
From: Joshua Rockey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 8:31 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 272 Support

Esteemed House Committee,

My name is Joshua Rockey. I am the Principal of Butte Elementary School in Palmer, Alaska as part of the Mat-Su Borough School District. I very much am in support of raising the BSA. We appreciate the "full funding" since 2017, but since it has not increased over this time, the buying power has gone down while expenses have gone up. This has led to cuts of staffing and funds available to support learning in our building and across the district.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Joshua Rockey

From: Michael Cottrell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 10:00 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Please pass this bill to fund the schools.

Thanks,
Mike Cottrell
Box 2010
Psg., AK 99833

From: Lessens_Kelly <Lessens_Kelly@asdk12.org>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 9:57 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Supporting materials for HB 272 and 273

Good morning, members of the House Finance Committee.

Thank you for taking public testimony on these two important bills. I referenced a couple of documents in my testimony this morning and wanted to send them to you.

First, I'd like to draw your attention to two documents recently prepared for the Anchorage School Board's Finance Committee, showing 1) comparisons of the impact that HBs 272, 273 and 259 make on ASD's finances and 2) relaying that all three all needed to meet ASD's needs.

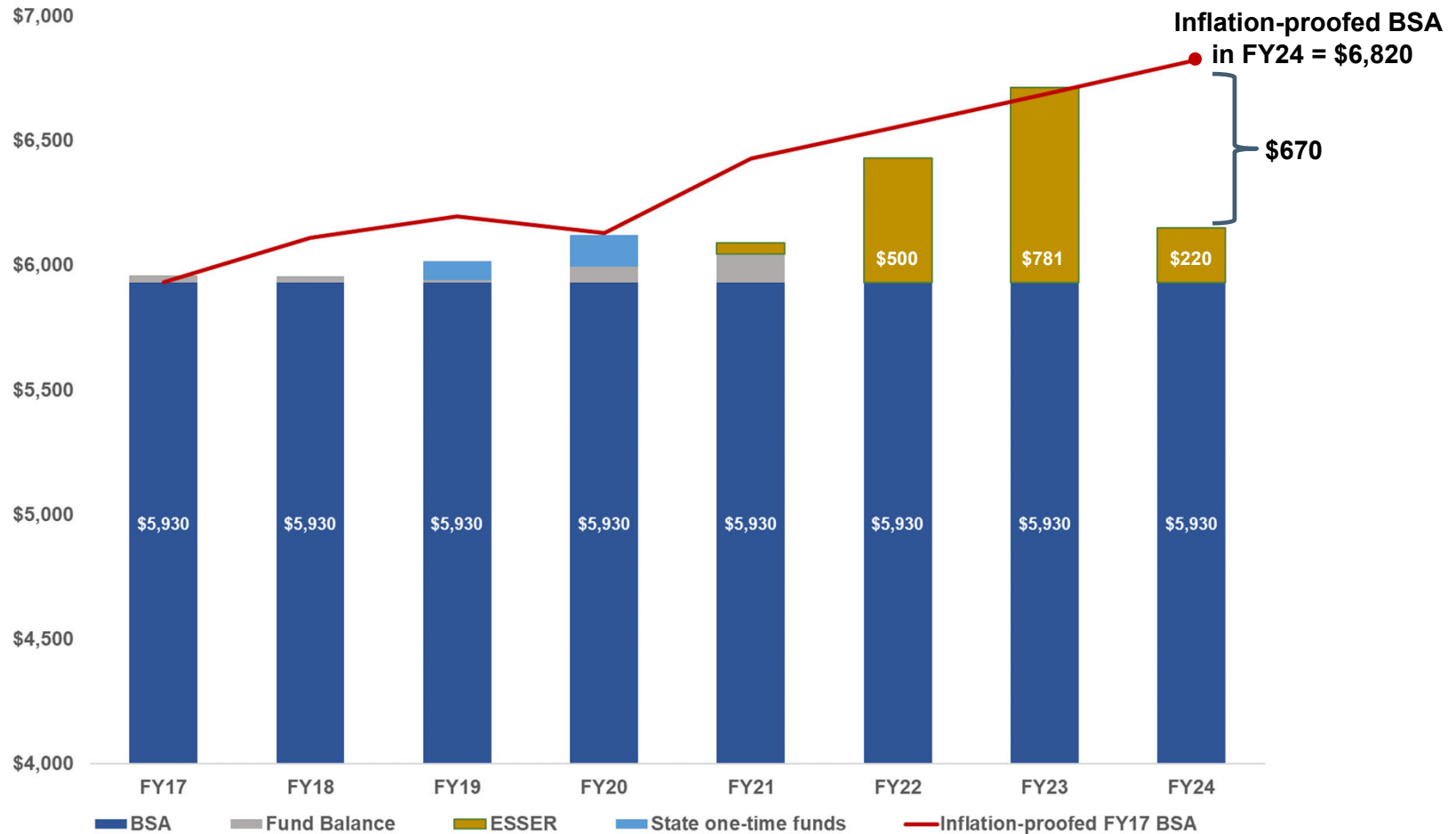
1. [Chart](#) from Anch Sch Bd Finance meeting 2/23/22
2. [Infographic](#) from Anch Sch Bd Finance meeting 3/23/22

Second, please look at Appendix G in our [FY 23 budget](#) (pg 481) to see ASD's plans for teacher staffing in the 22-23 year. These are shaped by enrollment as well as by funding metrics. Anchorage representatives may be especially interested in how staffing losses will play out in their constituents' schools.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Kelly Lessens
Anchorage School Board

ASD School Funding since 2017



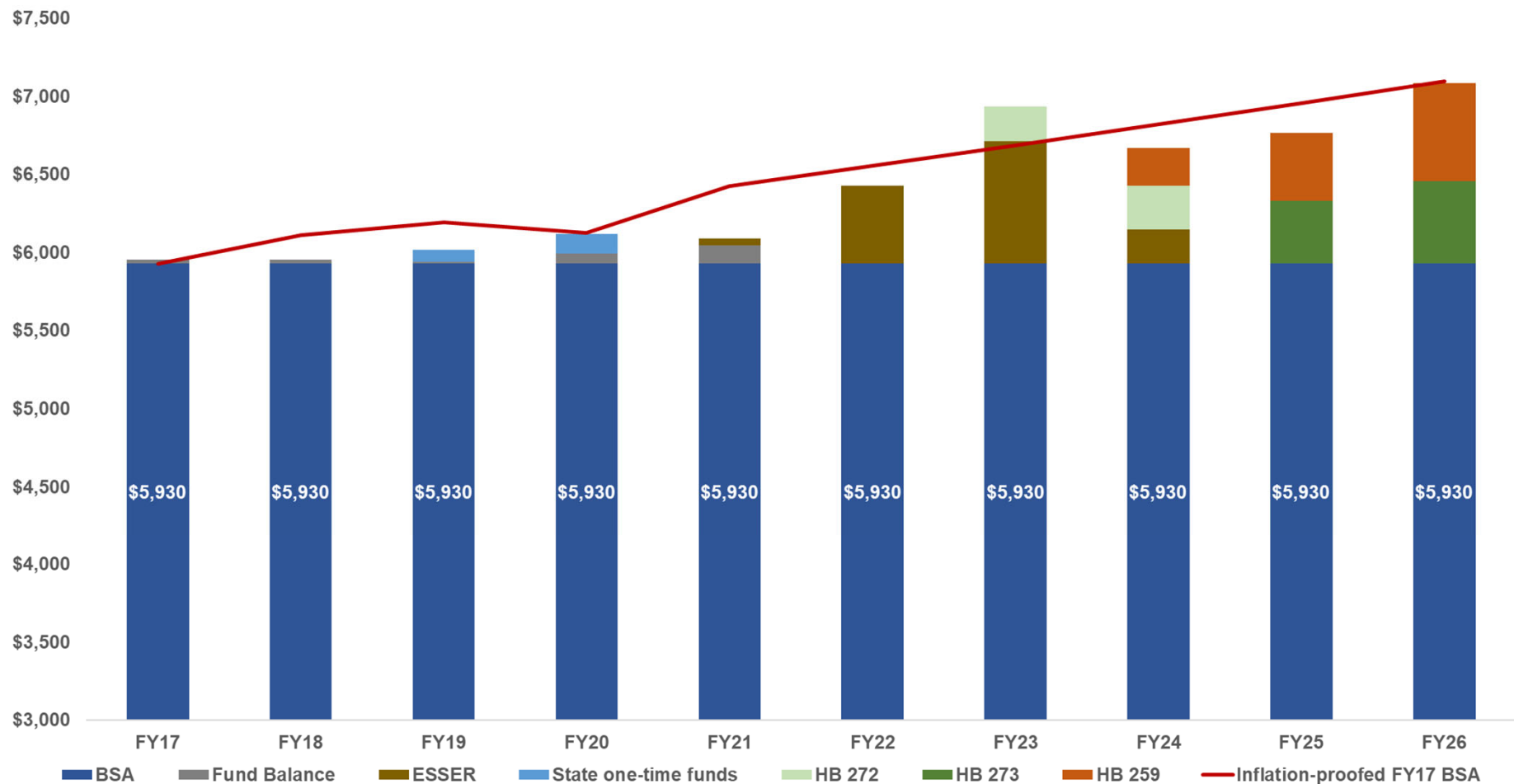
- All types of revenue on this slide have been converted to BSA-equivalent dollars
- FYs 22-26 are using 2% CPI as a historical average, though FY22 will likely be much higher



