



Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage

Resolution #23-10: Supporting Base Student Allocation Increase (HB 65 & SB 52)

SPONSORED BY: Matthew Green, *Speaker of the Assembly & Senator*
Albiona Selimi, *Chief Activities Officer & Delegate of CAS*
Hannah Huber, *Government Relations Officer & Senator*
Macchelssy Dinganga, *Speaker Pro Tempore & Senator*

ENDORSED BY: Katie Scoggin, *President*
Shanone Tejada, *Vice President*

COMMITTEE: Legislative Affairs Committee

DATE: March 23, 2023

WHEREAS: The Union of Students at the University of Alaska Anchorage (USUAA) serves as an mechanism to promote the interests of the student body and the community at large by advocating for governmental policy that supports the University of Alaska Anchorage and its constituent parts; and,

WHEREAS: According to Article 7, Section 1, Clause 1 of the [Alaska Constitution](#), “The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State, and may provide for other public educational institutions”; and,

WHEREAS: USUAA affirms that all levels of education are valuable and must be properly funded to succeed, as additional funding will only increase the value and quality of the education; and,

WHEREAS: Currently, Alaska is experiencing a mass exodus of young, skilled, and professional educators because K-12 education is underfunded and undervalued, resulting in [large classroom sizes](#); and,

WHEREAS: Underfunded education can affect the overall academic experience for staff and students, school function overall is lowered; and,

WHEREAS: When states invest proper resources into K-12 education, there is a greater likelihood of student success in adulthood—research indicates a correlation

between per capita income and per-pupil expenditures on former students, showing that districts with improved financial equity produce students who, in their income-earning adult lives, have a higher intergenerational income mobility, despite having been low-income during their K-12 experience; and,

WHEREAS: Lack of adequate school funding substantially impacts teachers and their salaries with studies illustrating that between 1996 and 2015, teacher salaries actually decreased \$30 per week—teachers struggle to live on their salaries which leads to departure in the career; and,

WHEREAS: Studies indicate a correlation between teacher pay and student outcomes, finding that higher wages attract more teachers, encourages competition, and yields higher-quality teaching candidates, which leads to greater student performance; and,

WHEREAS: Better educational funding leads to access to resources that play a significant role in student success, like school psychologists, social workers, and additional pupil support services that aid students in combating mental health and behavioral issues that impact their performance.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

The Union of Students at the University of Alaska Anchorage supports HB 65 & SB 52 because it increases the Base Student Allocation for students in K-12 levels of education, providing them more financial stability and the respect education deserves; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Union of Students at the University of Alaska Anchorage calls upon the members of the 33rd Alaska Legislature to pass HB 65 & SB 52 increasing funding for K-12 education is an investment in Alaska's future; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Union of Students at the University of Alaska Anchorage calls upon the Governor of Alaska to sign HB 65, SB 52, or any compromise bill to the same effect into law, if it passes in both Houses of the Legislature; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage will send a copy of this resolution to: Governor Mike Dunleavy, Speaker Cathy Tilton, Senate President Gary Stevens, Members of the Alaska House of Representatives, Members of the Alaska Senate, Members of the House Education Committee, Members of the House Finance Committee, Members of the Senate Education Committee and Members of the Senate Finance Committee.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage will send a copy of this resolution to: The Board of Regents, President Pat Pitney, Vice President of University Relations Michelle

Rizk, Vice President of Academics, Students, and Research Paul Layer, State Relations Director
Chad Hutchison, Chancellor Sean Parnell, Provost Denise Runge, Vice Chancellor for Student
Affairs Deanne Woodard, and Dean of Students Ben Morton.

PASSED BY A 10-0-0 VOTE OF THE USUAA ASSEMBLY



Vetoed

Katie Scoggin, *Student Body President*

Date: April 12, 2023