
From: Nelli Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 9:19 AM
To: Senate Finance; Senate Education; House Finance; House Education
Subject: Education funding

Dear House and Senate Finance and Education Committees,
Thank you for your service to Alaska. As a mom of two young Alaskans, I am very concerned about the unstable and inadequate funding situation our public schools are facing. I encourage you to pass a budget (and HB 272/273) that adequately fund schools to address the immediate operating costs of our school are in need of and to lower class sizes (especially in elementary schools). I also support funding as forward looking as possible to retain good teachers, support our staff and get rid of the painful and unnecessary annual teacher layoff/rehire cycle. By fully funding our schools and increasing the student base allocation rate we can ensure our schools and teachers are able to focus on what they do best - supporting our kids and helping to build a bright future for Alaska.

Thanks for your consideration.
Nelli
Anchorage, AK (Oceanview)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Kelly Auer
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2022 9:00 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Please pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

As a parent and educator, I am asking you to please pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. Specifically, I ask you to retain the increased BSA. Our schools & students have been in crisis mode for far too long, and we desperately need the support that stable funding gives.

Please pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding. Thank you for your service to the people of our state!

Sincerely,
Kelly Auer

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508-2313 [REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

Thursday, April 07, 2022 2:12 PM

To:

Rep. Kelly Merrick

Subject:

Please pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

I am an educator in the Anchorage School District and know first hand what adequate funding means for our schools. Please pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. Supporting education in this way is the best investment in our future that you can possibly make.

An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed.

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,

Lilly Goodman-allwright

Eagle River, AK 99577

From:

Sent:

Thursday, April 07, 2022 6:15 PM

To:

Rep. Kelly Merrick

Subject:

Please Pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Please pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts like mine 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. With the increased revenue from oil this, there is never a better time to increase the BSA.

Thank you for your service,

Sincerely,

Emily Moody

Cordova, AK 99574-2412

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 2022-18:

IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND STATE SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDING

WHEREAS, students are the priority of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District and successfully educated students provide economic benefits to our community and state; and

WHEREAS, public education is a mainstay of Alaska and America and support of public education is imbedded in Alaska's State Constitution as a priority and responsibility of our state legislature; and

WHEREAS, excellent, equitable, and high-quality public schools are attractive to military families and others who may choose to relocate to military installations or Interior Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District has increased graduation rates from 73.6% in 2010-11 to 80.7% in 2018-19 and has decreased drop-out rates from 4.2% in 2010-11 to 3.5% in 2018-19, despite yearly budget shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alaska has not raised the Base Student Allocation for five years, creating a significant loss of purchasing power funding to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District; and

WHEREAS, in previous years, due to budget shortfalls, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District has had to cut foreign languages, fine arts, and other electives that enhance the student's learning experience; and

WHEREAS, in light of an anticipated revenue shortfall, current budget discussions have led to the closure of three schools, as well as class size increases, the elimination of fine arts programs, and the elimination of approximately 130 positions to include teachers, counselors, classroom aides, and other support staff positions in order to balance the annual budget; and

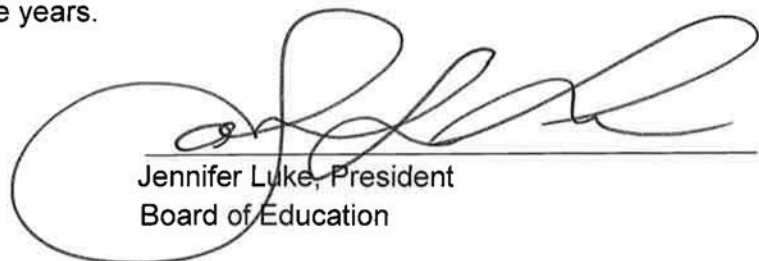
WHEREAS, the state of Alaska is experiencing a financial surplus this year due to increased oil revenue, and the legislature is considering an amendment to appropriate \$50 million of supplemental funding for Alaska School Districts; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 272 would provide for an increase of \$278 per student to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) over two years, and House Bill 273 will provide a mechanism to inflation-proof the BSA for future years and while this will not totally replace the loss of funding over the last five years, it is a step in the right direction towards investment in education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education requests the Alaska State Legislature to ensure our students have the funding necessary to provide an education for their future success by passing HB 272 and HB 273, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education requests the Alaska State Legislature to allocate one-time funds of at least \$50 million of the surplus revenue to Alaska public schools to replace the loss of funding over the last five years.

Passed and Approved: April 5, 2022



Jennifer Luke, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:



Sharon Tuttle
Executive Assistant to the Board



From: School Board <schoolboard@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 2:55 PM
To: Senate Finance; Senate Education; House Finance; House Education
Cc: assembly@fnsb.gov; Borough Clerks Office; bryce.ward@fnsb.gov; council@fairbanks.us; cityclerk@fairbanks.us; jmatherly@fairbanks.us; dskipps@northpolealaska.org; sclaus@northpolealaska.org; awelch@northpolealaska.org; dcromer@northpolealaska.org; akeller@northpolealaska.org; mdionne@northpolealaska.org; mwelch@northpolealaska.org; John Ringstad
Subject: Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education Resolution 2022-18: In Support of Student Success and State School District Funding
Attachments: Resolution 2022-18 Student Success and State Funding Resolution.pdf

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee, Senate Education Committee, House Finance Committee & House Education Committee,

On behalf of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education, we'd like to express our sincere appreciation for ensuring Alaska's successful future, through your dedicated consideration and work on extensive legislation related to Alaska's children and their education and well-being.

The Fairbanks School Board, like the Legislature, is also committed to providing an excellent, equitable education, in a safe, supportive environment, so all students will succeed and contribute to a diverse and changing society. In an effort to further the district's commitment, please find attached Resolution 2022-18: In Support of Student Success and State School District Funding, approved by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education at its April 5, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or need further information.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Luke, President
Fairbanks School Board

Investment in knowledge pays the best interest

REMINDER: Please do not use the "Reply to All" button if responding to this email.

