

SB

443

SB-443

7900 Honeysuckle Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
March 28, 1980

Senator W. E. (Brad) Bradley
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

About a year and a half ago the Anchorage School Board met with the Student Advisory Board (2 representatives from each high school) to hear some of the problems and concerns which they wanted to express to us. One comment was, "Why is it necessary to say the Pledge of Allegiance every day - - couldn't we say it once each week or once each month?"

After some discussion regarding the pledge, I felt I should tell them how I feel about it. I explained that I look upon the recitation of the Pledge as an opportunity to express my appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy, the benefits that we have inherited and thankfulness to those who fought to establish this nation. We do not worship the flag, but look upon it with respect and as a symbol of freedom. We should not tire or become bored with expressions of gratitude, but should look upon them as we would our thanks offered at the dinner table. Daily expressions of appreciation and gratitude should be a part of our everyday life.

I hope these thoughts will assist you in promoting your legislation regarding the Pledge of Allegiance.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,



Keith W. Calderwood



DILLINGHAM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

POST OFFICE BOX 202
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576

PHONE: 842-5221/842-5222

ROY WARNER
PRINCIPAL

March 6, 1980

Chairman, Brad Bradley
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Bradley:

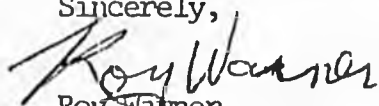
In your letter that refers to SB 443, I find this is in agreement with the way I feel.

I feel the pledge of allegiance emphasizes in part what we are trying to teach. We are trying to teach patriotism, loyalties and to teach individuals to be worthy citizens. Yet SB 443, also affords the opportunity to not say the pledge of allegiance for what ever reasons that individual desires.

Therefore, I am in agreement with the bill as it is written.

Thank you for asking my comments.

Sincerely,



Roy Warner
Principal

RW:jw

CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 808 • DOUGLAS, ALASKA 99824

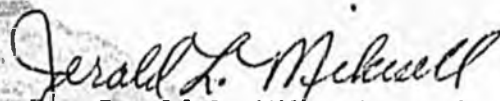
March 7, 1980

Senator Bill Bradley, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Pouch V
Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

I agree with the Senate Bill #443. I feel that we need to do everything we possibly can to afford public school students and teachers to develop respect for their country. I believe that the opportunity of pledging allegiance at the beginning of each school day can foster this attitude. I wholeheartedly support this Bill and would encourage its passage. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jerald L. Mikesell, Principal
Glacier Valley Elementary School
Juneau, Alaska

JLM:nlk

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



March 7, 1980

Senator Brad Bradley, Chairman
 Senate Commerce Committee
 Pouch V
 State Capitol
 Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

I am responding to your correspondence of March 4, 1980, related to SB 443.

The sponsors of this bill are certainly to be commended for the intent expressed therein.

However, I believe that the present "opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each school day" is currently in existence. For example, this is the present practice within the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

In short, I believe the intent of this legislation is worthwhile; however, I do not believe it is necessary.

Sincerely,

Fred Pomeroy

Fred Pomeroy
 Superintendent

FP/bj

GREATER SITKA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

ACCREDITED BY THE NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

P. O. BOX 179 SITKA, ALASKA 99835

JOHN E. COFFEE
SUPERINTENDENT

March 6, 1980

Brad Bradley, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

I am in agreement with Senate Bill No. 443. To be honest with you, I thought this was a privilege we were now afforded. We do say the pledge at Baranof School and we do allow those who have other convictions to remain seated. We do not have a rule that mandates such procedures. They are taken for granted as an acceptable means of beginning the school day.

I suggest you strike the word "materially" in line 17 and "substantial" in line 18. I believe these words are open to interpretation, and I am sure someone would eventually go the limits.

Good luck in getting this bill out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and before the full Senate.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Schell
Robert D. Schell, Principal
Baranof Elementary School

RDS/lck

Soldotna Elementary
Box 547
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Introduced: 2/18/80
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BRADLEY

2 SENATE BILL NO. 443

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

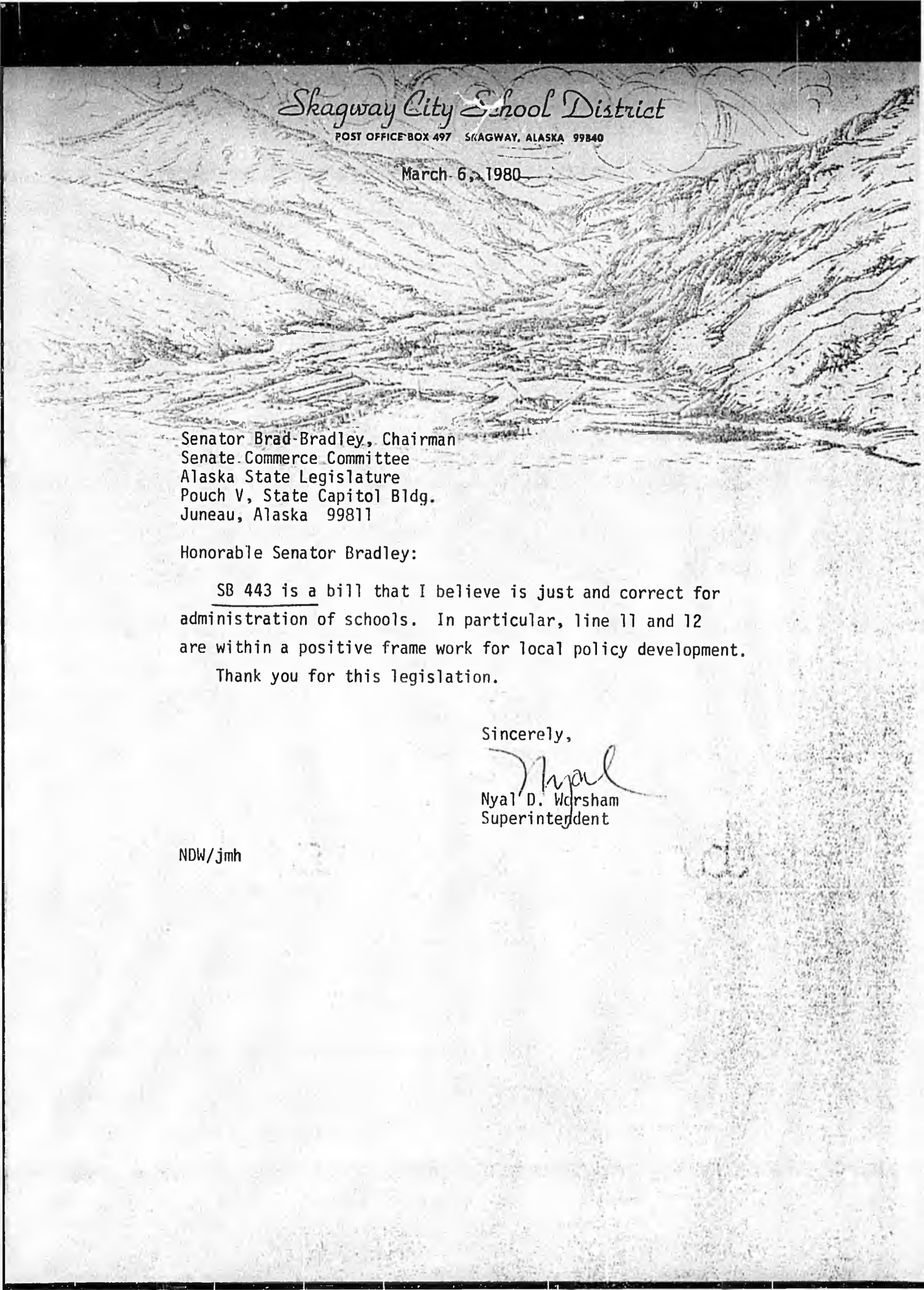
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act affording students and teachers in the public
7 schools an opportunity to recite the pledge of alle-
8 giance at the beginning of each school day."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 Sec. 14.03.135. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. An opportunity shall be
12 afforded students and teachers in the public schools to recite the
13 pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States during the first
14 hour of each day in session during the school term. Students and
15 teachers who for any reason do not wish to participate in the recitation
16 of the pledge of allegiance may keep silent, remain seated, or express
17 their nonparticipation in any other way which does not materially dis-
18 rupt classwork or involve substantial disorder or invasion of the rights
19 of others.

