

HCR

6

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Helen*

Representative Eileen Panigeo MacLean  
Co-Chair House Finance Committee  
P.O. Box 830  
Barrow, Alaska 99723



WHILE IN JUNEAU  
Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
465-4525  
465-4833

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Department of Labor

MAR 5 1991

Comm	<i>NBA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deputy		<input type="checkbox"/>
Sp Asst		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sp Asst		<input type="checkbox"/>
Info Off		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adm Asst		<input type="checkbox"/>
Int Aud		<input type="checkbox"/>
ASD		<input type="checkbox"/>
ESD		<input type="checkbox"/>
LS&S		<input type="checkbox"/>
W/C		<input type="checkbox"/>
cc:		<input type="checkbox"/>
cc:		<input type="checkbox"/>

District 22

North Slope Borough

Anaktuvuk Pass  
Atkasuk  
Barrow  
Kaktovik  
Nulqsut  
Point Hope  
Point Lay  
Wainwright

Northwest Arctic Borough

Ambler  
Buckland  
Deering  
Kiana  
Kivalina  
Kobuk  
Kotzebue  
Noatak  
Noorvik  
Selawik  
Shungnak

MEMORANDUM

Office of the Commissioner

TO: Nancy Bear Usera, Commissioner  
Department of Labor

FR: Rep. Eileen P. MacLean *Rep. MacLean*  
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee

DATE: Thursday, February 28, 1991

RE: HCR 6 Establishing the Special Interagency  
Coordinating Committee on Schools

Attached is a copy of HCR 6 establishing a special interagency coordinating committee on schools. This bill was passed last year, however, time ran out and the committee did not meet.

With a new administration, it is important to reactivate the committee to forge together various agencies and people charged with the responsibility to provide health, social, legal, and educational services.

Alaskans are becoming aware that there are unacceptable levels of educational achievement among a significant portion of Alaskan Youth. Both individual youth and society as a whole are at risk. As you are aware, the state's cost will be immeasurable in unfilled human potential and millions of dollars spent on remedial programs that will never be restored.

I urge the department's support on this resolution. This is an effort to holistically improve our children's educational environment. I look forward to your response.

*Rep. MacLean*  
*I share your concern that we must all join together to achieve constructive change. You can count on my support for a coordinated effort.*  
*Nancy Bear*

MAR 12 1991

# NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



Pouch 169 • Barrow, Alaska 99723

(907) 852-5311 • FAX (907) 852-5984

Office of the  
Superintendent

Patsy Aamodt, Superintendent

Nunamiut Wolves  
Nunamiut School  
Box 21029  
Anaktuvuk Pass,  
Alaska 99721  
(907) 661-3226  
FAX (907) 661-3402

March 6, 1991

Atkasuk Eagles  
Meade River School  
Atkasuk, Alaska 99791  
(907) 633-6315  
FAX (907) 633-6215

Representative Eileen MacLean  
Co-Chair, House Finance  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Barrow Whalers  
Barrow High School  
Pouch 8950  
Barrow, Alaska 99723  
(907) 852-8950

Dear Eileen:

BMS Wolves  
Barrow Middle School  
Pouch 8950  
Barrow, Alaska 99723  
(907) 852-8950

The NSB School District is supportive of HCR 6 which proposes to establish a Special Interagency Coordinating Committee on Schools. We agree with the intent of the bill and the need to address social/health barriers to learning. However, I feel that the proposed composition of the Committee, which would be charged with the responsibility of establishing overall plans on our (school districts) behalf, does not adequately reflect local school-level representation. It would appear to be in the best interests of students to ensure that there be strong representation on this Committee from those in the professional field of education at the local level.

Arctic Fox  
Fred Ipalook  
Elementary School  
Box 450  
Barrow, Alaska 99723  
(907) 852-4711

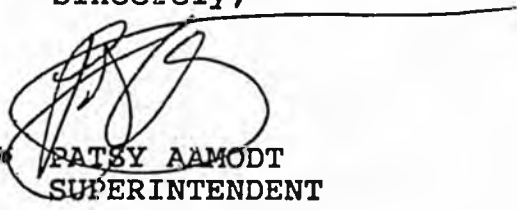
In closing, the District is supportive of the intent of HCR 6; however, I respectfully ask for your consideration to include professional educators who deal with the problems addressed in the bill everyday at the local level. Thank you for your consideration.

