

**SB**

**119**

# Alaska State Legislature

*Out of Session:*  
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## SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON

DISTRICT T

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 119

"An Act relating to grant programs to support libraries."

Alakanuk  
Ambler  
Anaktuvuk Pass  
Atkasuk  
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Brovig Mission  
Browerville  
Buckland  
Chevak  
Deering  
Diomedea  
Elim  
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Golovin  
Hooper Bay  
Kaktovik  
Kiana  
Kivalina  
Kobuk  
Kotlik  
Kotzebue  
Koyak  
Mountain Village  
Noatak  
Nome  
Noorvik  
Nuiqsut  
Nunam Iqua  
Pilot Station  
Pitka's Point  
Point Hope  
Point Lay  
Savoonga  
Scammon Bay  
Selawik  
Shaktolik  
Shishmaref  
Shungnak  
St. Mary's  
St. Michael  
Stebbins  
Teller  
Unalakleet  
Wainwright  
Wales

SB 119 establishes a public library construction grant program and a grant program for public school libraries to expand library collection materials.

Sections 1 and 2 of the bill establish the library construction and major expansion grant program. Subject to appropriation, the state would match up to 50% of the cost of new library construction or major expansion in communities with a population of 10,000 or less. The local government would be responsible for securing a match of at least 20% and the remainder can be provided by private donors. The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development will administer the grants and promulgate regulations to establish ranking criteria.

Section 3 establishes a maximum grant of \$3,000 for a fiscal year to a public school library deemed eligible by the grants administrator who will be the person or division in charge of the state library. Use of the funds is limited to expansion of the library collection materials, meaning books, magazines, reference and audio-visual material, and electronic subscriptions that support school curriculum and student reading activities. This grant program will also provide the means to update materials such as atlases, almanacs, encyclopedias, as well as provide accurate information on advances in science, changes in health issues, career opportunities and recent political issues.

If the funds appropriated for this grant program are not sufficient to fund all eligible grant requests, the available funds shall be paid out on a pro rata basis to grantees.

Individual school library budgets are generally determined by principals and vary widely from district to district and even within each district. Alaskan educational budget shortfalls have impacted schools and school libraries throughout our state. Some school libraries in our state can only participate in reading incentive programs like "Battle of the Books" by using interlibrary loan to borrow the books for their students. It is sad to report that some libraries have no budget at all for new materials.

SB 119 will support Alaskan teachers' and librarians' efforts to produce more fluent and proficient readers at all grade levels. This long-term investment in school library infrastructure will benefit our Alaskan youth and future leaders. I urge you to give favorable consideration to this bill.

**Sectional Analysis**

**Sections 1 and 2** establish the library construction and major expansion grant program. Subject to appropriation, the state would match up to 50% of the cost of new library construction or major expansion in communities with a population of 10,000 or less. The local government would be responsible for securing a match of at least 20% and the remainder can be provided by private donors. The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development will administer the grants and promulgate regulations to establish ranking criteria.

**Section 3** adds a new section to AS 14.56 State and Community Libraries, by establishing a maximum grant of \$3,000 for a fiscal year to a public school library that is deemed eligible by the grants administrator. The grants administrator will be the person or division in charge of the state library. The funds are to be used for expanding the library collection materials, meaning books, magazines, reference and audio-visual material, and electronic subscriptions that support school curriculum and student reading activities. Grant money awarded under this program may not be used to purchase classroom materials, textbooks, testing software, library automation software, computer hardware, operating software, or technology support. The grant is established in the Department of Education.

Grant recipients shall prepare an annual report to the department describing the effects of the grant and whether all conditions of the grant were met or exceeded.

If the funds appropriated for this grant program are not sufficient to fund all eligible grant requests, the available funds shall be paid out on a pro rata basis to grantees.

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
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STATE OF ALASKA

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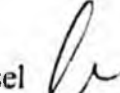
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

March 14, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Eligibility for a library construction and major expansion matching grant in CSSB 119(RLS) (Work Order No. 25-LS0749\L)

**TO:** Senator Bert Stedman  
Attn: Darwin Peterson

**FROM:** Jean Mischel  
Legislative Counsel 

You asked two questions regarding the eligibility for a library construction and major expansion matching grant in AS 14.56.355 - 14.56.356 as presented in sec. 2 of CSSB 119(RLS). First, you asked whether an unincorporated community could be considered a public entity for purposes of owning a library that is "publicly owned and operated." Second, you asked whether a school district or rural educational attendance area (REAA) could qualify for a grant.

With regard to the first question, the phrase "publicly owned and operated" is not defined for purposes of the bill, and is subject to interpretation. However, AS 14.56.356(b)(1) requires a contribution from a "local government entity." This phrase is also subject to interpretation. Substituting "municipality" for this phrase in AS 14.56.356(b)(1) might avoid questions of interpretation, as this word is defined in AS 01.10.060.

With regard to the second question, I believe that it is possible for a school district or REAA to own and operate a library and that the library may be considered to be "publicly owned and operated." However, eligibility also requires an applicant for a grant to provide matching funds, a requirement that may be more difficult to satisfy under the local contribution limits for schools.