Board of Education
520 Fifth Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Board Office: (907) 452-2000, ext. 11400
Board Fax: (907) 451-0541
To Reach Full Board: schoolboard@k12northstar.org
Board President: Jennifer Luke, (907) 687-6897
Board Executive Assistant: Sharon Tuttle, (907) 452-2000, ext. 11400

PLEASE NOTE: *Written communications with public officials generally are considered a public record and subject to disclosure (viewing and/or copying of the communication) pursuant to a public records request.*

From: Alicia Brankel [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 11:48 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB272

Alicia Brankel
[REDACTED]

Nikiski, AK 99635

Alaska Legislature
State Capitol Room 3
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

April 6, 2022

Re: House Bill 272

Dear Esteemed House Members,

Please allow me to introduce myself as a triple stakeholder: taxpayer, teacher, and parent. I value the education and futures of Alaska's children. However, I am against the increase in base funding in House Bill 272.

Allocating more money to Alaska's education problems is a far cry from an answer to its challenges. As explained in the Sponsor Statement, our schools and our children have indeed been affected by Covid. I observe learning gaps, lapses in positive habits, and struggles with Social Emotional Learning daily, if not hourly. These areas require strategic, intentional repair, though, and many tools are already in our hands.

Also stated in the Sponsor Statement, Alaska is sixth in education spending nationwide. And while the rural and fly-in school have been impacted by Covid more greatly than Alaska's "Big 5" school districts, the blanket increase in base spending does not directly target the aftermath of virtual learning amidst our unique geographic and demographic areas.

Speaking of the "Big 5," statistics from Ballotpedia warrant a closer inspection. First, the administrator to student ratio is lower than all the Pacific Northwest counterparts, implying that administrative expenditures are "top-heavy." To illustrate, many secondary schools in the Lower 48 have four on-site administrators for 2000+ students; high schools on the Kenai Peninsula have two on-side principals for less than 400, plus a regional principal, officially 1:203 as opposed to 1:295. Without accountability for base spending, I fear that this trend will continue.

Second, base spending does not address the more significant issues in Alaska, which has a very high per student expenditure. Local radio station KTOO notes that the pandemic has made teacher retention challenging. Let us not forget that it was already challenging before the pandemic, including pink slip practices

governed *by local* budget allocation. Granted, teaching in "the bush" requires grit. Still, most of Alaska's children attend schools in the populated areas of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Palmer, Kenai, and Juneau—schools that aren't rural by Alaska standards. As a teacher, I would argue that doing more with less is a matter of leadership rather than one of spending.

In fact, Alaska's classrooms have a lot going for them—a low teacher: student ratio and relatively high graduation rates, for example. Percentages of Title 1 schools are even commensurate with our neighbors (Title 1 provides additional federal funding for classroom support).

I find it interesting that Alaska's union influence is ranked at number 15 overall nationwide, yet it cannot keep teachers. Our classrooms have laptops, Special Education inclusion, and tribal support. Our schools have more than sufficient CTE funding. For these reasons, I am perplexed as to what "classroom needs for services for kids" are necessary and how our kids are currently being "shortchanged." Another area of concern is the high cost of health care published by the Alaska House Majority Coalition. Neither prices nor access will change by maintaining the status quo: such changes should be made at both philosophical and legislative levels, not the consent by the silence of continuing in the current situation.

The "Alaska Context" is always a concern in education decisions, whether local or state. According to the Sponsor Statement, approximately 23.5% of Alaska's students are American Indian/Alaska Native, some in vastly remote areas, even off the road system. If these areas need more support, however, the legislature has an obligation to see that students receive an equitable education and opportunity. A uniform increase in base pay does not necessarily provide that equity.

As a taxpayer, I would like to know two things: the funding source of SBA increase and the political motives advocating for the increase in standard base allocation. As a teacher, I would like to know how these funds will specifically address equity and teacher retention. Finally, I want to ascertain how the allocation increase will directly benefit my child as a parent. At present, the aforementioned could *possibly* be resolved by passing HB272. There are no guarantees and no definitive strategies.

Before you rush to approve the increase in funding, I ask you to consider the logic and not the emotion involved. The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education recently released an article addressing technical and career training in Alaska. It suggested that our students adopt the employability skill of *antifragility*, a form of resilience. Alaska is tough. Alaska's workers—whether slope or merchant mariner—are formidable. Our school system should be rugged, as well. Not to say that we should shore up and ignore our challenges, but instead take the high road of school reform rather than the path of least resistance in allocating more funds without accountability to a system whose challenges were unaddressed before the pandemic.

Kind Regards,

Alicia Brankel, M.Ed.

From: Diane Gubatayao <diane.gubatayao@k21schools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 12:20 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Hearings on HB 272 and HB 273
Attachments: Ketchikan Gateway Borough Resolution 2929, 22-02.pdf

Dear House Finance Committee members:

Attached is a digital copy of a joint resolution passed unanimously by the Ketchikan Borough Assembly and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District. This resolution clearly outlines the serious financial harm created by seven years of flat funding and failure to increase the BSA since 2017. We are but one of 53 districts facing difficult financial circumstances as we endeavor to provide the best possible education for our students. As with every district we have challenging issues, but limited resources restrict our ability to address them adequately. We are emerging from two years of Covid impact on student learning, and the achievement gaps are real.

For today's hearing considering possible amendments, I **wish to indicate my support for the proposed amendments: #1, #3, #4 and #5.**

It is evident that the best solution for all districts is to increase the BSA. We currently have the resources to achieve BSA increases right now in Alaska. I strongly urge your vote of support for the proposed increases.

With gratitude for your hard work and dedication to our Alaska students,
Diane Gubatayao
School Board member, KGBSD



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: Lisa Parady <lparady@alaskaacsa.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 12:40 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 272

Importance: High

Dear Members of House Finance:

Greetings. I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA), representing Alaska's Superintendents, Secondary and Elementary School Principals, and School Business Officials. Thank you for hearing HB 272 and HB 273 in House Finance Committee. Both bills are very important to public education in Alaska and our organization and members fully support them.

I understand that you will be voting on amendments to HB 272 during your meeting today. We can't stress enough the importance of an increase to the BSA as well as forward funding for Alaska's schools and why HB 272 must include funding for FY 23 and FY 24. Early notification of funding and forward funding is crucial to sound financial management as well as recruitment and retention of quality educators. By providing predictable revenue as HB 272 proposes for the next two years, school districts can prepare their budgets knowing what their funding will be for the BSA.

