

SB

36

(File 2)

HFIN

FILE

PUBLIC

TESTI-

MONY

Apr-22-93 06:01 U.S. LEG INFO OFFICE

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P.02 P.02

time or place to take any in-
dian case before the U.S.

Please see Page B-3. REMBER

Pussy willows burst out recently off Northern Lights
Boulevard near Earthquake Park. Warm tempera-

tures have led buds and bugs to appear all across
town, marking the start of the growing season.

ANNE MARC / Anchorage ECR Press

Trust Randy Phillips to make a mess of state ed

Whoever put Randy Phillips in charge of school funding should have known better. This is Phillips' 21st year in the Alaska Legislature, plenty of time for his colleagues to take his measure. Their assessment seems clear: Phillips never has been put in charge of any major piece of legislation or important committee. He's gotten things like the Community and Regional Affairs Committee, where he couldn't do much damage. If you look up "undistinguished career" in the dictionary, you'll find a sketch of Randy Phillips.



MIKE DROGAN

Now, it's true Senate President Mike Miller doesn't have much to work with. Maybe when he looked around the caucus for somebody to take charge of education funding, Phillips was the one who looked least like a piece of furniture. Sitting next to Bert Sharp or Jerry

Ward, he could pass for Isaac Newton. But out in the real world, he seems more like Wayne Newton, taking an important, complicated public policy issue and making a mess of it.

Here's what Phillips wants to do: Take \$30-plus million away from small, mostly Native, Bush school districts and give the money to big, mostly white, city school districts.

Why? Well, Phillips claims the way education is funded now is unfair. Who is it unfair to? Anchorage. Why is it unfair? Because, Phillips says over and over and over, Anchorage has 40 percent of the students but gets only 30 percent of the funding.

There may be good reasons to change the way public schools are funded, but this isn't one of them. Just as it costs more to live in Anchorage than, say, Hakl Knob, Ark., it costs more to live in Galena than Anchorage. Everything costs more there, including education. So if everyone in the state were getting exactly the same amount of education, you'd expect Galena to get more money per student than Anchorage. In the real world,

Phillips' 30-40 cheat is meaningless.

That's cost. Let's talk product. Students in Anchorage get a better education than students in Galena. Measure that in opportunities, test scores, college qualifications, employability, any way you want. If you wanted equity in the educational product, you'd want to send more money to Galena, not less.

But Phillips isn't interested in the education part of education funding. He's interested in the funding part. Specifically, the fact that people in Anchorage pay property taxes for education, and people in some parts of rural Alaska don't. I guess it hasn't occurred to him that a tax on a bunch of decaying BIA houses might not bring in much. Or that people might have to pay in chum salmon.

Here's the problem with making intelligent state policy: It requires intelligence. It requires asking questions and gathering facts and challenging assumptions. Most of all, it requires thinking, and neither Phillips nor his Republican colleagues want any part of that thinking stuff. Because thinking might lead to hard questions. Like: If Anchorage needs

2 of 5

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3 of 5

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special prosecution in either case. Taylor, who is running for governor, said the Knowles administration has an apparent conflict of interest in both cases.

Earlier in the year, the judiciary panel hired an attorney to look into the state's in-

Please see Page B-2, PROSECUTORS

Education funding

more money for schools, why doesn't it get rid of its property tax cap? Or: If cities need more money for schools, why don't lawmakers raise more, instead of robbing Galena to pay Anchorage? Isn't this a state without an income tax? Don't we expect to have more than \$1 billion in Permanent Fund earnings, after dividends and inflation-proofing? How can we be so poor that we have to rob Bush schools?

Tell me this: Have you heard any discussion about any of these questions? About real problems with the current funding for education, and fair ways to change it? About real costs or real educational products or whether, really, it's good public policy to simply steal from your neighbors? The fact you haven't should tell you a lot about the motives and character of the people pushing this sleazy grab for cash.

Mike Doogan's opinion column appears each Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. His telephone number is 287-4330 and his e-mail address is mikedo@adn.com.

mikedoogan@adn.com

TO: ~~Barb~~ Barb

Anch. DAILY NEWS (4/17/98)

FYI

fr Jan P. @ L10
~~REPORTED~~

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Georgianna Lincoln



Standing Committees:
 Resources
 Transportation

Budget Subcommittees:
 Natural Resources
 Corrections
 Public Safety
 Commerce & Economic Development

State Capitol
 Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
 (907) 465-3732
 Fax (907) 465-2652

DISTRICT R

- Atana
- Alcan
- Allakaker
- Aniak
- Anvik
- Anzic Village
- Beaver
- Bettles
- Big Delta
- Bush Creek
- Boundary
- Canyon Village
- Central
- Chalkyitsik
- Chenega Bay
- Chicken
- Chitina
- Chitina
- Chuvpikuk
- Circle
- Cold Foot
- Copper Center
- Copperville
- Cordova
- Crooked Creek
- Delta Junction
- Deer Lake
- Dry Creek
- Engle
- Engle Village
- Evansville
- Four Creeks
- Four Villages
- Galena
- Galena
- Georgetown
- Glennallen
- Grayling
- Gulkana
- Healy Lake
- Holy Cross
- Hughes
- Huachuca
- Killing
- Kenny Lake
- Kryukov
- Lake Minchumina
- Lima Village
- Litvengead
- Lower Kalskag
- Manley Hot Springs
- Marshall
- McCarthy
- McGrath
- Medena
- Mendelina
- Mentasta
- Minnit
- Nabesna
- Nanook
- Nikiluk
- Northway
- Nulato
- Paxson
- Pilot Station
- Rampart
- Red Devil
- Ruby
- Russian Mission
- Shageluk
- Slana
- Sleetmute
- Stevens Village
- Stony River
- Takotna
- Tinianook
- Tiniana
- Totikuk
- Tatalina
- Talkeetna
- Telluride
- Tob
- Tuloma
- Tuloma
- Tulokuk
- Tyonek
- Upper Kalskag
- Valdez
- Venette
- Whitier
- Wiseman

4 of 5

April 15, 1998

Mr. David Townsend
 General Delivery
 Mentasta, AK 99780

Dear David,

Thank you for contacting me regarding Senate Bill 36 (SB 36). This bill is a very unacceptable redistribution and reallocation of state education funding. I strongly opposed SB 36 as it passed through the Senate, but the bill had enough support from Anchorage, Mat-Su, and Fairbanks legislators to pass out of the Senate on a vote of 12 in favor and 8 opposed.

SB 36 reallocates over \$32 million in education funding from rural/bush school districts to our larger urban centers. Under the current provisions of SB 36, more than 21,000 students are in school districts whose funding would be reduced. This bill as written will lead to the closure of many of our smaller schools and result in funding shortages for rural/bush schools that will significantly affect their ability to offer quality, balanced educational programs.

SB 36 is currently being considered in the committee process in the House. I am hopeful that either the bill will not pass that body, or it will be substantially rewritten to address the many problems and inequities. Should SB 36 pass in a format similar to what we see at this point, Governor Knowles has pledged to veto the bill.

Thank you again for contacting me on this very critical issue. I firmly believe that all of Alaska's children are our most important resource, and we cannot jeopardize basic educational needs in

5 of 5

rural/bush areas of the state to provide extra services to our urban schools. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the legislature in opposition to any rewrite of the education formula that does not fairly recognize educational needs and realities statewide. Your letters, resolutions, faxes, and Public Opinion Messages are of much assistance in our efforts. You do make a difference!

In friendship,

Georg
Senator Georgianna Lincoln

PO Box 201
Kipnuk, Alaska 99614
April 21, 1988

House Finance Committee

Dear Sirs:

In these times where funding is tight each legislator strives to get as much educational funding for his district as possible. However, collectively these legislators have a responsibility to provide education for all Alaska's children. This point was made clear when the federal government withdrew educational funding to Alaska through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. One of the main reasons given was that education was the responsibility of the state. In educational issues the legislature must work together to ensure adequate educational opportunities for all of Alaska's people.

Consider the impact of SB-36. The hurt SB-36 would cause across the state far outweighs the advantages it would produce for particular sections of the state. Given that the legislature's task is to provide educational opportunities for all of Alaska's children, DO NOT PASS SB-36. Statewide it will do more harm than good.

Sincerely,

Eunice Dock

Eunice Dock

Postmark
Pay Note #7873
Date 4-23-88 1
To House Finance Committee
Fax 907-465-2278
From Eunice Dock
Phone 907-946-8120
Fax 907-876-5428

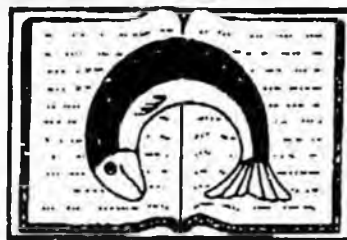
Lower Kuskokwim School District
Technology Assisted Instruction/Media Center
P. O. Box 305
Bethel, AK 99559
(907) 543-4876/4880/4881/4882/4883
FAX (907) 543-4911

FAX COVER SHEET

Please Deliver To: House Finance Committee
Rep. Mark Hanley
Rep. Gene Therriault
From: Bob Medinger

Message: Please distribute to all Committee
members

There are (8) pages including this cover. Please call any of the above telephone numbers if you do not receive all pages. Thank you.



Lower Kuskokwim School District

Technology Assisted Instruction
P.O. Box 305 • Bethel, Alaska 99559
907 543-4800

To: **House Finance Committee**
From: **Bob Medinger** *Bob Medinger*
Date: **4/21/98**
Re: **COMMENTS/TESTIMONY ON SB-36**

SB-36 is predicated on a flawed study, inaccurate interpretations, and categorical limits that are not based on any sort of an equitable basis.

The purpose of the ALASKA SCHOOL OPERATING COST STUDY as stated on the first page of the January 31, 1998 report which was prepared by the McDowell Group is :

"to determine the differences in costs of school operations that arise from differences in school size (student population in a funding community) and geographic location, for the purpose of providing information necessary to make changes to the public school funding formula."

For a number of reasons the study falls short of this objective. These shortcomings are so serious that the study's findings should be disregarded when determining the allocation of state funding for education.

Large portions of school district budgets were omitted from the cost comparison. Because of the large size of these omissions, the formula for computing the area cost differentials may need to be revised in the near future, even though the authors of the study contend otherwise.

Omitted from the cost comparison were salaries for both classified staff and certificated teaching staff, as well as the dollars spent on professional services and purchased services. In some school districts the omitted items exceed 80 percent of the

district operating budget. There are no school districts for which the omitted items are less than one-half the operating budget.

The authors of the study claim that: "the state of Alaska will no longer have to go thirteen years and to considerable expense before updating and improving the system for allocation of aid for education."

(Supplemental Summary, dated February 12, 1998, page 2.)

By this statement the authors are implying that the Department of Education need only plug revised data into the proposed formula in order to get updated cost differentials that accurately portray future conditions. Given the large size of the omitted line items, no such implication can be drawn. Even if, contrary to fact, omission of the items caused no serious bias today, future changes in the omitted items may well have caused the proposed formula to produce increasingly inaccurate estimates over time.

As a result of omitting teacher salaries from the cost comparison, differences in the quality of educational services are not held constant across school districts when making the cost comparison. This omission means that the authors of the study have violated one of the fundamental principles which underlie the construction of cost indexes.

The authors of the study noted that average teacher salaries did not differ greatly across school districts. They then concluded on the basis of this observation that teacher salaries and similar line items could safely be omitted from the cost comparison. In doing so they failed to take account of the fact that the between-the higher cost districts have a disproportionate number of newly minted teachers on their payroll.

Rural Alaska school districts tend to have a much higher percentage of their teachers at the low end of the pay scale than do urban school districts such as Anchorage and Juneau. For the most part, a teacher's salary rises as his or her years of experience and years of additional education increase.

In a letter to the Alaska Legislature's Health Education and Social Services committee (dated February 13, 1998), the superintendent of

the Northwest Arctic Borough School District noted the following differences between the Northwest Arctic district's salary structure and that of the Anchorage district. Also included is an analysis done by our Lower Kuskokwim School District personnel office last week, and an attached count.

**SALARY SCHEDULE
DISTRIBUTION BY PLACEMENT IN PAY SCALE**

	Lower 1/3	Middle 1/3	Upper 1/3
Northwest Arctic	33%	32%	34%
Lower Kuskokwim	33%	32%	35%
Anchorage	15%	28%	57%

When calculating simple arithmetic mean salaries, such differences in the percent distribution of salaries can disguise marked differences in pay within experience groupings. For example, suppose that Anchorage salaries were \$ 35,000 for the lowest paid 1/3 of the teachers, \$50,000 for the middle 1/3 and \$ 65,000 for the upper 1/3. The Northwest Arctic and Lower Kuskokwim districts must pay our teachers more than is paid in Anchorage in order to hire teachers of the same experience and training. The Northwest Arctic and Lower Kuskokwim salaries would then be \$42,000-\$44,000 for the lower 1/3 of the scale. Given the percent distribution of teachers across salary levels which is shown above, the average salary in Anchorage would be \$56,300 and the average salary in the Northwest Arctic Borough would be \$ 59,580. Thus, even though the salary structures shown in this example are 20 percent apart by experience and credit, the corresponding average salaries are only 5.8 percent apart.

If the percent of teachers at each pay level were the same for both districts rather than as shown, their average salaries would differ by the full 20 percent difference in their salary structures rather than by only the 5.8 percent exhibited by the example. The McDowell report errs rather severely in not recognizing that overall average

salaries are similar across school districts only because staffing patterns are different. This mistake causes the authors to violate one of the fundamental principles that lie behind the construction of cost indexes. That fundamental principle is that quality should be held constant when making cost or price comparisons.

What the authors of the study should have done was to define a standard staffing pattern (percent distribution of teachers and staff by pay grade) and then price this standard pattern out in all school districts at each district's scale of operations. Any remaining quality differences could then be more readily dismissed as "random" than are the differences that can be found in the author's work.

The "School Level (Instructional)" cost difference which have been calculated, even when taken on their own terms, are unnecessarily arbitrary. As a result, they bear no necessary relationship to the actual differences in cost that may be due to different scales of operation (i.e. to different sized schools).

The authors partition operating costs into two components: school level (instructional) costs and district level (non personal services and administration) costs. Different methods are used in constructing area cost differentials for each of the two cost components. In the case of the school level cost component, differences in cost are determined solely by a "district school size factor." These size factors are themselves judgementally determined functions of body counts (staff/students ratios) and no other variables. This is troubling because what we should be getting here are estimates of the relationship between dollars spent and school size. When dollars are omitted not only from the formula but also from the underlying analysis, one has no way of knowing whether or not the estimates are even roughly correct.

Nowhere in the study are we told why we should believe that this method of adjusting for economies of scale is valid. (i.e. for school size)

Failure to account for quality differences is one of the main criticisms of the consumer price index published by the U.S. Department of Labor, and is acknowledged as such by those who

collect the data and calculate the index's values. The recent introduction of "chained" price indexes by the U.S. Department of Commerce is, in part, an attempt to adjust for changes in quality. It should be the preferred method. The closest the authors come is an appeal to authority.

McDowell Group:

"This process was complemented by a team of school experts with decades of experience in both rural and urban areas of the state. They developed a professionally-determined model for school staffing for all sizes of Alaska schools." (Supplemental Summary, Page 4)

Appeals to authority have no place in either basic or applied research. What the authors should have done was to compare their implicit estimates of economies of scale and optimal school size to those found in the existing literature and then arrive at final estimates that benefit from both their work and the published research. It may be that their estimates are the best that could be found. But we do not know that. They may be grossly inaccurate. Nor do we know how far their estimates deviate from others that have been reported in the literature.

The formula for "District level Allocations" contains additional cost omissions beyond those identified. These omissions are not adequately justified in the study and appear to arbitrarily reduce aid to rural districts from what it would otherwise be.

In developing the cost differentials for the second component of spending (non personal & administration expenditures) the authors invoke what they call a "two standard deviation cap." In doing so they cap per student expenditures for any single district at the statewide mean plus two standard deviations. As a result any district with unusually high per student expenditures in these categories receives lower state aid under this formula than they would if the two standard deviation cap were not invoked. Without strong justification this simply should not have been done. It is bad research practice. What may be worse, it leaves the reader with the feeling that the study's results were pre-determined and that the formulas were simply

contrived in order to produce the predetermined results.

The authors have this to say in their defense.

"The study team concluded that we had no basis for forcing all districts to fit a formula that placed all districts in a very narrow range, but that the broad range of current expenditures warrants some limitation of unusually high expenditures." (Study, page 74)

Some form of limitation may or may not be in order. But given the dollar amounts that are at stake, such a limit needs to be carefully determined not arbitrarily imposed.

Finding indicate that the McDowell Group study should be discarded and that a new set of area cost differentials should be developed. If this seems too severe to some, then I suggest that, at a minimum, the study should be reviewed by others who are competent to judge its merits and its shortcomings, and that until such a review has been completed the Legislature should table all legislation that relies on its results.

The legislative leaders that crafted SB-36, then jumped from the use of the McDowell Group study to devising the new funding allocation scheme. The McDowell study specifically did not/could not accurately analyze the equity of categorical funds. To arbitrarily limit the categorical cap at 20%, the actual needs of school children are made irrelevant. In particular, our school district will be unable to serve our special needs children. The required federal mandates of special education use nearly 17% of our categorical funds, with Voc. Ed. taking another 2%. With only 1% left for Bilingual Education, our bilingual program will effectively end. With 90% of our students Yup'ik Eskimo, and Yup'ik the dominant language, an effective bilingual program is critical to school achievement in English.

For all of these reasons, I suggest that SB-36 be dropped, and an accurate study be done to determine a fair funding formula for all of Alaska's schools. No district should be harmed for the benefit of another. Extra funds should be identified and channeled into the school funding program to not only increase urban schools, but to solidify quality programs in the bush.

LKSD No

LOWER KUSKOKWIM SCHOOL DISTRICT
 CERTIFICATED STAFF SCATTERGRAM
 ALL TEACHERS
 FY98

05-Apr-88

Source: FY98 actual certificated

STEP	B			B+18			M B+36			M+18 OR B+54			MMM+36 OR B+72		
0	25.00	1.00	25.00	2.00	1.05	2.10	2.00	1.10	2.20	0.00	1.15	0.00	2.00	1.20	2.40
1	12.00	1.05	12.60	4.00	1.10	4.40	2.00	1.15	2.30	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.25	1.25
2	13.00	1.10	14.30	0.00	1.15	0.00	5.00	1.20	6.00	0.00	1.25	0.00	0.00	1.30	0.00
3	10.00	1.15	11.50	2.00	1.20	2.40	1.00	1.25	1.25	4.00	1.30	5.20	3.00	1.35	4.05
4	7.00	1.20	8.40	2.00	1.25	2.70	1.00	1.30	1.30	0.00	1.35	0.00	0.00	1.40	0.00
5	5.00	1.25	6.25	2.00	1.30	2.67	6.00	1.35	8.10	3.00	1.40	4.20	3.00	1.45	4.35
6	9.00	1.30	11.70	6.00	1.35	8.10	3.00	1.40	4.20	4.00	1.45	5.80	1.00	1.50	1.50
7				2.00	1.40	2.80	2.00	1.45	2.90	5.50	1.50	8.25	5.00	1.55	7.75
8				2.00	1.45	2.90	0.00	1.50	0.00	2.00	1.55	3.10	1.00	1.60	1.60
9				2.00	1.50	3.00	4.00	1.55	6.20	1.00	1.60	1.60	3.00	1.65	4.95
10				22.00	1.55	34.10	2.00	1.60	3.20	1.00	1.85	1.85	3.00	1.70	5.10
11							30.00	1.65	49.50	0.00	1.70	0.00	3.00	1.75	5.25
12										14.00	1.75	24.50	2.00	1.80	3.60
13													45.00	1.85	83.25
	81.00		89.75	46.00		64.90	58.00		87.15	35.50		55.50	72.00		125.05

(96/292.5 = 33%)

Bottom 1/3
(under 44,000)

middle 1/3
(44,250 - 54,250)
32%

Top 1/3
↑ 54,250

(10)/292.5 = 35%

Total FTE	292.50
Total Adjusted FTE	422.35
Beginning Salary	34,628
Certificated Cost	14,625,556
Average Teacher Salary	50,002
Benefits @ 22.86% + \$600ea	3,518,803
Fiscal Note	18,144,461

forwarded from Representative Aosterman

APR 23 1998

Finance Committee 4/17/98

I'd like to state
my opposition to SB 36
School Funding. This

bill would escalate

problems between rural/
urban native / non-native
groups. Please don't pass

it

Sonya Mortenson
1117 Mission Rd
Kodiak, Alaska

Laurel A. Shirley
445 23rd St. SE
Salem, OR 97301

April 16, 1998

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you concerning Senate Bill 36. I believe its passage would be detrimental, not only to the rural schools, but to the entire future of the State of Alaska. I am urging you to take into consideration those lives which are going to be effected and vote no.

Three of my high school years were spent in various fishing villages and logging communities in Southeast Alaska. In December of 1993, I graduated from Labouchere Bay School in Labouchere Bay, Alaska. Thanks to the excellent education I received in rural schools I was able to graduate half a year early. Going to a rural school gave me advantages and opportunities that I otherwise might not have had. I was able to attend many leadership conferences both in the state and out. I was also a member of Who's Who Among High School Students for three years due to the one on one teaching I received.

The knowledge and experiences I gained from attending a rural school have been invaluable to me as a young adult. It has made me more creative, independent, and a self motivated individual. These traits have not only helped me as a college student, but also in the various jobs that I have held. The education I received in a rural school has allowed me to maintain a 3.50 GPA in college and also to become a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

If these schools cease to exist, Alaska would be wasting her most precious recourse... her children. The future of the state depends on the quality of the education her children receive. This quality cannot be maintained with correspondence classes, it can only be achieved with the support of a school. If we choose not to maintain that quality, we lose our future.

Please vote no on Senate Bill 36. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laurel A Shirley

Laurel A. Shirley

Laurel A. Shirley
445 23rd St. SE
Salem, OR 97301

April 16, 1998

APR 23 1998

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Please vote no on Senate Bill 36. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Laurel A. Shirley

April 15, 1998
Representative Mark Hanley
Room, 507 Alaska State Legislature
State Capital (MS 3 100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

APR 23 1998

Dear Representative Mark Hanley,

Hi my name is Dallas Amaktolik from Elim, Ak. Please don't pass the SB36. Because if you do, my favorite class which is Bilingual/bicultural, will be eliminated. Besides this class helps me learn about how our ancestors used to do things and how they hunted. And it keeps our traditions alive. And SB36 is taking more of our culture. Isn't the school taking enough of our culture? And another reason to vote NO is that SB 36 is taking away student activities. I am an athlete and like to go to other villages in this district to compete against them. So please vote NO! against this bill.

Sincerely,

Dallas Amaktolik

Dallas Amaktolik
P.O. Box 63
Elim, AK 99739

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 98-06

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SB 36
PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

WHEREAS, quality education is one of the single most valuable tools we can provide our children, and subsequently, our community; and

WHEREAS, state funding per student in the Fairbanks North Star Borough has declined over the last six fiscal years due in large part to increases in local assessed value; and

WHEREAS, an examination of the education foundation formula is long overdue; and

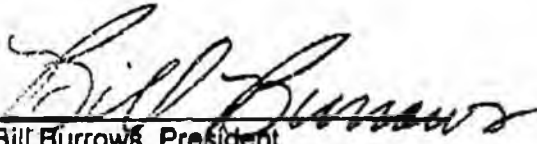
WHEREAS, we respectfully request that the following issues be included in any Public School Funding legislation:

1. That testing or other funded means of assuring all children receive quality education be included in the legislation.
2. That a phased-in or hold harmless provision be added to the legislation to aid those districts that will suffer immediate, drastic cuts in funding.
3. That the need for relief from the adverse impact of local assessed value on state funding be addressed.
4. That changes in Public School Funding be accompanied by additional funding in an amount sufficient to ensure that Alaska's children will receive education services in an uninterrupted and satisfactory manner.

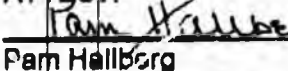
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education supports SB36 and the efforts to revise the Education Foundation Formula and respectfully request that the issues of quality assurance, relief to districts drastically impacted by the rewrite and relief from the impacts of local assessed valuation and additional funding be addressed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Knowles and members of the Interior Delegation.

PASSED AND APPROVED APRIL 21, 1998.


Bill Burrows, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:


Pam Hallberg
Secretary to the Board

Resolution
Of the
Southeast Alaska Native Education Association

WHEREAS, the legislature is considering enacting Senate Bill 36 into law, and

WHEREAS, the effect of the legislation is redistributing funds from 32 mostly rural school districts to urban school districts; and

WHEREAS, the 32 school districts adversely impacted by this legislation house 21,000 children, many of whom would have their current education seriously disrupted; and

WHEREAS, Regional Educational Attendance Areas are legally precluded from contributing local taxes to education and are unable to provide an adequate local share of education costs because of this legal prohibition and because of a generally inadequate local tax base; and

WHEREAS, the result of this legislation will be to close some rural schools; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has established a system of public schools based upon the provision of local schools in nearly every village in Alaska, and that the decision to abandon that system now may be a violation of the legislature's constitutional duty to maintain a system of public schools open to all; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the funding cuts which will result from enactment of this legislation is racially biased and may violate constitutional rights to equal protection of the laws; and

WHEREAS, the policy of Alaska's support for education is to be equitable, fair and racially and culturally sensitive, with the intent that all children in Alaska be provided with a free, appropriate, public education, and that opportunities for such an education be reasonably equal without regard to residence of the child; and

WHEREAS, enactment of this legislation will diminish us as a society, catering to our most selfish and narrow instincts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION:

1. That the legislature is urged not to pass SB36 in any of its present permutations; and
2. That, if the legislation is passed by the legislature, the Governor is urged to veto this legislation.

Passed and Approved by the Southeast Alaska Native Education Association by a telephone vote of no objection calls from Sitka, Alaska on 17 April 1998.

