



Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70

P.O. Box 20212 Juneau, Alaska 99802

April 12, 2023

2023-24  
ANS Camp 70  
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Dear Chairs Hoffman, Olson, and Stedman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity for public comment on Senate Bill 52, Increase Base Student Allocation.

My name is Desmona Stevick. I am President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, Glacier Valley Camp 70, and I speak on behalf of Camp 70 in support of SB 52.

Alaska's public education system has been severely eroding in recent years. Although the real costs of education have risen by 24.6% since 2011, the Base Student Allocation (BSA) has risen by less than 5%. We are starving the system and increasingly falling behind other states in our financial support for our public schools. This is reflected in lagging academic performance, high rates of teacher turnover, unfilled positions, and educators leaving the profession or being forced to leave Alaska for other states with more competitive compensation and working conditions. Yesterday KTOO reported that 35 educators in Juneau have submitted their paperwork to leave the district at the end of this school year.

The Alaska Native Sisterhood has always staunchly supported education. There is very little that is of greater importance to the future of Alaska and the future of our children and grandchildren than our public education system. Without adequate investment in educating our children, they will not be prepared to become the work force and leaders that Alaska needs to ensure a positive future.

The majority of Alaskans want the same thing – thriving communities with good jobs and strong public schools where all students have the resources and opportunities to grow into their full potential.

ANS Glacier Valley Camp 70 supports SB 52 and an increase of \$1000 in the BSA in fiscal year 2024, with prescribed increases in future years to meet inflation and increased costs. Sustained investment in our public education system is the foundation for a prosperous future for Alaska and for our children.

We strongly urge your support for this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Desmona Stevick, President  
Alaska Native Sisterhood, Glacier Valley/Camp 70