

Good Afternoon

For the record my name is Dr. Lisa Skiles Parady,

Executive Director Alaska Council of School Administrators or ACSA

Established in 1973, the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) was created to serve as an umbrella for some of Alaska's premier educational leadership organizations including the: Alaska Superintendents Association, the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals, the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals, the Alaska School Business Officials and all the hard-working school administrators across Alaska

Thank you for inviting me to speak to the CS for House bill Number 4003, thank you to the committee for introducing it.

ACSA's unifying purpose is to support educational leaders through providing a collective voice that champions possibilities for all students and purposeful advocacy for public education.

Each year our members work together to develop what are called the Joint Position Statements. The Joint Position Statements envelop the highest priorities for education policy positions. While student achievement is our number one priority, Adequate funding remains our most critical need.

Specifically, we are supportive that the CS for HB4003 recognizes that the state of Alaska must provide timely, reliable and predictable revenue for schools, funding the actual cost of education in all districts and providing full and equitable funding for all initiatives, laws that require additional resources. We are also excited to see the seeds planted within the bill for future investment in public education.

Early notification of funding and stable funding is crucial to school district sound financial management as well as recruitment and retention of quality educators.

We are in the greatest period of education staff shortage in the history of Alaska – this crisis is at every level of our K-12 system, teachers, substitutes, mechanics, bus drivers, paras, principals, superintendent and education professionals such as our business managers are feeling it too.

We have been in a Groundhog Day cycle of uncertainty – unpredictable funding, leads to district uncertainty (hiring, services and retention of quality educators), which leads to district instability and ultimately impacts instruction negatively

Implementation of a long-term, multi revenue fiscal plan remains imperative to maximize districts' ability to meet student needs.

We are very encouraged by this committee's consideration of a new structure to provide stable, predictable funding. We look forward to partnering with all stakeholders and the committee as this bill moves forward in the process. It is especially noteworthy to see such substantive ideas come forward from this fourth special session.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support. I am happy to answer any questions.

The legislature shall by general" law establish and maintain a system of public school open to all children of the state...

Art. 7, Sec. 1, Alaska State Constitution

