

February 10, 2009

Juneau Legislative Information Office The Honorable Johnny Ellis State Capitol Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

<u>VIA FAX</u>

Dear Senator Ellis:

This letter serves as the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation official endorsement of Alaska's Achiever's Incentive Scholarship Program, based on high achievement and financial need, Senate Bill No. 33. This Bill is a first step in establishing a comprehensive scholarship program for Alaska young people to pursue a postsecondary education. There is no greater investment of the state financial resources then that of educating the young people who will be the future leaders of the great State of Alaska.

Senate Bill No. 33 should be enacted now, with the understanding that, like all legislation, that the Bill will be improved with further legislation over time to create a more comprehensive program, which will be open to all students who meet certain established criteria. The goal is to encourage all students to take a more rigorous curriculum in order to be adequately prepared to pursue their postsecondary education. The objective of preparing students is, not only to enroll, but to graduate in their chosen fields.

We, at the *Patrick F. Taylor Foundation*, are ready to assist you in the passage, implementation, and monitoring of this legislation at our own expense.

Please feel free to contact the *Patrick F. Taylor Foundation* if we can assist with this most important endeavor!

Sincerely,

fames A. Caillier
Executive Director

JAC/glw