20
21
22 I support this bill as a guide
23 to participation. We all allow this
24 opportunity in our school now. We
25 as a nation have been losing our
26 patriotism gradually for the past
27 decade or so. This bill would call
28 attention to this¹⁻ patriotic activity.
29
D. W. Allen, Pres



Skagway City School District

POST OFFICE BOX 497 SKAGWAY, ALASKA 99840

March 6, 1980

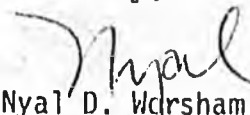
Senator Brad-Bradley, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V, State Capitol Bldg.
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Honorable Senator Bradley:

SB 443 is a bill that I believe is just and correct for
administration of schools. In particular, line 11 and 12
are within a positive frame work for local policy development.

Thank you for this legislation.

Sincerely,



Nyal D. Warsham
Superintendent

NDW/jmh

Tanana School

Tanana, Alaska 99777

March 5, 1980

Mr. Brad Bradley

Pouch V

State Capitol

Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Bradley,

I am strongly in favor of SB 443 and certainly hope the bill is passed with as much expediency as possible.

My one suggestion for a change in statement is that in line 18 the word substantial be replaced with the word any. In a high school situation a student may interpret the word substantial with various meanings. It is an ambiguous word in this context and will undoubtedly be interpreted in a variety of ways.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alicia F. Bunce

Alicia F. Bunce

Resource Room Teacher

BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

P. O. BOX 169
NAKNEK, ALASKA 99633

PHONE 268.4225 OR 4265
HIGH SCHOOL

DALE L. LUNSFORD
SUPERINTENDENT

March 6, 1980

The Honorable Brad Bradley
Senator
State of Alaska
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

The contents of Senate Bill 443 has merit as a requirement in every school classroom in the State of Alaska.

I suggest that the word "and" on Line 14, "teachers" on Line 15 be deleted, as it is a teachers responsibility to teach the meaning of the pledge as well as be committed to the pledge as a leader and helper to our young people.

Sincerely,



Dale L. Lunsford

DLL/kss

Haines Borough School District

P.O. Box 251
HAINES, ALASKA 99827

Stephen T. McPhetres, Superintendent

Stephen T. McPhetres, High School Principal
Alan W. Heinrich, Elementary Principal

March 7, 1980

Senator Brad Bradley, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V, State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 4, 1980.

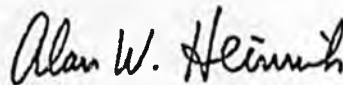
I feel that students should be allowed to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. If we cannot make it mandatory, we should at least strongly encourage it. To that end I would make the following changes:

1. lines 13 & 14 delete the restriction about having to be done only during the first hour of the day. It should be allowed to be done anytime deemed appropriate.
2. lines 16-17 delete everything past "remain seated". It appears that non-participation should be provided for but keeping silent and remaining seated is enough latitude.

I will pass a copy of your letter and a copy of Senate Bill No. 443 on to all our elementary staff members; some may choose to comment.

Thanks again for the opportunity to give this input.

Yours truly,



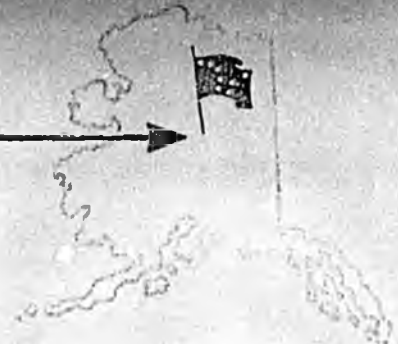
Alan W. Heinrich
Elementary Principal

AWH:lp

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

P. O. Box 1250, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

(907) 456-7934



DR. BRYCE STALLARD
Superintendent of Schools

GUS ZADRA
Associate Superintendent

CHARLES A. LOWRY
Assistant Superintendent

March 11, 1980

Mr. Bard Bradley, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bradley:

Regarding your letter of March 4, 1980 concerning SB 443, our teachers feel that they currently have the "opportunity" to recite the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each school day, and in fact, most of them do so. Most of them feel that such a statute would "force" them to recite the pledge. They, therefore, do not feel such a law would be appropriate.

