

SB 84

(FILE 2)

LETTERS

OF

SUPPORT

<TARGET><BILL>SB 84</BILL><SUBJECT>SB 84 (FILE 2) LETTERS
OF SUPPORT</SUBJECT><COMM>SEDC27</COMM></TARGET>

105 Cascade Creek Road
Sitka, Alaska 99835
February 27, 2011

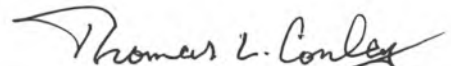
The Honorable Joe Thomas
Alaska Senate
Co-Chair Senate Education
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Thomas

I am writing to urge endorsement of SB 84 by the Education Committee and its forwarding to Finance and eventually the Senate floor. Like virtually all Alaska School Districts we in Sitka are facing major budget shortfalls this year. On a budget of just under \$17 million, needed to simply maintain the present program, we are facing a deficit of \$1.3 million. Without relief we are facing significant layoffs of teachers and significant increases in pupil-teacher ratios and possible deletion of whole academic programs. SB 84 by increasing the BSA by \$110 for FY 2011-12 will help though not solve the problem especially when coupled with the proposal to create categorical funding for Vocational Education. Though we in the educational community have always been somewhat leery of categorical funding, we recognize that dollars going into the 20% Block Grant for Special ED, ESL, Gifted & Talented, & Vocational ED are being siphoned off almost exclusively by Special ED due to federal mandates and leaving Vocational Education seriously short funded; this at a time when its importance is being increasingly recognized.

Thank you to you personally and the committee as a whole for introducing the legislation. It has our strong support.

Sincerely,


Thomas L. Conley, MD, FAAP
Sitka School Board Member



Klawock City School District

P.O. Box 9 Klawock, Alaska 99925 907-755-2220 Fax: 907-755-2913

Richard E. Carlson
Superintendent

Jim Holien
K -12 Principal

February 25, 2011

Senator Joe Thomas
State Capital Room 514
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Thomas:

On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration of the Klawock City School District, I would like to express our support for SB 84.

The passage of SB 84 would address three major concerns of our school district namely increasing the BSA, forward funding, and funding for vocational education.

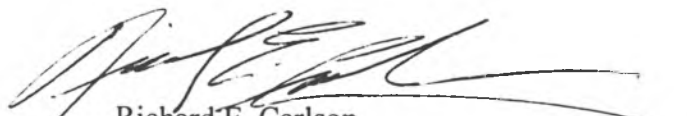
As a small rural school district we are especially vulnerable to rising "fixed" costs. We are particularly concerned about the cost of energy. We have been recently told by our supplier to expect significant increases in the cost of heating fuel, propane, and gasoline. Clearly world events have a direct impact on our energy budget. In addition, insurance costs continue to increase. We realize that Klawock is not unique in this situation. However, due to the size of our budget (generally less than \$3 million) we have an especially difficult time absorbing these costs.

SB 84 also affords us the opportunity to do a better job of sound financial planning. Knowing the Base Student Allocation for the next three years provides school districts with needed information to strategically plan programs, budgets, and staffing, providing for a more efficiently run school district.

For years the Klawock City School District has struggled to keep a quality vocational education program alive. Fortunately due to dedicated staff, creative funding, and the commitment of the Board of Education, our students have been able to enjoy an excellent, though small program. SB 84 provides us with the opportunity to expand our program by increasing course offerings while staying committed to excellence.

SB 84 is an excellent piece of legislation that will decrease the financial burden caused by rising prices, allow for better planning of programs and resources, and allow students opportunities to participate in quality vocational education programs that will help them transition from secondary school to post-secondary training and the Alaska workforce. Therefore, we fully support SB 84.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Carlson
Superintendent

MEETING TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES TODAY
www.klawockschool.com

Unalaska City School District

Senator Joe Thomas
State Capitol Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801



February 22, 2011

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing on behalf of the Unalaska City School District (UCSD) Board of Education in support of Senate Bill 84. SB 84 provides a modest increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for each of the next three fiscal years and funding for a separate grant program within the foundation formula for high school vocational education. This bill allows school districts to plan their budgets and programs for at least the next three years with greater certainty.

Knowing the education funding outlook for the next three years will enable UCSD to plan for the implementation of additional high school courses needed to meet the eligibility requirements for the Governor's Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) program. Specifically, the District seeks to hire an additional high school teacher so that students have access to the rigorous core curriculum required for eligibility for the APS.

The vocational education funding component of SB 84 will enable UCSD to build capacity within its Career and Technical Education programs. UCSD would utilize the additional vocational education funding to upgrade equipment, technology, and shop and classroom facilities. The District would expand its Tech Prep Program to include career paths other than welding, which is the only Tech Prep program presently offered through a partnership with UAF.

Like many school districts throughout the state, UCSD is faced with significant budgetary challenges due to rapidly rising health insurance and utilities costs. The increases to education funding proposed in SB 84 would allow UCSD to meet these rising costs and implement programs that fulfill the Governor and legislature's mandates to keep students in school, provide rigorous curriculum, and prepare students to enter Alaska's workforce.

Sincerely,

John P. Conwell, Superintendent

Cc: Senator Lyman Hoffman
Representative Bryce Edgmon
AASB

P.O. Box 570, Unalaska, Alaska 99685 • (907) 581-3151 • Fax (907) 581-3152 • www.ucsd.net
John P. Conwell, Superintendent • Glenn Cole, Principal • Lorrie D. Scoles, Principal



Southwest Region School District

P.O. Box 90
574 Kenny Wren Road
Dillingham, AK 99576

(907) 842-5287 • Phone
(907) 842-5428 • Fax

February 22, 2011

Senator Joe Thomas
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau AK, 99801
Sen.Joe.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Thomas,

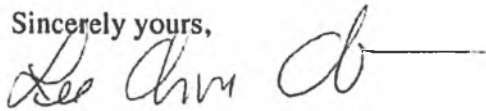
Southwest Region School District (SWRS)D, as well as other school districts across the State, is in need of a funding mechanism that allows for a proactive approach to annual budgeting, as well as one that provides adequate funding to meet the needs necessary to educate each of our 634 students. Thank you for your sponsorship of Senate Bill 84 that will raise the Base Student Allocation (BSA) gradually over the next three years. SWRSD also concurs with the Bill's effort to establish a separate grant program within the foundation formula to provide support of high school vocational education.

By creating a forward funding mechanism, SWRSD is able to anticipate future budget allocations during the budget planning process. As with any process that requires stakeholder input, the knowledge of the actual amount of the BSA allows the District to more accurately anticipate its revenues so that each community may provide comment on a more complete proposed budget. This also allows staffing patterns to be set well before the recruitment and selection process so that personnel resources may be more accurately identified.

The additional funds that are provided in SB84 will help to cover the continually rising costs of insurance and energy. As these non-instructional items' costs continue to rise, our instructional program is impacted either through shortages in staff or the reduction in teaching materials in the classroom.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Lee Ann Andrew
Director of Administrative Services

Aleknagik

Clark's Point

Ekwok


Koliganek

Manokotak



Jack Foster
Superintendent

New Stuyahok



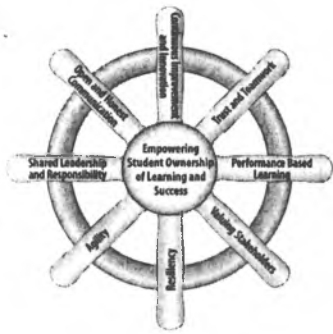
Kay Andrews
School Board President

Togiak

Twin Hills

djp

Cc: Senator Lyman Hoffman, Representative Bryce Edgmon, SWRS School Board,
AASB-Carl Rose



Chugach School District

9312 Vanguard Drive, Suite 100

Anchorage, AK 99507-5355

(907) 522-7400 Phone

(907) 522-3399 Fax

chugachschoools.com

The Honorable Joe Thomas
State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801

February 24, 2011

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing in your support for your important education-funding proposal, Senate Bill 84. I would encourage action on this important legislation raising the BSA from the current \$5,680 per student to \$5,790 in July 2011, and then to \$5,905 in 2012 and to \$6,025 in 2013. The increases will be affordable to the state and important to the quality and stability of public education. It will help stabilize the ability of school districts to plan for the future rather than guessing from year to year.

I also support the portion of Senate Bill 84 that proposes the state fund a separate grant program within the foundation formula for high school vocational education. This is an investment that will help keep students in school and be prepared for Alaska jobs upon graduation from high school.

Sincerely,

Charlene Arneson, President
Chugach School District Board of Education

CC: Senator Joe Thomas, co-chair, Education Committee



Whittier Community School
(907) 472-2575

Tatitlek Community School
(907) 325-2252

Chenequa Bay Community School
(907) 573-5123

Valdez Extension
(907) 835-5528

Anchorage Extension
(907) 522-7400

Fairbanks Extension
(907) 457-2545





Anchorage School District

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504-3135
(907) 742-4000

SCHOOL BOARD

John Steiner
President

Crystal Kennedy
Vice President

Kathleen Plunkett
Treasurer

Jeannie Mackie
Clerk

Jeff Friedman

Pat Higgins

Don Smith

SUPERINTENDENT

Carol Comeau

February 23, 2011

Senator Kevin Meyer
Majority Leader
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Joe Thomas
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senators Meyer and Thomas:

On behalf of the Anchorage School District, I want to thank you for co-sponsoring Senate Bill 84. This legislation would insure that the Anchorage School District, and all other districts in the State, would be able to plan responsibly for the next three years, and would allow us to make much needed improvements to our Career and Technical/Vocational Education Programs. I applaud your leadership on this important issue.

The past three years of advance planning for education has allowed the Anchorage School District to advance their efforts in meeting our goal of graduating more of our high school students with a diploma, and reducing the drop-out rate. The efforts of the Joint Education Funding Task Force (JEFTF), chaired by Representative Mike Hawker and Senator Bert Stedman, have made a significant difference in our ability to plan ahead and we are grateful to the legislature and the governor for successful implementation of the three-year forward funding. Even with those significant increases, the Anchorage School District still had a \$12 million budget gap in the general fund to maintain current programs, pay for negotiated salary and benefit increases, pay for increased utility and fuel costs. The gap was NOT necessitated by our use of the ARRA (federal stimulus funds), but rather the ongoing general fund costs.

We still have a long way to go to insure that our students are college and/or career ready when they leave the Anchorage School District. We are very appreciative of the legislature's strong support for increases to the Base Student Allocation (BSA), the Intensive Needs Factor, and to pupil transportation. We are also supportive of the phased-in Area Cost Differential for all districts, even though Anchorage does not receive any funding under this part of the education formula. The increases to the Intensive Needs factor has allowed the ASD to use our general fund resources for non-special education students and programs for the first time; we are very grateful for that as many of our over 900+ Intensive Needs students require extra-ordinary services to meet the requirements of their Individual Educational Plans (IEP's).

We support Senate Bill 84's three year increases to the BSA as a way to assist districts in meeting the costs of inflation, fuel and energy cost increases, and to



Anchorage School District

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504-3135
(907) 742-4000

SCHOOL BOARD

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Clerk

Jeff Friedman

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Don Smith

SUPERINTENDENT

Carol Comeau

allow us to retain important programs and staff who are key to increasing our graduation rate over time. We believe the proposed increases are reasonable for the State of Alaska in support of quality education. We know that we must increase the rigor of our course offerings in order to meet the challenges of the Alaska Performance Scholarship; we have a graduation task force reviewing our requirements and soliciting input in where to make needed changes. The additional funding will allow us to retain our effective teachers while keeping class sizes reasonable so our students receive quality education.

The Anchorage School District is also increasing our Career and Technical/Vocational Education offerings in order to better meet the needs of our non-college going student population. We have made great strides in this area at all of our comprehensive high schools, as well as at the King Career Center. We have strong partnerships with Alaska General Contractors, Alaska Works, and CITC at our Construction Academy at the King Career Center. We have incorporated upgrades to our high schools and middle schools in order to offer more CTE courses at home schools, as well as the King Career Center in our upcoming school bond election. Having additional funding to support the necessary teacher positions and the professional development required will go a long way to meeting the needs of our students in this vital area of 21st century education so all of our students are eligible for the Alaska Performance Scholarship for either college and/or career and technical training.

