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Date

Representative Lynn Gattis
State Capitol Room 420
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Gattis:

Thank you for introducing HB 93. The bill recognizes and responds to the needs and hopes of parents, students, and nonprofit organizations in both urban and rural Alaska.

While I find all provisions of HB 93 appealing, I am most impressed with two requirements. First is the establishment of authorizers set forth in 14.03.253 (a) and the second is the requirement in 14.03.255(c) explaining that charter schools must comply with all state and federal requirements for the receipt and use of public money. These provisions expand school choice by including qualified authorizers and encourage greater diversity and competition within our public education system.

As you know from living and working in urban and rural Alaskan communities, there are many nonprofit organizations and local governments that have both the capability and capacity to successfully operate public charter schools that will meet the needs and priorities of the students, parents, and communities they serve.

As a career educator in Alaska, former Alaska Commissioner of Education, and long-time education and nonprofit consultant, I offer my enthusiastic support for HB 93.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerry Covey".

Jerry Covey