

CSSB

367

5/9/75

COMMITTEE REPORT

FINANCE

HOUSE

Mr. Speaker:

Date

5/16/75

The Committee on HESS has had CSSB 367

under consideration. A Majority of the members of the Committee

recommends it DO PASS

recommends it DO NOT PASS

recommends it DO PASS WITH ATTACHED AMENDMENT(S)

recommends it BE REPLACED WITH CS FOR _____ AND THAT
CS FOR _____ DO PASS

"and" recommends it BE REFERRED TO THE _____
COMMITTEE

reports it back WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

"othe "

Members signing the Majority report:

[Signature] _____
[Signature] _____
[Signature] _____
[Signature] _____

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

_____ recommends: _____
_____ recommends:
_____ recommends:
_____ recommends:
_____ recommends:

[Signature] Chairman

TELEGRAM

ACE ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

PHONE: 536-6440

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

SB 367

1975 FEB 20 PM 4 09

02054 POM ANCHORAGE AK 15 02-20 108P AST

PMS REP SUSAN SULLIVAN

JUN

NEA ALASKA APPRECIATES YOUR EFFORTS TO FINALIZE DECENTRALIZATION
OF SOS MANDATING BASIS INTO BOROUGH ESSENTIAL

TERRY D STIMSON PRESIDENT NEA/ALASKA 1515 EAST TUDOR 99507



Alaska State Legislature

House

JUNEAU ALASKA

HESS COMMITTEE MEETING

May 17, 1975

Members Present:

Bierne Ostrosky
Hackney Sullivan
Osterback Swanson

Testifying Guests:

Dr. Price

Chairman Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

HB 395 Registry of Persons with Impairments

Bierne: The Senate version of this bill, I believe, has met with some problems.

Price: Yes. It has been returned to Senate Committee. They are having problems with who is to be determined as handicapped, and with establishing safeguards to ensure confidentiality. They have cut the list of impairments to be registered to cerebral palsy, mental retardation, epilepsy, and genital transmitted defects. It believe that this cut was a mistake.

Bierne: The bill requires some rewording so that it would ensure that this does not impinge upon individual rights.

Farr: We can only justify voluntary registry.

Price: I'm afraid that with the voluntary thing, we would have nowhere near the potential effectiveness for protection of those individuals with impairments.

Ostrosky: What use is presently made of the register?

Price: When a doctor must treat one of these persons, he can work with a consultant who knows the patient's specific problem. The register can also assist the State in determining where special clinics are needed, and the register can be used in applying for federal funds. This knowledge would also function for prevention in streptococci related impairments.

It was decided that this bill be held in Committee.

HB 329 Pupil Transportation

Ostrosky: I move that line 13 should be changed to " must be based upon two competitive bids" rather than three. There was a problem in our community where there were only two competitors, and there are no stipulations for this.

This amendment was unanimously passed.

Swanson: I think that we should omit item (g). The department will write negotiating contracts right into it. We need a review committee to go over administrative regulation written by the departments.

The role of the departments in determining regulations was briefly discussed.

Hackney: There is an error in line 23. "Read" should probably be "reach".

This amendment was passed without objection.

HB 329 was passed out with the two amendments. There was no objection.

CSSB-367 Centralization of Correspondence Study

Sullivan: I believe that there are many people who want this bill, so I would like to get it passed out.

Hackney: I would like to hear more testimony. I have heard two conflicting stories.

Ostrosky: I think I have figured it out. The general operating theory of the Department of Education has lately been to decentralize programs. Correspondence Study, however, has been very successful on a centralized basis.

Sullivan: From what I understand, grades 1 - 8 have been handled by S.O.S., and high school grades, more satisfactorily, by Margaret Justice. The intent of the bill is to put them all under Margaret Justice.

Hackney: I am not hung up either way on the bill. I just want to be sure that there is a viable option to the local schools open to those who want one.

Sullivan: The way it is now handled, school districts are being paid for correspondence students.

Hackney: School districts get about \$1700 per student, and only \$250 reverts to the Department.

Sullivan: I think we should get that excess money out of the boroughs and give a larger amount to the Department for the correspondence program.

Hackney: Why don't we pass this bill out with a letter of intent stating that we want this money to be given to the centralized program.

Sullivan: I agree. In the letter we could state that the school districts should not be funded for correspondence students, and that a larger percentage of that money should go to the Department for correspondence programs.


The bill was passed out with a "do pass" recommendation. One member objected with four concurring. Rep. Bierne had had to leave prior to the vote.

