

**SB**

**119**

**SFIN**

**FILE**

2450

*advised  
2/2/08*

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Mischel  
2/5/08

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 119(FIN)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Offered:  
Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): SENATOR OLSON**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

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

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **\* Section 1. AS 14.56 is amended by adding new sections to article 5 to read:**

4 **Sec. 14.56.355. Library construction and major expansion matching grant**  
5 **program. (a) There is established in the Department of Commerce, Community, and**  
6 **Economic Development a matching grant program for library construction and major**  
7 **expansion.**

8 **(b) A person in charge of construction or major expansion of an eligible**  
9 **library may apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations adopted by**  
10 **the department.**

11 **(c) Subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than 50**  
12 **percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant.**

13 **(d) In this section,**

14 **(1) "department" means the Department of Commerce, Community,**  
15 **and Economic Development;**

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(2) "major expansion" means an expansion of an existing library to increase the square footage of the structure by not less than 30 percent.

Sec. 14.56.356. Eligibility. (a) A library eligible for a grant under AS 14.56.355 must

(1) be publicly owned and operated; and

(2) be located in a community with a population of less than 10,000 persons.

(b) An applicant for a grant under AS 14.56.355 must provide matching funds from

(1) the local government entity in an amount not less than 20 percent of the total proposed grant project costs; and

(2) private donors in an amount not less than the amount remaining of the total proposed grant project costs after the state and local contributions are made toward the project.

\* Sec. 2. AS 14.56 is amended by adding new sections to read:

**Article 5A. Public School Library Collection Development Grants.**

Sec. 14.56.360. Public school library collection development grants. (a) There is established in the department a public school library collection development grant program.

(b) The person or division in charge of the state library shall award and administer grants of not more than \$3,000 for a fiscal year for use by a public school library eligible under AS 14.56.365 to expand and improve the library collection to include relevant and current reading materials.

(c) If money appropriated for the program is insufficient to fund all eligible grant requests submitted under AS 14.56.365, the available funding shall be awarded to the highest ranked applicants, according to criteria established by the department in regulation.

Sec. 14.56.365. Eligibility. (a) A library eligible for a grant under AS 14.56.360 must be a public school library established and supported by a school district that

(1) provides physical space or, if a correspondence school operated by

1 a school district, resources for use as a library;

2 (2) provides regularly scheduled library hours for all students enrolled  
3 in the school;

4 (3) provides designated library personnel to staff the library;

5 (4) provides acceptable evidence of the promotion of library and  
6 information literacy standards;

7 (5) maintains an annual library budget that includes library staffing and  
8 materials; and

9 (6) contributes, from the school district's budget, an amount that is not  
10 less than the grant award that is paid for library collection materials or contributes in-  
11 kind value of services.

12 (b) The department may establish by regulation an application and review  
13 procedure, including requirements for submission of adequate documentation to prove  
14 eligibility under this section. Documentation must include submission of library class  
15 schedules, job descriptions for library staff, and a copy of an annual budget for the  
16 library.

17 **Sec. 14.56.370. Eligible expenditures.** (a) A library collection development  
18 grant may be used only to purchase library collection materials by a public school or  
19 by a school district if the district operates a correspondence program with an eligible  
20 school library. In this subsection, "library collection materials" means books,  
21 magazines, reference and audio-visual materials, and electronic subscriptions that  
22 support school curriculum and student reading activities.

23 (b) A library collection development grant may not be used to supplant school  
24 district expenditures for the library or to purchase classroom materials, textbooks,  
25 testing software, library automation software, computer hardware, operating software,  
26 or technology support.

27 **Sec. 14.56.375. Report.** A recipient of a grant awarded under AS 14.56.360  
28 shall prepare a brief annual report to the department describing the effects of the grant  
29 and whether all conditions of the grant were met or exceeded.

30 \* Sec. 3. AS 14.56.300, 14.56.310, 14.56.320, 14.56.330, and 14.56.340 are repealed.

# SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/27/07

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 2/8/08

Finance Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 119

## SB 119 SCHOOL LIBRARY GRANTS

"An Act establishing a grant program to support public school libraries."

and recommends:

- be replaced with  SCS or  CS SB 119 (FIN)
- adopt previous  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Same Title	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Title	
<hr/>	
<b>HOUSE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Same Title	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Title Change	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Title w/ SCR # _____	

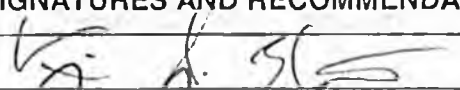

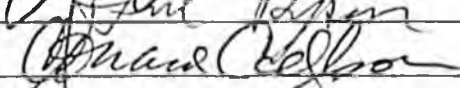



**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
EED	1/28			✓	

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	E L Thomas	✓			
	Thomas	✓			
	Dyson	✓			
	OLSON	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	Hoffman	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	Stedman	✓			

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Version: SB 119  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): SB 119: SB119-DEED-LAM-01-28-08 Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development  
Title: An act establishing a grant program to support public school RDU: Libraries, Archives & Museums  
Component: Libraries  
Sponsor: Senator Olson  
Requester: Senate Finance Component Number: 208

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

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<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>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

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

This legislation establishes a public school library collection development grant program which would award grants to eligible public school libraries to expand and improve their library collections.

The legislation does not include any information about the size of the grants to be awarded. The department is, therefore, submitting a zero fiscal note.

Prepared by: Linda Thibodeau, Deputy Director Phone: 465-2912  
Division: Libraries, Archives & Museums Date/Time: 1/25/08 12:00 AM  
Approved by: Barbara Thompson, Interim Commissioner Date: 1/28/2008

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TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR OLSON

*[withdrawn - 2/8/08]*

*H-H moved/ not adopted*

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1 "An Act establishing grant programs to support public school libraries."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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4 Sec. 14.56.355. Library construction and expansion matching grant  
5 program. (a) There is established in the department a matching grant program for  
6 library construction and expansion.

7 (b) A person in charge of construction or expansion of an eligible library may  
8 apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations adopted by the board.

9 (c) Subject to appropriation, the department shall award an amount under this  
10 section that is equal to the amount secured from private donors to carry out the  
11 purpose of the grant.

12 Sec. 14.56.356. Eligibility. (a) Libraries eligible for grants under  
13 AS 14.56.355 are libraries located in a community with a population of less than  
14 10,000 persons that are

15 (1) public libraries established under AS 14.56.400 or, in a community

1 that does not have a public library established under AS 14.56.400, another library that

2 (A) is a nonprofit corporation and holds meetings of its board  
3 of directors in public;

4 (B) provides services listed in AS 14.56.400(a); and

5 (C) is approved to receive grants under AS 14.56.300 by  
6 resolution of the governing body of the municipality, if the community is a  
7 municipality;

8 (2) libraries sharing resources free of charge with other libraries in the  
9 state; and

10 (3) libraries providing regional library services.

11 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.56 is amended by adding new sections to read:

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13 **Sec. 14.56.360. Public school library collection development grants. (a)**

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15 grant program.

16 (b) The person or division in charge of the state library shall award and  
17 administer grants of not more than \$3,000 for a fiscal year for use by an eligible public  
18 school library to expand and improve the library collection to include relevant and  
19 current reading materials.

20 (c) If money appropriated for the program is not awarded under (b) of this  
21 section each year, the remaining money may be awarded to a school district as an  
22 incentive grant to encourage innovative public school library programs as defined by  
23 the person in charge of the state library.

24 (d) If money appropriated for the program is insufficient to fund all eligible  
25 grant requests submitted under AS 14.56.365, the available money shall be paid on a  
26 pro rata basis to the grantees.

