'll also consider studies that paint a different picture, like the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education in the late 1990's. I know of this study from a summary in the book *Freakonomics* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, in which they present a list of surprising findings. Briefly, this study found that there are eight factors in early childhood that actually have an impact, positive or negative, on later test scores:

- highly educated parents
- parents with high socioeconomic status
- mother aged thirty or older at time of child's birth
- low birthweight
- parents speak English at home
- child is adopted

- parents are involved with the PTA
- many books are present in the home.

On the other hand, there are eight other factors that have no correlation with with test scores:

- family is intact
- parents recently moved to a better neighborhood
- mother stayed home between birth and kindergarten
- Headstart attendance
- regular museum attendance
- regular spankings
- television viewing frequency
- child is read to daily or almost daily.

Levitt and Dubner provide analysis on these factors in greater detail, coming to the following conclusion: “Here is the conundrum: by the time most people pick up a parenting book, it is too late. Most of the things that matter were decided long ago – who you are, whom you married, what kind of life you lead... It isn’t so much a matter of what you *do* as a parent; it’s who you are.”

Please also consider the following sources for ideas on why families should choose their own early childhood education solutions, and why less is often more:

The Case Against Universal Preschool:

<http://reason.tv/video/show/576.html>

The Myth of Three

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/teenbrain/interviews/bruer.html>

The First Years Fallacy

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/teenbrain/science/firstyears.html>

Finally, please forgive my haste in drafting this email. I just found out today about a bill you are

2/11/2009

discussing tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Andrea Gregovich

9940 Whitefish Circle

Anchorage, AK 99515

907-245-0191

Louie Flora

From: Gilliland [cgilliland@ideafamilies.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 10:33 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Vote against House Bill 69

Representative Seaton:

Thank you for your dedicated service to the State of Alaska. I am writing to respectfully request that you please vote against House Bill 69, Alaska Parents as Teachers Act. This Bill proposes to remove a parent's right to be ultimately responsible for the upbringing of their children. Parents know their individual children infinitely better than any government official could (particularly one who would only see a child once a month as stated in the HB69 guidelines.) Parents are the most qualified to discern what is best for their children.

Furthermore, in these tough economic times, why create another expensive program for Alaska State Government to pay for when many of these services are currently available? It is already very easy for parents who want to get help to find answers to their questions. Additionally, there is a "safety network" of professionals already in place that is responsible to report signs of abuse.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gilliland
17913B Pioneer Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577

2/11/2009

Louie Flora

From: ELIZABETH-TALLAK MAAKESTAD [tuckbeth@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 10:30 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB 69

Hi,

I oppose House Bill 69. It is intrusive, wasteful of taxpayers' hard earned money, and unnecessary. Please vote no on this bill.

Thank you,

Tallak D. Maakestad
17620 Pioneer Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 529-4324

Louie Flora

From: Joshua Geibe [jdsgeibe@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 9:56 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Vote no against House bill 69

Please vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act.

Thank you,

Jessica Geibe

4103 Mattox Rd Apt 2

Homer

 Josh & Jess

Louie Flora

From: thebullers@alaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 9:49 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton

"Please vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act, which would interfere with the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children."

Susan and Dennis Buller

Louie Flora

From: nicshelt9@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 9:22 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Please vote yes on HB 69

Good morning,

I have worked in the Parents as Teachers program for the past 14 years. I was fortunate enough to be the first parent educator hired when Hoonah implemented PAT in 1995, the first program in Alaska. The program has now expanded to 46 communities across Alaska.....because it works.

PAT is a win-win program, parents are empowered to take control of their children's learning from birth. Parent educators offer families personalized visits, which may be conducted at the location of the parents' choosing. Usually it is in the home, but visits also occur at Head Start, child care centers/homes, McDonald's, or church basements. It's where the families choose to visit. The advantage of the homes is that parent educators can coach the parent with the parent-child activity using the materials normally found in the child's environment.

PAT is a "strengths model" which stresses that parents are the experts on their children, and that the families will set their own goals for their children and family. Empowerment results when the parent educator is the resource who offers research-based strategies and options. It is the parents who choose which options are appropriate for their family and circumstances.

I became a National Trainer for the Parents as Teachers National Center in 1995. I periodically train new parent educators in Alaska and the lower 48, although Alaska is my priority. The training is intense, and parent educators must pass daily assessments, a role-play of a personal visit with a family, and be evaluated as competent to deliver the PAT services to families. Not every participant in the trainings are certified, and the standards are strict

I plan to testify at the House Education Committee hearing on Wed morning. I anticipate there may be more questions that just will not be covered within the time period. I will be very glad to provide information to you or your staff at any point. Please don't hesitate to call me

School readiness is so vital to children. Independent research shows that children who participate in Parents as Teachers enter Kindergarten ready to learn, and they have great success throughout their elementary years. I would be very happy to get summaries of the research to you as you desire.

Please vote yes on HB 69. The Parents as Teachers' vision is that "All children will learn, grow, and develop to their full potential." All Alaskan communities can achieve this as a reality through Parents as Teachers.

Thank you for your time.

Nicki Shelton, National Trainer
Parents as Teachers
PO Box 101
Hoonah, AK 99829

(907) 945-3380
(907) 209-1620 cell.

Louie Flora

From: Barry Corbin [barry.corbin@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 8:57 PM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton

Subject: House Bill 69

Please vote against House Bill 69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act, which would interfere with the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children. It does not "take a village to raise a child". It takes parents to raise a child in a free society and the State of Alaska better always respect that fact!

BARRY D. CORBIN
Mile 289.5 Parks Highway
Clear, AK 99704

2/11/2009

Louie Flora

From: flythesky@gci.net on behalf of D. Dorsey [flythesky@gci.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 8:43 PM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton

Subject: Please vote NO on House Bill 69

Dear Rep. Seaton,

Please vote NO on House bill 69, Alaska Parents as Teachers Act. It will interfere with the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are best qualified to determine what is best for their individual children. Thank you.

Debra Dorsey

Louie Flora

From: Eileen Ward [eward@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 10:05 AM
To: Louie Flora
Subject: HB69

I hope Rep. Seaton will vote against HB69, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act, which would interfere with the right of parrents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents, not state officials, are best qualified to determine what is best for their children. This is truly a government nanny bill.

**Sincerely,
Eileen Ward**

2/11/2009