

From: [Lili Misel](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Raise the Alaska BSA - support SB 52
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 9:49:37 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for all the work you do on behalf of Alaskans. This letter is in support of SB 52 and a significant increase in the current BSA.

As a person who attended and graduated from Fairbanks schools, I remember strong and robust classes. Our classes were right-sized and not overcrowded, there was funding for honors courses, music and art programs, tutors and support was readily available for those who needed help, and there was a relaxed atmosphere which encouraged and enriched learning for all students.

My children, who are currently in high school in Fairbanks, talk about overcrowded classrooms of 30 students which were meant for smaller numbers. About stressed teachers who are pressured to meet testing standards when they themselves are working more than 40 hours a week trying to keep up and give meaningful feedback to their students while also balancing the other responsibilities of teaching and taking care of their own families. Of the hiring of teachers who don't have teaching certificates because the district cannot attract new teachers because of low wages, limited retirement fund programs which don't compete with other states, and the stress that comes with being a teacher where they are given more and more directives without any increase in financial support.

Alaska is my home - and I want it to be the home of my children and their children. **But at this point, we are watching the undermining of our children's education - and the undermining of an educated citizenry.** It is a base of our democracy to have an educated public - one where students and their teachers can share information and meet the goals to create citizens who will lead Alaska in the future.

I know there are those parents who do not support public education and do not support an increase to the BSA, but they are only thinking of their own children. They have the luxury to homeschool and be fully engaged in their children's lives. Most Alaskans do not have that ability. **Parents need strong schools so their children can have productive and secure lives - able to do whatever job they set their minds to with a strong educational background.**

Please work with your colleagues and support an increase to the BSA - not only for Fairbanks students, but for those in Tok and Anchorage, Bethel and Point Hope. We need strong schools across the state - and you can help. Please help by supporting SB 52 and raising the BSA.

Sincerely,
Lili Misel
Fairbanks