

James Sexton

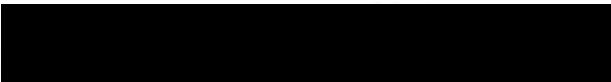
From: Brittany Tompkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 8:37 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 139

I am in support to allowing homeschooling programs to receive 100% of what is normally considered the 'minimum funding' for education, called the Base Student Allocation. Without HB 139, homeschooling programs will continue to receive only 90% of the BSA and allowing homeschooling programs to receive special education funding (Special Needs Factor). I know many families that would greatly benefit from this funding. Speech and/or Reading delays are more common than we think and the funding would greatly help families who need to see Speech/Dyslexia specialist. Those appointments can be very expensive. Thank you.

Homeschooling for 7 years with IDEA, currently a Wasilla resident.

Brittany Tompkins

Sr. Consultant



Our mission is to get safer products in the hands of everyone.



James Sexton

From: Matthew Forester [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 9:44 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 139

Dear House Education Committee Members,

My name is Matthew Forester and I am a parent representing the IDEA Homeschool program with the Galena City School District. I am testifying in support of House Bill 139...

- 100% funding of each student enrolled in a correspondence program is vital to ensuring that my child is able to receive the education which they deserve in order to actualize their dreams. I have three daughters, Two who have already graduated from the IDEA program. My oldest runs her own successful business. My middle daughter is studying engineering, working on her pilot's license and has been involved with the Civil Air Patrol for 9 years. My youngest dreams of becoming a successful artist and entrepreneur, leading a full and productive life as well as being able to ensure that Alaska is a viable place to call home.
- Funding special education for correspondence students is simply a matter of fairness. Parents of children in need of special education struggle enough as it is and deserve all the support we as Alaskans can give them.
- In the IDEA Program, the fair and equal funding of all students will ensure that my child receives support from exceptional educators as we love the staff and want to ensure that they have wages which enable them to stay with our program and within our state; and that we have the family spaces that we need for my child(ren) to collaborate with their peers, and be able to participate in events such as the National Spelling Bee, Academic Decathlon, and more.

In closing, please consider my support for HB 139 as my youngest daughter, as well as the children and many friends and family are impacted by the support which increased education will provide. Thank you for the opportunity.

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Best regards,
Matthew Forester

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle.-Philo

Dear House Education Committee Members,

My name is Lindsay Pinkelman and I am a School Counselor and homeschool parent representing the IDEA Homeschool program with the Galena City School District.

I am testifying in support of House Bill 139...

I started my career in the correspondence/ homeschool setting as a virtual School Counselor and have found my way back after most of my career in the public school setting. Since then, the amount of support our students and families need with their kids' education has intensified over the years due to many societal factors. More specifically, School Counselors are positioned to support the team including students, parents, staff and special education teams. It is vital that homeschools across our state are supported with 100% funding including Special Education students. Each student's individual unique needs require a team of people including therapists, special education teachers, contact teachers, and counselors to assist in delivering IEP goals and services. I don't know any other profession where you're expected to deliver services and not get paid. However, education somehow has been able to get away with it for a very long time. My hope is that our legislature sees the importance of fairly funding all schools under the same allocation model.

In closing, please consider my support for HB 139.

Thank you for your time,

Lindsay Pinkelman