I would add that if they are misinterpreting the proposed legislation, ie., if they currently do not have the right to say the pledge, then they would be in favor of such a statute. We would certainly hate to think we are in violation of state law by leading our students in that patriotic act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Mina Sanders".

(Mrs.) Mina Sanders, Principal
Taylor Elementary School
Eielson AFB, Alaska

Introduced: 2/18/80
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BRADLEY

2 SENATE BILL NO. 443

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act affording students and teachers in the public
7 schools an opportunity to recite the pledge of alle-
8 giance at the beginning of each school day."

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13 pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States during the first
14 hour of each day in session during the school term. Students and
15 teachers who for any reason do not wish to participate in the recitation
16 of the pledge of allegiance may, ^{by} keep^{ing} silent, remain^{ing} seated, or express
17 their nonparticipation, ~~in any other way which does not materially dis-~~
18 ~~rupt classwork or involve substantial disorder or invasion of the rights~~
19 ~~of others.~~

*difficult to define or
determine where the line
might be drawn.*

20
21
22
23 *I believe in the pledge of allegiance!!*

24
25 From:
26 White Cliff School
27 1900 FIRST AVENUE
28 Ketchikan
29

March 12, 1980

Vern Williams
Route 6, Box 4143
Juneau, Alaska 99803

Honorable Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to Senate Bills 443 and 459 forwarded to me from your office for comment.

SENATE BILL 443

I support the principle and the practice of allowing time at the beginning of the school day for students to Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States. This country provides its citizens with measureless benefits and opportunities. To take a few minutes each day for our students to focus on the flag that represents our nation is a good thing.

Specifically addressing the legislation, I would suggest that everything after "recitation" on line 15, be deleted and add following "recitation" on line 15 the phrase, "will not be required to participate." I don't think it is advisable to have them "express their non participation". Excusing them from participation is the intent.

SENATE BILL 459

I support this bill as presented. Our nation was founded on a strong faith in God. How students may personally interpret that is a matter of their own conscience. To provide the opportunity daily for students to reflect on their basic beliefs and feelings is immeasurably important to them and the society in general.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to address myself to these two bills.

Sincerely,



Vern Williams



ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

4600 DeBarr Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska

99504

AREA CODE 907-333-9561

SERVICE-HANSHEW JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
5577 Abbott Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

March 11, 1980

State Senator Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V - State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

State Senator Bradley;

The School Board of the Anchorage School District presently has a policy which is identical to Sec. 14.03.135 of Senate Bill No. 443,

In this unit, Service-Hanshew, the pledge is given each morning by a School Government student, prior to the daily announcements.

Sincerely,

R. Arndt
Unit Administrator

RA:dc

cc: file



ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

4600 DeBarr Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska

99504

AREA CODE 907-333-9561

ROMIG JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
2500 Minnesota Drive
Anchorage, Ak 99503

March 10, 1980

Senator Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

In response to your letter of March 4, 1980 regarding ~~SB 443~~,
this school has been, for the past nine years, affording
exactly that which the proposed bill affords. I have no know-
ledge of any legislative policy or rule which prohibits
a public school that which the proposed bill affords.

Needless to say our recital of the Pledge of Allegiance
to the flag on a daily basis speaks for our belief in
the practice.

Respectfully,

W. E. Griffith
Assistant Principal

et

cc: Lily Nielsen



ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

4600 DeBarr Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska

99504

AREA CODE 907-333-9561

Chester Valley School
1750 Patterson Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

March 10, 1980

Senator Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

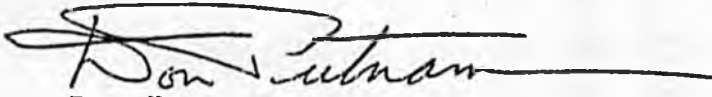
Dear Senator Bradley:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of SB443.

It is traditional in the Anchorage Elementary Schools to recite the pledge of allegiance each morning. According to my son, it is an optional exercise in the junior highs, and I don't believe that it is done in the senior high schools. From my son's remarks, which he included in a prize winning essay on the flag (the contest was sponsored by the Anchorage Elks), participation is sporadic and the demeanor of the non-participating students substantially detracts from the meaningfulness of the ceremony.

I am not certain that legislating the pledge will make a more meaningful exercise in citizenship; I fear that it will provide a source of embarrassment for those students who cherish a deep love for the flag and what it stands for.

Sincerely,


Don Putnam, Principal

March 10, 1980

Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
Pouch V State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Bradley:

In reference to Senate Bill No. 443: Line 15:

I have strong feelings regarding any teacher who does not wish to pledge allegiance to our country's flag. A teacher is looked up to by children who have in most cases not yet formed firmly the ideals which they will carry throughout life. A person with this attitude toward our country should not be allowed to teach. In fact, with some research, you will find cases where teachers were dismissed from their jobs due to this feeling.

Sincerely,



Max G. Hulse, Principal
Nunaka Valley School
P.O. Box 881
Eagle River, Ak. 99577

pws

*Just send to
Senator Bradley*

Introduced: 2/18/80
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BRADLEY

2 SENATE BILL NO. 459

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to days in session in public schools."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 14.03.040 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 14.03.040. DAY IN SESSION. (a) Each day within the school
10 term is a day in session except Saturdays, Sundays, and days designated
11 as holidays by or according to AS 14.03.050. A school board may approve
12 Saturdays as a day in session. The day in session in every school shall
13 be at least four hours long, exclusive of intermissions, for the first,
14 second, and third grades and five hours, exclusive of intermissions, for
15 all other grades. The commissioner may approve a shorter day in session
16 for any grade. Except as provided in (b) of this section, the [THE]
17 period of the day in session shall be devoted to the instruction of
18 pupils or to study periods for the pupils.

19 (b) At the beginning of the first class of each school day in pub-
20 lic schools in session one minute of silence shall be observed for volun-
21 tary silent prayer, meditation, or reflection.

23 Dear Sir,

24 The above looks fine, especially

26 "b". I feel this part is a ^{big} step toward
27 improving our children's attitude in regard
28 to moral ~~attitude~~ thinking of behavior.

