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Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70 P.O. Box 20213 Juneau, Alaska 99802 January 13, 2022

This is a comment in support of HB19, "An Act relating to instruction in a language other than English; and establishing limited language immersion teacher certificates".

We are the Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70. We are an organization focused on improving public education and increasing civic engagement.

This bill supports culturally relevant education. All of us know that the schools in Alaska (in various systems) did discourage the teaching of Indigenous languages over many decades. The language immersion classrooms and programs are important today. World-views are illuminated and made accessible by using language (vocabulary, diction, grammar, rhetoric, literature).

Please support the speakers of Indigenous languages who are working with our children. This is a careful written bill and is appropriate for the current situation. All our children benefit from place-based, culturally responsive, intellectually challenging education. We hope the Senate Education Committee takes action to make limited language immersion teacher certificates available.

Thank you,

Anne Fuller Secretary, ANS 70