

To the Senate Education Committee,

First, thank you for your efforts on behalf of students and their schools across Alaska. As a 20-year elementary educator in Sitka, I see the benefits of your investment in our schools every day. I was also honored to serve on the State Board of Education under Gov. Walker, and I continue to serve as a reviewer for a school accreditation organization in districts across the state.

As you have likely already learned from many sources, the key to successful reading intervention is closely tied to school readiness. Coupling voluntary but funded pre-K programs with any intervention at the elementary level is the surest path to success.

Last year SB8 was reviewed and vetted by a range of educators and underwent a number of valuable revisions. I believe this bill holds great promise to move the needle on reading success for our most vulnerable students, and I urge your support to move it forward.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Himschoot