

From: [Scott Veerman](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Sen. Löki Tobin](#)
Subject: In Support of SB 52 - \$1,000 BSA increase
Date: Monday, April 10, 2023 9:22:12 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee and Senator Loki Tobin,
My name is Scott Veerman. I own an Alaska architectural firm called NorthForm Architecture. My wife is a dentist who owns her own business. Both of us were raised in Alaska and are products of the Alaska public education system. We are voters. Our two children – fourth generation Alaskans – attend public school in Anchorage. I am writing to express our support for the long overdue \$1000 increase to the BSA under Senate Bill 52.

My wife and I received excellent public education in Alaska in the 1980's and 90's. Class sizes were reasonable, teachers were equipped with necessary tools and materials, and families were not burdened with excessive out-of-pocket fees for science classes, art supplies, athletics and after-school clubs, etc. Unlike today, education in this state was once considered a priority and was funded appropriately. Not excessively or extravagantly, but appropriately.

Arguing that schools are failing and should therefore prove themselves first before additional funding is appropriated by the state is completely backwards. Stop listening to these people. You don't wait for an old car to start performing better before you take it to the shop. You invest an incremental amount into annual upkeep in order to keep it performing its best. You prevent the need for unforeseen repair shop visits. Unfortunately, our education system's annual maintenance investment has been zeroed out by legislators and governors of recent past, and when inflation is considered, it's the same amount it was 20 years ago! We're not putting gas in the car, we're not changing the oil, and we've let the tires go bald. This is unacceptable. We – not the schools – are failing our kids.

Fortunately, SB 52 is a solid attempt to normalize and right-size our investment in our children's education. It is long overdue and only a first step in an annual effort to keep our school system performing at peak.

Please be the first group of legislators to successfully pass a meaningful increase to the BSA in more than two decades. You have the power and the moral responsibility to do this.

Thank you.

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