

**From:** [Ty Mase](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony on SB 52  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 1:45:00 PM

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Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Ty Mase and I am writing today to voice Chugach School District's support for SB 52. We desperately need the help of the legislature in keeping up with inflation, escalating insurance costs, and rising fuel oil prices. We are by no means a failing district, we do good by kids, and we are going to do better. However, adequate funding makes this process much easier and allows us to get there quicker.

The last several weeks we have been working on our district budget which has been no easy task. To be completely honest, we cut deep yet wanted to avoid cutting staff and key programs so we are budgeting based on a substantial BSA increase. While the number we used seems absurdly high in comparison to years past, we are not in a position to start cutting people and programs when there is still hope on the horizon. We have already cut several hundred thousand dollars out of our budget (a lot for a small district) and are hoping to avoid further cuts if a substantial BSA increase doesn't happen.

If we are not forced to cut staff or programs, we can pretty much guarantee a return on your dollar... meaning student achievement will increase. We are excited about the Alaska Reads Act and putting an emphasis on early literacy as well as other core subjects (however, this will come at a cost). We are also moving towards more diagnostic assessments along with pinpointed intervention strategies to get our students where they need to be. To close, we are excited that the prospect of adequate funding could allow us to aggressively focus on student achievement with adequate resources and a full staff!

Please vote to pass SB 52 out of the Finance Committee so that we can sustain and move forward with student offerings and ultimately, achievement.

Thank you for your consideration. Ty Mase, Chief School Administrator

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Ty Mase  
Chief School Administrator  
Chugach School District