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. This is especially important given the state and national education staff shortages our members are currently navigating.

Thank you for considering this information as you hear and vote on amendments to HB 272 this week. Please reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

Dr. Lisa S. Parady
ACSA Executive Director
234 Gold St., Juneau, AK 99801
tel/ [907-586-9702](tel:907-586-9702) / lparady@alaskaacsa.org / alaskaacsa.org

Leadership, Unity & Advocacy for Public Education

From: Ratliff_Andrew <ratliff_andrew@asdk12.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick; House Finance
Cc: Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; anderson_jim01
Subject: RE: HB 272 Amendments Written Testimony

Good afternoon,

Please accept my apologies, I had incorrectly interpreted Representative Johnson's amendment that it would place correspondence schools at the beginning of the Foundation Formula. After reviewing it again, it would just increase correspondence funding from 90% of the ADM to 100%. Thank you and, again, I apologize for the error.

Andy

From: Ratliff_Andrew
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 8:31 AM
To: Representative.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov; House.Finance@akleg.gov
Cc: Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov; Representative.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov; anderson_jim01 <anderson_jim01@asdk12.org>
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


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 4:13 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Show support for our future 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,
Mindy Hunter

[REDACTED] Homer, AK 99603-9231
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 7:26 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: You can 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. We have old technology and replacement is being put on the shoulders of each school. We are limited in copies and paper we use. Chairs are old and continue to break. All students deserve quality furniture, supplies and technology, not just those who go to wealthier schools or districts.

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,
Janine Spiess

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99507-3050 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 7:38 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Please call me on HB 272 - for education, nothing is more important

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Call me to talk about this. Please. This is so important, I can't emphasize it enough. [REDACTED]. I am ready to answer questions, explain, whatever you would like. Our students need this.

We can't provide CTE without funds. We can't catch and save those who have the least without resources. We cannot provide an educated and capable workforce without the tools we need. We want to do what you want us to - but it's impossible if we are cutting schools to the bone. Let me be totally clear - private schools cannot replace us. Why? Because a couple of bad quarters and they close. Profit is their motive. We, on the other hand, take all students, because we love and believe in all children. As should our state.

The success of students is my motive, and that of every public educator.

Our children deserve not only the investment, but the vote of confidence. They are watching, and they will remember how much we believed in them because they saw what we were willing to provide them.

My son and daughter will remember.

Sincerely,
Nathan Erfurth

[REDACTED] Kenai, AK 99611-8726 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 3:57 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education supporter and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Our schools could really use your help. We have been having a hard time with a flat budget for the last several years and with inflation this year. 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,
Traci Sanders

[REDACTED] Wasilla, AK 99654-2110 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 2:49 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

I'm writing to ask you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation is truly needed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand the very real impacts of a decline in education funding.

You have the opportunity to make a positive difference 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,
Leah Meyring

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99516-7560 [REDACTED]

From: Mark Lynch <manager@dillinghamak.us>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2022 12:50 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for Education Funding Increases and School Bond Debt reimbursement.
Attachments: r_2022-14_support_ak_hb350.pdf; r_2022-13_support_ak_hb273.pdf; r_2022-12_support_ak_hb272.pdf

Good afternoon.

The Dillingham City Council passed three Resolutions of Support for increases to public school funding and school bond debt reimbursement increases.

I have attached the three Resolutions for the Legislative Record and remain available for any comments or questions you may have.

Thank you.

Robert J Mawson
City Manager



PO Box 889
Dillingham, AK 99576
T- (907) 842-5148
F- (907) 842-2060
manager@dillinghamak.us
www.dillinghamak.us

Our Vision. To have an infrastructure and city workforce that supports a sustainable, diversified and growing economy. We will partner with others to achieve economic development and other common goals that assure a high quality of living and excellence in education.

This message is intended only for the above addressee(s). It may contain privileged or confidential information. If you have received this message in error, please delete it and its attachments, destroy any copies, and notify the sender. Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2022 12:14 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF ALASKA! Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Please invest in the education of the Alaskan children! Alaskan schools need YOU right NOW for their FUTURE!

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 a Related Service Provider and an educator in this state for 12 years , 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.

Your time is valuable! Our Alaskan children's time in school is precious!

Sincerely,
Mary Dooher

[REDACTED] Wasilla, AK 99654-1322 [REDACTED]

From: Eryn Brooks <eryn.brooks-kcsapc@k21schools.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2022 11:58 PM
To: House Education; House Finance; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Sen. Bert Stedman; Senate Education; Senate Finance
Subject: Testimony for HB 272 & HB 273

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent, aunt, coach and employer of several students in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District. I currently sit on the Ketchikan Charter School Academic Policy Committee (APC) board. As a board member, we strive to keep a tight budget while providing maximum support to teachers and students alike. I am writing to urge you to pass HB 272 and HB 273. Alaskans have a tremendous need for quality education and current stagnant funding levels are not meeting these needs. Due to the rising costs of supplies, utilities, curriculum updates and other expenses with additional health and safety measurements being implemented the current BSA from 2017 is not allowing our district to focus on quality education. Ketchikan Charter School and many schools in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District would like to continue to offer a variety of elective classes to middle and high school students as well as elementary special's (art, music, pe, etc.) with hopes to expand options. Insufficient BSA funding is exhausting for administrations, teachers, support staff and board members. Schools need to be secure and need to be a priority. Please support HB 272 and HB 273 as initial steps to provide Alaska's youth with the education they deserve.

Respectfully,
Eryn Brooks
Ketchikan Charter School APC Member (former APC President)
Ketchikan High School Swim & Dive Coach
Ketchikan Charter School and Ketchikan High School Parent

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2022 10:51 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

The decline in funding will lead to tragedy in educating the diverse student population. I am a retired teacher. What drove me out of education? Safety in the classroom. I had to do room clears daily which then disrupted instruction. There were not enough support personal to help me remove the student having an outburst. My only option was to take the other 24 students to a safe spot in the school. Currently, I am subbing in the school I retired from. The needs in kinder are alarming. Each classroom in the kindergarten rooms need 2 additional adults besides the teacher and TA to assist the 3 students on the autism spectrum. Teachers are exhausted, stressed and concerned about how much longer this can go on. If you care about public education, prove it!!