DMB:med  
08-186.med

## DCCED 2006 Certified Municipal Populations

Bettles	25
Kupreanof	32
Platinum	38
Akhiok	44
False Pass	54
Kasaan	59
Port Alexander	64
Pilot Point	66
Hughes	68
Clark's Point	69
Atka	73
Egegik	76
Port Heiden	79
Chignik	85
Cold Bay	87
Anyik	88
Koyukuk	88
Larsen Bay	90
Aliakaket	94
Nikolai	98
Chuathbaluk	99
Pelican	106
Tenakee Springs	109
Diomedea	110
Eagle	110
Ekwok	111
Saint George	120
Shageluk	124
Kobuk	135
Deering	138
Wales	139
Adak	146
Golovin	154
Coffman Cove	162
Newhalen	167
Grayling	174
Ruby	183
Whittier	189
Old Harbor	192
Ouzinkie	193
Nondalton	196
Kaltag	199
Nunam Iqua	201
Holy Cross	204
Port Lions	211
Shaktolik	214
Mekoryuk	217
White Mountain	224
Atkasuk	237
Nightmute	237
Aleknagik	241
Goodnews Bay	242

## DCCED 2006 Certified Municipal Populations

Teller	258
Huslia	259
Shungnak	260
Tanana	261
Lower Kalskag	269
Upper Kalskag	271
Ambler	277
Eek	287
Seldovia	287
Kaktovik	288
Nulato	290
Elim	294
Anaktuvuk Pass	299
McGrath	321
Brevig Mission	324
Russian Mission	329
Hydaburg	352
Akiak	367
Koyuk	368
Napakiak	370
Marshall	387
Kivalina	391
Kiana	401
Nuiqsut	417
Saxman	422
Manokotak	423
Gustavus	441
Saint Michael	446
Buckland	457
Kachemak	458
Chefornak	460
Saint Paul	460
Napaskiak	464
New Stuyahok	472
Angoon	482
Thorne Bay	482
Aniak	512
Wainwright	517
Scammon Bay	520
Anderson	536
Kake	536
Nunapitchuk	547
Saint Mary's	551
Nenana	553
Pilot Station	574
Fort Yukon	596
Toksook Bay	598
Kotlik	611
Stebbins	612
Shishmaref	615
<b>Yakutat</b>	<b>634</b>
Galena	636

## DCCED 2006 Certified Municipal Populations

Noorvik	636
Gambell	643
Quinhagak	648
Alakanuk	663
Savoonga	712
Kwethluk	721
Unalakleet	727
Point Hope	737
Akutan	741
Klawock	776
Togiak	783
Emmonak	796
Mountain Village	796
King Cove	807
Hoonah	829
Selawik	841
Skagway	854
Sand Point	890
Chevak	908
Delta Junction	1,039
<b>Bristol Bay Borough</b>	<b>1,060</b>
Craig	1,105
Hooper Bay	1,157
Houston	1,537
<b>Lake &amp; Peninsula Borough</b>	<b>1,557</b>
North Pole	1,710
Wrangell	1,911
<b>Denali Borough</b>	<b>2,052</b>
Cordova	2,211
<b>Haines Borough</b>	<b>2,241</b>
Dillingham	2,397
Seward	2,627
<b>Aleutians East Borough</b>	<b>2,643</b>
Kotzebue	3,104
Petersburg	3,129
Nome	3,540
Soldotna	3,807
Unalaska	3,940
Barrow	4,065
Valdez	4,353
Homer	5,454
Palmer	5,574
Bethel	5,812
Kodiak	5,937
Wasilla	6,775
<b>North Slope Borough</b>	<b>6,807</b>
Kenai	6,864
<b>Northwest Arctic Borough</b>	<b>7,373</b>
Ketchikan	7,662
<b>Sitka</b>	<b>8,833</b>
<b>Ketchikan Gateway Borough</b>	<b>13,174</b>
<b>Kodiak Island Borough</b>	<b>13,506</b>

## DCCED 2006 Certified Municipal Populations

Fairbanks	30,552
Juneau	30,650
Kenai Peninsula Borough	51,350
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	77,174
Fairbanks North Star Borough	96,888
Anchorage	282,813



## School Library Materials Budget Survey Results – January 2007

In school year 2004-05, the median budget for school libraries nationwide was \$9,368. The average budget in the Pacific Northwest was \$19,211. How does your school's library budget compare? This is the question that we asked Alaska school librarians and library aides in November, 2006. We received results from the end of November to late January 2007 from 151 respondents, representing about 165 public schools, or about one-third of Alaska's schools. The results showed that there is wide variation in budgets across the state and within single school districts. (Some schools did not fill out the complete form, and some answered for more than one school in a district, so the numbers do not total 165.)

### ALL SCHOOLS:

138 schools	\$8.32 per student
Average total budget	\$4,284 per school
Range	\$0 - \$25,000 *

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

71 schools	\$7.59 per student
Average total budget	\$2,707.08
Range	\$0 - \$8,520

### MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

18 schools	\$8.67
Average total budget	\$4,625.22
Range	\$1,500-\$10,000

### HIGH SCHOOLS:

32 schools	\$9.20
Average total budget	\$8,151
Range	\$0 - \$25,000

### K-12 SCHOOLS:

24 schools	\$7.03
Average total budget	\$3,397.61
Range	\$0-\$13,000**

\*One small K-12 school received a federal grant for \$75,000 for its 124 students. Because this is a one-time, competitive grant open to only a few Alaska school districts, it is not included.

\*\*The maximum K-12 amount represents the budget for 6 K-12 schools in one district.

*Quality  
School Libraries...  
Because Student  
Achievement  
is the Bottom Line.*



**Alaska Association of School Librarians**

<http://www.akla.org/akasl/>

The State Senate  
Alaska State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

To increase Alaskan students' access to new and varied library materials the Alaska Association of School Librarians proposes an annual grant up to \$2,500 for active school libraries. This grant program would parallel the, already existing, state support of public libraries.

School library budgets vary widely from district to district. The crunch in educational funding has impacted school libraries throughout our state. Schools have seen budgets go lower and lower with some libraries having no budget at all for new materials. This annual grant would be an opportunity to level the playing field between rural and urban school libraries.

