



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Clayton Holland, Superintendent

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520

Phone (907) 714-8888

February 24, 2023

Representative Sarah Vance
State Capitol Room 118
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 21-School/University Employee Health Insurance

Dear Representative Vance:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on HB 21 relating to School and University Employee Health Insurance. It is well documented that health care costs in Alaska are the highest in the nation. Alaskans spend the most per resident, face the highest insurance premiums, and have seen overall spending increase much faster than the rest of the country. Alaskans have spent more out-of-pocket on health care costs than residents in any other state. These costs continue to progressively cut into the paychecks of our employees and the overall budget of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Health Care costs have impacted recruitment and retention of school staff for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and school districts across Alaska. The ability to recruit and retain qualified personnel directly correlates to the opportunity to join a health care plan with a larger pool of employees and is crucial in this aspect to all districts in Alaska.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District supports HB 21. Listed among KPBSD's 2022-2023 legislative priorities include focus on retention and recruitment of high-quality educators by investing in defined benefits and exploring affordable health care for employees.

Thank you for sponsoring and bringing HB 21 forward. To have more health care options is a positive step for all school districts in Alaska.

Respectfully,

Clayton Holland
Superintendent