Sincerely,
Deborah Svendsen

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99516-2101 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 12:01 AM
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,
Crysta Svendsen

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99507-6848 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 12:06 AM
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,
Lindsay Wackowski

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99515-2726 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2022 2:10 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,
Kathy Kern

[REDACTED] Wasilla, AK 99654-4556 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 5:20 AM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Six year. Six years since our Alaskan schools have seen a raise. Over that time buying power, recruitment and retention, and moral has diminished.

HB 272 in its current form is a start, not a finish, but a good start. Please take the stance and support our student, our future. Stop the hamstringing of our school districts, and give them the power to plan, not be simply reactionary. I have had the pleasure of being a teacher in Alaska for 28-years; I know firsthand what lack of adequate funding means for our children.

Please don't settle for a lesser bill. Tell Alaska children you have their best interest in your heart and your vote.

Sincerely,
Sandra Ryan

[REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99709-2512 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 12:01 AM
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,
Rhiana Gay

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99504-1920 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 7:53 AM
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,
Greg Svendsen

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99516-2101 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 3:56 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.

Please do the right thing for our students. Alaska's future belongs to them...not us.

Sincerely,
Terri Bellah

[REDACTED] Wasilla, AK 99654-1354 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 4:00 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 is my 22nd year of teaching. I have 33 students in my classroom this year. I am unable to meet all of their needs no matter how hard I try. There is one of me. I'm working 15-20 hours extra every week to get everything completed or prepared. It is not enough. Our students are dealing with many issues we did not have to deal with as children. They need more positive people in there life. Please support eduction.

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. You're help is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jessica Kauffman

[REDACTED] Wasilla, AK 99654-2849 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 4:11 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,
Sandra Trumbower
[REDACTED] Anderson, AK 99744
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 1:36 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,
Todd Nemyo

[REDACTED] Sterling, AK 99672-9439 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 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,
Sandra Havard
[REDACTED] Palmer, AK 99645-1315
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 6:29 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

We can't afford to cut education funding! The price is too high--that is, the price of poor education! Please fund the BSA as high as possible.

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 Daniel

[REDACTED] Seward, AK 99664-0593
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 2:29 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.

The future leaders (our students) will be eternally grateful for your plans you made for their future.

Sincerely,
Janet Crowder

[REDACTED] Barrow, AK 99723 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 6:43 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Hello Alaska Representatives,

I am writing to you as a high school teacher. I am grateful for all that you do for education and I believe that passing HB 272 is a great way to support students. 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.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Caitlin Marine

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99504-2563 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 4:20 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,
Alexis Brown

[REDACTED] Wasilla, AK 99623-0985 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 3:12 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Students and teachers are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form, without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

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. We must have consistent, forward funding for a stable education system!

Please use your vote to pass HB 272 as it stands.

Sincerely,
Carissa Cotta

[REDACTED] Petersburg, AK 99833
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 2:12 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,
Lisa Bunag

[REDACTED] Eagle River, AK 99577-8540 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 12:14 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,
Alfonso Licata

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508-3237
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 8:30 AM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

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,

CIndi Faubion

[REDACTED] Eek, AK 99578-0050
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 12:30 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Education needs you, please pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Our Alaska students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee to 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,

Danyel Austin

[REDACTED] Palmer, AK 99645-7719
[REDACTED]

CITY OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF ALASKA STATE HOUSE BILL 272 (HB-272), WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION (BSA) IN THE FOUNDATION FORMULA FOR FY23 AND FY24

WHEREAS, The City of Dillingham recognizes its partnership role with the Dillingham City School District in ensuring a robust and competitive primary and secondary education for all students in the District; and

WHEREAS, Alaska public schools have been flat-funded by the State since 2017, even as the cost for essential services and goods have increased rapidly during the same period of time; and

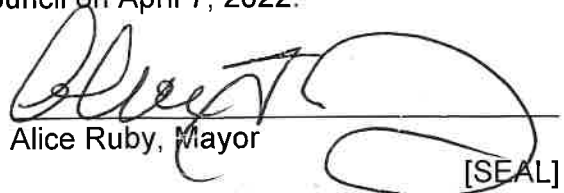
WHEREAS, The Dillingham City School District works diligently to provide the same, or increased levels of service, despite this reduced spending power; and

WHEREAS, Continuing to under-fund our public school system will only exacerbate existing challenges to pay for teacher retention and recruitment, classroom instruction, extra-curricular activities, student transportation services, facility needs, and all other associated and necessary expenditures; and


WHEREAS, Passage of Alaska House Bill 272 would provide a much needed increase to the Student Base Allocation (SBA) in the FY23 and FY24 Foundation formula.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Dillingham City Council hereby declares its support for House Bill 272 (HB-272) and other efforts to increase funding for the public education system currently being debated at the Alaska State Legislature.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Dillingham City Council on April 7, 2022.


Alice Ruby, Mayor [SEAL]

ATTEST:


Lori Goodell, City Clerk



Representative Andi Story
Co-Chair, House Education Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 272 (Version I)

February 7, 2022

"HB 272, An Act relating to education; increasing the base student allocation; and providing for an effective date."

Families, schools, and communities have gone through a seismic shift in the last two years. While COVID relief funding is welcome and necessary, the federal aid is to supplement state education investments, not replace them. These federal funds help weather the adversity of new problems and opportunities brought on by the tumultuous changes to our lives and our children's learning environments. Despite this additional help, the support for our children's education's bottom line is eroding.

For the past several years, our schools have experienced financial loss due to state flat funding, raising inflation, and increased fixed costs. When school districts lose ground financially, it hurts kids. Resources have to be diverted from classrooms to cover the increasing price tags on non-negotiable fixed costs such as fuel, water and sewer, electricity, insurance, and maintenance costs. This shortchanges the attention and services children receive.

U.S. Census data places Alaska 6th in the nation for education spending (state, federal, local). When adjusted for the cost of living index (COLI), Alaska's education spending is just below the U.S. average according to the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER). Looking more closely, Alaska has unique attributes that impact costs: smaller schools, (many located off the road system), the highest health care costs in the nation, and high energy costs.