There are many students who are not in easy reach of a public library so the school library is their source for research, curriculum related projects, and encourage the love of reading. Some school libraries in our state are using interlibrary loan to borrow books for reading incentive programs like "Battle of the Books" as well as research for class projects. This annual grant will support our school's efforts to produce more proficient readers at all grade levels, foster the love of reading, and promote life long learning skills.

Because of the statewide push for school curriculum to support the Alaska Standards many districts are currently rewriting curriculum and course work. The educational needs from school district to school district vary widely. This annual grant would be an excellent way for individual school libraries to help support the unique curricular needs for their district by purchasing materials that will support the classroom curriculum. We envision this grant as a means to update materials such as atlases that reflect current world geography, almanacs, encyclopedias, advances in science, changes in health issues, career awareness and recent political issues. A variety of material formats including books, DVD's, audio books, periodicals and online databases would all be considered acceptable resources.

We believe Senate Bill 119 would be a long-term investment in the school infrastructure and would promote excellence in education for all districts for years to come.

Erika Drain (President)  
Alaska Association of School Librarians  
[erikad@mehs.us](mailto:erikad@mehs.us)

## **It's impossible to put a price on creating a nation of lifelong learners**

**By Brian Kenney, Editor-in-Chief – School Library Journal, 3/1/2007**

First the good news. The average price of most children's and young adult books hasn't gone up. In fact, it's slightly declined. Now the bad news. Adult titles—especially hardcover and paperback nonfiction—have shot up significantly. That increase makes it especially hard on high school librarians and public librarians who are creating young adult collections.

But today's librarians face an even bigger challenge.

In October 1978, when *SLJ* started tracking those figures, we wanted to help librarians develop sufficient budgets and give them enough ammunition to fight for more funds. That hasn't changed. Back then, there were plenty of demands on school library budgets besides books—think audio and video. It's no different now—just add technology to the mix.

What is different is what's being published. Now there's so much more to offer that you can guarantee there's a book out there to interest each and every one of your readers, reluctant or not.

If you don't believe me, consider the books we reviewed in this issue alone.

Just when you thought fantasy had gone as far as possible, along comes Brian Selznick's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Scholastic), an innovative blend of brilliant illustrations and an irresistible story—as well as two other absolutely terrific fantasy novels.

Need a strong dose of reality? This month's reviews feature four picture books that tackle one of the toughest topics: death (of a mother, a sibling, a friend, and a pet). There are also novels that embrace social issues, like abusive parents. In nonfiction, there are important books on the perilous state of the Earth's ecology, such as Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* (Viking). If that isn't a book that kids need to read, I don't know what is.

If you're faced with some unwilling readers (and who isn't?), check out Kathleen Baxter's latest Nonfiction Booktalker column, "Gross Them Out," on page 38. Every librarian could use a copy of Jeff Szpirglas's *Gross Universe: Your Guide to All Disgusting Things Under the Sun* (Maple Tree, 2006) to wow the after-school crowd.

Publishers are doing their job. Now it's our turn. As Trev Jones, *SLJ*'s book review editor, put it: "There's a need for variety and diversity—in terms of what children can appreciate and understand, in their reading abilities, and in their levels of sophistication

and maturity. Libraries must cover all the bases if they're going to serve all of their children—and to do so, they must fight for funding.”

It's time to persuade parents and teachers, principals and directors, school boards and boards of trustees to reach for their wallets. Tell them about the wealth of resources nearly within our grasp—great historical fiction about the Civil War, biographies of sports legends, and books about dinosaur poop. Let them know that this is what's required to raise a nation of learners, one book, one reader at a time.

*SLJ's Average Book Prices 2007*

	2005	2006	2007
<b>Children's and YA titles: Hardcover</b>			
Average price (all titles)	\$20.52	\$21.60	\$20.82
Preschool to grade four	\$18.92	\$21.60	\$18.70
Grade five and up (fiction)	\$16.85	\$16.87	\$17.24
Grade five and up (nonfiction)	\$24.92	\$26.81	\$26.68
Source: <i>School Library Journal</i>			
<b>Adult titles: Hardcover</b>			
Fiction (excluding special editions, etc.)	\$24.95	\$26.83*	—
Nonfiction	\$36.86	\$42.32*	—
**Nonfiction	\$70.72	\$85.91*	—
<b>Adult titles: Paperback (excluding mass market)</b>			
Fiction	\$18.63	\$17.05*	—
***Nonfiction	\$33.81	\$44.54*	—

Source: Bowker's *Books in Print*

\* Preliminary prices.

\*\* Prices include single-volume reference titles.

\*\*\* Prices include reference and related resources.

The prices for children's and YA titles are based on books published in the first half of 2007. Adult 2006 prices are based on 2005 data. For children's and YA trade paperbacks, an informal survey of several publishers placed the average price at \$8.95.

[bkenney@reedbusiness.com](mailto:bkenney@reedbusiness.com)

By Mark Herring. From the April 2001 American Libraries, p. 76-78.

**ALA** American  
Library  
Association

## 10 Reasons Why the Internet Is No Substitute for a Library

By Mark Y. Herring

Dean of library services  
Dacus Library  
Winthrop University  
Rock Hill, South Carolina

Reading, said the great English essayist Matthew Arnold, "is culture." Given the condition of reading test scores among school children nationwide, it isn't surprising to find both our nation and our culture in trouble. Further, the rush to Internetize all schools, particularly K-12, adds to our downward spiral. If it were not for the Harry Potter books one might lose all hope who languishes here. Then, suddenly, you realize libraries really are in trouble, grave danger, when important higher-education officials opine, "Don't you know the Internet has made libraries obsolete?" Gadzooks! as Harry himself might say.

In an effort to save our culture, strike a blow for reading, and, above all, correct the well-intentioned but horribly misguided notions about what is fast becoming Intertopia among many nonlibrarian bean counters, here are 10 reasons why the Internet is no substitute for a library.



