

February 7, 2014

Mr./Mme. Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on <sup>HJR1</sup> SJ9, the resolution to allow public funds to be spent on private schools. My name is Martha Freeman, I'm a resident of Anchorage, and have two children in Anchorage public schools.

I have two points to share.

First, our public schools are providing an excellent education for most students. With a daughter in college and another in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I've been consistently impressed with the quality of their experience, thanks primarily to many outstanding teachers. Students that are succeeding in our public schools don't need vouchers – they already have access to a fine education.

Second, vouchers won't help the students who aren't succeeding. Several years ago I attended a parent assembly meeting to hear a presentation by the Anchorage School District's testing specialist. He stated that if you know the percentage of students at a school that qualify for school lunch subsidies, you can predict that school's average test scores within a few percentage points. Why? Because school lunch subsidies are an indicator of poverty. Poverty is correlated with a host of other problems from transience to poor nutrition to weak English language skills. These are the real challenges that make it so difficult for some children to succeed in school. Sadly, vouchers don't address any of those problems.

In short, most students succeed within our public schools without a voucher system, and vouchers won't help those who don't. The real goal for us as a city, a state, a democracy is to address the poverty that undermines school success, so that our public schools can provide a great education to all students.

Sincerely,

Martha Freeman  
Anchorage, AK  
1529 Sunrise Drive

# ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage\_LIO@akleg.gov 907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Martha Freeman

REPRESENTING: Family

BILL#/ SUBJECT: HJR1  
COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE: Feb. 7, 2014

On Friday, February 7 I testified before the House Education Committee in opposition to HJR1. Unfortunately, no one was listening.

During the hearing the committee chair repeatedly said, "There will be time to discuss this when it goes to the Judiciary Committee," making it perfectly clear that the chair had ~~not~~ decided the outcome of the hearing before it started. This hearing was a sham.

I am from the American Continent.

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Email: Anchorage\_LIO@akleg.gov 907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

NAME:

Yolanda de la Cruz

REPRESENTING:

Myself. I am not belong to NEA.

BILL#/ SUBJECT:

SJR 1

COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE:

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I strongly reject SJR 1. These self-serving (politician) need to start working for Alaskan, and for the new voters. They are implementing their "communism" in Alaskan by introducing their own rules. My kids went to the private school when they were young but over there the children with wealthy parents and with political influence have preference and priority. Right now my children are doing excellent in the public school, where they have a lot of choices such as: professional teachers and counselors. Therefore I strongly support public education.

Governor Sean Parnell and his followers (legislators) should be setting an example for the younger generation by respecting the Constitution.

CHOOSE RESPECT?

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