27 **Sec. 14.56.365. Eligibility. (a)** A library eligible for a grant under  
28 AS 14.56.360 must be a public school library established and supported by a school  
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9 procedure, including requirements for submission of adequate documentation to prove  
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24 and whether all conditions of the grant were met or exceeded.

Not  
10/1/00  
V2

AMENDMENT 1

OFFERED IN THE SENATE  
TO: CSSB 119 (FIN)

BY SENATOR STEDMAN

- 1 Page 1, line 1:
- 2 Delete "public school"

1/22/05

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, and the Southern Southeast Chapter of the national literacy effort called First Book which provides books for low income children to build home libraries. 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 well funded 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.

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 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.

1/30/09  
The Alaska Association of School Librarians believes  
Every Alaskan child deserves access to current information  
We ask you to tell your legislators of your support for



# Senate Bill 119

This bill proposes to raise the achievement of Alaskan students by increasing access to new and varied library materials with a \$2,500 annual grant to eligible Alaskan school libraries. The Alaska Association of School Librarians (AKASL) is working on a legislative initiative to create a school library collection grant which would parallel the on-going state-supported public library collection development grant.

This grant will enable school libraries to replace materials such as almanacs with statistics years out of date, encyclopedias with incomplete or inaccurate entries, atlases with incorrect political boundaries, health books with outdated or misleading information, nonfiction books too old to include advances in science and technology, folklore or picture books which are culturally insensitive, sports books featuring teams which no longer exist and the many wonderful library books which are literally falling apart from many years of use.

Last session Senator Ralph Samuels directed his staff to work on a draft which was then sent to the legislative legal department and registered as SB 119. Senator Donny Olson became the Primary Sponsor, and the bill passed the Senate HES Committee in April of 2007. The next step is passage through the Senate Finance Committee.

#### Did you know?

- School library budgets vary widely with some libraries having a zero budget year after year.
- Many students and community members do not have easy access to a public library. They rely on their school libraries for all information needs such as completing school projects, doing research, and finding interesting books to read.
- SB 119 is a long-term investment in Alaskan school infrastructure and the education of our future Alaskan citizens.

Alaska's students need parents, educators, school board members plus all those interested in literacy and student achievement working together to voice their support for this important bill.

Please, tell your legislator to pass SB 119 this session.

1/30/06  
Alaska Association of School Librarians  
(AkASL) Winter 2007

# SENATE BILL 119

## ALASKA SCHOOL LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT GRANT



### Purpose:

- An annual \$3,000 grant for Alaska public school libraries to purchase new materials.

### Goals:

- To increase Alaskan students' access to new and varied library resources.
- To put money directly into resources for students.
- To parallel the already existing state support of public libraries.

## Rationale

- Public school library budgets vary widely among school districts as well as within school districts.
- Many communities in rural Alaska have no public library and rely on the resources of their school libraries.
- Senate Bill 119 would be a long-term investment in our school infrastructure as well as an investment in the education of our future citizens.

- Reference resources in particular are critical for a quality education in Alaska and need to be current in order to reflect changes in world geography, politics, science and health.

### Examples:

- Pluto changed from planet to dwarf planet.
- Some schools in our state still have atlases that show the USSR rather than Russia and the various independent republics, even though that political change took place before current students were born.

For more information go to:  
<http://www.akla.org/akasl>

## Talking Points

- Stress the purpose, goals and rationale.
- SB 119 would ensure that rural and urban public school students across the state have access to new materials every year.
- Research shows that students in schools with large book collections make better gains in reading.
- Expenditures for updating library collections appear to be linked to student achievement.
- "The libraries in the high-performing schools spent over 25 per cent more money on books and print materials per 100 students than those in the low-performing schools." An Essential Connection, p.45, by Robert Burgin, 2003.
- The crunch in educational funding has impacted school library budgets to the point that some schools have no library budget.
- The cost of resources goes up every year even as budgets get smaller.
- Some schools cannot fund popular reading programs such as Battle of the Books.

