

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Tina Foster <fostertina2004@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 6:53 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

Hi, My name is Christina Foster. I have lived in various cities, towns, and villages in Alaska since 1999.

I do not support HJR1.

I believe parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

There are charter school options available in our urban communities. Families already have choice in where their children go, and can get public funding for a charter that will suit the needs of their families.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

Why risk losing programs and quality opportunities we have in our public schools by diverting funds to the private schools?

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

Thank you,

Christina Foster

Tina Foster  
2627 GALEWOOD ST  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99508

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** CHEYENNE CUELLAR <cheyennecuellar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 3:54 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

CHEYENNE CUELLAR  
PO BOX 21918  
JUNEAU, AK 99801

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** JEREMY STRONG <bo\_strong@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 3:59 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

JEREMY STRONG  
PO BOX 216  
SITKA, AK 99835

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Mary Rowley <rowley846@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:45 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Harriet Drummond  
**Subject:** HJR1

Dear Representatives,

Please do the right thing and allow HJR1 to pass. This will allow the citizens of Alaska to choose for themselves what they want in terms of education for their children.

NEA has a monopoly on our education system that must be allowed to undergo scrutiny for its own good. This resolution would allow for that scrutiny to take place.

Thanks you for your time and service to the citizens of this great state.

Mary Rowley



**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** FRED GOODWIN <rockysue@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:00 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

FRED GOODWIN  
PO BOX 1265  
PALMER, AK 99645

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** David Voth <voth@voth.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:04 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

David Voth  
5010 N Douglas  
Juneau, AK 99801

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** DOUGLAS WEIMANN <kasuun@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:05 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
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- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS WEIMANN  
9135 SAHALEE DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** BRINNA WOJTALEWICZ <brinnalouise@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:09 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

BRINNA WOJTALEWICZ  
9588 CANTON LOOP  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** CLARA AMIDON <akbeachcomber@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:09 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

CLARA AMIDON  
3232 DOIL DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** KATHLEEN JONES <wcjones@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:11 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I do not support HJR1 am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. HJR 1 is a very slippery political vs education slope.

If my public funds are going to be used to finance private schools I believe that the same public funds should also finance other private enterprise. I've personally invested in private enterprise and could use additional financial support from the public. This seems only fair.

Besides the rhetoric mentioned above I have many reasons to oppose HJR 1, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

KATHLEEN JONES  
PO BOX 1237  
PALMER, AK 99645

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Megan Amidon <od0\_obo@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:12 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Megan Amidon  
3232 Doil Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99507

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** SHAWNEE VANDERPOOL <saxy3d@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:18 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources. Furthermore, if a student is asked to leave a private school, the original voucher money does not follow the student to the public school he is now required to attend!

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1, keep our public schools funded!

Sincerely,

Shawnee Vanderpool

SHAWNEE VANDERPOOL  
639 price st  
Anchorage, AK 99508



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** KATIE HAMPTON <katielyn619@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Katie Hampton

KATIE HAMPTON  
7613 ARLENE ST  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** AARON SCHRAM <aaron@schramfamily.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am a teacher in the public school system and I am writing to express my support to HJR1. I feel that it is the right of every parent to choose where their students go to school. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes which is a good thing both for teacher satisfaction and the focus of said teachers with their students. Studies show that low student to teacher ratios is only a good thing for education.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission only to make sure that each child considered will thrive in the educational environment said school offers.
- Private/voucher schools do not expel students without due process. Give me proof because my family is a testament to the contrary.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records; just like public schools. Records are always available upon request; just like public schools.
- Private/voucher schools hire teachers that are both certified and qualified for their specific positions. To believe otherwise is to have an outdated understanding of said schools.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students. Without the deep pockets of government said schools do not have the resources to accommodate said students. This could very well change if vouchers were given.

Vouchers enable parents to take charge of their students education, placing them in the environment that they feel is the best fit. The opposition to this is based on an outdated and under thought idea of what education is and should be in Alaska. Choice is never a bad thing.

I am asking you to support HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Aaron Schram

AARON SCHRAM  
12920 SUMMER CIR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** MICHAEL STEIN <fighter@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:23 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I strongly urge all of you not to support HJR 1.

In my mind this is exactly what our founders were thinking and trying to prevent when they explicitly designed the Constitution to separate church and state. Providing funds for private education by reducing the limited monies available now, will do nothing to help fund public education.

As a 30 year teacher in the Anchorage School District and an avid proponent of public education, I strongly oppose HJR1 and my hope is that you do the same.

Mr. Stein  
Baxter Elementary  
742-1750

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL STEIN  
5311 WHISPERING SPRUCE DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Patricia Barker <pattymelt28@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:28 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

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Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Patricia Barker  
901 OLD KLATT RD  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** ROBERT HEYMAN <rwheyman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:36 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,  
Robert Heyman  
Speech Language Pathologist  
Fairbanks Northstar Borough School District

ROBERT HEYMAN  
252 CREST DR  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99712

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** MARY GERRARD <m1gerrard@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:37 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

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Respectfully,  
Mary Gerrard

MARY GERRARD  
PO BOX 111313  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99511

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** JEAN TURNER <jeturner@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:41 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

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I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

JEAN TURNER  
172 SNOWY OWL LN  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99712



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** CHERILYN ANSLEY <richransley@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:45 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

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Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Cherilyn J Ansley

CHERILYN ANSLEY  
7524 TIMBERWOLF CIR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Jeanne Sande <jsande@kpunet.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:01 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Sande  
5237 Shoreline  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** KATHLEEN YACKEL <yackelb@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:08 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended, and as will be necessary to avoid the \$100 million budget shortfall expected over the next 4 years that we hear about on the news everyday. This results in numerous teachers getting "pink slipped" at the end of every school year. Let's fix the ongoing budgetary issues with the public school systems before we start creating new problems elsewhere.

Respectfully Yours,

Bryan Yackel

KATHLEEN YACKEL  
9241 EMERALD ST  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** TOM BRONGA <tbronga@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:10 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to HJR1. East Anchorage High school would be greatly impacted with a loss of funding. There are already many great public and charter schools available to all students. HJR1 is not fair and unnecessary! Private means PRIVATE, discriminates, and does not merit public funds!

Here are some more reasons why I am adamantly opposed:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Tom Bronga  
East High School Technology Collaborator

TOM BRONGA  
3262 WESLEYAN DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99508

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Mary St. John <stjohnm@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

I taught in the Milwaukee Public Schools for 16 years before moving to Alaska and my sister still teaches there. I know how vouchers have almost destroyed that public school system. Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools. I was educated in a parochial school and I know that public money has no business supporting religious schools. I received an education that was strong in some curricular areas and very weak in others but more importantly, it was incredibly biased. Public money should not support schools that will be inherently biased because they're based on religious doctrine.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a horrible idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska or anywhere else in the United States. Anyone who thinks they're a good idea has not looked closely at Milwaukee's results.