Isabella Brady
Isabella Brady, Co-Chair

20 April 1998

W. D. ...

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages > 1

To: Leg. Info Office	From: Della Chisney
CC: Distribute to House	Co. Southeast Alaska Native Education Assn.
Dept: Education	Phone: 747-2584
Fax #: 747-2864	Fax #: 747-2594

APRIL 11, 1998

KENNY LAKE PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION
COPPER RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
HC 60 BOX 224
COPPER CENTER, AK 99573

ALASKA LEGISLATORS
JUNEAU, ALASKA

RE: SB36

DEAR LEGISLATORS:

ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF A LETTER PREPARED BY ONE OF OUR ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS.

THE KENNY LAKE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MOTION TO DO AWAY WITH FUNDING FOR A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED TOPICS AT OUR PTO MEETINGS.

PLEASE RECOGNIZE THE DESPERATE NEED WE HAVE FOR THE FUNDING OF A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. WE WILL SPARE YOU THE DETAILS (WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED WITH YOU PREVIOUSLY) OF SOME OF THE INADEQUACIES IN OUR PRESENT ELEMENTARY FACILITY.

PLEASE KNOW THAT THINGS ARE CONTINUING TO FALL DOWN AROUND OUR CHILDREN'S EARS AND WE ARE VERY LUCKY THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN ON THEIR HEADS!

WE REALIZE THE CHALLENGE YOU ALL HAVE AND SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

SINCERELY,

Kenny Lake PTO

KENNY LAKE PTO

CC: DR. DOYLE: COPPER RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
REED CARLSON: KENNY LAKE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

April 7, 1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

Dear Alaskan Legislators,

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Stop thinking "one for you, one for me" and start looking at what each of us is really receiving.

Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Juliet Knutson

Look at what is being produced. That's where the equality should be. And not just in the basics but technology + athletics.

April 8, 1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Jack L. Phillips
HC 60 Box 146B
COPPER CENTER, AK.
99573

822-3530

April 7, 1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Cena R Hart

Joseph J. Hart

HC 60 BOX 145
Copper Center, AK
99573

April ,1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Sincerely,
Gilda Stanton

April ,1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Karen Allen

P.O. 213

Copper Center, AK 99573

April 7, 1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Margo Hanson

Margo Hanson
HC 60 Box 56
Copper Center, AK

April ,1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Carla G. Schweinhart
Copper Center, AK
99573

HC60 Box 342



April ,1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

Dear Alaskan Legislators,

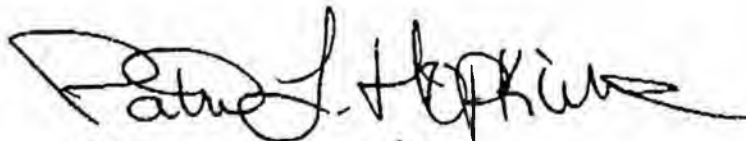
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Don't support Senate Bill 36!


HC 60 Box 137
Copper Center, AK 99573

April ,1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Maria E. Lambert
4060 BOX 200
Copper Center, AK 99573

April 10, 1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

Dear Alaskan Legislators,

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Thomas Butte

HCC60 Box 335R

Copper River, AK 99573

April ,1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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April 6, 1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

James C. Pettit
Lorna Pettit

HC 60 Box 343
Copper Center, AK 99573

April ,1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!


Candace May
1160 Box 229M
Copper Center AK 99573



April ,1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Valerie Lacker
P.O. Box 232
Copper Center, AK 99573

April ,1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Sincerely,
Christine S. Taylor

HCCO Box 140
Copper River, AK 99575

Fax : May 28 31 10:15 1.82
April 8

RE: Senate Bill 36

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Gene W. Jansy

P.O. Box 231

Copper Center, AK 99573

April 15, 1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

Dear Alaskan Legislators,

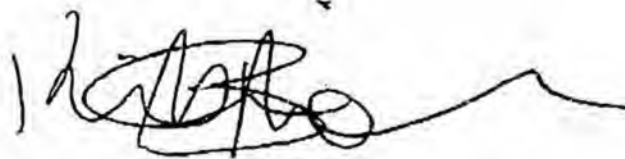
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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. [unclear]", written in a cursive style.

April 16, 1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

Dear Alaskan Legislators,

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Don't support Senate Bill 36!

Julius H. Rosenthal
HC 60 Box 156
Copper Center, AK 99573



April ,1998

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Beverly Ostrum

St. Rt. Box 215

Copper Center, AK 99573

April 6, 1998

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Linda Thompson

April ,1998

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Maurice A. Kenderlin
HC 60 BOX 221
Copper River, AK 99573

Fax . Aug 28 91 10:11:04
April ,1998

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Jusau Thoele
HC 60 Box 227
Copper Center, AK 99523

April 8, 1998

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Pat Barr

PATT BARR

HC604 Box 233
Copper River, AK 99573

April ,1998

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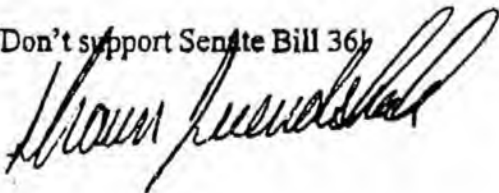
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Larry McHale

April 14, 1998

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Sincerely
Kenny Lake PTO

March , 1998

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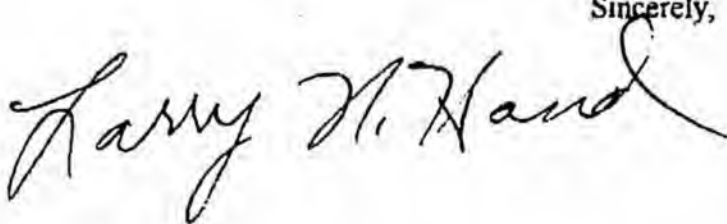
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April 8, 1998
March

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March , 1998

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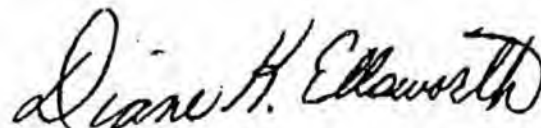
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Maura A. Kimberlin

March , 1998

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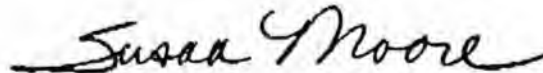
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HC 60 Box 227G
Copper Center, AK 99573
April 16, 1998
March , 1998

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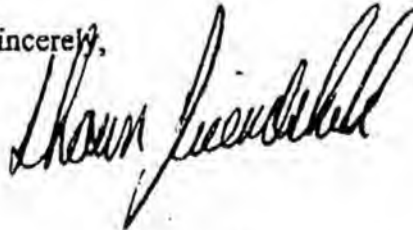
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~~March~~ April 16, 1998

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If you are ever in a position to speak up for or vote on funding Alaskan school construction/maintenance, please do so. I am a resident of Kenny Lake, part of the Copper River Basin. I have heard that we as a community are seen by many legislators as a controversial area, but even so, we are in need of your help in obtaining a new elementary building for our public school children. Our school is presently number six on the CIP construction list and slotted for the second year (FY 00) on the Preferred Maintenance List and on Governor Knowels proposal. We are not looking for swimming pools or full size gyms; we would like comfortable sized classrooms, prep areas, a multi-media room, a small multi-purpose room and working bathrooms.

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Sincerely,

Aileen Rosentkano

HC 60 Box 156

Copper Center, AK 99573

H-15
March , 1998

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If you are ever in a position to speak up for or vote on funding Alaskan school construction/maintenance, please do so. I am a resident of Kenny Lake, part of the Copper River Basin. I have heard that we as a community are seen by many legislators as a controversial area, but even so, we are in need of your help in obtaining a new elementary building for our public school children. Our school is presently number six on the CIP construction list and slotted for the second year (FY 00) on the Preferred Maintenance List and on Governor Knowels proposal. We are not looking for swimming pools or full size gyms; we would like comfortable sized classrooms, prep areas, a multi-media room, a small multi-purpose room and working bathrooms.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. A. A.", written over a faint, illegible stamp or background.

March 28, 1998

Dear Legislators,

If you are ever in a position to speak up for or vote on funding Alaskan school construction/maintenance, please do so. I am a resident of Kenny Lake, part of the Copper River Basin. I have heard that we as a community are seen by many legislators as a controversial area, but even so, we are in need of your help in obtaining a new elementary building for our public school children. Our school is presently number six on the CIP construction list and slotted for the second year (FY 00) on the Preferred Maintenance List and on Governor Knowels proposal. We are not looking for swimming pools or full size gym, we would like comfortable sized classrooms, prep areas, a multi-media room, a small multi-purpose room and working bathrooms.

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Sincerely,

Kenny Lake PTO

April
~~March~~ 15, 1998

Dear Legislators,

If you are ever in a position to speak up for or vote on funding Alaskan school construction/maintenance, please do so. I am a resident of Kenny Lake, part of the Copper River Basin. I have heard that we as a community are seen by many legislators as a controversial area, but even so, we are in need of your help in obtaining a new elementary building for our public school children. Our school is presently number six on the CIP construction list and slotted for the second year (FY 00) on the Preferred Maintenance List and on Governor Knowels proposal. We are not looking for swimming pools or full size gyms; we would like comfortable sized classrooms, prep areas, a multi-media room, a small multi-purpose room and working bathrooms.

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Sincerely,



~~March~~ April 10, 1998

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If you are ever in a position to speak up for or vote on funding Alaskan school construction/maintenance, please do so. I am a resident of Kenny Lake, part of the Copper River Basin. I have heard that we as a community are seen by many legislators as a controversial area, but even so, we are in need of your help in obtaining a new elementary building for our public school children. Our school is presently number six on the CIP construction list and slotted for the second year (FY 00) on the Preferred Maintenance List and on Governor Knowels proposal. We are not looking for swimming pools or full size gyms; we would like comfortable sized classrooms, prep areas, a multi-media room, a small multi-purpose room and working bathrooms.

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March , 1998

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Sincerely,



April 9
March , 1998

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Sincerely,
Maria E. Lambert

March 27, 1998

Dear Legislators,

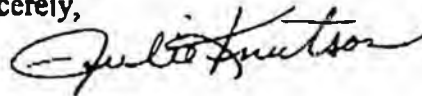
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March , 1998

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March 8 , 1998

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Sincerely,

Carla G. Schenkolt

March 30, 1998

Dear Legislators,

If you are ever in a position to speak up for or vote on funding Alaskan school construction/maintenance, please do so. I am a resident of Kenny Lake, part of the Copper River Basin. I have heard that we as a community are seen by many legislators as a controversial area, but even so, we are in need of your help in obtaining a new elementary building for our public school children. Our school is presently number six on the CIP construction list and slotted for the second year (FY 00) on the Preferred Maintenance List and on Governor Knowels proposal. We are not looking for swimming pools or full size gyms; we would like comfortable sized classrooms, prep areas, a multi-media room, a small multi-purpose room and working bathrooms.

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Sincerely,

Mary Hanson
Teacher
Kenny Lake School

March , 1998

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Sincerely,

Karen Allen
P.O. Box 213
Copper Center, AK
99573

March , 1998

Dear Legislators,

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Sincerely,



Fax
May 26 91 10-50-1-00
APRIL
~~March~~ 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Cena R Hart
Joseph J. Hart

March , 1998

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Sincerely,



*Thank you For
all your hardwork*

Jan Carlson

March 31, 1998

Dear Legislators,

If you are ever in a position to speak up for or vote on funding Alaskan school construction/maintenance, please do so. I am a resident of Kenny Lake, part of the Copper River Basin. I have heard that we as a community are seen by many legislators as a controversial area, but even so, we are in need of your help in obtaining a new elementary building for our public school children. Our school is presently number six on the CIP construction list and slotted for the second year (FY 00) on the Preferred Maintenance List and on Governor Knowels proposal. We are not looking for swimming pools or full size gyms; we would like comfortable sized classrooms, prep areas, a multi-media room, a small multi-purpose room and working bathrooms.

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Sincerely,

Jack L. Phillips, RLS
HC 60 Box 146B
COPPER CENTER, AK,
99573

822-3530

March 31, 1998

Dear Legislators,

If you are ever in a position to speak up for or vote on funding Alaskan school construction/maintenance, please do so. I am a resident of Kenny Lake, part of the Copper River Basin. I have heard that we as a community are seen by many legislators as a controversial area, but even so, we are in need of your help in obtaining a new elementary building for our public school children. Our school is presently number six on the CIP construction list and slotted for the second year (FY 00) on the Preferred Maintenance List and on Governor Knowels proposal. We are not looking for swimming pools or full size gyms; we would like comfortable sized classrooms, prep areas, a multi-media room, a small multi-purpose room and working bathrooms.

Our present buildings are very old and are difficult to repetitiously maintain. For example: Every year, for at least three weeks, these buildings are without running water (toilets, sinks, drinking fountains are out of order). During this year's freeze, one set of bathrooms smelled so strongly of sewage and mildew that no one wanted to enter. Also, this building's furnace sounds like it is going to go through the roof every time it fires up. This noise is common place to those occupying the building, but we wonder just how much longer it can last and how it will die (hopefully quietly). In the fall months there's always an infestation of voles. This year was extremely bad due to the poor snow cover. Not only was there evidence of their presence, but they were often seen running across the floor, shelves, or out of boxes.

Currently, both buildings have entrances blocked by huge pools of water caused by poor drainage due to a large snowfall and warm weather. Granted this is a problem most everyone is dealing with, but entrance ramps are hazardously slippery, a problem we endure every year.

We are constantly hearing from Juneau that our children are one of our State's most important assets. We don't have many children in our community, but they are just as important as other children in this state. Right now they are being housed in unsafe, unstable and unsanitary conditions. Please do what you can to push through funding for our school facilities.

Sincerely,

James C Petullo
Donna Petullo

March , 1998

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Sincerely,



Corbett Mason

March , 1998

Dear Legislators,

If you are ever in a position to speak up for or vote on funding Alaskan school construction/maintenance, please do so. I am a resident of Kenny Lake, part of the Copper River Basin. I have heard that we as a community are seen by many legislators as a controversial area, but even so, we are in need of your help in obtaining a new elementary building for our public school children. Our school is presently number six on the CIP construction list and slotted for the second year (FY 00) on the Preferred Maintenance List and on Governor Knowels proposal. We are not looking for swimming pools or full size gyms; we would like comfortable sized classrooms, prep areas, a multi-media room, a small multi-purpose room and working bathrooms.

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Sincerely,

Valarie Lackner

Fax
May 20 11 10 02 AM '98

March 20, 1998

Dear Legislators,

If you are ever in a position to speak up for or vote on funding Alaskan school construction/maintenance, please do so. I am a resident of Kenny Lake, part of the Copper River Basin. I have heard that we as a community are seen by many legislators as a controversial area, but even so, we are in need of your help in obtaining a new elementary building for our public school children. Our school is presently number six on the CIP construction list and slotted for the second year (FY 00) on the Preferred Maintenance List and on Governor Knowels proposal. We are not looking for swimming pools or full size gyms; we would like comfortable sized classrooms, prep areas, a multi-media room, a small multi-purpose room and working bathrooms.

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Sincerely,

Christine S. Taylor

KUINERRARMIUT ELITNAURVIAT

QUINHAGAK SCHOOL
GENERAL DELIVERY
101 VILLAGE ROAD
QUINHAGAK, ALASKA 99655
907-556-8628
907-556-8927
FAX-907-556-8228

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 4/22/98 TIME: 11:45 am

TO: _____
FROM: Dora Strunk, DS
TITLE: Teacher

MESSAGE: These letters were
written by the fifth and
sixth graders at Kuinerrarmiut
Elitnaurviat.

Thank you very much.

Dora Strunk

TOTAL PAGES IN THIS TRANSMISSION: 1 (INCLUDES THIS PAGE)

Quinhagak School
General Delivery
Quinhagak, AK 99655
April 22, 1998

Dear Rep. Gail Phillips,

My name is Ella Guest. I am in sixth grade and I attend Quinhagak School. I've attend my school since kindergarten. If our school closes down we'll have to go to another village or city to get our education. I don't want to leave my family and relatives. Please don't pass SB36.

Thank-you very much.

Sincerely,

Ella Guest

Ella M. Guest

Quinhagak School
General Delivery
Quinhagak, AK 99655
March 23, 1998

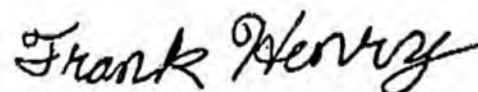
Dear Rep. Mark Handley,

My name is Frank Nelson Henry. I am eleven years old and in the sixth grade. We talk in Yup'ik and English in school. I enjoy learning how to Eskimo dance. I like reading the Yup'ik myths and legends in the Yup'ik books.

I don't want SB36 to pass because our school has the Yup'ik First Language Program. I also don't want our school to close. I want to continue to learn how to read and write in my language.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,



Frank N. Henry

Quinhagak School
Gen Delivery
Quinhagak, AK 99655
April 4, 1998

Dear Rep. Mark Hanley,

My name is Harold Smith. I am in fifth grade. I am taught mainly in my first language which is Yup'ik.

I don't want SB36 to pass because our school has the Yup'ik First Language Program. I want to learn in both Yup'ik and English. When our elders come and tell stories and legends of our ancestors, I enjoy them. I can understand the elders when they speak in Yupik. Also, during Yupik Life Skills, our teacher shows us how to make Eskimo kayaks with leather calf skin. They also teach us how to Eskimo dance and write and speak in Yupik. If our school is in trouble of closing because of the formula funding I don't want to go to school in another city or village.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Harold Smith
Harold Smith

General Delivery
Quinhagak, AK 99655
April 3, 1998

Dear Rep. Mark Handley,

My name is Eric N. Small. I am in fifth grade. I don't want SB36 to pass because I love my school. I learn a lot from my teachers in my school. We are taught in Yup'ik and in English. In Yup'ik our teacher teaches us how to Eskimo dance, read and write in Yup'ik, and learn how to do Native arts and crafts.

Thank you very much for reading my letter.

Sincerely,
Eric Small
Eric N. Small

Quinhagak School
General Delivery
Quinhagak, AK 99655
April 1, 1998

Dear Rep. Con Bunde,

My name is Alexis Jones. I'm in sixth grade. I attend the Quinhagak School. I talk in Yup'ik and English most of the time. We have the Yup'ik Life Skills program where we write in Yup'ik. We also have Native arts and crafts, and we are learning how to Eskimo dance. Elders come to our classroom and talk to us. They teach us about what they did when they were young.

I don't want SB36 to pass because our school is important to us. I learn both languages, Yup'ik and English. If this bill passes and if our school closes, we will have to go to school at an unfamiliar place. We will be away from our family.

Thank-you for reading this letter.

Sincerely,



Alexis Jones

Quinhagak School
General Delivery
Quinhagak AK, 99655
March 25, 1998

Dear Rep. Gail Phillips,

My name is Elizabeth Rivers. I'm in fifth grade. We talk in Yup'ik most of the time. We also read and write in Yup'ik. We sing songs in Yup'ik and English. We have Eskimo dancing too.

I don't want SB36 to pass because our school has the Yup'ik First Language Program. We love Yup'ik a lot. We learn the survival skills from our elders when they come to my classroom to talk.

Thank-you very much for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Rivers

Elizabeth Rivers

Quinhagak School
General Delivery
Quinhagak AK 99655
April 1, 1998

Dear Rep. Gail Phillips,

My name is Whitney Church. I am in the sixth grade at Kulnerramiut Elinaurviat. I don't want senate Bill 36 to pass because our school has a Yup'ik First Language program. I want it to stay the same so other kids could learn how to read and write in Yup'ik. Yup'ik is part of our culture and language in school. We want to learn both Yup'ik and English. If we're only taught in English we won't know who we are.

We also have a Yup'ik Life Skills program where we learn the Yup'ik Orthography, work on Native arts and crafts, and learn to sing in the Yup'ik language. I also enjoy learning how to Eskimo dance.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Whitney Church
Whitney Church

Quinhagak School
General Delivery
Quinhagak, AK 99655
April 3, 1993

Dear Rep. Gall Phillips,

My name is Jonette Jones. I'm in fifth grade. I am taught in Yup'ik at my school, Kuinerrarmut Elitnaurviat. I learn the Yup'ik Orthography. I talk in Yup'ik. We read and write in my first language.

I don't want SB36 to pass because I don't want our school to close. I like learning in Yup'ik. SB36 is not fair. I should get a good education just like the kids in the city.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jonette Jones
Jonette Jones

Quinhagak School
General Delivery
Quinhagak, AK 99655
April 3, 1998

Dear Rep. Gail Phillips,

My name is Lonnie Pleasant. I am in fifth grade. I don't want SB 36 to pass because our school has the Yup'ik First Language Program. I want to be able to understand my elders when they come to my school to tell me about my history. I like reading and writing in my language. I also like learning in my second language which is English.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Pleasant
Lonnie Pleasant

Quinhagak School
General Delivery
Quinhagak, AK 99655
April 22, 1998

Dear Rep. Gail Phillips,

My name is Christine Pleasant. I am in sixth grade. Yup'ik is my first language. I also talk in English because some of my teachers only talk in English. In school I am taught in my second language, but I also have a Yup'ik class. During Yup'ik we write stories, Eskimo dance, and do Native crafts.

I don't want SB36 to pass because our school will get less money than a school in a big city. It isn't fair.

Thank-you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Christine Pleasant

Christine Pleasant

Testimony

To: Alaska House of Representatives Health, Education and Social Services Committee
By: Betsy Turner-Bogren; Alaska PTA, Vice President, Legislative Affairs
Date: April 20, 1998
Re: Senate Bili 36, Public Education Reform and Funding Initiatives

- Members of the Alaska PTA appreciate the efforts of the Governor and the Legislators to improve both the quality of public education in Alaska and the method in which our state provides funding for public education.
- Improving education for Alaska's children is a very important issue. This is not an issue that belongs to the Republicans, the Democrats, the Governor or the Legislature, this issue belongs to all Alaskans.
- The Alaska PTA has an annual membership of over 16,000. Our association is organized to include representation from six geographic regions covering the entire state and four active councils representing Ketchikan, the Mat/Su Borough, Fairbanks and Anchorage.
- Delegates from across Alaska meet annually to review our Legislative Program and adopt our legislative priorities. The need for renewed confidence in our public schools is one of our top concerns this year. Supporting adequate state funding for public education has always been one of the Alaska PTA Legislative Priorities.
- Delegates to the 1997-98 Issues Conference last November adopted legislative priorities for the Alaska PTA that include support of:
 1. Legislation and funding of programs that will hold school districts accountable to high standards for educational programs, staff professionalism and student performance.
 2. The creation of a new funding mechanism that will meet all rising costs of public education including those associated with inflation and increased enrollment, and provide equitable distribution of those funds.
 3. Funding public education at a level sufficient to enable school districts to support a cap on the pupil-teacher ratio for each grade level and provide safe and adequate pupil transportation.
- Delegates to the November Issues Conference expressed concern that State funding reform measures should not provide solutions for some school districts at the expense of any other school districts.

On behalf of the Alaska PTA I would like to thank members of the House Finance Committee for your work. We encourage you to continue your efforts to find solutions that address all the concerns of the Alaska PTA. We believe that every child in Alaska deserves access to high quality public education.

P.O. Box 27
Kwigillingok, Ak 99022
588-8529 Home
588-8629 School
588-8613 School Fax
588-8963 Class (only on weekends)---

Dear House Finance Committee,

Just to make my self clear I do not want to see any cut to LKSD. That will hurt our bilingual Yup'ik instruction. The BIA turned over these schools to the state and all cultural sensitivity seems to be gone. If our Yup'ik language programs stay intact the people out here will speaking, reading, and writing Yup'ik for as long as they want. I hope it is not this legislature now that will be from here on responsible for the 'death' nail into Yup'ik language. Call me if you want further discussion.

Senate Bill 36 will devastate Yup'ik bilingual programs in southwestern Alaska by slashing the Lower Kuskokwim School District's categorical funding. This funding reduction was not recommended by the McDowell report. McDowell said they were not capable to equitably assess this issue. The new SB-36 20% categorical cap will only cover mandated special education costs with virtually nothing left for bilingual programs.

Too few urban residents and legislators understand and that in the Lower Kuskokwim region there are over 20 villages where Yup'ik is the dominant language. Urban people and legislators need to realize that there are villages like Kwigillingok where the main language at church, home, play, and council meetings is Yup'ik. For nearly all of the children, their first legends, books, songs, and Bible readings are in Yup'ik. When more urban voters, legislators, and tourists become more aware of the impact of SB-36 on the Yup'ik language, lawmakers will be cast in a historically dark light.

For the last 24 years over 95% of the students I've taught in Kwigillingok, Tuntutullak, and Kongiganak (west of the Kuskokwim river) have been dominant Yup'ik speakers. For 28 years there has been a culturally sensitive language program that allows many of these students to read and write first in their native language and humanely ease them into a dominantly English class by the 4th grade. These students graduate reading, writing, and speaking both English and Yup'ik. Many of these students have gone on to college. Test results clearly show that if our students are first schooled in Yup'ik, they outscore native speakers who are required to learn in English. SB-36 will not only contribute to lower

P.O. Box 48
Kwigillingok Ak, 99622
April 17, 1998

House Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Ak 99801- 1182

Dear House Finance Committee,

Wangkuta assilkaput SB-36-aaq. Kituuqan SB-36-aaq yugcetun

mikolngut.. kalarngalrucllqut.- Aklrcllqut.- mikolngut.- elitnaurlstet..

Ilu. Mikolngut taringescigacllqut kass'atun. Kituuqan SB 36-aaq

kiingan kass'atun qalartelarclqukut yugtun-llu qalarcuunata.

Wiinga cakneq assilkaqa SB-36-aaq.

Wiinga,

Tania Andrew
6th grade

PS. We don't like SB 36. If SB-36 passes the little kids won't talk in yup'ik. The yup'ik teacher's and all the other teacher and the students their feelings will get hurt. The kids won't understand in english because they mostly talk in yup'ik. If SB-36 passes we will start talking in english and we won't have to talk in yupik and write. I don't really like SB-36.