## Timeline:

### 2006-2007 School Year, Steps Completed:

- The Alaska Association of School Librarians (AkASL) worked with concerned Alaskan citizens to introduce the grant into the legislative process.
- Senator Donny Olson became the Primary Sponsor for the grant known as SB 119.
- SB 119 went through the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee (HESS) in April and is now ready for the Senate Finance Committee.

### 2007-2008 School Year, Steps to Complete:

- Pass SB 119 through the Senate Finance Committee.
- Solicit a Primary Sponsor in the Alaska House of Representatives.
- Seek support from other educational agencies such as Association of Alaska School Boards, Alaska Parent Teacher Association, Alaska Associations of Secondary and Elementary School Principals.
- Seek support from parents, teachers, librarians, and community members.
- Support the Primary Sponsor in moving the House Bill (when designated) through House HESS and finance committees.

1/30/08

I am Barb Bryson, District Librarian for Valdez City Schools as well as past-president for the Alaska Association of School Librarians (AkASL).

The Alaska Association of School Librarians, (AkASL), and the Alaska Library Association, (AkLA), support Senate Bill 119, The Public School Library Collection Grant.

AkASL proposes an annual grant up to \$3000 for all active public school libraries in Alaska. This is a relatively small amount of money, but we believe this would be a long-term investment in the school infrastructure, and would promote excellence in education for all districts for years to come. SB 119 would parallel the, already existing, state support of public libraries.

Multiple studies show that "A school library program that is adequately staffed, resourced, and funded can lead to higher student achievement regardless of the socio-economic or educational levels of the community." (Scholastic Library Publishing. (2008). p. 10). School Libraries Work! (Research Foundation Paper Updated 2008 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition).

Based on statistics from 2004-2005 that we received from the state library, the median budget for school libraries nation wide was \$9,368. The average budget in the Pacific Northwest was \$19,211. In Alaska, of the 165 public schools who responded to a survey put out by the State Library in November 2006, the average total school library budget during the 2006-2007 school year was \$4,284.

In 2002 Library/Information Literacy Standards were incorporated as part of the Alaska State Standards. The mission of these standards states: "The school library is the primary source for information and curriculum support. The school library program functions as the information center for the school by providing access to a full range of information resources, in both traditional and electronic format."

As librarians from around the state, we recognize the role school libraries play in the success of Alaska's K-12 students. But without adequate funds our libraries are not able to support the school curriculum needs.

To encourage student success in our state, please pass SB 119.

1/30/08

Introduction:

Roz Goodman, School Librarian for 35 years, 20 in Alaska schools, 16 in rural or bush schools/districts. Retired in 2000 moved to Pedro Bay. During last 7 years have done consulting work for five rural districts including Lake and Peninsula, Pribiloff Island, Bering Strait, Yukon Flats, Lower Yukon. Senator Gary Stevens represents Pedro Bay and Lake and Peninsula School District.

I'm speaking on behalf of Senate Bill 119-An act establishing a grant program to support public school libraries.

Public School Library collections in Alaska and particularly in rural Alaska schools are sorely in need of updating to support and enhance current curricula and even more important to meet the informational needs and pleasure reading interests of K-12 students. Senate Bill 119 will enable school districts and/or schools to apply for grant funds earmarked specifically to improve school library collections.

Research:

In the last 10 years a considerable amount of research recognizes the correlation between reading success and library collections which support school curricula and standards and titles which students can and will want to read.