Respectfully,

Mary St. John

Mary St. John  
4764 Grumman  
Anchorage, AK 99507

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** SHELLY JAMES <shellyjames.sj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:21 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,  
Shelly James  
Anchorage

SHELLY JAMES  
1901 Sunrise Dr.  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99508

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** ROBIN HOPPER <robin@robinhopper.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:26 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

ROBIN HOPPER  
PO BOX 670549  
CHUGIAK, AK 99567

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** GERRI DAVIS <gerri.tigerlily@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:27 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

GERRI DAVIS  
1200 WOODSIDE DR APT C5  
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** BARBARA WARD <wardrice@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:33 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

BARBARA WARD  
125 W 22ND AVE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** ASHLEY VANHEMERT <ashvan7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:35 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,  
Ashley Van Hemert  
Public school teacher and mother

ASHLEY VANHEMERT  
233 E HARVARD AVE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** WINIFRED SMITH <utahwyn@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:44 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

WINIFRED SMITH  
PO BOX 222233  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99522

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** MARY HEAPS <maryann@elieff.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:45 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

MARY HEAPS  
3280 JEFFERSON DR  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** MORGEN DOWNS <morgendowns@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:51 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

MORGEN DOWNS  
901 E FAIRVIEW LOOP  
WASILLA, AK 99654

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Georgia Berry <AKberrypatch@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:09 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

Vouchers do not cover the entire cost of private school tuition. Therefore, parents still need to find the funds to make up the difference. Most of the families in my school zone can not afford to pay any amount for their child to attend a private school. Vouchers are for those who can already afford to send their children to a private school. It absolutely does not provide an option for everyone. This entire bill is misleading.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Georgia Berry  
8001 E 3RD AVE APT 3  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99504

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** VICKI CAMPBELL <vcampbel@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:17 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I personally believe the use of vouchers is the 2st. Century version of separate but equal. Alaska should never fund the discrimination of children, but should fund the education of all our children equally.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,  
VickimCampbell

VICKI CAMPBELL  
4140 TERRACE DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** THOMAS GOSSARD <tommyginny@arctic.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:18 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

THOMAS GOSSARD  
PO BOX 657  
COOPER LANDING, AK 99572



**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Melissa Klepser <klepsermelissa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:25 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Melissa Klepser  
PO Box 8946  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** PAULA MARISCAL <anchortown68@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:28 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Paula Mariscal

PAULA MARISCAL  
1300 CROSS RD  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** EILEEN LEVINSON <relevins@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:29 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** Do not support HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. I

I do not support HJR1. These are a few of my reasons:

1. Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
2. Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
3. Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
4. Should the student withdraw mid-year, the neighborhood public school must take them back. Funding does not follow them back to the public school.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they want. What I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Data indicates that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

EILEEN LEVINSON  
22505 GLACIER VIEW DR  
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** GLEN RAMOS <glenlynn@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:32 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am a Republican female, 54 years old. I am against HJ1, the "voucher" bill.

Private schools do not perform better than public schools.

Private schools do not have to hire certified teachers.

Private schools can discriminate.

Private schools do not have to teach to standards.

Private schools do not have to do background checks on employees.

Religious fanatics who hate Americans can get public money for their private school.

Papa Pilgrim could have started his own school with this voucher law.

Please vote against bringing this bill to the light of day. It is not good for Alaskans.

Respectfully,  
Lynn Kracke

GLEN RAMOS  
PO BOX 4002  
PALMER, AK 99645

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** Rose Anderson <berninarose@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:35 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Rose Anderson  
3440 Seagull Drive  
Palmer, AK 99645

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** Lyle Anderson <aklyle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:37 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Lyle Anderson  
3440 Seagull Drive  
Palmer, AK 99645

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** TRACY VERRALL <tad1116@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:37 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. I feel that vouchers will further decimate our educational system.

As a veteran teacher of 26 years, I have witnessed both positive and negative changes in the field of education. Positive changes include emphasis on staff development and continuing education for teachers. Negative changes have tended to focus more on funding, or the lack thereof. Currently, my class sizes average 30 students. I would gladly forego future salary increases so that additional teachers could be hired, thus lowering class sizes.

I recently heard a story about an expert jam maker who had always complained about the quality of the educational system. When asked how he produced the best jam, he responded that he only used the very best grapes. When told that public education takes ALL the "grapes" he began to realize the tremendous task facing teachers.

I feel that vouchers will drain much needed funding from public schools. Further, I believe the use of vouchers will create an elitist culture within religious and private schools. Public schools would become the producers of mediocre jam, at best.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools. Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Tracy A. Verrall  
Box 4708  
Palmer, AK 99645  
907-746-3798

TRACY VERRALL  
PO BOX 4708  
PALMER, AK 99645

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Jacqueline Scholle <jackiks1@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:44 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Scholle  
PO Box 58701  
Fairbanks, AK 99711

Jacqueline Scholle  
PO Box 58701  
Fairbanks, AK 99711



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Michelle Fournier <learningjourney@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 6:56 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HRJ - DO NOT PASS!

Dear Representative Gattis,

As a parent, current public educator and past private educator I, with the strongest of belief, passion and conviction, urge a DO NOT PASS vote on HRJ 1. Simply stated it would be constitutionally and democratically wrong to allow this to pass. One of the fundamental components of our democratic constitution is the separation of church and state. America offers a free, public education for all. We are free to make other choices if we want our children to experience something other than public education - but that is an INDIVIDUAL choice and comes with INDIVIDUAL responsibility.

Again, I request a DO NOT PASS vote for HJR 1.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Fournier  
Razdolna School  
Class 1-2 Teacher  
[mfournier@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:mfournier@kpbsd.k12.ak.us)  
235-6870

## Erick Cordero-Giorgana

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**From:** VICKIE MCCUBBIN <mcc@alaskalife.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 7:03 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. As a lifelong Alaskan and a proud, productive, product of Alaska's public schools, I am strongly opposed to taking public money to fund private schools. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Vickie McCubbin

VICKIE MCCUBBIN  
4272 BIRCH RUN DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Gayle Harbo <sjharbo@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 7:08 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

As a parent and grandparent, I have been impressed by breadth of course offerings at Alaska public high schools. Our children and grandchildren have entered college with enough credits for sophomore status and have done extremely well because of the preparation they received in the public school system. Please do not diminish the importance of public schools by allowing vouchers for programs over which there is little control and for which there is discriminating selection of the school population. Public schools welcome and serve all students and are staffed by dedicated teachers and support staff. Please do not allow vouchers to be used in our state.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Gayle Harbo, Fairbanks Alaska, 56 year resident

Gayle Harbo  
PO Box 10201  
Fairbanks, AK 99710

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Ray Johnson <rjohn10913@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 7:09 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Ray Johnson

Ray Johnson  
1538 Orca St  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Jennifer Childress <jenc9721@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 7:18 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. One of the strengths of our national and state constitution is the separation of church and state. I urge you to stand strong and protect this very important aspect of our constitution.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

Respectfully,  
Jennifer Childress

Jennifer Childress  
6930 Chad St  
Anchorage, AK 99518

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** Douglas Gregg <greggd@k21schools.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 7:33 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

All we need to do is look around the world to see the damage of non-secular institutions.