Again, I thank you for your leadership in bringing Senate Bill 84 forward. I urge the Senate Education Committee to hold hearings on the legislation and move it forward to Senate Finance and then hopefully to the floor for a vote of the Senate. At that point, I hope that a similar bill will have worked its way through the House for passage and eventual reconciliation in a joint conference committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at comeau_carol@asdk12.org or 907-742-4312.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Comeau
Superintendent

cc School Board members
Anchorage legislators
Governor Sean Parnell
Commissioner of DEED, Mike Hanley
Bruce Johnson, Executive Director, ACSA
Carl Rose, Executive Director, AASB

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 26, 2011 12:22 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support for SB 84

From: Sammy Crawford [<mailto:scrawfor@alaska.net>]
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 2:42 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: Dave Jones
Subject: Support for SB 84

Subject: Support for SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I want to offer my strong support for Senate Bill 84, an important education funding proposal. This legislation would make a huge difference to our district for the following reasons:

1. It allows us to plan three years in advance,
2. it allows us to hire and retain the best teachers with certain funding,
3. it will allow us to keep programmatic staffing including our interventionists who work with children to make sure they meet the benchmarks by third grade, and
4. would allow us to continue our vocational ed programs and add to our successful construction academies.

Our district, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, has worked diligently to cut unnecessary costs. We have an energy incentive plan at each school in the district where students and staff work to decrease energy costs. We have rebid our copy contract to reduce paper copy costs. We took a tough look at our budget and eliminated unnecessary budgeted funds from several different areas. We still have no full time librarians in any of our 44 schools as a result of cost cutting measures in the past several years.

Our district is currently looking at a deficit of \$3.5 million for next year - about 42 teachers.

We really appreciate your sponsorship of SB 84.

Sincerely,

Sammy Crawford

Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 8:23 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support for SB84

-----Original Message-----

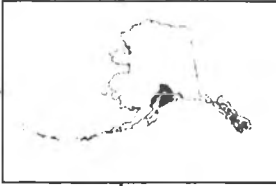
From: William Mcleod [<mailto:wmcleod@dlgsd.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 4:07 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; dcsd@dlgsd.org
Subject: Support for SB84

Honorable Sen. Joe Thomas,

As superintendent of DCSD, I am asking for your support to increase the funding for Alaskan schools. As an educator I sincerely appreciate the past funding efforts from our state legislature and hope you continue to assist us. I know you are aware of the ever increasing costs in locations like Dillingham for such items as fuel for energy, rising insurance costs, the need to offer competitive compensation to attract and retain rural teachers, and things as simple as the cost of a loaf of bread. More importantly is the need we have to improve the academic performance of our kids. As a district faced with not meeting AYP, being a level 5 designated school, and recognizing we need to do a better job of meeting the SBA's of the Alaska standards we have begun major initiatives for improvement. We are moving to a standards based instructional program implementing research based best practices for our district. This year we have implemented the DEED recommended model for a universal screening assessment-Measured Academic Performance program, Response to Intervention, curriculum alignment to ensure we are teaching the AK Standards in all assessed areas, and volunteered as one of 16 school district participating in the new school improvement process known by the acronym of STEPP. One result of our efforts has been the identification that we need an additional reading specialist to help our teachers and kids with interventions for success. Without some increase in funding we will not be able to make even this modest effort to help our staff and kids. We are showing gains in our students using the processes I have noted and feel confident that your investment in the kids of Dillingham will not be wasted. We are showing positive results and with a little more help we can move our students ever closer to meeting the standards of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Bill McLeod,
Superintendent of Schools DCSD



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools
148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

March 1, 2011

Senator Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Building
Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Senator Joe Thomas
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Building
Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Meyer and Senator Thomas,

I am writing on behalf of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) to comment on Senate Bill 84; thank you for your part in sponsoring this legislation. The KPBSD strongly supports passage of this bill and encourages the legislature to give it priority status so that it is considered well before the end of the legislative session. Our urgency for this consideration is due to the timing of our issuance of contracts.

KPBSD prides itself on being fiscally prudent and financially efficient. During the state's previous education fiscal plan that increased the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$100 each year, we made significant improvements to our students' learning opportunities. We used this new money to expand our vocational offerings, add interventionists to help our struggling students and increase the number of counselors to help students from dropping out. We are preparing a brochure that highlights the positive effect of our improvements; I will share this with you when I am Juneau next week.

KPBSD's FY12 budget is based on rolling forward our existing level of service. With the BSA at its current level and our borough's contribution holding steady, we expect that our FY12 revenue will be 3.5 million dollars less than our budgeted expenditures. The proposed increase to the BSA that is included in SB84 will approximately cut this deficit in half.

Senator Meyer and Senator Thomas
March 1, 2011
Page 2.

I look forward to sharing the mentioned brochure with you and thank you for considering this encouragement to pass SB84.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Atwater". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Atwater" clearly distinguishable.

Steve Atwater, Ph.D.
Superintendent

cc: Kenai Peninsula Legislative Delegation

Sen. Joe Thomas

From: Tana Wood [ftwood@wildak.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 12:07 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: aasb@aasb.org
Subject: SB84

Thank you for your support of education and the future of Alaska kids. As President of Delta Greely School Board, REAA #15, I urge passage of **SB84**. Not only will it provide much needed stability for planning and development purposes, it addresses the much needed support of High School vocational education. As we watch the dramatically increasing oil prices and other basic costs of operating a school, an increased BSA with the 3 year formula could not come at a more critical time. We strongly support this very vital legislation.

Thank you!

Tana Wood

Sen. Joe Thomas

From: Doris Robbins [drobbins@gci.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 20, 2011 11:22 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: Sen. Bettye Davis
Subject: SB 84 VOC ED FUNDING/BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION

RE: Senate Bill 84 VOC ED FUNDING/BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION

Senator Thomas,

Thank you for supporting adequate funding for education. Cutting funding should not be a reaction when student performance does not instantly jump the next year after adequate funding is made available. Because there was more funding last year does not make up for all the compounded lack of resources over the years.

Children are not like cars; You can't pour more "gasoline" in one year and have that jumpstart the stalled vehicle. These little human "vehicles" have to have years of fertilizer, watering and proper pruning which builds on each year until the "plant" is mature and bears fruit.

It is not so different from plants that start out healthy and are later neglected. It is even better if you start working with "the little plants" at a very early start just after they can stand, say at about 3 or 4 years. Even if you give them a good first start, they will wither when you withhold adequate support (funds). They may never completely pull out of their withering just because you invest more dollars one year. They may instead forever bear the marks of neglect.

Look at the little stunted trees along the windswept areas of highway. You can see some that struggled to get through a hard period and survived and some have fallen. Think also of the trees in areas where they always had good growing in a rich soil and protected area. They stand proud and tall. That is not so different from our school children.

Please make sure the education funding level stays at the highest level possible. Also make sure that all children have the kind of education that meets their needs.

A good portion of children need to have Vocational Education. In fact, I am one who believes that all children need to have broad exposure to all kinds of learning. All children need to know how to do basic vocational and home economics skills that will aid them in taking care of themselves and their homes in the future. Some will discover that is an area where they do their best work and others will have some very useful skills that they will find handy all their lives.

Sincerely,

Doris Robbins

1281 Overhill Dr.
Fairbanks AK 99709-6753
(907) 374-0597

Sen. Joe Thomas

From: Kennedy_Crystal [Kennedy_Crystal@asdk12.org]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 1:38 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: crose@asb.org; jreeves@asb.org
Subject: Support for SB84

Dear Chairman Meyer and Chairman Thomas,

Thank you very much for your introduction of SB 84. As the Vice President of the Anchorage School Board and the President of the Association of Alaska School Boards, I can testify to the fact that the increases to the BSA in SB84 will be of great benefit to the Anchorage School District as well as the other school districts in our state.

This week the Anchorage School Board passed a Six Year Fiscal Plan. Two projections in the plan show that if revenues to our district remain status quo or are increased by \$100 to the BSA and by one and a half percent from our local tax base, the Anchorage School District will have a \$54 - \$101 million gap within six years in order to continue to deliver the services to our students that we currently do. Please keep in mind that Anchorage does not benefit from any implementation of the Cost Differential factor but must rely on an increase to the BSA for any relief to the effects of inflation on our educational programs.

Both from the perspective of the Anchorage School District and that of the Association of Alaska School Boards, the addition in SB 84 of targeted funding for vocational programs would be well received. The Association of Alaska School Boards has a resolution crafted and supported by our membership that promotes separate funding outside of the block grant that can be specifically focused on technical/ vocational improvements in our districts. Over the past few years the Anchorage School District has made significant strides in providing greater technical/vocational opportunities to our students and many districts are making similar efforts geared toward helping our students become more prepared for careers and post-secondary education. It is important to continue to improve and expand in our vocational offerings in all of Alaska's school districts and this bill will be very valuable toward that end.

The Anchorage School District has a graduation rate of 70% and has a drop out rate that has been under the 4% mark for the past several years. We have worked diligently to make those improvements and will continue to do so. Passage of SB 84 with the increases to the BSA and the vocational funding program will go a long way toward helping us meet those educational goals and allow our students to be more successful.

Thank you again!

Crystal Kennedy

Crystal Kennedy
Anchorage School Board member
907-696-2624

*Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO)
3145 Pioneer Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801
907-500-9086
alasbo@gci.net*

February 21, 2011

Alaska State Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Joe Thomas and the Honorable Kevin Meyer, Co-Chairs

Senators,

We are writing in support of a new multi-year plan to increase the base student allocation (BSA) in the K-12 foundation funding formula. This type of multi-year plan appears in **SB 84 – Base Student Allocation Increase and High School Vocational Education Funding**.

The Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO) represents school business professionals from across the state, many of whom are responsible for budgeting and financial planning for their districts.

The multi-year increases to the Base Student Allocation applied during the years FY09-FY11 had a profound effect on the focus of the budget dialogue in school districts across the state. Instead of concern primarily about budget cuts to keep our heads above water, stakeholders participating in the budget process were able to plan instructional programs over a multi-year period. Although education is a long-term project, we can see that these efforts are already beginning to bear fruit, to the benefit of Alaskan students.

ALASBO members also know very well that school districts need regular funding increases to function effectively, in order to keep up with the increases in health insurance, energy, wages, benefits and other costs that are a reality in our current economy.

We believe that a multi-year funding plan for the BSA is one of the most effective actions the Legislature can take to promote continued improvement to the quality of instruction across the state. We'd like to see our districts focus on instructional planning, rather than the debilitating distraction of pink slips and the uncertainty of cuts to promising programs each spring.

We urge your support for a new multi-year funding plan for the Base Student Allocation. Please contact ALASBO Executive Director Amy Lujan using the contact information above if we can provide further assistance to your efforts.

Sincerely,



Luke D. Fulp
ALASBO President

Juneau School District 10014 Crazy Horse Drive Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau Alaska 99801.1128

The Honorable Joseph Thomas
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

7 March 2011

Dear Senator Meyer and Senator Thomas:

On behalf of Alaska's fifth largest school district, we thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 84, Vocational Education Funding/Increasing Base Student Allocation (BSA).

I understand that some legislators are reluctant to increase the BSA due to frustration that increases have not resulted in improvements to student learning. The Juneau School District is frustrated that progress is slower than desired, but we are proud of the results achieved so far:

- ❑ Reading proficiency of students rose from 83.1% to 84.7% between 2009 and 2010
- ❑ Math proficiency of students rose from 71.1% to 73.9 %, between 2009 and 2010 reversing a declining trend over the past several years.
- ❑ In 2010 six of the seven elementary schools, including all Title 1 elementary schools, met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under "No Child Left Behind". The percent of AYP targets achieved in 2010 increased to 94% up from 93% in 2009. Those schools that have yet to meet AYP are precariously close in all but a few hard to serve student populations.
- ❑ The Juneau School District achieved \$1 million in cost savings in 30 months after forming a strategic alliance with Energy Education, a national energy conservation company. The district received an *Energy Excellence Award* and four schools have received *Energy Star* ratings for their progress in energy conservation.

