

**From:** Valerie Brooks

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 2:28 PM

**To:** Sen. Bert Stedman <[Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <[Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Click Bishop <[Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <[Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. David Wilson <[Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Donny Olson <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <[Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** SB6 & ESL/ELL

Members of Senate Finance Committee

Senators-

I am a Reading Specialist, certified K-12, in Ketchikan and I write to comment on SB6. We have a significant percentage of ELL students, many of them Filipino-Americans. These students require, on average, seven years of experience in English-school before attaining English proficiency. While we do assess and monitor many of these students with English-language materials, we know that the expertise of their ESL/ELL specialist teacher can provide greater insight as to the student's proficiency level and experiences.

I would like to see additional language in the bill acknowledging the varied ways that ELL students in our schools access information and attain proficiency in literacy.

Sincerely,

Valerie Brooks, M.Ed., Ed.Doc.

NEA-AK Region 1 Director

*Education is freedom...education is transformation* - Paulo Freire