John Adams, in the oldest living constitution (Mass.) recognized the importance of public education to the future of democracy.

Let's keep public money supporting public education.

Thank You,  
Doug

Douglas Gregg  
S. Pt. Higgins Rd.  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Hedy Eischeid <hedyme@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 7:56 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Hedy Eischeid  
2975 Summer Mist  
Anchorage, AK 99507

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** DEANNE COPE-POWELL <dlcb66@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 8:04 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

Thank you for keeping our public schools an ongoing concern.  
DeAnne Cope-Powell

DEANNE COPE-POWELL  
PO BOX 5314  
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901



**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** KAREN MILLER <kfmiller@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 8:25 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

KAREN MILLER  
1733 CROSSON AVE  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Karen Denny <ksdenny@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:00 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Karen Denny  
PO Box 4163  
Palmer, AK 99645

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** JULIA SAENZ <hummbirdy62@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:01 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,  
Julia A. Saenz

JULIA SAENZ  
12246 End Street  
Eagle River, AK 99577

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** ALLISON BRANDT <aebrandt07@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:10 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

ALLISON BRANDT  
8400 PIONEER DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99504

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** MARY MAYER <mlmayer@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 2:57 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time. Indeed, Vic Fisher, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, has clearly spoken and written about this issue and the concerns of the members of Alaska's Constitutional Convention.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill said, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

Alaska has a diverse society. Indeed, in the Anchorage School District, over half the students come from minority families, and students come from homes that speak 91 different languages. While Alaska itself is not as racially diverse, there are still a variety of ethnic and racial groups residing and working here. The public school system in the area in which children are first exposed to this diversity--diversity in race and ethnicity, economic status, family structure, family beliefs, and individual abilities. Our society has become global. In order to effectively succeed in a global world, students need to be comfortable around people of various racial and ethnic groups. The students need to learn skills to interact with people with divergent opinions and views--this is something children learn on playgrounds of Anchorage School District daily and learn in the classrooms under the SEL curriculum. Vouchers can establish special schools which limit diversity, and thus not provide the learning opportunities our students require to develop the judgment and interaction skills to engage with people of differing opinions, races, and economic status.

I have worked in the Anchorage School District for almost 27 years, initially as a special education teacher and now as an occupational therapist. I work with students with significant cognitive, physical and or mental health challenges. These students would be excluded from the voucher schools, based on information from other states and from the populations of current private schools in Anchorage. I worked with a young boy with autism for several years and his parents then placed him in a smaller religious school. The classes were much smaller and the building was therefore quieter and it was a good environmental placement for him. However he had a first year teacher who did not have an understanding of disability. The boy was not doing well at all academically, when he was achieving on or above grade level in ASD, and the parents asked his previous ASD teachers and therapists to help. On my own time and with my own money, I collected and provided quite a bit of information about educating children with autism. If this student had been in a public school, the supports would have been in place for him. He later returned to the public school as the parents felt he was not receiving the support he needed. Other students who attend private schools, return to ASD to receive special education services, including speech/language, occupational and physical therapies. These services are not provided by any private school in town that I am aware of. These private schools do not provide an appropriate education for these students.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Mary L. Mayer

MARY MAYER  
4146 PATTERSON ST # 2  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99504

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** SHELLEY SCHROEDER <shelleys\_harley@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 5:01 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Shelley Schroeder

SHELLEY SCHROEDER  
3061 E 42ND AVE APT 707  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99508

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** DOROTHEA CULBERT <culbert@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 6:22 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Dorothea Culbert

DOROTHEA CULBERT  
18926 INSPIRATION CIR  
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** CHRISTY WEST <hcaowest@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 7:17 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

CHRISTY WEST  
19418 S MITKOF LOOP  
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Ben Wattum <wattum@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 7:20 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Ben Wattum  
P.O. Box 1349  
4850 Farm Loop Road  
Palmer, AK 99645

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** JAMES FROEHLICH <jimmiesitka@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 7:54 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** Oppose HJR 1

Please abandon this bad idea to change our constitution to benefit a few individuals who wish to be paid to opt out of public education.

Thank you,

Jimmie Froehlich

JAMES FROEHLICH  
2702 W 29TH AVE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99517

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** LARA APPLEBAUM <laraapplebaum@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 8:33 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. In instances where public money would provide for private religious education, there would be a unconstitutional breach of the separation of church and state.

Current public money designated towards education requires systematic degrees of financial and academic accountability. If public money is designated towards education outside of the public system, these degrees of accountability will be comprised.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

LARA APPLEBAUM  
PO BOX 1394  
GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Lisa Johnson <lisa.esperajohnson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 9:17 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

I am deeply troubled by the attempts to destroy public education as a 1st grade teacher who teaches in a Title I school.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,  
Lisa Espera Johnson

Lisa Johnson  
9120 Shady Bay  
Anchorage, AK 99507

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** KATHLEEN BUDD <budd5@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 9:48 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

KATHLEEN BUDD  
9991 PUFFIN DR  
PALMER, AK 99645

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** JAMES JOHNSON <bikeski2000@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2013 7:01 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

JAMES JOHNSON  
PO BOX 1171  
BETHEL, AK 99559

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Edward Feagle <ed\_feagle@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2013 8:24 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

Hello House Education and Finance Committee,

I am Edward Feagle of Toksook, resident of Alaska, and Site Technician of Nelson Island School.

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Edward Feagle

Edward Feagle  
PO Box 37133  
Toksook Bay, AK 99637



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Amy Hogue <amydoug13@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2013 9:34 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

Dear Representative Gattis,

I would like to encourage that you do not pass HJR1. Our state constitution is not broken nor are there problems within it. Providing public funds for private schools is not an idea I support nor think the majority of Alaskans do. Opening the constitution for people to tweak as they see fit would be like opening Pandora's box.

I work in public education and believe when people choose to send their children to a private school it is for religious reasons and therefore should not be supported by public funds. Funding private schools is not needed to provide a quality education for children, we need to improve the schools that are not meeting the standard with aggressive and relevant curriculum and quality teachers to engage children. We need to provide more support for needy families so that their children are coming to school ready to learn and educators can spend less time getting kids ready to learn and actually teaching. Lastly we need to provide more mental health services so families can get help for children with mental health issues. The state should also explore regional boarding schools to help support students in our rural settings. Doing this regionally would allow students to remain connected to their families and community. Therefore improving a student's performance and likelihood of graduating.

