

From: [R.J. Potter](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#)
Subject: Support for SB 52
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 4:39:27 PM

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Joel Potter. I am a resident of Anchorage, an associate professor at UAA, and the father of three children in the Anchorage School District.

I am writing to express my support for SB 52 and, specifically for a \$1000 increase to the BSA.

What is being proposed in SB 52 is not a funding increase. It is a restoration of most (but not all) of the state financial support lost due to inflation. The impacts of inflation are particularly dire for the Anchorage School District because of the way that the state's funding formula works. While other districts receive adjustments for changes in cost of living, ASD does not, because it is used as the benchmark for calculating the district cost factor.

It is essential to the proper functioning of our K-12 schools that this increase happens this year and that it consists of a BSA increase and not a one-time increase.

One-time increases do not lend stability to our schools. Instead, they perpetuate chaos, stress, and a damaging fire and rehire cycle. One-time funding will mean that districts like mine--the Anchorage School District--will have to move forward with large increases to the teacher student ratio and school closures next year.

Families in my school district cannot weather perpetual uncertainty and diminishing educational offerings. Many will simply leave the state. Our state leadership must look to the future and prioritize our children and families.

Thank you for your time,
Joel Potter