

Tim Lamkin

From: Mary Corcoran <marycorc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 4:46 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: PUBLIC TESTIMONY--WRITTEN SB 6

Honorable Senators,

Thank you for this opportunity to offer public testimony. I strongly support SB6 for the following reasons:

-Funding early education mitigates future costs to prosecute and incarcerate individuals who may have had a rough start in their developmental years.

-Given that some children are born into or with compromising circumstances, we should use our dollars to give them this irreplaceable boost. They are our responsibility when parents recognize a need.

-Eliminating funding for early education is like the State diminishing the worth of a young life and in a way setting a course for that child that is more challenging than necessary.

Extraction industries are subsidized. Why not support the individuals who are our future. Thank you for your work and accepting this public testimony.

Sincerely,
Mary Corcoran
Delta Junction

SB6

Löki Tobin

From: Kerri Mullis <kam63@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 9:13 AM
To: Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Chris Birch; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Head Start SB6

Good Morning, My cell tower isn't working, so I have no phone service. But I wanted to give input on SB6. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts. I have raised children and grandchildren in the State of Alaska. Head Start is what I consider to be a glorified babysitting drain on the public. I have seen our children go from slightly well educated to being the bottom of the barrel in the almost 30 years I have lived here.

I feel that the costs, which is approximately \$16,000 per child, is not showing a great return for the investment. I do not see that there has been any apparent change in learning behaviors. If we had seen any increase in learning scores, I would wholeheartedly support this expenditure. Unfortunately, I do not see the benefit. My children and grandchildren were read to, in our homes, prior to attending schools. We own a farm, and had many animals to tend to. The children learned from daily interaction, with us, and learned skills by math situations (how much hay would it take, instead of common core mumbo jumbo). I believe what these children need is more input from their families, and, we hear lots about loss of "heritage", the extended family could take part in that. I don't believe socialized "Head Start" is what they need, nor do I feel paying \$16,000 per child is fair for the State of Alaska to continue paying, when there is no return. Look at the school testings, and you will see, our state is doing a poor job, and we need to change.

Kerri Mullis
(907) 378 0103
Fairbanks, AK

Löki Tobin

From: Andy Durny <bundybacsi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 1:29 AM
To: Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Gary Stevens; senator.cathy.giesel@akleg.gov; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Shelley Hughes
Cc: senator.scott.kawasaki@akleg.com; Sen. Click Bishop
Subject: Pre-k education funding

Dear Senators,

Please support SB 6 and restoration of funding for Pre-K education programs. As a long-time Alaska resident and voter, I believe the Governor's proposed cuts to education are excessive, and the proposed elimination of funding for pre-k programs is unjustified and unacceptable. If pre-K programs are failing (as some critics try to tell us), we have an obligation to fix them, not to abandon them. Contrary to what some critics say, successful pre-K programs are not merely day-care centers, but rather, learning centers that promote mental, social, and physical development of young children during some of their most formative years. Politicians often speak of "building a better future for our children", but eliminating funding for early education programs is a complete reversal of that promise. For anyone who claims our current pre-K programs are failing, my response is that abandoning them will be an even greater failure, and a shameful one at that, because we will no longer even be trying to succeed.

I understand "we must live within our means" and must make tough decisions. We are told we must all be willing to "share the pain". But how is it "sharing the pain" when the proposed budget prioritizes literally giving away billions of dollars in PFD checks, and oil tax credits to for-profit corporate entities, while placing the burden of "balancing the budget" on education programs, health services, and municipal governments. In recent weeks, at public meetings throughout the state, Alaskans have stepped forward to say they are willing to receive a smaller PFD check, and willing to pay taxes in order to help adequately fund education and other programs: I am one of those who have stepped forward. We are not whining, or hollering. We are not socialists demanding Big Government. We are not saying "get others to pay, but don't ask me". We are concerned citizens, willing to do our part to promote "the common good". In return, we would like our government to do the same.

Andy Durny

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Sent from my iPhone

Tim Lamkin

From: Lolita Brache <lolitagrace@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 3:49 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: early education bill SB6

Dear Senators,

Here is one more voice in support of early education in our public schools. I taught kindergarten for many years, then some years of first grade, and ended my career with over 20 years of work in Adult Basic Education helping adults complete the GED or study specific subjects to gain skills sufficient for entering the job market, vocational training such as AVTEC or the University.

As a lifelong educator, I can attest to the importance of giving children **positive, developmentally appropriate**, early exposure to literature, number concepts, socialization, learning to self regulate, and to develop strong, positive concept of self as a learner, capable of success. Many of my ABE/GED students had no positive early learning experiences; perhaps parents were unable to read to the child; or were uncertain of the school environment and could not advocate for their child. Students who experience frustration due to learning differences, or malnutrition, or constant moving from place to place are at serious risk for "failure to thrive" in the academic environment. By providing an outstanding early introduction to the excitement of learning, the thrill of following one's curiosity, we lay the foundation for all future learning.

NOTHING is more important for our future as a state than having an informed citizenry with critical thinking skills. This must begin before kindergarten. I only wish we had more state support for early education from BIRTH forward!.

Thank You for your concern with this matter,
Sincerely,
Lolita Brache,
Homer AK 99603

Tim Lamkin

From: Support <ljbonner@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 10:39 AM
To: Senate Education
Cc: Laura Bonner
Subject: Support SB6 Pre-elmentary education

written testimony in support of SB6

Senate Education Committee Members,

I strongly support SB6. As a parent of a young adult with Autism, I know the value of pre-K education. Without this early education in the Special Needs program, my child would have not made the progress that she has made. She was more prepared for kindergarten and I gained in knowledge of how to help her. I believe that this should be available to all preschoolers. Data has shown that this early investment in education has better long term outcomes. Students who have had this education are more likely to graduate from high school, have better jobs and careers as adults, are less likely to engage in criminal activities, and are less likely to suffer from substance issues. This is a valuable long-term investment.

Please support SB6.

Respectfully,
Laura Bonner
Anchorage, AK