

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](mailto:Sen.Anna.MacKinnon)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](mailto:Senate.Finance.Committee)
Subject: FW: SB 207 and SB 208
Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 9:33:41 AM

From: Megan Richotte [mailto:meganrichotte@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 8:44 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.pete.micciche@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: SB 207 and SB 208

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

One of my biggest concerns as I watch what appears to be the legislature failing to make meaningful change to protect the future of Alaska through new revenue and future planning is ensuring we protect our children's future through high quality public schools and safety nets for children.

SB 207 would effectively cut about 200 teachers from the Anchorage School District alone by transferring unfunded costs to the school district for teacher retirements. I have watched year after year of cuts to our children's schools. This is completely unacceptable and backwards thinking.

This legislature needs to get real and figure out effective ways to fund essential state services. I put schools at the very top of that list.

I also support the Performance Scholarship Fund. While I have never personally benefited from this I have seen many talented young Alaskan chose to stay in state for college because of it. Alaska will be the long-term beneficiary from this proven tool that prevents brain drain and supports high performing Alaskan youth.

My own kids are elementary school age students in the ASD. Even in the time they have been in school I have seen real degradation to the quality of education offered. Their class sizes have been rising. One of my daughter's art teachers has well over 800 students! That is just crazy. Degrading the ability of our schools to support, foster, and educate young children is a horrible way to move forward.

Please don't do this.

Megan Richotte
Turnagain Neighborhood
Anchorage