



## AKCHILD & FAMILY

Representative Wes Keller  
State Capitol, Room 403  
Juneau AK 99801

February 24, 2015

Dear Representative Keller:

My name is Denis McCarville and I am the President and CEO of AK Child & Family. We serve approximately 150 of Alaska's most troubled children per day in a variety of mental health services in the Anchorage area. These services include psychiatric residential treatment services, treatment foster care, individual, group and family outpatient psychotherapy and wrap-around treatment services for children and families who we can treat in their homes to prevent the need for out of the home services. I am writing to request your support for Education Funding Equality for Children with Mental Illness (HB102). This important piece of mental health and education legislation will give children with severe mental health disorders the opportunity to receive an equitable and comparable education while they receive intensive mental health treatment. These are Alaskan children in a secure or semi-secure facility licensed by the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) that provides, under the direction of a physician, psychiatric treatment services on a 24-hour-a-day basis.

I want to go on record for supporting this legislation as it will:

- Increase the educational opportunities and measurable outcomes for children with mental illness so that they can successfully transition back to their traditional school after receiving intensive and sometimes lifesaving mental health treatment
- Allow the licensed facility to deliver appropriate educational and related services provided by licensed teachers and credentialed service providers to the student while the student is admitted to the facility
- Require school districts to send a portion of any funding that would ordinarily be a part of the funding formula if the student were at a public school for the number of school days in attendance
- Allow for a more comprehensive continuum of care by individualizing each student's academic plan to complement their therapeutic treatment goals
- Provide the state real time data that will assist the state with meeting the needs of other special populations such as students residing in rural villages
- Increase the length of time students spend in school learning and track measurable outcomes to be reviewed by state stakeholders



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If HB102 were passed by the legislature and signed into law by our Governor, this would give my semi-secure psychiatric treatment center a chance to develop a full day school program for those students who cannot attend public schools due to the severity of their mental illness. This full day school would help keep these students on track to graduate with their classmates and prevent them from taking an unnecessary hit on their otherwise fragile self image.

I ask you to support HB102 as it will improve the provision of educational services to children with severe mental illness.

Sincerely,

Denis McCarville  
President and CEO  
AK Child & Family

Cc: Rep. Lora Reinbold, Rep. Jim Colver, Rep. Paul Seaton, Rep. Liz Vazquez,  
Rep. Harriet Drummond, Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins



## AKCHILD & FAMILY

Senator Mike Dunleavy  
State Capitol, Room 11  
Juneau, AK 99801

February 24, 2015

Dear Senator Dunleavy:

My name is Denis McCarville and I am the President and CEO of AK Child & Family. We serve approximately 150 of Alaska's most troubled children per day in a variety of mental health services in the Anchorage area. These services include psychiatric residential treatment services, treatment foster care, individual, group, and family outpatient psychotherapy, and wrap-around treatment services for children and families who we can treat in their homes to prevent the need for out of the home services. I am writing to request your support for the Education Funding Equality for Children with Mental Illness Bill (the companion bill to HB102). This important piece of mental health and education legislation will give children with severe mental health disorders the opportunity to receive an equitable and comparable education while they receive intensive mental health treatment. These are Alaskan children in a secure or semi-secure facility licensed by the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) that provides, under the direction of a physician, psychiatric treatment services on a 24-hour-a-day basis.

I want to go on record for supporting this legislation as it will:

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- Allow for a more comprehensive continuum of care by individualizing each student's academic plan to complement their therapeutic treatment goals
- Provide the state real time data that will assist the state with meeting the needs of other special populations such as students residing in rural villages
- Increase the length of time students spend in school learning and track measurable outcomes to be reviewed by state stakeholders

If the Senate and House Education Funding Equality for Children with Mental Illness Bill were passed by the legislature and signed into law by our Governor, this would give my semi-secure



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psychiatric treatment center a chance to develop a full day school program for those students who cannot attend public schools due to the severity of their mental illness. This full day school would help keep these students on track to graduate with their classmates and prevent them from taking an unnecessary hit on their otherwise fragile self image.

I ask you to support the Education Funding Equality for Children with Mental Illness Senate Bill as it will improve the provision of educational services to the children with severe mental illness.

Sincerely,

Denis McCarville  
President and CEO  
AK Child & Family

Cc: Sen. Charlie Huggins, Sen. Cathy Giessel, Sen. Gary Stevens and Sen. Berta Gardner