

Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District

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Ph. (907) 247-2109 Fax: (907) 247-3820

Michael Robbins, Superintendent • Melissa Johnson, Deputy Superintendent • Daniel Schuler, Business Manager



March 24, 2023

Representative Sarah Vance
Senator Shelley Hughes
State Capitol Room 118
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 21 and SB 110 - School/University Employee Health Insurance

Dear Representative Vance:

There is no denying that the health care costs in Alaska are the highest in the nation and the overall spending increase for Alaskans has risen more quickly than the rest of the country. Alaska residents have spent more out-of-pocket dollars on health care costs than residents across the nation. It is concerning to know these costs continue to take away from our employees compensation and the overall budget of Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District. These facts are the driving force behind this letter of support of House Bill 21 and Senate Bill 110 regarding School and University Employee Health Insurance.

School districts across Alaska are facing increasing costs of healthcare, reducing the number of quality candidates who apply for positions in the state. Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District has had trouble recruiting and retaining high quality teachers and staff for years and can only see the opportunity to offer improved services as a positive recruiting point.

Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District supports HB 21 and SB 110. Health care costs are part of our budget concerns, making the opportunity to explore affordable options for employees more important than in recent years. Thank you for sponsoring HB 21 and SB 110 and raising awareness of this issue facing districts across the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Robbins".

Michael Robbins, Superintendent
Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District
333 Schoenbar Road
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-247-2109