2/23/2022 ASD Finance Committee Meeting

Comparison of HBs 272/273 with HB 259 (\$ in millions)						
Prepared by OMB 2/23/22						
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Current Law State	\$ 314.09	\$ 307.74	\$ 306.60	\$ 305.45	\$ 304.30	\$ 303.12
Current Law Local	\$ 212.40	\$ 212.30	\$ 213.50	\$ 214.60	\$ 215.77	\$ 216.94
Current Law Total	\$ 526.49	\$ 520.04	\$ 520.10	\$ 520.05	\$ 520.07	\$ 520.06
HB 272/273 State	\$ 330.91	\$ 328.18	\$ 335.99	\$ 343.97	\$ 352.12	\$ 360.45
HB 272/273 Local	\$ 212.39	\$ 215.16	\$ 217.95	\$ 220.79	\$ 223.66	\$ 226.56
HB 272/273 Total	\$ 543.30	\$ 543.33	\$ 553.94	\$ 564.76	\$ 575.78	\$ 587.01
HB 259 State	\$ 314.09	\$ 336.49	\$ 349.16	\$ 362.03	\$ 377.40	\$ 377.97
HB 259 Local	\$ 212.40	\$ 215.16	\$ 217.95	\$ 220.79	\$ 223.66	\$ 226.56
HB 259 Total	\$ 526.49	\$ 551.65	\$ 567.11	\$ 582.82	\$ 601.06	\$ 604.53
HB 272/273 vs. Current Law	\$ 16.81	\$ 23.29	\$ 33.84	\$ 44.71	\$ 55.71	\$ 66.95
HB 272/273 vs. HB 259	\$ 16.81	\$ (8.31)	\$ (13.17)	\$ (18.06)	\$ (25.28)	\$ (17.52)
HB 259 vs. Current Law	\$ -	\$ 31.61	\$ 47.01	\$ 62.77	\$ 80.99	\$ 84.47
Notes:						
o HB 272 makes set changes to BSA in FY23 and FY24						
o HB 273 adds inflationary factor estimated at 2% over time						
o Local taxes displayed in chart may be limited by MOA tax cap						
o Hold harmless funding goes away in FY24, which will offset increases in any of these bills for that year						
o HB259 projections based on ASD retaining 26.2% of statewide school district revenue						

ASD School Funding 2017 - 2026



- All types of revenue on this slide have been converted to BSA-equivalent dollars
- FYs 22-26 are using 2% CPI as a historical average, though FY22 will likely be much higher



From: justsosarah [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 12:06 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support of HB272 and HB273

To Whom it May Concern;

I write in support of HB 272 which provides a long-overdue adjustment to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). The BSA has not increased since 2017. Despite the much appreciated COVID money during the pandemic, support for the education of our children continues to wane. Flat state funding, raising inflation, and increased fixed costs are putting tangible pressure on our school districts. This means educators and administrators have less ability to give to our kids the quality education you are constitutionally obliged to provide.

It is a travesty that in the United States of America, in the fine state of Alaska, schools are underfunded. Successful nations worldwide have recognized that education is the key to equity. Providing all Alaskan children with the same opportunities from Pre-K through Grade 12 is the best way to combat lifelong inequities.

Even if you don't have children of your own, or your children are now grown, I would hope we can agree that investing in kids is an important strategy for economic success, not to mention for a fair and just society. Education should be our top priority. The school system supports families, who in turn support local economies. Strong schools attract and retain quality teachers, and that makes Alaskan communities resilient. I am sure I don't need to tell you that costs of, well, just about everything have skyrocketed. Alaska is an expensive place to live and getting worse.

Please, support the people that do so much for us.

Thank you for your service.
Sincerely,

Sarah Joan Lawrie

[REDACTED]

From: Laurie Hueffer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 3:13 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 272

I am writing in support of HB 272 which addresses the need for an increase to the SBA to reflect increased expenses school districts are facing. I also am writing strongly in support of this to remain a multi-year effort allowing school district funding to reach a more appropriate level as well as the ability to plan ahead.

As a teacher, in recent years I have experienced the detrimental impacts of inadequate and uncertain funding. To maintain a positive environment for our students and staff, please pass HB 272 and continue to support upcoming legislation that supports students, teacher retention, and strong schools in Alaska.

Thank you for your service.
Laurie Hueffer

--

Laurie Hueffer
[REDACTED]

In Support of HB 272 & HB 273

Co-Chair Merrick and members of the committee:

My name is Bill Hill, Superintendent of Schools for the Bristol Bay Borough School District, the very same district I graduated from in 1987. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 272 & HB 273, two very important bills for Alaska's children.

BBBSD has worked diligently during my tenure to ensure that our students receive the best possible education with the funding we receive, some of the efforts have been:

- Reduced certified staffing by combining elementary classes.
- Reduced classified staffing
- Reduced District Office staffing by 50%
- Outsourced some district office functions to other entities.
- Increased the efficiency of our schools and decreased our O&M budget by more than 20%.
- Worked with our Assembly to secure the maximum level of funding they can provide BBBSD.
- Developed a working relationship with our Public Works department to help our maintenance director meet school district needs.
- We have secured both State and Federal grants to support our Pre-K programming.
- Most of our high school students now have one or more distance delivery courses.
- Partnered with our local Clinic to provide SEL services.
- We have developed relationships with regional school districts (SWRSD, LPSD, DCSD), our regional native corporation BBNC and our regional Economic Development Corporation BBEDC, the University and AVTEC to provide CTE education to our students.

We have done a great job maximizing our efficiencies and securing additional funding to provide the best possible education that we can here at BBBSD. However, we are at a point where we have run out of options.

We need:

- Stable, predictable funding so that we can operate BBBSD in a predictable, businesslike manner.
- Funding that recognizes the increasing costs that districts face on an annual basis.
- Funding that allows districts to recruit and retain teachers. High teacher turnover rates have a direct, negative impact on student performance. We are seeing fewer mid-career teachers as new hires often leave by the 5th year of their employment. Recruiting new staff is becoming a crisis for Alaska's

schools; we have always looked out of state for teachers but are now looking out of country.

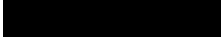
- Salaries that allows our teachers to take care of their own families. New teachers at BBBSD in 2021 immediately qualified for Emergency Rental Assistance. Our teachers deserve better.
- Forward funding to allow schools to properly plan for upcoming school years, this is directly related to sound financial management as well as providing our staff with stable jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 272 & HB 273, they are steps toward meeting our obligation to Alaska's students. I hope you will be supporting them as well.

Chin'an,



Bill Hill
Superintendent
bhill@bbbsd.net



April 1, 2022

House Finance Committee

Good morning,

My name is Kevin Shove, I am a first term school board member for the Haines Borough school district. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on the proposed bills HB272 and HB273 concerning our children and their education. I had the opportunity to testify by phone to the House education committee earlier in the year on these bills. I would have rather testified in person or by phone as I believe that has more of an impact when you feel the words as opposed to reading them. I am store manager for Howsers IGA in Haines, a supermarket, and in the current job climate just cannot find the time to make it to Juneau or call in for that matter with the shortage of workers. Hopefully this will change but does show the current economic climate our country is in. The result of all of the recent decisions/policies of the federal government, pandemic and other factors is the astounding high inflation. As you know the cost has gone up on EVERYTHING.

We, Howsers IGA, have been receiving 1000-1200 price increase per week since October and were informed this week by our wholesaler pricing dept. that it is going to get worse. Milk is now \$10 a gallon for whole milk in Haines, the price is still below our industry standard for that product. The fuel surcharge went from 15% to 23% this month. I have been in the grocery business since 1982 and have never seen price increases across the board like now with no end in sight. The skyrocketing cost of maintenance alone can alter the budget.

These two bills would be a great first step, in my opinion, to bring the BSA up near the current level of inflation and then to "inflation proof" it and solidify our commitment to our children's education and future. Also showing perspective and future teachers that Alaska is a good place to work and committed to their children's education. Predictable and stable funding is crucial for planning and setting short/long term goals as you know from your work in the legislature. The BSA has not been raised since 2017 and currently severely underfunded with the current inflation rates

We must fund at least the minimum amount to ensure our children's education, they are our future and we must invest in the future. Thank you for your time and consideration, I do look forward to getting to Juneau and meeting and speaking with you someday!

Thank you again,

Kevin Shove

School board member

Haines Borough school district

From: Nate Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2022 8:22 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Pass House Bill 272

I urge you to pass House Bill 272. Alaskan schools are struggling to provide quality instruction in the face of rising material costs and a teacher retention crisis. BSA hasn't been adjusted in FIVE Years. The time to act for our students is now. Pass House Bill 272!

Sincerely,
Nate Johnson

From: Lila Lee Little [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2022 8:21 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Pass House Bill 272

I urge you to pass House Bill 272. Alaskan schools are struggling to provide quality instruction in the face of rising material costs and a teacher retention crisis. BSA hasn't been adjusted in FIVE Years. The time to act for our students is now. Pass House Bill 272!

Sincerely,
Lila Johnson
--
Lila Lee Little

From: Emily Vockeroth <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 9:54 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 272

Hello,

I am writing in support of HB 272 to increase the base student allocation. State support of education is not meeting the current needs of school districts or students and painful cuts are being made year after year. Our students deserve opportunities to have small classes, librarians, orchestra/band, etc. Our teachers are being stretched thin and asked to do more and more while aids and special assistant positions are cut.

Please help return education funding to it's rightful place as an essential building block for our state.

