

**From:** [Addie Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Funding for Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 11:02:29 AM

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Dear Finance Committee,

As the parent of a Kindergartner, funding for our schools is a top priority for me and my family.

There are already **28 children** in my son's **Kindergarten** class. Cutting funding for education will result in even bigger class sizes and less attention and resources for each student.

I have been fortunate enough to be able to volunteer in my son's classroom on a weekly basis. I have seen first-hand the effects of large class sizes and it is unacceptable. It is such a chaotic environment and makes learning extremely difficult. Children are not getting the help they need and are slipping through the cracks. It is impossible for even the best teacher to do all that is required of them simply because there are too many children. Cutting funding to our schools will only worsen this already huge problem our communities are facing.

I urge legislators to keep their promise by maintaining funding levels approved last session. The 2014 funding increase was an important step in the right direction, but still does not catch up to or stay ahead of the cost of inflation. The Juneau School District has been cutting the budget for years, and there simply is not much left to trim from. The quality of schools and opportunities for our children have already started to decline and should not be allowed to get any worse.

The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly also has the power to help offset the worst of the proposed cuts by funding education to the cap and therefore helping to make classrooms across the district more suitable for learning.

We understand that the State is in a financial bind, however, our kids only get one chance at an education. If education funding continues in this downward spiral so were our children's experiences in school.

Our children's education is one of the most important investments we can make to help secure the future of our State. It's all about priorities, and this is among the most important.

Thank you,

Adrienne Taylor  
[16480 Glacier Hwy](#)  
[Juneau, AK 99801](#)