



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs**

Office of the Commissioner

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March 26, 2013

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Sen. Giessel:

SB 84 is critical legislation that allows the Alaska Military Youth Academy to achieve the next level of success. It will set an even greater number of high school dropouts back on a fruitful path and provide the opportunity for a rewarding and productive life.

Historically, our funding formula protected a fledgling Youth Academy before the establishment of its current record of accomplishment. With over 4,000 graduates, the Academy has attained an incredible reputation for helping teens get a second chance.

In establishing the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs budget, I strive to address the needs of the division directors to meet our organizational goals. The current AMYA funding formula does not allow a results-oriented budgeting process. We fall short of our true potential.

The academy staff aspires to build and develop our at risk youth. The staff is part of an institution recognized as one of the top National Guard Youth ChalleNGe programs in the country. With a direct appropriation to the division, we will step-up our current high level of accomplishment and provide an even greater number of teens the ability to find success in life.

Thank you for sponsoring SB 84. I encourage all of your colleagues to support this bill and take fast action to make it law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Thomas H. Katkus".

MG Thomas H. Katkus
Commissioner