HB 272 provides a long-overdue adjustment to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) in the foundation formula in FY23 of \$223 per student, for the first time since FY17. This frees up money to help with classroom needs for services for kids. Then in the second year, FY24, there is a \$55 per student increase for inflation to maintain buying power. Setting this number in advance offers much needed predictability and stability in the budget process. This allows for planning to retain teachers (avoiding pink slips), support staff, and maintaining services and interventions for children and increasing student achievement.

An investment in education is an investment in our children and the future workforce of Alaska. It meets the constitutional obligation to maintain public schools. If we continue to fully fund but flat fund our K-12 education system, we are actively divesting funds in Alaska's most treasured resource, our children.

CITY OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF ALASKA STATE HOUSE BILL 273 (HB-273), WHICH WOULD LINK THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION (BSA) DIRECTLY TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR URBAN ALASKA

WHEREAS, The City of Dillingham recognizes its partnership role with the Dillingham City School District in ensuring a robust and competitive primary and secondary education for all students in the District; and

WHEREAS, Alaska public schools have been flat-funded by the State since 2017, even as the cost for essential services and goods have increased rapidly during the same period of time; and

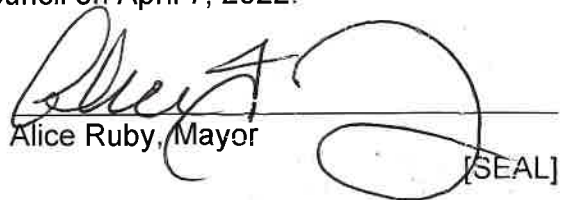
WHEREAS, The Dillingham City School District works diligently to provide the same, or increased levels of service, despite this reduced spending power; and

WHEREAS, Continuing to under-fund our public school system will only exacerbate existing challenges to pay for teacher retention and recruitment, classroom instruction, extra-curricular activities, student transportation services, facility needs, and all other associated and necessary expenditures; and

WHEREAS, Passage of Alaska House Bill 273 would link the Base Student Allocation (BSA) in the Foundation formula to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Dillingham City Council hereby declares its support for House Bill 273 (HB-273) and other efforts to increase funding for the public education system currently being debated at the Alaska State Legislature.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Dillingham City Council on April 7, 2022.


Alice Ruby, Mayor [SEAL]

ATTEST:



Lori Goodell, City Clerk



Representative Andi Story
Co-Chair, House Education Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 273 (Version W)

February 7, 2022

"HB 273, An Act relating to education; increasing the base student allocation according to inflation; and providing for an effective date."

Years of flat funding in our schools has led to an effective financial loss for Alaska's students. While costs of everyday budget items have continued to increase, the amount the state is putting into schools has stayed the same. The base student allocation (BSA) in the foundation formula hasn't increased since FY17. Despite this, non-negotiable fixed costs have been steadily rising due to inflation. This puts downward pressure on our schools, forcing cuts to the classroom that ultimately come as a cost to our children, so districts can cover basic budget items like heat, sewer, electricity, and insurance.

We have a constitutional obligation to Alaska's families and economy to ensure strong schools. Yet, school funding continues to be unreliable. Alaska's school districts have had to depend on one-off funding bills afforded by the unreliable booms and busts of the oil and gas industry and outside funding to keep up with basic fixed costs. School boards and administrators have been forced to scramble with uncertain and increasingly underfunded budgets. Families worry about cuts to services and favorite teachers and staff. HB 273 offers a tempered and fair solution to keep education funding on track by ensuring that education's growth is directly tied to Alaska's growth.

U.S. Census data places Alaska 6th in the nation for education spending (state, federal, local). When adjusted for the cost of living index (COLI), Alaska's education spending is just below the U.S. average according to the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER). Looking more closely, Alaska has unique attributes that impact costs: smaller schools, (many located off the road system), the highest health care costs in the nation, and high energy costs.

HB 273 links the BSA directly to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Alaska over a three year rolling average. This would make it so money is no longer diverted from children and classrooms to cover the ever-growing fixed costs in school district's budgets. By averaging growth over multiple years of inflation, this bill also creates a steady and predictable budget that won't rise and fall when the market experiences drastic years of growth or loss.

This is a fundamental statewide economic issue. The best way to keep families and businesses, attract new residents, build a skilled workforce and maintain a strong economy is to assure good schools, pre-school through college. By ensuring a fair base to our schools' funding, we are investing in Alaska's future.

CITY OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF ALASKA STATE HOUSE BILL 350 (HB-350), WHICH WOULD END THE CURRENT SCHOOL BOND DEBT MORATORIUM ON JULY 1, 2022 AND INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF REIMBURSABLE SCHOOL BOND DEBT

WHEREAS, The City of Dillingham recognizes its partnership role with the Dillingham City School District in ensuring a robust and competitive primary and secondary education for all students in the District; and

WHEREAS, Alaska public schools have been flat-funded by the State since 2017, even as the cost for essential services and goods have increased rapidly during the same period of time; and

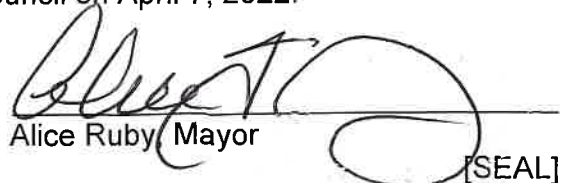
WHEREAS, The current School Bond Debt Moratorium and existing rates for School Bond Debt reimbursement continue to negatively impacted the City's ability to compensate for rising costs and provide adequate funding to meet the needs of our local schools; and

WHEREAS, Leaving the current moratorium in place, and keeping reimbursement rates at their present levels, will only exacerbate existing challenges to fund our municipal responsibilities, repay our school facility bond debt, and provide the school district sufficient resources to pay for teacher retention and recruitment, classroom instruction, extra-curricular activities, student transportation services, facility needs, and all other associated and necessary expenditures; and

WHEREAS, Passage of Alaska House Bill 350 (HB-350) would provide a positive financial adjustment and help both the City and School District better meet their obligations to the students and citizens of Dillingham.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Dillingham City Council hereby declares its support for House Bill 350 (HB-350) and other efforts to increase funding for the public education system currently being debated at the Alaska State Legislature.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Dillingham City Council on April 7, 2022.