### Not Everything Is on the Internet

With over one billion Web pages you couldn't tell it by looking. Nevertheless, very few *substantive* materials are on the Internet *for free*. For example, only about 8% of all journals are on the Web, and an even smaller fraction of books are there. Both are costly! If you want the *Journal of Biochemistry*, *Physics Today*, *Journal of American History*, you'll pay, and to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars.



## **The Needle (Your Search) in the Haystack (the Web)**

The Internet is like a vast uncataloged library. Whether you're using Hotbot, Lycos, Dogpile, Infoseek, or any one of a dozen other search or metasearch engines, you're not searching the entire Web. Sites often promise to search everything but they can't deliver. Moreover, what they do search is not updated daily, weekly, or even monthly, regardless of what's advertised. If a librarian told you, "Here are 10 articles on Native Americans. We have 40 others but we're not going to let you see them, not now, not yet, not until you've tried another search in another library," you'd throw a fit. The Internet does this routinely and no one seems to mind.



## **Quality Control Doesn't Exist**

Yes, we need the Internet, but in addition to all the scientific, medical, and historical information (when accurate), there is also a cesspool of waste. When young people aren't getting their sex education off XXX-rated sites, they're learning politics from the Freeman Web page, or race relations from Klan sites. There is no quality control on the Web, and there isn't likely to be any. Unlike libraries where vanity press publications are rarely, if ever, collected, vanity is often what drives the Internet. Any fool can put up anything on the Web, and, to my accounting, all have.



## **What You Don't Know Really Does Hurt You**

The great boon to libraries has been the digitization of journals. But full-text sites, while grand, aren't always full. What you don't know can hurt you:

1. articles on these sites are often missing, among other things, footnotes;
2. tables, graphs, and formulae do not often show up in a readable fashion (especially when printed);  
and
3. journal titles in a digitized package change regularly, often without warning.

A library may begin with X number of journals in September and end with Y number in May. Trouble is, those titles aren't the same from September to May. Although the library may have paid \$100,000 for the access, it's rarely notified of any changes. I would not trade access to digitized journals for anything in the world, but their use must be a judicious, planned, and measured one, not full, total, and exclusive reliance.



## **States Can Now Buy One Book and Distribute to Every Library on the Web—NOT!**

Yes, and we could have one national high school, a national university, and a small cadre of faculty teaching everybody over streaming video. Let's take this one step further and have only digitized sports

Looking into the abyss of the Internet is like vertigo over a void. But the void has to do not only with what's there, but also with what isn't. Not much on the Internet is more than 15 years old. Vendors offering magazine access routinely add a new year while dropping an earlier one. Access to older material is very expensive. It'll be useful, in coming years, for students to know (and have access to) more than just the scholarly materials written in the last 10 to 15 years.



## The Internet Is Ubiquitous but Books Are Portable

In a recent survey of those who buy electronic books, more than 80% said they like buying paper books over the Internet, not reading them on the Web. We have nearly 1,000 years of reading print in our bloodstream and that's not likely to change in the next 75. Granted, there will be changes in the delivery of electronic materials now, and those changes, most of them anyway, will be hugely beneficial. But humankind, being what it is, will always want to curl up with a good book—not a laptop—at least for the foreseeable future.



The Web is great, but it's a woefully poor substitute for a full-service library. It is mad idolatry to make it more than a tool. Libraries are icons of our cultural intellect, totems to the totality of knowledge. If we make them obsolete, we've signed the death warrant to our collective national conscience, not to mention sentencing what's left of our culture to the waste bin of history. No one knows better than librarians just how much it costs to run a library. We're always looking for ways to trim expenses while not contracting service. The Internet is marvelous, but to claim, as some now do, that it's making libraries obsolete is as silly as saying shoes have made feet unnecessary.

*This article originally appeared in American Libraries, April 2001, p. 76-78.*



ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ♦ P. O. BOX 81084, FAIRBANKS, AK 99708 ♦ WWW.AKLA.ORG

Senator Bettye Davis  
Health, Education and Social Services Committee  
State Capitol, Rm 30  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

April 22, 2007

Dear Chairman Davis,

As a representative of the Alaska Library Association, I am writing in support of SB119, "An Act establishing a grant program to support public school libraries."

Part of the Alaska Library Association's mission is to support school libraries and librarians, because we recognize the role school libraries play in the success of Alaska's K-12 students. But school libraries are unable to properly fulfill this role if they are not stocked with adequate resources for educating all students.

Too often students are forced to use the local public library or other outside resources to complete school assignments. In rural areas where students do not have easy access to other libraries, students are much more dependent on their school libraries to provide them with up-to-date reference and research materials.

SB 119 would provide financial assistance to qualified school libraries seeking to correct deficiencies in their collections. Support would take the form of grants covering books, magazines, reference materials and electronic databases.

The Alaska Library Association believes that the best place for students to access curriculum-appropriate materials supporting school coursework is in their own school libraries. Please support this bill to improve school library collections.