Thank you,

Emily Vockeroth
[REDACTED]

From: Kayla Livingston <Kayla.Livingston@k21schools.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 12:44 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 272

I am the principal of Ketchikan Charter School in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District. Financing is always a hot topic within schools. I believe that HB 272 would benefit all schools in the state of Alaska, but for my school, it would be used to help build a budget to handle the growing needs of my students. My school enrollment continues to grow and with that growth, I had to lease another facility to meet our needs. Leasing another building caused the need for another administrator position, which took up the funds for a school counselor. If the BSA went up I may be able to hire a counselor to help meet the social-emotional needs of students.

Please consider passing HB 272,

Kayla Livingston
Ketchikan Charter School
Principal
[REDACTED]

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a teacher."
The Coach Approach to School Leadership

This message is intended solely to use the individual and entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable state and federal laws. If you are not the addressee or are not authorized to receive for the intended addressee, you are hereby notified that you may not use, copy, distribute, or disclose to anyone this message or the information contained herein. If you have received this message in error, immediately advise the sender by reply email and destroy this message.

From: LoAna Benton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2022 7:30 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB272 and HB273

As a teacher in Southwest Region School District, I very much appreciates the House Finance Committee's work on school funding this session, in particular on HB272 and HB273, to address the critical financial shortfalls being experienced in Alaskan schools today, due to the effects of flat funding exacerbated by economic stresses not seen in our state in a generation.

The trend of rising fixed costs for our schools has been impacting our schools for a decade now, and in the past two years this trend has risen to near catastrophic levels. Rapidly rising costs for fuel, utilities, food for lunch programs, shipping of educational materials and supply chain driven cost increases across all departments are making it nearly impossible for districts' to address students' basic needs. This trend is affecting districts' ability to:

- adequately compensate staff (causing difficulty in hiring and retention, which both have an impact on learning)
- fund critical educational initiatives (including recovery of lost instructional time due to the pandemic)
- adequately address a host of student needs (not the least of which are mental health issues driven by the isolation of the pandemic).
- adequately maintain facilities at a reasonable level.

Many students at my school have expressed that they feel discouraged and depressed. The financial crisis impacts them every day, when we don't have adequate staff to meet all the student needs, and the school building has areas which aren't not maintained, and equipment that is used daily isn't replaced because of budget cuts.

This financial crisis also increases the gap between the schools on and off the road system, since the cost of transportation to the schools off the road system is so much more. Our students in rural Alaska deserve equitable educational opportunities to those on the road system, but much of our funding is having to be spent on the high cost of fuel and transporting supplies and materials, causing deficits in other areas.

The increases addressed in Amendments #3 by Rep. Johnson and Amendment #5 by Rep. Josephson to HB272 are steps in a very positive direction. These increases, though appearing dramatic, only address half of the deficit caused in just the last year by increases in fuel and other fixed costs driven by it.

I encourage you to pass Amendments #3 and #5 before moving this bill to the rest of the House.

Thank you for your work in these challenging times.

LoAna Benton
Lead Learner
Twin Hills School
[Email: lbenton@swrsd.org](mailto:lbenton@swrsd.org)
Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Run with the Pack!

From: Jon Clouse [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 10:15 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB272 and HB273

To Whom it May Concern,

It is critically important to address the historic inflation increase which has effected school budgets in rural Alaska tremendously. The inflation costs drive up the “behind the scenes” costs that are necessary to ensure that learning occurs. Costs related to heating school, food costs, shipping/freight, electricity, etc. are not usually discussion items in the public eye. However, the costs associated with these non-instruction related necessities takes away from the instructional-side of the budget.

The increases addressed in Amendments #3 by Rep. Johnson and Amendment #5 by Rep. Josephson to HB272 are steps in a very positive direction. These increases, though appearing dramatic, only address half of the deficit caused in just the last year by increases in fuel and other fixed costs driven by it.

We encourage you to pass Amendments #3 and #5 before moving this bill to the rest of the House.

Thank you for your work to increase school funding this session.

--

Jon Clouse
Federal Program Director
Southwest Region School District
[REDACTED]

From: justsosarah [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 12:06 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support of HB272 and HB273

To Whom it May Concern;

I write in support of HB 272 which provides a long-overdue adjustment to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). The BSA has not increased since 2017. Despite the much appreciated COVID money during the pandemic, support for the education of our children continues to wane. Flat state funding, raising inflation, and increased fixed costs are putting tangible pressure on our school districts. This means educators and administrators have less ability to give to our kids the quality education you are constitutionally obliged to provide.

It is a travesty that in the United States of America, in the fine state of Alaska, schools are underfunded. Successful nations worldwide have recognized that education is the key to equity. Providing all Alaskan children with the same opportunities from Pre-K through Grade 12 is the best way to combat lifelong inequities.

Even if you don't have children of your own, or your children are now grown, I would hope we can agree that investing in kids is an important strategy for economic success, not to mention for a fair and just society. Education should be our top priority. The school system supports families, who in turn support local economies. Strong schools attract and retain quality teachers, and that makes Alaskan communities resilient. I am sure I don't need to tell you that costs of, well, just about everything have skyrocketed. Alaska is an expensive place to live and getting worse.

Please, support the people that do so much for us.

Thank you for your service.
Sincerely,

Sarah Joan Lawrie

[REDACTED]



April 1, 2022

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Frank Hauser, and I'm the Superintendent of the Sitka School District. I am providing written testimony today in support of HB 272 and HB 273, Increase Base Student Allocation and Increase Base Student Allocation Inflation.

The Sitka School District is facing a budget deficit of \$1,874,069 for FY23, which represents almost 10% of our total general fund budget.

“Flat funding” sounds benign, but every year of flat funding, since 2017, has represented a loss to districts because it does not provide for inflation and for increased yearly costs, such as utilities, student transportation, and insurance. In FY23, health insurance rates are increasing in my district by 9.5%, or \$313,966. The increase to health insurance rates in one year alone represents the cost of over three teachers. Multiple years of flat funding and increased costs have continued to erode Alaska’s ability to keep educators in classrooms.

We have been forced to make significant cuts to teachers, administrators, support staff, and programs due to flat funding of the BSA since 2017. In my district, we no longer have a dedicated librarian at either our K-1 or middle schools. Alaskan students today do not have the benefits of the same programs, resources, and staff that I did, when I attended public school in Alaska.

We are not able to “cut ourselves out” of this deficit without having significant negative impacts on our pupil teacher ratio (PTR), programs, and educational system as a whole. HB 272 or HB 273 would not close our existing \$1,874,069 deficit in Sitka, but any increase to the BSA would help save teaching positions and valuable programs in my district. It would also support our ability to retain and attract the high-quality educators and educational professionals the students of Alaska deserve. Reliable funding brings stability. The stakes have never been higher, and the needs, never so great.

In my 24 years as an educator in Alaska’s public schools, my students have included Alaska’s welders, engineers, construction workers, Ivy League graduates, doctors and health care professionals, computer scientists, culinary workers, and even the first Miss America from Alaska. Money invested in Alaska’s schools and students is money well invested in the future of Alaska.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today and for your continued commitment to public education in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Frank Hauser



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kiana · Kivalina · Kobuk · Kotzebue · Noatak · Noorvik · Selawik · Shungnak
PO Box 51 · Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 · Phone (907) 442-1800

April 3, 2022

RE: 2022 04 03 HB 272/273 Testimony

Co-Chair Representative Neal Foster
Co-Chair Representative Jennifer Johnston
Members of the House Finance Committee

My name is Terri Walker. I am currently the Superintendent of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District. I have worked for the district for 32 years, serving the people of this region. I appreciate your time to read this written testimony on HB 272 and HB 273, two bills our Board of Education and School District strongly support.

Our district serves 13 schools in 11 communities. There are no roads in or out of our communities, so everything must be flown in during winter. We make every effort to barge fuel and oversized items during the summer. Unfortunately, for some villages, the river water may never get high enough for a barge to make it, so fuel and other large items must then be flown in, which increases our costs tremendously.

At its core, HB 272 and HB 273 increases, and Inflation proofs the Base Student Allocation. Although the bills are simple, their effects are profound and long overdue.

The state's current budget process does not account for Inflation, nor has the Based Student Allocation (BSA) been increased since 2017. Unfortunately, Inflation is what our schools face today. The result is and continues to be budget cuts. Here are some examples of the fixed cost increases we have seen in our district:

- From FY 21 to FY 22, year-to-date, there has been a 16% increase in our heating fuel expenses. This increase is after bidding to buy our fuel in bulk.
- From FY2019 to 2021, increased freight cost to villages by \$.10 for freight over 10 pounds, which equals about a 10% increase. Freight minimums have also increased by \$5, about a 20% increase.
- From FY18 to FY 21, Food services costs have increased by 12.27%, and we will see another increase based on CPI (consumer price index) in FY 23. As a title one school district, we qualify for 100% free meals for all students. However, USDA reimburses only 40% of what it costs to feed our children. Because of the ongoing, increased cost of food and shipping, our district supplements over 1 million dollars each year. We are thankful for the cares act and ARPA funds that we have been able to cover these costs thru 2024. But these are one-time funds that are going away.

MISSION: To provide a learning environment that inspires and challenges students and employees to excel
VISION: To graduate all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for a successful future

- From FY17 to FY20, negotiated increases with staff are 4.5%, and the district is currently bargaining with staff for increases over the next three years.

- From FY17 to FY21, NWABSD Health insurance costs per employee increased by roughly 20% and are expected to increase another 3% from FY21 to FY22.

Inflation and flat funding have diminished student opportunities across our great state. They are slowly hollowing out public education and opportunities for our students.

