

HJR

29

Representative Mike Hawker

Alaska State Legislature



HJR 29

Sponsor Statement

Session:

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
907 465-4949 direct
800 478-4950 toll free
907 465-4979 fax

Interim:

716 W 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
907 269-0244 office
907 269-0248 fax

Member:

House Finance Committee
Legislative Budget
& Audit Committee

House District 32:

Eagle River
Anchorage
Rainbow
Indian
Bird
Girdwood
Portage
Whittier
Seward
Hope


Short Title: Federal Funding for Special Education

HJR 29 is a statement against unfunded federal mandates and for full funding of education. The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires "free appropriate public education" for students with disabilities and authorized a federal appropriation to pay for 40 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure for general education students. However, the federal government has paid only 16 percent of the cost.

This under funding has forced school districts to balance their budgets by taking funds from other programs. Even with these cuts, there is not adequate funding and many students with special needs do not receive the services and assistance they need to succeed in school. The problem is exacerbated by the No Child Left Behind Act, which requires 100 percent proficiency by the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

HJR 29 asks the President of the United States and United States Congress to fulfill their obligation to provide adequate funding for educational services for students with disabilities.

Unalaska City School District



Unalaska City School District Supporting Recommendations of the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force Report

WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force met regularly over the summer; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force accepted public testimony, and openly discussed and debated the merits of various changes to the education funding formula; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force prepared a Report to the Legislature and the Governor with stated recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Task Force Recommendations will improve public education in Alaska and provide school districts with a more equitable and stable funding mechanism; and

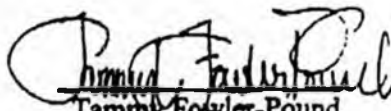
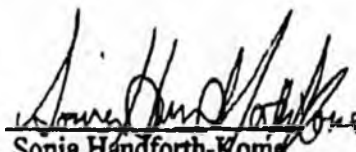
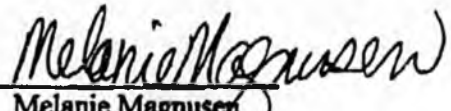
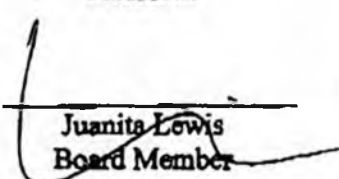
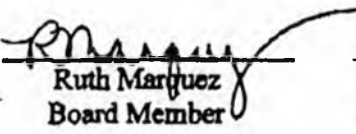
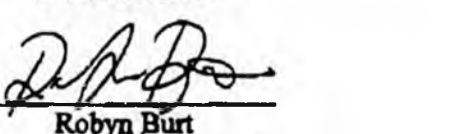
WHEREAS, the implementation of the Task Force Recommendations will directly benefit students in the Unalaska City School District;

NOW, THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Unalaska City School District Board of Education supports the Task Force Recommendations; and specifically finds the following recommendations of high importance:

- The passing by the Legislature of SB 125 (PERS/TRS cost sharing) in substantially the same form as it currently exists;
- The creation of standing Education Committees in the House and Senate to oversee and review all education issues in the state;
- The referral to the Education Committee of the various long-term issues discussed in the Task Force report;
- The implementation of the ISER district cost factor, phased in to statute over time as set out in the Task Force recommendations;
- The phased in increases in intensive needs funding with those increases set into statute;
- The recalibration of the transportation reimbursement rate based on the most recent actual audited costs; and
- An increasing Base Student Allocation amount set in statute for fiscal years 2009, 2010 and 2011, at an amount that will keep pace with projected cost increases over those years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Unalaska City School District Board of Education specifically recommends that the Legislature adopt the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force recommendations within the first thirty (30) days of the legislative session.

ADOPTED this 24th day of January, 2008 by the Unalaska City School District Board of Education.

 Tammie Fowler-Pound President	 Sonia Handforth-Rome Clerk/Treasurer	 Melanie Magnusen Board Member
 Juanita Lewis Board Member	 Ruth Marquez Board Member	 Robyn Burt Student Representative