We provide a quality education for children in Alaska. I know this from work experience both in bush Alaska and now on the Kenai Peninsula where I work and my children attend school. If people feel the system is not working or they need a different choice for their children, they should work with their local school district or the EED to develop different educational options for children. Publicly funded charter schools is an example of one such option. Our education system is not broken but I know there are areas of the state that could use help improving their system. Vouchers and funding private schools is not the solution.

I would encourage you to not pass HJR1 as it would not help the children that need their education improved but support those that already have access to a quality education.

Amy Hogue  
Soldotna, AK

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Mary Burtness <mcburtness@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 6:42 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The state of Alaska just does not have enough options and changing the constitution would only open education up to many trial and error options at the expense of our already good public system. Many of the public schools recognize the need for options and are working within public funding to provide those options.

Please do not open the constitution to help erode our public education system.

Thank you for your time.

Mary Burtness  
415 Hagelbarger Ave  
Fairbanks, AK 99712

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Tonia Kushin <gurnard2@excite.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 5:30 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Few if any of the Pribilof students will ever be able to use a voucher given our rural community, but all of the students will feel the results of decreased funding into our school district.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,  
Tonia Kushin

Tonia Kushin  
PO BOX 12  
SAINT PAUL ISLAND, AK 99660

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Jean James <ddjajames@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 4:38 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Jean James  
2795 Waugstroee  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** TINA GENOFF <t.goalie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 3:58 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

TINA GENOFF  
557 ELI WASELIE CIR  
KODIAK, AK 99615

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** ELIZABETH HARTLEY <bhartley@alaska.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 1:35 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or ELL services either.

Research has demonstrated that ethnic and linguistic minority and students of poverty do not benefit and are actively discriminated against in a voucher system program. Choice/voucher systems only truly benefit families with sufficient income to afford to send their child to an alternate school and students who have some cultural and/or linguistic ties to the choice/voucher schools they want to attend.

We had a group of middle school students in Anchorage take advantage of attending a choice school when their school was at a level 4 not making AYP. All students, except one in that cadre, returned to their non-performing home school because they did not fit in and we not accepted into their choice schools.

It does not matter how fine a private or choice school is deemed to be, they are not choice for these groups of students and actually can inhibit them from successfully accessing academic curriculum.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Beth Hartley, Ph.D.

ELIZABETH HARTLEY  
16114 MAMMOTH CT  
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Pat McDearmon <Patmcdearmon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 12:58 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

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Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Pat McDearmon

Pat McDearmon  
7100 Foothill Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99504



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** Jennifer Jones Molina <jjonesmolina@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 12:56 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

And I quote: The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State, and may provide for other educational institutions. Schools and institutions so established shall be free from sectarian control. No money shall be paid from public funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Jones Molina

Jennifer Jones Molina  
3060 N. Lazy Eight Crt. #2-513  
Wasilla, AK 99654

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** Susan Ritter <arcticpouncer@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 12:42 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

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Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,  
Susan Ritter

Susan Ritter  
8610 Sommers Place  
Anchorage, AK 99502

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** Catherine Poulson <kakki\_poulson@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 11:36 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

I am morally opposed to public funds being diverted to religiously affiliated private education. Horace Mann wrote this in one of his annual reports: Amongst any people, sufficiently advanced in intelligence, to perceive, that hereditary opinions on religious subjects are not always coincident with truth, it cannot be overlooked, that the tendency of the private school system is to assimilate our modes of education to those of England, where churchmen and dissenters, — each sect according to its own creed,—maintain separate schools, in which children are taught, from their tenderest years to wield the sword of polemics with fatal dexterity; and where the gospel, instead of being a temple of peace, is converted into an armory of deadly weapons, for social, interminable warfare. Of such disastrous consequences, there is but one remedy and one preventive. It is the elevation of the common schools.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Catherine Poulson  
1103 Edgecumbe Dr.  
Sitka, AK 99835

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** KATHRYN ROBERTS <robhupp@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 11:32 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
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Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely, Kathryn Roberts

KATHRYN ROBERTS  
4200 N ENGSTROM RD  
WASILLA, AK 99654

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** Melissa Goozen <chugaloo@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 11:17 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

As a public educator of seventeen years, I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

Melissa Goozen  
2440 Highgate Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99522

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Scott Jonsson <entertane@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 10:42 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Scott Jonsson  
3340 Tarwater Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99508

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** LAURA KIMMEL <art2snow@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 10:06 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

LAURA KIMMEL  
13220 VENUS WAY  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** Kelly Dau <Dau@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 9:32 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Kelly Dau  
Box 558  
Palmer, AK 99645



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** MARYBETH PRINTZ <printz.mb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 8:36 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
  - Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
  - Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Separation between church and state must be maintained.  
-The voucher system will undermine public education, which is one of our country's greatest accomplishments.

Parents have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make. All children are entitled to a free education.

Private/religious schools are not held to any state standard while in public schools, students and teachers are accountable and must maintain these standards.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1. Thank you.

MaryBeth Printz  
Spanish teacher  
Goldenview Middle School

MARYBETH PRINTZ  
3216 ILLIAMNA AVE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99517

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** DAVID DYER <cdaverun@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 8:15 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

DAVID DYER  
2402 NELSON RD  
NORTH POLE, AK 99705

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** CHRISTINE DUPROW <akhouse11@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 8:05 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

CHRISTINE DUPROW  
13400 BAYWIND DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** JUDITH SALO <salo@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 7:35 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I am astounded that it is even being considered. If you think the problems of public education are significant now, why would you do something that will make the situation much worse? Certainly, most private and religious school organization may be supportive, but have you also considered the multitude of others waiting in the wings to start up any kind of "school" to get their share of the latest government pot of money.

Vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

However, more important than all of the economic arguments are the educational and societal risks of a diminished public education system. In this fractured and divided state and nation public education is still something that brings us together. It is available to every child, and welcomes the diversity of students as an important element of their education. Of course there are problems with public education and greatly varied opinions about how to solve them. If those problems are your concern please do something that will help, not add to the woes of the public schools.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Former Senator Judy Salo

JUDITH SALO  
4510 KENAITZE CT  
KENAI, AK 99611

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Charles Norton <cnx2011@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 10:05 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Additionally, no voucher should provide educational support to schools in which religious instruction is given. There must be a separation of church and state. Commingling of money for education and religion would have to be continuously audited, and potential corruption surely would be a continuous problem. Private educational facilities would need the same high standards as is required by public schools including, but not limited to, minimum teacher, support and facility standards. All students with varying intellectual, behavior and physical abilities would have to be admitted to private schools without regard to religious inclinations, as is the requirement of public schools.

As a property tax payer I am happy to support a good public educational system which provides a wide variety of options. I am not willing to pay for a private education alternative system which ultimately will require much more money for the tax payer.

