
From: Lauren Attanas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:47 AM
To: House Finance; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Sen. Robert Myers; Senate Finance
Subject: Please work to pass K-12 education funding ASAP!

Dear Representative Hopkins, Senator Myer, and House and Senate Finance Committees,

I am writing to urge you to pass a K-12 education funding bill as soon as possible. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken enough of a toll on schools, teachers, staff, and students, and our schools can't afford to suffer the impacts of slow action by the legislature.

Fairbanks-Northstar Borough schools are facing an unprecedented budget shortfall for the 2021-2022 school year which will result in the layoffs of at least 6 teachers at my childrens' school, University Park Elementary, alone. Budget cuts will also result in the elimination of elementary music programs and other programs which are critical to the success of our kids. (It's no coincidence that I play a musical instrument and am good at math.) All of these cuts would come at a time when enrollment is projected to increase and approach pre-pandemic levels, which means an increase in class size and fewer resources for more kids. It is unfair that kids are not going to get the attention they need in school at a time when many are struggling or behind because of the pandemic. It is unacceptable to throw our dedicated teachers and staff into uncertainty about their employment future when they've sacrificed so much to deliver quality education to our kids.

I am really, really tired of partisan politics in Juneau. I am tired of watching members of our legislature shirk their real duties and use their power to elevate non-issues such as mask and vaccination controversy, fabricated election fraud in AK, and state service cuts as a way to "solve" our revenue-based budget woes. Please, get down to business and fund our schools. Alaska's future depends on it.

Sincerely,

Lauren Attanas
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Amy Lujan <amy.lujan@alaso.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 1:57 PM
To: House Finance
Cc: Darcy Carter
Subject: HB169 Testimony

House Finance Members,

We are supportive of this bill. Thank you for the effort to provide funding for the K-12 foundation formula program and for pupil transportation before the end of what looks to be another extended legislative session. If passed, this legislation will help to relieve the budget uncertainty that school districts face nearly every spring.

However, we must emphasize again that the current level of state funding is insufficient to meet the needs of Alaska's students. The BSA funding amount proposed for FY22 is unchanged since FY17. The pupil transportation funding amount is unchanged since FY15. Therefore, funding in real-dollar terms has been steadily cut over the past seven years, while costs have increased.

We encourage legislators to use the remainder of this session to pass additional components of a long-term fiscal plan to truly address the needs of our state. This includes reconciling the PFD statutes and a broad-based tax. In spite of federal largess, fiscal stability in our state must be addressed.

Thank you,
Amy Lujan
Legislative Liaison
Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO)

From: LaDawn Druce <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 3:07 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Testimony in favor of HB 169

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you to Co-Chair Representative Dan Ortiz for introducing HB 169 a proposal to separate out K-12 public education funding from the operating budget with the hopes of passing it early.

My husband and I are retired teachers from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. We have been residents of the borough for 28 years.

Public education, now more than ever, needs stability in timely and forward funding.

Public educators, school districts, and parents have proven time and time again that they are resourceful, committed, and determined to provide the best possible education to students under the most difficult of circumstances during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I would be on the phone testifying tomorrow at 1:30 if it were not for the fact that I am my grandson's language arts teacher and that is our Zoom time. He is a 4th grader in the Anchorage district, and we have been doing home school together this entire school year.

According to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Budget document for FY'22, the total projected state revenue of 87 million dollars (including PERS and TRS on behalf payments) is approximately 58% of the districts total revenue.

This total revenue amount is 6.8 million less than the 20-21 school year.

School districts need to know now, not next month or later what their budgets will be for hiring qualified staff for the upcoming school year. A year in which all concerned hope will resemble a "normal" school year experience.

Thank you for your time and please consider passing HB 169 out of committee.

Sincerely,
LaDawn Druce

[REDACTED]
Sterling, AK
99672
District 29

Sent from [Outlook](#)