

**From:** [Heather Batchelder](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Jamie Allard](#)  
**Subject:** HB 111  
**Date:** Friday, April 21, 2023 10:23:16 AM

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Dear Representative Allard,

Please support HB 111 – An Act Relating to Public School Students Who are Deaf or Have a Hearing Impairment.

As a faculty member at the University of Alaska Southeast, I prepare special educators to work with students experiencing exceptionalities and I am writing to you to request that you support HB 111. I am speaking on my own behalf.

In Alaska, children who are deaf or hard of hearing may not be provided access to American Sign Language (ASL). Often children who are hard of hearing are only given the opportunity to learn English, when ASL may provide them a better opportunity to acquire language. The language gap widens as children grow.

Children who are deaf and hard of hearing are born with the same ability to acquire language as any other children and deserve the same opportunities to do so. They have the capacity to be educated, graduate high school, obtain further education, and to pursue a career. To that end, all families of deaf or hard of hearing children should have access to appropriate early intervention and family educational services, comprehensive information, and access to state resources to help children who are deaf reach their full potential. This includes access to, and assessment by, qualified professionals proficient in developing the child's acquisition of language throughout their early intervention and school years.

Children who are deaf and hard of hearing should be able to acquire both English and American Sign Language (a natural visual language) simultaneously with the support of intervention services prior to entering school and reinforced within the school system. Exposure to all information, specialized personnel, school programs, social activities, and extra-curricular activities will allow children who are deaf and hard of hearing to access education and society. This exposure should be inclusive with peers to ensure age-appropriate development of learning, emotional and social skills, and should provide access to deaf adult role models.

Please support the passage of HB 111.

Sincerely,

Heather Batchelder, Ph.D.



**From:** [pack.tim](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Jamie Allard](#)  
**Subject:** HB 111 Education for Deaf/Hearing Impaired  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 2:41:23 PM

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Dear Representative Allard, Groh, Gray, and McCabe,

As your constituent and an educational interpreter of English and American Sign Language in the Anchorage school district, I am writing to express my support for HB 111.

HB 111 is important to me because it will increase the resources and chances that all deaf and hard of hearing students will receive the equitable education they deserve. HB 111 fosters appropriate language acquisition which will in turn greatly improve these students' future success in life emotionally, socially, academically and professionally. HB 111 will ensure that all deaf and hard of hearing children get to thrive in their academic setting because it establishes a rigorous foundation for early identification and support of their linguistic and social needs as well as placement in the least restrictive learning environment e.g. one where staff and peers share their dominant language.

Please vote in favor of HB111, thank you for your hard work in supporting our community. We appreciate your time reading this letter.

Sincerely,  
Tim Pack  
Educational Interpreter  
Anchorage School District

*"All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual." – **Albert Einstein***

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**From:** [emery alana](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Jamie Allard](#)  
**Subject:** HB111  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:03:21 PM

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Dear Representative Allard, Groh, Gray, and McCabe

I (Emery Jackson) am in tenth grade and am 15 years old. I am deaf and was raised with both hearing and deaf family (Moms side hearing & Dads side deaf). I struggled with hearing side of my family but felt more accommodated and included with deaf family. I am writing to express my and deaf community's support for HB111. I've always been included with deaf community and deaf culture. HB111 is very important to us because all Deaf and Hard of Hearing students deserve equitable education. All of us deserve appropriate language acquisition which will make sure we are successful in the future. HB 111 will ensure that all deaf and hard of hearing children get to thrive in their academic setting.

Please vote in favor of HB111, thank you for your hard work in supporting our community. Deaf community and I appreciate your time reading this letter

Sincerely,  
Emery Jackson

**From:** [Scotty Jackson](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Jamie Allard](#)  
**Subject:** HbB111 education for Deaf  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 2:47:40 PM

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Dear Representative Allard, Groh, Gray, and McCabe

We (Valerie and Scotty) are deaf w 5 deaf childrens and Coda. Our kids are third generation deaf. We re writing to express our support for HB111.

We always been in deaf community and deaf culture. HB111 is very important to us because all Deaf and Hard of Hearing students deserve equitable education. All of them deserve appropriate language acquisition which will make sure they are successful in the future. HB 111 will ensure that all deaf and hard of hearing children get to thrive in their academic setting.

Please vote in favor of HB111, thank you for your hard work in supporting our community. We appreciate your time reading this letter

Sincerely  
Scotty

Sent from my iPhone