
From: Matthew Chouinard [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2023 9:47 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee; House Finance
Subject: I Support for Looking Outside the Box for Increased Income

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen of the Finance Committees,

I am recently retired from the United States Air Force after serving nearly 22 years. I am also a first-year educator within the Anchorage School District. As a STEM teacher it seems like my hand is always out asking for money or resources to help with teaching the next generation of citizens. The military has taught me to be resourceful and I have had to make do with what I have this year in the classroom. This system is not feasible going into the future as the costs of living and goods continue to increase due to inflation. With the relatively flat BSA over the past 5-6 years, it makes it very hard for educators to want to stay in this profession. There is a problem with spending at the state level. I fully support any increase in spending on education in this great state. I have watched several finance and education committee meetings to learn more in depth about what some of the bills and bigger issues are. I understand the questions coming from the committees, everyone is wanting more money due to increased costs, but the money isn't there without over-drawing from the PFD. Having to take money from this program in order to make this program happy is not easy and is not popular by any stretch of the imagination.

With our increased fiscal constraints, the amount of money the state receives from the oil companies and tourism is not sustainable beyond the next year or two to properly fund operations. I strongly urge and recommend we start looking at other sources of revenue such as implementing taxes at the state level or possibly joining the lottery system (mega millions or powerball). The latter would be the more well-received option. Although I do believe state taxes would be the better long-term option if implemented with the correct rate. New and imposed taxes will not go well with the general population but if it is presented in a manner that if new taxes are implemented then it would allow the PFD to be distributed per the Alaska Constitution. Having additional sources of income such as taxes and joining the lottery system will financially support this state and the increased demands upon the financial committees. I know it is a tough pill to swallow knowing that this state attracts a lot of residents with my same background (retired military) but there is a way to implement taxes and still be military friendly.

You do have a tough job making difficult decisions knowing there are hundreds if not thousands of programs looking at you for more money and there isn't any additional money to give. This is why I support state taxes as well as joining the lottery system to increase income for the great state of Alaska.

Sincerely,
Matthew Chouinard

From: Bob Butera [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2023 9:59 AM
Subject: I Support Increased Funding for Public Education

My son subbed in the Anchorage School District for a year. Two of his friends taught for a year. All three of them have decided that although they love teaching and the kids they are going to move on to other careers. Why? Because the classes are large and the support minimal. There are a lot of dysfunctional kids. Everything is stressed to the breaking point. They also look ahead and don't see a future that compensates them adequately for such challenging work. This scenario did not exist when my son was in school two decades ago and received a great education.

And where are these young adults going. Not here. They lost faith in our University when it was gutted. They see the handwriting on the wall that our government does not care about funding a strong society.

We are cheating our children, we are losing our young adults. We must do better. Lets start with adequately funding education.

From: Carey Carpenter <carey@carpenterprogramming.com>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 7:40 AM
To: House Finance; House Education; Senate Education; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Re: BSA Increase for Education Funding

Sorry, one more comment from me is I believe the revenue needs to come from an income tax. I'm tired of all of the workers that come to our state to make a bunch of money and they don't pay anything into our economy. The permanent fund and sales tax are not fair and they still don't tax the out-of-state people that use all of our resources for their own financial gain without helping our own state be successful and get the revenue we need.

> On Apr 28, 2023, at 7:27 AM, Carey Carpenter <carey@carpenterprogramming.com> wrote:

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> Hello Alaska State Education and Finance Committees, I'm writing to

> let you know that I will not settle for insufficient one-time funds for education. The \$680 BSA one-time increase is not enough to save programs that the school district thrives on and needs to keep kids successful and engaged. The \$680 BSA being proposed is not acceptable. Please fight for a meaningful, permanent, inflation-proofed increase to the BSA of at least \$1,000. I will not accept anything less and neither should you if you care about Alaska and its future.

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> Sincerely,

> Carey Carpenter

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From: Carey Carpenter <carey@carpenterprogramming.com>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 7:27 AM
To: House Finance; House Education; Senate Education; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: BSA Increase for Education Funding

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Sincerely,
Carey Carpenter


From: Sandi Trumbower <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 12:27 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB65

Committee Members,

I am writing asking for your full support for House Bill 65 which proposes to raise Base Student Allotments by \$1,250.

Student Allotments have not been since 2016. Inflation has increased, cumulatively, 24.65% since that last increase. It is astounding to me that even if the full \$1,250 is passed it still will not meet the level of inflation since the previous increase. Our students are our future. Invest in them!

Thank you for your attention.

Sandra Lee Trumbower
[REDACTED]
Anderson, AK