Alice Ruby Mayor [SEAL]

ATTEST:



Lori Goodell, City Clerk



Representative Harriet Drummond

Alaska State Legislature

Sponsor Statement

HB 350 An Act relating to school bond debt reimbursement; and providing for an effective date

As a result of the passage of Senate Bill 64 in April 2015, the state of Alaska stopped reimbursing new school bond debt that could have been put before the voters of at least 21 school districts, because the state was suffering serious revenue shortfalls. The state has, however, continued to pay down the debt from school bonds passed prior to 2015. SB64 passed just a few days before Anchorage's spring election day with a retroactive date of January 1, 2015. So starting in the spring of 2015, Anchorage taxpayers have been paying more for new school bonds presented to the voters than they would have had the moratorium not been set by the legislature. And in 2020, since the state was still having serious revenue issues, HB 106 extended the moratorium to 2025.

School bonds are critically important to school districts, to build new schools and keep older facilities running. Bonds pay for a variety of construction and maintenance projects, such as new boilers, roof replacements, security improvements, and more. School districts spend a substantial amount on regular maintenance out of their operating budgets to keep their buildings in good repair and their students and staff in safe and healthy schools. But as schools age, and thousands of kids and staff troop in and out of them every day, things wear out and day to day maintenance just can't cover the needs adequately, and so districts have to bring forward carefully considered bond issues, developed in consultation with their school communities as well as with their local governments.

Currently the school bond debt moratorium is set to end July 1, 2025. HB 350 would change that to end on July 1, 2022, and school districts could again count on help from the state to help pay for school bond debt and save their taxpayers money.

The 2015 legislation also decreased the rate that the state reimbursed communities to 40% or 50%, depending on whether the bonds covered new construction or major maintenance. HB 350 seeks to increase the reimbursable school bond debt back to the original 60% or 70% from the state.

Alaska taxpayers and school districts can no longer afford to pay the full price for essential maintenance and construction of public schools in our state. There are over 500 school facilities among the 54 school districts in our state, and they all suffer from similar maintenance issues, and some need to be replaced with new schools as some older schools are simply uneconomic to keep repairing.

The Institute of Social and Economic Research at UA studied this issue in 2021. They found that Alaska is underfunding school maintenance and school districts are falling behind big time in addressing maintenance problems. ISER noted that since the moratorium started in 2015, only Anchorage and the North Slope Borough have approved new school bonds.

The Legislature is mandated to spend a certain amount of funding on rural schools in communities that don't have taxing authority, so those schools are guaranteed a certain minimum amount of funding. But municipalities don't have that kind of guarantee and so are falling behind.

I urge your support of this legislation and ask that you please reach out to my office with any questions or concerns.

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 2022-18:

IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND STATE SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDING

WHEREAS, students are the priority of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District and successfully educated students provide economic benefits to our community and state; and

WHEREAS, public education is a mainstay of Alaska and America and support of public education is imbedded in Alaska's State Constitution as a priority and responsibility of our state legislature; and

WHEREAS, excellent, equitable, and high-quality public schools are attractive to military families and others who may choose to relocate to military installations or Interior Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District has increased graduation rates from 73.6% in 2010-11 to 80.7% in 2018-19 and has decreased drop-out rates from 4.2% in 2010-11 to 3.5% in 2018-19, despite yearly budget shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alaska has not raised the Base Student Allocation for five years, creating a significant loss of purchasing power funding to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District; and

WHEREAS, in previous years, due to budget shortfalls, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District has had to cut foreign languages, fine arts, and other electives that enhance the student's learning experience; and

WHEREAS, in light of an anticipated revenue shortfall, current budget discussions have led to the closure of three schools, as well as class size increases, the elimination of fine arts programs, and the elimination of approximately 130 positions to include teachers, counselors, classroom aides, and other support staff positions in order to balance the annual budget; and

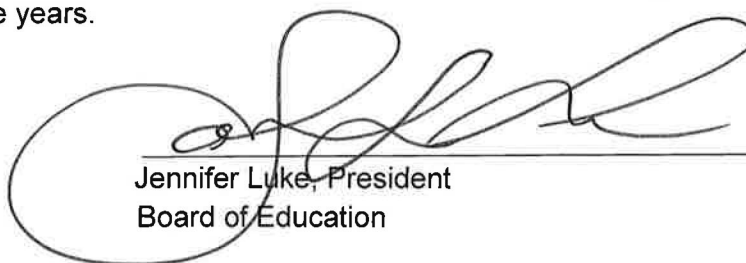
WHEREAS, the state of Alaska is experiencing a financial surplus this year due to increased oil revenue, and the legislature is considering an amendment to appropriate \$50 million of supplemental funding for Alaska School Districts; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 272 would provide for an increase of \$278 per student to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) over two years, and House Bill 273 will provide a mechanism to inflation-proof the BSA for future years and while this will not totally replace the loss of funding over the last five years, it is a step in the right direction towards investment in education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education requests the Alaska State Legislature to ensure our students have the funding necessary to provide an education for their future success by passing HB 272 and HB 273, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education requests the Alaska State Legislature to allocate one-time funds of at least \$50 million of the surplus revenue to Alaska public schools to replace the loss of funding over the last five years.

Passed and Approved: April 5, 2022


Jennifer Luke, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:


Sharon Tuttle
Executive Assistant to the Board



From: School Board <schoolboard@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 2:55 PM
To: Senate Finance; Senate Education; House Finance; House Education
Cc: assembly@fnsb.gov; Borough Clerks Office; bryce.ward@fnsb.gov; council@fairbanks.us; cityclerk@fairbanks.us; jmatherly@fairbanks.us; dskipps@northpolealaska.org; sclaus@northpolealaska.org; awelch@northpolealaska.org; dcromer@northpolealaska.org; akeller@northpolealaska.org; mdionne@northpolealaska.org; mwelch@northpolealaska.org; John Ringstad
Subject: Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education Resolution 2022-18: In Support of Student Success and State School District Funding
Attachments: Resolution 2022-18 Student Success and State Funding Resolution.pdf

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee, Senate Education Committee, House Finance Committee & House Education Committee,

On behalf of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education, we'd like to express our sincere appreciation for ensuring Alaska's successful future, through your dedicated consideration and work on extensive legislation related to Alaska's children and their education and well-being.

