

From: [Rebecca Vano](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB 65
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As a lifelong Alaskan, the mother of a high school senior who will be graduating this year, but, mostly, as someone who cares about the future of our state, I hope that we can work together to pass HB 65 and raise the BSA by \$1,000 per student. I have watched the strain on the educational system over the past 10 years with great concern. We are having a harder time retaining quality teachers, and support staff are also increasingly hard to find. I have zero complaints about my son's teachers, but I know several of them who have retired early, or left the state to find jobs where they feel they will be better compensated and supported, without the isolation of Alaska. This breaks my heart. I grew up in an Alaska that was vibrant and growing; when I attended school in the 70's and 80's in Fairbanks, I felt the community support around education and grew up knowing that my community felt that education was important to our future. We have gotten so stuck in bickering, infighting, and political games that we are neglecting what used to be a uniting priority. I implore all of you to do what is right and pass this bill. Our children deserve better. I hear a lot of talk about holding our schools "accountable," but we neglect to support them in the wake of increasing mental and emotional health issues with the students, economic downturn that affects families abilities to care for their children, and inflation. How can we hold schools accountable for test scores, when we, as a community are neglecting to provide them the resources they need? Whatever it takes to increase the BSA, even if that means we need to institute some kind of tax or reduce the PFD, is what I believe we need to do.

Thank you,
Rebecca Vano