- Sixteen School Library Impact studies conducted by Keith Curry Lance (including the 1999 Alaska study) show that reading test scores increase when the number of books and magazine subscriptions increase and library expenditures per student increase. School libraries enhance student learning and academic performance particularly when library resources meet curriculum and students needs.
- Numerous studies by reading expert Stephen Krashen indicate that in addition to skills, students need to be motivated to read and that motivation comes from access to books that a student can read and is interested in reading. Kids who read more, read better. Reading scores are improved and sustained when students are hooked into reading for fun. School library quality is a significant predictor of reading ability and comprehension scores. Libraries are a major source of reading for children
- Studies by Mary Gaver, Warwick Elley and Francis Mangubhai show that the number of resources in the school library is a powerful predictor of reading scores Children in schools with larger library collections make better gains in reading than children in schools with smaller collection who in turn make better grades than children in schools with no library collections.
- Studies by Michael Sullivan Director of the Weeks Public Library in Greenland, NH. indicate that boys (and particular teen age boys) need books of interest to motivate them to read. Attracting boys to library programs in the "tween" years will go a long way in maintaining their interest in books and reading over a lifetime, creating good habits from a young age.

Facts: (Based on personal experience)

- School library collections, particularly in rural/bush schools:
  - Are dismally outdated, not in sync with current curriculum and standards, and do not coincide with reading levels kids are at or what they are interested in reading.
  - Have not been adequately infused with new books once the original collections were purchased at the time the schools were built in the 1970's and 80's.
  - Include many donated titles that don't belong in a school library collection, are marked DISCARD from other libraries, lack attractive covers, show plenty of wear and tear.
  - Might contain impressive numbers of books but 50-75% lack relevancy to a school library collection and should be discarded. There might be quantity but a definite lack of quality.
  - Schools and libraries are faced with more ways of providing information and reading for motivation while their funds for purchasing them are dwindling or disappearing.
  
- Library budgets if they exist at all are:
  - Are funded with "budget crumbs", book fairs and donations rather than a pre-existing formula
  - Very meager - recent survey conducted by the Alaska State Library the average per student amt. spent on the library is \$8.24/student (about 1 new book for every 2-3 students)
  - Consistently decreased rather than increased. In addition as the cost of books increases, the number that can be purchased decreases. (Avg. cost of a book \$18-22)
  - Dependent on the support from current teachers and/or administrators which can change from year to year.

Positive Outcomes from this Grant Program:

- Acknowledges and financially supports current research and best practice indicating that quality school library collections can increase student interest in reading and encourage students to become better readers.
- Provides an incentive for ALL districts and schools to put money into quality library collections.
- Assures that a certain minimum amount of funds is spent on improving school library collections every year.
- Provides students (and parents) in communities where there are no bookstores or other libraries access to new books.
- Motivates students to value, get excited about and spend time reading books.

EX. Newhalen School Library/Literacy grant and Igiugig IMLS Enhancement grant. -Increased use of library, students check out and read more books.

I invite each of you (or someone on your staff) to visit one or more of the school libraries in each of the communities you represent and evaluate for yourself the current state of school library collections.

- Peruse the fiction shelves and see how many books look current or appealing.
- Pull out a few books from the science and/or history sections and check the copyright dates. Check atlases, books on countries, genetics, brain research.
- Talk with teachers and find out if the books and other library resources are adequate to support and enhance what they teach in the classroom.
- And most important, talk with students and find out what kinds of books they would like to read. Then see if the library has those books.

In conclusion:

The collections in school libraries play a vital role in enhancing student learning and academic performance. Providing students access to a wide variety of resources they can read for pleasure or to find answers to questions is a step in the right direction toward encouraging students to become better readers and independent life long learners.

With all the emphasis on reading improvement in No Child Left Behind at the federal level and initiatives on reading at the state level, we need to show students that their reading and learning is important by providing good, interesting, up-to-date reading, reference and research resources they can access from their school libraries.

The passage of Senate Bill 119 would help make this happen.

1/30/87

### **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.

1/27

My name is Tiki Levinson and I have been a school librarian in Alaska since 1988. I am currently the district library coordinator for the Delta Greely School District. I am represented by Senator Gene Therriault. I would also like to thank the committee for taking the time to hear my story.

To truly have a solid educational foundation, students need a quality, information-rich school library so that they can become both avid readers and information literate.