Below are some cuts we have had to make:

- we have cut prek
- we have cut career & technical education programs in all our villages
- We have reduced our counselors by half
- we have cut all elementary and middle school student activities and greatly reduced funding for high school activities.
- We have cut administration teaching and support staff positions.

It is hard to balance the budget and decide what programs are next to go. Already, our students do not have music teachers, art teachers, PE teachers, CTE teachers, fulltime counselors or other special teachers who relieve our classroom teachers during the day to allow for collaboration and planning.

It is time to address education funding and inflation proofing the BSA. If we do not, we are hurting Alaska's students and our states' future leaders by not fully funding public education or accounting for Inflation in the state's education budget.

Thank you for considering HB 272/273 for an increase and inflation-proof to the BSA.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



Terri Walker
Superintendent, NWABSD
(907) 442-1802
twalker@nwarctic.org

From: Rebecca Sirevaag <rebecca.sirevaag@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 12:49 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Base Student Allocation

Dear House Finance Team-

You will notice I'm a teacher, so of course, this is a big deal to me; however, as a PARENT this is absolutely imperative. I have two high school students who have had so much chaos in their school because there is never enough money to fund the programs my children want. My youngest is on the autism spectrum and she thrives on routine and expectations- when specific art, band or English class electives are defunded it strongly influences her desire to attend school. We struggle enough to get her there every day without having the classes she needs to thrive disappear.

Please pass this bill. Please give my children and my students at North Pole High School stability in the midst of all the chaos right now.

Thank you-

--

Rebecca Sirevaag (Sounds like: 'Sir-uh-vog')

Pronouns: she / her / hers

English & Art Teacher

North Pole High School

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District



Rebecca.sirevaag@k12northstar.org

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment." Ralph Waldo Emerson

From: Jenna Hamm <jennahamm@dbsd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 12:25 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for HB 272 and Amendment #1

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

My name is Jenna Hamm and I am a school board member from the Denali Borough School District. I am writing in support of HB 272 and its Amendment #1, relating to correspondence programs.

Amendment #1 addresses an element of public education that has only grown in significance for Alaskan families during the pandemic. Correspondence programs provide an avenue for families to support student learning at home. By removing the deduction from the BSA for correspondence students, this amendment elevates the value of at-home learning, more equitably allocating the state's resources for all of Alaska's students.

I hope you will support Amendment #1 to HB 272, and the overall language and intent of HB 272, and advance this bill out of committee for it provides much-needed support for public education.

Thank you,
Jenna Hamm

--

Jenna Hamm
she/her
School Board Member
Denali Borough School District, Seat B

www.dbsd.org

From: Jamie Burgess <jburgess@nomeschools.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 12:01 PM
To: House Finance; Rep. Neal Foster
Subject: HB272 - Amendments

Greetings Members of the House Finance Committee -

As Superintendent for Nome Public Schools, I am writing to you to urge you to not support any amendments which would remove or reduce the proposed increase to the BSA for FY24 in House Bill 272.

The BSA has not received any increase since FY17, forcing districts across the state to continually find ways to deal with continued increases in fixed costs such as energy costs, rising healthcare costs, classroom supplies, as well as our obligations to our staff to provide them with the increases in their salaries outlined in their negotiated agreements. Over time, this has resulted in a gradual erosion in supply budgets, neglect of facilities, cuts in support positions, and eventually cuts in classroom positions. The outcomes of these sustained small cuts have been revealed and exacerbated by the recent COVID pandemic combined with the dramatic increases in inflation, supply chain issues and inability to fill vacant positions, and are now seen in desperate attempts by teachers, principals and superintendents to bind up the wounds to our schools, our students, our staff and the education profession as a whole. These cuts over time have directly impacted our abilities to meet our students' needs in areas such as mental health, a full and rich curriculum with diverse and rigorous college preparatory coursework, preparation for work in trades and entry into the workforce, full grounding in their cultural identity and connections to their place and heritage, as well as confidence and hope in their own future.

Nome Public Schools is grappling with several recent and unanticipated increases in expenditures for the coming school year, including a possible increase in our fuel purchase of anywhere between \$250,000 and \$375,000 due to a dramatic increase in the cost of fuel oil. We purchase all of our heating fuel at once since it comes in on the barge at the end of the summer along with the City of Nome's purchase, so we can't wait to take advantage of possible drops in the price of fuel later in the year. In addition, we have sent our health insurance out to bid, since our current provider has stated we are looking at an increase in premiums of 20-25% for the coming year. Our district pays 85% of the health insurance premiums for our employees, so such a large increase is painful for employer and employee alike.

The projected increase to our revenues that we would receive should HB272 pass would allow us to cover the increased cost of our fuel purchase, but we will still need to make additional cuts to our budget to adjust for any other expenditure increases.

We are grateful that the legislature has heard our requests for assistance and is now considering legislation to increase the BSA for the first time in many years. Please continue showing your support for public education and the children of Alaska by rejecting any amendments to decrease or cut the proposed BSA for FY23 or FY24 in House Bill 272.

Thank you for your time.

--

Thanks.

Jamie S. Burgess
Superintendent, Nome Public Schools



From: Keri Gray <grayk@sitkaschools.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 11:00 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: In support of HB 272

Hello Mr. Chairman,

My name is Keri Gray and I teach mathematics at Sitka High School in Sitka Alaska. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

I am writing in support of HB 272, increasing the SBA.

An increase to the student base allocation would mean keeping qualified teachers at my school and keep our student to teacher ratio at a manageable level.

In Sitka, we are already facing a crisis when it comes to finding qualified applicants for our open positions. Last year we filled open elementary teaching positions with long term subs, this is not a good option for our children and frankly not acceptable. Our children deserve better from us.

Forward funding allows our district to plan for the upcoming school years. It helps with negotiations and issuing contracts. It keeps qualified teachers in our classrooms.

Research shows that high teacher turnover has a direct negative impact on student performance, including graduation rates and standardized assessments, two ways that school districts in Alaska are measured.

Please consider voting for HS 272, your vote would provide stability to thousands of children across Alaska.

Thank you for your time,

Keri Gray
Sitka High School
Math Teacher
9 [REDACTED]

From: Dan Polta <danpolta@dbbsd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 10:33 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: In Support of HB 272, Amendment #1 and HB 273
Attachments: Dan Polta Testimony - Supporting HB 272. HB 273 and Amendment #1.pdf

5 April 2022


Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Dan Polta. I am the superintendent of the Denali Borough School District. I'm writing in support Amendment #1 to HB 272 and the overall bills HB272 and HB 273

Amendment #1 addresses an important pillar of public education in the State of Alaska. As we learned during the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic, our ability to support student learning at home is critical to ensuring positive student outcomes. Amendment #1, removing the deduction from the BSA for these students will more equitably allocate the educational resources of Alaska for all Alaskans.

Amendment #1 and HB 272 and HB273 are significant steps to provide districts the resources needed in order to improve educational outcomes for our learners. I encourage you to support these measures and advance these bills out of Committee.

Thank you

Dan Polta
Superintendent
Denali Borough School District
P.O. Box 280
Healy, AK, 99743

danpolta@dbbsd.org

Working together to nurture, empower, and inspire today's student to positively shape tomorrow's world

From: Jen Gunderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 1:00 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Increase Base Student Allocation

I'm writing to ask you to support increasing the base student allocation. To not increase it is to ignore your constitutional duty to provide state-funded education. Too many years have gone by without any support from our state and it is damaging our kids' education and really making a lot of families reconsider why we live here. Please invest in Alaska's future and adequately fund our schools.

Thank you,
Jen Gunderson
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: Toni Mallott [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 11:21 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB272

Good morning, committee members. My name is Toni Mallott and I'm a retired teacher of 20+ years. I currently reside in Juneau.

I fully support HB272, to increase base student allocation. Like many fellow Alaskans, I'm concerned about the increased costs of operation to school districts and the implementation and delivery of curriculum.

All students deserve the best opportunities for success and productive lives. They are our future leaders and contributors to making Alaska a place of respect towards all peoples and caring for the beauty of our State.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Toni Mallott

Sent from my iPhone

From: Eric and Tricia Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 11:13 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support of HBs 273 and 273

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express support for house bills 272 and 273. Our school districts are struggling! Please, put our priorities where they need to be- on the children of this great state. Please increase funding for education. I am a parent and strongly encourage our representatives to support our schools.


Sincerely,
Patricia Miller

[REDACTED]

From: Jeni Mason <jenimason@dbsd.org>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 11:03 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Written testimony for HB 272 and HB 273
Attachments: HB272 and HB 273 testimony.pdf

Good morning Members of the House of Representatives,
Please accept my written testimony for HB 272 and HB 273 passage. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my support.

Sincerely,

Jeni Mason
Regional Principal and Special Education Director

Denali Borough School District
PO Box 280, Healy, AK. 99743

jenimason@dbsd.org

Working together to nurture, empower, and inspire today's student to positively shape tomorrow's world.

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From: Megan Williams <mlwilliams@nwarctic.org>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 10:11 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: M.Williams testimony

Good morning,

Please consider passing HB272 or HB273 to increase the Base Student Allocation.

The Northwest Arctic Borough School District serves just over 1800 students in a region that spans 39,000 miles. Over the past few years, FY19 through FY21, NWABSD has had to make very large cuts to our budget. We have had to make reductions to our CTE Program, Pre-K program, Food Service Program, Student Activities Program, and our Counselor Program just this last fiscal year. All of these services are needed, and I urge you to consider the impact of reducing the availability of these programs in a low-income rural community. It has been a hard couple of years for our district and education in our region due to the pandemic, and cutting budgets and programs on top of this has had a severe impact on our District.