Recent increases in the BSA have helped the Juneau School District toward its goal of creating a local education system that ensures all students possess skills to compete in the world labor market. Steps the Juneau School District are taking to improve our local educational system include:

- ❑ Increasing the number of instructional school days by one day in each of three years.
- ❑ Requiring a one-hour early release of students every other Monday so teachers may assess student data and collaborate on ways to improve teaching to specific student needs.
- ❑ Implementing a common formative assessment (Measuring Academic Progress) in which all of our students take a one-hour nationally-normed computerized test three times a year. Results are available the next day (not the next school year) so teachers may assess student performance and take immediate steps to improve teaching to that student.
- ❑ Examining our graduation requirements and looking to increase the number of credits required as well as the rigor of course offerings to be sure our student graduate with mastery of core subjects and a well-rounded array of classes.
- ❑ Investing in teacher training for a nationally renowned program called AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) which is designed to provide often overlooked talented and minority students with the skills and abilities to succeed with their studies.

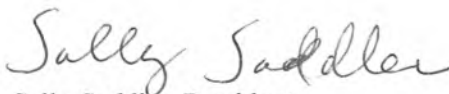
- ❑ Implementing a zero-tolerance substance abuse policy of random drug testing, voluntary for all students and mandatory for all students engaged in state sanctioned school sponsored activities.
- ❑ We are in the third year of a five year plan to build high school programs in which students connect their core academic subjects with possible post-secondary plans in Alaska and in global markets.

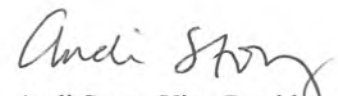
The final point above is the perfect segue to the second part of your bill, which would provide schools with a specific funding algorithm for career and technical education (formerly known as vocational education). Current Federal Carl Perkins funds amount to less than \$80.0 in Juneau and come with so many strings that it takes creativity and fortitude to use them wisely to build our career and technical options that are being aligned with Alaska jobs. Funds provided by this legislation would help ensure we have a sufficient number of teachers trained to deliver curricula resulting in real-world endorsements that make our students more marketable beyond high school. I have attached a copy of the career options we are building in our district to give you a good idea of the structure we are creating.

In closing, the increase to the BSA proposed in this bill would enable us to progress more quickly in our efforts to redesign teaching and learning to help our students leave our schools poised and prepared to enter the world ready to contribute. Our goal is that students leave our district with less need for remedial university course work (thus saving limited postsecondary dollars for higher level classes), and possessing the skills to enter an apprenticeship, the military or the world of work with the skills employers demand to be competitive in our world economy. Our job is to help them master those skills and make those connections.

Thank you for sponsoring this bill and recognizing that budget certainty enables our district to operate effectively and efficiently, while providing our employees with the knowledge that they will be employed next year. This enables them to focus on teaching as opposed to looking, or wondering if they should be looking, for a new job, and this enables us to continue to structure our operations to successfully prepare our students.

Sincerely,


Sally Saddler, President


Andi Story, Vice-President

CC: Sean Parnell, Governor

The Honorable Dennis Egan, Senator

The Honorable Beth Kerttula, Representative

The Honorable Cathy Munoz, Representative

The Honorable Mike Hanley, Commissioner, Department of Education and Early Development

Carl Rose, Alaska Association of School Boards

Juneau School District
“Next Generations”
High School Structure for Post-Secondary Success

Juneau’s two comprehensive high schools are comprised of smaller learning communities for freshman to build a strong foundation to move into classes organized by career pathways. ** Pathways align with Alaska career clusters. After the freshman year, students may select a pathway, which is a series of classes that offer a career endorsement. ***

Juneau Douglas High School Learning Communities

Freshmen Learning Community 1

Freshmen Learning Community 2

ACE-Architecture, Auto, Construction, Engineering Learning Community pathways and endorsements *Students are engaged in hands-on learning including the design and construction of a house or industry internships. The Engineering Pathway has adopted the national pre-engineering program, Project Lead the Way, with a full sequence of courses. Students can earn up to 24 credits through dual credit opportunities with UAS that lead to postsecondary and apprenticeship programs.*

- Architecture Pathway and Endorsement
- Auto Mechanics Pathway and Endorsement
- Construction Pathway and Endorsement
- Engineering Pathway and Endorsement

Athletics, Recreation and Medicine Learning Community pathways and endorsements

Students prepare for pathways into high demand health occupations and gain skills supporting healthy living and lifelong fitness. Students can earn certifications in ETT, EMT, First Aide and CPR, Lifeguarding, Water Safety, and apply their skills in community- based experiences. Students can earn up to 16 UAS credits that lead to postsecondary programs by completing courses in these pathways.

- Health Sciences Pathway and Endorsement
- Fitness and Recreation Pathway and Endorsement

Business and Communications Learning Community pathways and endorsements

The Business and Communications Pathways and Endorsements prepare students with skills for high growth occupations in finance, business, and media communications. Students gain hands-on media training in writing and video production courses. Desktop publishing and web design courses are aligned with digital arts to prepare students with skills for working in graphic design. Students can earn 6 UAS credits for Accounting I and II.

- Finance Pathway and Endorsement
- Marketing Pathway and Endorsement
- Graphic Design Pathway and Endorsement
- Media Communications Pathway and Endorsement

Humanities Learning Community pathways and endorsements

Humanities offer broad-based experiences that require students to earn credits from nearly every department including two years of a foreign language. Literature, history and philosophy are connected with communication and cultural studies, and linguistics. Fine Arts endorsements provide students with opportunities to engage fully in the arts world and express themselves in visual and performance venues.

- Instrumental Pathway and Endorsement

- Theater Pathway and Endorsement
- Visual Arts Pathway and Endorsement
- Vocal Performance Pathway and Endorsement
- Humanities Pathway and Endorsement

Thunder Mountain High School Learning Communities

Blue/Freshmen Learning Community
Silver/Freshmen Learning Community

10-12th grade: Exploration and Discovery Learning Community pathways and endorsements

The Exploration and Discovery Learning Community applies math, science and technology courses to explore local environments and issues that affect people and the environment. Pathways connect students with Juneau's natural resources through courses that engage students in scientific research, apply math and science skills in engineering technology courses, and build specialized skills for health-care related occupations.

- Health Care Pathway and Endorsement
- Marine and Environmental Sciences Pathway and Endorsements
 - Marine and Environmental Sciences Endorsement
 - Outdoor Education Endorsement
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math -STEM Pathway and Endorsement

10-12th grade: Global Studies Learning Community pathways and endorsements

The Global Studies Learning Community focuses on the arts and humanities to build awareness and understanding of cultural influences that shape our world. Pathways connect students with workplace skills in the business and hospitality industry, focus skills in the fine arts including state of the art technology and design skills through digital animation, and engage in opportunities to explore occupations in government, law and education.

- Business and Hospitality Pathways and Endorsements
 - Culinary Arts Endorsement
 - Entrepreneurship Endorsement
- Fine Arts Pathways and Endorsements
 - Digital Communications Endorsement
 - Performance Arts Endorsement
 - Visual Arts Endorsement
- Leadership, Law and Education Pathway and Endorsement

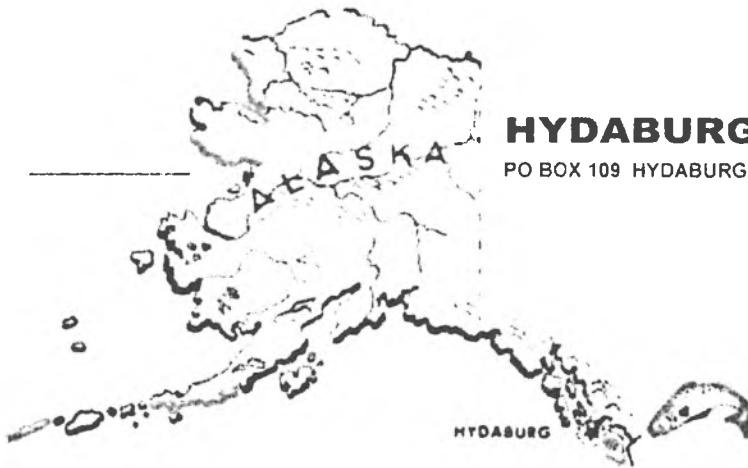
***Learning community:** *an academic grouping with a focus that usually will consist of three or four teachers who share the same students. All students will be part of a learning community, whether it's a ninth grade team or a pathway area.*

- *Students choose at least one learning community pathway (can shift each year) with guidance and advisement*

****Pathways and endorsements:** *An emphasis in an area of study (linked to one of the 16 national "career clusters") that requires a minimum of 3.0 credits in that specialty. The endorsement would appear on a student's transcript.*

Honors endorsement is available to any student

- **Heritage Honors at TMHS** *is available to any student who has an interest in Alaska and Native Studies*



HYDABURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO BOX 109 HYDABURG, AK 99922 PHONE 907-285-3491 FAX 907-285-3391

March 10, 2011

Co-Chairs and Members
Senate Education Committee

Re: SB 84

Dear Co-Chairs and Members:

Hydaburg City School District supports SB 84 which provides a vocational education factor and incrementally increases the BSA.

The present block grant, which is intended to cover special education, bilingual/bicultural education, and vocational education is insufficient. Vocational education often involves specialized equipment and classes are often small for the sake of safety. This proposed recognition of the cost and importance of vocational education is welcomed.

The proposed increases in the BSA are critical to school districts' ability to maintain programs in the face of rising costs and, in many cases, declining enrollment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'B. A. Weinberg', is written above the typed name.

B. A. Weinberg, CEO
HYDABURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Edra Morledge

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 4:25 PM
To: Edra Morledge
Subject: FW: SB 84 Increased education funding

EDUC

-----Original Message-----

From: Cheek_Lori [mailto:Cheek_Lori@asdk12.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 4:12 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: SB 84 Increased education funding

Dear Senator Meyer,

I am the principal of Ptarmigan Elementary in Anchorage. Please support SB 84 and increased funding for education. My school has 460 students. 100% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Few of our parents are politically active, so as a representative of this community I am speaking up and asking to help our kids.

Ptarmigan has benefited over the years from State and Federal funds. We need your support to continue providing a quality program and to meet the needs of our students.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lori Cheek
Principal

Edra Morledge

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 4:30 PM
To: Edra Morledge
Subject: FW: SB 84

EDUC

-----Original Message-----

From: Brad Allen [<mailto:ballen@kuspuk.org>]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 4:28 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: SB 84

Senator Meyer;

I am writing to ask for your support of Senate Bill 84 to help increase the Base Student Allocation and to help fund career-technical education.

With the increases felt across Alaska to school districts due to increased costs of materials and shipping/freight as well as the increased cost to keep schools open, the action of increasing the BSA is incredibly important to help districts do their job of educating kids. The funding to help provide students a quality education is paramount to the success of our young people to help guide Alaska into the next generation - and that is why this bill is so crucial to help districts' accomplish this task.

It also begins to address the long overlooked issue of career-technical education and the funding for these types of programs. While it is certainly the schools job to educate our young people, we are also tasked with helping them to be ready for employment and career options when they are ready to leave our instructional care. Having funding to help not only provide this critical component is essential but to help give all of our students the opportunity to be exposed to these resources is part of the solution to helping Alaska have a ready to hire work force - or go to college or whatever post-secondary training an individual would like to ascend to. While all district's face issues in providing these items, as a REAA, I can speak first hand about why these career readiness and vocational education programs are important to our students - they provide relative employability skills that can be readily used whether you are in bush Alaska or downtown Anchorage.