In February, I did an analysis of the library collections in our district. This involved looking at the age and range of materials we have available and evaluating areas that need to be "shored up" to meet the current curricular demands. The average age of the collection was found to be 1980. The vast majority of the materials actually have a copyright date in the 1970's - when the pipeline money was abundant. As I am sure you are aware, a lot has happened to change the world since then but you wouldn't know it if you explored a good deal of our library. The Berlin Wall came down, we have had 7 presidential terms of office, and microwaves, personal computers, cell phones, post-it notes and cable television have all changed both the pace and tenor of life. The average age of our collections would be much older had we not discarded a lot of the older materials. We have recently discarded books such as A Short History of Space Travel with a 1965 copyright date or The Wonderful Machine which covers the *amazing* manual typewriter. Many of the materials had to be discarded because they were so old, they were simply disintegrating. Of the 10 most age sensitive areas of the collection - topics such as political science, life sciences and geography - 85-100% of the collections was determined to be beyond the acceptable age range for those areas.

Today's research process involves the integration of print and digital resources and our collections need to be augmented with current, quality resources. This bill would allow for an annual injection of funds so that the collections would be more even and not lost in a certain period of time when school districts had adequate funds. Incrementally this will have a tremendous impact on what is available to our students.

As an aside, I would also like to relate the power that a single book can have in a student's life. I was previously the librarian for the Bristol Bay School District in Naknek before that position had to be eliminated due to declining budgets. One day a young man came in and requested a classic book for his English assignment. After examining the selections, he chose "Ivanhoe". He assured me he really wanted to take on a challenge. He struggled with the archaic language and shared his successes and failures with me on a regular basis. He not only tackled the book but wrote a terrific essay on it. This one experience led him to take on many more challenges in his high school career and that student ended up graduating from Yale University. He even e-mailed me while at Yale when he found two other projects which allowed him to re-read and reconsider Ivanhoe. I truly believe that one book changed the course of his life. That is what librarians do: we find the right resource for the right time. If we don't have the resources, we have failed our students.

11/2/07

# ALASKA STATE SENATE

## SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON

ALASKA STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 514  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182



(907)465-3707  
FAX (907) 465-4821

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 119 (HESS)

"An Act establishing a grant program to support public school libraries."

SB 119 establishes a grant program for funding public school library acquisitions.

For many Alaskan students, who do not have access to a public library, the school library is their primary source for materials to accomplish school projects, do research, and develop reading proficiency as well as a love of reading.

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 loans to borrow the books for their students. It is sad to report that some libraries have no budget at all for new materials.

Many districts are currently rewriting curriculum and course work as a result of the statewide push for school curriculum to support the Alaska Standards. This grant program will be an excellent way for school libraries to help support the updates by purchasing materials supporting the classroom curriculum.

This grant program will provide a means to update materials such as atlases (to reflect current world geography), almanacs, encyclopedias, as well as provide accurate information on advances in science, changes in health issues, career opportunities and recent political issues.

The Alaska Association of School Librarians supports this legislation and proposes the Alaska State Legislature increase our students' access to up-to-date and varied library materials by funding a \$1,000 annual grant to larger active school libraries and a \$750 annual grant to smaller active school libraries (those with five or fewer teachers). This proposal parallels the existing state support of public library collections.

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.

1/2-1/2

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



ALASKA  
STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 514  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182

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## Sectional Analysis

**SB 119, "An Act establishing a grant program to support public school libraries"**

Section 1 adds a new article to AS 14.56 to establish "Public School Library Collection Development Grants" consisting of the following sections:

**14.56.360** gives the Department of Education authority to award and administer the grant program.

**14.56.365** defines the eligibility requirements to receive a grant under this program.

**14.56.370** defines the allowable uses of the funds provided by the grant program, and some specific items that cannot be purchased using grant funds.

**14.56.375** requires a grantee to provide an annual report on the effectiveness of the grant and whether all grant conditions were met or exceeded.