SB 367

M E M O R A N D U M

February 26, 1975

TO: Representative Susan Sullivan
Chairwoman
House Committee on Health,
Education and Social Services

FROM: Hugh Malone
Chairman
House Finance Committee 

SUBJECT: Correspondence Courses and ASOSS

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter which I received from a Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson at Sisters Island. I think they raised a number of points worth investigating. The hearings which they request may very well be justified. I would appreciate any comments which you may have.

HM:kfs

c/o FAA, Sisters Island
P. O. Box 1227
Juneau, Alaska 99802

February 12, 1975

Representative Hugh Malone
Chairman, Finance Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Rep. Malone:

Since ASOSS took over the administration of secondary level of correspondence studies, we feel that a great deal more money is being spent and much less service is being rendered the correspondence students. We understand that the Correspondence Study Branch was placed under ASOSS to receive Federal Impact Funds. We signed 2 cards in October. There has been only deterioration in services. Our lessons used to come direct to Juneau from the University of Nebraska to us in about a week. Now they go to Anchorage, to Ketchikan and finally at least a month later to us. High school correspondence students are now permitted to take only one course at a time. This is a gross inequity. How would you feel if your children were permitted to take only one course at a time in a residence school? We are also told that our high school students will not be permitted to take courses from the University of Nebraska's Extension High School but only from the American School which is primarily a trade school. Our son has started with the University of Nebraska, and if he is forced to change, his German could not be continued, the math courses offered by the American School are considerably different, and there would be much wasted motion in the transfer.

We have been visited by an ASOSS coordinator who left a chartered plane sitting on the beach while he told us how much easier the American School is than the University of Nebraska. He was likewise critical of the correspondence division's courses for the elementary level. We are not interested in how easy the courses are, but how much our children learn from them. As federal income tax payers we resent having federal impact funds spent to keep a chartered plane waiting on a beach, and having a representative of the state's educational system attempt to degrade our children's education.

It seems to us the logical means of getting federal impact funds for Correspondence Study Branch would be to make the CSB a school district. We understand there is a desire to place education under local control. This is very fine -- but we do not live in the Juneau borough. We have more in common with residents in an FAA station near Fairbanks or residents of a cannery near Kodiak than we have with residents of any population center.

Furthermore, correspondence study has been used to supplement the curricula of small schools. If the Correspondence Study Branch is retained as a separate entity, a resident of the smallest residence high school in Alaska has available any course offered by the American School or the Extension High School of the University of Nebraska. This presently provides an equality of educational opportunity which exists in no other state to our knowledge. It would be a tragedy to break the Correspondence Study Branch into several local districts dominated by city dwellers whose children have never taken a correspondence course.

Presently the Correspondence Branch is operating on about \$500 per child. No other school in the state operates on such a low budget or provides such an excellent education to the children.

We would like to have hearings held by the Education and Finance Committees of both Senate and House. We would like to be permitted to express our views at such meeting along with members of the Correspondence Study Branch and any other interested persons.

We feel that Mrs. Justice and her staff have done and are doing an outstanding job and that correspondence study has been constantly improving. Since ASOSS has taken over, it has degenerated and is continuing to degenerate.

We want the situation to improve so we won't have to send our children outside to a private school.

Sincerely,

J. C. and Virginia Tomlinson
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Tomlinson

HOUSE JOURNAL

May 17, 1975

To: Honorable Mike Bradner
Speaker of the House of Representatives

From: Susan Sullivan, Chairwoman
House HESS Committee

Subject: CSSB 367

The House Committee on Health, Education, and Social Services has passed out with a "do pass" recommendation Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 367 which would continue the centralized correspondence study program.

The Committee believes that the local school districts should not receive foundation unit payments for students enrolled in correspondence study courses, and, furthermore, holds that a larger portion of this foundation unit money should be appropriated to the correspondence study program within the Department of Education.

It is the request of the House Health, Education, and Social Services Committee to seek your concurrence in establishing this letter as a statement of legislative intent.

Susan Sullivan

Susan Sullivan

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



7330 MARGE COURT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99504
333-6412

POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
465-3797
RESIDENCE 586-8159

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 18, 1975

Lyman L. Vincent
Eagle River Scout Camp
P.O. Box 82
Auke Bay, Alaska 99803

Dear Mr. Vincent:

Thank you for your letter of March 20 regarding correspondence study funding.