Again, please consider passing HB272 or HB273 to provide some stability to our district's funding, which will help us focus more on our student's needs.

Sincerely,

Megan Williams

Director of Administrative Services

Northwest Arctic Borough School District

P.O. Box 51

Kotzebue, AK 99752

(907) 442-1819 (phone)

(907) 442-3827 (fax)

*"It's your **attitude**, not your aptitude that will **determine** your **altitude**." – Zig Ziglar*



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 10:02 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for HB 272 and 273

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today.

My name is Sam Jordan and I live in Palmer. I am writing to express support for House Bill's 272 and 273. Stable, predictable funding is necessary to ensure districts can have adequate funding to create welcoming school environments and attract and retain high-quality educators. While recruitment challenges have traditionally been a rural issue, recruiting quality educators is now significantly affecting every district in the state and compromising the promise of long term, invested educators building careers in our Alaska K12 system and having that impact that seasoned educators can have on generations of students. Schools need the ability to invite educators to world class school buildings, and support the infrastructure that allows them to create world class instructional experiences for students.

HB 272 sets the base student allocation to \$6,153 in FY22 and \$6,208 in FY23, right sizing the current investment in public education. Then HB 273 sets the base student allocation by a percentage tied to the inflation indicated by the Consumer Price Index in urban Alaska, ensuring that we build in a mechanism that keeps a realistic pace with changes in the economy. These are solid decisions, with long term positive impacts on not only the classroom, but on our communities and our broader economy.

Please join me in supporting these two very solid and sensible investments in our state.

Thank you.

-Sam Jordan

From: Rich Carlson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 10:00 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 272 and HB 272

Members of House Finance: For the record my name is Rich Carlson and I am the Interim Superintendent at the North Slope Borough School District. I am writing in support of HB 272, increasing the Base Student Allocation, and HB 273 linking the percentage of the BSA to the Consumer Price Index in urban Alaska. The BSA has not been increased since 2017. Since that time inflation has been at a moderate 1% to 2%. Even with mild inflation, some districts were forced to cut back on supplies, programs and in some cases reduce staff. Now with inflation at nearly 8% and higher in rural Alaska, many district's are looking at significant reductions. The NSBSD is considering at the cutting positions, deferring maintenance, reducing staff development and travel and other cost cutting measures just to adjust to increased costs. While flat funding in the past was a struggle, it is now becoming a crisis. Increasing the BSA is essential to keep quality education a priority of the State of Alaska.

Thank you all for what you do for our state.

From: Nicole Stellon O'Donnell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 9:46 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: testimony for the record on HB272 and 273

Dear Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing today to support an increase to the base student allocation. Please increase the allocation and inflation proof it by supporting HB 272 and HB 273.

I am a parent in Fairbanks of two students at West Valley High School. Over the years they have been in school, I have watched programs be cut (music, art, foreign language, honors classes). I have watched their class sizes increase. I have watched excellent teachers pack up and leave for states that fund education adequately.

Increasing the BSA would help stabilize what our schools offer.

I have read that some legislators are hesitant to support increasing the BSA because Alaska's standardized test scores are low. I can answer this concern as a parent who has watched two children go through our schools. Scores have dropped because our state has not adequately funded education for my children's entire time in Alaskan schools. Because we have not kept our BSA up to pace, our schools have been trapped in a cycle of cut after cut. Programs that increase student achievement and make students feel connected have been decimated. You have the chance to begin the repair the damage by supporting a BSA increase this year. Please do so.

Thank you for our service to our state.

With respect,

Nicole Stellon O'Donnell
[REDACTED]

From: Norm Wooten <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 9:23 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Testimony for HB 272 & HB 273
Attachments: HB_273_HSE_FIN_4_1_2022.docx

Thanks for opportunity to testify today.

Norm Wooten, Director of Advocacy, AASB

From: Lili Misel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 9:16 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support increase to BSA

Good morning Committee members,
Please support the increase to the Base Student Allocation. Please invest in the future workers and leaders of Alaska.
The cuts and reductions over the past 5 years are detrimental.
Thank you for supporting House Bills 272 and 273.

Lili Misel

From: Kim Hays [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 9:11 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 272 and HB 273

Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for taking up two bills related to necessary increases in the Base Student Allocation as well as linking it to inflation for years to come. We are watching inflation increase prices of all of our household goods. Those increased costs affect education as well. There had already been a need to increase the BSA due to years of flat funding education which truly means cuts in real dollars. Now, with costs going up across the board, it is imperative that our BSA increases.

All of my children are public school students and I have been impressed with how they have worked in such a lean environment. But, it doesn't have to be that way. Pink slipping teachers both due to fiscal constraints and timing of the budget does massive harm to our public education system. The fact that my children's classroom teachers must use GoFundMe for basic school supplies is ludicrous. Please pass both of these bills to honor our education professionals, show that we value our students and protect our public education system.

Thank you,

Kim Hays
99502

From: Devin Way <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 9:09 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Please help our state teachers

My husband and I feel very strongly that we may need to leave the state to seek a better future for our family. We are both award winning teachers in this state who have working in rural villages, road system schools, started academic and extracurricular activities in our sites, and thrown our lives into teaching. It is our passion, yet, we may still leave. Our future is at stake.

As an Alaska educator I am deeply concerned about the future of our students, our public schools, and my profession.

We are at a crossroads as a state in terms of how we value our constitutionally guaranteed system of public education. Alaska educators are leaving the profession and the state at unprecedented levels due to flat funding, the lack of a real retirement system, and staffing shortages. Whenever a teacher or education support professional leaves, it's our students who suffer the most.

As my legislator, I am urging you to address the following priorities which would provide immediate relief to thousands of educators and students across Alaska. Ultimately, it comes down to three legislative priorities; access to Pre-K programs, increases to the Base Student Allocation (BSA), and retirement.

Early access to learning is critical to life-long success. I believe all students should have access to high-quality, voluntary Pre-Kindergarten programs to learn basic skills and prepare them for the future. The Alaska State Legislature should immediately pass legislation that prioritizes access to Pre-K programs for the greatest number of young Alaskans.

Secondly, Alaska's public schools have been flat-funded since 2017, while the fixed costs for districts have risen and inflation has risen over 11%. The diminished purchasing power of school districts has led to staffing shortages, program cuts to Career and Technical training programs, the elimination of sports, and increased class sizes. Inflation, rising energy costs, and skyrocketing healthcare costs pull more and more resources away from the classroom every year. An increase in education funding through the BSA would have immediate and positive impacts on the lives of students and educators across the state.

Finally, Alaska educators hired after 2006 continue to suffer under the worst retirement system in the nation. Without a pension, or access to Social Security, up to 70% of Alaska's TRS III and PERS IV employees will outlive their retirement savings. Passage of House Bill 220 would offer relief to Alaska's educator workforce and make Alaska competitive in an extremely tight education labor market.

If the legislature does not act on these three priorities this year, I fear we may experience one of the greatest exoduses of educators in the history of our state. I implore you to put aside partisanship and focus wholly on what's best for Alaska's greatest resource, our students.

Thank you for what you do for our students, Devin

Devin Michel Way M. Ed.

Early Literacy Specialist (Lead)

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Apple Teacher Dway@kpbsd.k12.ak.us



“We are the music makers, we are the dreamers of dreams” ~ Willy Wonka

From: Alisha <alisha@profounding.com>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 8:37 AM
To: House Finance; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. Bart LeBon; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Neal Foster
Subject: HB 272 and HB273 public testimony against

Hello, my name is Alisha Asplund, I live in D8 and wish to testify against HB272 HB273. Please enter my testimony into the public record.

I am against HB 272 and HB273 because if they were binding, they would be dedicating funds for a special purpose. It wastes of limited recourses to pass mere suggestions, it highlights a lack of trust that current legislators have in future legislators ability to accomplish their constitutional responsibilities.

I know that the some legislators have made comment that imply that since the constitution says the legislature is responsible of educating Alaskans, this gives the legislature the power to create bills such as HB 272 and HB273 that dedicate funding to the education of Alaskans, and ignore Article IX Sections 7. I believe that the opposite was made clear in State v. Alex

The defendants claim that the legislature's power to deal with natural resources of the state, contained in article VIII, gives the legislature the power to create a dedicated fund, despite the express prohibition of dedicated funds contained in article IX, section 7. They particularly emphasize the legislature's and the state's powers to provide 211*211 facilities for the development of fisheries under section 5^[7] and the power to promote the development of aquaculture under section 15.^[8]

Despite defendants' contentions to the contrary, section 530 assessments are an exercise of the taxing power, the purpose of which is to raise revenue to construct hatcheries. Nothing contained in article VIII can be construed to grant the legislature the power to ignore other express constitutional limitations on its taxing power just because it is legislating in an area that concerns natural resources, such as fisheries or aquaculture.

This can help us understand that nothing contained in the articles of the constitution dealing with education gives legislators the power to ignore other expressed constitutional limitations. So, education has to compete right alongside all the other critical budget items in the "annual appropriation model" as expressed in Sonneman v. Hickel

The constitutional clause prohibiting dedicated funds seeks to preserve an annual appropriation model which assumes that not only will the legislature remain free to appropriate all funds for any purpose on an annual basis, but that government departments will not be restricted in requesting funds from all sources. As the debates make clear, all departments were to be "in the same position" as competitors for funds with the need to "sell their viewpoint along with everyone else." 4 PACC 2364-67 (Jan. 17, 1956). We conclude therefore that the limitations on the ability of DOTPF to ask for funds from the Marine Highway System Fund expressed in AS 19.65.080(b) amount to a dedication in violation of article IX, section 7.