1/20/07



## 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.

Proposed Public School Library Collection Development Grant Program 2006

1/10/07

**Purpose:** To increase Alaskan students' access to new and varied library materials.

Public school libraries which meet the specified criteria will be awarded a \$2,500 supplemental grant.

**Need:** Public school library budgets vary widely between and within school districts. Due to this disparity many students do not have access to relevant, current materials.

Individual schools may apply yearly for the School Library Collection Development Grants if the school:

- provides physical space that can be identified as a library and is reserved for that purpose;
- provides regularly scheduled library hours for all students; \*
- provides designated library personnel to staff the library; \*
- provides evidence that library/information literacy standards are being promoted;
- maintains an ongoing library budget to include library staffing and materials with exemptions for special one-time grants; \*

\* Documentation will be required to validate:

library class schedules; library employee job description and level of training, evidence of ongoing district support of the library budget.

Public School Library Collection Development funds must be utilized to enhance the library collection rather than individual classrooms. Eligible purchases may include books, magazines, reference materials, and electronic subscriptions that support school curriculum or student reading activities.

Public School Library Collection Development funds may not be used to purchase: textbooks, testing software, library automation software, computer hardware, operating software or tech support.

Grants would not fund district-level collections except for district correspondence programs that employ a full-time librarian.

A \$750 annual grant will be awarded to schools with less than 5 teachers.

A brief annual report documenting that grant guidelines were met, will be filed by each school at the end of the school year.

Initial grant monies not awarded will be distributed as an incentive grant to fund innovative school library programs.

The grant will be administered by the Alaska State Library, Library Development section. The grant program would fund adequate additional State Library personnel to process proposals and to monitor expenditures.

Estimated cost: \$885,000/year

1/3/07

## 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

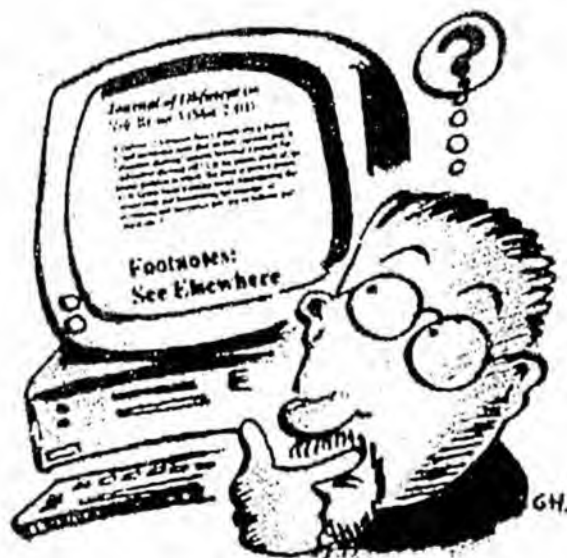
## 10 Reasons Why the Internet Is No Substitute for a Library

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 cry.

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.*

1/22/06



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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane L. Fuerstenau".

Jane Fuerstenau  
AkLA President

1/2-1/26

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



**Alaska Association of School Librarians**  
<http://www.akla.org/akas1/>

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)

February 8, 2008

Testimony for SB 119 Senate Finance Hearing

For the record, my name is Melinda Hofstad, and I am representing myself, although I am a member of the Petersburg City Council as well. I am speaking in support of SB 119. As a library user, I am thrilled with this bill. This past year we have had a total of 54,000 library visits, which is pretty amazing for our small town.

Our council placed the new library project at the top of our CIP list and our community is supporting this project. Our current library is small, the librarian is using the halls, a small conference room, and our council chamber to expand her space. The roof leaks, threatening our book collection. The time has come.

For five years a diverse group of citizens has been meeting to try to figure a way to make this happen. The Foraker group has taken us on as a project to help us plan an affordable, sustainable library. This legislation would help make our library a reality.

I encourage you to push this legislation through. Thank you.

Melinda Hofstad, City Councilor  
PO Box 1030  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

[mhofsta@gei.net](mailto:mhofsta@gei.net)  
907-772-3880

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melinda Hofstad".