I encourage you to help make SB 84 an reality for the youth of Alaska. This piece of legislation has the opportunity to make real opportunities to our youth.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, Respectfully, Brad Allen - Superintendent, Kuspuk School District



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Education
committee name

Committee on Education, dated March 7, 2011
bill # / subject public hearing date

I wish to offer my strong support for SB 84. The increase to the base for the next three years will allow our district to plan well in advance, it will allow us to keep the very best teachers with certain funding - instead of spring layoffs - and this would allow us to keep our interventionists - those who work to bring our youngest students up to grade level in reading & math by third grade. This is proven to be effective and the "biggest bang for the buck". We are currently looking at a deficit of \$3.5 million per next year - about 42 teachers & administrators.

Signed: Sammy Crawford
Testifier

Kenai Peninsula School District

Representing (optional)

144 N. Binkley Sallotna

Address

907-283-9271

Phone number

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 9:18 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Please support SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Sara Irwin-Goudreau [<mailto:sgoudreau@valdez.cc>]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 8:54 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Please support SB 84

Thanking you in advance for your support of bill - SB 84

Sara Irwin Goudreau
Career Counselor
Valdez High School

Dear Education Committee,

As a parent of a Juneau high school student, who has also raised two other older children in the Juneau community, I urge support of SB84. It is very saddening to see our education system faced with choosing which of the important student programs it provides to cut funding for. Our students need support and guidance in order to lead healthy, productive lives, and cutting back on what they receive at school is a step in the wrong direction during these times of rampant substance abuse and delinquent behaviors.

I also tutor students preparing to take their GED examination, and hold a masters degree in social work. I am very much an advocate for career tech programs in our schools, at a much higher level than they are presently provided. Many students don't intend to pursue a college degree following high school, and there is nothing wrong with this. In fact, there is a lot right about it - college is not for everybody. We need plumbers, electricians, and other people in the trades - why is it that their preparation at the high school level is so much less valued than that of the college-bound student? Instead we have countless students who are not motivated to finish high school because it doesn't give them what they need - preparation to support themselves at a decent wage after they graduate. They end up dropping out, and with low-paying jobs, thus continuing the vicious cycle of poverty, and often the associated substance abuse and other societal problems that can be associated with people living difficult lives.

Please support SB84, thus increasing the BSA and also providing some additional funding for our career tech programs.

Sincerely,
Ellen Pavitt, parent of Juneau high school students

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 1:32 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

From: Jean Trainor [<mailto:itrainor@apea-aft.org>]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 1:25 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas, I support SB 84 to increase the base student allocation. I hope you do, too!
Respectfully, Jean Trainor

Jean Trainor
APEA/AFT
Field Representative
825 College Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99701
phone: 456-5412
itrainor@apea-aft.org

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:04 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Barbara Thurston [<mailto:schoolboard@thurstons.us>]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 7:30 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; [Senator Bettys Davis@legis.state.ak](mailto:SenatorBettysDavis@legis.state.ak); Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Cc: Governor@gov.state.ak.us; Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz; schoolboard@ci.juneau.ak.us
Subject: Senate Bill 84

As a long-time Alaska resident, parent of two school-aged students, and member of the Juneau school board, I urge you to support Senate Bill 84, which increases the base student allocation, and provides additional funding for vocational and career tech classes.

The single most important thing we can do to assure a successful future for our children and the State of Alaska is to make sure all of our students graduate from high school with the skills they need to succeed in college or the workforce. Like school districts around the state, the Juneau School District has been changing the way we do things in order to achieve this goal. A few examples:

-- We are increasing the number of career tech classes offered, and coordinating with the university to assure the quality of these courses and allow high school students to receive university credit for taking them.

-- We are increasing the type and number of advanced level classes offered at our middle and high schools, to allow more students to be well prepared for college.

-- We are providing literacy support for students who have fallen behind, to enable them to catch up with their classmates as quickly as possible.

-- We are implementing the AVID program, which targets students in the academic "middle", helping them to prepare for college, and realize that college really is a viable option for them.

The district has been successful in adopting these approaches within the current budget, and plans to continue to do so, however, it is extremely difficult to maintain programs at a time that budgets are being cut. While it's true that "throwing money at a problem" is generally not enough to fix that problem, it is similarly true that cutting funding makes it even more difficult to make improvements.

Leaving the BSA unchanged is not "flat funding", it is an effective funding decrease for schools -- higher energy and personnel costs, among other things, mean that the same amount of funding will cover less next year than it does this year. The increase in the BSA included in SB84 and the additional funding for vocational education will go a long way toward offsetting those built-in cost increases and enable us to make the changes that are needed for our students and our state.

I urge you to support SB 84. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Barbara Thurston
789-2991



HAINES BOROUGH SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 1289

Haines, Alaska 99827

March 30, 2011

Senator Joe Thomas
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Thomas:

Continued increases to the BSA that allow districts to contend with the increasing cost of goods and services are vital. Energy costs are skyrocketing along with the cost of health care. Keeping vocational education classes and other classes that students are interested in our schedule keeps them coming to school. This helps reduce the dropout rate, which though low, at less than 10% in Haines, still needs to improve. These costs are worth funding.

Forward funding is also of extreme importance. It is cost-effective. It reduces uncertainty and helps us to more quickly and efficiently budget. This allows us to spend more time focusing on ways to improve our students' education. It was one of the essential recommendations to come out of the work of the bipartisan task force on education back in 2007 and should be sustained.

Right now **SB 84** appears the best vehicle for maintaining necessary funding increases and forward funding. It also addresses vocational education. **The Haines Borough School Board has passed a resolution supporting this bill.** This bill is in Senate Finance and we hope it will quickly get on the schedule and be kept moving forward. If there is another way of accomplishing the same or similar result, we'd be supportive as well. We hope that we have your active support and that you will exert whatever efforts you can. We will continue to follow the movement of this bill (or any other effort) and will be available to provide additional testimony as needed.

We thank you again for your time and for your service to the needs of our school district and other districts across the State.

Thank you,

Michael Byer, Superintendent



March 11, 2011

Senator Kevin Meyer
Majority Leader
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Joe Thomas
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, AK
99801

Dear Senators Meyer and Thomas:

Thank you for coauthoring SB84. The provisions of this bill would insure our school district's ability to continue building our capacity to provide a higher quality and more relevant education for our students. The recommendations of the Joint Education Funding Task Force (JEFTF) that met in 2007 and were incorporated into law made a huge contribution to our ability to do our jobs. We have had three years in which we've been able to more accurately budget. Consequently, we spend more time dealing with educational issues rather than trying to anticipate different funding scenarios. This has been huge for us. We have been able to work our strategic plan. We've focused on improving our reading and math curriculum and instruction. We've added additions to our Career and Technical/Vocational Education program. We've improved services to our "high needs" students.

We know that keeping kids in school so they don't drop-out, but continue through and graduate, includes several crucial factors. First they need to have high quality, highly skilled teachers who care about them. Second, they need a strong core curriculum. Third, they need immediate and effective interventions to help them catch-up and keep-up when they are behind. And forth, they need options and relevance in their classes. All these things help them connect to school and experience the success they need that will result in their graduating.

With the rising cost of energy and the consequent increase in goods and services, being able to continue our efforts for our children depends on the provisions SB84 encompasses. We thank you for leading the way in addressing the important issues we face and offering what we feel is a good solution that will allow us to continue our important work in partnership with the legislature, our local government and our immediate community.

Thank you,

Michael Byer
Superintendent, Haines Borough School District



**A Resolution Supporting the Passage of Senate Bill No. 84
Submitted by the Senate Education Committee on 2/4/11**

“An Act relating to funding for high school vocational education as a component of funding for public schools; increasing the base student allocation used in the public school funding formula; and providing for an effective date.”

Whereas, The Alaska Legislature in 2008 passed HB 273 that put into effect the recommendations of its own Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force that were based on a reasoned and deliberate discussion of important issues to public education in the state; and

Whereas, these recommendations included 1) forward funding of districts with yearly additions to the BSA, 2) funding the actual costs of “intensive needs students,” 3) providing a “hold harmless” provision for districts with dramatic enrollment decreases, and 4) implementation of the “District Cost Factor;” and

Whereas, this legislative support has greatly assisted districts to do early forward planning and provide better educational services to students; and

Whereas, the need for forward funding, vocational education and the other provisions within HB 273 continues on; and

Whereas, Senate Bill No. 84 addresses these important concerns and continues the crucial support already begun by the legislature for the next three years; and

Whereas, flat funding will cause reductions in educational services and further constrain our district’s capacity to meet the diverse needs of all students, each of whom are essential for Alaska’s future;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we respectfully request that Senate Bill No. 84 be passed by the Alaska State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Sean Parnell.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of March 2011.

HAINES BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD

Carol Kelly, President

Brian Clay
Sean Cone
Nelle Jurgeleit-Greene

Anne Marie Palmieri
Sarah Swinton
Stacie Turner

Royal Henderson, Student Representative
Michael Byer, Superintendent

TITLE CHANGE

1. Delete "increasing the base student allocation used in the public school funding formula;"
2. Add language "relating to education tax credits;"

NEW SECTION ON EDUCATION TAX CREDITS

From CSSB 43, Sec. 10, Sec. 15-20, Sec. 27

27 * **Sec. 10.** AS 21.96.070(a) is amended to read:

28 (a) A taxpayer is allowed a credit against the tax due
under AS 21.09.210 or

29 AS 21.66.110 for cash contributions accepted

30 (1) for direct instruction, research, and educational
support purposes,

31 including library and museum acquisitions, and contributions to
endowment, by an

01 Alaska university foundation or by a nonprofit, public or
private, Alaska two-year or

02 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
association;

03 (2) for secondary school level vocational education
courses, programs,

04 and facilities by a school district in the state;

05 (3) for vocational education courses, programs, and
facilities by a

06 state-operated vocational technical education and training
school; [AND]

07 (4) for a facility by a nonprofit, public or private,
Alaska two-year or

08 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
association;

09 ~~(5) for the Alaska performance scholarship investment
fund under~~

10 ~~AS 37.14.750(a); and~~

11 (6) for education, research, rehabilitation, and
facilities by an

12 institution that is located in the state and that qualifies as a
coastal ecosystem

13 learning center under the Coastal America Partnership established
by the federal

14 government.

06 * **Sec. 15.** AS 43.20.014(a) is amended to read:

07 (a) A taxpayer is allowed a credit against the tax due
under this chapter for

08 cash contributions accepted

09 (1) for direct instruction, research, and educational
support purposes,
10 including library and museum acquisitions, and contributions to
endowment, by an
11 Alaska university foundation or by a nonprofit, public or
private, Alaska two-year or
12 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
association;

13 (2) for secondary school level vocational education
courses, programs,
14 and facilities by a school district in the state;

15 (3) for vocational education courses, programs, and
facilities by a
16 state-operated vocational technical education and training
school; [AND]

17 (4) for a facility by a nonprofit, public or private,
Alaska two-year or
18 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
association;

19 ~~(5) for the AlaskAdvantage education grant and Alaska~~
20 ~~performance scholarship investment fund under AS 37.14.750(a);~~
and

21 (6) for education, research, rehabilitation, and
facilities by an
22 institution that is located in the state and that qualifies as a
coastal ecosystem
23 learning center under the Coastal America Partnership established
by the federal
24 government.

25 * Sec. 16. AS 43.55.019(a) is amended to read:

26 (a) A producer of oil or gas is allowed a credit against
the tax due under this

27 chapter for cash contributions accepted

28 (1) for direct instruction, research, and educational
support purposes,

29 including library and museum acquisitions, and contributions to
endowment, by an

30 Alaska university foundation or by a nonprofit, public or
private, Alaska two-year or

31 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
association;

01 (2) for secondary school level vocational education
courses, programs,

02 and facilities by a school district in the state;

03 (3) for vocational education courses, programs, and
facilities by a

04 state-operated vocational technical education and training
school; [AND]

05 (4) for a facility by a nonprofit, public or private,
Alaska two-year or

06 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
association;
07 ~~(5) for the Alaska performance scholarship investment~~
~~fund under~~
08 AS 37.14.750(a); and
09 (6) for education, research, rehabilitation, and
facilities by an
10 institution that is located in the state and that qualifies as a
coastal ecosystem
11 learning center under the Coastal America Partnership established
by the federal
12 government.