Respectfully,

Charles Norton  
PO Box 110973  
Anchorage, Alaska 99511

Charles Norton  
PO Box 110973  
Anchorage, AK 99511

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** CYNTHIA HENRY <dcstu\_99636@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 9:43 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

CYNTHIA HENRY  
5530 TRENA ST  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** MERRIEL GRAVES <merrielgraves@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 5:34 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It seems the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue which is very sad to me. Public education is a foundation of our democracy. When funds are drawn away from public education, those who can least afford it suffer. The founders of our nation knew how important it was and would be to guarantee All a fundamental education. Please do not diminish it.

I do not support HJR1. I do support choice. I do support programs that can enhance public education and those who help make enrichment programs available to all. Thank you.

Please consider the following as well. • Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.

- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

MERRIEL GRAVES  
13300 GINPOLE CIR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** LAURA EIDE <leide@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 5:32 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Laura Eide

LAURA EIDE  
13530 DIGGINS DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Jane Gray <janeellengray@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 4:08 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Jane Gray  
3326 W 29TH AVE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99517

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** ROBIN CAMPBELL <alcampbell@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 2:59 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to let you know of my opposition to HJR 1. Based on what I have read and heard about, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

Robin L. Campbell  
9331 Emerald Street  
Anchorage, AK 99502

ROBIN CAMPBELL  
9331 EMERALD ST  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Kristen Balega <kbalega@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 2:33 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. Alaska's constitution does not need amending as evidenced by 2/3rds of Alaska voters casting their ballots against a constitutional convention. Additionally, HJR 1 will dismantle the public education system.

Reasons I do not support HJR 1 include:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

Kristen Balega  
22700 Sambar Loop  
PO Box 671302  
Chugiak, AK 99567

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** MICHAEL HIGBEE <higbee\_mike@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 2:27 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Michael Higbee

MICHAEL HIGBEE  
3811 CARAVELLE DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** JOEL AKERS <akers\_joel@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 2:13 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Joel Akers

JOEL AKERS  
9381 BOTHWELL CIR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** SHARMAN PIPER <sharmanpiper@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 2:12 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

SHARMAN PIPER  
700 W. 21st Ave. #A  
Anchorage, AK 99503

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** BENJAMIN ELBOW <benelbow@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 2:04 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Ben Elbow

BENJAMIN ELBOW  
2500 COTTONWOOD ST  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99508



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** LEESA WINGO <lwingo@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 2:01 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

In addition to the above "canned" letter, I am a public school teacher who has dedicated 27 years of my life to become the best I can be. I have my Masters degree, became Nationally Board Certified, started the Veterinary Science Program at KCC, and have given my career my all for my students and district. The HJR 1 is a personal insult to my professionalism.

Please oppose it.,

Sincerely,

Leesa Wingo  
Instructor, King Career Center

LEESA WINGO  
2831 GILLAM CIR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99517

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** HEIDI HINK <hinks@nushtel.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 12:56 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I have taught in three Alaska school districts over the past 17 years, and currently teach second grade at Dillingham Elementary School. I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates who established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

This has the potential to affect entire Alaskan communities. Dillingham, for instance, has a private religious school. Should parents of even 10 students take vouchers to move their children there from our public schools, the district would lose a significant amount of funding. Either our city would need to raise taxes to make up the difference (in a community which already went the extra mile 5 or 6 years ago and passed a bond for much-needed renovations and repairs to both our school buildings), and seriously impact our local economy, or the majority of our students would receive fewer services.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. Rather than passing measures that will erode its public education system, we need to invest in it as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Heidi E. Hink

HEIDI HINK  
PO BOX 1588  
DILLINGHAM, AK 99576

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** BETTE REED <bette@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 12:03 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

BETTE REED  
7533 E JIM COTTRELL CIR  
PALMER, AK 99645

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** PATRICIA ABNEY <paabney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 11:39 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA ABNEY  
5800 E 142ND AVE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** DEBRA BARNUM <akmidgit4ever@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 11:30 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Kevin P Barnum

DEBRA BARNUM  
PO BOX 58516  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99711

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** TIMOTHY JOHNSON <johnsontimothy47@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 10:17 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1.

It is morally wrong to take taxpayer money from the public school system to subsidize private or religious schools. Public school systems already offer a plethora of choice, and given the mandate to educate all children, are doing a commendable job.

I am a "super voter" and will actively campaign against all representatives supporting HJR 1.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,  
Timothy Johnson

TIMOTHY JOHNSON  
10101 ESHAMY BAY DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** DALE VERLEY <dav@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 10:00 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Dale A. Verley

DALE VERLEY  
1130 ACORN CIR  
NORTH POLE, AK 99705

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** ANNA MAYRA <annak.mayra@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 9:54 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

We are writing to express our opposition to HJR1. We have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

We are asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Stan and Anna Mayra  
Teachers, Anchorage School District

Jenna Mayra, North Star Behavioral Health Michael Mayra 1stLT United States Air Force

ANNA MAYRA  
2921 HOGAN BAY CIR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** KRISTY GRAWUNDER <williwawkrs@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 9:49 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

KRISTY GRAWUNDER  
8445 JUPITER DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** SUSANNE HALL <shall128@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 9:43 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,  
Susanne Hall

SUSANNE HALL  
2960 PRINCETON WAY  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99508

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** SHEILA CURRAN <sjcurran@arctic.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 9:41 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Sheila Curran

SHEILA CURRAN  
PO BOX 929  
GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Stacey Waldrup <waldrupsm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 9:37 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

Stacey Waldrup  
920 E REZANOF DR APT A  
KODIAK, AK 99615

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Valerie Brooks <vebrooks@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 9:30 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools. Funds siphoned from Alaska public schools for private school funding will decrease our ability to provide the best education for all Alaskan kids.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Valerie Brooks

Valerie Brooks  
830 Jackson St.  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** DONNA TEEKELL <dmteekell@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 9:28 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to ask you to oppose HJR 1, which calls for a constitutional amendment that allows public monies to fund vouchers to be utilized in private and religious schools.

- 1) This is a direct violation of the protections provided in the constitution through the separation of church and state.
- 2) This will result in decreased funds for public schools, which as you know are already experiencing a fiscal crisis.
- 3) Allowing private entities to utilize public funds without accountability opens the door for misuse.
- 4) There are currently choices in most districts through open/optional and charter schools. These schools are supervised by publicly elected school boards, but are allowed leeway in terms of curriculum and operations.

Please oppose the constitutional amendment and school vouchers, and preserve the integrity of both public schools and our constitution.

I appreciate what you do each day for Alaskans.

Sincerely,  
Donna Teekell

DONNA TEEKELL  
7350 TYRE DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** MARY CUZZOCREO <mcuzzocreo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 9:24 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

MARY CUZZOCREO  
1701 CATALINA DR  
WASILLA, AK 99654

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** JOSHUA HALL <jhall543@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 9:10 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1.