The Fairbanks School Board, like the Legislature, is also committed to providing an excellent, equitable education, in a safe, supportive environment, so all students will succeed and contribute to a diverse and changing society. In an effort to further the district's commitment, please find attached Resolution 2022-18: In Support of Student Success and State School District Funding, approved by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education at its April 5, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or need further information.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Luke, President
Fairbanks School Board

Investment in knowledge pays the best interest

REMINDER: Please do not use the "Reply to All" button if responding to this email.

Board of Education
520 Fifth Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Board Office: (907) 452-2000, ext. 11400
Board Fax: (907) 451-0541
To Reach Full Board: schoolboard@k12northstar.org
Board President: Jennifer Luke, (907) 687-6897
Board Executive Assistant: Sharon Tuttle, (907) 452-2000, ext. 11400

PLEASE NOTE: *Written communications with public officials generally are considered a public record and subject to disclosure (viewing and/or copying of the communication) pursuant to a public records request.*

From: cpht1129@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of CIndi Faubion <cpht1129@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 8:30 AM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

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,
CIndi Faubion

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: austin_danyel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Danyel Austin
<austin_danyel@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 12:30 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Education needs you, please pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Our Alaska students and educators are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee to 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,
Danyel Austin



From: alfonsolicata@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alfonso Licata
<alfonsolicata@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 12:14 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,
Alfonso Licata

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: lisabunag@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lisa Bunag [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 2:12 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,
Lisa Bunag
[REDACTED]

From: starrynightlifemail@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Carissa Cotta
[REDACTED]veryactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2022 3:12 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Students and teachers are counting on you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form, without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding.

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. We must have consistent, forward funding for a stable education system!

Please use your vote to pass HB 272 as it stands.

Sincerely,
Carissa Cotta

[REDACTED]

From: Catherine Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 9:19 AM
To: House Finance
Attachments: 20220407_091717.jpg

From: Andy Cizek <and.czk@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Coach Cia Jhbbb Brian Moore
Subject: Mario Murillo WARNING FOR APRIL : [PUPPET BDEN] THE COLLAPSE OF THE TITANS ! MUST HEAR - YouTube

This is a great message especially for today. Don't pay attention to the captioning. Enjoy.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=oRsKbQKiAQA__!!LdQKC6s!NAJnZJLXj4u6UYjUu6x8DniG9OWJnxcGoUKiRJurAUSfkTrYWWuzmQj1mfitSMfqHmVPDhAe4Shs0JhVS2T\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=oRsKbQKiAQA__!!LdQKC6s!NAJnZJLXj4u6UYjUu6x8DniG9OWJnxcGoUKiRJurAUSfkTrYWWuzmQj1mfitSMfqHmVPDhAe4Shs0JhVS2T$)

Keep looking up!!!!

Andy

From: [REDACTED]
<erik.mindy@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 4:13 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Show support for our future and pass HB 272

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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,
Mindy Hunter

[REDACTED]

From: alexisleslieroe@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alexis Brown
<alexisleslieroe@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 4:20 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,
Alexis Brown



From: caitlin.marine@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Caitlin Marine
<caitlin.marine@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 6:43 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Hello Alaska Representatives,

I am writing to you as a high school teacher. I am grateful for all that you do for education and I believe that passing HB 272 is a great way to support students. 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.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Caitlin Marine



From: jdspiess@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Janine Spiess <jdspiess@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 7:26 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: You can 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. We have old technology and replacement is being put on the shoulders of each school. We are limited in copies and paper we use. Chairs are old and continue to break. All students deserve quality furniture, supplies and technology, not just those who go to wealthier schools or districts.

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,
Janine Spiess



From: nerfurth@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Nathan Erfurth <nerfurth@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 7:38 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Please call me on HB 272 - for education, nothing is more important

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Call me to talk about this. Please. This is so important, I can't emphasize it enough. 907.420.7707. I am ready to answer questions, explain, whatever you would like. Our students need this.

We can't provide CTE without funds. We can't catch and save those who have the least without resources. We cannot provide an educated and capable workforce without the tools we need. We want to do what you want us to - but it's impossible if we are cutting schools to the bone. Let me be totally clear - private schools cannot replace us. Why? Because a couple of bad quarters and they close. Profit is their motive. We, on the other hand, take all students, because we love and believe in all children. As should our state.

The success of students is my motive, and that of every public educator.

Our children deserve not only the investment, but the vote of confidence. They are watching, and they will remember how much we believed in them because they saw what we were willing to provide them.

My son and daughter will remember.

Sincerely,
Nathan Erfurth



From: jjjlcrowder@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Janet Crowder
<jjlcrowder@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 2:29 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.

The future leaders (our students) will be eternally grateful for your plans you made for their future.

Sincerely,
Janet Crowder

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Janet Crowder.

From: smdaniel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mary Daniel <smdaniel@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 6:29 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

We can't afford to cut education funding! The price is too high--that is, the price of poor education! Please fund the BSA as high as possible.

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 Daniel



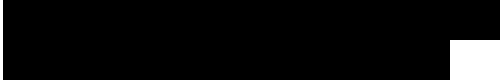
From: EMILY.D.MOODY@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Emily Moody
<EMILY.D.MOODY@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 6:15 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Please Pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Please pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts like mine 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. With the increased revenue from oil this, there is never a better time to increase the BSA.

Thank you for your service,

Sincerely,
Emily Moody

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: lgoodman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lilly Goodman-allwright
<lgoodman@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Please pass HB 272


Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

I am an educator in the Anchorage School District and know first hand what adequate funding means for our schools. Please pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. Supporting education in this way is the best investment in our future that you can possibly make.

An increase in the Base Student Allocation will allow districts to plan for the future and ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed.

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,
Lilly Goodman-allwright



From: jha3775@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sandra Havard <jha3775@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 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,
Sandra Havard

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: hfinwy@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Todd Nemyo <hfinwy@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 1:36 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,
Todd Nemyo



From: strumbower@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sandra Trumbower
<strumbower@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 4:11 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,
Sandra Trumbower




From: jessicakauffman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jessica Kauffman
<jessicakauffman@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 4:00 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 is my 22nd year of teaching. I have 33 students in my classroom this year. I am unable to meet all of their needs no matter how hard I try. There is one of me. I'm working 15-20 hours extra every week to get everything completed or prepared. It is not enough. Our students are dealing with many issues we did not have to deal with as children. They need more positive people in there life. Please support eduction.