Yesterday, our Committee took up Senate Bill 367, a bill to continue the centralized correspondence study program. This bill was introduced in view of the budgetary provision for decentralization. Sharing with you a recognition of the fine program carried on by the Central Office, we strongly supported this bill, passing it on to the Finance Committee with a "do pass" recommendation. Along with the bill, we sent a letter of intent, expressing our Committee's wish that local districts no longer receive funds for correspondence students, and that a larger portion of these funds be appropriated to the Central Office correspondence program. Hopefully, the House will pass SB 367 before the session's close.

Again, thank you for your letter. As you might infer from yesterday's actions, your letter was given considerable thought.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Sullivan".

Susan Sullivan, Chairwoman
House HESS Committee

SS:la

SB 367

SB367

Eagle River Scout Camp
PO Box 82 Aniak Bay, Ak
March 10, 1975

Honorable Susan Sullivan
House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

It has come to my attention that the new state budget for fiscal year 1976 does not allow sufficient funds to expand or even continue the role of the Central Correspondence Study Office; the responsibility instead being given to the local school districts. It is also my understanding that the bulk of state funds already goes to the local districts.

It has been our experience to find that the bulk of services comes from the central office. The Staff there provides a thorough, professional, personalized program involving, at times, considerable effort on their own time. The word that fits is dedication! Ask anyone involved in correspondence study, past or present, and I feel you will find general agreement on that point.

I doubt very much if the local school districts can ever provide these comprehensive services. I think it would be an unwanted burden for them, and I think, in fact, already is -

Sound fiscal policy in the state, as well as in the family circle, is most important, and "biting the bullet" is not as difficult as it might seem, as this family knows. It is, I believe, a matter of priorities.

Please support any legislation in the offing that would support and/or expand the central C/S office. We find correspondence study to be a fulfilling family experience and wish it to remain so. In our considered opinion, it is a better way, and cheaper too.

A suggestion: a cut in the allocation for each correspondence student, thereby saving a considerable amount, and then a shift in the bulk of the remaining funds to the central office, so that these more important services need not be curtailed.

Thank you,
Sydney S. Vincent

SB 367

Susan Sullivan

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

7330 MARGE COURT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99504
333-8412



POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
465-3797
RESIDENCE 586-6159

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 18, 1975

Mrs. Elizabeth Holloway
Rainbow Valley
Indian, Alaska 99540

Dear Mrs. Holloway:

Thank you for your letter of March 25 regarding correspondence study funding.

Yesterday, our committee took up Senate Bill 367, a bill to continue the centralized correspondence study program. This bill was introduced in opposition to the budgetary provision for decentralization. Sharing with you a recognition of the fine program carried on by the Central Office, we strongly supported this bill, passing it on to the Finance Committee with a "do pass" recommendation. Along with the bill, we sent a letter of intent, expressing our committee's wish that local districts no longer receive funds for correspondence students, and that a larger portion of these funds be appropriated to the correspondence program within the Department of Education. Hopefully, the House will pass SB 367 before the session's close.

Again, thank you for your letter. As you might infer from yesterday's actions, your letter was given considerable thought.

Yours truly,
Susan Sullivan
Susan Sullivan, Chairwoman
House HESS Committee

SS:la

5B 367

Rainbow Valley
Indian, Alaska 99540
March 25, 1975

Dear Rep. Sullivan,

I understand there is a proposal to decentralize correspondence education and cut its budget. I am adamantly opposed.

If the organized borough handles correspondence education from one of their many offices, then the emphasis of their time and energy is not correspondence, but what the majority of students are involved in -- which is as it should be. At this time, the Dept. of Correspondence Education in Juneau devotes its entire time and effort to those students in their program. Their special problems are considered and dealt with - I don't think this would be the case under decentralization. In Anchorage, where we reside, correspondence education is looked upon more as old-fashioned, out-dated. This outlook would undermine the program already in existence.

If cost is a consideration, and it should be; then correspondence is a far less expensive way to educate a student than through the traditional public school. The Anchorage Borough currently pays the state correspondence program \$500 per student. While the borough receives approximately \$1500 from the state for each student, the other \$1000 is not spent on correspondence students - it is absorbed into the overall borough education budget. I would rather see that \$1000 sent to the state correspondence program in order to strengthen it.

Alaska has long offered a good correspondence program to its citizens as there has been - and still is - an obvious need. Placing correspondence education under the University of Alaska, as proposed by Thelma Buchholdt, makes sense. If the Dept. of Education can not support a good program such as this, then take it away from them before they destroy it. As a former public school teacher, with a Masters in Education, I feel the correspondence program is educationally sound. Academically, I feel my son is ahead; and the time he saves by eliminating the "non-educational" activities of school allows him time for other constructive activities.