Both our national and state constitutions were written to clearly separate church and state. There are very good reasons for this separation - governments should never fund or support religious activity. Religion and the practice thereof should remain an entirely private affair.

Additionally - when I hear or read about representatives trying to dodge the fact that this action is designed to allow vouchers in education, it seems very cowardly. If those representatives cannot even defend what they are trying to accomplish, what does that say about the legislation? Let's at least allow an honest debate.

Respectfully,

-Joshua Hall

JOSHUA HALL  
6930 CHAD ST  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99581



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** MARY TOUTONGHI <marytslp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 8:51 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am a retired speech/language pathologist who has worked with children in special education settings. We have had in our district the highest functioning student with Joberg's syndrome in the Pacific Northwest ca University of Washington and the highest functioning student with FAS ca. to a major University in the Midwest. In addition some of the students in our preschools include a young man managing 3 businesses while attending courses at a University in Southern California and an engineer designing nuclear plants world wide. These children would have been rejected from a private setting because of their behaviors or disabilities as young children. They would have been throw aways. Our educational base has been advanced and comprehensive which is not possible in a system that uses canned programmatic programs without competent, appropriately trained personnel who are able to personalize their instructional tools. Vouchers are means of providing adequate or poor instruction for a few students who fit the mold. We need people with creative thinking skills and educational skills that provide us with a cream of the crop work force instead of having to import from other countries without commitments to our area. B A D I D R A!!!!@

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

MARY TOUTONGHI  
PO BOX 2244  
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** ELIZABETH AGNEW <lizagnew@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 8:40 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** Vote No on HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Agnew

ELIZABETH AGNEW  
PO BOX 240165  
DOUGLAS, AK 99801

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** RICHARD FREDERIC <rlfrederic@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 8:37 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

RICHARD FREDERIC  
50648 PARSONS AVE  
KENAI, AK 99611

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** ROXY MCDONAGH <roxykmcd@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 8:36 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

ROXY MCDONAGH  
402 E 23RD AVE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** MARY JOHANNES <mandm@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 8:18 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight. In addition, this resolution would support segregation in our school system as schools would be able to discriminate on which students participate in their program. PLEASE don't allow State dollars to be used to promote segregation.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Mark Johannes

MARY JOHANNES  
2036 WILDWOOD LN  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99517

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Warren Rhodes <wrhodes@ucdavis-alumni.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 8:11 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I oppose HJR 1. Changing a Constitution is not something to be undertaken lightly; there should be a very high bar for the issues that rise to this occasion. Does this current issue rise to ending hateful institutions such as slavery or systemic disenfranchisement due to race? No. Does it affect millions of Americans or thousands of Alaskans?

No, this voucher system benefits only a handful of people who don't want to pay their fair share. Public schools foster citizenship and teach skills that increase employability, thus helping the economy. For a parent with a kid in private school to say he gets nothing from the Base Student Allocation that goes to public schools is ludicrous, just as it when said by a childless taxpayer; of course they get something out of it. They live in a community that requires educated members -- I don't want the clerks, secretaries, sales reps, managers or other workers I must deal with on a daily basis to lack basic skills or even the ability to deal with people not exactly like them.

Plus, every dollar taken away from public schools in a time of budget shortfalls simply means that public education will get worse: even more crowded classrooms and less instruction tailored to each child's personal needs.

Another reason to oppose HJR1 and vouchers is that private schools can take the public money and then expel the child at any time, sending the kid back to public school but keeping the money. And private schools don't even need due process to do such a thing! Yet another is that private schools can discriminate, unlike the egalitarian public school system that few other countries in the world can boast.

In other words, public schools ARE America. Weaken the public schools and you weaken America. I do not support HJR1.

Of course, parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they choose to do so; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. To the parents of private school kids, I submit that you have made a choice, and we all have to pay for our choices. If I choose to buy a luxurious foreign sports car instead of a fuel-efficient, smaller but reliable American auto, I do not expect the government to subsidize my choice by paying me to offset the high purchase price and my higher fuel bills.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1. A vote for vouchers is a vote against American and Alaskan ideals and makes no fiscal sense.

-Warren Rhodes, Anchorage

Warren Rhodes  
3504 WOODLAND PARK DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99517

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** ALLEEN BENTSON <sbentson55@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 7:57 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Alleen Bentson  
PO Box 772934  
Eagle River, Ak 99577

ALLEEN BENTSON  
PO BOX 772934  
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** LEAH DUBBER <lhdbubber@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 7:44 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,  
Leah Dubber

LEAH DUBBER  
10125 GOOSE BERRY PL  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** BARBARA SELL <bsell@alaskalife.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 7:43 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

As a retired teacher with 30 years as an Anchorage educator, I know that this bill would not benefit public education. I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,  
Barbara E. Sell

BARBARA SELL  
PO BOX 111949  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99511

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** DAVID KINDER <kinder@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 7:34 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1. I have been a life long conservative and I find it hard to continue to support our party with my vote when it proposes legislation that would hurt our children's future and create a two class system of education. I urge you to do what is right for the sake of all our children.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kinder

DAVID KINDER  
9902 AFOGNAK CIR  
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** JAN SCHMIDT <richjane@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 7:17 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

JAN SCHMIDT  
11601 WAGNER ST  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** LEM WHEELLES <lem\_ffa@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 7:03 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1 & Education Issues

My name is Lem Wheelles and I live in the Jewel Lake area of Anchorage. I have lived in this area since I was 2 years old, my wife and I graduated from Dimond High School, and I now teach history and government at Dimond. We have a 2nd grader who attends Chinook Elementary and a preschooler who will attend there next year. As a parent and as a teacher I have grave concerns about the current education legislation making its way through the state legislature. I would like to share a few of my concerns with you today.

I am greatly concerned by HJR 1 and SJR 9, the legislation that would ask voters to amend the state constitution to permit school vouchers. While some schools and districts in our state struggle to effectively educate the children of their communities, our schools as a whole are fairly successful. School vouchers would allow public education dollars to be diverted to private schools (either parochial schools or for-profit academies) that would not be subject to the same standards, accountability, and regulations as our public schools. This would be a fundamental misappropriation of public funds. It would also undermine our public education system and funnel our best and brightest students (and in all likelihood teachers) out of our public education system, to the detriment of the entire system and the state itself.

Yesterday, I was speaking with a teacher from Hawaii who is visiting Alaska with students for the Model United Nations of Alaska. He shared with me that Hawaii has an extensive private school system, with an average tuition cost of about \$20,000 per pupil. The wealthier students all attend private schools; nonetheless, their public schools today provide the better education. Let's not create a haves and have-nots culture in our state, keep public funding for public schools only. Please oppose HJR 1 and encourage your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do so as well.

