

Tim Lamkin

From: Tim Stathis <tstathis@aebsd.org>
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 4:16 PM
To: Ryan Wilson
Cc: Tim Lamkin
Subject: AEBSD Supporting SB17

Honored Senator Stevens and Members of the Senate and House Education Committees:

I am writing to earnestly convey to you the dire need for SB17 to successfully pass, for SESA funding to continue. SESA's service for our youth in the extremity of remoteness of our region is essential to the fulfilling of my promise to the parents of our Special Needs students, that ALL our students shall be provided an equal opportunity for excellence of education. We have an autistic child in the remote community/island of Akutan. SESA's intervention for this child has been a vital part of the child's development, positive self-esteem, and building identity. SESA support to our Teachers who work with our special needs students has, as well, been vital to our efforts. The costs of travel to Akutan are enormous (r/t ANC-Akutan is approximately \$1800), and these costs have been rising over the years; rising costs has a proportional negative impact on offered services. I therefore encourage increasing SESA's State funding to meet such rising demands (as I understand SESA has been flat funded for 15 years!). We cannot deny our pledge to provide for Alaska's youth no matter how remote the destiny of their upbringing. Please support everything SESA needs to continue with its mission.

Thank you.

Tim

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