In a time of rising costs and problems in the public schools, Alaska's correspondence program should be strengthened, adequately funded, and placed under the direction of those who believe in it. It's ironic that a staff that has worked well, according to parents and students, now faces the prospect of being replaced, "decentralized" as a reward for their good efforts. When government finds an agency that works well and is supported by that part of the public it serves -- when all too often, some agencies do not -- that agency should be supported in the legislative as well as the judicial branch. I hope you will support correspondence education.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Holloway
Mrs. Elizabeth Holloway

cc. Governor Jay Hammond
Marshall Lind, Commissioner of Education
Bob Van Haute, Executive Secretary, NEA - Alaska
Sue Green, Special Assistant to the Governor
Rich Guthrie, Legislative Affairs
Members' House Finance Committee
Members House Health, Education & Social Services Committee
Members Senate Finance Committee
Members Senate Health, Education, & Social Services Committee
Rep. Willard Bowman
Mrs. Margaret Justice, Director Correspondence Education
Mrs. Lynn Williams, Teacher, Correspondence Education

SB 367

Susan Sullivan

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

7330 MARGE COURT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99304
333-6412



POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
465-3797
RESIDENCE 586-6159

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 18, 1975

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Geraghty
Tokeen, Alaska 99901

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Geraghty:

Thank you for your letter of March 31 regarding the decentralization of the correspondence study program.

Yesterday, our committee took up Senate Bill 367 which provides for a continuation of the centralized correspondence study program. In view of the need you share with other parents for a viable alternative to the local school districts, our committee strongly supported this bill, passing it on to the Finance Committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

Sharing with you as well a recognition of the need to expand the centralized program, we sent, along with the bill, a letter of intent, expressing our committee's wish that local school districts no longer receive funds for correspondence students, and that a larger portion of these funds be appropriated to the correspondence program within the Department of Education. Hopefully, the House will pass this bill before the session's close.

Again, thank you for your letter. As you might infer from yesterday's actions, your letter was given considerable thought.

Yours truly,

Susan Sullivan

Susan Sullivan, Chairwoman
House HESS Committee

SS:la

5B367

Tokeen, Alaska 99901
March 31, 1975

The Honorable Susan Sullivan
House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Sullivan:

The arbitrary decision made by Dr. Marshall Lind of the Department of Education to dissolve the Correspondence Study branch of that department and put such studies under local control is, in our opinion, both retrogressive and blatantly unfair to correspondence students.

We assume you are already acquainted with the justifications presented by Correspondence Study for not only retaining this centralized agency but for also greatly expanding its scope and responsibilities. As the parents of three children who are exempt from compulsory school attendance laws because of our remote location, we are vitally and constantly concerned with the education they receive and with the cooperation and assistance of their advisory teachers and the entire staff of the Correspondence Study branch. We feel that local control would be totally inadequate and would merely be a means of furnishing school districts with undeserved funds for non-existent services. In these days of acknowledged educational failure of numerous public school systems and increasing parental concern, it would seem that Alaska could make an in-depth study of this unique alternative education, correspondence study, and offer its experience in the field to educators throughout the Nation. Instead, Alaska is considering abolishing this successful system and substituting an untried and unwanted method.

If there is genuine concern with the results of correspondence study, then it would seem far wiser to appoint a committee composed of interested legislators, educational professionals, and parents of students enrolled in the system. This committee could study the situation and make recommendations for a year or two in the future rather than the ridiculous July 1, 1975 deadline proposed by Dr. Lind. Are we as parents less deserving of participation in a decision such as this because we do not live in an urban area, or are our children less important than other Alaskan children merely because they do not attend a regular public school?

We urge you to study this proposal carefully considering the welfare of the students first, reject the local control plan and expand the existing Correspondence Study branch.

Sincerely yours,

Guy & Sylvia Geraghty
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Geraghty

Susan Sullivan

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

7330 MARGE COURT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99504
333-6412



POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
465-3797
RESIDENCE 586-6159

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB 367

March 18, 1975

Frank and Carol Walter
Box 106
McGrath, Alaska 99627

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Walter:

Thank you for your letter of April 4 regarding centralization of the correspondence study program.

Yesterday, our committee took up Senate Bill 367, a bill to continue the centralized correspondence study program. This bill was introduced in opposition to the budgetary provision for decentralization.

In recognition of the fine program carried on the the Central Office under Mrs. Margaret Justice, we strongly supported this bill, passing it on to the Finance Committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

Along with the bill, we sent a letter of intent, expressing our committee's wish that local district, no longer receive funds for correspondence students, and that a larger portion of these funds be reverted to the Central Office. Hopefully, the House will pass Senate Bill 367 before the session's close.