PO Box 6
Kwigillingok, Ak 99622
April 17, 1998

House Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Dear House Finance Committee,

Wilinga Senate Bill 36-aaq assillkaqa mani kuigilngurmi
assilltuq. Ak'iq tegguyaquunaku ilaakulluta pinartukut. Makut elait
ellitnauristeput yug'gut ilait-llu kassauluteng. Makut-llu akit
naanguarunrituq, taugam atutuut aturanun, wallu noqunun ,wallu ikamranun.

wiligna,
Jeffrey Phillip
6th Grade Class

P.S. I don't like Senate Bill 36 at kwigillingok. Don't take our money and
please be on our side. Some of these people are Yu'pik and some of them
are non Yu'pik. We use money for clothes, food, or sleds.

Please Submit
This into the
House Finance Committee
Meeting on Monday
April 20th at 8:00am
if possible or the very
next H.F.C. Meeting call
me if it cannot be
submitted for the Monday
Meeting.

Bill Wilkinson 588-8629



"Fostering Native Self-Determination in Primary Care, Prevention and Health Promotion"

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

Resolution #98-04-04

Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill #36 (SB-36).

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation's (YKHC) mission is to achieve the greatest possible improvements in the health status of the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region, and YKHC is fully committed to the development of culturally relevant programs for primary care, prevention, and health promotion in a setting that fosters Native Self Determination in the control and management of health care delivery; and

WHEREAS, YKHC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established to provide health care services under a Title III Compact with the Indian Health Service to 58 tribes in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in Alaska by authorization of the tribal governing bodies of these tribes; and

WHEREAS, YKHC's interests include healthy minds in the Y-K Delta's student residents through quality education provided through rural or village schools, which are just as important as urban schools; and

WHEREAS, Quality education leads rural students to quality decisions about college-level learning in order to achieve or enhance their chosen careers which will support their livelihood and well-being throughout their lives, and SB-36 will decrease quality education in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, It is the constitutional responsibility of the State of Alaska to provide equal education opportunities to Alaska's children, both rural and urban, and SB-36 is unconstitutional in its approach in that it unfairly reduces funding for rural schools.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED That the Full Board of Directors of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation hereby give notice by this resolution that it opposes the present form of SB-36 in its entirety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Full Board of Directors support the State of Alaska in its efforts to create a fair funding formula equitable to both rural and urban schools which also takes into consideration the high cost of living in rural Alaska.

Certification

Duly adopted at the meeting of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Corporation's Full Board of Directors, a quorum being present, by a vote of 20 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 absent, this 16th day of April, 1998.

Signed: Henry Hunter
Henry Hunter, Chairman
YKHC Board of Directors

Signed: Geraldine Beano
Geraldine Beano, Secretary
YKHC Board of Directors



"Fostering Native Self-Determination in Primary Care, Prevention and Health Promotion"

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 4-20-98

TO: House Finance Committee

fax # 463-6813 PH. # _____

FR: Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

PII. # _____

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) 2

ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW? YES () NO in the mail.

MESSAGE Resolution # 98-04-04 - Opposition
of Senate Bill 36. Please forward
to the House Finance Committee.

IF YOU DON'T RECEIVE ALL PAGES, CALL: Minnie Stever
at ~~907-543-6006~~
(907)543-6020.

House of Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislator
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

APR 20 1998

Leona Goodhope
PO. Box 72012
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772
(907)649-3631

Dear whom it may concern:

I am writing to you in regards to a senate bill 36.
As a student in Shishmaref I believe this bill should not be passed.
Why you ask? This bill would affect numerous students in the Bering
Strait School District.

We like the way our school is now and we don't want to see it
change. The SB 36 would force us to go to school in a boarding school,
We, the Shishmaref students, wouldn't like going to a boarding school.
Our families would need our boys to help out with subsistence. Our
elders are the ones we should be with instead of going to a boarding
school and being far away from home. Our elders are going to need help
if most of the Shishmaref students go.

What you are doing to our school and other schools is killing
everything that makes school fun such as sports, taking our special ed.
teachers, and numerous other things. Do you think it is right?

I am really upset about the senate bill 36.

I appreciate you taking your time to read this letter concerning
the SB 36.

Sincerely,

Leona Goodhope

Leona Goodhope
Grade: 10th
Site: Shishmaref School

APR 20 1998

House Of Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislator
State Capital (MS3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Annie Katherine Obruk
Shishmaref High School
P.O. Box 72048
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772

Dear Whom it may concern:

I am writing to you in regards to the Senate Bill 36. Please do not vote on this bill because too much money would be taken from rural schools. This would mean we would lose extracurricular activities and other important programs from our school.

The school is very much of the community and the community is enjoy watching the basketball games and other activities going on in the village.

Going to school in Shishmaref is very important to me, because I enjoy being with my family and helping out my grandparents. If the bill is passed, we may no longer have a high school.

If I had to go to a boarding school, I would not be able to spend time with my family and would not learn things about my culture. To me, my culture is very important and learning the way my grandparents learned when they were younger. I enjoy listening to my grandparents' telling stories about their childhood.

In closing, I would urge you not to pass the bill.

Sincerely,

Annie Obruk

Annie Katherine Obruk

Grade: 10th

Site: Shishmaref High School Student



**SOUTHEAST
ISLAND
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

1621 TONGASS AVENUE SUITE 301
POST OFFICE BOX 8340
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
PHONE: (907) 225-9658
FAX: (907) 225-2836

Ray Griffith
SUPERINTENDENT

April 18, 1998

The Honorable Mark Hanley
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Room 507
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

As superintendent of Southeast Island School District, I am writing with grave concern relative to SB36. Passage of SB36 in its current form can mean closure of five of SISK's 12 schools in October of this year.

As you are well aware, the bill would set a minimum of ten students for a school to be counted as a funding community. Any number fewer than ten would be counted as students of the largest school in the district, with a significant drop in funding for that site.

The immediate concern is that the bill would delay determination of fiscal year funding until the end of the October count period and then provide funding for that same fiscal year based on the October count. That impacts our district drastically. We would contract teachers, by state law and negotiated contract terms, prior to the current year based on current status, prepare buildings, commit to students and parents and fund to that anticipated level. If a site fell below the minimum count, however, we would not be funded at the anticipated and planned for level. SB36 would leave us committed and standed without adequate funding to fulfill our predetermined commitment. In a district that is cutting 20% of its funding for the next fiscal year just to balance our budget, that unanticipated level of loss would be devastating. SB36 puts us in a catch-22. If we don't provide a school for a community with 8 anticipated elementary students, we are in violation of 4 AAC 05.040. If we do commit to a school in August but have fewer than ten in October, we do not receive adequate funding to keep the school open and to fulfill our contracted employee commitments and commitment to students and

community.

We are asking you to help us get an amendment to SB36 that gives us some relief from so drastic an impact. We are proposing that the bill be amended as follows:

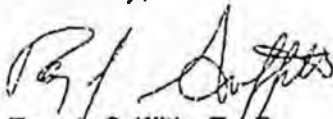
Sec.2 14.17.450 (b). [Beginning in the fiscal year following the count period during which the school falls below 10 ADM,] if the ADM in a school is less than 10, those students shall be included in the ADM of the school in that district with the highest ADM as determined by the most recent student count data for that district.

In the unfortunate event that SB36 were to become law, the proposed amendment would forestall for at least nine months the closing of almost half of Southeast Island School District's schools. At least our students and parents and district board and administration would have minimal time to plan for the loss of access to local schools. To close schools in late October and expect students and parents to have acceptable immediate alternatives is unfair and unwise.

Southeast Island School District is opposed to SB36. We consider it to be based on a seriously flawed study commissioned by the Senate Finance Committee, one that would unfairly and unwisely redistribute funding from some school districts to other school districts, thereby creating "winners" and "losers." The effect would glaringly take funding away from rural districts and give it to urban districts. We are further distressed that SB36 fails to consider "program" equity as well as "funding" equity. Even the most cursory analysis will reveal the vast disparity between programs available to urban students as opposed to rural students.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request for help. It would be tragic for students to not only lose the opportunity for education in their local communities, but to lose it without adequate time to seek and find alternative educational programs.

Sincerely,



Ray J. Griffith, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: Commissioner Shirley Holloway
Governor Tony Knowles
Carl Rose, AASB
Stephen McPhetres, AASA
Alaska School Superintendents
Members, Alaska Legislature

Distributed By Representative Ivan
By request

To: Legislators House Finance Committee

Subject: SB 36

My name is Lillian Kiunya, a 40 year resident of Kwigillingok, married with four beautiful children attending a small rural school in our community. I am writing this letter on their behalf, and I believe the whole rural schools who will be affected by this bill.

As Alaskan Natives, we are very fortunate to have schools out here in the bush where our children learn, not like what I went through. The reason I say "not like what I went through" is because I started school knowing no English, at most times very hard for me to comprehend what my teachers were teaching me. Now when I look at my children and the progress they have in school, I am very proud and happy for them. I believe the bilingual education they start off with has helped them to progress, and it is easier than my school years, but if you look at the yearly ITBS test done each year proves that they still are behind.

Taking the money out of rural schools will hurt even more, not just the students who need that, but the people who are dependant on the income that provides for the family. Where employment is scarce, and very little is available, especially in small rural communities.

The schools in the urban communities have more variety of classes to take, and I believe that taking the money out of rural schools will provide even more for those urban schools, and it will as I have heard close some even more smaller schools than here. Which will have a dynamic impact for those students and communities.

I think that if the money were to be taken out of the rural school, the State of Alaska will also be affected financially. Because those who are left without jobs will turn to the unemployment agency, or be depended on the food stamp program to drain out the money set aside. Which will hurt also the economy of the urban cities who do business with the rural communities.

Come on broaden your scope before you vote on this bill. Don't just look at the money that goes to the schools. Just go to the rural school where bilingual education is available and see for yourselves why the State of Alaska is so unique in its people and it's culture.

I am inviting you all to come see for yourself the Kwigillingok School Site, and how bilingual education is like, and that would change your mind about taking money out of rural schools.

Thank you for taking your time to hear me.

Lillian Kiunya
04-15-98

CHEFORNAK SCHOOLS
PO Box 50
Chefornak, AK 99561
Phone 907-867-8700
Fax 907-867-8429

April 16, 1998

Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative:

The Chefornak Associate School Board met Tuesday, April 14th. During this meeting the impact of SB 36 on our school was discussed. The proposed cuts in funding particularly in Bilingual dollars would severely curtail the Yup'ik language and cultural program that we have worked so hard to put together in recent years. It seems quite inconceivable that this bill which includes cuts to educational funding is seriously considered when common knowledge and even the McDowell study dictate increased funding.

We have heard the argument that fairness is an issue in the present funding formula. We agree that a review of the formula is in order. But is it fair as proposed in SB 36 to impose payroll taxes on the rural areas that are almost four times higher in rural areas than the school taxes assessed property owners in boroughs? We think not.

Therefore we ask that more consideration be given to the revision of the educational funding formula with the goal of improving education in our great state and improving the educational opportunities for all of Alaska's students. You as a member of the 20th Alaska State Legislature have been given a responsibility to pass legislation that is good for the people of our state. SB 36 in its present form does not meet that test.

Quyana (Yup'ik for 'Thank you').

Sincerely yours,



Peter Mathew Sr. Chairman
Chefornak Associate School Board

distributed by request
by Rep. Foster

KASHUNAMIUT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution 98 - 05

THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION URGES THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO REACH TOWARD WHAT IS BEST FOR ALASKA'S CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES IN ORDER TO PLACE THE AGENDA FOR IMPROVING EDUCATION OF ALASKA'S STUDENTS BEFORE ALL CITIZENS AND STAKEHOLDERS

WHEREAS, the children of the State require the best Alaska political leadership in order to protect their Alaska Constitutional rights to an equal, free, public education; and

WHEREAS, SB36 provides serious decreases in funding of education for some school children; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has not increased per student funding for schools, generally, to offset ten years of inflation; and

WHEREAS, a theme of taxing incomes of those who can least afford it; and

WHEREAS, the McDowell Study was prepared for what can be assumed to be a legislative hidden agenda; and

WHEREAS, the significant divisiveness of proposed legislation that divides citizens into rural and highway camps, generally camps of haves and have nots; and

WHEREAS, litigation to challenge the constitutionality of SB36 will be a significant expense to the State; and

WHEREAS, the fallout from innuendo and misinformation about SB36 requires extensive and continuous debate about the state of education and options for dealing with the future of Alaska's public education, goals and finance; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 36 will force closures of some rural Alaska schools; and


WHEREAS, Rural Education Attendance Area schools in Alaska contribute significantly to the State of Alaska through their Impact Aid Programs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED 1. The Governor and Legislature resolve to appoint a Blue Ribbon Citizen Taskforce to recommend three opportunities that could improve Alaska public schools and their services to all Alaskan Children. 2. The Blue Ribbon Citizen Taskforce recommend a revision of the Funding Act for Education that will

equitably support the unique needs of communities and children of Alaska and delivery services on those opportunities. 3. The accountability for schools rests with local control and an accountability system be established that hold districts and communities accountable for public education. 4. The surplus of PFD be used to address the needs of educating Alaskan children and ensuring that all health needs of Alaskan children are being addressed and accomplished. 5. School leadership is held accountable for reporting the expenditure of State Revenues in specified areas of the budget as determined by the Legislature and the Governor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education for the Kashunamiut School District urges the Governor to veto the bill in its' entirety.

ADOPTED this 13th day of April, 1998 at a duly convened meeting of the Kashunamiut School District Board at which a quorum was present and voting.


Ignatius Chayalkun, President


Gregory E. Slats Jr., Secretary

Manley Hot Springs Gladys Dart School Community School Committee

P.O. Box 29

Manley Hot Springs, Alaska 99756

Ph / Fax (907) 672-3202

3/31/98

APR 15 1998

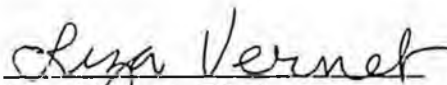
Dear Legislator,

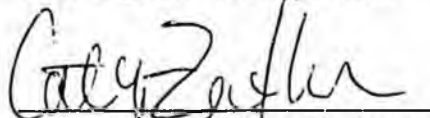
The Manley Hot Springs Community School Committee would like to express their concern over the potential cuts and other detrimental actions to the REAA's from Senate Bill 36. How can cutting money from the rural schools be considered an equitable solution. In our small school our children are provided with a decent education, but it is without any of the extras of the larger school. There are no sports, music, or art programs, no shop facilities, or extracurricular activities. Teachers are being asked to, and do provide a quality education for as many six grade levels in one class. Consider also the costs of running a school in a rural area where high fuel and electric costs take an inordinate percentage of the local budget. We already have a no-frills educational budget, and to cut it further would be very detrimental to the students, our children and our communities.

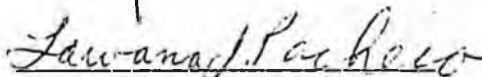
Alaska is not a poor state and we should not have to be fighting for funds, rural vs urban factions pitted against each other. We urge you to please consider all the residents of the State when making your decisions on this important issue. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Gladys Dart School Community School Committee


Liza Vernet - Chairperson


Caty Zettler - Vice Chairperson


Lawana Pacheco - Secretary

April 2, 1998

APR 15 1998

Honorable House of Representative Member
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative *Hendley*:

As a member of Edna Bay Community, I strongly urge you to find a more equitable way to fund all of our children's education other than SB36. SB36 threatens all areas of rural lifestyle. My community is the result of the state land sale program and has always strongly supported public education; financially, personally, and physically.

Currently, our school enrollment is lower than SB36's required attendance of 10. If SB36 passes and our school closes, it is going to force many families in our community to relocate and change their livelihood. I don't believe boarding schools or correspondence study are viable or reasonable alternatives for our children's education.

Please vote NO on SB36. I am certain you can find a better answer to our education funding problems than SB36.

I sincerely thank you for taking me seriously.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Smart

**Leslie Bagne10841
Stroganof Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
Fax 907-346-2919**

Representative Con Bundy
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Bunde;

April 15, 1998

I received your letter of April 7, 1998 which indicates that you are firmly supportive of SB 36. It is very rare for me to delve into the political arena. I trust that there are special people, such as you, who thrive on public policy planning and I respect and support them for the service. Since this is my first attempt to influence my representative, I wish this letter could be congratulatory, however it feels adversarial. Please consider my statement and if you find merit, find a way to impact this legislation. First, I must comment on your letter. I realize that this is not a personal letter, but rather a form intending to acknowledge my Public Opinion Message. However, the content is condescending. I agree that all people of Alaska should make a local contribution to their schools. I placed a call to the North Slope Borough since they would not only be reduced, but would be totally without state school funding if SB 36 is passed. I asked specifically if that Borough contributed in-kind or direct dollars to the school district. Apparently, their Assembly has consistently passed budgets that included strong support for their school district. In fact now there is an attempt to penalize them for that level of support. They have been told that they spend too much of their tax dollars supporting education! I do not have the time, nor is it my job to check with all the other districts to determine their level of local support for education. But I tend to believe that the North Slope is not the only district to provide in-kind and/or direct dollars.

It is incredulous to me that anyone could be expected to think that SB 36 has a "fundamental goal of improving Alaska's system of funding schools all around the state." This is not Robin Hood legislation. It clearly would take state money from the predominately Native regions and place it in the city. I have been to several villages and am personally aware that it is costlier to run programs when your district covers hundreds of square miles.

If my count is correct, twenty-one rural Alaska State School Districts will have their education money reduced. Fifteen of these districts are over 77% native, and a predominant number of regions have high numbers of people who live below the poverty level.

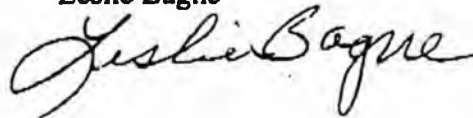
Another concern that is extremely serious is the idea that the State of Alaska lawmakers would even consider disenfranchising a whole region of the state. How can we justify giving no educational services to the North Slope? If the argument is that the legislatures believe that the North Slope has plenty of money and so we can withhold state services from them, please reconsider. This is one state. We have wildly diverse regions and all of their rich cultures are what make this state unforgettable. Please stop

legislation that is so divisive. Clever rhetoric can not cover the fact that legislatures from Anchorage have lost the ability to be statesmen in the true sense of the word, and would rather divide the state along racial and economic lines with this legislation.

The amount of money that my state will pay in legal fees if this legislation is passed will probably be substantial. Please recognize that the state has a responsibility to educate all of its children. Please recognize that costs of running programs vary according to not only the number of children, but also the logistics of providing services to remote locations often not connected by road systems. Please recognize that the greatest asset our state will ever have is its wonderful diversity. We must find a much better way to provide additional funding for the urban schools.

Thank you for your sincere consideration.

Leslie Bagne



Ps. Please let me know what your thoughts are regarding the \$10 million bond issue to design and plan for two schools in Anchorage. The concept sounds extraordinary expensive to me, and I have not seen information to support it.

Cc: Representative Randy Phillips
Representative Mark Hanley
Representative Gene Therriault

**ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**



Anchorage School Board

P.O. Box 196614, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6614 • (907) 333-9561

Kathi Gillespie
2741 Seafarer Loop, Anchorage, Alaska 99516
(907) 345-5335; Fax (907) 345-9891
E-mail: Gillespie_Kathi@msmail.asd.k12.ak.us

To: House Finance Committee

Please copy and distribute for the
5 AM House Finance meeting on
Monday.

Thorns -
Kathi Gillespie

**ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL
DISTRICT****Anchorage School Board**

P.O. Box 196614, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6614 • (907) 333-9561

Kathi Gillespie
2741 S. Afarer Loop, Anchorage, Alaska 99516
(907) 345-5335; Fax (907) 345-9891
E-mail: Gillespie_Kathi@msmail.asd.k12.ak.us

TO: HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
DATE: APRIL 19, 1998
RE: SB 36

I understand that you will be discussing SB 36 on Monday and I want to encourage you, on behalf of the Anchorage School Board, to continue to pursue a foundation formula change that is fair, equitable and understandable to the public. As I have been speaking to groups throughout our city, it has become clear to me that this is a very important issue in Anchorage. Our Chamber of Commerce, Assembly, Mayor, and School Board are working together to bring equity to school funding and we encourage you as you work to craft a solution for fair state funding for education.

Thank you for the effort you are making to support Alaska's children.

Sincerely,

Kathi Gillespie
Legislative Chairman
Anchorage School Board

April 98 issue of the
Idaho Observer

It's Elementary:

Talking About Gay Issues is a s(l)ick propaganda video featuring gay and lesbian teachers blatantly pushing tolerance and acceptance of homosexuality on kindergarten and elementary students. They can't reproduce so they must recruit—and they will do it by changing the attitudes of children who are being taught that homosexuality is "just another lifestyle choice." This mental molestation of children is sponsored by (no surprise here) the National Education Association (NEA) who is so anxious for your child to view this 78-minute video, that it will send the video free to any school board members who makes a request.

~The OBE Predictor

I pray every day that God will continue to destroy this nation because of the general support by the people for same sex marriages. I hope the legislature will have the backbone to put a stop to this right now.

Rita

Rita Kasper
P. O. Box 520507
Big Lake, Ak. 99652

April 98 issue of the
Idaho Observer

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Rita

Rita Kasper
P. O. Box 520507
Big Lake, Ak. 99652

**P.O. Box 35
Kwigillingok, Alaska 99622
April-17, 1998**

**House Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801- 1182**

Dear House Finance Committee,

Waaqa Casit? Wiinga assirtua. SB-aaq assitua.

Nayaagaqa elltauqagu Kass-am nalluclqaa qanelra.

**Igarcllgacllqukut yugcetun Igarcllgacllqukut Call-Ilu
naqlsccllgacllqukut. Yugcetun kingan mikelnguut
qalartelarclqut.**

**Kelly Lewis
6th Grade
Treasure**

**P.S. It will hurt our feelings and I don't want to let SB 36
pass and if it passes my younger sister won't^{be} able to
talk in yup'ik.**

P.O. Box 04
Kwigillingok, Ak
April 17, 1988

House Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Dear House Finance Committee,

Ciin'ggug SB 36 piasagocciu assitug yumtenun. Kituqan elltenaurat yugtun elltenaurilriit calliyuumilruollqut maani. Tuaten pikan Kwigillingok cimrolqug call-llu yuut elltnauryuumilriluteng. Kituqan call maani Kwigillingokmi yuut kass'atun klingan qalartenglangolqut.

Mikeinguut taun kituqan elltnauryuumilruollqut klingan-llu kass'atun qalartenglangluteng. Wangkuta elitnuarvigmi caknek akiucinrltuukut call elltnaurvigput mik'nani, elpeci taugam akiucipairtuci elltnaurvici-llu angluni.

Wangnek,

Kendra Lewis
5th Grade
Vice Pres.

I don't like SB 36 because it is bad for our people and our school.

P.O. Box 68
Kwigillingok, Ak
April 17, 1998

House Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Dear House Finance Committee,

Wilinga assilikaqa Senate Bill-36- aaq. Ellitnauristeput Yugtun qalarootullit tamaroocuumlitanka. Mikelnguut ellitnaugataliit Pre-school-ami ellitnauristengqeresqelluki anglirikuneng lganeq wall'u naaqineq yugtun ellisnganiaraat. Yugtun wilinga qalartetuunga yugtun-llu qalaterriainaryugtua unguvallma lquanun. Kass'atun kilngan qalarcuumlitua. Yugtun wii qalartelleq assikaqa. Yuurtellruunga yugtun qalartelrianek nilllua. Taumek wilinga Yugtun qalartelalr'anga.

Wangnok,

John A. John
5th Grade
Class Pres.

The students will have a hard time understanding their teacher if only english were to be used. The teacher will have no idea what the students are talking about.

c/o Kwigillingok School
Kwigillingok A.K. 99622
April 17, 1998

House Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau A.K. 99801-1182

Dear House Finance Committee

SB 36-aaq asallit. SB 36-aam akniroilqakut. Wangkuta piyuumilaput
SB 36-aaq. Ellimikun tamaryuartuq elitnauristeput. SB 36-aaq Itresklu jall-
amun wallutaqevkariuku. Ilakavkutqaa wallu Ilakenritarpekut.

SB 36 is bad. SB 36 can hurt our feelings. We don't want SB 36. The
reason why is we will lose Elsie, our Yup'ik teacher. We need to learn our
yupik culture. Don't let SB 36 become law. SB 36 is a bad idea. Put SB 36
in the jail.

Sincerely,
Laura Martin

P.O. Box 23
Kwigillingok Ak, 99622
April 17, 1998

House Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Dear House Finance Committee,

Wilinga asslikaqa SB 36-aaq oitnauristet
yugtun qalarcatullit aug'arclqut. Pre-school-at
ellngalrucllqut yugtun tua-llu kassatun
tarlingevkenaateng. Mikelnguut tarlingevkenaateng
tuagam yugtun kanrutaqamtegu tarlingetut.

Wilinga,
Luella Igkurak
6th grade

P.S. I hate Senate Bill 36 because the teacher that teach in
yup'ik will not be in school. Preschoolers won't get to
understand in yup'ik. Then they won't understand in English. The
little kids don't understand our teacher that talks in English
,but if we talk to them in yup'ik they will understand us.

P.O. Box 38
Kwigillingok, AK 99622
April 17, 1998

House Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear House Finance Committee,

Wiinga eesiiikaqe Senate Bill 36-aag. Elptessnek aklimek
pikiel. Ciknavkenaci, elpetcenek akinek pikiel. Mikelnguut
Iicetciigaciiqut yugcetvn. Mikelnguut Iicugtut yugcetvn. Elpet una
naqsugngakuvgu naqiu. Wangkute yugcetvn qalartetuukut naqiaqlute-llu
yugcetvn. Yugcetvn eiltnavristeput calivkarturyuganka yugcetvun.

P.S I hate Senate bill 36.

Wiinga
Lyle Lewis
6th grade

P.O. Box 77
Kwigllingok, Ak
4-17-98

House Finance Committee

State Capital

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

SB 36-aaq assitug. Kituuqan tauna SB 36-aaq mikelnguut
tarlingesscilgaciliqut kassatstun. Tuall ellsskata kassaystun
yugtestun qalartescilgallirluteng. Elitnauristet maani
elitnaurilyuurunaateng.

Wiinga,

Darcy Beaver
5th grade

P.S. I really hate SB 36!!

