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I would like to write in support of Sb 717 relating to Health Education. Presently I am employed as a Health Curriculum Specialist for the Anchorage school Dist. I have been in this position for 3 yrs. I previously held a position as regional Health Ed. Coordinator for 21 school Districts in Rural Communities of New York State.

Having provided technical asst. to Mr. Bill Barrier in drafting this bill, I would like to speak in support of 2 major changes that have been made .  
Line 19-23 - Section 2

The intent of this section was to describe the stand the Dept. of Education has presently taken regarding specialists positions. A person has been designated as liaison for Health Ed. programs presently this is Sondra Berry. The new section 2 was intended to describe this present position not to create a new position .

Line 29 page 1 to line 2 page 2 sec. 3

The intent of this section was to allow the Dept. of Ed. to enter into contract with any regional resource center, consulting firm, or district school that would be qualified and had applied to provide services to all school districts in each of the three regions. It is expected that regional centers would be the most likely providers of this service. The option of which group would be awarded the contract would be at the discretion of the Dept. of Ed.

The overall purpose of this proposed legislation as I see it is to provide smaller school districts in AK with consultation services and resources to initiate Health Education resource programs. Anchorage and FBX already have staff and services specializing in Health Education. By providing schools with such services, over a limited period of time, school health Ed. programs can be developed and implemented in these local schools.

At the present time, I have been asked to respond to numerous inquiries from smaller schools developing school Health Ed. programs. It should not be the responsibility of a specialist in Anchorage to provide these services.

This legislation provides the Dept. of Ed., the legislature and State an opportunity to develop preventive approaches to health related problems. By passing SB 717 the Senate Hess committee will be taking the first step in affecting

future Health problems by educating students and preventing them from developing many negative health behaviors.

Thank you for reading this testimony, If I can be of further assistance, please contact me .