Kaveolook Rams  
Harold Kaveolook School  
Box 10  
Kaktovik, Alaska 99747  
(907) 640-6626  
FAX (907) 640-6717

Sincerely,

Nuiqsut Trappers  
Trapper School  
Nuiqsut, Alaska 99789  
(907) 480-6712  
FAX (907) 480-6621

Tikigaq Harpooners  
Tikigaq School  
Box 148  
Point Hope, Alaska 99766  
(907) 368-2662 or 2663  
FAX (907) 368-2770

  
PATSY AAMODT  
SUPERINTENDENT

Cully Qavviks  
Cully School  
Point Lay, Alaska 99759  
(907) 833-2312  
FAX (907) 833-2123

Alak Huskies  
Alak School  
Box 10  
Wainwright, Alaska 99782  
(907) 763-2541  
FAX (907) 763-2550



# NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

### ANCHORAGE REGIONAL OFFICE

1411 W. 33RD AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503  
(907) 274-0536  
FAX: (907) 274-0551

### JUNEAU OFFICE

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 302  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801  
(907) 586-3090  
FAX: (907) 586-2744

### FAIRBANKS REGIONAL OFFICE

2118 CUSHMAN STREET  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701  
(907) 456-4435  
FAX: (907) 456-2159

March 13, 1991

To: **Representatives Carney and Lincoln, Co-Chairs  
Members, House HESS Committee**

Re: **HCR 6: "Relating to the Special Interagency Coordinating Committee on  
Schools."**

NEA-Alaska supports and encourages your favorable consideration of HCR 6.

The Resolution effectively addresses a critical need in public education in Alaska. NEA-Alaska members, certificated and non-certificated, frequently request specific information relative to various services which might be available to help children.

We suggest an additional "Resolve" which would direct the department or the Coordinating Committee, through school districts, to make in-service programs regarding youth services and how to access them available to all employees on a periodic basis.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Manners  
Executive Director

Don Oberg  
President

cc: **Representative MacLean**

## Sponsor Sectional

The Special Interagency Coordinating Committee on Schools is established by the Seventeenth Alaska State Legislature.

The committee will consist of the commissioners from the Departments of Education, Health and Social Services, Community and Regional Affairs, Public Safety, and Labor; and a dean from the University of Alaska who is responsible for teacher training, selected by the Governor.

The Special Interagency Coordinating Committee on Schools will:

- coordinate with school personnel and agencies charged with the responsibility to provide health, social, legal, and educational services.
- involve interested public members in the committees' work. Such efforts is to holistically improve the health and safety of a child's environment.
- establish prevention and intervention programs and other plans as necessary to combat critical social and health barriers which affect the academic and well being of students who are "at risk".
- take responsibility for implementing those plans; and
- issue an annual report with the first one being due by the fifteenth day of the First Session of the Seventeenth Alaska State Legislature.

The Department of Education and the Governor's office will be responsible to organize this committee.

## Health and Family Service Programs Related to School Performance

It may be that there are no root causes of inadequate school performance greater than environmental and social handicaps, especially those that are the result of chronic poverty. It is argued by some, and there has been much testimony in support of this concept, that the legislature must provide the means for all children to be able to start school prepared to learn. The public is becoming aware of the high stakes that all of us have in children who contend with one or more of the following environmental and social handicaps: chronic poverty; single parent households; especially households where parents are unable to provide parental guidance; substance abuse, especially alcohol and illegal drugs; unplanned or unwanted teenage pregnancy; and trauma from exposure to violent behavior, especially child abuse. A high incidence of school problems associated with these handicaps has been well documented, and they are the subjects of concern most consistently expressed by those testifying at legislative hearings, especially in rural areas. In the same vein, the State Board of Education Task Force has made the point that

It is commonly accepted that many social issues place children at risk of [being deprived from] having healthy, productive lives.... Social services issues must be dealt with if we believe that dealing with the whole child in his/her milieu—the family, neighborhood, community—is the most effective way of addressing the conditions of 'at-riskness' of Alaskan children and youth.<sup>18</sup>

If the legislature is to address root causes of poor school performance, it must first concentrate, "on families whose children are vulnerable because they are growing up in poverty or with environmental handicaps.... The prestigious Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy declared that the cost of our present failure to educate all American children will be 'a steady erosion in the American standard of living'...it would be fatal to assume that America can succeed if only a portion of school children succeed."<sup>19</sup> The same can be said with conviction for Alaska.

Even with so many indicators of handicaps to school readiness, there are encouraging signs that something can be done about social dysfunction. But without a unified, long term, sustained effort on the part of the various people and agencies charged with the responsibility to provide health, social, legal and educational

services, there is little likelihood that shortcomings endemic in so many communities of the state will be overcome.