Representative Mark Hanley
Rm. 507 Alaska State Legislator
State Capital (MS3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801- 1182

APR 14 1998

Annie Katherine Obruk
Shishmaref High School
P.O. Box 72048
Shishmaref Alaska, 99772

Dear Mark Hanley

I am writing to you in regards to the Senate Bill 36. Please do not vote for this bill because too much money would be taken from rural schools. This would mean we would lose extracurricular activities and other important programs from our school.

The school is very much part of the community, and the community enjoys watching the basketball games and other activities going on in the village.

Going to school in Shishmaref is very important to me, because I enjoy being with my family and helping out my grandparents. If the bill is passed, we may no longer have a high school.

If I had to go to a boarding school, I would not be able to spend time with my family and would not learn things about my culture. To me, my culture is very important, and learning the way my grandparents learned when they were younger. I enjoy listening to my grandparents' telling stories about their childhood.

In closing, I would just urge you not to pass the bill.

Sincerely,

Annie Obruk

Annie Katherine Obruk
Grade: 10th
Shishmaref High School Student

Representative Mark Hanley
Rm. 507 Alaska State Legislator
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Leona Goodhope
Box 72012
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772

APR 14 1998

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I am writing to you in regards to a senate bill 36.

As a student in Shishmaref I believe this bill should not be passed. Why you ask? This bill would affect numerous students in the Bering Strait School District.

We like the way our school is now and we don't want to see it change. It would force us to go to school in a boarding school. We, the Shishmaref students, wouldn't like going to a boarding school. Our families would need our junior and senior high students to help out with subsistence. Our elders are the ones we should be with instead of going to a boarding school and being far away from home. Our elders are going to need help if most of the Shishmaref students go.

What you are doing to our school and the other schools is killing everything that makes school fun such as sports, taking our special ed. teachers, and numerous other things. Do you think that is right?

I am really upset about the senate bill 36.

I appreciate you taking your time to read this letter concerning the SB 36.

Sincerely,

Leona Goodhope
Leona Goodhope
Grade:10th
Site: Shishmaref School

32
USA Snowdrop



Rm. ⁵⁰⁷ Hanley
Alaska State Legislator
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

APR 14 1998

FAXED
APR 08 1998
C9 for

A Fax from the Alaska Gateway School District

Darroll Hargraves, Superintendent
P.O. Box 226
Tok, AK 99780

Phone:(907) 883-5151 Fax:(907) 883-4356

Deliver Fax To: Representative Hanley
Fax #: (907)465-~~3884~~ 2418
Sender: ^{BP} Barbara Pine
Sender's Phone #: (907) 883-5151
of Pages Sent: 4 (including this cover sheet)
Date Fax Sent: April 9, 1998

Message:

Dear Representative Hanley,

The following petitions arrived at my office April 9, 1998. I believe they came from the a group of Senior Citizens in the Tok area. These persons all stand in opposition to Senate Bill 36. I will send the originals on to you.

Sincerely,


Barbara Pine

Some of the people who signed this petition's phone numbers:
Dorothy Marunde (907) 883-4601, Laura Sanford (907) 883-5524, Freeman
Lolley (907) 883-5934, Lois Morgan (907) 883-5647.

If you do not receive all of this fax, please call (907) 883-5151.

PETITION AGAINST
SENATE BILL 36

RECEIVED
APR - 9 1998
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
TOK, AK 99780

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, STRONGLY OBJECT TO SENATE BILL 36. THIS BILL IS UNJUST AND PROMOTES ONE CLASS OF PEOPLE OVER ANOTHER. THESE REDUCTIONS TO OUR RURAL SCHOOLS WILL HARM OUR CHILDREN FOR GENERATIONS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE RURAL AREAS WITHOUT ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING.

TO TAX PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IS TO BE IGNORANT OF THE REALITY THAT EXISTS IN RURAL ALASKA. TO FURTHER PUNISH RURAL ALASKANS BY TAKING AWAY MUCH NEEDED EDUCATIONAL FUNDING PROMOTES AND WIDENS THE GAP BETWEEN THE "HAVES" AND "THE HAVE NOTS".

SB 36 WILL DOOM GENERATIONS OF RURAL CHILDREN TO A LIFE OF EDUCATIONAL SHORTCOMINGS AND THE INABILITY TO COMPETE EQUALLY FOR JOBS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

WE STAND UNITED AGAINST SB 36 AND URGE THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO STAND WITH RURAL ALASKA AND DEFEAT THIS

Robert W. McArthur Box 111
TOK AK 99780
Fais A. Morgan Box 527 Tok Ak 99780

Freddie Kelley - P.O. Box 913 TOK, AK. 99780

Freeman Kelley P.O. 913 TOK, AK. 99780

Erma Northway Box 202 TOK AK 99780

Lucy David Box 535 TOK " "

Leona Broken Bx 84 Tok. 99780

Margaret Hall TOK

Dorothy O. Marunde TOK

Bob McEarty TOK

RECEIVED

PETITION AGAINST
SENATE BILL 36

APR - 9 1998

AK GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOK, AK 99780

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, STRONGLY OBJECT TO SENATE BILL 36. THIS BILL IS UNJUST AND PROMOTES ONE CLASS OF PEOPLE OVER ANOTHER. THESE REDUCTIONS TO OUR RURAL SCHOOLS WILL HARM OUR CHILDREN FOR GENERATIONS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE RURAL AREAS WITHOUT ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING.

TO TAX PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IS TO BE IGNORANT OF THE REALITY THAT EXISTS IN RURAL ALASKA. TO FURTHER PUNISH RURAL ALASKANS BY TAKING AWAY MUCH NEEDED EDUCATIONAL FUNDING PROMOTES AND WIDENS THE GAP BETWEEN THE "HAVES" AND "THE HAVE NOTS".

SB 36 WILL DOOM GENERATIONS OF RURAL CHILDREN TO A LIFE OF EDUCATIONAL SHORTCOMINGS AND THE INABILITY TO COMPETE EQUALLY FOR JOBS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

WE STAND UNITED AGAINST SB 36 AND URGE THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO STAND WITH RURAL ALASKA AND DEFEAT THIS

George W Wallace PO Box 615 TOK, AK 99780
 Rita Kover P.O. Box 201 Tok Alaska 99780-0201
 Doug Curves " 324 Tok, AK 99780
 Lynn Ackerman " " " " "
 M Taylor
 J Quinn Box 254 Tok
 Lawrence [unclear] 195 Tok
 Add Haller Northway, AK 99764
 Denise Northway, Northway AK 99764
 Alvin [unclear] Tok AK 99780

PETITION AGAINST
SENATE BILL 36

RECEIVED

APR - 9 1998

AK GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOK, AK 99780

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, STRONGLY OBJECT TO SENATE BILL 36. THIS BILL IS UNJUST AND PROMOTES ONE CLASS OF PEOPLE OVER ANOTHER. THESE REDUCTIONS TO OUR RURAL SCHOOLS WILL HARM OUR CHILDREN FOR GENERATIONS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE RURAL AREAS WITHOUT ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING.

TO TAX PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IS TO BE IGNORANT OF THE REALITY THAT EXISTS IN RURAL ALASKA. TO FURTHER PUNISH RURAL ALASKANS BY TAKING AWAY MUCH NEEDED EDUCATIONAL FUNDING PROMOTES AND WIDENS THE GAP BETWEEN THE "HAVES" AND "THE HAVE NOTS".

SB 36 WILL DOOM GENERATIONS OF RURAL CHILDREN TO A LIFE OF EDUCATIONAL SHORTCOMINGS AND THE INABILITY TO COMPETE EQUALLY FOR JOBS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

WE STAND UNITED AGAINST SB 36 AND URGE THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO STAND WITH RURAL ALASKA AND DEFEAT THIS

Mary Benoit Tetlin AK 99779
Harvey James Tanacross AK 99776
Ellen Thomas Gen Del Tanacross AK 99776
Martha Abrae Gen Del TANACROSS AK 99776
Emma Titus Gen De Tetlin AK 99779
Johnny Nielsen Mentasta AK 99780

APR 14 1998

Resolution #98-6
Opposition to SB-36 by the Alaska Gateway
School District, Board of Education

Whereas, the Alaska Gateway School District has been in a severe cost cutting mode for the past several years; and

Whereas, the state foundation funding for public schools has not kept pace with inflation over the past decade; and

Whereas, the Alaska Gateway School District sees a bleak year though the next budget cycle if additional funding isn't realized; and

Whereas, certain legislators have shown themselves to be persistent in trying to cut even further the funding that REAAs in the rural areas will receive; and

Whereas, the proposed legislation, SB-36, will further reduce the state funding to Alaska Gateway School District; and

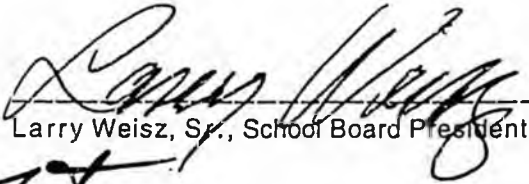
Whereas, 32 school districts across the state with enrollments of 21,000 children will be further cut by SB-36; and

Whereas, the sponsors of SB-36 have shown themselves to be parochial in their thinking without giving due attention to the entire needs of the state; and further, if the funding cuts in SB-36 are allowed to become law, the legislature will have shown itself to be racially biased and may violate the constitutional rights to equal protection of the law; and

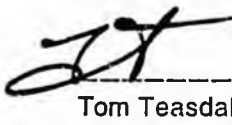
Whereas, the Alaska Gateway School District Board of Education believes that support should be given to increasing funding for all school districts in the state of Alaska to account for inflation over the past decade;

Now therefore be it resolved, by the Members of the Alaska Gateway School District Board of Education that the legislature be asked to vote against SB-36 in any form;

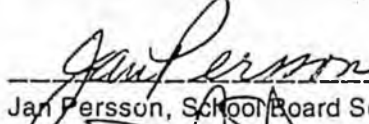
And further, that the legislature be encouraged to increase foundation funding in the current statute which will allow additional funding for every school and student in the state of Alaska whether urban or rural.


Larry Weisz, Sr., School Board President

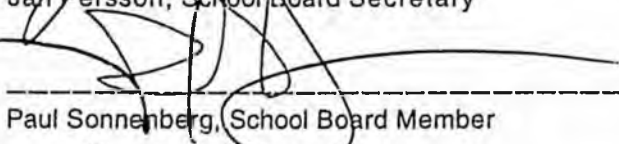
4-8-98
Date


Tom Teasdale, School Board Vice-President

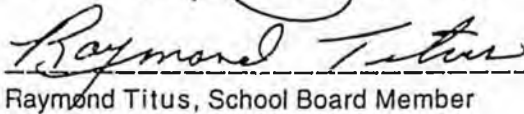
4-8-98
Date


Jan Persson, School Board Secretary


4-8-98
Date


Paul Sonnenberg, School Board Member

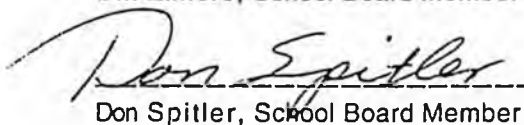
4-8-98
Date


Raymond Titus, School Board Member

4-8-98
Date


Bill Elmore, School Board Member

4-8-98
Date


Don Spittler, School Board Member

4-8-98
Date



The Alaska Farm Bureau

P.O. Box 2410 • Palmer, AK 99645

Fax 745-2727



29 March 1998

POSITION STATEMENT ON SCHOOL FUNDING ISSUES

It is the position and belief of the Alaska Farm Bureau that no group of Alaska school children should have to suffer the loss of state education dollars. While the Alaska Farm Bureau acknowledges the cost of operating a school district has gone up since the advent of the current funding formula, there are certain inequities in the current funding formula. It is our opinion that the solution should not be to increase funding to urban areas of the state by taking dollars away from the Rural and Bush areas. The current version of SB36 proposes to take dollars away from 32 of the 54 school districts and redistribute those funds to the remaining 22 districts.

Thank you for taking the time to review our feelings on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert Franklin, President

APR 14 1998

March 31, 1998

Honorable House of Representative Member
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative:

I am writing to you to ask you to vote **no** on SB36. This bill will drastically effect education in the rural setting. As it is the city schools have many advantages over the rural villages. This bill would only take more from us. I find it ironic and hypocritical that some of those republicans who voted for SB36 are those who earlier stood in front of the TV cameras and said we want to support "all the children of Alaska" Are the children in the villages not as important as the city school children? Do they not have the same rights to succeed?

I wish those who voted in favor of this bill would come to rural Alaska and live, not just visit, for a day or two, in order to understand the impact that passing this bill would have. Schools in rural Alaska are more than buildings that serve to educate. They are the center of most rural communizes, they are where everything happens,

It also infuriates me when I hear that rural Alaska does not pay their share. Many of the businesses and organizations, including the legislature, exist because of rural Alaska.

How can we truly educate without the tools to do so? Is this bill really what is best for all Alaskan children? I don't think so and I do not think the people of Alaska think so either. I urge you to vote against this piece of legislature.

Sincerely,

David P. Ferkinhoff

April 9, 1998

**WE THE PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND
COMMUNITY RESIDENTS OF DOT LAKE ARE
STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SENATE BILL 36.**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
CINDY Charles Cendy Charles	Box 2271, Dot Lake, Ak 99737	882-2697
Martha Swartzentruber	PO Box 2255 Dot Lake 99737	882-2691
Ivan Charles <i>Ivan Charles</i>	P.O. Box 2271 Dot Lake 99737	882-2697
Karla Champagne	Dot Lake	882-2698
Karla Champagne Karin Charles Corin Charles Allen Buscia	Dot Lake	882-2698
Katly Janskyke	Dot Lake	882-2768
Stella Miller <i>Stella Miller</i>	Dot Lake Box 2262	882-2693
Gene Henry	Box 2264 Dot Lake 99737	882-2753 No phone
Kathy Nelson Jim Nelson	Dot Lake	882-2755
Christine Wilson	P.O. Box 2266 Dot Lake	882-2755
Wanda L. Vogel	PO Box 2282 Dot Lake AK 99737	882-2748
Mary L. Wheeler <i>Mary L. Wheeler</i>	P.O. Box 2285 Dot Lake Ak 99737	882-2748
<i>Howard</i>	PO Box 2284 Dot Lake AK 99737	882-2748
<i>John Howard</i>	P.O. Box 2283 Dot Lake, Ak 99737	882-2769
Delilah L. Corgill	PO. Box 2264 Dot Lake, Ak. 99737	882-2753

April 9, 1998

**WE THE PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND
COMMUNITY RESIDENTS OF DOT LAKE ARE
STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SENATE BILL 36.**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
LeAnn Shultz <small>Principal/Teacher</small> <i>LeAnn Shultz</i>	P.O. Box 487 Dot Lake, AK. 99780	883-4620
Tommy Isaac <i>TOMMY Isaac</i>	Box 2253 Dot Lake, AK. 99737	882-2769
Kordero Nelson <i>KORDERO Nelson</i>	Box 2266 Dot Lake, AK. 99737	882-2755
Ashlie Theisen <i>Ashlie Theisen</i>	Box 2288 Dot Lake, AK. 99737	882-2748
Cynthia Wilson <i>CYNTHIA Wilson</i>	Box 2288 Dot Lake, AK. 99737	882-2748
Celestine Theisen <i>Celestine Theisen</i>	Box 2248 Dot Lake, AK. 99737	882-2748
Nickie Miller <i>Nickie Miller</i>	Box Dot Lake, AK. 99737	882-2743
Kristofer Gee <i>KRISTOFER Gee</i>	Box 2206 Dot Lake, AK. 99737	882-2755

April 9, 1998

**WE THE PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND
COMMUNITY RESIDENTS OF DOT LAKE ARE
STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SENATE BILL 36.**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
ROD SCHUG (Rod Schug)	P.O. BOX 961 TOK, AK. 99780	882-2663
EDNA LUKE (Edna Luke)	Dot Lake Ak 99737 General Delivery	Message - (907) 882-2769
Jennifer Luke (Jennifer Luke)	Dot Lake Ak 99737 General Delivery	message (907) 882-2769
Peter Charles (Peter J. Charles)	P.O. Box 2271 Dot Lake, AK	Message - 882-2697
Jeremiah Luke (Jeremiah Luke)	Dot Lake Ak. 99737 General Delivery	- message - 882-2769
JACOB DENNIS (Jacob Dennis)	P.O. BOX 2268 DOTLAKE AK 99737	NONE
ERIC RICE (Eric Rice)	P.O. BOX 2253 DOTLAKE AK 99737	882-2769

April 9, 1998

**WE THE PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND
COMMUNITY RESIDENTS OF DOT LAKE ARE
STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SENATE BILL 36.**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
LARRY LUKE LARRY LUKE	Dot Lake, WI 53737	_____

*Received via
fax from Dot Lake
School on 4-8-98*

*Jantesson
TBK L.I.O.*

APR 14 1998

April 3, 1998

Honorable Sir,

We need to re-assess priorities.

No one to whom I've spoken wants a balanced budget more than they want to serve all of Alaskas children with a good basic education

I have never suffered the notion that rural schools have to have science labs equal to Anchorage, nor arts programs the quality of Juneaus, nor even sports programs good as Ketchikans. I do think it is of paramount importance that we do everything we can to insure that EVERY child in Alaska has the opportunity to learn to read, write, figure, think, and learn.

Unless we enjoy spending money on social services for under-achievers (including unwed mothers and substance abusers), reform schools, prisons and many other 'too-little-too-late' remedial efforts; we need to be sure to empower our children by teaching them to use their brains.

We have a lot to be proud of in our district. We have children being fostered in our communities who are doing better academically than they were in the larger communities from which they came. Oh yes, a caring family is part of the solution...but, that caring family is here in the bush.

Our district has moved a long way toward solving the labor/management divisiveness and has greatly increased the time, money and spirit available for child education by implementing Collaborative Contract Review...getting a thrifty three year contract with our teachers...and untold good-will!

We are well on our way to implementing the standards recently formulated by the state and are about to begin the Alaska Onward To Excellence program which is designed to involve all strata of community in developing educational goals.

We do our own superintendent search, in order to save money, to assure that we'll get a good fit, AND to practice inclusion...we use an eleven person committee involving teachers, office staff and board members to recommend to the board a short list and to participate in the in-person interviews prior to the board making the final choice.

We'll save a bundle because we're moving our central office from Ketchikan to the classrooms in the gym in Thorne Bay, the only gym in the district, by the way.

We've just totally over-hauled our policy, utilizing the professional services of AASB, and once again, doing it ourselves, getting a good fit and saving money.

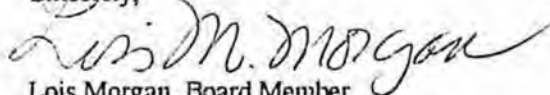
We're going to save money self-insuring our employees benefits package. We invited teachers and office staff to join the committee to investigate and recommend to the board; resulting in good decisions, more inclusion and yet more good will!

All of us came to the great Alaskan bush for our own reasons...those reasons all have to do with the quality of life; none of us intended to sacrifice the quality of our childrens education in order to realize our bush Alaska dream.

To quote one of our teachers, "We may be LITTLE, we may be PODUNK, but we're GOOD!" She's right.

Please apply your considerable talents to finding a better way to satisfy your quite reasonable devotion to fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,



Lois Morgan, Board Member

SoutheastIsland School District
8048 Kosciusko Drive,
Edna Bay, Alaska 99917

April 2, 1998

APR 14 1998

Honorable House of Representative Member

Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative:

As a member of Edna Bay Community, I strongly urge you to find a more equitable way to fund all of our children's education other than SB36. SB36 threatens all areas of rural lifestyle. My community is the result of the state land sale program and has always strongly supported public education; financially, personally, and physically.

Currently, our school enrollment is lower than SB36's required attendance of 10. If SB36 passes and our school closes, it is going to force many families in our community to relocate and change their livelihood. I don't believe boarding schools or correspondence study are viable or reasonable alternatives for our children's education.

Please vote NO on SB36. I am certain you can find a better answer to our education funding problems than SB36.

I sincerely thank you for taking me seriously.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Williams

April 7, 1998

APR 14 1998

Dear Representative Hanley,

I have lived in rural Alaska for 20+ years and have seen a great deal of change in rural education. In the late 1970's education was valued in "bush" Alaska and many students worked hard to prove they were the equal of "those" outside the village. In many cases the hard work and importance placed on education paved the way for success today and supported the premise of equal ability. In villages today, young people who were first exposed to "western education" in the '70s are beginning to emerge as leaders in their communities. In the past ten to twelve years, I haven't seen the same importance placed on education by today's students nor do I see it reflected in communities' attitudes toward education. Unfortunately, in many rural Alaskan communities, schools have become just another resource to be tapped by the community for employment, recreation, entertainment, and community meetings. In these communities, schools are no longer seen as providers of a service focused on preparing young people for the future. Many solutions have been considered and some have merit, but SB36 is not one of these.

Accountability is needed in schools throughout Alaska. The state has begun a much needed movement toward accountability with the adoption of standards identifying what students should know and be able to do as a result of public schooling. The implementation of an "exit exam" in 2002, mandated standardized testing, and the Governor's Educational Initiative are all positive steps. Meeting these standards and requirements is not beyond the capabilities of rural students, but they will definitely not be able to meet them if their educational opportunity is taken away.

I would not be opposed to SB36 if I truly believed the intent was educational reform and accountability. However, I see the bill as simply a venue for shifting money from one area of the state to another rather than an effort to improve the quality of education statewide. The timing of SB36 makes me think of the opportunist who has stood by quietly while gunmen horrow the town; then, while everyone is still trying to make sense of what has happened, walks in and takes what he or she wants. Rural schools have been told they will have to meet new standards in 3 to 4 years or face the potential closing of schools. Now, they are being told they will also have to do it with less money. At the same time, under SB36, urban districts are being told they will have to meet the same standards and will have to do it with more money.

The rhetoric and bombast has centered on the issue of money. The discussion ought to center on provision of an equitable educational program statewide that meets local needs. After determination of what constitutes an equitable program, determination of financial costs should be made based on cost differentials. For instance, the need for a chemistry lab exists in Kenai but not in the school I am in. However, I believe the need for a woods and metal shop is probably greater in Kongiganak than the need for a chemistry lab is in Kenai if we look at the percent of students who will use each facility.

Every school and every district can cite financial woes. Anchorage can speak honestly of overcrowded classrooms and high transportation costs. I can speak about working in a building built for 75 students but housing 119 - 159% of planned capacity. This same building is built like a warehouse with grades 3-12 taught in one large open area. Noise and distractions are a way of life in this building but we do not have the money to fix the problem. I can speak of a 90,000 gallon water supply to serve the school for 180 days, barring weekend activities. This comes to a little over 3 gallons per day per person when we figure students and employees in the building.

The supply also serves the bathing and washing needs of staff and families in addition to the normal needs of school food service, cleaning, and sanitation. To operate at all, we must generate our own power and now have to replace the power plant floor because the generators are sinking through it. The water storage tank has settled so we also need to re-plumb and build a new utilidor. The building's floors are rotting and we are patching spots as they become dangerous. One hundred fourteen of one hundred nineteen students qualify for free or reduced meals. We serve breakfast to approximately 95 students and 110 lunches every day. These are facts and they differ markedly from the facts an urban area would cite. What neither of these positions deals with is the educational program being offered.

An equitable educational program in rural Alaska costs more than in the urban areas. Economy of scale and proximity are reality. For example, we were connected to the Internet in January of this year and are trying to take advantage of what modern technology has to offer. Shipping of our computer lab tables was going to cost just over \$1,500 to site or approximately \$860 if I could pick them up in Anchorage. Travel for 12 students and two chaperones to a nearby village for academic competition cost \$1,680. Last year utilities for the site were budgeted at \$118,800 and I was just notified the projected cost overrun was \$17,100. That comes to approximately \$1,142 per student for utilities alone. At a comparable rate, a school of 2,000 could expect a utility bill of \$2,284,000, but this is not the cost in Anchorage or Fairbanks.

The breadth and depth of the educational program will be, and should be, greater in urban areas. But, there are still fundamental needs in rural Alaska such as instructors, support personnel, materials, supplies, facilities, and maintenance that are going to cost more because of size and location.

Often people disagree with a proposal, as I do with SB36, without offering alternative proposals or possibilities. I dislike that tendency, so here goes:

1. With the measures now in place I believe the Governor's Initiative should be made more definitive and timelines put in place. In the next two years, school years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, schools should be put on notice that if they do not meet a floor on standardized testing (say a 12% gain for any school currently having school wide scores below 30 and a minimum of the 25th percentile) they will be taken over by the state and local advisory boards dissolved. They will then have two years from the time of state takeover to make the floor set by the state. I also believe the exit exam should be used as one determining factor. In any four-year period, schools would be required to have at least 75% of students taking the exit exam pass it in order to remain a non-probationary school. Schools that don't meet baseline criteria will be closed or downsized. Education would then be offered through distance delivery and correspondence studies with teachers, fewer in number, acting as facilitators.

2. Consolidation of districts - There are several areas in the state where single site schools are surrounded by a multi-site school district. Also, such as on Prince of Wales Island, there are multiple small school districts that, I believe, would benefit from consolidation. There are currently 27 school districts in the state with enrollments under 500. As long as the battle lines are drawn, I believe now would be a good time to introduce consolidation as an alternative to shifting of money.

3. Closing small schools - Similar in nature is the idea of closing small schools. There are 77 schools in the state with enrollments between 1-25. Even if these were all two-teacher schools, I would question the educational efficacy of a school where two teachers were trying to cover all the standards for 13 grade levels.

4. Incorporate technological delivery systems in small schools. Using integrated learning systems (ILS); distance delivery systems such as those on-line courses offered by North Dakota (NDIS), STEP/STAR, and Galena; many small schools could offer most mandated courses via delivered instruction. The teachers at site would then become more like facilitators than actual instructors. Use of technology would be less labor intensive at site and districts would be able to save on personnel costs by making on-line instructors and students responsible for more of the learning. As facilitators, teachers could oversee and assist with several courses and several curricular areas. If this were the case, the size of buildings in the village would be reduced and concomitantly maintenance costs etc. would go down. Australia's School-of-the-Air might be a good model to explore if provision of education to highly scattered populations over long distances was to be done from a central location.