So even though HB272 and HB273 deal with education and the legislature has the power to deal with education. The legislature cannot create binding stature that dedicate state revenue to a special

purpose, they have to trust that future legislators will be as smart and capable as they are and that future legislators will be able use the constitutional “annual appropriation model” to create a budget that uses the available state money for the public purpose of creating a budget that is solely for the good of the people as a whole, while taking into consideration all the unique challenges that will arise that past legislators will have had no way of knowing about and might make it hard for the future legislators to follow all the nonbinding suggestion that past legislators believed were such great ideas using their assumptions about the future as a guide.

Since legislators do not have a crystal ball to see into the future with, they should spend less time wasting the limited resources and time available make suggestions to futures legislators and spend more time focusing on make the best annual budget they can, with the resources that they have, taking into consideration the unique challenges they are currently facing.

By creating statutes that make these kinds of suggestions, current legators are saying that they do not trust future legislators to act honorable and ethically, do what is best for the people as a whole when making the annual appropriations in the annual budget process, continue to fund critical budget items with the annual money available for appropriations to the level needed to fund the critical services of the state are the level need to create a state that is socially, economically, and politically sound. Current legislators must not believe that future legislators will be able make a budget in which the states limited money is use in the most efficient way to accomplish the best public purpose that is for the good of the people as a whole.

And if current legislators do not trust future legislators with these kinds of decisions than how can Alaskans trust current legislators to make these kinds of decisions?

It seems that current legislators are willing to waste the limited time and resource trying to pass mere suggestion that can be ignored. How many of the following resource does it take to move a bill through both house:

- Office supplies- paper, ink, etc.
- Man hours – office staff, legal staff, janitorial staff, invited testimony, experts etc.
- Power -computers, light, camera, printers, etc.
- Cost of legislature session days- Each day that the legislature would not have had to reaming in session, if time had not been wasted on passing nonbinding suggestions.

Just think all the money wasted on bills that are mere suggestions, that could have been used for service or program that would benefit Alaskans more, than a nonbinding statute that can be ignores will and would be unconstitutional if it were binding.

It is as if legislators are more worried about passing non-binding statutes that they can point to in their next reelection campaign to say they have done something even if they know that something is a meaningless non-binding suggestion. But then again Alaskans rightfully believe that laws/statutes are- rules formally recognized as binding and enforceable, so, they believe the that their legislator has made a meaningful change not just wasted state resources on a mere suggestion.

I am not saying that I am against funding education, because the proper education of Alaskans is critical to the economic, social, and political stability of our state. We may be struggling with accomplishing these lofty goals but this is not because of money but because we seem to have forgotten the purpose of education. It is not the ability to recite facts and other people’s ideas in order to pass an assessment and get a diploma but as this quote from the constitutional convention papers folder 211 page 10 says “If we are to solve the problems of the industrial, scientific, and democratic society every person must learn to think for himself about the fundamental issues of human life and

organized

responsibility for education rests upon the State. The United States has become industrial, scientific and democratic and as far as anyone can foresee, this type of social order will prevail for the next 50 or 100 years. The nation is committed to democracy wherein, as Robert M. Hutchins puts it "Every man is a ruler". If we are to solve the problems of an industrial, scientific and democratic society every person must learn to think for himself about the fundamental issues of human life and organized society. For a democratic society the alternatives are education, or the abandonment of universal suffrage. A democratic State must educate or die. In a democratic State then, education becomes a right as sacred and fundamental as the freedom of speech, freedom of the press and an impartial judiciary. For these

society".

I think this idea is critical so that all Alaskans can help find new solutions not relive old mistakes. I know that there is hope, and that there are great teachers out there doing the best they can. But while more money seems like such an easy answer, the problems in the system will not go away until we can find a way for teacher to facilitate the growth of the love of learning in hearts of their students so that those students will continue to learn and grow even after they have placed all the "correct answers" into their assessments and gotten their diploma.

That being said funding education is still a part of the annual budget process and still must comply with the "annual appropriation model" laid out in the constitution.

I believe that this bill would fall into the mere suggestion category #3 which I cannot support. See bill categories below.

***Information on the categories of bills**

For nearly a year I have been trying to figure out why legislators keep making cryptic and vague comments about these kinds of bills not being binding and stating that these kinds of bills can be ignored, or imply other kinds of bills can evade the effects of rules prescribed in the constitution. But I wish to make it clear that I do not believe it to be the intent of the constitution for legislators to purposely create bills that will mislead the people of Alaska into believing that they are creating a bill that will (insert designated fund description or unconstitutional language) then the legislators insert somewhere else in the bill a direct contradiction (insert constitutionally sound language) so a court could give the legislators the benefit of the doubt and say the legislators and the lawyers who write the bills are so incompetent that they are unable to write a constitutional sound bill that does not contain non-binding, or unconstitutional language that would create an unconstitutional law if it was binding or if it was not directly contradicted somewhere else in the bill.

It all started when I watched the April 29th 2021 House Ways and Means Committee, and during that meeting a legislator made the following statements:

- "It is true that the legislature can ignore statutes. That is constitutionally allowed."
- "Because we ultimately make the laws and therefore, we have the ability to disregard law"

She gave these statements to justify why the bill she wished to pass could and should be ignored.

In the February 4, 2022 House Education meeting the same legislator made comments that explained why the bill she wrote would create a statute that could be ignore- the reason it can be ignored is because it had been purposely written to be a nonbinding suggestion. She also seemed to be saying that there were many examples of these nonbinding suggestions already in statute and that made it ok to make another one.

And then in the March 14 House Finance Committee I learned that bills were being written attempting to create funds, accounts that could hold state revenue so that it was beyond the reach of constitutional limitation. And would not be subject to the constitutions rules that control state revenue and appropriations.

From further information that I collected by watching nearly all committee meetings and floor sessions, during the 2021 legislative season and multiple committee meeting in 2022, and reading bill and court cases, I found what seems to be the following categories for the bills that current legislators feel it is ok to try to pass: (This is a work in progress and may change as I continue to watch and ask questions. I wish to make it very clear that category #1 is the only bill category that I feel legislators can make without violating constitutional intent, undermining the integrity of the legislative branch of government, eroding the rule of law, violating the Ethics Act AS 24.60.010, and/or violate their oath of office.)

- 1) Bills that will result in statutes/laws that current legislators understand to be binding and enforceable and believe to be constitutionally sound.
 - a) By constitutionally sound, I mean legislators and legislative lawyers do not believe the Supreme Court would rule that the binding law would conflict with the constitution.
 - b) A binding law that legislators are not allowed to ignore, but would be allowed to change through the legislative process, for passing a bill into law.
 - c) Does not contain contradicting descriptions and language, easily misunderstood legal language, misleading plain language that can be interpreted differently by the courts, legislators, and the general public.
- 2) Bills that will result in statutes/laws that legislators believe can be ignored, because legislators think the constitution allows it, because they believe the binding law violates the constitution.
 - a) I do not believe the constitution intended legislators to purposely create a statute/law that legislators feel can be ignored because legislators believe it will contradict or violate the constitution or they feel the Supreme Court has allowed them to ignore similar statutes/laws.
 - b) I feel that knowingly creating laws that legislators believe will conflict with the constitution, does not “assure the trust, respect, and confidence of the people of this state”, which is covered in the Ethics Act AS 24.60.010. It is also behavior that does not “preserve the integrity of the legislative process” which is another item mentioned in AS 24.60.010
 - c) I believe that knowingly creating bills that they believe would violate the constitution if they were binding, enforceable laws, is a violation of Article XII Section 5 of the constitution.
- 3) Bills that will result in statutes/laws that legislators purposely create to be non-binding so that they can be ignored.
 - a) I do not believe it is the intent of the constitution for the legislator to purposely make a statute/law that is not intended to be binding or enforceable.
 - b) I do not believe that it is the intent of the constitution for legislators to change the definition of law to a mere suggestion that is non-binding and not enforceable, thus undermine the idea that the definition of law as - a rule formally recognized as binding and enforceable. I believe that by suggesting that a law can be a mere non-binding suggestion, these legislators are undermining the very idea of the “rule of law”
 - c) I feel that purposely creating laws that can be ignored does not assure the trust, respect, and confidence of the people of this state, and is not a representation of the moral and ethical standard mentioned in AS24.60.010 (1)
 - d) It is also behavior that does not preserve the integrity of the legislative process or the integrity of the legislative process, which are also items mentioned in AS 24.60.010 (2)
 - e) I believe creating a “law” which is only a suggestion and a way that current legislators can place political pressure on future legislators to continue to fund these past legislators special interest project, is a not only a disservice to future Alaskans who many have other special interest they wish to fund but also, a disservice to current Alaskans because working on these non-binding suggestions wastes limited time and resources and is often the reason legislators choose to work past the 90-day regular session. This requires state revenue to be used for keeping the legislative session up and running for an additional 30 or more days and then that state revenue cannot be used for critical services or capital project.
- 4) Bills that will result in statutes/laws that current legislators believe they can disregard because they believe in the acceptability of Representative Spohnholz’s statement from the April 29th 2021 House Ways and Means Committee, “Because we ultimately make the laws and therefore, we have the ability to disregard law”
 - a) This seems to imply that legislators believe they are above all laws which I do not believe is the intent of the constitution and is a horrendously bad belief for legislators to have.

