
From: Megan Peterson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 2:28 PM
To: Senate Finance; Senate Education; House Finance; House Education
Subject: HB 272/273

Dear House and Senate Finance and Education Committees,

I greatly appreciate your time and dedication to Alaska/Alaskans. I have two young children in our Alaskan public school system. 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 schools 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.

Megan Peterson
Anchorage, AK (Oceanview)

From: adam.peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 10:25 PM
To: Senate Finance; Senate Education; House Finance; House Education
Subject: Support for HB 272/273

Dear House and Senate Finance and Education Committees,

I greatly appreciate your time and dedication to Alaska/Alaskans. I have two young children in our Alaskan public school system. 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 needed for our schools, 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.

Adam Peterson
Anchorage, AK (Oceanview)

From: Roy Getchell <rgetchell@hbsd.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 3:04 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: In Support of HB 272 and 273

Dear Representative Merrick,

My name is Dr. Roy Getchell and I am the proud Superintendent of the Haines Borough School District. I am writing today on behalf of our school board's legislative committee who are very much in favor of HB 272 and HB 273.

Because the BSA has not been increased since 2016, we are failing to keep up with the rising costs to effectively educate our students and meet the many needs that schools provide to Alaska's communities. In addition to flat funding, the rising cost of fuel, utilities, transportation, and goods and services is beginning to severely impact our budget. One member of our legislative committee, Kevin Shove, is the store manager of Howser's IGA in Haines. Through his position he has reported:

- Weekly price increases on 1000+ items (typically 200 or so)
- Freight surcharges recently increasing from 15% to 23%
- The cost of a gallon of milk has increased to nearly \$10
- Maintenance cost increases of between 10-20%

Those costs are not unique to groceries and goods, but to actual school expenses as well. Increases in heating fuel and utilities have increased by more than the entire cost of a full time reading paraprofessional during this year alone. For a small school district like ours, that kind of increase directly impacts our students and their learning.

We are a high performing school district and are working hard to meet the standards that our community expects and enjoys for their children. Years of flat funding accompanied by all-time high increases of the Consumer Price Index (over 11% as reported today) will be difficult for us to sustain without your help.

Our students are truly the best of their generation. As their champion and for their sake, I urge you to support their future by passing both HB 272 and HB 273. Thank you so much for your service to our state.

Yours in Education,
Roy Getchell
Superintendent

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Roy Getchell, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Haines Borough School District

Empowering Excellence Every Day