



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 7, 2017

Legislature of the State of Alaska
30th Legislature – First Regular Session

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing as the Superintendent of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District in support of HB 102 "An Act relating to instruction in a language other than English; and relating to limited teacher certificates." The Mat-Su Borough School District values its immersion program and this legislation will assist the district in recruiting, hiring, and retaining the teachers needed for this program.

Successful language immersion schools require teachers who are fluent in a Native or foreign language. HB 102 would give Districts the flexibility in hiring for immersion schools that currently exists through Type M certificates for Career and Technical Education. Securing fully certified teachers is always a priority however, there is not always a sufficient candidate pool of certified teachers who are also fluent in the necessary language.

Immersion schools have proven to produce positive academic results for students. HB 102 would benefit school districts by giving them the flexibility needed to hire the best possible instructors for immersion schools.

Sincerely,

Gene Stone
Superintendent