- b) I feel that this statement undermines the integrity of the legislative branch of government. How are the people in this state supposed to trust, respect, and have confidence in the branch of government that makes the laws, if that very branch shows no respect for the laws that it makes.
 - c) There is a difference between disregarding a law or going through the legislative process to change a law. The end result may be the same but only one of those ways upholds the integrity of the legislative process.
 - d) After hearing Spohnholz's comments in the February 4, 2022 Education meeting it seems one reason why current unethical and immoral legislators might wrongly believe this statement is true, legislators no longer believe that a law is – A rule formally recognized as binding and enforced by controlling authorities, but instead current legislators and the lawyers who advise them believe a “law” is – merely a suggestion that can be disregarded. That is a terrifying belief for the law enacting branch of the government to hold.
- 5) Bills that will result in statutes/laws that legislators have purposely written with contracting language so that legislators will be able to work outside the limitations of the constitutions but if any one brings the statute before the courts it contains language that will fool the courts into believing legislators did not intentionally mean to make a statute that allowed them to act outside the limitations of the constitution. These kinds of bills often contain direct contradictions: one part of the bill will contain language that allows legislator to easily accomplish their goal but would be interpreted as being unconstitutional, and a different part of the bill will contain language that is constitutional but would not allow legislators to easily accomplish their goal.
- a) I do not believe it is the intent of the constitution for the legislator to purposely make a law that contain contradicting and misleading language so that they can act outside the limits of the constitution.
 - b) I feel that purposely creating laws which they will use to act outside the limitations of the constitutions is a violation of their oath of office to support and defend the constitution. Article XII Section 5.
 - c) I feel that to purposely write a bill with the intent of fooling the courts and the people of Alaska into believing different and contradicting interpretations, while legislators use it to act outside the limitation of the constitution does not assure the trust, respect, and confidence of the people of this state, and is not a representation of the moral and ethical standard mentioned in AS24.60.010 (1)
 - d) It is also behavior that does not preserve the integrity of the legislative process, which is mentioned in AS 24.60.010 (2)

Sec. 24.60.010. Legislative findings and purpose.

The legislature finds that

(1) high moral and ethical standards among public servants in the legislative branch of government are essential to assure the trust, respect, and confidence of the people of this state;

(2) a fair and open government requires that legislators and legislative employees conduct the public's business in a manner that preserves the integrity of the legislative process and avoids conflicts of interest or even appearances of conflicts of interest;

Section 5. Oath of Office

All public officers, before entering upon the duties of their offices shall take and subscribe to the following oath or affirmation: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as . . . to the best of my ability.” The legislature may prescribe further oaths or affirmations.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Joshua Rockey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 8:33 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 273 Support

Esteemed House Committee,

My name is Joshua Rockey. I am the Principal of Butte Elementary School in Palmer, Alaska as part of the Mat-Su Borough School District. I very much am in support of raising the BSA in conjunction with inflation. We appreciate the "full funding" since 2017, but since it has not increased over this time, the buying power has gone down while expenses have gone up directly related to inflation. This has led to cuts of staffing and funds available to support learning in our building and across the district.

This bill helps to mitigate this struggle in education.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Joshua Rockey

From: JOSHUA ROCKEY <Joshua.Rockey@matsuk12.us>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 8:33 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for HB 273

Esteemed House Committee,

My name is Joshua Rockey. I am the Principal of Butte Elementary School in Palmer, Alaska as part of the Mat-Su Borough School District. I very much am in support of raising the BSA in conjunction with inflation. We appreciate the "full funding" since 2017, but since it has not increased over this time, the buying power has gone down while expenses have gone up directly related to inflation. This has led to cuts of staffing and funds available to support learning in our building and across the district.

This bill helps to mitigate this struggle in education.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Joshua Rockey

Joshua Rockey – *Butte Elementary School, Principal*
Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

[Redacted Signature]

www.matsuk12.us/bte

From: LIO Wrangell
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2022 8:29 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Public Testimony HB272/273
Attachments: Untitled.PDF

Please find attached public testimony for HB272 and HB273. Thank you,

Sarah Whittlesey-Merritt
Wrangell Legislative Information Office
907-874-3013
Wrangell.lio@akleg.gov

Click [HERE](#) to visit the Alaska State Legislature Website
Click [HERE](#) to watch live streaming of the Alaska State Legislature

Wrangell Legislative Information Office

Wrangell.lio@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-874-3013 Fax: 907-874-3955

Name: Brian Merritt

Address: [REDACTED]

Representing: myself

Bill #/Subject: HB272 + HB 273

Committee: House Finance

Hearing Date: April 1, 2022

Written Testimony

As a teacher I support both of these
bills to increase the base student allocation.

As inflation increases, school cost increase.

The base student allocation needs to be
brought up to keep up with inflation and
other rising costs. Thank you for you time.

From: Bill Hill <bhill@bbbsd.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 9:48 AM
To: House Finance
Cc: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Subject: HB 272

Co-Chair Foster, Co-Chair Merrick, and House Finance Committee Members:

Thank you for your efforts to increase school funding through the BSA. I continue to urge the passage of HB 272 but am concerned with a proposed amendment to remove additional BSA increases in FY24.

Removing increases from the BSA does not equate to anything more than one-time funding outside of the formula. This tactic will increase the instability that Alaska's education system already faces.

School districts across the state have found efficiencies, decreased staffing, increased class sizes, and have worked together to spend public funds responsibly. Without your help to increase and stabilize school funding, we now risk making short-term, reactionary decisions that negatively impact Alaska's children.

I urge you to stabilize Alaska's public education system by finding ways to increase and protect school funding.



Bill Hill, Superintendent
Bristol Bay Borough Schools


bhill@bbbsd.net

Jmrl\$li\$ssh2Mw\$ep\$syrrh\$sy2Jmrl\$wls{gewi\$erh\$sy\$wv\$imzrk\$2\$N2S{irw

From: Brendan Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 8:49 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: HB 272

Dear Co-Chair Merrick,

I am writing in support of HB 272 without the amendment removing a Base Student Allocation increase in fiscal year 2024. As you know, most of Anchorage's students suffered great learning losses during the extended closure caused by Covid-19. As we returned to in-person learning, federal funds designed to help us foster catch-up growth in our students were mostly dedicated to maintaining our status quo in our pupil-teacher ratio. Without these funds, class sizes at my school, which are already too large at 30.25 students per teacher, would have ballooned to 35 this year and up to 40 next year.

It is time for a stable and predictable BSA increase. We've had too many years of instability, which has taken its toll on our ability to attract and retain quality teachers. Our schools need help mitigating uncontrollable cost increases in energy, insurance, and health care so we can focus our resources on better outcomes for our kids. I urge you to pass HB 272 with a BSA increase in both years so we can help our students get back on track for success.

Sincerely,

Brendan Wilson
President, Alaska Association of Secondary Principals
Principal, Begich Middle School

From: Amy Culver-Bell <amy.culver-bell@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:02 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 272

I'm writing to express my concern and my HOPE that this bill is passed/ We teachers are beyond stressed to our breaking point! Our class sizes are very large, our supply/building budgets are non-existent, here in Fairbanks 3 schools will be closed - yet our funding from the State hasn't changed in 5 years! Still the same BSA as 2017! The schools are in desperate need of more funding. I'm not sure how you can justify the budget increases to most every other department, the exorbitant salaries and raises to State employees, while ignoring education! Yet we keep getting more and more mandates dumped on us and more and more students in our classes! It is time that you realize that the funding from 5 years ago will not cut it this year. We also need at least 2 years of forward funding in the budgets. 70 teachers in Fairbanks alone are facing pink slips.

Please help us be the teachers we are educated and trained to be. The children need smaller class sizes, basic supplies and teachers who are able to teach! Please vote to pass this bill and let us help our kids the way we know how!

--

Amy Bell

1st grade Teacher

Ticasuk Brown Elementary

[REDACTED]

amy.culver-bell@k12northstar.org

Children become readers in the laps of their parents

From:**Sent:****To:****Subject:**

Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:09 PM

Rep. Kelly Merrick

Please pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current and complete form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As a speech/language pathologist, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district: higher caseloads, needed materials that are not purchased, stressed and burned out staff.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,

Laura Nitsche



From: reachheidi@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Heidi Collins
<reachheidi@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:12 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Please support Alaska students/education

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Please support our students....and support our educators (a return to Defined Benefits.) It has been two of the most challenging educational years. Let's invest in our future.

Please also consider forward funding education by one year so school districts can operate properly. It is such a brutal yo-yo every year.

Sincerely,
Heidi Collins


reachheidi@hotmail.com

From: [REDACTED]
@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:13 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: PLEASE be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Laura Bartholomae

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:29 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Please pass HB 272 to support public education!

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Melissa Boyd

[REDACTED]

From:**Sent:**

Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:44 PM

To:

Rep. Kelly Merrick

Subject:

Pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Greetings, I would like to take this opportunity to ask that you pass HB 272 and fund Alaska schools appropriately. I am a high school teacher in Sitka, and this decision greatly effects the quality of education we are able to provide. When the BSA isn't raised, it makes Alaska a less attractive place to live. We have a very difficult time attracting quality teachers when positions come available and with the increased cost of living, it is becoming more difficult to retain the teachers we have. We haven't had a raise that offset inflation for many, many years. If we have to keep taking pay cuts while the cost of living continues to go up, my family and I will likely leave the state. That would be a real shame, as we love it here and love the students we teach.

Help schools by giving them the resources they need to do the job we all need them to do!

Thank you for your service to the state.

