

**HB**

**71**

PO Box 875735  
Wasilla, AK 99687  
May 2, 2001

Senate HESS Committee:

Lyda Green  
Loren Leman  
Jerry Ward  
Gary Wilkin  
Betty Davis

Dear Senate HESS Members,

Historically, Alaska has been on the cutting edge of providing education to all children, the exceptional in every way. Last week, House HESS removed Article 3a from HB 71, effectively killing gifted education in this state.

It is my understanding that HB 71 is now in your committee. It is my further understanding that House Finance restored Article 3a to HB 71. I would ask that you check to see that is so, and to express your support for keeping Article 3a in HB 71.

A big thank you to Reps. Cissna, Croft and Whitaker for their support and work on behalf of Alaska's best and brightest students.

My children deserve a free, APPROPRIATE education, just like every other child in this state. My tax dollars support education for all children...including my gifted child! Being smart does not mean these children do not have special needs. They do, just as much as the 'handicapped'. They do not fit in within the 'normal' range and need our support and assistance. Research for the past 30 years supports this. I have access to several web sites that can bring you up to speed on the needs of the gifted and their struggles to 'fit in' our current educational system. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to know more.

Thank you for your consideration. Our children thank you as well.

Sincerely,



Chris Casler  
Parent and advocate for all children with needs

Phone 376-3739

ccasler@alaska.net

# Trapper Creek Elementary School

P.O. Box 13108

Trapper Creek, Alaska 99683

(907) 733-2298 Fax (907) 733-1370

Dear Legislator,

As an educator, I find it distressing to learn the funding for the gifted has been removed from HB 71. Gifted education programs are a vital part of our educational program and should be continued to be included in the educational funding package.

This program should be mandated by the Alaska Legislature for the future of Alaska's kids. Please reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,



Alberta Nordberg  
Teaching Principal

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA  
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: HB 71  
 (H) Publish Date: 01/17/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Education & Early Dev.  
 Title: An act relating to special education... BRU: Teaching & Learning  
 Component: Special and Supplemental Services  
 Sponsor: Rules Committee  
 Requester: Governor Component Number: 166

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)**

FUND SOURCE	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: **0.0**

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)**

Currently, the department is charged, by state statute, to administer the state's Gifted Education program. This legislation clarifies the state's responsibilities relating to the Gifted Education program. Although the legislation does not add new responsibilities, the department has not had the resources to meet the requirements. Federal special education funds cannot be used for this purpose. The department has requested an increment of \$177,700 in general funds in the FY2002 budget for the Division of Teaching and Learning Support, Special and Supplemental Services Component to cover the costs for administering this program.

Prepared by: Barbara Thompson Phone 465-8727  
 Division: Teaching and Learning Support Date/Time 11/14/00 10:00 AM  
 Approved by: Bruce Johnson, Deputy Commissioner of Education Date 11/14/00  
 Agency: Dept. of Education & Early Development

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office