The other issue of concern to me is the need to increase the Base Student Allocation. It has been three years since the BSA has changed and the failure of funding to keep pace with inflation promises to have negative effects on our public schools. HB 95 proposes to increase the BSA this year and establish a method for automatically increase the BSA to keep up with inflation. I would urge you to support HB 95. Without adequate funding, districts will have no choice but to make severe staffing cuts and to freeze teacher salaries, which will result in exceptional educators leaving the state or leaving the profession. Our state cannot afford this loss and our children deserve better as they prepare to take over the leadership of Alaska in the future. I support cuts to the state operating budget wherever else necessary to ensure the funding needed to restore Alaska's status as a leader in public education.

Thank you for serving our state and for taking the time to consider my input.

Lem Wheelles  
6833 Terry Street  
Anchorage, AK 99502  
907-250-3090

LEM WHEELLES  
6833 TERRY ST  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502

**Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** JAHNA POLLOCK <jahna.pollock@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 5:17 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HJR 1. I support continued investment in public education and adamantly oppose a change which contradicts our state constitution.

Parents certainly have the right to send their children to private schools if they so choose; however, public money should NOT be used to fund that education.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1 and instead direct time, energy, and resources into making our public education system in Alaska the best it can be.

Thank you for your service to the State of Alaska.

JAHNA POLLOCK  
1102 E 27TH AVE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99508

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Robert Jeffery Harris <redhawk1625@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 4:47 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Robert Jeffery Harris

Robert Jeffery Harris  
P.O. Box 2017  
Bethel, AK 99559

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** KJIRSTEN LANGLAND <langlands@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 12:38 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

KJIRSTEN LANGLAND  
5937 BLUEBELL DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** MARGARET SALISBURY <wendolene45@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 11:52 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,  
Margaret Salisbury

MARGARET SALISBURY  
1375 GARAY ST  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** WILFRED FILES <will@wfiles.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 11:47 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

WILFRED FILES  
59835 TERN CT  
HOMER, AK 99603

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Patti Higgins <patti@keytoalaska.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 11:34 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I oppose the action of the legislature to overturn our well-written Constitution to allow for public money to go to religious schools.

Over the past few years the ability of our schools to meet the challenges of educating our children has dropped significantly. When I was raising our three children there were many activities available for their enrichment after school: gymnastics, swimming, art, music, Highland Dancing, crafts, all sorts of different things to try. At school their teachers were excellent and dedicated and they were compensated for their hard work and respected by the community. Now, PE, art, music are being dropped to almost nothing. Fuel inflation cuts into classroom budgets. High Schools don't teach swimming. And Anchorage's mayor is going around telling anyone who will listen that our schools are no good.

Well as a Realtor and a very active community member I have to say our schools are still very good but I am very concerned about the future especially with the lack of support from Juneau and the Mayor.

We need to fund our schools adequately and we need to respect those who are dedicating their lives to teaching our children. Please show some leadership and help our schools. Those who want to further their child's religious education can do what we did - send them to Sunday school and after school religious activities.

Respectfully,

Patti Higgins

Patti Higgins  
9140 Granite Place  
Anchorage, AK 99507

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** DONNA HOLLEMAN <donnaholleman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 10:40 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. The claim that vouchers have a positive outcome is false.

Some voucher schools in the lower 48 have less oversight than public schools. Their claims cannot be substantiated.

Also, voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Donna Holleman  
Anchorage, Alaska

DONNA HOLLEMAN  
4330 SUNSTONE CIR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** Alex Pock <Alexandsara@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 10:15 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Alex Pock  
2310 Legacy Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99516

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** PHYLLIS KOEHLER <plawsonak@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 10:13 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

PHYLLIS KOEHLER  
10221 VALLEY PARK DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** Jennifer Eubank <jeubank99615@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:58 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

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Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Eubank  
3289 Balika Ln  
Kodiak, AK 99615

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** SARA POCK <sara.pock@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:56 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Sara Pock

SARA POCK  
3800 E 19TH AVE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** CHRISTINA WRIGHT <mcnally22@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:52 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

CHRISTINA WRIGHT  
10416 RIDGE PARK DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Martha Fleming <msfleming210@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:49 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Cc:** Rep. Paul Seaton  
**Subject:** HJR 1

My name is Martha Fleming and from Seward and would like to vote against HJR 1.

I believe our constitution is correct in keeping public funds for education in public schools. There is little to no accountability in the private school education. The rules that guides education are not met in any private school, and because of that the schooling is not equal. Anyone that chooses private school does so at their own expense and get what they pay for. The choice and funding should be kept away from the public.

Public schools do not have an advantage to the private schools because they must serve every student. Private schools choose who they include or exclude.

Please do not hurt the small schools and communities that rely on State funding for education. Do not change the constitution of the State of Alaska to fund private and religious education.

Thank you for your NO vote on HJR 1

Martha Fleming  
210 Marathon Drive  
Seward AK 99664

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** JASON TERRYBERRY <jasonlterryberry@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:36 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

JASON TERRYBERRY  
PO BOX 870637  
WASILLA, AK 99687

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** ALEXANDER DIRKSEN <alexli@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:34 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Should HJR 1 be successful, Alaska will once again have created a dual education system.

The delegates that established the constitution were very clear about wanting to end the dual education system that had existed at the time.

Former constitutional delegate, Jack Coghill, had stated, "I think that sectarianism segregation in our educational system is bad for the children. I do not deny the right of people to have their own schools. However, I think that we should always look to the interest of the founders of our nation when they brought about the separation of church and state . . . and it has come forward ever since under the intent of having the tax dollar only brought to the public educational system."

HJR 1 would benefit few at the expense of many. Precious state and taxpayer funds would be diverted from public education and handed over to corporate and religious run schools, which do not allow public input or oversight.

Alaska's constitutional delegates had the opportunity to learn from the 48 states that went before them. Passing HJR 1 would be the exact opposite. Instead of learning from what has not worked in the Lower 48, today's legislators would be embracing the same mistakes and abuse of public trust.

Alaska does not need a failed voucher school program. It should instead invest in its public education system as the state constitutional delegates intended.

Respectfully,

ALEXANDER DIRKSEN  
3600 W 42ND AVE # A  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99517

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

---

**From:** Valerie Ekberg-Brown <vekberg@alaskalife.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:34 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

To All Members of Our State Legislature:

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

Please take a look at what happened last night at the School Board Meeting in Anchorage. Many very dedicated employees, who help individual students on a daily basis and who help parents and the community with making it possible for these students to believe they can afford the extremely high cost of post secondary education, all now are on the layoff list at the end of this year. Their jobs are gone and our children will lose out. There will be no direct connection between the business community and the School District with the loss of mentorships. Ignite will not be a dynamic program for our best and brightest, but instead it has been decimated to also face great changes and will probably be lost altogether soon in this political climate, where our children ultimately lose their buying power potential in today's world.

