

## James Sexton

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**From:** Luann McVey <luannmcvey@me.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 18, 2023 4:43 PM  
**To:** House Education  
**Cc:** Rep. Andi Story  
**Subject:** Education Funding

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I'm a retired Alaskan teacher with some concerns about education in our state. I am appalled that the BSA has not increased since 2017, in spite of the increase in fixed costs for districts. In the long run, this situation results in fewer services for our students. I have heard about class sizes of 25-40 in Juneau elementary classrooms. Please, dear legislators, recognize that these numbers make teaching and real learning next to impossible. Please pass HB 65, increasing the BSA by \$1250. It is the least you can do for our students and their teachers.

Also, I urge you to pass HB 31, modernizing the Alaska Performance Scholarship. We need to keep Alaskan students in our state and a sure-fire way to do that is to find the students who are performing well in high school and set them up for success in our state's universities. Expanding the scope of the APS is the ticket to helping our students stay in the state and find success in their university tenures.

My husband, also a retired teacher, and I are very fortunate that our two daughters, while not APS recipients, remained in Alaska and attended our universities here. Now that they are adults, they work in Juneau at Bartlett Regional Hospital and at Sealaska Corporation, putting their university degrees to work. Their husbands, also local boys, received their degrees from the University of Alaska as well and work as Deputy Clerk of the Senate and as brewmaster/owner for the Devil's Club Brewing Company in Juneau. They're all examples of how encouraging Alaskan students to attend our universities pays off in an enhanced work force for our state.

Again, I strongly urge the passage of HB 65 and HB 31, to lift up Alaskan students and schools in these challenging times.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey  
Retired Alaskan Teacher  
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