

Dear Alaska Senate Education Committee,

55 people have signed a letter telling you to Oppose SB111 and Support SB8.

Here is the petition they signed:

We support SB 8 as a strong pathway to reading proficiency for all Alaskan Children. SB 111 weakens this effort in several ways. We address a few below:

- SB 8 emphasizes the importance of culturally responsive teaching and intervention. SB 111 eliminates this key component. We have wonderful diversity in Alaska. It can be a tool for improvement if used properly and must be acknowledged.
- The Parents as Teachers program helps parents to become partners in their child's learning. This is one great way to ensure cultural responsiveness, but the funding sunsets in SB 111. New parents are born with new children. That will not end and we need to continually help them to help their children. (most of us had no experience being a parent until we were a parent...this is an ongoing need.)
- Help for districts to implement effective pre-K programs sunsets. These programs will always be needed. We have no understanding of why we would stop this funding at any time.
- SB 111 also sunsets the ability for districts to count Pre-K students in their Average Daily Membership calculations. Again, why?
- Retention of young children remains a controversial decision. SB 111 takes the decision away from the folks that know the children best, the local school district.

The clauses that sunset funding for these important issues make no sense. Do we think the problems we see are going to vanish in a few years? Investing in children's learning is vital to Alaska's children.

Accredited teacher education programs must (and do) teach evidence based reading instruction practices. We would be better served to ensure that all teachers have access to continued learning as their careers continue and research evolves as well as helping teachers adjust to the needs of cultural responsiveness.

We support SB8 and oppose SB111!

You can view each petition signer and the comments they left you below.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mat-Su Constituents and Beyond

1. Brian Daniels (*ZIP code: 99645*)

2. Todd Estey (*ZIP code: 99645*)

3. Melanie Yuknis (*ZIP code: 99654*)

4. Sarah Welton (*ZIP code: 99687*)

5. Andrea Hackbarth (*ZIP code: 99645*)

6. Brandon Thielke (*ZIP code: 99645*)

I would like to support additional funding for early education. Regards.

7. Patricia Chesbro (*ZIP code: 99754*)

8. Carol Ryan-Aube (*ZIP code: 99645*)

9. David Cheezem (*ZIP code: 99645*)

10. Deborah Retherford (*ZIP code: 99645*)

11. Dianne Shibe (*ZIP code: 99654*)

If we want to see Alaska's education system improve, it must start at the very beginning and it has to start earlier than kindergarten

12. Dylan Saunders (*ZIP code: 99645*)

13. Carol Thompson (*ZIP code: 99645*)

14. Elijah Haase (*ZIP code: 99686*)

15. David Musgrave (*ZIP code: 99645*)

16. sheri musgrave (*ZIP code: 99645*)

17. Donald Howell (*ZIP code: 99645*)

18. Jack Hébert (*ZIP code: 99708*)

19. jeff mcphetridge (*ZIP code: 99645*)

20. Jamin Burton (*ZIP code: 99654*)

21. Julie Berberich (*ZIP code: 99645*)

22. Jeremy Houston (*ZIP code: 99645*)

23. Jane Erie (ZIP code: 99623)

24. Jennifer Jolis (ZIP code: 99725)

25. Joanie Kirk ND (ZIP code: 99645)

26. Josh Berberich (ZIP code: 99645)

27. Tracy Houser (ZIP code: 99645)

28. James Cooper (ZIP code: 99645)

I am adamantly opposed to any Bill that sunsets early childhood education. That time in a child's life is very important and the need for education is paramount. I am opposed to SB111 and am in favor of supporting SB8

29. Katherine Pfeiffer (ZIP code: 99508)

Please Support! Thanks for all you do!

30. Lisa Albert-Konecky (ZIP code: 99645)

31. Laura Melchor (ZIP code: 99623)

32. Leah Wyzkowski (ZIP code: 99654)

33. Lev Robertson (ZIP code: 99674)

I support SB8!

34. Lilly Dagg (ZIP code: 99645)

35. Lorene Lynn (ZIP code: 99645)

Early childhood education has been proven to vastly increase long-term educational outcomes and save education monies over the course of educating a student. Both of these outcomes foster continuing economic development in the each state that enacts strong early childhood education. Please support SB8 and oppose SB111 to build our state.

36. Jim Sykes (ZIP code: 99645)

Early education has proven the best long term investment for healthier better educated kids where more stay out of trouble in teen years and save taxpayer dollars.

37. Marilyn Parker (ZIP code: 99654)

38. Julia Scully (ZIP code: 99501)

39. Meghan Aube-Trammell (ZIP code: 99645)

40. Mike Shea (*ZIP code: 99654*)

41. Patricia Fisher (*ZIP code: 99623*)

42. Donald Pendergrast (*ZIP code: 99709*)

I'm a firm believer in early childhood education. It's a great investment in the economy.

43. Robin Moffet (*ZIP code: 99645*)

44. Rus'sel Sampson (*ZIP code: 99654*)

45. Sabrena Combs (*ZIP code: 99645*)

46. Samantha Berg (*ZIP code: 99645*)

47. Sheri Thomson (*ZIP code: 99645*)

48. Theresa Slaven (*ZIP code: 99654*)

49. Tracie Pendergrast (*ZIP code: 99709*)

The early childhood years have a huge impact on individual children and families as well as our state as a whole. How well we help these children and families impacts crime rates, entrepreneurship and active citizenship. There is no downside to funding programs for children.

50. Eric Troisi (*ZIP code: 99654*)

51. Valerie Barber (*ZIP code: 99645*)

52. Warren Keogh (*ZIP code: 99674*)

53. Willa Schneider (*ZIP code: 99709*)