Sincerely,

Ryan Myers



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:53 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Re: Passage of HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Here in Fairbanks our school board and administration are making drastic cuts which will have long term impacts on our education system. Closing 3 schools, reducing and even eliminating programs is devastating to see. During this time where students may be disengaged and experiencing pandemic related trauma there is more than ever a call to attend to social-emotional needs. Some of the cuts here include the arts, music, library resources - - those areas which provide a well-rounded education for all students.

Many of Alaska's rural schools are struggling to keep qualified staff and provide culturally responsive learning experiences for the students. School leaders need secure funding as they strive to maintain successful programs and institute innovative opportunities. There is no greater legacy than implementing the message that our youth in Alaska are a priority.

I urge you to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Lesa Meath

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 5:23 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Please consider passing HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Bates

[REDACTED]

From:**Sent:****To:****Subject:**

Tuesday, April 05, 2022 5:56 PM

Rep. Kelly Merrick

Please pass HB 272- why?

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Step into any classroom in Alaska or anywhere and you'll see a work in progress. How could it not be? Children coming from so many unique families with their own unique stories... all together in a shared space trying to make sense of the world they are in. Together. This service, exploring and learning together, growing and making progress, preparing to be productive citizens, is all free to families. But having the resources and enough people to do it with grace and love and expertise? That requires some serious funding. What could be more worthy?

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

With gratitude.

Sincerely,
Kim Leslie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 5:51 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education advocate and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Representative Carpenter,

I returned to work this year as a school counselor for the KPBSD after having been retired for six years. Now more than ever our schools need continued and secure funding. There are nine counseling positions advertised for next year. That is a far greater number than I have ever seen in the past 30 years.

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
LaDawn Druce

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] of Jamin Burton
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 6:42 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Please support public ed and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Jamin Burton

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 6:57 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: HB 272 - please increase the BSA

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

I am a parent, educator, and community member in Seward, Alaska. I am writing to you today to ask that you pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students receive the necessary and appropriate education. We are facing cuts to pre-k, title one, counselors, and general educators. We cannot help students grow without these services, especially as we continue to navigate an unpredictable and unprecedented pandemic.

Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding. We can't afford to not to.

Sincerely,
Keri Russell

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 8:31 AM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick; House Finance
Cc: Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; anderson_jim01
Subject: HB 272 Amendments Written Testimony

Good morning Representative Merrick and House Finance Members,

My Name is Andy Ratliff and I am the OMB Director for the Anchorage School District. I would like to offer testimony regarding potential amendments to be considered for HB272.

Regarding Amendment #1 - by including correspondence schools at the beginning of the Foundation Formula, this amendment would create an inherent inequity in funding between brick and mortar schools and correspondence schools based on the costs associated with the instructional delivery models. The costs associated with providing education at a comprehensive high school that provides gyms and fields for sports, auditoriums for music and theater, shops for CTE courses, and kitchen/cafeteria spaces to feed students, are not comparable to a correspondence school that can operate in limited space and scale up or down the number of students without a need to adjust building sizes. Additionally, there is considerably more staffing, both direct instruction and ancillary supports, necessary to provide face to face services than through a correspondence model, yet this amendment would provide the same funding to each.

By allowing more of the State's limited resources to be shifted to correspondence schools, the value of public education in brick and mortar schools will be significantly eroded as the families that have the ability and the means to stay home with their children will do so while families without those same means will remain in brick and mortar schools.

This testimony is not to say that funding levels for correspondence schools, or brick and mortar schools for that matter, are adequate. The current model provides a reasonable funding disparity between these two types of instructional delivery, however, BSA increases to catch up to, and keep pace with, inflation are necessary to ensure a strong education for Alaska students. Permanent BSA increases for FY23 and FY24, addressed in Amendment #3, and adjusting for inflation in later years will allow districts across the state to develop long term financial plans and focus on educational outcomes rather than being reactionary year after year.

I appreciate your support for education and please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Andy Ratliff
Sr. Director, OMB
[REDACTED]

From: Shery Hart-Elterman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 11:17 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: It is important to Increase the BSA

I believe it is important to increase the BSA for students during the next calendar year.

Families, students, and schools are faced with continual challenges and budget cuts that make it harder and harder to give students what they need to be potential, vigorous, and independent leaders of our future. We are cutting corners today for finance purposes, to likely potentially cut out our own growth and strength in the future.

Putting money into education, educators, and extracurriculars is important for the future of students and their families.

Shery Hart-Elterman

See a need, fill a need! You can shine no matter what you're made of! - Bigweld

From:

[REDACTED] >

Sent:

Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:01 PM

To:

Rep. Kelly Merrick

Subject:

Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,

Temperance Tinker Kays

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:03 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Long

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:06 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Andra Nations

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Lance Westing

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Jen Reid

[REDACTED]
reidje@sitkaschools.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:14 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Amalie Fischer

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:24 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Seward

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:25 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Rosie Milligan

[REDACTED]

From: je [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:26 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Edwards-Fahl
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:29 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Minnie Chase

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

As a long-time Alaskan and grandparent, I am concerned that my grandchildren attend schools that are safe and staffed with quality educators. That means we have to foot the bill to increase the base student allocation. Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Dan Walker

Sincerely,
Dan Walker

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:33 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my local school and the FNSB district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Howard Maxwell

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:37 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Craig Kasemodel

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:34 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Laura Hanson

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:42 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

As a proud retired Alaskan teacher, I beg you to address the needs of our students, staff and facilities. Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Mary Bohanan

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:43 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Perhaps you will pass this way but once; what good you might do, do it now!

There has been no increase to the BSA for more than six years. Yet, costs have risen and with inflation pushing 7% this year, the value of the money allocated to each student in Alaska has dramatically gone backwards in its' buying power. It is past time to do the right thing for our youth of Alaska. Increase the BSA now, this year, and moving forward. Light the way for Alaska's future and move HB272 on to the Floor with no additional amendments.

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Sean Reilly

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:46 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Paula Addis

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 5:01 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Amanda Smith

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:47 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

As it stands, the the elementary school where I teach is slated to lose a teacher because of funding. This will have a ripple effect K-5, and I will probably lose my teaching partner as a result. This is very concerning as one of the cornerstones of best practices in education is continuity. My teaching partner and I have worked this year to design instruction together that supports not only our students and families, but one another.

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Mitchell Haygood

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 5:19 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

I have been teaching in Alaska for the last 13 years. I have seen cuts after cuts to staffing and resources because of the flat funding to our schools. Kids deserve better. In fact, the CTE computer technology program that I teach at Gruening Middle School was sliced this year. What's next?

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

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Sincerely,
Marnie Hartill

[REDACTED]

From: ptharmon@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Paul Harmon
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 5:21 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Paul Harmon

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 5:31 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Tim Anderson

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Dan Maclean

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 5:42 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district. Investing in education builds strong communities and invigorates the economy. Strong school help prepare the workforce, something Alaska desperately needs.

Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Janelle Fey

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
<janeellengray@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 5:57 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Jane Gray

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
<rewrighter@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 6:07 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

I also know some legislators are saying schools don't deserve funding due to low test scores. My reply to that is if the legislature wants to increase scores, then it needs to legislate truancy laws. Twenty percent of kids in Alaska miss twenty percent of school in an average year. Teachers can't teach an empty seat, and learning loss during extended absences adds up to academic holes that impact future test scores for an individual.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Melodie Wright

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 6:10 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

Sincerely,
James Sampson

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 6:12 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Dear Representative Adam Wool,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Tamara Ramsey

[REDACTED]

From:

Tuesday, April 05, 2022 6:35 PM

To:

Rep. Kelly Merrick

Subject:

Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,

Laura Capelle



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 6:48 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

As a retired teacher, I know that Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Shonti Elder

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 7:10 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

This has looked less staff to serve the needs of students. This has looked like loss of before and after school tutoring. This has looked like trying to decide is it better to do the hands on project to assess standards or the paper copy worksheet because you know there is copy paper in the work room but aren't sure if there is construction paper. This looks like worrying about making sure kids use one or two pumps of soap and paper towels instead of 3 because you're worried your building will run out by May.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Heather Bauman

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 7:18 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Brittany Bauman

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 7:19 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Karen Salisbury

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 7:23 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Russell Moore

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 7:24 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Every year since I started as an educator in Alaska in 2015, the Anchorage School District has cut positions in schools. Teachers' workloads have increased, the number of students that we teach has increased, and many have burned out. All of this is tied to flat funding of the BSA. Flat funding is a cut, and our teaching body cannot endure more cuts. We have cut to the bone; we have cut past the bone; we have cut bone. It's time to increase the funding to appropriate levels for schools to appropriately staff their schools and educators to be able to do the job they want to do.

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Do what's right for our educators and our students.

Sincerely,
Christian Haich

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 7:30 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
KIRSTINE NORTON

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 7:28 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

This year we had to fundraise in order to purchase computer programs so our students could learn to read, practice math and fill in the missing holes from the past two years. I just finished a fundraiser for art supplies. Does this seem right to you? Before I teach my class I have to shovel snow because of lack of custodial staff. I wipe tables and bag trash from my room in the afternoon. We need funding for our schools, it feels like we are poor and living off the kindness of the community.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

Sincerely,
Shana Butlwr

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 4:39 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Alaska's students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand what a decline in education funding has meant to my school and my district.

You have the opportunity to be a hero for Alaska public schools, educators, and students. Please use your vote to pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

DO LET THE STUDENTS DOWN. KEEP US FUNDED. THE REST OF THE WORLD IS WATCHING US FLOUNDER IN THIS CRUSHED ECONOMY. LETS GET IT TOGETHER. SUPPORT EDUCATION

Sincerely,
Tommy Baxter

[REDACTED]