5. Establish regional boarding schools. It appears contrary to common sense to spend more money in districts where students are successful after taking it away from districts with poorly performing students. If education in rural school is not keeping pace, use the money being taken from village schools to establish regional high schools where village students could board and take advantage of the broad range educational programs enjoyed by students in the more urban districts.

6. Establish an educational buying co-op modeled after the King County Directors Association (KCDA) out of Washington. This co-op would serve all of Alaska's schools and districts and bring about some uniformity in what materials and supplies are used throughout the state through bulk buying, competitive pricing, and lower cost.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Pratt Jr." with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Pratt Jr
Principal

Representative Mark Hanley
Rm 507 Alaska State Legislator
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

APR 14 1998

Shishmaref High School
#1 Seaview Lane
Shishmaref, Ak 99772
(907) 649-3021
email address: kgalusha@shishmaref.bssd.schoolzone.net

Dear Rep. Hanley:

This letter is in regards to the Senate Bill 36. What you are doing is very unethical to Rural Alaska. Boarding schools would probably come back to Rural Alaska. This would be a regression in education in Rural Alaska. We think it is unethical because most of the students that go to Shishmaref High School don't want to go to boarding schools. If we went to boarding schools it would affect our way of life. Families need the help from their children for subsistence. A subsistence lifestyle is very important to families that live in Shishmaref. It is important because that is where we get most of our food we live on.

The Senate Bill 36 would also affect our education by taking away the special education program, vocational education program, extracurricular activities, the library, the computer labs, the aides that help the students, and the staff that make education possible.

The attached signatures are Shishmaref residents opposing SB 36.

Sincerely,

Mattie Weigand Annie Kekook
Mattie Weigand Annie Kekook
Shishmaref High School

Please Sign on the lines below

Rich Stasenko Dave Waymire Winford Brown

● Harry K. Kubi Fred Waymire Stacy Jackson

Norm Kubiak Royce Wiggins Harv. A. Foster

John Wayne H. S. G. Robert Marie Chapman

Fred D. Simpson Ken [unclear] Clayton [unclear]

W. C. Kubiak Sam Goodhue Thomas A. Dockett

Harold [unclear] Lucy Clark Gene [unclear]

Bill Jones Fred Brown Elmer [unclear]

Chas. [unclear] John [unclear] [unclear]

● Noora Horn Annal Bright Hale Jensen

Clarence Jakt John A. Way Lana Jackson

John Waymire Donna J. Baird Crystal Jones

Harvey Postupalski John [unclear] Leona [unclear]

Jim [unclear] [unclear] Mary Bredberg

Bertha Postupalski Cynthia [unclear] [unclear]

Robert D. Burgess Andrew Kalkrona Diane Postupalski

Kari Hamrick Mary Kalkrona S. A. [unclear]

Curtis [unclear] John [unclear] William [unclear]

● Wilm [unclear] Mary Kalkrona John [unclear]

[unclear] Morris Kinkell [unclear]

Anna Nivalore Judith Nusseloth [unclear]

~~Paula~~
Ernest G. Thompson

~~Myrtle~~
Frankie Ferguson

~~Helen Thompson~~
Janet Kuyteluk

~~Nellie Thompson~~ ~~Clara~~

~~Archie~~

~~Ray L. Jones~~ ~~Bob Johnson~~

~~Gwen Ebbesen~~

~~John E. Taft~~ ~~Fannie Barr~~

~~Alex AYAS~~

~~John E. Taft~~ ~~Delene Barr~~

~~Fred Swadlow III~~

~~Delbert Clark~~

~~Felicia Ferguson~~

~~Pauline Ferguson~~

~~Jose Weyouanna~~

~~Minnie Sirock~~

~~Walter Jones~~

~~Mena Weyouanna~~

~~Grace Holt~~

~~Steph Weyouanna~~

~~Luca Lucio~~

~~W. Simpson~~

~~Sally Simpson~~

Please sign on the lines below

Harold Mayhew Stella Hallberg

Paul Mayhew Leona Goodhope R.

Ralph A. Simuk Frank K. Goodhope

Alfred Wynn

Donny Kuznetz

Melinda Mayhew

Valerie Kuznetz

Nathan King

Arthur Clatter

Lucy Newland

Mina Evington

Anniversary

Mark Wynn

Dante Mayhew

Lizette Evington #25

Mark Wynn #26

Hannah King

Gertie Eutuk

Please sign on the lines below

~~Maude [unclear]~~

~~Archie [unclear]~~

~~Gene K.S. [unclear]~~

Sheila Naupokak

Annie Oboak

Rollie [unclear]

Sam [unclear]

Jesse

Shannon C

Ed [unclear]

Brian M. Mawm

Russell Jones

Jakie Kuzurguk

Darlene Turner

Please sign on the lines below

~~Jennifer Pothogaluk~~

~~Paula Pothogaluk~~

~~Verna Pothogaluk~~

~~Frederick Pothogaluk~~

~~Patricia Pothogaluk~~

~~William Pothogaluk~~

~~Frederick Pothogaluk~~

~~Justie Clark~~

~~Coranne Clark~~

~~Theresa Clark~~

~~Janice Clark~~

~~Becky Clark~~

~~William Clark~~

~~William Clark~~

~~Ellen Pothogaluk~~

Please sign on the lines below

Virginia Olanne

Sham Eijual

Rachel Kuyteluk

Eury Oren

Mrs. Jones

Helen Mackieck

Edward S. O.

V. J. Joddy

Kim Smith
P.O. Box NKI
Naukati, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

My Name is Kimberly Smith. I am an eleventh grade student at Naukati School. I am writing in concern about Senate Bill 36. What will happen to the future of the children whose schools are closed? I know you're trying to do good things, and the only way I can see that happening is if you do not vote for Senate bill 36. All I ask is you consider all the possibilities of saving our schools rather than getting rid of them. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kimberly R. Smith
Kimberly R. Smith

Mike Howard
Box NKL -
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Hanley, Mark
Republican, Dist. 12
Capital Room 507

Honorable Representative Hanley,

Hi, my name is Mike Howard and I go to school in Naukati.

I think it is unfair to fund schools that have more students because they are in cities. In the rural areas funding has already reduced our sports and music has been cut. I am asking you to vote against SB 36.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Mike Howard

Mike Howard

P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

I am opposed to Senate Bill 36 for the following reasons: It is irresponsible to set 10 as a minimum number for funding. All students deserve an equal opportunity for an education. Winners and losers are created by SB 36. Districts are pitted against districts in a battle for redistribution of funding.

Please consider the needs of all children and vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Sheresa A. Richter

P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

I am opposed to Senate Bill 36 for the following reasons: It is irresponsible to set 10 as a minimum number for funding. All students deserve an equal opportunity for an education. Winners and losers are created by SB 36. Districts are pitted against districts in a battle for redistribution of funding.

Please consider the needs of all children and vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Jamaica F. Richter

P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

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Please consider the needs of all children and vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Carin J Tapia

P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

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Please consider the needs of all children and vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Rose Marie Smart

P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

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Please consider the needs of all children and vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Shelly M. Fousberg

P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

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Please consider the needs of all children and vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Melissa Holmes

P.O. Box NK1
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

I am opposed to Senate Bill 36 for the following reasons: It is irresponsible to set 10 as a minimum number for funding. All students deserve an equal opportunity for an education. Winners and losers are created by SB 36. Districts are pitted against districts in a battle for redistribution of funding.

Please consider the needs of all children and vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joseph R. Carl

P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

I am opposed to Senate Bill 36 for the following reasons: It is irresponsible to set 10 as a minimum number for funding. All students deserve an equal opportunity for an education. Winners and losers are created by SB 36. Districts are pitted against districts in a battle for redistribution of funding.

Please consider the needs of all children and vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Georgia M. Petersen

P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

I am opposed to Senate Bill 36 for the following reasons: It is irresponsible to set 10 as a minimum number for funding. All students deserve an equal opportunity for an education. Winners and losers are created by SB 36. Districts are pitted against districts in a battle for redistribution of funding.

Please consider the needs of all children and vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Quick

P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

I am opposed to Senate Bill 36 for the following reasons: It is irresponsible to set 10 as a minimum number for funding. All students deserve an equal opportunity for an education. Winners and losers are created by SB 36. Districts are pitted against districts in a battle for redistribution of funding.

Please consider the needs of all children and vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Barbara Huffman

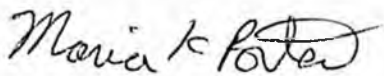
Maria K. Porter
P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

My name is Maria K. Porter. I live in Southeast Alaska on Prince of Wales Island. Please take part in saving our schools and vote against Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria K. Porter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Maria K. Porter

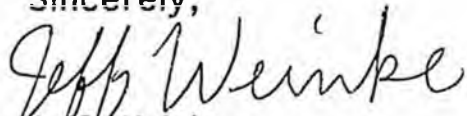
Jeff Weinke
P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

My name is Jeff Weinke and I am a ninth grade student at Naukati School. I would appreciate it if you would vote against SB 36. This bill would cut funding to rural schools and force closure of small schools. Thank you

Sincerely,


Jeff Weinke

Tucker Thompson
Box NKI -
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Hanley, Mark
Republican, Dist. 12
Capital Room 507

Honorable Representative Hanley,

My name is Tucker Thompson. I am an 8th grade student at Naukati School. I am writing to you about my concerns on SB 36. I am asking you to vote against this bill because it will decrease our schools funding and force closure of the smaller schools.

Sincerely,

Tucker Thompson

Tucker Thompson

Thomas C. Ruckman
P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 5Q7
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

I am an 8th grade student at Naukati School. My name is Thomas C. Ruckman. I am writing to you because I think SB 36 is not fair. I don't think that large schools should get money at the expense of small schools. I would immensely appreciate it if you would vote against Senate Bill 36. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Ruckman

Thomas C. Ruckman

Amber Carl
Box NKI -
Ketchikan, AK 99950

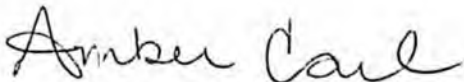
Representative Hanley, Mark
Republican, Dist. 12
Capital Room 507

Honorable Representative Hanley,

My name is Amber Carl. I'm one of 38 students at Naukati School. Naukati is in Southeast Island School District. If SB 36 passes, 5 of our schools would close. I would appreciate it if you would vote against SB 36.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amber Carl".

Amber Carl

Cassandra Huffman
P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:


My name is Cassandra Huffman, I am twelve years old and in the seventh grade at Naukati School in Naukati, Alaska. I am writing to ask you to vote against Senate Bill 36 for many reasons.

I think all students deserve a chance to have a fair education, even if they live in a rural area with ten or fewer students. Senate Bill 36 is going to close many schools and take away the chance to get an education who live in a rural area. It will also reduce funding from schools like my school that has 38 students and give the funding to larger schools.

Our schools already have funding that can't get much lower. Students shouldn't get less of an education just because they happen to live in a rural area. Students should all have the same chance to get a good education.

Thank you for listening to my concerns about Senate Bill 36. I hope you make the decision to vote against this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cassandra Huffman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Cassandra Huffman

Ryan Holmes
P.O. Box NK1
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

My name is Ryan Holmes. I am 13 years old and I live in Naukati, Alaska. I'm writing this letter to you because I want you to realize that if you vote for Senate Bill 36, and if it passes, five of our schools in Southeast Island School District will be closed because of too few students. This will also effect funding for school supplies such as computers, books, and paper. I really appreciate you reading my letter and I hope you have taken my concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Holmes

Ryan Holmes

Desiree Watkins
P.O. Box NKI
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Honorable Rep. Mark Hanley:

My name is Desiree Marie Watkins. I'm in the sixth grade at Naukati School which has 38 students. I am writing in concern of Senate bill 36. I am asking you prevent SB 36 from being passed. I am very aware of this bill and do not believe a bill that is unfair to kids should be passed. All kids should have an equal opportunity to an education. Five of our district's schools would lose funding if the bill passes. I'm asking you to vote against Senate Bill 36.

Thank you for taking your time to read this and taking this letter into consideration.

Sincerely,



Desiree Watkins

Bryan Thompson
Box NKI -
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Hanley, Mark
Republican, Dist. 12
Capital Room 507

Honorable Representative Hanley,

Hi, my name is Bryan Thompson. I live in Naukati Bay Alaska. I am 12 years old. I am concerned about Senate Bill 36. With all due respect sir, I think you are making a big mistake, because if this bill passes it will shut down many schools in Southeast Alaska and we wouldn't get an education. I would be happy if you would vote against this bill.

Thank You,
Bryan Thompson

Bryan Thompson

Josh C. Musser
Box NKI -
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Hanley, Mark
Republican, Dist. 12
Capital Room 507

Honorable Representative Hanley,

I am Josh Musser from Naukati School. I am writing about SB 36. I think it is unfair to fund schools with large numbers and not those with smaller numbers. All children deserve an equal opportunity for an education. Five Southeast Island Schools will close if the bill passes.

I am in the 8th grade. I am 14 years old and want an education.
Please vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Josh Musser
Josh C. Musser

Duke Ramsdell
Box N:KI -
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Hanley, Mark
Republican, Dist. 12
Capital Room 507

Honorable Representative Hanley,

I am in the 9th grade and I am writing to you in regards to Senate Bill 36. Please vote against this bill. Small schools would lose funding and some would have to close. The big schools should not be getting most of the funding. Education should be available to all students, regardless of where they live.

Please vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Duke Ramsdell

Duke Ramsdell

Venessa Richter
Box NKI -
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Hanley, Mark
Republican, Dist. 12
Capital Room 507

Honorable Representative Hanley,

My name is Venessa Richter. I'm a 7th grade student at Naukati school. Naukati school is a school that has 38 kids. I think that it is not fair to fund schools with large numbers and not those with smaller numbers, all children deserve an equal education. Please don't let Senate Bill 36 pass. Vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

Venessa Richter

Venessa Richter

Shay M. McLeod
Box NKI -
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Hanley, Mark
Republican, Dist. 12
Capital Room 507

Honorable Representative Hanley,

Hi, My name is Shay McLeod and I'm in the 7th grade at Naukati Middle School.

I am writing to you with concerns about Senate Bill 36. I live in a rural area and I think that it is an unfair bill. I think that we deserve the same resources that bigger schools have. It is bad enough that our budget is so low that we already have lost our music programs and sports. Cutting the budget lower would hurt us even more. Please, vote against Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,

Shay M. McLeod

Shay M. McLeod

April 10, 1998

Rep. Con Bunde

House of Representatives

State Capitol, Room 104

Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182

Re: SB 36

I am a Yupik resident of Tununak who opposes SB 36. I feel that the bill, if it passes, will take from the poor and give to the rich.

The BIA built a school in Tununak in the 1950's. At that time, the system did everything for parents, making them feel that only the school knew what was best for their children, and that they should not be involved with their children's educations. After the Molly Hootch lawsuit in the 1970's, small high schools were built in villages and parents became more aware of what was needed for their children's education.

I am a member of the Tununak Advisory School Board, and I have seen improvements in parental support of education in Tununak. Parents are getting involved. The Alaska Onward to Excellence process is used in the Tununak school, where parents, school staff, the students and community members work together to come up with goals that will work in both Western and Yup'ik cultures. Equal emphasis is placed on both cultures in the school, and students are succeeding. At

our recent third quarter student-parent conferences, 91% of parents attended. Parents do care about education of their children in rural Alaska.

I feel that if the legislature passes SB 36, this will be a major setback for the state of Alaska. The legislature should not take money from one district to fund another. I think we need to look for additional funding sources for urban districts, but not at the expense of the quality of education in rural areas.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Victor J. Kanrilak, Jr.

TRADITIONAL VILLAGE OF PLATINUM

P.O. Box 8
Platinum, Alaska 99651

RESOLUTION No. 98-02

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36 ENTITLED "AN ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING PROGRAM ; RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS, TO SCHOOL DISTRICT LAYOFF PLANS, TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AGENCY, AND TO THE CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, The Platinum Traditional Council is the tribal governing body for the Traditional Village of Platinum, a federally-recognized Indian Tribe recognized and such by the United States, and

WHEREAS, The most important resource of the villages is its children and it is of critical importance to provide for the future and well-being of the children through education which is a basic human rights available to all children no matter where they live or what their ethnic background is, and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska formed and funded Rural Education Attendance Area School Districts to enable equitable and fair access to education of children living in rural remote villages throughout Alaska, and

WHEREAS, Education of the children through the Rural Education Attendance Area School District is vital not only to provide for the future of the children, but also to maintain the indigenous native culture, integrity, way of life, general well-being and livelihood of the people throughout rural Alaska, and

WHEREAS, The people of the region need and require the same level of basic education services afforded to all Alaskans, and

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Legislature intends to extinguish rural education funding through Senate Bill 36 which seeks to redistribute education funding dollars from rural school districts to urban schools, redefining school district boundaries, proposing employment taxes of 4% for districts without an economic base, and redefining most education processes as we know them, and

WHEREAS, The AVCP region and many other rural Alaskan regions lack the economic infrastructure and economic base to bear the burden of an employment tax to finance basic education and other basic human services, and

WHEREAS, Such a measure would cripple regions such as the AVCP region, already experiencing an economic disaster from recent fishery industry failures, and

WHEREAS, Passage of this bill will have long and drastic effects on the operations of the rural school districts and the support and assistance in all areas of education provided for the children of the region, and

WHEREAS, Passage of this bill will also halt the enormous academic progress of the children living in rural Alaska in areas of mathematics, reading, and writing, and in particular, it will halt the advancement of knowledge, skills and abilities of the children and their future contribution to the general well-being and economy of the region, and

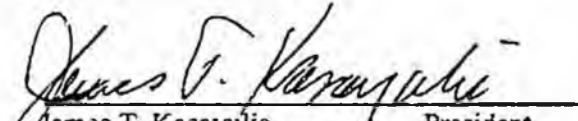
WHEREAS, The rural school districts are working diligently and successfully to support and assist in this process.

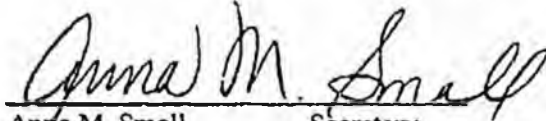
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Platinum Traditional Village Council respectfully implores and requests the Alaska State Legislature to reconsider its position and action towards the children of rural Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Platinum Traditional Village Council hereby opposes passage of senate Bill No. 36 by the Alaska State Legislature.

Passed 3/24/98 by the Platinum Traditional Village Council with a duly constituted quorum of members present.

CERTIFICATION:


James T. Kasayulie President


Anna M. Small Secretary

FAX MEMO

PLATINUM TRADITIONAL VILLAGE
P.O. Box 8
PLATINUM, ALASKA 99651
PHONE: (907) 979-8177 FAX: (907) 979-8178

TO: Finance Committee/ Mark Hanley, Jane Therriault, Aldan Mulder, Gary Davis
Richard Foster, Pete Kelly, Vic Kohring, Carrie Martin, John Davies,
FAX NO: (907) 465-2418 Carl. Moses, and Ben Grussendorf

DATE: April 13, 1998

NO. OF PAGES IN FAX (INCLUDING THIS PAGE): 3

Original in mail? YES () NO (X)

IN CASE OF ERRORS INVOLVING THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT
LOU KIRBY, TRIBAL ADMINSTRATOR, AT (907) 979-8177.

MESSAGE:

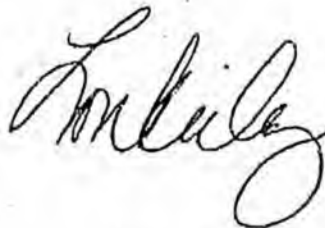
RE: Senate Bill 36

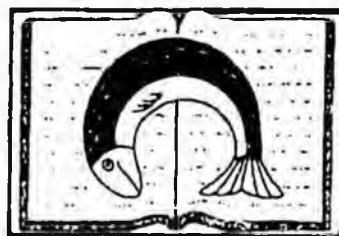
Finance Committee;

It is crucial that Senate Bill 36 not be allowed to pass, Costs have gone up for all School Districts, especially with population growth in both rural and urban districts. For number of years, education has been held harmless in budget cuts, receiving flat funding, Yet school districts have basically been required to eat inflation.

We believe that more money should be put into our education budget, The younger generation that are in schools are our future. And if this bill passes it will affect our region drastically, and it will be devastating for the smaller villages that will be affected.

Also icluded is our opposing resolution for senate bill36





Lower Kuskokwim School District

Bill Ferguson
Superintendent

P.O. Box 305 • Bethel, Alaska 99559-0305
907 543-4800 Ext. 810, 811, FAX 907 543-4904

4-13-98

The Honorable Gail Phillips,
Speaker House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-2689

Dear Representative Phillips,

I'm sorry I missed the opportunity to visit with you when I was in Juneau for the Superintendent's meeting. I realize you're extremely busy with the close of the session fast approaching and all the controversy over subsistence, education funding and the "normal" legislative bills that need to be worked on.

As the superintendent for the Lower Kuskokwim School District one of my major concerns is SB 36. In the current form our District would lose approximately \$8 million dollars and even with a three year transitional period I'm not sure our educational programs would be able to survive. Still in light of this, I think for every negative we can always find a positive, and I do feel SB 36 has a positive side. SB 36 has brought into focus across the State, for urban and rural areas alike, the need for adequate funding of education and a quality educational program for all. I feel these two concerns are shared by every citizen in the State of Alaska. They are not unique to urban and/or rural residences.

Legislators are well aware of the various sources of revenue for funding education at a level at which all Alaska children, urban and rural, would benefit and none would have to suffer. The revenue available is almost unlimited. It's just a matter of identifying the State's priorities. If the legislature is saying that the revenue is available but they feel that the residents in rural Alaska need to pay their fair share, just as urban residents do, then we need to look at how this can be done in a manner that isn't construed as being unfair and/or singling out a given group of people. There are several ways this can be done. 1) By a two-thirds vote of the legislature the yearly interest from the permanent dividend fund could be set aside in an education permanent fund. It would take several years to accumulate enough to become self sufficient, but it could be done. 2) The legislature could pass a State wide education income tax under which everyone would contribute, resident and non-resident alike, and the urban areas could reduce their property tax in relationship to the amount collected on urban residents' income tax. 3) Thirty to forty thousand people signed a petition to put the Educational Endowment on the November ballot, but the petition was considered invalid. The Legislature could take the leadership role and put this issue on the November ballot and let the people of Alaska decide. We need to look at funding for education, not as a personal issue, but an issue that focuses on what is the best for the children in the entire State. There are ways to make the State "whole" again, if the legislators want to.

Quality education for our children is a concern for all Alaskans, urban and rural alike. Every child has an equal right to an education that will provide them with the tools they need to succeed in life. A basic set of tools is needed by all children. It would not be fair to give one group of children a full set of tools and another a partial set. The State of Alaska is unique in its diversity of cultures, geographic accessibility and economic capabilities, all of which need to be addressed when providing the basic educational program for "our" children. Rural Alaskans realize it's not economically feasible to put libraries, swimming pools, bowling alleys, and paved play grounds in every community, while on the other hand urban Alaskans would not expect their children to learn how to sew mukluks, set blackfish traps and/or retain their native culture as part of their educational program.

Alaska and Alaskans are unique. This is what makes our State so great, and our educational program, urban or rural, should reflect this

uniqueness. Senate Bill 36 and Senate Bill 203 would stifle this uniqueness, as well as the creativity of educational programs in meeting the diverse needs of all "our" children.

In listening to Rep. Bunde on April 4, he said that the legislature had been working on the education funding formula, SB 36, for the past five years and that it wasn't something new. Last spring was the first I had heard about it and I have been working in rural schools for the past 30 years. I'm sure many other Alaska residents, urban and rural, weren't aware of it until this session. The State should be held accountable for adequate funding and the education "family" should be held accountable for quality education for our children.

SB 36 has the attention of most Alaskans today and it's now time to take a step back and look at the educational needs of every child in our State. Lets take this step back and look at "our" options again and develop an education funding formula that will help all of our children. I'm willing to commit my summer to accomplish this goal as i'm sure many Alaskans would be. Yes additional funding is needed for education, in both the urban and rural areas, but not at the expense of dividing our great State.

Sincerely,



Bill Ferguson
Superintendent
Lower Kuskokwim School District
Bethel, Alaska 99559

cc
Alaska Legislators
Tundra Drums (letter to the editor)
Anchorage Daily News (letter to the editor)

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

To: Representative Hanley Date: April 14, 1998
Fax: 465-2418

From: Gary Zimmerman Subject: School Funding
Tel: 249-8224; Fax: 249-8247

Dear Representative Hanley:

As a parent of two elementary age school children I am amazed at what the Anchorage School District cannot provide to support their school's basic operations. There has been considerable rhetoric about the foundation formula re-write, and I favor any attempt to fix the formula as it is currently written. To penalize larger school districts by providing fewer dollars per student (and using the excuse of "economies of scale" to justify the formula) just does not make sense in my book when the Anchorage School District is expanding at a rate of 500 to 1,000 students every year.

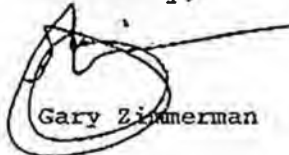
The basic question I have is that if it is the State of Alaska's responsibility to provide and pay for quality education why do the taxpayers of the Municipality of Anchorage get stuck for 1/3 of the total cost of education while other districts are totally funded by the State? It seems to me there is no incentive by some districts to be good stewards of their allocated money while other districts (like ASD) are forced to go to the voters year after year on bond issues that should simply be in maintenance and operation budgets (paid for by the State of Alaska like other school districts).

As the PTA President of an Anchorage elementary school the past two years I am also amazed at the things that are requested of and paid for by the PTA - things that should be basic items supplied by the school district (but how many times have we hear "it's not in the budget"?). In the past two years our PTA has spent tens of thousands of dollars on things such as computers and computer upgrades, wiring the school for e-mail and internet access, multi-cultural assemblies/speakers, grants to teachers for classroom supplies, snow removal/ice rink maintenance and on and on and on.....

We need to fix the education funding situation in Alaska because it is not working. Not only is it not working for the State's largest school district, but it's not working for other districts as well. Is it a political hot potato? I am sure it is! Is it turning into a rural versus urban issue? Unfortunately, yes! Does it have to be? **NO!** If the Legislators and Governor realize the inequity of the current formula, increase spending on education and inflation proof any new formula then it can be done.

