

HB

332

Alaska State Legislature
REPRESENTATIVE BRYCE EDGMON
House District 37



SPONSOR STATEMENT / SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

HB332 – Pre-Elementary School Programs

Adak
Akutan
Aleknagik
Atka
Chignik
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake
Clark's Point
Cold Bay
Dillingham
Egegik
Ekwok
False Pass
Ivanof Bay
King Cove
King Salmon
Koliganek
Manokotak
Naknek
Nelson Lagoon
New Stuyahok
Nikolski
Perryville
Pilot Point
Portage Creek
Port Heiden
St. George
St. Paul
Sand Point
South Naknek
Togiak
Twin Hills
Ugashik
Unalaska

HB332 proposes adding pre-elementary and Head Start programs to the definition of an elementary school for federal funding purposes.

This change will allow these programs to qualify for Federal E-Rates. These rates were available to Alaskans for several years, then were cut off when the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) made a determination that Alaska's definition of elementary schools did not fit what was required in federal law.

HB332 will allow those pre-elementary programs to be eligible to apply for federal funding to help pay for infrastructure, equipment, or other costs related to providing telephonic and internet transmissions.

This bill also assures that adding these programs to the definition of an elementary school will not have any affect on admission numbers used by the Dept. of Education and Early Development in the Education Funding Formula.

This simple change in statute to allow these programs to garner funding is needed now. Head Start programs have closed in many communities and operations have been scaled back in programs state-wide over the last few years.

I appreciate your support for this bill.

BILL SECTION 1: Amends 14.03.060(a) to assure that adding the pre-elementary programs in Bill Section 2 has no other effect than to make them available for federal funding.

BILL SECTION 2: Adds a new section to include pre-elementary and head start programs to the definition of elementary schools. Also assures that those students may not be counted in a school's average daily membership.

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Letter of Support for HB 332

I am writing to express my support for HB 332. This legislation will once again allow Head Start programs in Alaska to be eligible to apply for federal funds that are collected as taxes on Alaskan's phone bills.

Head Start programs have experience flat funding at the state and federal level for many years, while inflationary costs have continued to rise. Making this simple legislative change will help open up another source of federal revenue to help with the increased cost of operating this important early childhood program in our state.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.



AnneMarie Mattacchione, Director
907-452-4267 Ext 223

Play N Learn Community Head Start
1949 Gillam Way Suite A
Fairbank AK 99701

Adam Berg

From: Cheryl turner [caturner@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 2:12 PM
To: Adam Berg
Subject: Head Start

Hi Adam,
I'm Cheryl Turner, Mat-Su School Board Member and CCS Board Member (I'm currently on a short leave from my CCS Board position but will be reseated soon).

I'm writing this last minute email to show my support for the Head Start Bill 332 sponsored by Rep. Edgmon. I truly believe in prevention over treatment and our CCS program is an awesome tool to "jump-start" these kids. The "family intervention" component along with the appropriate academic package is the key to a child, who would undoubtedly struggle in school, become successful. I'd rather see my dollars go to supporting Head Start over prisons.

Tell your boss, this is one registered Republican who wishes her party would support Head Start (and not just support it, but understand all the benefits that come from assisting these families). Also tell Rep. Edgmon thank-you so very much for all of his support!!

God Bless,
Cheryl Turner

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 841-5257

March 6, 2008

Tribal Councils
Served by BBNA:

- Alekn'ik
- Chignik Bay
- Chignik Lagoon
- Chignik Lake
- Clarke Point
- Curyung
- Egegik
- Ekuk
- Erwok
- Igigig
- Isumna
- Ivanof Bay
- Kaanak
- King Salmon
- Kokhanok
- Koliganek
- Levelock
- Manoktoak
- Naknek
- New Stuyahok
- Newhalen
- Nondalton
- Pedro Bay
- Perryville
- Pilot Point
- Port Heiden
- Portage Creek
- South Naknek
- Togiak
- Twin Hills
- Ugashik

Representative Bryce Edgmon
State Capitol Room 424
Juneau, AK 99801

Bryce
Dear Representative Edgmon:

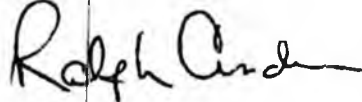
Letter of Support for HB 332

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Head Start programs have experience flat funding at the state and federal level for many years, while inflationary costs have continued to rise. Making this simple legislative change will help open up another source of federal revenue to help with the increased cost of operating this important early childhood program in our state.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

Sincerely yours,



Ralph Andersen
Chief Executive Officer

Letter of Support for HB 332

I am writing to express my personal support for HB 332. This legislation will once again allow Head Start programs in Alaska to be eligible to apply for federal funds that are collected as taxes on Alaskan's phone bills. These funds are then redistributed to schools and libraries to help pay for long distance service, internet costs, and other technology expenses (which we all know are especially important in our state).

A couple years ago several Alaska Head Start programs decided that they would apply for these funds as well. As a result, several programs were awarded E-rate funds. Our beginning efforts caused the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to set up some rules determining what Head Start programs would be eligible. Based on these rules the majority of states now have Head Start programs that are eligible for E-rate, unfortunately Alaska is not among them. This legislation would fix that.

Head Start programs have experienced flat funding at the state and federal level for many years, while inflationary costs have continued to rise. Making this simple legislative change will help open up another source of federal revenue to help with the increased cost of operating this important early childhood program in our state.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

Mark Leckey
Alaska Head Start Association