SB 459

29 Thanks,
Mary H. Hulse, Principal

Nunavut Valley



NORTH STAR ELEMENTARY
605 WEST FIREWEED LANE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

4600 DeBarr Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska
99504

AREA CODE 907-333-9581

MARCH 12, 1980

SENATOR BRAD BRADLEY
POUCH V
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

DEAR SENATOR BRADLEY:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER CONCERNING SB443.

MY OWN PERSONAL VIEWPOINT IS QUITE SUPPORTIVE OF THIS BILL.
THE LANGUAGE IS CONCISE AND IT DOES LEAVE OPTIONS FOR PERSONS
OPPOSED. THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S POSITION IS SPELLED
OUT IN ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND VERY CLOSELY PARALLELS THE
LANGUAGE OF YOUR BILL.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF OUR STATE IN
GENERAL AND EDUCATION IN PARTICULAR.

SINCERELY,

GEORGE RAKOS
PRINCIPAL
NORTH STAR ELEMENTARY

GR:JT



ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pouch 6-614 — Anchorage, Alaska

99502

AREA CODE 907-333-9561

Ursa Major Elementary School
454 Dyea Avenue
Fort Richardson, AK 99505
March 11, 1930

Mr. Brad Bradley
Alaska State Legislature
Senate Committee on Commerce
Pouch V
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Bradley,

I am not in favor of the last line of Senate Bill No. 443.

I feel that as Citizens of the United States, the least we can do is show respect to our flag. I agree that some students may remain silent, but I do not agree with their expressing nonparticipation.

Sincerely,

James G. Curley
Principal



Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Committee on Commerce

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Official Business
March 4, 1980

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is SB 443, "An Act affording students and teachers in the public schools an opportunity to recite the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each school day."

I would appreciate your comments/position papers on this matter. If you recommend specific changes, in addition to general comments, I would prefer that they be keyed to page and line numbers.

If you know of other persons who have an interest in this legislation, please let me know so that I may get the benefit of comments from all knowledgeable and interested parties.

In consideration of a productive and expeditious session, I request that your comments/position paper be returned to me within 10 days from the date of this letter. This bill is presently before the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator Robert Ziegler, and a hearing date has not yet been set; however, I would like your comments within the time frame mentioned above so that I may be prepared when Senator Ziegler's Committee hears this matter.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

Brad Bradley

Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee

BB:jss
Enclosure

Johnson
Box 60-Tri-Valley

Healy, AK 99743

I'm an elementary teacher. See this. Great to Johnson Tri-Valley



Hutchison Career Center

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
3750 Geist Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 479-2261

IVAN R. GILLESPIE
Director of Vocational Education

March 11, 1980

Alaska State Legislature
Committee on Commerce
Pouch V - State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Attention: Senator Brad Bradley, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee

Dear Senator Bradley:

Senate Bill No. 443 appears to be permissive legislation that would allow students and teachers an opportunity to recite the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each school day.

I believe that it is important for the young people of our nation to develop a sense of patriotism and participate in these types of activities. I do not see the need for this type of permissive legislation, however, unless there is some law that would prohibit this.

If there is some type of legal restriction regarding the students and teachers participation in this type of activity, it is my feeling that this piece of legislation, as written, would allow their participation.

Thank you for making me aware of this piece of legislation.

Yours truly,

Ivan R. Gillespie
Ivan R. Gillespie, Director
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

IRG:bn



WRANGELL

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P. O. BOX 651

WRANGELL, ALASKA 99929

Telephone (907) 874-3395

GATEWAY TO THE STIKINE

ROBERT McCONNELL, Superintendent of Schools

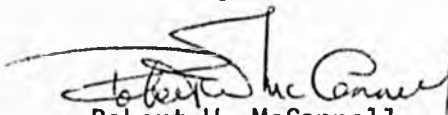
March 7, 1980

Honorable Brad Bradley, Senator
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

In responding to your letter of March 4, 1980, and SB443, I see no reason why anyone would complain about your legislation. I only wish, and I suppose my age shows, that everyone would perform the allegiance as we use to back when.

Sincerely,



Robert W. McConnell
Superintendent

RWM:sk

CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 808 • DOUGLAS, ALASKA 99824

March 13, 1980

Senator Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

I would like to take the opportunity to comment on SB 443, "An Act affording students and teachers in the public schools an opportunity to recite the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each school day."

As an elementary principal I oppose SB 443 for the following reasons:

Local Preference It should be left to individual communities to decide through their school boards if they want to require that the opportunity to recite the pledge of allegiance be given to students each day.

Legislating Patriotism Senate Bill 443 no doubt is proposed in the hope it will help young people to feel more pride and love for their country. It is my experience that such obligatory recitations actually become meaningless and at times are resented by students. I encourage teachers to teach students about our country and our curriculum has been developed with special emphasis on learning about our state and country. It is intelligent patriotism that schools should be teaching.

Appropriateness Even with careful teaching, most young elementary students do not understand what they are saying when they recite the pledge of allegiance. Mandatory recitation often makes the exercise less meaningful.

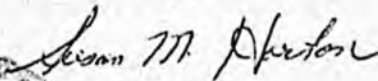
I want students to truly appreciate the freedoms and responsibilities our country has to offer. I want students to have a working knowledge of how our country was found and developed. I want students to understand why they should be proud and thankful