With revenue forecasts going the way of oil down the pipeline (South!) it is time for tough decisions. And that is why we elected you - to be good stewards of the State's monies AND to provide the quality of life that is expected by all Alaskans. Education should be the cornerstone of a prosperous future for Alaska and you have the obligation to build that future today.

Sincerely,



Gary Zimmerman

:cm

P.S. Please distribute to House Finance members.

Calista Corporation

601 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 200 • Anchorage, AK 99501-2226 • (907) 278-5516 Facsimile (907) 272-5060

April 13, 1998

Via facsimile 907-465-2418

Hon. Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hanley

Calista Corporation is opposed to Senate Bill 36. The Calista region of fifty six villages stands to lose over \$9.2 million dollars if this bill passes. Of the \$9.2 million dollars, most will return to Anchorage by way of contracts in food servicing, telecommunications, and retailing. We urge you to vote against Senate Bill 36 in the State House of Representatives.

This bill is pitting rural and urban communities against one another on a very sensitive issue; the education of our future leaders. Education is the key element to the successful future of this state. We need legislative action that will not arbitrarily remove funds from one house district and place it another, no matter who is in power.

Instead, we recommend you develop an alternative plan by formation of a bi-partisan committee to review education funding. A committee that will improve educational funding statewide and benefit all citizens of our great state.

We thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

CALISTA CORPORATION



Matthew Nicolai
President/CEO

April 4, 1998

The Honorable Senator Jerry Mackie
Dear Senator Mackie:

Thank you for the response to my letter concerning SB 36. Apparently you missed my point, the resistance to changes in the status quo have blocked any attempts to reorganize, restructure and reform the management of education.

Jerry, you once asked me for ideas about balancing the budget. I took this question seriously and have ideas that need articulation and follow thru at the state level. I admire your ability to stand up and speak for what you understand to be honest and fair.

You are right about Alaskan schools and communities, "struggling with inflation factors, federal mandates, and other variables that have made it difficult to operate and maintain our state education system" and "the lack of adequate school maintenance funding". The solution is not more money to an entrenched establishment that refuses to negotiate and face head on the real complexities of restructuring the management of education. We need to take a good look at how and what we are doing to make ends meet and still provide children with good education. The proposal of a long-range statewide plan to build new schools and repair, maintain and expand existing schools is a step in the right direction. It is a separate set of funds designated for a specific purpose. These funds are separate from the education funding rewrite dilemma.

When rewriting the education foundation formula specific questions need to be asked:

1. What are the true and real costs of specific administrative positions in operating a school?
2. Is the budget in the perspective of a bare bones budget; what are the real \$\$ numbers?
3. What are frivolous and excessive costs?
4. What expenses are being duplicated on a region wide basis?
5. Can cost effective quality programs be integrated and shared by schools in close proximity?
6. What is fair and equitable when narrowing the spending gap between revenues & expenses?
7. Are children doing better academically because of increased dollars per child?
Studies indicate that this is not the case.
8. Which districts are using funds effectively and have equitable funding per student?
9. What are the fundamental procedures used to achieve an affirmative education action plan?

The implementation of unfunded mandates is a frequent complaint of administrators. One solution is to consolidate smaller districts, the duplication of managing mandates and the overall costs of administration would decrease. Money can be focused to the actual provider of a service. A centralized office will determine equitable appropriations across the district. Yet each school site will have a say in making decisions that effects them locally as stated in State Statute.

TITLE 14 CHAPTER 08 EDUCATION IN THE UNORGANIZED BOROUGH
SECTION 14.08.115 Advisory school boards in regional educational attendance areas

(a) A regional school board shall establish advisory school boards in each community in the regional educational attendance area that has more than 50 permanent residents, and by regulation shall prescribe their manner of selection and organization, and, in a manner consistent with (b) of this section, their powers and duties. (b) An advisory board shall advise the regional school board on all matters concerning schools in the community in which the advisory board is established.

Here is a summary of an education action plan needing implementation.

The Trend of Government (Nationally, Statewide & Locally) to reduce expenditures and to streamline services to the advantage of long term feasibility and quality program success.

School Districts have a need to recognize and utilize an **Education Service Agency** by:

1. Contracting out business services/central office services
 - A. Accounting and related services: electronically via modem - this service provides a substantial savings to districts. Financial accounting services are centrally located and members of the business office communicate with this system by modem on terminals located in their offices.
2. Contract special services itinerant staff designed to encourage districts to commit for special services early, to plan staffing needs for the ensuing year. Cost effective services.
 - A. Formation of Cooperatives/Consortiums to lower rates for services.
 - B. By pooling services to several districts, a specialist has full time employment.
3. Offer Facilities planning, Capital Improvement planning and preparation by a specialist.

Legislature needs to:

Designate an **Education Service Agency (ESA)**.

Secure statutory and regulatory provisions requiring participating districts to pay dues or provide an annual appropriation to cover basic administrative costs. The consolidation of services is a cost savings to the State of Alaska. There would no longer be a duplication of bureaucracy.

Federal Education program laws and regulations recognize the existence of education service agencies. Smaller schools have a need to pool resources through an education service agency that could do more for districts than could be done on its own.

It is a good idea, and other individuals committed to providing quality education would agree. Scattered across the State, it will require positions to be discontinued as the dollars shift. The inequities in education funding demands that serious actions need to be taken to resolve and improve the strategies of an education plan. In a responsible way, to trim the size and scope of government and still provide a quality program.

As an elected official, we have the tough job of making decisions not everybody likes. And to stand by those decisions because it is in the best interest of the children. And to voice concerns about the education of children and programs needed to streamline services to the advantage of long term feasibility and quality program success.

Thank you for taking the time to consider what my comments have to say.

Sincerely,

Patricia Phillips P.O. Box 33 Pelican, Alaska 99832

cc: Alaska State Legislature
Governor Tony Knowles

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507 , Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 26, 1998

APR 03 1998

Dear Mark Hanley,

On behalf of the faculty, parents, students and Advisory Education Committee of White Mountain, Alaska, we are urging you to vote NO on SB36. We believe this piece of legislation, if enacted, would be detrimental to our educational programs at White Mountain School.

I believe the impression of many legislators is that "Bush schools have plenty of money and can stand a significant reduction in funds". That is not the case. We are on a tight budget and are proud of the process that we use to make every penny count.

We do not have new and updated facilities. We teach school in the same classrooms that were used to teach our student's parents and grandparents in over the past 50 years.

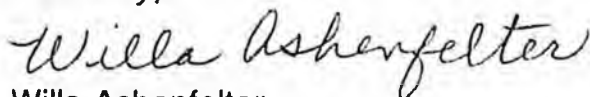
We are not over staffed and continue to search for every way possible to provide quality teachers and teacher aides for our ever growing student population.

We do not have ample, much less abundant funds for the purchase of computers or instructional supplies or classroom furniture. Each year we carefully prioritize the purchases that we believe will have the greatest impact on student learning.

Your vote in this critical matter will have a significant impact on rural education in Alaska. A yes vote from you is not a vote for fair equalization of educational dollars, it is not a reminder that we need to tighten our belts it is a vote that will surely cripple our educational system in White Mountain.

Please vote NO on SB36.

Sincerely,



Willa Ashenfelter
White Mountain Chairperson
Advisory Education Committee

APR 03 1998

APRIL 2, 1998

FAIRBANKS
Daily News "Miner"

"Independent in All Things . . . Neutral in None"
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Publisher

KELLY BOSTIAN
Managing Editor

SAM BISHOP
Editorial Page Editor

School bill reasonable

Despite the impression one might gather from all the criticism, school spending cuts proposed by the state Senate's new formula are not based on a district's rural geography or the racial composition of its citizens. They are based on an objective assessment of the cost of operating and on the number of students served.

That's why, for example, schools on Annette Island, Alaska's lone Native reservation located on an island south of Ketchikan, wouldn't be cut at all. They would receive 19.3 percent more money in the year 2001 compared to what they would have under the current formula.

Craig, another remote southeast island town, would see an extra 11.3 percent. Hoonah, similarly situated, would see an extra 4.6 percent.

The Delta-Greely area, 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks, would see an extra 9.2 percent. The Denali Borough, covering the Healy-to-Cantwell area, .5 percent.

The Northwest Arctic Borough, covering Kotzebue and beyond? An extra 3.3 percent. Nome? The same.

Of course, some urban schools would cash in at an even greater rate—Ketchikan, with a whopping 24.7 percent for example.

But the biggest, most urban districts would not reap any great windfall on a percentage basis. Anchorage would get an extra 6.5 percent. Fairbanks, whose Sen. Gary Wilken who put this plan together, would get a modest 7.3 percent extra. Juneau could expect an extra 8.1 percent and the Kenai area could expect 7.72 percent more.

It's true, though, that someone would lose a lot, but for widely disparate reasons having nothing to do with a rural nature or a particular racial make-up.

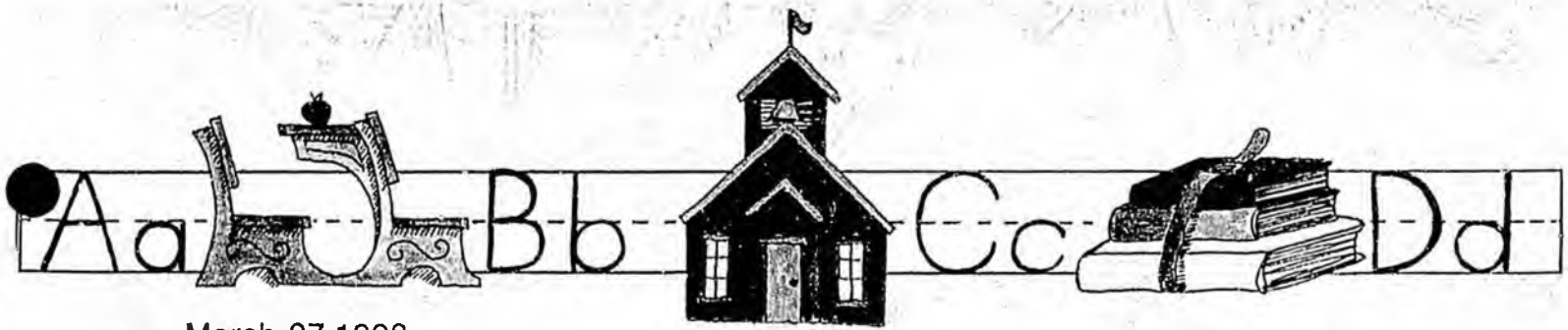
Unalaska would be hammered because the taxable property value of its fish-landing facilities and hotels make it rich on a per-capita basis. So, too, Skagway with its tourist facilities and Valdez with its oil pipeline terminal. None compare, however, to the North Slope Borough, where the Prudhoe Bay oil fields give the 9,000 residents an incomparable taxable resource. The Senate plan would make the North Slope pick up all its school costs.

Some relatively poor areas of the state would also be hit hard, though. The Yukon Flats and Yukon-Koyukuk districts, covering much of Interior Alaska, would lose 15.7 percent and 14.5 percent respectively. Nenana would lose 20.9 percent. The Tok area, 11 percent. Galena, 21.5 percent because its new correspondence students would be funded at a much lower level. And the largest district in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, the Lower Kuskokwim, would lose 17.4 percent.

These poor areas lose mostly because they will get the same amount of money for bilingual, gifted-talented and other "special education" categories as other communities in the state. The Senate adopted this flat rate because the state has not been able to police the definition of such students. Both urban and rural areas were defining the categories to their advantages and thereby reaping large amounts of extra money.

At the bottom line, though, Alaska's poor, remote communities would still be treated very well under the Senate's education funding reform bill. In the year 2001, for example, the Yukon-Koyukuk district's 550 (projected) students would receive state funding of about \$10,500 apiece. Lower Kuskokwim's 3,650 students would receive about \$8,800 apiece. In comparison, Fairbanks' 16,000 students would receive about \$4,350, and Anchorage's 47,800 students about \$4,250.

Providing more than twice as much money for students in undeveloped areas of the state as those in developed areas is necessary. You'd never know it from the hype, but the Senate's bill recognizes that necessity and provides the formula to accomplish it fairly.



March 27, 1998

APR 03 1998

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am very concerned for the welfare of education in the great state of Alaska. It has been brought to my attention that the Senate has passed Senate Bill 36. I find it truly appalling that this state is considering taking what little money the rural parts of the state have away.

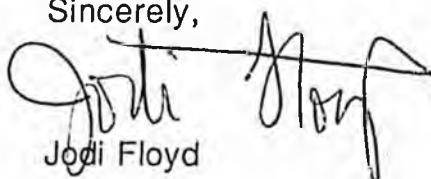
Ladies and Gentlemen, I have heard all the arguments for this proposal and I can say without a doubt that they are the most illogical and ill thought out I have heard in a long time. I can not find the logic in taking money out of the poor areas of the state and giving it to the richer areas of the state just because those areas hold more children.

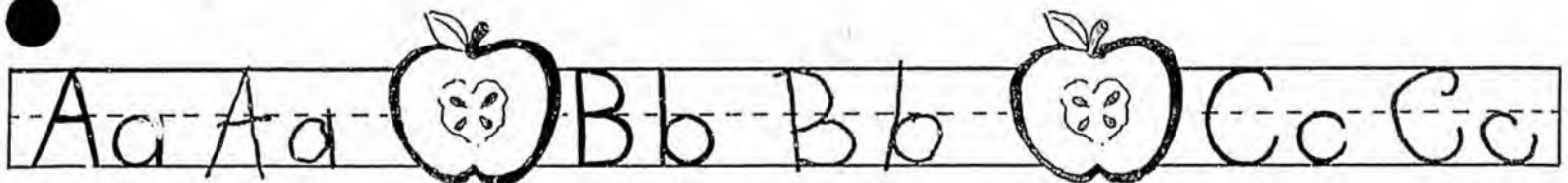
I am a product of the South Carolina school system. Like Alaska, the majority of the state is labeled rural with the majority of these rural districts being made up of minority students, yet South Carolina has made a commitment to education that Alaska has not, as shown by the Senate's passage of Bill 36. In South Carolina, the richer districts receive less money from the state while those that are poorer receive more, even when those poorer districts give little or nothing back to the state. Historically, these districts also score at the bottom during state wide testing. I have worked in other states where the funding was the same: richer districts get less, poorer districts get more. I realize this is not South Carolina, yet the idea is the same.

I become concerned when I hear that residents of the Bush do not contribute to the economy of Anchorage. I have been at the post office in our village when 4-6 boxes arrive from various stores and shops in Anchorage. I have shopped for some of our parents on my way through Anchorage so that their children might be able to have new clothes or a new bike. I have waited in line at the Bush shipping center in Walmart too many times and have seen people ship several hundred dollars worth of merchandise to believe that people from the Bush don't contribute to the urban areas.

In short ladies and gentlemen, I want you to vote No on this bill. I believe that it will ultimately destroy rural education and be extremely detrimental to our society's children.

Sincerely,


Jodi Floyd



Tara P. Fuller
200 Baranov Street
P.O. Box 115
Cold Bay, Alaska 99571
907-532-2407

APR 03 1998

March 31, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Representative Hanley,

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent in the State of Alaska.

I am in opposition to SB36. This purpose of this bill was to bring equity to all School Districts in the State, when in fact it would do just the opposite. How could taking money from 1 district and redistributing to another be equitable? Thirty two of Alaska's 53 school districts representing 21,000 children would lose money, and this would force school's to close their doors. How could this bill possibly be considered for a moment? I believe that if the legislators in favor of this bill had children in one of these thirty-two districts losing money, they would take opposition also. I am not in support of any child in our rich state losing out on an education. As I see it, my children would either have to be home schooled or sent off to attend school in Anchorage??? I don't think that this is an answer. Children should be able to attend school in their home community. SB36 would force many children to be separated from their families in order to receive an education, who would be in favor of such a ludicrous idea? I urge you to vote no on SB36, think of those 21,000 children it would negatively affect.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tara P. Fuller

Tara P. Fuller - Parent and School Board Member - Aleutians East Borough School District

Hanley

Distributed by
Rep. Foster by request

IRA Council
P.O. Box 100
Shaktoolik, Alaska 99771-0100

Phone (907) 955-3701

Fax (907) 955-2352

Native Village of Shaktoolik
Resolution 98-08

APR 04 1998

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 36.

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council is an Alaska Native Village organized as an Alaska Native/American Indian Organization Act of 1934, as amended in 1936 for Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council is the elected governing body of the Alaska Native/American Indian people of the Native Village of Shaktoolik; and,

WHEREAS, Education plays a vital role to the students in our Rural Communities; and,

WHEREAS, to now be successful in the Western World, we are encouraging our children to achieve the highest education possible in our Rural Communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Bering Strait School District is educating our students to become self-sufficient, productive citizens in a changing world recognized for their social, academic and marketable skills; and,

WHEREAS, with Proposed Bill 36, a lot of our Vital Programs would be lost; and,

WHEREAS, with Senate Bill 36 in place, Education for our Rural Students would be put in Turmoil leveling our Rural Students to the lowest Education possible, when Education is ranked at the Highest Priority Level.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Education is ranked as a very, very high priority for our students in the Rural Areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that based on the critical criteria's listed above, we urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 36; or uphold the Governor's Veto of said bill.

CERTIFICATION

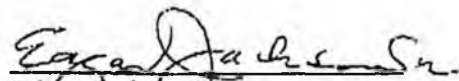
We, the undersigned members of the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council do hereby certify that the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council is composed of seven (7) members of whom 5 voted on 'his 02nd day of April, 1998 and the foregoing resolution was adopted by the vote of 5 members.

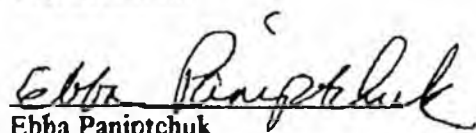
YES 5

NO 0

ABSTAIN 0

ABSENT 2


Edgar Jackson Sr.
Vice President


Ebba Paniptchuk
Secretary

Chad and Karen Neilson
P.O. Box 997
Bethel, Ak 99559

March 31, 1998

APR 06 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

We have worked in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta as an itinerant career counselor and a nurse administrator for the past 20 years. We have put a great deal of our life's work and effort into trying to improve the lot of the native people of this area.

We have seen an increase in the number of natives completing high school and going on to college to become professional people of diversified endeavors within the Alaskan workforce. We have seen an increase in the number of Native Alaskans taking over positions of greater responsibility in the administration of both the educational system and the health care throughout the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. These accomplishments have come about due to great efforts made in the school and health care systems to expose the population to opportunities for self-improvement. This has been made possible by the educational budgets of the state and the allocations of funds from the Indian Health Service.

We have seen a phenomenal increase in the natives from this area being employed and having insurance policies decreasing the use for Medicaid and Medicare dollars for health care. Every person that is added to the productive workforce of Alaska is a valuable resource to the state and helps boost the economy. Most of this development has taken place due to the influence of a strong educational system in "BUSH ALASKA." Why cut the dollars to the Alaskan residents whose ancestors were here before the educational system and reallocate those dollars into the metropolitan areas of the state that experience a surge of newcomers from the lower 48 and have no life investment in the state?

Let us not drop the ball in the development of our own long-term residents who are working their way toward self-sufficiency. We need the dollars to support the future of "BUSH ALASKA EDUCATION."

Thank You,



Chad and Karen Neilson

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

GOLDBELT PLACE
801 WEST 10TH STREET, SUITE 200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1894

(907) 465-2800
FAX (907) 465-4156

April 1, 1998

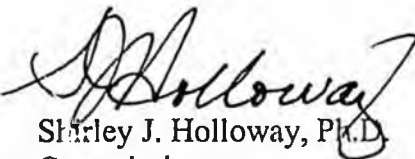
APR 04 1998

The Honorable Mark Hanley
Alaska State Capitol Room 507
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

On behalf of the Alaska State Board of Education, I am forwarding a copy of the Board's resolution strongly opposing the passage of Senate Bill 36. The Board unanimously adopted the resolution at its March 28, 1998, business meeting, held in Juneau.

Sincerely,



Shirley J. Holloway, Ph.D.
Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: State Board of Education

**Resolution
Of The
State Board of Education**

March 28, 1998

WHEREAS, the legislature is considering enacting Senate Bill 36 into law; and

WHEREAS, the effect of the legislation is to redistribute \$32 million of school foundation funds from 32 mostly rural school districts to urban school districts; and

WHEREAS, the 32 school districts adversely impacted by this legislation house 21,000 children, many of whom would have their current education seriously disrupted; and

WHEREAS, Region . Educational Attendance Areas are legally precluded from contributing local taxes to education and are unable to provide an adequate local share of education costs because of this local prohibition and because of a generally inadequate local tax base; and

WHEREAS, the result of this legislation will be to close some rural schools; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has established a system of public schools based upon the provision of local schools in nearly every village in Alaska, and that the decision to abandon that system now may be a violation of the legislature's constitutional duty to maintain a system of public schools open to all; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the funding cuts which will result from enactment of this legislation is racially biased and may violate constitutional rights to equal protection of the laws; and

WHEREAS, the policy of Alaska's support for education is to be equitable, fair and racially and culturally sensitive, with the intent that all children in Alaska be provided with a free, appropriate, public education, and that opportunities for such an education be reasonably equal without regard to residence of the child; and

WHEREAS, enactment of this legislation will diminish us as a society, catering to our most selfish and narrow instincts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Alaska State Board of Education:

1. That the legislature is urged not to pass SB 36 in any of its present permutations;
2. That, if the legislation is passed by the legislature, the Governor is urged to veto this legislation; and
3. That the people of Alaska are urged to make their wishes known to the legislature and to the Governor in opposition to this onerous, and ill-advised legislation.

Passed and Approved by the State Board of Education at its meeting in Juneau, Alaska on March 28, 1998.

Abbe Hensley
Abbe Hensley, Chair, State Board of Education

March 28, 1998
Date

To: State of Alaska Legislature

From: Danielle R. Dizon
Box 2262
Bethel, AK -99559-

To whom this letter WILL concern;

March 31, 98

Hello, I am a fourteen year old freshman at Bethel Regional High School. (BRHS) I am half Yup'ik and half Filipino. I am a JROTC cadet.

I am in, with many other fellow students, in many extra-curricular activities. Such as: cross-country, basketball, and volleyball. Many students, including myself, want to progress in our strengths.

I am writing to you in concern about our education which pertains to Senate Bill-36. Like many others in our district, we don't support this bill. Many of us ask the question, " Why? " " What are we getting out of this?" " Why do you want to take away YOUR future leaders education and minimize our abilities to succeed in extra activities (sports, etc.) , succeed in school, and also succeed in life?" Some of us even wonder, " Who would come up with something like this?"

We've heard all the about the millions of dollars that may be taken away from us. We haven't heard this yet, " WHAT IS IT THAT WE GET OUT OF IT?"

If this bill passes, students who are active in extra-curricular activities will or might try new things. Things such as the cruel things of this world. If there's nothing for students to do on weekends or after school activities, they might try new things like drugs and alcohol. Students who have already experimented may even get deeper in to the drug use or alcoholism.

Drugs and alcohol is all it takes for a student to drop school and forget about all the important things in life.

That's all it takes.

Do you want your future to become a society who can become like that?

I don't.

I want all the opportunities in life to succeed. By taking away our education money isn't going to help.

I thought you wanted to have your future people to have the best education possible. You want us to accomplish things in life, don't you? Do you want the better for us?

We WANT education more than you think.

I bet that you " higher ranking" people haven't even been out here in our district. I may be wrong. But have you visited our school? Our school is alive. How can you make a ruling without knowing what you're getting in to? We cherish the good and the bad moments in our school. We love it and we don't want our education opportunities to be taken away.

Some parents in Anchorage are talking about US having all the money. What? Their kid's are the ones who have a big lunch area.

They have a variety to pick from. They can choose from Mc Donalds, Burger King, KFC, etc. We don't have a choice.

We have regular ordinary hot lunches. It would be GREAT to have a lunch area like East High School in Anchorage, but we don't mind. We accept it. It's a perfectly fine place to eat. It's small, but it's good enough for us. So what are those people bickering about? Are they jealous or something?

Before YOU make this ruling I want you to think. Ask this question to yourself.

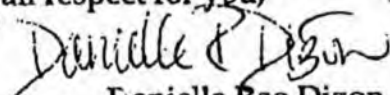
" Is this RIGHT to TAKE away MONEY from my FUTURE LEADERS EDUCATION?

Is this really the right thing to do? "

Now we, the students, are going to ask the question IF this bill does pass.

" What are WE supposed to do now? I thought they wanted the BEST for US? "

Sincerely,
With all respect for you,


Danielle Rae Dizon

April 10, 1998

Rep. Con Bunde

House of Representatives

State Capitol, Room 104

Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182

Re: SB 36

I am a Yupik resident of Tununak who opposes SB 36. I feel that the bill, if it passes, will take from the poor and give to the rich.

The BIA built a school in Tununak in the 1950's. At that time, the system did everything for parents, making them feel that only the school knew what was best for their children, and that they should not be involved with their children's educations. After the Molly Hootch lawsuit in the 1970's, small high schools were built in villages and parents became more aware of what was needed for their children's education.

I am a member of the Tununak Advisory School Board, and I have seen improvements in parental support of education in Tununak. Parents are getting involved. The Alaska Onward to Excellence process is used in the Tununak school, where parents, school staff, the students and community members work together to come up with goals that will work in both Western and Yup'ik cultures. Equal emphasis is placed on both cultures in the school, and students are succeeding. At

our recent third quarter student-parent conferences, 91% of parents attended. Parents do care about education of their children in rural Alaska.

I feel that if the legislature passes SB 36, this will be a major setback for the state of Alaska. The legislature should not take money from one district to fund another. I think we need to look for additional funding sources for urban districts, but not at the expense of the quality of education in rural areas.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Victor J. Kanrilak, Jr.

Att'y
Finance
Committee

P.O. Box 56
Kwigillingok, AK 99622
April 7, 1998

Mr. Gene Therriault
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Therriault:

My name is Michael Manchuak, a junior in the Lower Kuskokwim School District. I am writing this letter to tell you I oppose Senate Bill 35.

Because the rural schools have fewer opportunities than the urban schools, it would be unfair to take money from the poor ones to the rich.