Again, thank you for your letter. As you might infer from yesterday's actions, your letter was given considerable thought.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Sullivan".

Susan Sullivan, Chairwoman
House HESS Committee

SS:la

SB 367

FRANK WALTER
REGISTERED GUIDE & OUTFITTER
Box 106
MCGRATH, ALASKA 99827

April 4, 1975

The Honorable Susan Sullivan
The House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Sir:

Our family would like centralization
of the State Correspondence Study
under Mrs. Margaret Justice's office.
All Foundation Support should be
used by the Juneau office for state wide
services.

Sincerely,

Frank & Carol Walter

Susan Sullivan

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

7330 MARGE COURT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99504
333-6412



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
485-3797
RESIDENCE 586-6150

SB367

May 20, 1975

Mr. Jack H. Wheat
Entrance Island, Hobart Bay
Via Pouch C
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Dear Mr. Wheat:

Thank you for your letter on correspondence study. This past Friday, the House HESS Committee passed out Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 367 which now reads identically to House Bill 443. We chose to pass out this bill as opposed to the House version because we believe it has a better chance of passage this session. I intend to do my best to see that this happens.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of help in the future.

Yours truly,

Susan Sullivan
Susan Sullivan, Chairwoman
House HESS Committee

SS:la

HB443

Jack H. Wheat
Entrance Island, Hobart
Bay
Via Pouch C
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
May 1, 1975

Representative Sullivan
Chairman H.E.S.S. Comm.
House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Sullivan:

Thank you for your sponsorship of H. B. #443, it is urgently needed. The enclosed Memo Reply Form and the following explanation is offered in further support of your action. Please feel free to use it in any way you may determine to be best.

Enclosed is a copy of a Reply Memo from the Anchorage office, Alaska State Operated School System, which for the past year has been endeavoring to provide correspondence schooling in the Unorganized Borough. An explanation hereof, should illustrate just one of the many typical problems that correspondent students and parents have been confronted with since the initial move toward de-centralization was started.

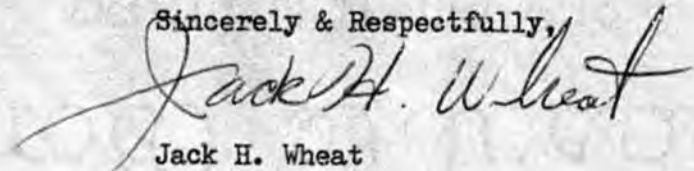
1. The #DP 70027, to the best of our knowledge, refers to a course of study entitled Canadian History which is no longer available. Naturally Juneau did not pay for a non-existent course nor did we receive it. We were notified of this situation last fall and a course available was substituted by Anchorage. Work in the substituted course (World Geography) is in progress and grades have been acknowledged by this same office.
2. The course in Psychology has been completed, a final grade has been issued and credits for same have already been posted by this same Anchorage Office. This occurred many months ago!!
3. The American Literature Course mentioned has been completed with the exception of a final examination shortly due to be mailed. The grades for this course have been similarly posted, recorded and forwarded to us by this same Anchorage office (ASOSS) many months ago.
4. The inefficiency above represented is not the unusual but rather the norm of what we have all had to contend with since the move toward de-centralization was started. There is a complete lack of understanding of the problems confronted by correspondence students which has never occurred under the centralized format. This was functioning

Page Two

as a well organized efficient and knowledgable unit.

As a parent with approximately fourteen year of experience in the correspondence program and as a taxpayer who deplores the extreme waste of duplication of effort which certainly would be the result of a decentralization program, I sincerely request your efforts to return correspondence study to a Central Office and urge you to expedite.

Sincerely & Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack H. Wheat". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Jack H. Wheat

Enc.
JHW/1a

REPLY MEMO

State of Alaska

CORRESPONDENCE STUDY

cc: John Garland

MESSAGE

REPLY

Mrs Wheat

4-14-75

DATE

TO Karen Cloeck

DATE 4-30-75

Paul Hilburn informed me that Tuncell never said for #DP 70027 because they never received notice of receipt of shipment. I know Canadian History was dropped, but did you receive Am. Literature and Psychology? Please reply

In regard to #DP 70027 you must mean Canadian History which he never received. He is doing world Geography instead. In Psychology you have given him a final grade - credit for the course - In Am. Lit. he has the final to mail in. Both courses have been finished for months - His marks have been returned by your office. I would suggest you check!

SIGNED

Karen Cloeck

SIGNED

Jeanne Wheat