Senator Brad Bradley
page 2

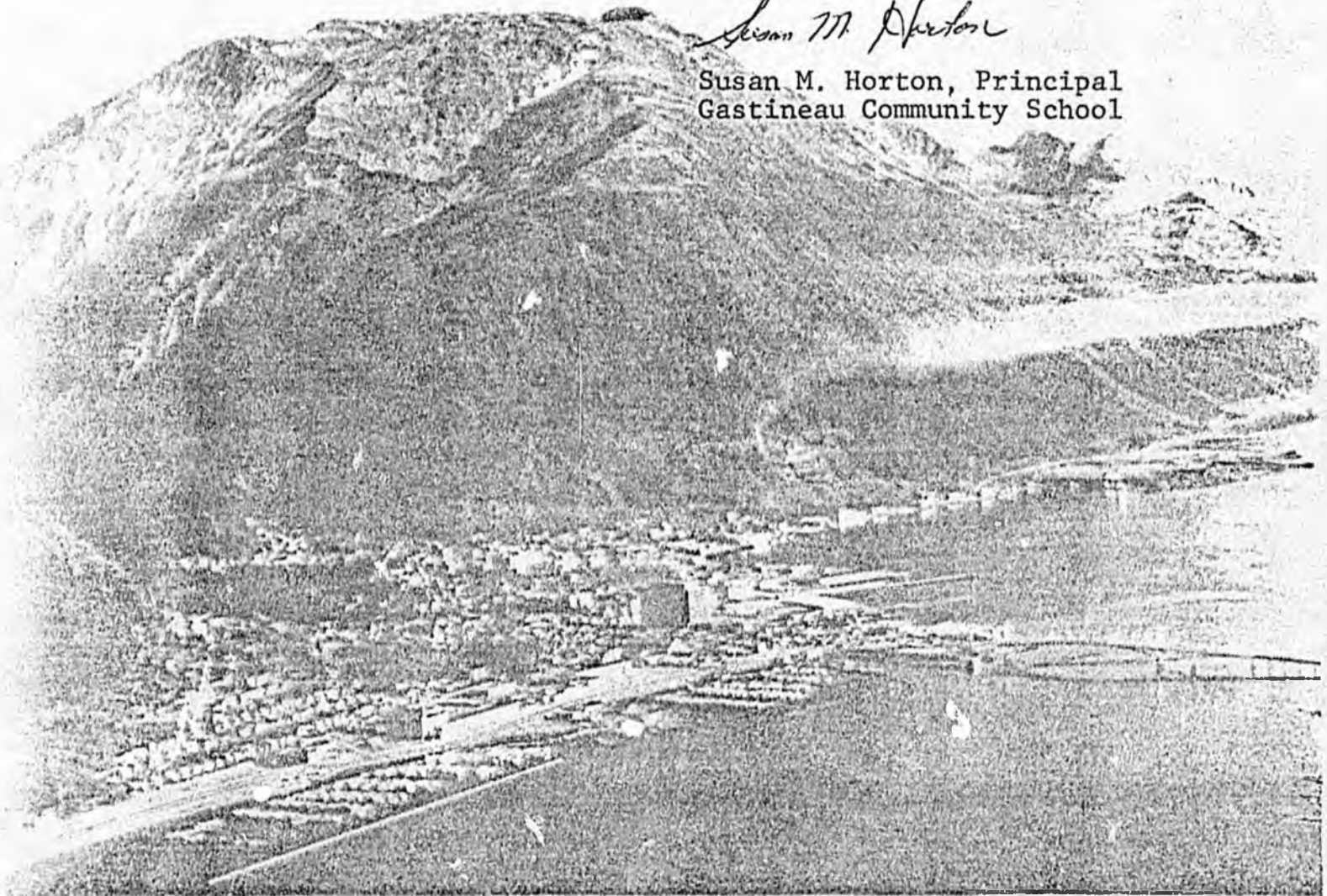
they live in the United States of America. I do not want students being forced to participate in an exercise until it has meaning for them and they can relate the pledge to the greatness of our country.

It would be easy to justify passing this legislation because of the new wave of patriotism sweeping our country, but I think common sense should prevail rather than have our senators associate voting for this bill as being a good patriot.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Horton, Principal
Gastineau Community School



Introduced: 2/18/80
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BRADLEY

2 SENATE BILL NO. 443

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

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12 afforded students and teachers in the public schools to recite the
13 pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States during the first
14 hour of each day in session during the school term. Students and
15 teachers who for any reason do not wish to participate in the recitation
16 of the pledge of allegiance may keep silent, remain seated, or express
17 their nonparticipation in any other way which does not materially dis-
18 rupt classwork or involve substantial disorder or invasion of the rights
19 of others.

20 3-12-80
21 I agree to the importance of teach-
22 ing patriotism and respect for flag,
23 country and long cherished traditions
24 that promote honor and self respect. I
25 have no qualms concerning the above
26 proposed Senate Bill # 443; however,
27 in order to enhance the duty, if not
28 the privilege of such patriotic partici-
29 pation, rather than making a ritual
which could, in time, create an aggra-
8B 443

vation, may I suggest that the Pledge be taken weekly, that is the first order of business Monday morning at any other appropriate time and place?

Incidentally, I have continued to do this over the years without dissent from my government and history students, particularly, when I take the time to explain why and then invite them to join with me!

Thank you and Good Luck!!

Respectfully,
William W. (Bill) Hatch
Teacher
Bristol Bay Borough
N.S. Naknek,

PALMER HIGH SCHOOL

BOX AB

PALMER, ALASKA 99645

LOCATED IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY

PHONE (907) 745-3241



WILLIAM D. BUTLER
PRINCIPAL

JOE J. TRIDLE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

March 12, 1980

Mr. Brad Bradley, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: S.B. 443

Dear Mr. Bradley:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this piece of legislation as per your letter of March 4, 1980.

This bill would only serve to make a spectacle of a patriotic privilege. In effect, this bill would mandate a specific schedule in schools and not allow schools the right to decide how to observe the flag. Peer pressure on some students would not allow them the opportunity not to participate.

Let the people handle their patriotic participation in the American fashion, not as a dictate. I believe the courts have ruled that this activity cannot be mandated in schools. In actuality, this bill mandates the Pledge of Allegiance in a specific manner.

Therefore, please hold up any action on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Butler".

Wm. D. Butler
Principal

cc: Robert Ziegler, Senate Judiciary Committee

WDB:cl

March 13, 1980

Re: SB 443

Senator Robert Ziegler
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Ziegler:

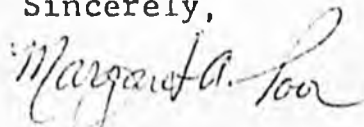
I am writing this letter to state my support for SB 443, "An Act affording students and teachers in the public schools an opportunity to recite the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each school day."

One of the things I remember most as a child in elementary school is beginning each day with the pledge of allegiance. True, the first few years I did not fully understand what I was reciting, but I did have a feeling of pride and respect toward the American flag. When I was old enough to understand the words of the pledge, it was a definite asset to already have the pledge memorized, and my respect for the United States of America was intensified.

