From:	Smolin, Carin
To:	House Education
Cc:	Carin Smolin
Subject:	HB 48
Date:	Thursday, February 24, 2022 6:53:54 PM

Dear Education Committee Members of the Alaska House:

I am writing in support of HB48 regarding improvements to the Alaska Performance Scholarship program.

This legislation is so timely and needed to help engage and support Alaska students in accessing training and education to prepare them for meeting Alaska's workforce opportunities. This bill supports students taking both rigorous academic and career and technical courses that prepares them for high demand careers in our state.

97% of Juneau School District students who take 2 credits in a career pathway graduate from our high schools and 80% of those students have gone onto further education and/or employment (Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Perkins Reports 2018-2020). We know CTE makes a difference in student success!

The needed changes to the APS provide students with:

- Access to take CTE courses in their high school schedules that will now be recognized and qualify for the APS to meet the curriculum rigor
- Remove college entrance exam requirements that are not required for college entry in most schools around the country including Alaska, and are not equitably accessible to all students in our state
- Increase award amounts that help the APS remain competitive
- Extend the APS access for 8 years
- Provide students in their junior year with information about their eligibility and progress to keep them on track their senior year to help them make informed and timely postsecondary decisions before they graduate high school

Please support and pass this needed legislation!

Thank you for your consideration.

Carin

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