Flat funding in a state that has the wealth we do is an embarrassment. How can we tell our children that the world will be a better place for them when there is no funding to educate them to the level they will need to compete in global markets? Please raise the BSA rate for our students. Our assembly and the ASD School Board have tied hands when it comes to this funding. Please send us this funding from Juneau because it is sorely needed if we are to produce a good citizenry for future years.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1 and to stop the flat funding of education in this state once and for all and raise the BSA rate.

Valerie Ekberg-Brown

Valerie Ekberg-Brown  
[vekberg@alaskalife.net](mailto:vekberg@alaskalife.net)  
6515 Cobblecreek Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99507

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** JOYCE NELSON <m3jnelson@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:33 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.
- Private/voucher schools hold closed meetings and maintain private records.
- Private/voucher schools may hire teachers that are neither certified nor qualified.
- Private/voucher schools may refuse admission to special needs students.

Additionally, vouchers do not decrease education costs. Rather, tax money that would ordinarily go to public schools would instead pay for vouchers, thus limiting the capacity of public schools. Our schools in Alaska are already feeling the squeeze due to three years of flat funding. We are seeing layoffs and program reductions across the state.

Vouchers are not good economics. They essentially force taxpayers to support two school systems - one public, the other private. Voucher supporters tend to minimize or dismiss the impact vouchers have on public school spending, but it's a fact that vouchers take money from public schools, leaving the vast majority of students with fewer resources.

I am asking you to oppose HJR 1.

Sincerely,

Joyce Nelson

JOYCE NELSON  
4441 E BIRCHWOOD DR  
WASILLA, AK 99654

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** ELIZABETH KNAPP <alaskaknapp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:31 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Knapp

ELIZABETH KNAPP  
3730 WESLEYAN DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** CHRISTIAN HICKS <hicchris@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:16 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR 1. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

CHRISTIAN HICKS  
612 PEREZ WAY  
KODIAK, AK 99615



## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Pamela Lloyd <pamela.lloyd5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:13 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I urge you to vote NO on House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR 1). I oppose vouchers in any form or wording. Wes Keller states his bill has nothing to do with public funding. It astounds me that people believe this statement blindly. Voters statewide opposed opening the state constitution by a 2/3 vote. Do we need to do this every year? The people said NO. It appears from everything I have been reading and from those that I have been speaking with about this "voucher" issue, the only individuals concerned about it are the legislators who sponsored and signed on to the resolution. When Mr. Kevin Chavous recently was invited to make a presentation to a joint committee on Wednesday, February 13, it was his largest audience on his Alaskan tour. What that tells me is that the citizens of Alaska do not think it is an important issue; it is only a certain segment of the state legislators who appear to have an agenda to dismantle the public education system.

I do not support HJR1. I have many reasons, but these are a few:

- Private/voucher schools limit their enrollments and class sizes.
- Private/voucher schools discriminate in their admission.
- Private/voucher schools expel students without due process.

I think parents should have the choice to send their children to private schools if they so desire; what I do not agree with is that public money be used to fund that education. That is the financial choice those parents make.

Lastly, vouchers have had a less than stellar record. While there are private/ voucher schools that have been successful, the long-term research shows that voucher schools perform no better than public schools.

We have great public schools and great public charter schools. DEED holds these schools accountable to the students, parents and residents of Alaska. Public schools educate ALL students, no matter their ability or disability.

I oppose use of public funds for the direct benefit of religious and other educational institutions. The constitutional amendment should be rejected.

I ask that you oppose HJR 1.

Thank you.

Pamela Lloyd  
13245 Shelburne Rd  
Anchorage, AK 99516

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** Nena Robb <akrobbs@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:11 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my strong objection to HJR 1. Vouchers have and continue to be a failed experiment in the Lower 48.

Just recently a new report was released on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program that showed that choice students are underperforming the public school students in math and reading on standardized tests.

Another report showed that there is a reason why voucher schools are less expensive than public schools. Voucher schools tend not to have art, music, and physical education, technology instructors or librarians. Not to mention most voucher schools do not support special education or EEL services either.

Alaska has a strong public education system that provides amazing choices from open enrollment, to charter and magnet schools, to boarding schools.

Diverting resources from our public schools will result in limiting those choices as well as preventing our schools from investing in lower class sizes and additional classroom resources.

Also, if we look to the Lower 48, vouchers have ultimately raised the cost of education for taxpayers and the states. For that extra cost, the voucher and private charter school movement has not been accountable for the monies spent and are often rife with corruption.

I am asking you to stop HJR 1 from a vote on the floor. Vouchers are a bad idea that should not be spread across the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Nena Robb  
414 E. 23rd Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99503

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** EMILY BECKER <emilyandzeke@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:05 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I strongly support our public schools, and I am writing to express my strenuous objection to HJR 1.

Alaska's Constitution does not need to be changed.

I teach in a school where over 80% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Vouchers would change nothing for these students, except perhaps divert even more resources from them. Many other communities have tried vouchers, and they have not raised achievement at all. If you want to change my students' lives for the better, fund preschools, more counselors, and arts and sports enrichment.

Sincerely,

Emily Becker

EMILY BECKER  
2710 E 20TH AVE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99508

## **Erick Cordero-Giorgana**

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**From:** BRIAN WAITE <waite5@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 8:06 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn Gattis  
**Subject:** HJR 1

I am writing to express my opposition to HJR1. Perhaps a slightly different way of looking at this issue is as follows.

All private schools, whether they are affiliated with a religious foundation/belief/sect or not, are not required to meet the level of expectations that public schools are on the local, state, and federal levels. They can turn away students, and can have educators that are not considered highly qualified in whatever subjects they teach. If state funding goes towards private schools, there is no accountability for what happens in those schools.

Please let me ask you to consider the following:

- 1) If local municipal property tax dollars could be redirected to pay for private EMT with minimum training, would you want them to be at your rescue? You mom's? Dad's? Son's? Daughter's? I doubt it!
- 2) How about security guards given the authority of police officers?
- 3) To the best of my knowledge, nearly every private school in Anchorage with a religious affiliation is Christian. What if several private Islamic schools opened up in every community in Alaska with over 1,500 people? Or Jewish? Or Hindu? Or Buddhist? Would you view on HJR1 change even slightly? Should it? These could all be real private schools in Alaska. I'm not asking to pick sides, just pointing out that public money for private schools would mean all private schools. No state should be in the business of funding such a thing. (see the success in Wisconsin)
- 4) This is wrong on every level. If parents want their kids to attend private school that is a choice. Public funds should not pay for that choice when a public education is available. The most significant educator in a child's life is the parent!

Please promptly dismiss HJR 1.

Sincerely,  
Brian Waite

BRIAN WAITE  
4761 MARS DR  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507