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. You're help is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jessica Kauffman



From: terribellah@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Terri Bellah <terribellah@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 3:56 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.

Please do the right thing for our students. Alaska's future belongs to them...not us.

Sincerely,
Terri Bellah

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Terri Bellah.

From: htraci@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Traci Sanders <htraci@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 3:57 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education supporter and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Our schools could really use your help. We have been having a hard time with a flat budget for the last several years and with inflation this year. 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,
Traci Sanders



From: lhdbbber@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Leah Meyring <lhdbbber@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 2:49 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

I'm writing to ask you to pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. An increase in the Base Student Allocation is truly needed. As an educator, I've seen firsthand the very real impacts of a decline in education funding.

You have the opportunity to make a positive difference 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,
Leah Meyring



From: Mark Lynch <manager@dillinghamak.us>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2022 12:50 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for Education Funding Increases and School Bond Debt reimbursement.
Attachments: r_2022-14_support_ak_hb350.pdf; r_2022-13_support_ak_hb273.pdf; r_2022-12_support_ak_hb272.pdf

Good afternoon.

The Dillingham City Council passed three Resolutions of Support for increases to public school funding and school bond debt reimbursement increases.

I have attached the three Resolutions for the Legislative Record and remain available for any comments or questions you may have.

Thank you.

Robert J Mawson
City Manager



PO Box 889
Dillingham, AK 99576
T- (907) 842-5148
F- (907) 842-2060
manager@dillinghamak.us
www.dillinghamak.us

Our Vision. To have an infrastructure and city workforce that supports a sustainable, diversified and growing economy. We will partner with others to achieve economic development and other common goals that assure a high quality of living and excellence in education.

This message is intended only for the above addressee(s). It may contain privileged or confidential information. If you have received this message in error, please delete it and its attachments, destroy any copies, and notify the sender. Thank you.

From: mpdooher@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mary Dooher
<mpdooher@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2022 12:14 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF ALASKA! Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Please invest in the education of the Alaskan children! Alaskan schools need YOU right NOW for their FUTURE!

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 a Related Service Provider and an educator in this state for 12 years, 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.

Your time is valuable! Our Alaskan children's time in school is precious!

Sincerely,
Mary Dooher



From: Eryn Brooks <eryn.brooks-kcsapc@k21schools.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2022 11:58 PM
To: House Education; House Finance; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Sen. Bert Stedman; Senate Education; Senate Finance
Subject: Testimony for HB 272 & HB 273

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent, aunt, coach and employer of several students in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District. I currently sit on the Ketchikan Charter School Academic Policy Committee (APC) board. As a board member, we strive to keep a tight budget while providing maximum support to teachers and students alike. I am writing to urge you to pass HB 272 and HB 273. Alaskans have a tremendous need for quality education and current stagnant funding levels are not meeting these needs. Due to the rising costs of supplies, utilities, curriculum updates and other expenses with additional health and safety measurements being implemented the current BSA from 2017 is not allowing our district to focus on quality education. Ketchikan Charter School and many schools in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District would like to continue to offer a variety of elective classes to middle and high school students as well as elementary special's (art, music, pe, etc.) with hopes to expand options. Insufficient BSA funding is exhausting for administrations, teachers, support staff and board members. Schools need to be secure and need to be a priority. Please support HB 272 and HB 273 as initial steps to provide Alaska's youth with the education they deserve.

Respectfully,
Eryn Brooks
Ketchikan Charter School APC Member (former APC President)
Ketchikan High School Swim & Dive Coach
Ketchikan Charter School and Ketchikan High School Parent


From: gsvendsen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Greg Svendsen
<gsvendsen@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 7:53 AM
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,
Greg Svendsen



From: grhiana@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Rhiana Gay <grhiana@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 12:01 AM
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,
Rhiana Gay

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Rhiana Gay.

From: sandisuzie@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sandra Ryan
<sandisuzie@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 5:20 AM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

Six year. Six years since our Alaskan schools have seen a raise. Over that time buying power, recruitment and retention, and moral has diminished.

HB 272 in its current form is a start, not a finish, but a good start. Please take the stance and support our student, our future. Stop the hamstringing of our school districts, and give them the power to plan, not be simply reactionary. I have had the pleasure of being a teacher in Alaska for 28-years; I know firsthand what lack of adequate funding means for our children.

Please don't settle for a lesser bill. Tell Alaska children you have their best interest in your heart and your vote.

Sincerely,
Sandra Ryan




From: lindzshort@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lindsay Wackowski
<lindzshort@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 12:06 AM
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,
Lindsay Wackowski



From: svendsen_crysta@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Crysta Svendsen
<svendsen_crysta@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 12:01 AM
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,
Crysta Svendsen




From: dwackowski1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Deborah Svendsen <dwackowski1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2022 10:51 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Be a public education hero and pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

The decline in funding will lead to tragedy in educating the diverse student population. I am a retired teacher. What drove me out of education? Safety in the classroom. I had to do room clears daily which then disrupted instruction. There were not enough support personal to help me remove the student having an outburst. My only option was to take the other 24 students to a safe spot in the school. Currently, I am subbing in the school I retired from. The needs in kinder are alarming. Each classroom in the kindergarten rooms need 2 additional adults besides the teacher and TA to assist the 3 students on the autism spectrum. Teachers are exhausted, stressed and concerned about how much longer this can go on. If you care about public education, prove it!!

Sincerely,
Deborah Svendsen



From: ev3nthorizon@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kelly Auer
<ev3nthorizon@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2022 9:00 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Please pass HB 272

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick,

As a parent and educator, I am asking you to please pass HB 272 from the House Finance Committee in its current form. Specifically, I ask you to retain the increased BSA. Our schools & students have been in crisis mode for far too long, and we desperately need the support that stable funding gives.

Please pass HB 272 without any amendments which would dilute or diminish education funding. Thank you for your service to the people of our state!

Sincerely,
Kelly Auer



From: kathykern1969@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kathy Kern <kathykern1969@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2022 2:10 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,
Kathy Kern