Fortunately, my two children have developed the same habit of reciting the pledge every morning and I have their teachers to thank for that, but not every child is afforded that opportunity. How sad it is, and what an embarrassment it is to our country when children of eleven, twelve and older do not even know the words to the pledge of allegiance to the country of which they are citizens. Hopefully, the passage of SB 443 will encourage more participation in the daily recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Since SB 443 makes this opportunity available, and does not make the saying of the pledge obligatory to anyone I give it my whole-hearted support.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Poor
P. O. Box 176
Douglas, Alaska 99824

cc: ✓ Senator Brad Bradley
Senator Bill Ray



ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pouch 6-614 - Anchorage, Alaska
99502

AREA CODE 907-333-9561

March 7, 1980

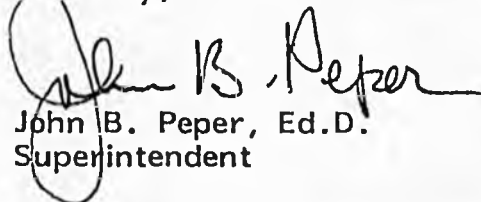
Honorable Brad Bradley
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

I believe that you might be interested in policy which is presently practiced in Anchorage School District. We certainly support the effort you would make under SB 443.

I appreciate your interest in this legislation. I hope you are also able to support our funding legislation.

Sincerely,



John B. Peper, Ed.D.
Superintendent

jm

BOARD OF MARINE PILOTS

Key to References

(Y) - (yellow cover) - State of Alaska Sunset Review, 1979.
Prepared by the Division of Occupational Licensing

(B) - (blue cover) - Division of Legislative Audit Performance
Review

(W) - (white cover) - Senate Commerce Committee Public Hearing
Testimony, December 10, 1979

1. Examinations - Statutory elimination of the Coast Guard exam as a prerequisite to the State Exam. Redundant.
(Y) - p 5, last paragraph; p 6, first paragraph
(B) - p 5, paragraph 4; p 7
(W) - p 2, paragraph 3; p 3, paragraph 1; p 4; p 5, paragraph 4
2. Increase the biennial license fee (presently \$200) and the application fee (presently \$10).
(Y) - p 3; p 11, paragraphs 2 and 3
(B) - p 25
(W) - page 16; page 18
3. Repeal Sec. 08.62.040 (2)(4) which gives the board the power to regulate pilotage fees. I suggest that this power be given to an existing regulation body, such as the ATC, which already has a rate structure within it.
(Y) - p 7, last paragraph; p 8
(B) - p 6; p 7, last paragraph; p 12
(W) - p 6 (Capt. Ed Murphy); p 28, paragraph 1; p 30
4. The Board of Marine Pilots should be continued. (How many years?)
(Y) - p 1
(B) - p 7, paragraph 2
(W) - p 2, paragraph p 6, paragraph 2
5. Repeal Sec. 08.62.110 (AS 30.10 was repealed in 1970) and the portion of Sec. 08.62.120 which states "A license issued under AS 30.10 lapses at the end of calendar year 1970."
(Y) - p 11; p 13 (obsolete)
6. AS 08.62.040(a)(3) - repeal vessels in section.
(a) The board shall:
(3) keep a register of licensed pilots, [vessels], operators, agents, and managers
(Y) - This is a suggestion by OL and Elaine Garrett may wish to comment on this. Evidently there is no way OL is able to keep a register on all vessels. They are performing this function for the Board of Marine Pilots.



TANANA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
a part of the
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
Trinor Gate Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

MARCH 12, 1980

BRAD BRADLEY, CHAIRMAN
SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
POUCH V
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

RE: SB 443

I MOST CERTAINLY SUPPORT SB 443. IN FACT I WOULD SUGGEST THAT
A PERIOD BE PLACED AFTER THE WORD, SILENT, ON LINE 16 AND THE RE-
MAINDER OF LINES 16, 17 AND 18 BE DELETED.

ROBERT L. PUCKETT
PRINCIPAL

RLP:P



DR. BRYCE STALLARD
Superintendent of Schools

GUS ZADRA
Associate Superintendent

Brad Bradley, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Pouch V - State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

In response to your SB 443, I am unaware of any school district in Alaska or elsewhere that doesn't provide by School Board Policy or Regulation instruction of children in The Pledge of Allegiance and care of The American Flag. We in the schools have long been apprised of the rights of children/parents to not participate in this instruction/ceremony for religious and other reasons. All of this is to say that teachers and children have always had the opportunity to recite the pledge (or the right not to) since I started teaching 18 years ago.

I believe in patriotism and the school is the rightful arena to instruct/reinforce this concept. The Pledge however, is probably the least effective tool used to promote patriotism. I have never found a sixth grade child who couldn't recite the pledge. Likewise, I have never found a 6th grader who fully understood the meaning/significance of the pledge or who could define every word in it. In fact, it's the rare eighth grader who can distinguish the difference between a democracy and a republic. I will leave to you to judge the value of reciting daily something that has little, if any, meaning for a child.

While I would say your bill is not needed, should you proceed I suggest making it a general statement void of such particulars as "first hour", "each day", "keep silent", "remain seated", etc.

I appreciated being given the opportunity to respond to your proposed bill.

Sincerely yours,

Dale A. Durrwachter
Dale A. Durrwachter, Principal
Hunter Elementary School

DAD:teb

Introduced: 2/18/80
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BRADLEY

2 SENATE BILL NO. 443

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act affording students and teachers in the public
7 schools an opportunity to recite the pledge of alle-
8 giance at the beginning of each school day."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 Sec. 14.03.135. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. An opportunity shall be
12 afforded students and teachers in the public schools to recite the
13 pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States during the first
14 hour of each day in session during the school term. Students and
15 teachers who for any reason do not wish to participate in the recitation
16 of the pledge of allegiance may keep silent, remain seated, or express
17 their nonparticipation in any other way which does not materially dis-
18 rupt classwork or involve substantial disorder or invasion of the rights
19 of others.

20
21 3/13/80

22 Non-participants of the pledge of allegiance should stand
23 quietly, while the others are reciting the pledge.

24 Woodriver Elementary School

25 1 Mile Chena Pump Road
26 Fairbanks, AK
27 99701

Juanita K. Johnson (Interim)

28
29



Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Committee on Commerce

Official Business

March 4, 1980

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

William Benson, Principal
University Park School
Box 1250
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Dear Mr. Benson:

Enclosed is SB 443, "An Act affording students and teachers in the public schools an opportunity to recite the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each school day."