13 * **Sec. 17.** AS 43.56.018(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) The owner of property taxable under this chapter is
allowed a credit
15 against the tax due under this chapter for cash contributions
accepted

16 (1) for direct instruction, research, and educational
support purposes,

17 including library and museum acquisitions, and contributions to
endowment, by an

18 Alaska university foundation or by a nonprofit, public or
private, Alaska two-year or

19 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
association;

20 (2) for secondary school level vocational education
courses, programs,

21 and facilities by a school district in the state;

22 (3) for vocational education courses, programs, and
facilities by a

23 state-operated vocational technical education and training
school; [AND]

24 (4) for a facility by a nonprofit, public or private,
Alaska two-year or

25 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
association;

26 ~~(5) for the Alaska performance scholarship investment~~
~~fund under~~

27 ~~AS 37.14.750(a); and~~

28 (6) for education, research, rehabilitation, and
facilities by an

29 institution that is located in the state and that qualifies as a
coastal ecosystem

30 learning center under the Coastal America Partnership established
by the federal

31 government.

01 * **Sec. 18.** AS 43.65.018(a) is amended to read:

02 (a) A person engaged in the business of mining in the state
is allowed a credit

03 against the tax due under this chapter for cash contributions
04 accepted
05 (1) for direct instruction, research, and educational
06 support purposes,
07 including library and museum acquisitions, and contributions to
08 endowment, by an
09 Alaska university foundation or by a nonprofit, public or
10 private, Alaska two-year or
11 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
12 association;
13 (2) for secondary school level vocational education
14 courses, programs,
15 and facilities by a school district in the state;
16 (3) for vocational education courses, programs, and
17 facilities by a
18 state-operated vocational technical education and training
19 school; [AND]
20 (4) for a facility by a nonprofit, public or private,
21 Alaska two-year or
22 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
23 association;
24 ~~(5) for the Alaska performance scholarship investment~~
25 ~~fund under~~
26 AS 37.14.750(a); and
27 (6) for education, research, rehabilitation, and
28 facilities by an
29 institution that is located in the state and that qualifies as a
30 coastal ecosystem
31 learning center under the Coastal America Partnership established
32 by the federal
33 government.

20 * **Sec. 19.** AS 43.75.018(a) is amended to read:

21 (a) A person engaged in a fisheries business is allowed a
22 credit against the tax
23 due under this chapter for cash contributions accepted
24 (1) for direct instruction, research, and educational
25 support purposes,
26 including library and museum acquisitions, and contributions to
27 endowment, by an
28 Alaska university foundation or by a nonprofit, public or
29 private, Alaska two-year or
30 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
31 association;
32 (2) for secondary school level vocational education
33 courses, programs,
34 and facilities by a school district in the state;
35 (3) for vocational education courses, programs, and
36 facilities by a
37 state-operated vocational technical education and training
38 school; [AND]

31 (4) for a facility by a nonprofit, public or private,
Alaska two-year or
01 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
association;

02 ~~(5) for the Alaska performance scholarship investment
fund under~~

03 AS 37.14.750(a); and

04 (6) for education, research, rehabilitation, and
facilities by an

05 institution that is located in the state and that qualifies as a
coastal ecosystem

06 learning center under the Coastal America Partnership established
by the federal

07 government.

08 * **Sec. 20.** AS 43.77.045(a) is amended to read:

09 (a) In addition to the credit allowed under AS 43.77.040, a
person engaged in

10 a floating fisheries business is allowed a credit against the tax
due under this chapter

11 for cash contributions accepted

12 (1) for direct instruction, research, and educational
support purposes,

13 including library and museum acquisitions, and contributions to
endowment, by an

14 Alaska university foundation or by a nonprofit, public or
private, Alaska two-year or

15 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
association;

16 (2) for secondary school level vocational education
courses, programs,

17 and facilities by a school district in the state;

18 (3) for vocational education courses, programs, and
facilities by a

19 state-operated vocational technical education and training
school; [AND]

20 (4) for a facility by a nonprofit, public or private,
Alaska two-year or

21 four-year college accredited by a regional accreditation
association;

22 ~~(5) for the Alaska performance scholarship investment
fund under~~

23 AS 37.14.750(a); and

24 (6) for education, research, rehabilitation, and
facilities by an

25 institution that is located in the state and that qualifies as a
coastal ecosystem

26 learning center under the Coastal America Partnership established
by the federal

27 government.

14 * **Sec. 22.** ~~AS 21.96.070(a)(5), 21.96.070(a)(6); AS 43.20.014(a)(5),~~
43.20.014(a)(6);
15 ~~AS 43.55.019(a)(5), 43.55.019(a)(6); AS 43.56.018(a)(5),~~
43.56.018(a)(6);
16 ~~AS 43.65.018(a)(5), 43.65.018(a)(6); AS 43.75.018(a)(5),~~
43.75.018(a)(6);
17 ~~AS 43.77.045(a)(5),~~ and 43.77.045(a)(6) are repealed January 1, 2021.

OR - Without the Sealife Center language:

Sec. 27. Section 57, ch. 92, SLA 2010, is amended to read:

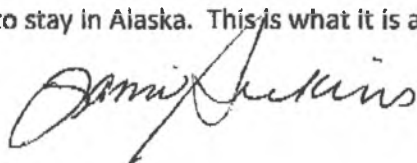
Sec. 57. Except as provided in sec. 56 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2021 [2014].

My name is Tami Seekins. I have three children who attend schools in the Fairbanks School District. I'm speaking today in support of SB 84. As a parent of children who are currently attending school in the Fairbanks District, I believe that it is important that this legislature demonstrate that they value education. Our children are this state's future. Our children are no longer competing with other kids from other states - they are competing with kids globally. As a state we need to say that we value education, we understand that if we are to be competitive and move our state forward, we need to have an highly educated workforce that wants to remain in Alaska. We do that by putting our resources where it is needed the most, AND will have the highest pay off in the future. Our schools need to be able to plan financially to the best of their abilities to offer the most that they can. If you were to ask me, I would say that this bill is the first step of what really needs to happen. I don't actually believe that this bill goes far enough.

We live in a fast pace world, our children need to know more and more in order to be productive members of society and we are charged with helping them become successful, productive Alaskans. SB84 will begin the steps to allow school districts to meet that charge. We cannot sit by and continue to let other states and other countries pass us by.

By passing this bill, you will be help sustain and grow Alaska's future. By your action to support this bill, you will indicate that you value education; you will indicate that the future of Alaska is important; and you will indicate that you understand the importance of a well educated and trained workforce. It is long range thinking - but it is one that will have a high pay off for Alaska.

I want to close by saying that I believe the Fairbanks School District is doing a good job. My oldest son is a sophomore at West Valley. This spring, at the end of his sophomore year he will have earned 12 credits through UAF from classes that he has taken at West Valley. The teachers and staff care about his education and they working hard to develop classes and opportunities that will ensure that he will be successful and help him get ahead . He wants to attend UAF to study engineering. He wants to stay in Alaska. This is what it is all about and this is why I support SB 84

 3/21/11

To: Senate Education
Fr: Tami Seekins 455-7433

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 1:45 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84 and CSSB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Steiner_John [mailto:Steiner_John@asdk12.org]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 1:41 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Cc: School Board; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org); crose@aasb.org
Subject: RE: SB 84 and CSSB 84

Dear Co-Chairs Meyer and Thomas and Senate Education Committee members:

I attended this morning's Education Committee meeting off-site by call-in, but you were apparently not made aware that I was on the line waiting to testify in support of SB 84-- really CSSB 84. There was much excellent testimony, and your packet included input from the Anchorage School District and our board vice-president, Crystal Kennedy. Superintendent Comeau has also sent an email just this morning. Although the Anchorage School Board has not taken a formal position on this specific bill, we have strongly endorsed the changes it would make.

A number of points, however, bear emphasis:

1. Doing nothing would not "flat-fund" education, it would allow education funding to erode. So long as the BSA is stated in nominal dollars and inflation continues to exist, to leave the BSA unchanged would be a real-dollar decrease in education funding.

2. Even CSSB 84 would not really increase education funding; it would merely--or perhaps not quite--maintain education funding. With inflation estimated at 2.5%, SB 84's 2% adjustments would only mitigate real-dollar erosion.

3. The Anchorage School District has embarked on value-based budgeting to use our limited resources where they will produce the greatest results for student achievement, graduation rates and drop-out reduction, while preparing students for success in life. Budgeting for the coming year, we faced a nearly \$20 million shortfall, due to the erosion described above, and receiving no cost-differential adjustment like other districts. That will be partly mitigated by one last year of supplemental federal funds, but we still had to make substantial cuts, saving some critical services and activities only by increasing class size and digging deep into fund balance reserves. The projected FY 2013 shortfall is nearly \$30 million, and it gets much worse further in the future, without at least the erosion mitigation of CSSB 84.

4. Having to budget and plan devoid of real information as to future funding is a horrendous waste of time and energy, imposing needless trauma on the community and school staff. Three-year running erosion-mitigation would allow us to focus more on program rather than just on money.

5. Increasing Career Technical and Vocational Education is a central theme of the Anchorage School Board, with strong community support. We expect resounding approval of a bond for improvements to CTVE facility capacity in high schools across the District, but operating budget constraints will limit our ability to serve this need. The increased block grant increment for that purpose would help make school more relevant and useful for more students, and be a sound investment in Alaska's workforce, enhancing our human capital and helping to stem the export of local jobs.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, because SB 84 and CSSB 84 are committee bills, you may already know all of this and be ready to pass the bill on with favorable recommendations. But it is not nearly enough just to pass the bill out of committee. Last session, a similar bill died in House Rules. Though none of your individual names may be on this bill, I ask each of you to commit jointly to making it your flagship bill. Press it on through the Senate; shepherd it through the House. Let your colleagues in both chambers, as well as the Governor, know that what this bill would do is a must-have for Alaska's future.

I thank you for this opportunity to provide input on this very important bill and look forward to thanking and congratulating you when I come to Juneau later this month.

John Steiner
Anchorage School Board President

From: Comeau_Carol
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 11:18 AM
To: Kevin Meyer (Senator_Kevin_Meyer@legis.state.ak.us); Johnny Ellis (Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us); Senator Joe Thomas (Senator_Joe_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us); Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us; Hollis French; Gary Stevens (Senator_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us)
Cc: School Board; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org)
Subject: SB 84 and CSSB 84

I was unable to testify on SB 84 and CSSB 84 this morning due to an emergency death of one of our staff over the weekend. I did want to comment on this important proposed legislation.

First, and foremost, I want to thank all of you for your long-time support for public education; our students, staff, and families have truly benefitted from the past three years of increased funding in the Base Student Allocation, the Intensive Needs factor, and in Pupil Transportation. The increased funding has allowed us to fully pay for our over 900 Intensive Needs students from the increased funding, and not to have to divert other general education funding to provide these required intensive services. In addition, it has allowed us to keep up with the inflationary costs of education. By knowing our funding levels for three years, we were able to more effectively plan to our instructional programs and student needs, as well as negotiate reasonable collective bargaining agreements.

I urge you to support either SB 84 or CSSB 84 with the three years of incremental increases to the Base Student Allocation as well as the increase of a specific factor for career and technical education. For too long, our funding in the block grant which assists us with our bilingual education, special needs, gifted, and career and technical/vocational education funding has been used up with the needs of our bilingual (English Language Learners) and special needs students with little left to enhance our career and technical education. Our school board has prioritized career and technical education for the past three years, and we are seeing significant increases in student interest and participation in these courses. We have elements of C and TE in all three bond propositions on our April 5 ballot. We have added C and TE opportunities in our after school and summer school programs due to student interest. We believe that more funding in this vital area will assist us in providing more classes for our students, and thus increasing the graduation rate, and decreasing the drop out rate.

