

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: SB207 and SB208
Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 9:34:23 AM

From: Jody Stahl [mailto:jstahlcounselor@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 8:34 PM

To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; governor@alaska.gov

Subject: SB207 and SB208

Dear Senators and Governor Walker,

I am writing as a concerned Alaskan citizen regarding Senate Bill 207 and Senate Bill 208.

While I realize the budget issues the state of Alaska is facing right now I strongly oppose using education as a way to balance that budget.

If SB207 should pass it would put undo burden on school districts already struggling with budgets. Research shows time and again that education is the way to a healthy future for all, including beginning in preschool.

As for SB208, I have had three children graduate from Alaska schools. One has gone on to become a Ph.D in chemistry, another has chosen a mechanical engineering degree, and the third graduated last year and is presently in college. I cannot tell you how many families and students I spoke with last year, when my daughter was graduating who took advantage of the Ak scholarship program. Some of those students may not have gone to college, or had the motivation to get the grades they did were it not for that program. The scholarship program has helped to boost our graduation rates. Having a viable university system within the state, especially in the city of Anchorage, is so important to attracting and keeping our youth making our state great. I can personally testify to the expense of sending your child out of state for college. It is HUGELY expensive.

There are other options for balancing the budget, which have been suggested by many who have researched the subject. We can impose a tax, as well as use some of the permanent dividend money. We could also demand that oil companies help out. If you will not change the oil tax agreement so that we are receiving nothing, they are taking all, then we as Alaskans will need to start paying for services so that we can insure a decent education for our children.

Thank you for you time.

Jody Stahl