

From: [John Trampush](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Fund Education Intelligently
Date: Saturday, April 25, 2015 9:57:23 AM

Dear Senators,

I understand and appreciate the Alaska Senate's desire to bring state government expenditures into better alignment with revenue projections. Fiscally speaking, as a people, we are coming into a very cold spell, and Alaskans as a collective body definitely need to conserve our energy. Almost everyone I talk to gets that, and I know *you* do.

I fear however that as a people we are on the verge of making a terrible and costly mistake.

Not all parts of the body are of equal importance for survival and when the cold starts really impacting our body, not all parts of that system shut down at the same time. The most important parts of our body, namely our core and brain areas are maintained even as the extremities are allowed to freeze and become damaged when we can not maintain them any longer. As regulators of our political body, it is imperative that you remember that.

Our educational system is literally the way that we transmit intelligence and collaborative capacity among our people and across the generations. It is a major part of how the collective brain of our people operates across time. And right now our educational system, state-wide is reeling from several years of shock to the system. Some of this has been good, even more **COULD** be good in the future, given proper support, but right now **WE NEED STABILITY**, in order to assimilate all the recent changes intelligently. As a dedicated Alaska educator who has devoted my entire career to teaching Alaska's children and educators, I truly believe that another shock to our educational system right now, when it is already under so much strain to adapt to all the new demands of the last several years, will have extremely negative and long term consequences.

We all know that the cold is here for now, and much that is considered the periphery in our political body will be feeling frostbite in the next few years. But educating the next generation of our people is **NOT** a peripheral function within our political body. It is part of our core and must be maintained as functional as possible, even as the cold encroaches. For that reason, I urge you, *please* protect our core right now and don't reduce educational funding or reverse the legislature's previous funding commitments to Alaskan educators and students.

Thank You,
John Trampush

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