Sincerely,

Jane Fuerstenau  
AkLA President

## School Library Collection Development Grant Speakers

**Ginny Austerman: Legislative Aide to Senator Donny Olson**

**Cathy Boutin: Dzantik'I Heeni Middle School Library**

Work: 463-1899

Email: [bountinc@jsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:bountinc@jsd.k12.ak.us)

**Debbie Edwardson: North Slope School Board Member**

email: [edwardson\\_communications@hotmail.com](mailto:edwardson_communications@hotmail.com)

**Charlotte Glover: Ketchikan Public Library**

Work: 225-0370

Email: [charg@firstcitylibraries.org](mailto:charg@firstcitylibraries.org)

**Roz Goodman: Retired School Librarian**

Email [roz99647@yahoo.com](mailto:roz99647@yahoo.com)

**Clark Gruening: AkLA/AkASL Lobbyist**

Work 586-8110

Email [clarkg@alaska.net](mailto:clarkg@alaska.net)

**Tiki Levinson: Delta School District Librarian**

Work 895-4696

Email [tlevinson@dgsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:tlevinson@dgsd.k12.ak.us)

**Lynn McNamara: Scenic Park Elem. Sch. Librarian/Very involved with this bill.**

Work: 742-1650

Email: [mcnamara\\_lynn@asdk12.org](mailto:mcnamara_lynn@asdk12.org)

**Barbara Nagengast: President of the Alaska Elementary Principal's Association**

Spring Hill Elementary

9911 Lake Otis Pkwy.

Anchorage, AK 99507

Ph. 907-742-5450

Fax 907-742-5477

[nagengast\\_barbara@asdk12.org](mailto:nagengast_barbara@asdk12.org)

**Maureen Radotich: Director of Ancillary Services: Valdez Hospital, Supportive parent of school libraries**

Work 834-1824

Email [raddog@cvinternet.net](mailto:raddog@cvinternet.net)

**Kari Sagel: Blatchley Middle School Library: Very involved with this bill.**

Work: 966-1411

Email [sagelk@mail.ssd.k12.ak.us](mailto:sagelk@mail.ssd.k12.ak.us)

**Bob VanDerWege: Kenai Peninsula District Librarian**

Work: 714-8905

Email: [rvdw@kpsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:rvdw@kpsd.k12.ak.us)

## **Senate Bill 119: Why the State Library Should Administer This Bill**

The Alaska Association of School Librarians, (AkASL), believes the State Library would be the most efficient and successful agency for handling the administrative concerns of this bill. State Librarian, Kay Shelton, along with librarians, Linda Thibodeau and Sue Sherif, are very much in tuned with school library issues and concerns.

Their offices work closely with school librarians around the state and keep us informed through list serves about all aspects of our jobs. They give endless hours of suggestions and support by telephone, email and on site visits.

The State Library initiates ongoing training for certified school librarians and Para-professionals around the state on an annual basis.

Additional monies must be calculated into this bill for a clerical person to administer the grant. There will be paper work to evaluate from school libraries interested in applying for this annual grant. Time will be necessary to review grant applications and annual reports, as well as administer and evaluate those applications by schools that apply for any unused money after the deadline for the initial grant.

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**From:** Roz Goodman [mailto:roz99647@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 08, 2008 10:00 PM  
**To:** Rep. Peggy Wilson  
**Subject:** Grant Programs for Libraries

Dear Representative Wilson,

As a Alaskan school librarian for 20 years and as a public and school library consultant for the past 10 years in numerous communities and villages throughout the state, I have seen first hand the need for additional space in existing public library facilities and the dire need for updating outdated school library collections.

During the HESS committee meeting scheduled for this Tuesday, March 11th, I urge you to support and pass the act relating to grant programs to support libraries. This act will enable communities to increase space in crowded and outgrown library facilities and revitalize and update school library collections which, in many schools, no longer support current school standards and curricula or the reading levels and interests of the students.

Thank you,  
Roz Goodman

Roz Goodman, Retired School Librarian  
School Library & Technology Services  
Box 47001  
Pedro Bay, AK. 99647  
907-850-3011  
Email: roz99647@yahoo.com

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My name is Charlotte Glover and I've been the youth services librarian at the Ketchikan Public Library for the past 17 years. Previously, I was a reading teacher in New Mexico and I have a background in classic literature. I've taken an active interest in early childhood education and literacy issues throughout my career, starting two programs in Ketchikan that help get books to kids- Born to Read, which distributes books to new babies at Ketchikan General Hospital, and the Southern Southeast Chapter of the national literacy effort called First Book which provides books for low income children to build home libraries. We have given grants to agencies on POW, Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau, and Ketchikan among other communities. I also created a statewide grant program called "Book Bonanza" which to date has provided about \$15,000 worth of new books to school and smaller libraries around the state. Because of these activities, I see dozens of grant applications a year from school librarians and teachers detailing just how limited their resources are for new books.

In addition, my public library is part of a consortium which includes seven school libraries and a college library. I know firsthand how poorly funded the school libraries are in Ketchikan and I admire the local librarians who raise money themselves year after year so their kids can have a few new books on the shelves. My publicly funded children's library has more money for books in a year than most school libraries will see in two decades because schools have not made new books for kids and teachers a priority.

There is a perception out in the world that kids don't need to or don't want to read in the age of the internet. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our children are dying to see themselves in books and are eager to explore the world through colorful non-fiction and compelling fiction. Circulation continues to grow at my library and we loan an average of 600 books a month to our school libraries. Teachers and students are borrowing folk tales, fairy tales, holiday books, science fair resources, encyclopedias, books about Alaska Native Culture, geography titles, history books and biographies.

A few weeks, the Jr High School librarian came by the public library and checked out dozens of our biographies so her students would have a selection of books to choose from for a 7<sup>th</sup> grade assignment, as her own selection is worn, out of date and limited. Last week a stay at home parent wanted a picture book about Martin Luther King Jr. to read aloud to her child. Our library owns at least a dozen titles that would be appropriate, but they were all checked out to local preschool and primary teachers. In fact, no matter how many holiday books I purchase, I never have enough to go around for all the families and teachers that want to read them. Make no mistake, teachers always do their best to get the books their kids need, often spending their own money, but wouldn't it be better if they had access to a well stocked school library?

On a personal note, I spend time with a "Little Sister" in second grade each week. My little sister is in yet another foster home and she begs me to bring her new books each week, books of her own, that she can read and cherish, as she has no home library. Because this girl is bright and because she has me and my resources by her side, she just might read herself out of poverty before she works herself out of poverty, to quote author Pat Mora, but what about all the other kids?