Again, we urge you to support SB 84 or the CSSB 84 in this legislative session. It will make a significant difference in the quality of education for our students.

Thank you,
Carol Comeau
Superintendent

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nunamiut Amaqqut

Nunamiut School
P.O. Box 21029
Anaktuvuk Pass,
Alaska 99721
(907) 661-3226
FAX (907) 661-6215

Atkasuk Eagles Tinmiaapat

Meade River School
P.O. Box 91030
Atkasuk, Alaska 99791
(907) 633-6315
FAX (907) 633-6215

Barrow Whalers

Barrow High School
P.O. Box 960
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-8950
FAX (907) 852-8969

HMS Wolves

Eben Hopson, Sr.,
Memorial Middle School
P.O. Box 509
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-3880
FAX (907) 852-7794

Arctic Foxes

Fred Ipalook
Elementary School
P.O. Box 450
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-4711
FAX (907) 852-4713

Kiita Uqpiich

Kiita Learning Community
P.O. Box 169
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-9677
FAX (907) 852-4334

Kaveolook Rams

Harold Kaveolook School
P.O. Box 20
Kaktovik, Alaska 99747
(907) 640-6626
FAX (907) 640-6718

Nuiqsut Trappers

Trapper School
P.O. Box 167
Nuiqsut, Alaska 99789
(907) 480-6712
FAX (907) 480-6621

Tikiqaa Harpooners

Tikiqaa School
P.O. Box 148
Point Hope, Alaska 99766
(907) 368-2262/2263
FAX (907) 368-2770

Kali Qavviich

Kali School
P.O. Box 59077
Point Lay, Alaska 99759
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FAX (907) 833-2315

Alak Huskies

Alak School
P.O. Box 10
Wainwright, Alaska 99782
(907) 763-2541
FAX (907) 763-2565



March 14, 2011

The Honorable Joe Thomas
Co-chairman, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Thomas:

We are writing this morning to express our strong support for Senate Bill 84, and our deep appreciation for your sponsorship of this effort. It is especially important to structure education funding so that Districts can make financial plans with some reasonable sense of the near term, and the three year funding used in the bill gives us the necessary financial parameters for that purpose.

In order to cover inflation and increases to pay in contractual obligations NSBSD would need \$500 increase in BSA, which we realize we won't get, but we need some increase and support \$110. We have made prudent cuts in our budgets – 17 positions were cut last year alone – but inflationary pressures in salaries, benefits, energy, utilities and logistics are driving our costs up.

Since 75% of District costs are for labor (certified and classified), any pay increase or benefits increase that must be absorbed results in deep cuts on other costs (which are only 25%) or cuts in positions. Over time, this is a prescription to starve the engine (people) that drives improvement.

Specifically for our District, the FY2012 Base Budget requires an additional \$2,476,551 in revenue to sustain the District's current efforts – that is with no increase in positions or programs. Using current adjusted ADM of 4737.67, the proposed \$110 increase to the BSA contained in SB84 would provide \$521,143 of that shortfall, or 21%. Beyond the base budget, the District has identified an additional \$1,993,867 in unmet needs, which will have to met by offsetting cuts or done without.

Thus, the funding increases proposed in SB84 are welcome and necessary, and are a prudent portion of what is needed to move education in Alaska forward.

Before closing, we wanted to provide a short summary of NSBSD progress on SBA's last year to note that we are using our appropriations to good effect, as follows:

1. We recognize our need to continue to focus on increasing student achievement and that our current achievement level is not good enough. We are improving


Box 169 Barrow, Alaska 99723 (907) 852-5311 Fax (907) 852-9503

and need funding to continue do so. We need to do more, not less and need the resources to do so. The challenges our students face are enormous, and money invested in education

2. Six of eleven schools made AYP, which is an imperfect measure but nonetheless an indicator.
3. Reading scores increased 7.2% district-wide, with double-digit gains in grades 3, 4, 5 and 8. The percent proficient in grades 7, 8 and 9 are the highest since SBA testing began
4. Writing scores are essentially flat (0.2% decline), so we need to put emphasis there as we have recently put on reading.
5. In math scores, we saw an overall gain of 5.9%.
6. Six-year trend line in both language arts and math indicates district is now on a growth path.

In closing, we again wish to express our appreciation for your leadership in education, and our strong support for the three year commitments to education funding contained in SB84.

Sincerely,


Peggy Cowan,
Superintendent

Sh/h/executive/supt./peggy/letters/FY11/11-371, SB84 Ltr of Support



JEDC.org
612 West Willoughby Ave.
Suite A
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone 907-523-2300
Fax 907-463-3929

March 15, 2011

The Honorable Joe Thomas
Alaska Senate
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau AK, 99801

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
Alaska Senate
State Capitol Room 103
Juneau AK, 99801

Ref: SB 84, "An Act relating to funding for high school vocational education as a component of funding for public schools; increasing the base student allocation used in the public school funding formula; and providing for an effective date."

Dear Senators Meyer and Thomas:

The Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) applauds the Legislature's commitment to Alaska's K-12 public schools. JEDC is home to a statewide K-12 Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiative, working to increase student interest and competencies in STEM fields. With funding from the U.S. Department of Defense, the STEM program has directly benefited over 5,000 students, 323 teachers, in 23 school districts over the last four years.

We support the Senate Education Committee's proposal to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) within the Foundation formula and urge the Committee to increase the BSA to keep pace with inflation and meet those costs that are beyond a District's direct control – such as rising fuel oil prices. Erosion of schools' purchasing power is counter-productive, and highly unlikely to move schools faster towards the success we all hope for.

JEDC also supports attention to and increase in funding for vocational education, which we understand encompasses STEM courses as well as more traditional vocational education course options.

STEM skills reflect the changing job requirements in our increasingly global and technology-driven economy. These skills are required not only for professional sector jobs, but also, increasingly, infused in and required for mid-level occupations. The Alaska Department of Labor predicts that by 2018 there will be over 8,000 job openings in STEM-related jobs in Alaska (2,700 new STEM jobs and 5,400 more openings as workers retire). Jobs within health occupations add even more jobs to this total.

Senators Thomas & Meyer
Re: Support for SB 77
March 15, 2011
Page 2

These jobs require the ability to apply math and science skills in a real world context. Unfortunately, Alaska high school graduates are often ill prepared for the caliber of work required in colleges and technical schools to access these jobs. For example, of the Alaskan students taking the ACT test in 2010,

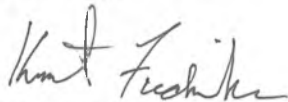
- Only 47% were prepared for college level math; and
- Only 31% met college-ready benchmarks in science.

In short, vocational education, including STEM programs that include a robust hands-on element and links to real world challenges, opportunities and jobs, are increasingly important to our state's economic health.

We encourage the Committee to expand funding for vocational education into the middle school grades. The middle school years are pivotal in shaping a young person's attitudes towards jobs, future possibilities and their place in the world. Through JEDC's STEM initiative it is clear that for many students, STEM projects such as FIRST robotics and SeaPerch underwater ROV "build" are often a student's first introduction to building, tinkering, designing, redesigning, and messing around with science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It is important there be more hands-on, vocational and STEM opportunities for students in the middle school years.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and ongoing work on behalf of the students of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Kurt Fredriksson
Board Chair



Brian Holst
Executive Director



RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors in support of State of Alaska Senate Bill 84

"An Act relating to funding for high school vocational education as a component of funding for public schools; increasing the base student allocation used in the public school funding formula; and providing for an effective date."

Resolution 04-11

WHEREAS, U.S. jobs that demand technical training are growing five times faster than those requiring no technical training. *(National Math & Science Initiative)*

WHEREAS, by 2018, it is projected that 90% of U.S. occupations will require either a bachelor's degree or a combination of college-level technical courses and employer sponsored technical training. *(US Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

WHEREAS, since 2007, JEDC has developed a robust STEM program to support STEM education in 23 school districts across the State which includes teacher professional development, providing an array of summer and after-school enrichment programs, developing and subsidizing the cost of over 750 classroom science kits.

WHEREAS, providing designated funding for vocational education, which has a strong connection to STEM curriculum will further advance JEDC's objectives in the area of workforce development.

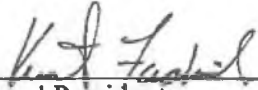
WHEREAS, forward funding increases in the per-student base level appropriation will assist school districts across the state to develop sound fiscal plans in an era of rapidly rising costs.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 84 provides an increase to the per-student base level appropriation for education and provides funding for vocational education.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 84 is a legislative priority for many school districts across the state, large and small, rural and urban.

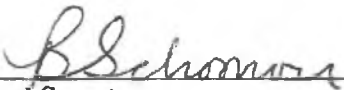
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

On this 15th day of Marcy 2011, the Board of Directors of the Juneau Economic Development Council hereby authorizes JEDC to issue appropriate letters of support for Senate Bill 84.



Board President

3-17-2011
Date



Board Secretary

3-17-2011
Date



**WRANGELL
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
DISTRICT OFFICE

GATEWAY TO THE STIKINE

P.O. BOX 2319
WRANGELL, ALASKA 99929
Telephone (907) 874-2347
Fax # (907) 874-3137

April 1, 2011

Honorable Senator Joe Thomas
State Capitol
Juneau, AK. 99801

Dear Senator Thomas:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 84, which would increase the Base Student Allocation for K-12 education and provide additional funds for vocational and career education. Base Student Allocation increases and an increase in support for high school vocational and career education classes are crucial for districts to "maintain" programs. Our health insurance, liability insurance, salaries, energy costs increase annually. This amount will not keep up with all of our inflationary costs. However, if we can at least stay close to inflation the cuts we have to make will be easier.

Also being forward funded is the only common sense way to run the state's business. With tenured teacher contracts rolling over in March, for a district not to know how much money it will have is extremely dangerous.

I also appreciate your insight for Alaska's worker preparation. We should be training our own people to take the jobs that are available in state. Adding a dedicated amount to the Vocational allotment is a good thing.

Without this additional money we will be forced to cut programs and services. I strongly support both parts of this bill and thank you for leadership in proposing it.

Sincerely yours,

Larry "Woody" Wilson
Superintendent



Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association

ASHNHA APSCI

2010-2011 Executive Committee

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Ketchikan General
Hospital

Chair Elect
Bruce Lamoureux
Providence Alaska
Health System

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Alaska Regional
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Tribal Delegate
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SEARHC

Small Hospital
Don Rush
Kodiak Island
Medical Center

ASHNHA
Karen Perdue
President & CEO

April 7, 2011

Representative Alan Dick
Chair, House Education Committee
Alaska State Capital, Room 104
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Dick:

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) would like to express our support for Senate Bill 84, relating to funding for high school vocational and technical instruction as a component of funding for public schools.

Alaska is facing a critical shortage of health care workers. Efforts to develop a cadre of qualified, capable and trained Alaskans are fundamental to addressing the growing needs of the health care industry. In 2010 the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, the UA Department of Regents, and the Board of Education endorsed a statewide Career and Technical Education Plan as a blueprint for assuring articulation among the major players in delivering education to young Alaskans as they enter a career pathway. This plan needs resources dedicated on a local level to ensure that the state is "growing our own" for entry into these high-demand occupations.

The health care industry is Alaska's fastest growing job market; Alaska's health care employment increased 46% between 2000 and 2009, far outpacing the 13% average of other industries. Entry-level positions in health care are often the gateway to professional careers. Dedicated and designated resources for Career and Technical Education (CTE) are critical to exposing young people to health careers and help ensure that they have the skills to enter the workforce and develop the capacity achieve the certificates, training, education, and clinical experiences necessary to succeed. Without the specific funding provided in this legislation to advance CTE, Alaska will continue to see increased numbers of non-resident hires.