# Senate Finance Testimony

Feb 8, 2008

## **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.

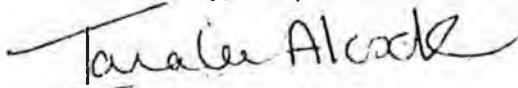
I would like to voice my support for Senate Bill 119. I would specifically like to address Section 1, the library construction matching grant program.

Public libraries in rural Alaska are critical community spaces. In Petersburg our public library is one of the few free public spaces in town. It is a hive of community activity and has never been more popular than it is today. It is often so busy it is impossible to get through the door, let alone find a place to sit. Our library is not only too small, it is failing. Floors are sinking, walls are cracked and the roof leaks chronically.

The need for a new library in our community is urgent. Hundreds of Petersburg residents have spoken out in support of a new library for our community. We are developing a plan for a library that meets our community's needs, is affordable, and is sustainable in the long term.

I believe that financial support from the community is an essential component of any library project. The library construction grant program proposed in Senate Bill 119 is an excellent strategy to match local support as well as leverage private donations for new library facilities in rural Alaskan communities.

Thank you for your work on this bill and for the opportunity to testify today.



Tara Alcock

City Librarian

Petersburg, Alaska

(907) 772-3349

libdir@ci.petersburg, Ak

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Information Office**  
State of Alaska  
Legislative Affairs Agency

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Petersburg\_lio@legis.state.ak.us  
907.772.3741 Fax 772.3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: Senate Finance  
FAX: 907.465.2187  
PHONE: 907.465.6814

DATE: February 11, 2008

1 page follow this cover. 2 total.

Please enter this hard copy comment into the Committee Record for SB 119. it is a follow up to Hursey's Oral Testimony given on 2/8/2008.

Thank you,



Ellen Rojcewicz  
Petersburg LIO

Julie Hursey  
Box 213  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

February 8th, 2008

Dear Senator Olsen and Senator Stedman;

Thank you for promoting a bill that helps build libraries in Alaska. I am very glad to see Senate Bill 119 moving through the Legislature.

I am the President of the Petersburg Public Library Board and we have been working hard putting together plans for a new library for our town. I was heartened to hear this bill would have the State match private donations and foundation grants. This would move us much closer to our goal.

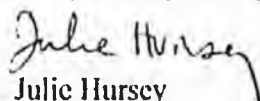
The present public library in Petersburg was built in 1959. The town has long since outgrown this overcrowded and inadequate facility, which is not ADA compliant. The roof leaks, which threatens our collection. The ever increasing numbers of programs generated by community interests have spilled out of our rooms into the Council Chambers which leaks even more. Certain garbage cans are specifically placed to catch the drips.

We are working on plans for a new library that would be approximately 7500 square feet, located near the heart of downtown. The City Council has already designated property for our project. Last spring we conducted meetings, an open house and a poll to assess community interests and needs. The poll showed that 85.6% of people contacted believed that Petersburg needed a new library. Our present City Council agrees, and has placed the project in the top four of their Capital Improvements List.

We are planning to put a bond issue on the ballot in October of 2008 that will ask Petersburg voters if they will agree to raise \$2.5 million dollars through a temporary sales tax. The rest of the funding needs can be met through a combination of local donations, grants from foundations and state funding. We just received a large donation from the local Masonic Lodge, and several other community groups have pledged their support. Senate Bill 119 would go far to help us reach our dream of a new library for Petersburg.

Alaska has a budget surplus now which tops any time in Alaska's history. While it is prudent to set some the money aside for the years ahead, this is also a good time to build resources like libraries that will carry us into the future. With your help, we can turn Petersburg's dream of a new library into a reality.

Thank you for your support of libraries.

  
Julie Hursey  
Petersburg, Alaska

Box 213

[info@alaskapassages.com](mailto:info@alaskapassages.com)