I would appreciate your comments/position papers on this matter. If you recommend specific changes, in addition to general comments, I would prefer that they be keyed to page and line numbers.

If you know of other persons who have an interest in this legislation, please let me know so that I may get the benefit of comments from all knowledgeable and interested parties.

In consideration of a productive and expeditious session, I request that your comments/position paper be returned to me within 10 days from the date of this letter. This bill is presently before the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator Robert Ziegler, and a hearing date has not yet been set; however, I would like your comments within the time frame mentioned above so that I may be prepared when Senator Ziegler's Committee hears this matter.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad".

Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee

BB:jss
Enclosure



Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Committee on Commerce

Official Business
March 4, 1980

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is SB 443, "An Act affording students and teachers in the public schools an opportunity to recite the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each school day."

I would appreciate your comments/position papers on this matter. If you recommend specific changes, in addition to general comments, I would prefer that they be keyed to page and line numbers.

If you know of other persons who have an interest in this legislation, please let me know so that I may get the benefit of comments from all knowledgeable and interested parties.

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Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Brad Bradley".

Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee

BB:jss
Enclosure

Sounds Great!
Cliff Schell
Principal
Kulbuck School
Bethel Alaska
198559



ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

4600 DeBarr Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska

99504

AREA CODE 907-333-9561

Rogers Park Elementary School
1400 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

March 14, 1980

Senator Brad Bradley
Fouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley,

I appreciate your contacting me in regard to my opinion on SB 443, "An Act affording students and teachers in the public schools an opportunity to recite the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each school day."

Our Anchorage School Board has afforded this opportunity to every student through established board policy. I feel it is most appropriate to handle this at the local level rather than legislate it by the state. If this is a major problem in Alaska, perhaps it should be more appropriately addressed through the Department of Education or the state school board.

I would not favor this specific state legislation as I believe the responsibility lies with the local school board.

Sincerely,

Marilyn S. Barnett, Principal

MSB:jls

We, the undersigned administrators, teachers, staff and parents of the Klawock City School District, support SB 443, "An Act affording students and teachers an opportunity to recite the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each school day.

<u>PRINT NAME</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
<u>WILLIAM SUSS</u>	<u>William Suss</u>	<u>SUPERINTENDENT</u>
<u>Clara G. Peratrovich</u>	<u>Clara G. Peratrovich</u>	<u>Indian Ed. Instu</u>
<u>Ruth A. Rowan</u>	<u>Ruth A. Rowan</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
<u>JOANNE DICKERSON</u>	<u>Joanne Dickerson</u>	<u>Teacher's Aide</u>
<u>Margaret Kennedy</u>	<u>Margaret Kennedy</u>	<u>Teacher Aide</u>
<u>SALLY A SKAN</u>	<u>Sally A. Skan</u>	<u>Teacher-Aide</u>
<u>Martha L. Thomas</u>	<u>Martha Thomas</u>	<u>Teacher-Aide</u>
<u>BLITHE A. BAKER</u>	<u>Blithe A. Baker</u>	<u>Bookkeeper/grant writer</u>
<u>MALINDA MERRELL</u>	<u>Malinda Merrill</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
<u>Dina Swenson</u>	<u>Dina Swenson</u>	<u>teacher</u>
<u>Nelda Lynch</u>	<u>Nelda Lynch</u>	<u>teacher</u>
<u>Jackie Woods</u>	<u>Jackie Woods</u>	<u>teacher - aide</u>

Klawock City School DISTRICT

PO Box 9 Klawock, AK 99925



ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

4600 DeBarr Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska

99504

AREA CODE 907-333-9561

Inlet View School
1219 N Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

March 14, 1980

Senator Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V - State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Senator Bradley:

Your legislative proposals, SB 459 and the amendment to SB 443, are of considerable interest to those of us who work in public schools. Thank you for soliciting our comments. However, both proposals are objectionable in that they appear to be restrictive bills designed to legislate such things as patriotism, religion, and morality. They may be appropriate as local policies, which are developed at the school board level and reflect community standards. In fact SB 459 is already ASD policy.

NO

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

Norma Frick

Norma J. Frick
Principal

Inlet View

Copper River School District

Superintendent's Office
Box 108
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
(907) 822-3234

Copper Center
Gakona
Glennallen
Kenny Lake
Pitkin

March 18, 1980

The Honorable Brad Bradley
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: Senate Bill 443

Dear Senator Bradley:

In response to your letter of March 4 received on March 13 concerning subject bill, I am in favor of the intent of your legislation. I think we are in a critical time of our nation and we need to develop a more acute awareness of our heritage and overcome some of the complacency and derision given toward patriotic endeavors.

I do have some reservations, however, on the latter part of line 16 and lines 17, 18 and 19. I am concerned about how students might "express their nonparticipation" in any other way which does not materially disrupt class work or involve substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others. It would seem to me that a period after seated would be appropriate. It would prevent unnecessary judgements which the teacher of the classroom might make. I offer that suggestion to you realizing that my judgement is probably no better than yours.

I thank you for your concern in this matter.

Sincerely,



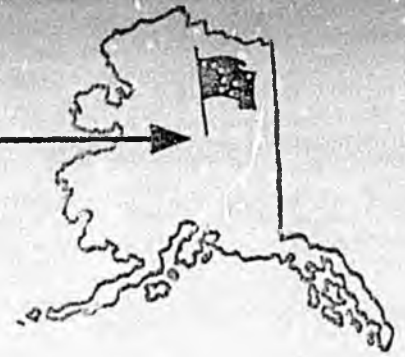
Dr. Alfred Krinke, Superintendent
Copper River School District

AK:pm

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

P. O. Box 1250, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

(907) 456-7934



DR. BRYCE STALLARD
Superintendent of Schools

GUS ZADRA
Associate Superintendent

CHARLES A. LOWRY
Assistant Superintendent

March 19, 1980

The Honorable Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

In reference to your letters of March 4 concerning Bills 443 and 459, it is the position of this Board that the subjects of these Bills can be better addressed at the local level and, therefore, we do not favor their passage.

Thank you for the courtesy of your inquiry.

Respectfully yours,

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. O. Williams", is written over the printed name.