Thank you again for hearing this legislation and please let me know if ASHNHA can supply any additional information to you or the committee.

Sincerely,

Karen Perdue
CEO/President

Cc: Senator Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair Senate Education Committee
Senator Joe Thomas, Co-Chair Senate Education Committee

BASE Student Allocation FY 1999 – FY 2011

2.45% average annual BSA increase in 12 years from July 1, 1998 to June 30, 2010

Year	1998 ^{Calendar Year} FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	Calendar Year 1998-2010 FY99-FY11
BSA	3940 3940	4,010	4,010	4,010	4,010	4,169	4,576	4,919	5,380	5,380	5,480	5,580	5,680	---
\$ Change	0 \$20	0	0	0	0	159	407	343	461	0	100	100	100	1,670 \$1,740
% Change	---	0	0	0	0	3.96%	9.76%	7.49%	9.37%	0	1.85%	1.82%	1.79%	29.4% 44.2%
Anchorage Cost of Living Increase	1.0%	1.7%	2.8%	1.9%	2.7%	2.6%	3.1%	3.2%	2.2%	4.6%	1.2%	1.8%	---	28.8% 32.8%

2.4% average annual Anchorage COL increase in 12 years from January 1, 1999 – December 31, 2010 (US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Consumer Price
Index

195.144
146.9

482.44

% of change = 32.8%

[Department of Labor / Research and Analysis Division]

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Department of Labor and Workforce Development
 Research & Analysis Section
 1111 W. 8th St.
 Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: 907.465.4500 Fax: 907.465.4506
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Related Links

Inflation/Deflation Calculators
How index change is calculated
Cost of living in Alaska (pdf)

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Consumer Price Index for Anchorage Municipality & U.S.
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
 All Items - All.1 Urban Consumers
 (CPI-U) 1960-Present

Year	1st Half (Jan-Jun)				2nd Half (Jul-Dec)				Annual			
	Anchorage		U.S.		Anchorage		U.S.		Anchorage		U.S.	
	Average	Percent Change From Same Half Previous Year	Average	Percent Change From Same Half Previous Year	Average	Percent Change From Same Half Previous Year	Average	Percent Change From Same Half Previous Year	Average	Percent Change From Same Half Previous Year	Average	Percent Change From Same Half Previous Year
2010	194.834	2.5	217.535	2.1	195.455	1.0	218.576	1.2	195.144	1.8	218.056	1.6
2009	190.032	1.3	213.139	-0.6	193.456	1.1	215.935	-0.1	191.744	1.2	214.537	-0.4
2008	187.659	4.6	214.429	4.2	191.335	4.5	216.177	3.4	189.497	4.6	215.303	3.8
2007	179.394	1.5	205.709	2.5	183.08	2.9	208.976	3.1	181.237	2.2	207.342	2.8
2006	176.7	4.2	200.6	3.8	177.9	2.2	202.6	2.6	177.3	3.2	201.6	3.2
2005	169.6	2.4	193.2	3.0	174.1	3.8	197.4	3.8	171.8	3.1	195.3	3.4
2004	165.6	2.8	187.6	2.3	167.8	2.4	190.2	3.0	166.7	2.6	188.9	2.7
2003	161.1	2.3	183.3	2.5	163.9	3.1	184.6	2.0	162.5	2.7	184.0	2.3
2002	157.5	2.0	178.9	1.3	159.0	1.9	180.9	1.9	158.2	1.9	179.9	1.6
2001	154.4	2.9	176.6	3.4	156.0	2.7	177.5	2.2	155.2	2.8	177.1	2.8
2000	150.0	0.9	170.8	3.3	151.9	2.4	173.6	3.5	150.9	1.7	172.2	3.4
1999	148.6	1.3	165.4	1.9	148.3	0.9	167.8	2.5	148.4	1.0	166.6	2.2
1998	146.7	1.8	162.3	1.5	147.0	1.1	163.7	1.6	146.9	1.5	163.0	1.6
1997	144.1	1.6	159.9	2.6	145.4	1.2	161.2	2.1	144.8	1.5	160.5	2.3
1996	141.8	2.6	155.8	2.8	143.7	3.0	157.9	3.1	142.7	2.7	156.9	3.0
1995	138.2	2.9	151.5	3.0	139.5	2.7	153.2	2.6	138.9	2.9	152.4	2.8
1994	134.3	2.1	147.2	2.4	135.8	2.3	149.3	2.8	135.0	2.1	148.2	2.6
1993	131.5	3.3	143.7	3.2	132.8	2.9	145.3	2.8	132.2	3.1	144.5	3.0
1992	127.3	3.2	139.2	3	129.1	3.5	141.4	3.1	128.2	3.4	140.3	3.0
1991	123.3	5.5	135.2	5.1	124.7	3.6	137.2	3.5	124.0	4.6	136.2	4.2
1990	116.9	5.4	128.7	4.9	120.4	7.0	132.6	5.8	118.6	6.2	130.7	5.4
1989	110.9	2.3	122.7	5.1	112.5	3.3	125.3	4.7	111.7	2.9	124.0	4.8
1988	108.4	0.1	116.8	3.9	108.9	0.7	119.7	4.2	108.6	0.4	118.3	4.1
1987	108.3	0.0	112.4	3.0	108.1	0.7	114.9	4.4	108.2	0.4	113.6	3.6
1986	108.3	3.4	109.1	2.3	107.4	0.5	110.1	1.5	107.8	1.9	109.6	1.9
1985	104.7	1.9	106.6	3.6	106.9	2.9	108.5	3.4	105.8	2.4	107.6	3.6
1984	102.7		102.9		103.9		104.9		103.3	4.1	103.9	4.3
1983									99.2	1.8	99.6	3.2
1982									97.4	5.4	96.5	6.2
1981									92.4	8.1	90.9	10.3
1980									85.5	10.2	82.4	13.5
1979									77.6	10.5	72.6	11.3
1978									70.2	7.0	65.2	7.6
1977									65.6	6.7	60.6	6.5
1976									61.5	7.7	56.9	5.8
1975									57.1	13.7	53.8	9.1
1974									50.2	10.8	49.3	11.0
1973									45.3	4.4	44.4	6.2
1972									43.4	2.6	41.8	3.2
1971									42.3	2.9	40.5	4.4

Jan - June
July - Dec

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Department of Labor and Workforce Development
 Research & Analysis Section
 1111 W. 8th St.
 Juneau, AK 99801
 Phone: 907.465.4500 Fax: 907.465.4506
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Related Links

Consumer Price Index
Inflation/Deflation Calculators
Cost of Living in Alaska

Consumer Price Index - Calculating Index Changes

Movements of the indexes from one period to another are usually expressed as percent changes rather than changes in index points because index point changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period while percent changes are not. This example illustrates the computation of index points and percent changes.

Step 1:

Calculating the index point change:

CPI- Anchorage 2010	195.144
Less CPI for previous period- Anchorage 2009	-191.744
Equals index point change	3.4

Step 2:

Calculating the percent change:

Index point difference Divided by the previous index (Anchorage 2009)	$3.4 / 191.744 = 0.01773$
Results multiplied by 100	$0.01773 * 100 = 1.773$
Percent change (Anchorage CPI 2010)	1.8 (rounded 1.773 to 1.8)

P.O. Box 115501
Juneau, AK 99811-4506

1	Wrangell	1.000
2	Yakutat	1.046
3	Yukon Flats	1.668
4	Yukon/Koyukuk	1.502
5	Yupiit	1.469.

6 (b) The department shall monitor the cost factors established under (a) of this
7 section and shall prepare and submit to the legislature by January 15 of every other
8 fiscal year proposed district cost factors.

9 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is
10 \$3,940.


11 **Sec. 14.17.480. Quality school funding.** (a) As a component of public
12 school funding, a district is eligible to receive a quality school funding grant not to
13 exceed the district's adjusted ADM multiplied by \$16. The department shall by
14 regulation establish a grant process to implement this section.

15 (b) For purposes of the reduction required under AS 14.17.400(b), funding
16 authorized under (a) of this section is treated the same as the state share of public
17 school funding under AS 14.17.410.

18 **Sec. 14.17.490. Supplementary public school funding floor.** (a) Except as
19 provided in (b) - (e) of this section, if, in fiscal year 1999, a city or borough school
20 district or a regional educational attendance area would receive less public school
21 funding under AS 14.17.410 than the district or area would have received as state aid,
22 the district or area is, in each fiscal year, eligible to receive additional public school
23 funding equal to the difference between the public school funding the district or area
24 was eligible to receive under AS 14.17.410 in fiscal year 1999 and the state aid the
25 district or area would have received in fiscal year 1999.

26 (b) A city or borough school district is not eligible for additional funding
27 authorized under (a) of this section unless, during the fiscal year in which the district
28 receives funding under (a) of this section, the district received a local contribution
29 equal to at least the equivalent of a four mill tax levy on the full and true value of the
30 taxable real and personal property in the district as of January 1 of the second
31 preceding fiscal year as determined by the Department of Community and Regional

Valdez City Schools



Valdez City School District
Post Office Box 398
Valdez, AK, 99686

March 10, 2011

Senator Joe Thomas
Mail Stop 3100
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, AK, 99801

Re: Support of Senate Bill 84

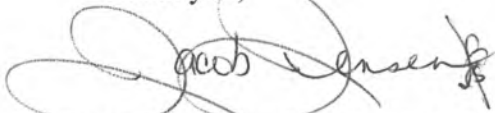
Dear Senator Thomas:

On behalf of the Valdez City School District Administration, Board of Education, and Staff Members we wish to thank you for your sponsorship of Senate Bill 84. This funding is helpful to our school district in many ways: 1. It allows us to strategically plan for the next three years; 2. It allows the continuation of many new and innovative programs for students; 3. It allows the VCSD to consider the expansion of current highly desired programs.

Over the last few years the VCSD has worked hard to expand and create additional learning opportunities for students. We currently have many programs that are unique to Valdez and we would like to be able to expand on those successes. We have forged a very strong collaboration with Prince William Sound Community College and we are able to offer many concurrent enrollment options for our students. We also are working together with industry professionals to not only prepare our students for college, but also prepare them of the workplace upon graduation.

The VCSD strongly supports Senate Bill 84 and we encourage swift passage to allow us to plan for the future.

Thank you,



Jacob Jensen, Superintendent
Valdez City School District



Daniel Walker, President
Valdez Board of Education

Murray Richmond

From: Ty Mase [tmase@lpsd.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 7:32 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: SB 84
Attachments: Oclip_image002.png; Oclip_image004.png

[Image]

THE

LAKE AND PENINSULA

SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 Jensen Drive

P.O. Box 498

King Salmon, Alaska 99613

Phone (907) 246-4280 / Fax (907) 246-4473

[Image]

March 11, 2011

Alaska State Senate Education Committee

The Honorable Joe Thomas and the Honorable Kevin Meyer, Co-Chairs

Senators,

On behalf of the Lake and Peninsula School District I am writing in support of Senate Bill 84 - Base Allocation Increase and High School Vocational Education Funding. The multi-year increases applied during the past several years were very helpful in our strategic planning process. SB 84 proposes a similar multi-year plan.

Along with the ability to plan ahead financially, SB 84 also gives districts much needed funding increases that allow us to better respond to rising costs. In the past several years LPSD has experienced dramatic increases in medical insurance and utility costs. The yearly increase to the base allocation formula allows us to respond to such increases without cutting educational programs.

While the rest of the country is cutting teachers and educational systems are faltering, this is a positive step for Alaska. A sustainable, stronger education system is sure to be the result. On behalf of my Board and School District, I urge your support for multi-year funding of schools.

Sincerely,

Ty Mase
Superintendent

Ty Mase, Superintendent
Lake and Peninsula Borough School District P.O. Box 498 King Salmon, AK 99613
(907) 246-4280
(907) 246-4473 -fax

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Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 11:36 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84 and CSSB 84

Importance: High

From: Comeau_Carol [mailto:Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 11:19 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Cc: School Board; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org)
Subject: SB 84 and CSSB 84
Importance: High

Dear Senators Meyer and Thomas and Senate Education Committee members:
I was unable to testify on SB 84 and CSSB 84 this morning due to an emergency death of one of our staff over the weekend. I did want to comment on this important proposed legislation.