Although, I oppose Senate Bill 36, I support Governor Knowles bill to add 24 millions dollars to the States Education Budget.

The children are the future leader of this country and the state. Please support that.

Sincerely,



Michael Manchuak

AH/4
Finance
Committee

P.O. Box 78
Kwigillingok, AK 99622
April 6, 1998

Gene Therriault
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mr. Therriault:

Hello! My name is June L Andrew. I am writing a letter because I would like to tell you that I oppose SB 36.

SB 36 would hurt our bilingual program and make our school district close several schools. Many jobs would be lost.

Please help our schools. Vote no on SB 36.

Thank You,

June Andrew

June Andrew

Att
Finance
Committee

P.O. Box 4
Kwigillingok, AK 99622
April 6, 1998

Gene Therriault
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Therriault:

Hello, my name is Brendan Lewis. I would like to tell you I oppose SB 36. SB 36 would hurt our bilingual programs and make our school district close several schools. Many jobs would be lost.

Please help our schools VOTE no on SB 36.

Thank You,

Brendan Lewis

Brendan Lewis

ATTN
Finance
Committee

P.O. Box 54
Kwigillingok, AK 99622
April 7, 1988

Gene Therriault
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Therriault:

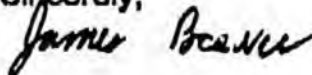
I would like to tell you that I am in opposition to Senate Bill 38.

This bill would rip us off of valuable money. If this bill was passed then the schools in the Kuskokwim Delta might have to cancel basketball, volleyball, and cross-country. They also might have to cancel travel for Academic Decathlon, Speech Contest, and the Career Field Trip. Without basketball more kids will have nothing to do so they will turn to alcohol and drugs. Basketball gives kids something to do and is a good alcohol and drugs awareness activity. I don't think we did anything bad to deserve it.

Please vote no on the bill.

I am a student at Kwigillingok High School and a basketball player.

Sincerely,



James Beaver

*Att 1
Finance
Committee*

Sydnia Phillip
P.O. Box 3
Kwigillingok, AK 99622

Mr. Gene Therriault
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mr. Gene Therriault:

I am writing to you because I feel frustrated. Randy Phillips is trying to take the money from our school to make Anchorage schools better.

I think all kids deserve to learn about their culture. I think we want to keep our bilingual program strong, so please help us. Vote no on Senate Bill 36.

Thank You,

Sydnia Phillip
Sydnia Phillip

*Atti
Finance
Committee*

**Kwigillingok, AK 99622
P.O. BOX 55
April 3, 1988**

**Gene Therriault
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182**

Gene Therriault,

Hello! My name is Roderick Atti. I would like to tell you that I oppose SB 36.

SB 36 will hurt our bilingual program and make our school district close some schools. Many jobs will be lost. We will also lose some of our school activities, such as sports, academic decathlon, speech contest, or close-up programs.

Please help our schools. Vote no on SB 36.

Thank You,

Roderick Atti

Roderick Atti

Aff
Finance
Committee

P.O. Box 77
Kwigillingok, AK
April 8, 1998

Gene Therriault
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mr. Therriault:

I would like to tell you that I oppose Senate Bill 36.

If this bill passes, three schools in the Lower Kuskokwim School District will shut down. Many people will lose their jobs, and our bilingual program will come to an end. Many field trips, like Academic Decathlon, Speech Contest, and Summer Camps would be cut, and all the other trips that the school pays like basketball program would also take a hit.

Thank you for voting no on Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,

Clifton J. Beaver

Clifton J. Beaver

Att'n
Finance
Committee

P.O. Box 7
Kwigillingok, Ak 99622
April 6, 1998

Mr. Gene Therriault
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Ak 99081-1182

Mr. Therriault

Hi. My name is Seralee Kalraluak. I am writing a letter because I would like to tell you that I oppose Senate Bill 36.

SB 36 would hurt our bilingual program and make our school district close several schools. Many jobs would be lost.

Vote "NO" on SB 36.

Thank You,

Seralee Kalraluak
Seralee Kalraluak

Attn Finance Committee

P.O. Box 10
Kwigillingok, AK 99622
April 6, 1998

Mr. Gene Therlault
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mr. Gene Therlault:

I am writing to let you know that I am in opposition to Senate Bill 36.

I am a student in a small village called Kwigillingok. If this bill passes it will destroy the education of younger students by eliminating the bilingual program; also, about 200 jobs will be lost. There will be at least three schools that will be shut down if this bill passes: Oscarville, Platinum, and Mekoryuk.

Again, please vote no on Senate Bill 36.

On the other hand, I support the Governor's plan to give the schools \$24 million more next year. The Governor's plan shows that education is important to the state of Alaska. I agree.

Without education, we have no dreams. Without dreams, we have no future.

Thank You,

Jennifer Klunya

Jennifer Klunya

DATE: April 9, 1998

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE
HESS / HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

FROM: JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT.

REGARDING: SENATE BILL NO. 36.

SENATE BILL NO. 36 RECENTLY PASSED THE SENATE AND IS CURRENTLY IN THE HOUSE (HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES) COMMITTEE.

THE PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL FOUNDATION FORMULA , BUDGET CUTS IS A NEGATIVE IDEA FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS, INSTEAD (INCREASE) MORE MONEY SHOULD BE PUT IN THE EDUCATION BUDGET.

THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION NO. 98-2 CLARIFIES OUR POSITION AND THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE THAT WILL DEMOTE OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM AND OUR STUDENTS IF THE BILL PASSES.

IT HAS BEEN OUR OBJECTIVE, PARENTS, PARENT COUNCIL, ALASKA ONWARD TOWARD EXCELLENCE (AOTE), ASB BOARD , MUNICIPAL (STATE CHARTER), TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS JOINTLY AND OVER MANY YEARS CAME TO CONSENSUS TO PROMOTE THAT OUR CHILDREN RECEIVE THE HIGHEST QUALITY EDUCATION POSSIBLE. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND IMPERATIVE TO PROVIDE MODERN MATERIAL.

WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IS THE ONLY TOOL WE CAN PROVIDE THEM WITH FOR THEIR FUTURE SECURITY AND WELFARE. WE FEEL EDUCATION ENHANCE STRONGER AND EFFECTIVE LEADERS, CARE TAKERS FOR TOMORROW.

WE SINCERELY AND STRONGLY URGE YOU VOTE DOWN ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36.

SINCERELY,



JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT NAPAKIAK CORPORATION.

ENCLOSURE: RESOLUTION NO. 98-2

CC: FILE
(SEE ATTACHED COPY).

Napakiaak Corporation
P.O. BOX 3030
NAPAKIAK, ALASKA 99634
(907) 589-2227

RESOLUTION 98-2
OPPOSITION TO SB- 36, FUNDING CUTS TO RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAPAKIAK CORPORATION
OPPOSES SENATE BILL 36, AND,

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAPAKIAK CORPORATION
DO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE CHILDREN THAT THEY HAVE AN
QUALITY EDUCATION, AND,

WHEREAS, THE ADVANCED EDUCATION REQUIRE STABLE FUNDING FOR
ADVANCED EDUCATION MATERIALS AT THIS COMPUTOR AGE, AND,

WHEREAS, WITHOUT QUALITY EDUCATION MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENTS
WE KNOW OUR CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ABLE AND BE BEHIND AT
THIS ADVANCED EDUCATION PROCESSES, AND,

WHEREAS, THE EDUCATION IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES HAS HAD AND
IS IMPROVING WITH QUALITY EDUCATION MATERIALS, AND,

WHEREAS, THIS CHANGING WORLD MUST ADAPT TO MEET THE NEEDS
OF A CHANGING SOCIETY BY EFFECTIVE EDUCATION, AND,

WHEREAS, OUR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS ARE OUR FUTURE LEADERS IN
THIS EVER CHANGING WORLD AND MUST BE SELF WORTHY ONLY BY
QUALITY EDUCATION.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NAPAKIAK CORPORATION OPPOSES SB- 36 FOR THE REASONS STATED
AND REQUESTS THE BILL NOT BE PASSED, AND,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, IF THE BILL PASSES, WE WILL HAVE WIT-
NESSED THE STRATEGY EFFECT, EACH INDIVIDUAL, FAMILIES, COMMUN-
ITIES AND ORGANIZARIIONS WORK AND EFFORT THEY HAD FOR A GOOD
EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDRENS, THEY ARE ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SOCIETY.

Carl Motgin
CARL MOTGIN, PRESIDENT

03/06/98
DATE

COPY ATTACHED AND SEND TO THE FOLLOWING:

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages ▶

To AK. House Finance	From Julie Roberts
Co. Please Distribute	Co. Tanana, AK 99771
Dept. to all members	Phone # 306-7124
Fax Thank you	Fax # 306-7195

April 8, 1998

Members of the House Finance Committee and
TO all other Members of the Senate and House,

"I am a child and I live in Rural Alaska. I attend my school every day, even though I have to walk three miles to and from school. I carry my sack lunch, so I will not get hungry during the day. I even have to dress very warm, because they now have to heat the school with a wood stove. My teacher said even though we are no longer a modern school, it is still necessary to learn how to read and write. I wish I could move to Fairbanks, or Anchorage so I could go to school there, at least I wouldn't have to walk and I could have new books to read. Kids in the city are so lucky, they get so much new stuff, like computers and a swimming pool," I'll never live in a village when I grow up. I don't care.

Can you imagine this is what our children are thinking. I remember the days when I did walk to school everyday and I did carry my lunch and our school was heated by a wood stove. I never in my wildest dreams thought we would have to go back to the " Abe Lincoln Days". It's crazy to know that even though our State has so much wealth and that more often than not it comes from our back yards that we still cannot educate our children with fairness and equity. Come to your senses before you make the situation turn into something that really separates the people. Subsistence is bad enough. Thank you for your time and I really pray during this Easter Week that you would have a clear conscience when you vote on this issue.

Sincerely,

Julie M. Roberts
Julie M. Roberts
Mother of Three Boys In
Tanana, Alaska

DATE: April 9, 1998

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE
HESS / HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

FROM: JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT.

REGARDING: SENATE BILL NO. 36.

SENATE BILL NO. 36 RECENTLY PASSED THE SENATE AND IS CURRENTLY IN THE HOUSE (HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES) COMMITTEE.

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WE SINCERELY AND STRONGLY URGE YOU VOTE DOWN ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36.

SINCERELY,



JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT NAPAKIAK CORPORATION.

ENCLOSURE: RESOLUTION NO. 98-2

CC: FILE
(SEE ATTACHED COPY).

Napakiaak Corporation

P.O. BOX 300
NAPAKIAK, ALASKA 99634
(907) 589-2227

RESOLUTION 98-2
OPPOSITION TO SB- 3, FUNDING CUTS TO RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAPAKIAK CORPORATION
OPPOSES SENATE BILL 3, AND,

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WHEREAS, THE ADVANCED EDUCATION REQUIRE STABLE FUNDING FOR
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WHEREAS, WITHOUT QUALITY EDUCATION MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENTS
WE KNOW OUR CHILDREN WILL NOT BE STABLE AND BE BEHIND AT
THIS ADVANCED EDUCATION PROCESSES, AND,

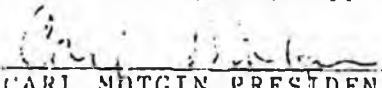
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OF A CHANGING SOCIETY BY EFFECTIVE EDUCATION, AND,

WHEREAS, OUR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS ARE OUR FUTURE LEADERS IN
THIS EVER CHANGING WORLD AND MUST BE SELF WORTHY ONLY BY
QUALITY EDUCATION.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
NAPAKIAK CORPORATION OPPOSES SB- 3 FOR THE REASONS STATED
AND REQUESTS THE BILL NOT BE PASSED, AND,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, IF THE BILL PASSES, WE WILL HAVE WIT-
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EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDRENS, THEY ARE ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SOCIETY.



CARL NOTGIN, PRESIDENT

03/10/98
DATE

COPY ATTACHED AND SEND TO THE FOLLO. INC:

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages >
To: Irene Nicholas	From: Julie Roberts	
Co. "H" - Have a real	Happy Eas	
Dept. "H" - Happy Eas		
Fax # 465-2197	Fax # 3106-7195	

April 8, 1998

Members of the House Finance Committee and
TO all other Members of the Senate and House,

"I am a child and I live in Rural Alaska. I attend my school every day, even though I have to walk three miles to and from school. I carry my sack lunch, so I will not get hungry during the day. I even have to dress very warm, because they now have to heat the school with a wood stove. My teacher said even though we are no longer a modern school, it is still necessary to learn how to read and write. I wish I could move to Fairbanks, or Anchorage so I could go to school there, at least I wouldn't have to walk and I could have new books to read. Kids in the city are so lucky, they get so much new stuff, like computers and a swimming pool." I'll never live in a village when I grow up. I don't care.

Can you imagine this is what our children are thinking. I remember the days when I did walk to school everyday and I did carry my lunch and our school was heated by a wood stove. I never in my wildest dreams thought we would have to go back to the "Abe Lincoln Days". It's crazy to know that even though our State has so much wealth and that more often than not it comes from our back yards that we still cannot educate our children with fairness and equity. Come to your senses before you make the situation turn into something that really separates the people. Subsistence is bad enough. Thank you for your time and I really pray during this Easter Week that you would have a clear conscience when you vote on this issue.

Sincerely,
Julie M. Roberts
Julie M. Roberts
Mother of Three Boys in
Tunana, Alaska

DISTRIBUTED BY
REPRESENTATIVE IRENE NICHOLIA

DISTRIBUTED BY
REPRESENTATIVE IRENE NICHOLIA

Andy Durny
Box 90
Nulato AK 99765

Representative Con Bunde
House Education and Social Services Committee
State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801

April 1, 1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

Dear Representative Bunde,

I am writing to express my views on Senate Bill 36 regarding the redistribution of funds for education. I would like my letter to be included in the record of public testimony.

I have lived in Nulato since 1971. I have 3 daughters in the local school here. I was on the local Community School Committee from the mid 1970's to early 90's and am currently on the CSC again.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 36. I believe this bill tries to reduce the problem of education funding to a very simplistic and unfair formula. Furthermore, I believe that Senate Bill 36 is a very divisive piece of proposed legislation which intentionally pits urban and rural residents against one another.

I have listened to public testimony in a previous teleconference on Senate Bill 36. I have discussed this bill with urban and rural residents, and I have read numerous articles and letters regarding this proposed legislation. I do not believe that the people of Alaska support this bill. Over and over, people are telling the legislators that the solution to our education funding problem is to provide more money for education. For more than 10 years, there has been no increase in education funding, despite increases in enrollment and costs.

I believe that one of the functions of government is to provide adequate public education. Alaska has a diverse population, living in very diverse locations and conditions, and with very diverse needs. It does an injustice to all the hard-working people of Alaska to base education funding on an overly-simplified formula and on misconceptions, especially misconceptions which state or imply that rural schools are not contributing to education and are taking money unfairly from urban schools. Even worse, the proposed Senate Bill 36 does an injustice to the students of Alaska, the young people who are supposed to be our future leaders.

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶ 2	
To	Rep. Irene Nicholia	From	Andy Durny
Co.		Co.	
Dept.		Phone #	907-898-2205
Fax #	907-465-2197	Fax #	907-898-2207

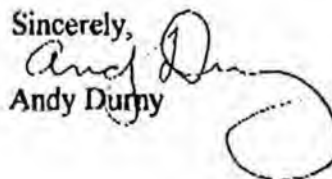
Educators in urban and rural schools alike say that more funding is needed for our schools. Yet, the legislature is unwilling to provide such funding, instead criticizing our schools, and blaming one section of the population for taking more than it's share. How can we deny funding for education when we can pay over \$1,000.00 to every man, woman and child who has been a resident for 9 months? Why can't we put a cap on the permanent fund and place the balance into an education endowment? Or why can't we have a statewide school tax, or sales tax, or state income tax?

Rural residents are "accused" of not contributing their "fair share"; what about the thousands of dollars our community contributes to school and student activities each year through local fund-raisers? We may not have a property tax, but it doesn't mean we are parasites either. And what about all the out-of-state seasonal workers who come to Alaska every year and take money out of the state without putting anything back in? What about all the urban engineers, contractors, equipment operators, plumbers, electricians, and laborers who come out to rural Alaska each summer to to work on rural projects - generally at much higher rates of pay than the local workers and generally with all living expenses paid - and then leave at the end of the project without "paying their fair share" to the local economy?

The schools, the economy, the population, the politics and the needs of Alaskans differ greatly from one part of the state to another. It's wrong to think that our schools and our students can be reduced to single common denominator that fits the notions of people who have never even lived in the remote and rural areas. Certainly, there is a vast difference between the school facilities provided to most rural students and those provided to most urban students. It is unfair and wrong for the majority to ignore or overlook the needs of the minority, no matter what the motivation.

I realize that we need to reduce state spending, and that we need to improve our schools; on the other hand, I believe that the proposals set forth in Senate Bill 36 are the wrong way to reduce spending or to make improvements. SB36 is based on incomplete information, on preconceived notions, and on a biased report (the McDowell study): it is a bad bill and should not be passed. The State of Alaska has the resources to provide adequate and quality education to all students: we can come up with a better solution than SB36.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andy Durny

cc. Rep. Irene Nicholia

ANDREW K. DEMOSKI SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 65029
NULATO, ALASKA
(907) 898-2204
FAX(907) 898-2340

DATE: April 2, 1998

TO: Irene Nickoli

COMPANY: _____

FAX #: 907 465 2197

FROM: John Abrams

SUBJECT: Demoski School Students & Bill 36

No of Pages: 5

MESSAGE:

Sorry, we didn't have more.
It was short notice for the
teachers.

Irene - these students would
like us to distribute their letters.

Please do -

Thank you,

Irene

Dear Representatives,

I'm writing to you about state bill 36 and I don't think that's a good idea because some or a lot of people don't have enough money to move in to the city and if they don't get a good education they will turn out hanging around with nothing to do trying to get a job but most jobs you need at least a regular school education

Jesse Darling
grade 8/Andrew K. Demoski school

April 1, 1998

Dear Irene Nicholia,

I am a 8th grade student here at A.K.D. School in Nulato. I am writing to share my thoughts and concerns of the SB 32 bill and of getting a hot lunch program here at A.K.D.

I am totally against the SB 32 bill. A.K.D. is the biggest school in the district and has the least amount of money. We need money to do things like extra curricular activities.

I think that there should be a hot lunch program here at the school because some kids come to school hungry and have no lunch. That's also a concern.

Our community had to raise money for our jr.high and high school basketball teams to travel to other villages and compete in tournaments. We also didn't have any field trips this school year due to no money. In Anchorage and in Fairbanks there are a lot more sports programs. All we do down here is play basketball. If the SB 32 bill ius passed, we probably won't have any sports programs. And during the whole year w: (jr.high students) were doing the same work as the high school students; trying hard to keep up a good g.p.a. to play basketball. Please voice our concerns. Thank you for your time.

Cassius Kuiska Grade 8 Andrew K. Demoski School

Dear Gov. Tony Knowles

I am a 8th grade student at AKD school in Nulato. I am against the SB36 bill cause its hard enough for us to get funding from are district now your taking it away From us for some other school. So your kids can get a better education. The kids in Anchorage can go to Mcdonalds or Pizza hut or they can stay in school and get a hot lunch. Here we don't get to do that kind of stuff we don't even have a hot lunch program. In my class we have to share books and other stuff like Computers we only have four colored computers the others don't have color our the internet.

Jorgan Bower 8th Grade
AKD School

To whom it may concern,

I am an eighth grade student in Andrew K. Demoski School
Nulato, Alaska and I think that the senate bill 36 is unfair to rural
schools and their students. Our school has no money as it is and if
they take away more money from us, we may not even have books
or a sports program. We won't have enough money to buy textbooks.
We don't have enough textbooks for all of our students and we have
to share books or make copies. Our copy machines are always
breaking down. We have to wait for about a week to get the right
supplies to fix them. We are running out of paper, we have no art
supplies, and we have no money. Schools in Anchorage and
Fairbanks have all that stuff, and more. They have football, hockey,
art classes, photography classes, and we don't have any of that stuff.
We don't even have a hot lunch program. We can't drive anywhere
for field trips, we have to travel by airplane. We don't have enough
classes and teachers to teach all of the students here.

I think that they shouldn't be taking any money from us
because they would be putting us in worse condition than we already
are.

Sincerely,

Amy Durny

Amy Durny

Senators & House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Legislators:

I am writing this letter about SB36.

I am opposed to this bill. Because if it is passed Nikolai School has a great chance of being closed.

I'm over 60 yrs. old my kids never had any threat like this before. And now if this bill is passed it will face Nikolai with a great out pouring of the population here. It would be next to nothing because families will be forced to move so their kids could get educated.

I'm not to well educated. And now these kids now have a chance to walk in my shoes for a mile. I don't want to see it happen. Vote No on SB36!

Sincerely,
Philip Esai
Philip ESAI

State legislators
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

4-1-98

Steven Nikolai SR.
P.O. Box 9104
Nikolai, AK 99691

Steve Nikolai Jr.

RE: Senate Bill 36

I'm writing this letter in regards to Senate Bill 36. I feel this bill is discriminating to rural schools. Such as The Nikolai School. IF this school is forced to close I will be force to move to another town so the kids could get educated. Because this school here in Nikolai will close if this Bill is passed. IASD will have lost over a half million pretty close to three quarters of a million if this Bill is passed. Just because of a few city folks who think their kids aren't Educated enough. What about the kids here they will be without a school. Nikolai's Community would be devastated it would become another home stead on the banks of the Kuskokwim River. I lived in Telida for years The school closed there now the population is 4. The same thing will happen here if this Bill passes. **VOTE NO ON SB 36!**

POSTAGE PAID

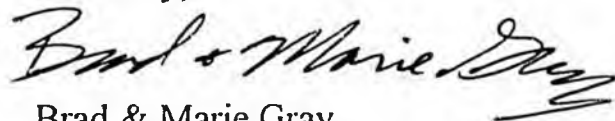
March 27, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol Rm 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley;

My wife and I are writing to you in regards to SB36. It is our understanding that this bill would take money away from rural school districts and give it to urban school districts. We believe that this is very wrong and pray that this does not happen. We have three children just starting school and we want them to have every opportunity to have a decent education, so they can grow up to be productive citizens. Cutting funding to our school district would mean our children would never have such opportunities. Please vote NO to SB36. It is very important that our children have a chance in life.

Sincerely,



Brad & Marie Gray
Unalakleet, Alaska

DATE: April 9, 1998

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE
HESS / HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

FROM: JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT.

REGAKDING: SENATE BILL NO. 36.

SENATE BILL NO. 36 RECENTLY PASSED THE SENATE AND IS CURRENTLY IN THE HOUSE (HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES) COMMITTEE.

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WE SINCERELY AND STRONGLY URGE YOU VOTE DOWN ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36.

SINCERELY,



JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT NAPAKIAK CORPORATION.

ENCLOSURE: RESOLUTION NO. 98-2

CC: FILE
(SEE ATTACHED COPY).

Napakiaak Corporation

P.O. BOX 400
NAPAKIAK, ALASKA 99634
(907) 589-2227

RESOLUTION 98-2
OPPOSITION TO SB- 3, FUNDING CUTS TO RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAPAKIAK CORPORATION OPPOSES SENATE BILL 3, AND,

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WHEREAS, WITHOUT QUALITY EDUCATION MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENTS WE KNOW OUR CHILDREN WILL NOT BE STABLE AND BE BEHIND AT THIS ADVANCED EDUCATION PROCESSES, AND,

WHEREAS, THE EDUCATION IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES HAS HAD AND IS IMPROVING WITH QUALITY EDUCATION MATERIALS, AND,

WHEREAS, THIS CHANGING WORLD MUST ADAPT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A CHANGING SOCIETY BY EFFECTIVELY EDUCATION, AND,

WHEREAS, OUR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS ARE OUR FUTURE LEADERS IN THIS EVER CHANGING WORLD AND MUST BE SELF WORTHY ONLY BY QUALITY EDUCATION.

NOWHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAPAKIAK CORPORATION OPPOSES SB- 3 FOR THE REASONS STATED AND REQUESTS THE BILL NOT BE PASSED, AND,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, IF THE BILL PASSES, WE WILL HAVE WITNESSED THE STRATEGY EFFECT, EACH INDIVIDUAL, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WORK AND EFFORT THEY HAD FOR A GOOD EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDRENS, THEY ARE ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SOCIETY.

Carl Motgin
CARL MOTGIN, PRESIDENT

03/06/98
DATE

COPY ATTACHED AND SEND TO THE FOLLO. ORG:

Printed by: Margie Jackson/LKSD Travel
Title: SB-36






Tuesday, April 07, 1998 6:24:12 PM
Page 1 of 2

 Tuesday, April 07, 1998 5:02:34 PM

Unsent Urgent Message

From:  Margie Jackson

Subject: SB-36

To:  Representative Mark Hanley@legis.state.ak.us,Internet
 Representative Terry Martin@legis.state.ak.us,Internet
 Representative Gary Davis@legis.state.ak.us,Internet
 representative brian porter@legis.state.ak.us,Internet
 Representative Joe Green@legis.state.ak.us,Internet

Cc:

I have had to gather my thoughts on this SB-36 and came up with these:

I graduated from Kwethluk Community School, a village located 20 miles outside of Bethel and upon my employment with the Lower Kuskokwim School District had no idea how a School District was run. In my eight years of working at LKSD I have learned and grown a lot. I have also seen a lot. At the time of my graduation in 1988, we have been having problems with our school water. The Kwethluk School water is considered "fit for drinking" at the moment, but I wouldn't allow my own children to drink it as it wasn't allowed when I was in school. Yes, I am skeptical and do not trust it. Would you?

There are many schools in our District that are having problems with their school water, do the Anchorage schools have this problem? Why hasn't our District perfected them?

It saddens me that these "urban" people have to fight over the money with the "rural" people and why aren't the "rural" administrators suggestions good enough for the legislators? Is it because they did not think of them or because they are so resentful of the administrators who work for the rural School Districts? I understand the administrators do make a lot of money in our Districts and yes I think some of the positions are **RIDICULOUSLY overpaid**, these things the legislators should review and investigate. These cut-backs should be made against the administration, but not to our students!!