Elsewhere in the country, where economic, social, and health care problems are acute and have been found to be barriers to learning, certain characteristics of the problem have been shown to be universal. Lisbeth B. Schorr has identified three themes that describe conditions in the rest of the country that apply equally well in Alaska:

- 1) Risk factors leading to later damage occur more frequently among children in families that are poor and still more frequently among families that are persistently poor and live in areas of concentrated poverty.
- 2) The plight of the children bearing these risks is not just individual and personal; it requires a societal response.
- 3) The knowledge to help is available; there is a reasonably good match between known risk factors and the interventions to reduce them.<sup>20</sup>

If it can be accepted that the knowledge to help is available, the problem becomes one of finding ways to coordinate and apply that knowledge and dedicate the resources necessary to be effective over time. No single governmental agency possesses the resources and professional knowledge to manage this task alone. Nor is there any single best way to overcome these problems, especially when Alaska's many subregions are compared and its multicultural population considered. Nevertheless, as indicated at a recent conference on education in Anchorage:

Prevention and early intervention programs do work. There is an abundance of evidence which documents desirable program and behavioral outcomes as well as cost effectiveness. The question should not revolve around "Does prevention work?" but rather "Which prevention strategy is appropriate?" "Who should have the lead responsibility?" and "How do we shift the balance to prevention from the current predominant reliance on remediation?"<sup>21</sup>

These are the urgent questions that Alaskans must find answers to without delay.

Evidence that has accumulated in recent years indicates that early intervention among children with environmental handicaps makes a difference when developed and carried out as cooperative efforts among the various agencies and disciplines concerned with child care and schooling. An improved level of professional expertise among the staffs working in the so-called "helping professions" and willingness among the people in them to work cooperatively with school authorities and the community at large have now developed.<sup>22</sup> The potential for this approach to work in Alaska is promising, and already there have been efforts initiated among some state personnel to examine problems from an inter-agency perspective. However, sustained, coordinated agency, school, and community efforts required to make a lasting difference among those children now unprepared or unable to learn because of environmental shortcomings will require prompting and funding by the legislature.

It has been found that among states making efforts along these lines it is essential that they be initiated at the highest levels of government and that some sort of formal structure that compels joint approaches to problem solving and service delivery be established in statute. A positive correlation has been found between success and the extent to which local populations and school personnel are involved in planning and executing of programs.<sup>23</sup>

Therefore:

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the legislature establish a permanent inter-agency coordinating committee headed by a commissioner and consisting of representatives of the Departments of Education, Health and Social Services, Law, Community and Regional Affairs, and others who may have appropriate roles in addressing the problems of overcoming environmental handicaps responsible for inadequate school performance. This group shall be required to identify the most critical social and health barriers to learning, establish plans to overcome them, be responsible for their implementation, and issue annual reports on activities and programs.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HCR 6

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Office of the Governor  
 Title: "Relating to the Special Interagency BRU: Coordinating Committee on schools."  
 Component: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor: Reps. Maclean, C. Davis  
 Requestor: Representative Carney COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

n	a		
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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-	-	-	-	-	-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: none

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

The Office of the Governor will have no fiscal impact from HCR 6.

Prepared By: Michael A. Nizich, Director *M. Nizich* Phone: 465-3616  
 Division: Division of Administrative Services Date: 3/11/91  
 Approved by Commissioner: D. Max Hodel, Chief of Staff *D. Max Hodel*  
 Agency: Office of the Governor Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

BILL NO: HCR 6

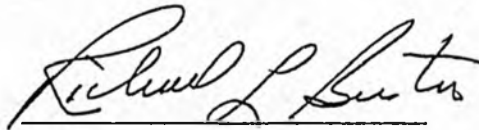
DATE: 3/11/91

TITLE: Relating to the special  
interagency coordinating committee  
on schools.

CONTACT: Gayle A. Horetski  
Deputy Commissioner  
465-4322

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC SAFETY

The Department of Public Safety supports HCR 6, and will be glad to participate on the Special Interagency Coordinating Committee on Schools. We agree that the problems facing young students today are not likely to be resolved "without a coordinated, unified, long-term, and sustained effort" by those responsible for health, education, and public safety services in Alaska.



Richard L. Burton

Commissioner

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: February 19, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: \_\_\_\_\_

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

HCR 6

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOL. NO. 6 INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMM. ON SCHOOLS

Relating to the Special Interagency Coordinating Committee on schools.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] the same title  
 [ ] a new title

[ ] have attached amendments(s)

[] do pass

[ ] do not pass

[ ] no recommendations

[ ] individual recommendations

[ ] additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): \_\_\_\_\_ (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: \_\_\_\_\_ (Dept/Date)

[ ] fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

[] zero fiscal notes 3/11/91 (Governor's office) [ ] zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS: 3/14/91 (DOE)

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

	Check appropriate column:	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
<i>Gettys, Davis</i>				
<i>Cheri Davis</i>				
<i>Mary Miller</i>				
<i>Mark Hunter</i>				
<i>John C. DeHales</i>				
<i>[Signature]</i>				

*[Signature]*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairman's Signature