H. O. Williams
President
Board of Education

HOW/plh

Kiana High School
Kiana, Alaska 99749

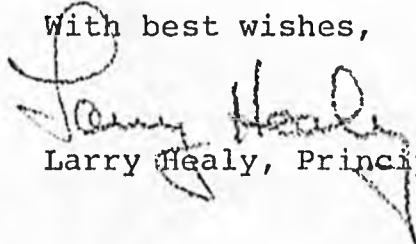
March 14, 1980

Brad Bradley, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Brad:

I am in support of Senate Bill 443 and it is my understanding that
it is equally well supported among the teaching staff in the Kiana
Schools.

With best wishes,


Larry Healy, Principal

LH/anr



ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

4600 DeBarr Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska

99504

AREA CODE 907-333-9561

March 17, 1980

Senator Brad Bradley
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V - State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion on SB 443. I would like to see lines 16-19 changed to read as follows: of the pledge of allegiance may stand and remain silent or may be excused from the class during this time.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Sincerely,

Penny Potter, Principal
Huffman Elementary School

PP:mlp



DIMOND MEARS SECONDARY SCHOOL
Richard N. Mize, Unit Administrator
2909 W. 88th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT
4600 DeBarr Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska
99504
AREA CODE 907-333-9561

March 20, 1980

Brad Bradley, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Bradley:

Since you have asked, I will comment on both SB443 and SB459. I appreciate your interest in our comments and the service you are rendering by making us aware of some of the legislation that could affect us as administrators in the schools. Please be aware that my comments represent only my own personal thinking and not necessarily the school in which I work, the district for which I work, or any association of which I am a member or officer.

SB 443

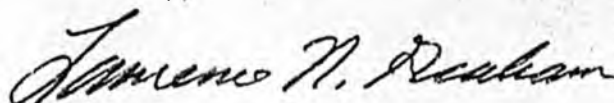
This bill is very similar to a mandated practice in schools in the Anchorage School District. We have been following this procedure for the past four or five years. I, personally, am highly in favor. One problem we have noted, however, is that by repeating the pledge every day, the effect is often lost. In other words, rote repetition tends to become no more than that without any thinking or appreciation for what is being said or pledged. Our students, over the years since we started this practice, have suggested it would be more effective if we used the Pledge of Allegiance every other day, twice each week, or once each week. Nevertheless, we follow the procedure now, and I feel we are setting an example in forms of patriotism and appreciation for the United States of America by doing so.

SB 459

This one bothers me for several reasons. First, assuming passage of SB 443 (or in our district it's with or without SB 443), we are already starting with the Pledge of Allegiance. This minute of silence adds to the time we are not able to spend in the instructional program. Second, on a regular basis, I believe the moment of silence would be very difficult to enforce. Silence in a school building with 2,500 students and 150 employees is almost impossible, even if everyone is attempting to cooperate. It seems to me that unless there is total silence, the atmosphere we are trying to create is not possible to reach. Third, as a devout and practicing Christian, I believe wholeheartedly in the power of prayer. I resent, however, the state telling me when I should pray. I can appreciate the thought, but I don't need a specified period of silence to pray. I pray regularly, and I know God hears me, but I don't need the state to tell me when to talk to Him.

Fourth, all of us occasionally need a little time to ourselves to reflect, but I do not see that happening because a law says we will do it every morning. When I need to sit back and reflect I need more than a minute and I need to do it when I feel the need, not on a prescribed schedule. Fifth, meditation for the non-meditator does not happen because we say it will. This is also related to enforcement, but I can see a real problem with attempting to discipline a student who snickers or is a little noisy during the silent minute. We have enough problems without attempting to talk to parents or students who see this as just another attempt to promote prayers in school and they want no part of it. I'm willing to spend my time and effort in meetings, due process hearings, or court sessions, if necessary, with those students and parents who have violated the law or the rights of others attempting to get the most they can from our educational process. I am not as willing to spend that kind of time with a student who violates the state mandated right of others to have silence. In other words, I see many either intentionally or unintentionally being disruptive during this moment of silence, and I, as a principal, have no desire to determine whether or not it was intentional or what sort of discipline should be levied.

Sincerely,



Laurence N. Graham, Principal
Diamond-Mears Secondary School

/mb



HYDABURG CITY SCHOOL

HYDABURG, ALASKA, PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND 99922

March 24, 1980

Senator Brad Bradley
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

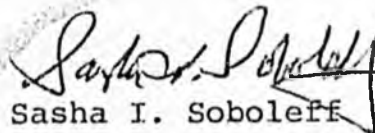
Dear Senator Bradley:

I am writing in reference to SB-443 titled, "...opportunity to recite the Pledge of allegiance...."

While I realize that particular language may be the stumbling block to the successful passage of this bill, may I state that in total, the reciting of this pledge would strengthen our educational curriculum via recognizing the numerous free opportunities we enjoy in America. One might choose to reword the pledge, but I believe this would be difficult if not impossible to successfully facilitate.

Again, I favor passage of this particular bill.

Sincerely,


Sasha I. Soboleff
Supt. of Schools

SIS:de

cc: Sen. Robert Ziegler
Sen. M.E. Dankworth
Sen. Don Bennett

4/13/80

EDMUND KRYSZTOUSKI
503 E. Northern Lights Bl
Anchorage, AK
99503

Honorable Brad Bradley
Pouch U State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Bradley,

I support S.B. 443 with all
my heart. Hope it will pass. I would
also like to see prayer in public schools
in the same manner as S.B. 443

Don't you like letters that are
short and to the point?

Sincerely,

Edmund Krystowski

Answered
4/17



ALASKA CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

A BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

May 15, 1980

Senator Brad Bradley
Pouch V
Juneau, Ak 99801

Dear Senator Bradley;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 459 and SB 443. I apologize for the delay in answering. The Alaska PTA has never addressed either issue in a formal meeting. Therefore, without doing some research, I could not have given an answer that would include more than my personal belief.

We have just completed a survey of the PTA's in the Fairbanks area. We had a response from 78 parents and teachers. The response for SB 443 was a whopping 100% in favor of passage.

Also, 100% of the people surveyed voted yes for passage of SB 459.

It would indicate to us that both of these bills have a broad base of support in the Fairbanks area.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment. If we can be of any assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours



Rose Rybachek

Rose Rybachek
ACPT Immediate past president
FNSB Central Council President
Bulletin Editor