It has been said over and over again that it is easier for Anchorage and Fairbanks schools to get from one destination to another and I agree. Our students have to **FLY** to get to their competitions and if this bill passes, this will eventually discontinue; therefore, taking our students back to the (dare I say) stone age. They will fall more behind in current events and will hurt their future. Recently at our District 1A Basketball Tournament, a group of students came from the coast with **FOOD STAMPS** as their spending money. This made me so angry, that our students had to come with food stamps and have to be talked about in that way and had to be pitied. In this day and age with welfare reform and now with this Senate Bill 36, what are our people supposed to do? Basically this bill tells our "rural" students that the legislators do not support them and they are expected to fail!!

I also was in Kodiak chaperoning students to the Spring Association of Alaska School Governments Conference and reviewed the school. I was angered at the wealth of

Printed by: Margie Jackson/LKSD Travel
Title: SB-36

Tuesday, April 07, 1998 6:24:19 PM
Page 2 of 2

their school and resented the fact that our own students are not allowed that type of luxury. The Kodiak School has two schools entwined into one building, being the High School and the Middle School. The school has an olympic size swimming pool, an auditorium, and each school has their own GYM and commons area; whereas, some of our schools do not even have a GYM and they have never heard of a commons area! Where are all our advantages?? Where has all our money gone??

Yes, the foundation formula needs to be revised, but more investigation should be done before they pass the bill. The Anchorage School District has more students than the majority of our schools, so in that sense the formula is fair. And the school books need to be updated for both rural and urban schools.

Again, it is my suggestion that the administrations salaries be investigated and revised. The Personnel Department of each School District needs to be investigated, especially that of the Lower Kuskokwim School District. And the position specifications of each School District should be passed by DOE before they are passed in the District. That is where all our students monies are going. Our own Technology Director who has a teaching degree makes well over \$80,000 per year. Our own Plant Facilities Director who only has an AA degree (the position requires a BA degree) makes over \$85,000 per year. Our own Business Manager who does not even have any kind of degree makes over \$63,000 per year. These are all unfair and prejudiced against our students. Teachers are hired to do one thing and that is to teach, they should not be allowed to become part of an administration team unless they have the degree to back themselves up. Afterall, we wouldn't let a mechanic become a doctor because he can "fix" things. Or am I wrong??

Thank you for your time and hope my thoughts made sense to you. Good Luck on your success to override Senate Bill 36.

ELAINE M. LANDON
3747 Linnaea Way
Fairbanks, AK 99701

April 3, 1998

Honorable Alaska Senators
& House members,

I am writing regarding SB 36. It is not a bill I support, despite the fact that I am a 20 year Fairbanks resident and know our schools need more funding. The funding formula proposed in SB 36 is tremendously unjust to our rural schools.

It is an oversimplification to assume that school funding should be based on the percentage or number of students alone. Fairbanks and Anchorage enjoy a large economy of scale benefit in their operating and maintenance costs compared to rural schools. The new formula does not recognize these factors.

As citizens of Alaska, we are responsible to provide quality education for all students. It is unrealistic to expect true education to occur when school buildings are falling apart, when the books are old, and when the student/teacher ratio is out of balance. The new formula virtually guarantees such problems for rural schools. It costs money to provide a good education for our student citizens. And yes, the cost of educating those in the rural areas is higher. But we have an obligation to provide a quality education for all students, not just those in Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Anyone with a good education knows that numbers can be easily manipulated to provide justification for many positions and needs. When the McDowell Study did not consider higher operating costs for rural schools, or the greater economy of scale experienced by urban schools, it did not look at the whole educational picture. And without looking at the whole picture, e.g., the true cost of education, the proposed funding formula is simply a manipulation of figures to justify a self-serving idea.

SB 36 does not benefit the state overall in the long run. While it may provide better funding for urban schools in the short run, for the long haul, it will cost us more. As rural educational quality declines, there will be fewer Alaskans qualifying for good jobs, more people unemployed, higher rates of crime, etc., etc., etc.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that the SB 36 school funding formula is not fair or just. I urge you to do what is right for Alaska and not just for the urban districts. Please vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,


Elaine Landon

**URGENT
FAX**

RUSH TO: Mark Hanley, House of Representatives

FAX: 1-907-465-2418

FROM: John A. Rusyniak

PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER): 1

I urge you to vote against SB-36. Rural schools need to operate also. As a business person, I know it takes more to do business in rural areas. We wouldn't want to be funded at NYC costs would we? We all choose to live in Alaska for a good reason. Please Vote AGAINST SB-36

Thursday, April 9, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507 , Alaska State Legislator
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

APR 09 1998

Mina Eningowuk
P.O. Box 72008
Shishmaref Alaska 99772

Dear Rep. Hanley :

I am writing in response to the SB 36. I think that passing the SB 36 would have a negative effect on rural villages of Alaska. We would have to eliminate the extracurricular activities. I and others don't want to see that happen to our village.

If SB 36 passes, then boarding schools would come back. The negative side to that is we would be sending our children to other places. And they might not have a chance to learn our Native way of life. And I wouldn't want that to happen.

Also, we would be taken away from our families and our communities. That is the worst thing that could happen. The future children might be raised in the urban cities and not know their Inupiat back ground or have knowledge of the surrounding area of Shishmaref.

School is pretty much the main flow of money here on the island. It would also take away many jobs. We would lose our Bilingual/ Bicultural class, and that's important. We learn a lot from that class, how people in the past hunted and preserved subsistence foods, stories about the past, and sewing and carving Eskimo crafts.

In closing I would urge you not to pass SB36.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mina Eningowuk

Mina Eningowuk

Student at Shishmaref High School

Room 507

Unalakleet Elementary
P.O. Box 130
Unalakleet, AK 99684
March 24, 98

Dear Mr. Hanley,

Please vote NO on SB 36. It will take money for our schools away from us.

We need the money for our students for the best education they can receive. It is very important for the educators to have supplies so they can have the material to teach their very best.

As a teacher-aide working with three different grades it is very important for the educators to have their material for different levels. I can see a lot of youngsters going off to higher education, so please make it possible for our students to achieve their goals.

It is very important to me as a parent and an educator for my children to learn and have a good education.

Thank you,
Yvonne Spang
Teacher-aide

March 25, 1998

Rep. Mark Hanley
Honorable House of Representative Member
Juneau, Alaska

APR 06 1998

Dear Representative,

As the principal of Unalakleet Schools in the Bering Strait School District for the past two years and as the principal of Brevig Mission School for six years, I am very concerned about the impact that SB36 would have on the students in our classrooms, in my school, in my school district and in rural school districts throughout the state!

I urge you to vote against SB36 because I believe that this bill is inherently unfair to students living in rural communities. Although I understand why state legislators from urban areas would be looking for ways to increase funding for schools in their personal districts, I do not feel that they should be trying to take money away from students in rural, bush areas of Alaska. The school districts in Alaska need more money to educate the children and prepare them for the second millennium!

Students living in bush Alaska have unique needs and problems that are not the same as for those students living in larger metropolitan areas. Our students are impacted by living in remote villages where local Inupiat dialects complicate the use of standard English in reading, writing and oral communication proficiencies. These students have to struggle with the effects of drug addictions, substance abuse, alcohol dependencies, physical, emotional and sexual abuses that are considerably more complicated to deal with because service providers are simply unavailable or non-existent. The state of Alaska does not have enough money to provide adequate social services for people living in Eskimo villages. Additionally, the cost of procuring materials, hiring qualified educators, maintaining buildings and facilities and just feeding students is astronomically expensive in bush Alaska.

These students are disadvantaged in so very many ways that to take further funding away from these students is inexcusable. Children should not be adversely affected by budget cuts because they cannot vote or defend themselves from adults trying ignore their needs and take away essential opportunities to succeed in life and become productive members of our society.

Rural areas do not have a tax base, but the federal government provides Impact Aid to help rural school districts equalize services and educational access to their students. Currently the state of Alaska takes almost all (approximately 98%) of these federal monies for use in the general budget. If the legislature decides to formulate a new funding scheme for the state which will only adversely impact the rural villages, then the state should relinquish the Impact Aid funding!

Please help the children of rural Alaska by defeating SB36. They will appreciate your concern about their future. They want to learn and do well. Your assistance will benefit them and all the citizens of our state!

Sincerely,

Monica Dickens
Monica Dickens, Principal
Unalakleet School, Box 130, Unalakleet, AK 99684

Room 507

Unalaska
P.O. Box 130
Unalaska - 99684
Alaska 99684

Every Representative

SB State will be
not easy
education
leave
good jobs
when
SB
I hope you

Sincerely,
Ransom Bradley
District Director

Box 130

Unalakleet Elem. School

Unalakleet, AK 99684

March 25, 1998

Dear Representative Hamley,

Please vote no on Senate Bill 36. We want to keep the quality of education that we have now and all the programs we currently enjoy.

I want to keep lunch programs, lunch, ball, wrestling, cheerleading, volleyball, music, bilingual/bicultural, and art.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Cooper

P. O. Box 240
Unalakleet, AK 99684
March 30, 1998

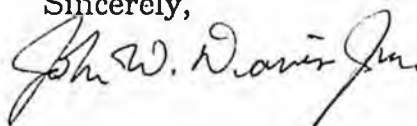
Representative Mark Hanley
Room 2507
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

Please vote NO on SB36. Reducing funding for rural schools affects our entire state in a negative manner. It is important for ALL of our state's children to receive a quality education, not just those living in the urban areas. Please remember that the cost of living is much higher in the Bush. Therefore, more (not less) funding is necessary in order for the educational opportunities of Bush students to be equal to those of urban students. It is unfathomable in this day and age for there to still be a "rob from the poor to give to the rich" mentality.

Many of our rural citizens have and are making valuable contributions to our state. We must continue quality educational programs so that ALL of our citizens can be productive members of society. **Please do NOT support SB36.** Thank you.

Sincerely,



John W. Davis, Jr.

March 25, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
Rm 507
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

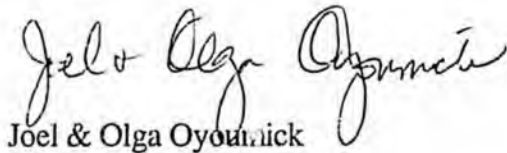
Re: SB36

Dear Representative Mark:

Please vote NO on SB 36. I am a concerned parent living in Unalakleet, Alaska. Our children's education is very important! We are at a time when our students are showing better language and math scores and if SB36 is passed, it will only do damage to our children's education and future.

Please consider our request!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joel & Olga Oyoumick".

Joel & Olga Oyoumick

cc: Dave Bowling, BSSD Superintendent

P. O. Box 180
Unalakleet, AK 99684
March 30, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley
Room 507
Alaska State Legislature
Pcuch V
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

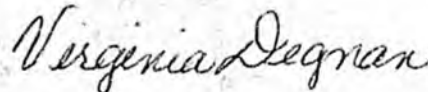
APR 06 1998

Dear Representative Hanley:

Please vote NO on SB36. Reducing funding for rural schools affects our entire state in a negative manner. It is important for ALL of our state's children to receive a quality education, not just those living in the urban areas. Please remember that the cost of living is much higher in the Bush. Therefore, more (not less) funding is necessary in order for the educational opportunities of Bush students to be equal to those of urban students. It is unfathomable in this day and age for there to still be a "rob from the poor to give to the rich" mentality.

Many of our rural citizens have and are making valuable contributions to our state. We must continue quality educational programs so that ALL of our citizens can be productive members of society. **Please do NOT support SB36.** Thank you.

Sincerely,



Virginia Degnan, Ed.D.



LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 32089
Mountain Village, Alaska 99632
Phone: (907) 591-2411
Fax: (907) 591-2449

PAMELA S. VANWECHEL
Superintendent

March 30, 1998

House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska

MAR 30 1998

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Mark,

I have worked these past two years in the Lower Yukon School District. As a long-time Alaskan Educator, I feel qualified to say that there are some problems in rural Alaska that need to be dealt with on a state-wide level. Quality educational programs and appropriate sanitation and health issues should be given priority attention. When social problems, educational issues and health problems are not addressed in rural Alaska, there is a negative impact on the entire state.

Of particular note, I've observed the following. I would also appreciate your insight:

1.) Budget Crisis - A shortfall of funding, in any organization, brings out the worst in some people and even causes chaos in some instances.. Scarcity causes some people to become greedy and to behave in unkind and uncharitable ways. In the Alaska Legislature, there is obviously a strong feeling that our resources are becoming scarce. To some extent, that may be a concern, and we may need to prioritize. Do you think that it is possible for Alaskan Legislators to put the needs of all Alaskan children - our greatest resource - as a first priority ?

2.) Urban & Rural Rivalry - There is a low level of tolerance, and much misunderstanding between urban and rural legislators. This lack of tolerance and lack of compassion, on both sides, has created an unhealthy split among Alaskan legislators and also among some Alaskan citizens. I have lived in the cities of Alaska, and I have lived in Bush Alaska. There are good people throughout Alaska. Alaskans should be united. - there are so few of us, sharing a beautiful, but harsh and unforgiving land. Shouldn't we be working together for the best possible conditions for all the people of Alaska ?

3.) Intolerance, Racial Tension & Anger - The most discouraging issue that I have dealt with in my twenty year career in Alaskan education is the intolerance and the prejudice that I have seen throughout this great state. When I am in Anchorage, shopping or at restaurants, I see the unjust way that native people and other minorities are often treated. In the villages, my family members and I have been subject to the anti-white sentiments and the distrust that develops when people of differing backgrounds feel that they are being treated unjustly. Will Alaskans ever be free from prejudice and intolerance ?

Thank you for your consideration of the above issues. I will be in Juneau this week, and hope to visit with you about the specific legislation that may help to meet the priority needs of all Alaskans.

Of particular concern should be the educational and social needs of our children and families. For our youngest and most vulnerable citizens, the charity and goodwill of the Alaska Legislature is their only hope. Thank you, in advance for all you can do to help us to care for the children.

Sincerely,

Pamela S. VanWechel

ge Daily News

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1998

FINAL EDITION

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Dad



Race
 in
 D-1
 Musher Rick
 Swenson is
 back F-12
 Trail map
 A-12
 To follow the Last Great Race on-line
 log on to <http://www.adn.com/iditarod/1998/coverage.html>

School funding scuffle

Urban, rural legislators split over spending plan

By LIZ RUSKIN
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — To illustrate the inequity of the formula used to dole out state education dollars in Alaska, state Sen. Randy Phillips returns again and again to this point: Anchorage has nearly 40 percent of the state's students yet receives only around 30 percent of the money.

In recent weeks, the Eagle River Republican has repeated his mantra so often that he sometimes reduces it to verbal shorthand.

"Thirty percent funding, 40 percent enrollment," Phillips said last week in a Senate debate. "A lot of my people that I represent are saying, 'What's wrong with this picture?'"



Phillips is one of the main backers of a bill moving through the Legislature that would significantly overhaul the way the state distributes hundreds of millions of dollars to local school districts each year. Senate Bill 36, which passed the Senate last week and now moves to the House, provides more money for Anchorage and Fairbanks and some other large districts while cutting funding to many rural areas.

The proposal is at the center of an increasingly loud debate over education funding and



Please see Page A-6, SCHOOL

SCHOOL: With millions

Continued from Page A-1

fairness and is drawing criticism from rural school districts, Democratic legislators and others. Gov. Tony Knowles has threatened to veto it as written.

Critics say the measure funnels money to urban areas by robbing from schools in some of the state's poorest communities, where test scores are low, unemployment is high and the cost of providing education is often much higher than in cities.

"What this bill is about is greed," said Sen. Al Adams, D-Kotzebue. "That's all this bill is about."

Adams and other critics of the plan argue all schools — city and Bush — deserve more money. The state's foundation funding level has remained constant for a decade, while inflation, increased teacher salaries and higher fuel costs have eaten away at what it actually buys. Legislative leaders argue the state can't afford to spend more money.

Alaska spends \$660 million a year on public schools — a quarter of the state's operating budget. Because so much is at stake, the legislative debate sometimes drifts into a discussion of lofty values and the future of the state, with legislators making reference to "all Alaska's children" and constitutional obligations. Sometimes it seems to be a simple donnybrook over who gets to bring home more bacon.

The details of how school funding in Alaska actually works can baffle citizens trying to make sense of it all.

As it stands, the bill moving through the Legislature would:

- Shift how money is awarded to districts to reduce state aid to 24 districts by nearly \$36 million.

- Split nearly \$18 million of the savings among 31 other districts.

- Reduce overall spending by \$18 million, bringing the total to \$643 million.

- End state aid entirely for North Slope Borough schools, which this year received \$11 million.

- Give \$6 million more to Anchorage and nearly \$3 million more to Fairbanks.

SB 36 is a combination of concepts contained in several separate bills by Phillips and other Republican lawmakers. Now that it's out of the Senate, the measure is scheduled for its first House committee hearing this week.

A BROKEN FORMULA?

The bill rewrites the current recipe for divvying up state education dollars, the notoriously complex "foundation formula." The formula calculates a district's "basic need" and gives credit to districts with higher costs of living and more special-needs students. Year after year,

legislators have attacked the recipe as arcane and unfair.

It's no wonder so many people hate it, said Gregg Erickson, a Juneau economist who has analyzed education funding in his newsletter, *The Alaska Budget Report*.

"My personal opinion is that the current formula embodies injustices, inequities that most Alaskans would not be comfortable with, if they had the time and ability to work them out," he said.

The current formula, he said, violates two principles of fairness, which he has dubbed "God Helps Them That Helps Themselves" and the "Robin Hood Principle."

The first idea holds that the state should reward with more education dollars communities that sacrifice for schools by taxing themselves at a higher rate. The second contends that poor districts should receive more state aid and rich districts less.

But when Erickson analyzed the numbers, he found that under the current formula, whether a community is rich or poor and whether its taxes are high or low have no bearing on the amount of education money it gets from the state. Property tax assessments in Anchorage, for example, total about \$300,000 for every schoolchild. The owner of a \$100,000 house pays \$770 a year in local taxes for schools.

The total property assessment in the North Slope Borough, on the other hand, comes to \$5.7 million per child, thanks to the oil extraction facilities at Prudhoe Bay and elsewhere. The owner of a \$100,000 house there pays only \$235 in property taxes for schools.

But the state gives Anchorage less than \$4,000 per student in education aid. The North Slope Borough, where the wealth per child is greater and the tax rate lower, gets more than \$5,700 per student. Phillips and other backers of the change argue that's not fair. North Slope officials counter that the borough's local contribution to its school budget is greater, by percentage, than Anchorage, and its overall property tax rate nearly as high.

Critics of the current system also complain that 20 school districts around the state are not incorporated in cities or boroughs and don't collect taxes for schools at all.

"The question is: Is it right that one part of the state pays while the other pays nothing?" Phillips said.

LOOKING FOR A FIX

Phillips and others who want to change the system argue that more money alone won't solve the problem, because more money will only increase the inequities. Besides, the Republican-led majority is in the third year of an austerity plan, which

How the school found

Money is allocated to each school district groups of children roughly correspond students it takes to make an instructor of students in the community. The state unit, then adjusts based on various fac

- ✓ Deducting local tax contributi
- ✓ Adding money for each disabl or gifted student. It also adds
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SB 36 would shift m district in thre

- ✓ Overhaul the way the state fi students in different areas.
- ✓ Give every district the same r bilingual and multicultural ed
- ✓ Dispenses with the "instructor to a base student allocation" o school and other factors.

Source: Alaska Department of Education

this year calls for cutting \$50 million from the budget, so they say there's no new money to add.

With the help of a private consultant's report on district-by-district school operating costs statewide, they say, they've figured out a fairer, simpler formula.

Their plan would cut state aid completely to the North Slope and would chop 45 percent of the state education money given to Valdez, an-

is on the line, spending plan divides lawmakers

Winners, Losers		
Solutions to the funding formula under Senate Bill 36		
Losers	Difference in dollars	% change
North Slope	\$11,686,868	-100.00%
Lower Kuskokwim	\$7,296,090	-5.23%
Galena	\$1,554,434	-6.28%
Valdez	\$1,387,280	-44.61%
Bering Strait	\$1,299,622	-2.48%
Gainers		
Anchorage	\$11,806,112	3.16%
Fairbanks	\$4,738,904	4.16%
Kenai Peninsula	\$3,249,460	4.45%
Ketchikan	\$2,409,459	23.48%
Juneau	\$1,825,171	5.54%

Source: Alaska Department of Education

RON ENOSTROM / Anchorage Daily News

How the school foundation formula works:

Money is allocated to each school district based on "instructional units," groups of children roughly corresponding to classrooms. The number of students it takes to make an instructional unit varies according to the number of students in the community. The state allots \$61,000 for each instructional unit, then adjusts based on various factors, including:

- ✓ Deducting local tax contributions.
- ✓ Adding money for each disabled child, poor English speaker or gifted student. It also adds for vocational education classes.
- ✓ Districts outside Anchorage are credited for higher cost of living.

SB 36 would shift money from district to district in three major ways:

- ✓ Overhaul the way the state figures the cost of educating students in different areas.
- ✓ Give every district the same money per student for special, bilingual and multicultural education.
- ✓ Dispenses with the "instructional unit." Funds districts according to a "base student allocation" of \$4,012, adjusted by the size of the school and other factors.

Source: Alaska Department of Education

RYAN HOBSON / Anchorage Daily News

this year calls for cutting \$50 million from the budget, so they say there's no new money to add.

With the help of a private consultant's report on district-by-district school operating costs statewide, they say, they've figured out a fairer, simpler formula.

Their plan would cut state aid completely to the North Slope and would chop 45 percent of the state education money given to Valdez, an-

other community with high per-student property wealth because of the oil industry.

Beyond that, Bush legislators complain the bill would unfairly slice away at the school budgets of dozens of poor rural communities. Sen. Lyman Hoffman, D-Bethel, pointed to Quinhagak and Toksook Bay, where nearly 40 percent of the population lives in poverty. What about Nightmute, he asked, where more than 60 percent of the resi-

dents are classified as poor?

Sen. Gury Wilken, R-Fairbanks, proposed a 3 percent income tax on unincorporated areas so those regions would be forced to help pay for schools. That provision, opposed by Bush legislators as well as mining and timber interests, died before it reached the Senate floor.

Despite the criticisms, supporters argue that, overall, the new plan is fair, and they point to the fact that, as written, it will give more money to 84 percent of Alaska's students.

Opponents ask: What about the remaining 21,132 children?

"Don't we care about that 16 percent?" said Sen. Georgianna Lincoln, D-Rampart. Many of the schools targeted for cuts don't have anything to spare, she said.

A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Among the losers under the plan being considered is the Lower Yukon School District. Its \$15 million state appropriation would be cut by about \$1 million.

The district serves 11 villages with about 1,750 students. Most of its schools were built by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs more than 30 years ago, said Superintendent Pamela VanWechel, who is based in Mountain Village. The schools were fine in their day, she said. But the communities have steadily grown, part of a baby boom across the Bush, and the schools are struggling with overcrowding.

"The children just keep coming," VanWechel said. To cope, most of the schools have added free-standing classrooms outside the main buildings. They are inefficient to heat, and to build them the district often took money from its maintenance budget.

"We have a situation now where the facilities we're using are very much in need of replacement," she said. "We've been dealing with deferred maintenance for six to eight years, putting all of services in the classroom with the hope that someday there'd be some relief."

When money gets tight, art programs, music and vocational classes are usually the first to go, she said.

"Really, all those are gone from the rural schools now," she said.

At the Pilot Station school, the sewer backs up every spring and dumps raw sewage on the playground. The children there have gone weeks using honey buckets because the plumbing isn't working. It's hard for children to learn in that environment, she said.

In rural Alaska, schools also often have extra expenses beyond those of urban schools, according to Bush school administrators and

legislators. Because it's often the biggest room in town, the school gym is sometimes pressed into service for funerals and coming-of-age dances, she said. The school's water system is often superior to what the families have at home. At some schools, the children shower during the school day while parents go in the evening to clean up and get their younger children ready for bed.

VanWechel said she's pleased that families are comfortable in the school, but it does add to the school's bills. And it's disheartening, she said, to hear urban legislators talk about rural children as if their futures aren't important to the rest of the state. "If the rural children don't get a good education," she said, "they will become a burden to society in the way that people who are not educated do: through the welfare system, through the prison system."

In Adams' Senate office at the state Capitol, he keeps a photo album of the Noorvik elementary school, showing pictures of the caved-in roof, holes in exterior walls the size of bread loaves, the rotting floor. The building is still in use. During the Senate debate last week, he invited other legislators to visit Bush schools.

"And then you will tell me about the equality of our school systems," he said.

URBAN NEEDS

City schools are suffering, too, argues Anchorage School Board member Kathi Gillespie.

"We've had to increase class sizes and cut programs," she said. "Cuts to the janitorial staff have had a visible impact."

"Our schools are dirtier," she said. "We're not able to clean all the rooms every night."

But the biggest problem, she said, is overcrowding. At Goldenvue Middle School, her daughter's eighth-grade algebra class had 40 students, she said.

Phillips says all 18 schools in his Muldoon-Eagle River Senate district are overcrowded.

The Anchorage district has eliminated a large program for drug and alcohol abusers, halted funding for special "choice" programs at each high school and written hockey rinks out of elementary school budgets. To find more places to cut, it launched a citizens effort to uncover fat a couple of years ago and as a result cut staff districtwide, from assistant principals to maintenance workers and janitors.

Senate Bill 36 isn't perfect, Phillips says, but it's better than the current formula.

"I am concentrating on the Anchorage School District," he said. "That's what I'm fighting for."



FAX COVER LETTER

DATE: March 23, 1998
TO: Senator Randy Phillips
DEPT: FAX: (907) 465-4979
CC: All Legislators

FROM: Orin Seybert

DEPT:

Total number of pages 1 including the cover letter. If you do not receive all the pages or if any of the pages are illegible, please call (907) 243-2485.

MESSAGE:

Dear Randy:

Regarding the proposed change in funding for schools between rural and urban areas, I would like to offer the following:

It seems to me educating children is not that much different than running an airline, or many other businesses.

Unit costs are driven by volume, so the larger the volume, the lower the unit costs, that is exactly why rural areas need more money per student.

Thank you for considering this input.