I think those of us with piles of reading material and overstuffed bookcases at home forget that each of our communities are full of children who have no access to books other than at their school library. Their parents don't buy books or bring them to the public library so the school library becomes their only outlet for recreational and

informational reading. Wouldn't shelves of attractive new books send those kids a message that they are valued?

Senate Bill 119 would give each of our communities more money for desperately needed books and would send a message that we KNOW kids who READ achieve. Study after study has proven that well stocked school libraries with active library programs increase literacy levels and student achievement. Let's help our kids learn to love reading by giving their school libraries a step up.

March 11, 2008

**Testimony of Debby Edwardson, North Slope Borough School District  
Senate Bill 110**

Good morning. I'd like to thank you for allowing me to testify before you today on behalf of Senate Bill 119. My name is Debby Edwardson and I am speaking as a mother, a writer, a school board president and a rural Alaska resident.

As the mother of seven, I know that the single most important academic skill I can give my children is to instill in them a love of reading and as a children's writer, I truly believe that the relationship between a single child and a single book has the power to transform the world, so when I walk through village school libraries and see tattered and outdated books and empty shelves, I know we are failing our children on a very fundamental level.

As a school board president I have read the many studies that prove what many of us already knew: there is a direct correlation between well-stocked libraries and reading ability.

I know that the librarians and educators testifying before you today can and will cite some of these studies by name—these show that students in schools with well-stocked libraries learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized tests than those in schools with outdated libraries.

As a rural resident, I am always aware of the fact that our village schools are community centers and our village school libraries are community libraries. There are not other sources of books in the village

And according to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, one-third of Alaska's students enter high school not reading at their grade level Under No Child Left Behind, 44 percent of Alaska's school districts are currently failing to make Adequate Yearly Progress. Seventy-nine percent of those failing are rural districts where scores in reading and writing are especially low.

It would seem an easy a solution to tell districts to allot more of their funding to school libraries, to support, but as school boards, we are beset by numerous unfunded mandates that take precedence. We are, for example,

.equired by law to serve special need students at funding levels that represent only a fraction of what these services actually cost.

The money Senate Bill 119 will provide to support libraries and library resources is not all that much--we are forced to spend much more than this to bring technology into our schools, which we must do to equip our children for the future. But make no mistake—even if we had the bandwidth to fully support it, which on the North Slope we do not—there is no technology in the world that will replace the educational benefit of a good book. Our children are using the Internet for research and academic inquiry and our teachers are using laptops to differentiate instruction, but real reading only happens between the covers of a good book. There is no machine that can replace a good teacher surrounded by a group of students enthralled by the sound of her voice and captivated by a story unfolding, a story that opens the up the world for a young child in a remote village in rural Alaska.

I urge you to remember that every dollar you spend on libraries will pay dividends in the future. And I thank you for your time and for your support.

**Petersburg Legislative  
Information Office**  
State of Alaska  
Legislative Affairs Agency

PO Box 1470  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
Petersburg\_lio@legis.state.ak.us  
907.772 3741 Fax 772.3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: House Health and Social Services  
FAX: 907.465.3175  
PHONE: 907.465.3824  
DATE: March 11, 2008

8 pages follow this cover. 9 total.

Please add this hard copy testimony into the Committee Record for SB 119.

Thank you,



Ellen Rojcewicz  
Petersburg LIO

10/5/08

**March 11, 2008**  
**Tara Alcock, City Librarian**  
**libdir@ci.petersburg.ak.us**

**RE: Senate Bill 119 "An Act relating to grant programs to support libraries."**

My name is Tara Alcock, I am the director of the Petersburg Public Library.

I would like to voice my support for Senate Bill 119. I would specifically like to address Section 1, the library construction matching grant program.

While only a few years ago futurists were decrying the death of libraries due to the internet, the opposite has proven to be true. Use of the library in Petersburg is skyrocketing despite overcrowding, noise, lack of work space, comfortable seating and a roof that leaks. Many in our community agree - is time to bring Petersburg's library up to the same standard as other community libraries in Alaska.

The state has been a major contributor in all new public library construction projects in Alaska. SB119 will provide an equitable method to address the capital construction needs of small public libraries. It would effectively leverage local financial support as well as private donations to build sustainable library facilities in rural Alaskan communities.

I encourage you to fund this bill and pass it in its current form. Thank you.

Tara Alcock

Re: SB119  
3-11-08

As a public school teacher, a GED tutor, and a community volunteer, I know first hand how crucial our school and community libraries are to our citizens. Senate Bill 119 would benefit all.

Thank you to all who have worked to bring this well-written and important bill, which I hope will pass in its current form. SB 119 could provide crucial funding (up to 50 % of the project cost) for our community library, and our school libraries could obtain small grants for much-needed books for our students.

I frequent the library almost on a daily basis, and I always find it full of a wide variety of citizens. In the summer, our population swells with seasonal cannery workers and tourists. Every computer is in use, and many bring in their own laptops for free wireless access. In the winter months, the library provides a safe and warm locale for study, reading, and research, and the superb selection of audio books and movies on DVD and video help to stretch my limited entertainment budget during the long, Alaskan nights, and our library usage numbers have steadily increased each year. I often contact our fabulous librarians for assistance in my work and in my personal life, and they are always able to assist, willingly and professionally.

I recently returned to Petersburg after a fourteen-year hiatus, and I was shocked that the library was still housed in the same dilapidated, leaky building that surely does not meet safety and design codes. The town has greatly improved in many ways, although our most important resource, our community library, is in a deplorable building. Our literary holdings are in danger from inescapable and imminent damage from wind and rain.

