

HB

96



# JUNEAU



SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL SERVICES

March 16, 1987

Niilo Koponen, Co-Chairman  
Health, Education and Social Services  
Alaska House of Representatives  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: Sponsor Substitute for House Bill 96

Dear Representative Koponen:

The City and Borough of Juneau School District would like to take the opportunity to respond to the proposed changes as outlined in sponsor substitute for House Bill 96.

Overall, the district is supportive of the changes outlined, however the one area of concern is the proposed change of the school age and its effective date. Our concern is that of the effective date being July 1, 1987. At this point in time there are hundreds of parents throughout the state who are preparing their children and scheduling their lives for the time when their child enters kindergarten, all of these children becoming five years of age prior to November 2, 1987.

A change of the entry date this late in the year would cause major problems for children, parents, and school districts. Children have been attending preschools in anticipation of attending kindergarten next year, parents are in the process of making child care arrangements, anticipating kindergarten, and school districts have projected student numbers for kindergarten based on the November entry date and past data. In addition, if the effective date were to change, districts would be faced with hundreds of requests for evaluations to determine early entrance into the program.



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Our request is that you modify the effective date to read July 1, 1988. This would allow districts and parents to plan for the change.

Your review of this request would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Bruce Johnson", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Bruce Johnson  
Superintendent of Schools

BJ/DT/pp

