

Margaret Kavanaugh

3260 Peninsula Rd

Kodiak, AK 99615

Senator Gary Stevens

305 Center Ave, Suite 1

Kodiak, AK 99615

Re: Re-Authorization of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA)

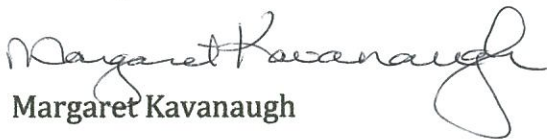
Dear Senator Stevens,

I am writing as a resident of Kodiak, a retired Kodiak Island Borough School District (KIBSD) special education teacher, and as a parent of an adult son with a disability. Over the course of my 23-year career with KIBSD I have consistently worked with specialists from the Special Education Service Agency (SESA), and fully support the reauthorization of SESA. I urge you to sponsor a bill in this regard.

As a special education teacher it is impossible to be knowledgeable in all the content areas necessary to adequately program for a child with a disability. It is even more difficult in areas of low incidence disabilities since every child is unique in terms of their cognitive, sensory, and medical needs. SESA specialists provide a critical service to Alaska's school staff, parents, and communities in this regard. The SESA specialists support teachers and paraprofessionals and create a sense of community by networking staff with resources across the state. This is a critical service to teachers who feel overwhelmed with encountering specific disabilities for the first time. Of extreme value to me as a classroom teacher was the sharing of the specialist's unique skill set honed from working in special education classrooms across the state of Alaska.

I have worked with many SESA specialists over my twenty-three year career and understand the value of their expertise with low incidence disabilities. I fully support legislative reauthorization of the Special Education Agency and urge you to sponsor a bill to reauthorize SESA.

Sincerely,


Margaret Kavanaugh

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