Our libraries are truly the heart of the community, and by passing SB 119, the state of Alaska can meet the needs of its citizens of this important southeast community and those of a number of nearby villages and ports that also rely on our community library. Please approve AND FUND SB 119 in its current form. Our need is great and a new community library is long overdue. Thank you.



Denise Roselle

PO Box 755

Petersburg, Alaska 99833

907.772.2473

droselle1@yahoo.com

SB119 - Sandy and Terry Wolf

The Petersburg new library project seeks your support for the passage of SB119. Libraries are a civilizing influence in everyday life as people gather for information, recreational reading and research: families, children, adults, visitors all benefit from a workable library. Petersburg library has been a constant source for information and inspiration in our lives; my husband and I have frequented the stacks at least once a week for over 20 years. Our library is used by residents and visitors alike, resulting in a congested and overcrowded space. There is no room for growth in the current facility.

By funding SB119 in its current form in a timely manner, a message will be sent to Petersburg residents that the State is on board with this project, enhancing our own fund-raising plan. To change the bill would only retard the passage and time is of the essence; in my opinion, SB119 is a very fine bill as it now reads. I strongly encourage you to pass SB119 and help keep libraries alive and well in small towns. We appreciate all your work in passing this bill.

*Sandy Wolf*  
PO Box 1707

Petersburg, AK 99833

907. 772. 2796

3-11-08

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the SB119. My name is Karen Dillman and I am a Petersburg Public Library Board member and also a past employee of the PPL. Our community is in great need for a new library. There is not enough space to provide the services that Petersburg residents would like to have and need with our current library space. This bill needs to be funded in the House, and the House should also pass it in its current form. Among other things, this bill will help fund construction grants that the planned Petersburg Public library can apply for.

My family and I are all avid library users and we collectively visit and use the library at least 3 to 5 times a week. We utilize nearly all the serves the library has to offer including reference materials, books, video's music, books on tape and we also like to attend many of the special classes, meetings and events the library has to offer to the community. For my family it is the heart of our involvement in Petersburg where information is shared and gathered, and the arts and literature are celebrated and explored on a continual basis.

SB 119 is very important and I thank senators Stedman and Wilson for their hard work concerning this bill.

Karen Dill

Box 305

Petersburg ak

99833

907-772-4090

3/11/2008

I would like to offer my testimony on HB 353 that would require all libraries in Alaska to apply Internet filtering in order to receive state grants.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Petersburg Public Library, I strongly oppose Internet filtering, and do NOT think that the state funding that is so essential to libraries in Alaska, particularly small, rural libraries, should depend on Internet filtering.

Local libraries should continue to adopt and implement Internet use policies in the same way that we develop other policies, based on the needs of our communities. We have worked hard to establish responsible Internet policies that make sure patrons use the Internet within the parameters of state and federal laws. .

Another objection I have to Internet filtering is that there is no proven technology that both blocks out all illegal content and allows access to all constitutionally protected material. This results in extensive blocking of online material that has in tests of filters included such materials as the Declaration of Independence, the Bible, and all of Shakespeare's plays. Internet filters fail to block a significant percentage of pornography sites while denying access to important health information. I believe that educating children to use the Internet wisely provides their best protection, both now and in the future.

Free access to information is a constitutional right and is essential for public libraries, it is beyond question as a necessity for university libraries that support important research. Since university libraries are included in this bill, that alone should make it clear that this filtering cannot be supported.

Finally, the costs of filtering both for software and staff to regulate its use are prohibitive for small Alaskan libraries that are already struggling to meet rising operation costs with limited budgets.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony


Respectfully submitted,

Martha Smith  
PO Box 384  
Petersburg, AK 99833

First of all, I'd like to commend the committee on a well-thought-out and well-written bill. I hope it can pass with little or no amendment.

As a rural Alaskan physician I'm involved front-line in the battles against mental illness and substance abuse. Libraries are a preemptive strike. They are places to go, centers of cultural events, sources of accurate information and opportunities for social interactions. They prevent boredom and provide healthy activities.

As legislators this bill is an opportunity for you to make a big improvement in the quality of life of your constituents and I encourage you to pass it.

  
SHARON JUNGE MD  
PETERSBURG, ALASKA

TESTIFYING ON BILL 119 MARCH 11, 2008

In support of passage of SB119, and especially for funding attached to the same.

I'm Sue Paulsen in Petersburg, a public library user here for 50 years. Local support for our public library has always been strong, and never stronger than it is right now. Looking back in Petersburg, we see modest beginnings in a tiny storefront and in 1969 a library space in the municipal building. In the last 40 years in that modest space, the dedication of board and staff have brought the library to its modern incarnation: full services in the information age and programming that serves the needs and interests of every age group. Unfortunately, the roof leaks and it is so small there is no place to sit down.

Library use has increased 220% since 2002. The library is shockingly overcrowded: there is way too little space for the materials and equipment and only 12 chairs for the patrons!

As you may have heard by now this new Petersburg library project is being pushed along with unremitting effort by the community, the library board, the building committee, the capital campaign committee, the city council, the state library and the Foraker Group.

We need the help of our legislature to build this cornerstone of community. Thank you for your efforts in Juneau to use Alaska's resources to provide for the people's needs. As my pioneer father would have said, keep plugging. Please pass this bill and attach funding.

*Sue Paulsen*

*3/11/08*

PO Box 1789  
Seward, AK 99584

office: 224 5066 fax: 224-5067



# Fax

**To:** Health, Education, & Social Srv      **From:** Seward LIC -- Nancy Erickson

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**Fax:** (907) 465-3175      **Pages:** 5

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**Phone:**      **Date:** 3/12/2008

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**Re:** Written testimony SB119      **CC:**

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Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle

Enclosed is a complete version of testimony given by Patty Linville during yesterday's teleconference, plus a resolution by the City of Seward in support of SB119.

Nancy Erickson

Seward LIO

# FAX COVER SHEET

Seward Community Library  
P. O. Box 2389  
Seward, AK 99664  
907-224-4082 -- main library  
907-224-4008 -- director  
907-224-3521 -- fax  
[plinville@cityofseward.net](mailto:plinville@cityofseward.net)



Date: March 12, 2008

To: Seward LIO

RE: Testimony and Resolution of Support for SB  
119

Company Name:  
Seward Community Library

Attn:  
Phone:  
Fax: 907-224-5067

From: Patricia Linville, Library Director

Pages (Including Cover): 4

*Note:*

*Here is my testimony and the Resolution of Support for SB 119. Please fax to the committee.*

*Thanks, Patty*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty", is written over the typed name "Patty" in the previous block.

If you have any questions regarding this transmission, please call:  
907-224-4008.

Sponsored by: Oates

**CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 2008-017**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD  
SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 119 (AN ACT RELATING  
TO GRANT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT LIBRARIES)**

**WHEREAS**, public libraries are generally funded by local governments and school libraries are funded by the local or regional school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 119 provides for much needed state funding for Alaska's libraries, both school and public; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Senate Bill 119, AS 4.56.355, addresses Alaska's public libraries needs for more and different space; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Senate Bill 119, AS 4.56.355, will establish a matching grant program that could, subject to appropriations, award up to 50% of the total grant project cost, either new construction or renovation, with 20% from local government entity and 30% from private donors; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that children in schools with larger book collections made better gains in reading; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 3 of Senate Bill 119, AS 14.56.360, establishes a public school library collective development grant program to award and administer annual grants of up to \$3,000 "to expand and improve the library collection to include relevant and current reading materials"; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of this resolution to seek support for SB 119 from the City Council of the City of Seward.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA** that:

**Section 1.** The Seward City Council supports passage of Senate Bill 119 "An Act relating to grant programs to support libraries."

**Section 2.** The city manager is directed to forward this resolution of support to all members of the Alaska State Legislature by March 15, 2008.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Seward, Alaska, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.

CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 2008-017

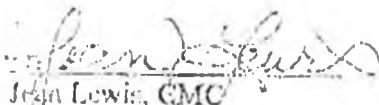
THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA



Clark Corbridge, Mayor

AYES: Dunham, Valdata, Bardarson, Amberg, Smith Kellar, Corbridge  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:

  
Jean Lewis, CMC  
City Clerk

(City Seal)



Patricia Linville, librarian for the Seward Community Library

IN SUPPORT OF SB 119

Seward Community Library is much like many small public libraries around the state. We are the only municipally funded public library on the eastern Kenai Peninsula, the next closest is Anchorage, 120 miles away. Yes, we help people find reading materials. We also provide assistance to people wanting tax forms, proctor distance learning school exams, help with PFD on-line applications and assist those who are applying for jobs on-line. Our daily adult crowd uses the computers, the bathrooms and the sofas as if they were at home. Many do not have these amenities elsewhere. The afterschool crowd plays computer games, does homework or just hangs with their friends until parents are off work and they go home...some stay until the library closes. Summer in Seward of course brings in visitors and seasonal workers looking for a place to sit out of the rain, check email, download photos and get directions and information about the area.

With 30000 volumes, six public access computers, a teen area, a children's area, a "quiet reading area" and office space cramped into 3500 square feet there is little to spare for comfortable meeting space. Imagine trying to get your divorce papers notarized while everyone in the library is listening to your conversation. I'm sure many rumors have been started from eaves dropping on some of these private transactions.

Our community has been working on plans to build a new library museum since 2003. We have raised over \$100,000 locally for the project. We are not expecting any Federal assistance. We are writing grants, applying for loans and approaching private foundations. The City will assume the operation and maintenance of the facility. If we are given the opportunity to apply for a matching grant from the state we will certainly do so. Please pass SB 119 so we can.

The second part of the bill concerns the ability of school libraries to keep their collections current and viable for Alaskan students. As you know school funding varies widely throughout the state. Hopefully that will begin to change after this year's session. A few years ago our district built a new middle school here in Seward. It has a really great library media center. Once the school was complete we were told there was no money for books. Our public library actually gave some of our discards to the school library...We discard books because they are out of date and no longer useful. Should the school library have such materials? Please pass SB 119 so our kids can have current information at their fingertips and somebody to guide them toward it.

SB 119 will help Alaska's libraries both school and public become the information sources and community centers that are so needed by our small communities. Please pass this bill and insure a well informed future for our state.

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPC T

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: March 4, 2008

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

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

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

CSSB 119(RLS)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 119(RLS)

SCHOOL LIBRARY GRANTS

"An Act relating to grant programs to support libraries."


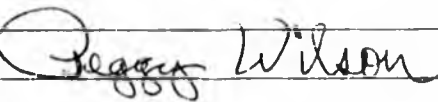
Recommends it be replaced with  HCS or  CS for \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  
For Senate Bills with new title:  Technical Title /  New Title: HCR \_\_\_\_\_  Same Title  New Title

- attach amendments  
 add new referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
 Letter of Intent \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

List of Abbrev for Depts.:  
ADM  
CED  
COR  
CRT  
EED  
DEC  
DFG  
GOV  
HSS  
LWF  
LAW  
LEG  
MVA  
DNR  
DPS  
REV  
DOT  
LA

<u>NEW</u> FISCAL NOTES				
*Assigned by Chief Clerk's Office				
List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

<u>PREVIOUS</u> FISCAL NOTES				
List by Dept(s):	FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

<u>Signing with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	CASSIA	✓			
Keller				✓	
Anna Fairclough	FAIRCLOUGH			✓	
Bertie Gardner	Gardner			✓	
Beckorn	Roses				✓
Chair: 	WILSON	✓			
Chair:					