First, and foremost, I want to thank all of you for your long-time support for public education; our students, staff, and families have truly benefitted from the past three years of increased funding in the Base Student Allocation, the Intensive Needs factor, and in Pupil Transportation. The increased funding has allowed us to fully pay for our over 900 Intensive Needs students from the increased funding, and not to have to divert other general education funding to provide these required intensive services. In addition, it has allowed us to keep up with the inflationary costs of education. By knowing our funding levels for three years, we were able to more effectively plan to our instructional programs and student needs, as well as negotiate reasonable collective bargaining agreements.

I urge you to support either SB 84 or CSSB 84 with the three years of incremental increases to the Base Student Allocation as well as the increase of a specific factor for career and technical education. For too long, our funding in the block grant which assists us with our bilingual education, special needs, gifted, and career and technical/vocational education funding has been used up with the needs of our bilingual (English Language Learners) and special needs students with little left to enhance our career and technical education. Our school board has prioritized career and technical education for the past three years, and we are seeing significant increases in student interest and participation in these courses. We have elements of C and TE in all three bond propositions on our April 5 ballot. We have added C and TE opportunities in our after school and summer school programs due to student interest. We believe that more funding in this vital area will assist us in providing more classes for our students, and thus increasing the graduation rate, and decreasing the drop out rate.

Again, we urge you to support SB 84 or the CSSB 84 in this legislative session. It will make a significant difference in the quality of education for our students.

Thank you,
Carol Comeau
Superintendent



Interior Alaska – The “Place” To Do Business

100 Cushman St., Suite 102 | Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4665
ph (907) 452-1105 | fax (907) 456-6968 | www.FairbanksChamber.org

Introduced By: Education Committee
Date Introduced: April 4, 2011
Date Passed: April 4, 2011
Date Transmitted: April 5, 2011

RESOLUTION 11-0404A

A RESOLUTION BY THE GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 84: ESTABLISHING INCREMENTAL THREE-YEAR INCREASES IN THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION AND SETS ASIDE FUNDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce places great value on public education and recognizes the powerful relationship between public schools and community and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the historic compact between the business community and public schools is based on high expectations for student achievement and workforce preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District is to provide an excellent and equitable education in a safe, supportive environment so all students can become productive members of a diverse and changing society; and

WHEREAS, without a funding commitment from the legislature in advance, problems arise from the misalignment of the legislative session and the school district budget cycle since the school district must submit a balanced budget to the Borough Assembly by April 1 of each year (before the legislative session is over); and

WHEREAS, educators, employers and government officials agree schools must prepare students to transition from public education to a career pathway or higher education; and

WHEREAS, a lack of categorical funding for vocational (career and technical) education inhibits the school district’s ability to provide a dynamic and meaningful career and technical education to its large and diverse student population; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce urges the legislature to pass Senate Bill 84, which provides an increase to the Base Student Allocation for Fiscal Years 2012 through 2014, and establishes categorical funding for career and technical education for grades 9-12, thereby sustaining and growing Alaska’s investment in education; and

INVESTORS

DIAMOND

- BP Exploration
- ConocoPhillips
- ExxonMobil
- Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
- FMH & Denali Center
- Flint Hills Resources Alaska

PLATINUM

- Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
- Carlson Center
- Doyon, Limited
- Fred Meyer Stores
- Golden Heart Utilities
- Mt. McKinley Bank
- Wells Fargo Bank Alaska

GOLD

- Birchwood Homes
- Denali State Bank
- Design Alaska
- Doyon Utilities LLC
- First National Bank Alaska
- GCI
- Kinross-Fort Knox Mine
- MAC Federal Credit Union
- Northrim Bank
- Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo LLC
- Usibelli Coal Mine

SILVER

- ACS
- Alaska Airlines
- Alaska Railroad
- Alaska USA
- AT&T
- Denali – The Alaska Gas Pipeline
- Everts Air Cargo, Everts Air AK
- Exclusive Paving/Univ. Redi-Mix
- Fairbanks Natural Gas
- Flowline Alaska
- Fountainhead Development
- General Teamsters Local 959
- GVEA
- Hale & Associates, Inc.
- JL Properties, Inc.
- Key Bank
- Personnel Plus
- Spirit of Alaska FCU
- Tanana Valley Clinic
- TDL Professional Staffing
- The Boeing Co.
- TOTE
- WAL-MART Stores, Inc.
- Yukon Title Company

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be distributed to:

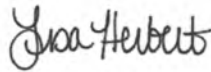
Governor Sean Parnell, State of Alaska
Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell, State of Alaska
Alaska State Legislature
Mike Nizich, Chief of Staff, Gov. Parnell
Randy Ruaro, Deputy Chief of Staff, Gov. Parnell
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Commissioner Click Bishop, Dept. of Labor &
Workforce Development
Commissioner Michael Hanley, Dept. of
Education and Early Childhood
Development

Superintendent Dr. Pete Lewis, Fairbanks
North Star Borough School District
Mayor Luke Hopkins, Fairbanks North Star
Borough
Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly
Mayor Jerry Cleworth, City of Fairbanks
Fairbanks City Council
Mayor Doug Isaacson, City of North Pole
North Pole City Council
General Membership of the Greater Fairbanks
Chamber of Commerce
Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Board of Directors, Chair



Lisa Herbert
Executive Director



Kurt Newman
Education Committee, Chair

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 3:45 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Lucas_Frances [mailto:lucas_frances@asdk12.org]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 3:30 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senators,

I am sending you this email in support of Senate Bill 84. As a middle school business education and CTE teacher, I can tell you firsthand how important CTE is to education. I have witnessed students who had little interest in school come "alive" in their first computer, home ec and applied tech classes. CTE encourages lifelong learning by applying hands-on CTE concepts to real world examples. Students learn about career options and discover they have many choices.

I hope you will support Career and Tech Education programs with SB 84.

With much gratitude,

Frances Lucas

Frances Lucas
Best Practices Coordinator-CTE
Romig Middle School
2500 Minnesota Drive
Anchorage, AK 99503
PH: 907-742-5285
FX: 907-742-5252

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 1:50 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Friedman_Jeff [mailto:Friedman_Jeff@asdk12.org]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 12:41 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Gary Stevens; Comeau_Carol; Kennedy_Crystal
Subject: SB 84

Dear Co-Chairs Thomas and Meyer, and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for SB 84 and for CSSB 84.

During my eight years on the Anchorage School Board, I have seen a lot of growth in the district's efforts to enhance career training in both professional and non-professional job skill areas. The added vocational and technical instruction funding will allow us to continue those efforts without reducing funding for other vital programs.

I also appreciate the planned increases in the BSA. Inflation chips away at our funding every year. The increases provided for in SB 84 and CSSB 84 will help us maintain our purchasing power. Equally important in my view, knowing for three years what our funding will be lets us plan in advance.

With increased funding comes increased responsibilities and I know the ASD will not shy away from those responsibilities. Over the last eight years, we have made large gains in our graduation rate, seen large decreases in our drop out rate, and made progress in our test scores. All of this while seeing a large influx of students who don't speak English, come from low income families, or who transfer in and out of the district repeatedly. In addition, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan put stress on our many military families, which makes teaching their children more of a challenge. Just to maintain test scores and graduation rates while teaching increasing numbers of harder to teach students is a huge accomplishment. The credit for that goes to our many dedicated employees, as well as to the Legislature's recognition that financial support, while not THE solution, is certainly a necessary element to providing the solution.

I would appreciate your support for either SB 84 or CSSB 84.

Jeff Friedman
Anchorage School Board
1534 D Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Murray Richmond

From: Mary DeSpain [timnmary@ak.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 1:01 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: hearing for SB 84

Dear Senators,

I have become aware that there is funding in question regarding monies that could be used to help the funding of future opportunities for Career and Technology class for students in the state of Alaska.

As a parent of two students in high school and in Junior High I would absolutely encourage you to pass the Senate Bill that would bring more money to continue and add to the education in high school students. I believe there are more students who are interested in hands-on classes and having those opportunities keeps them interested in school, interested in attending school which then creates less dropout rates. I have one son who has taken multiple classes from the King Career Center and every semester those classes have been his favorite classes. He's received excellent grades in all those classes and I believe part of the reason for that is because it's more hands-on and he's been able to choose classes in areas he's interested in. My son is graduating early and as a result of attending Technology Classes he's made a decision on what he wants his further education to be and what career field he plans on building his future on.

My daughter has started high school and wants the hands-on classes so much that she's chosen to attend the after school sessions that are offered at King Career Center and as a 9th grader has even said she believes she's going to go into this field as a career. These classes have a HUGE impact on our kids.

Please consider passing the funding. More students needs these opportunities.

Sincerely,
Mary DeSpain
Parent of three in the ASD

Murray Richmond

From: Mary DeSpain [timnmary@ak.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 3:24 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senators,

I heard that Monday morning a bill was being voted on regarding putting more money towards Career and Technology education. As a freshman in the Anchorage School District I just wanted to tell you that I hope you'll spend the money on these types of classes. I have already started taking a class on Photography at The King Career Center and I enjoy in very much. I'm taking this class not only for the credit but also for the learning. It is allowing me to be able to tell if I will want to be a photographer when I grow up or if there is something else I'm wanting to be. I would love to see more of these types of classes provided at my school as well.

*****~::~~Kelsey~::~~*****

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 4:54 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84 CTE support!

-----Original Message-----

From: Neel_Julye [mailto:Neel_Julye@asdk12.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 9:35 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84 CTE support!

Dear Senator Thomas,

My name is Julye Neel and I am the Principal at Hanshew Middle School in Anchorage. I've learned that the Senate Education Committee is preparing to take public testimony on SB 84 increasing the Base Student Allocation and funding for vocational/career and technical-education. I'm so pleased to hear that.

This funding would support the work of educators with students through expanded CTE programs such as programs that currently exist successfully at Hanshew and our local Service High School. Currently, Hanshew offers Applied Technology, directly preparing students for high school and the construction trades, Family Consumer Science directly preparing middle school students for Service High's Pro Start program, Business Education that prepares students for business courses such as accounting and marketing at the high school. We working on offering a course next year that prepares students for Service High's Bio Medical Academy. This purpose and goal would be to prepare students for the many career opportunities in the health field.

The increase in funding will support professional development for educators so that we can continue to support student and community interest. I believe that the CTE programs are relevant to students and their future more than ever before.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please consider this an invitation to visit our school and learn more about the opportunities we are currently providing for students.

Sincerely,
Julye Neel
Hanshew Principal
Hanshew Middle School
Home of the HAWKS!

907-267-0203

Murray Richmond

From: Roach_Wade [Roach_Wade@asdk12.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 2:35 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84 CTE Education Update

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am very involved in Alaska FIRST programs. I have seen the positive impact on students participating in these programs and their decisions to pursue STEM fields for future careers. Students that are interested in STEM fields such as engineering can advance their education by taking CTE courses in high school that would be supported by the increased funding outlined in this bill. Please move SB84 through committee and give it a positive recommendation.

Thank you.
-Wade Roach
FIRST Robotics Team 568
Nerds of the North

Murray Richmond

From: Liebner_Sue [Liebner_Sue@asdk12.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 8:45 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Support SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,
Please support SB 84 in order for us to continue to do our jobs educating our children.

Thank you for your work on the Education Committee.

Sue Liebner
Principal of College Gate Elementary
Anchorage School District

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 4:54 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84-BSA increase is needed for improvement to education

-----Original Message-----

From: Shelagh Sands [<mailto:shelaghsands@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: SB 84-BSA increase is needed for improvement to education

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am a parent of three children in Juneau. One is in college at Dartmouth College and two are in high school. I am also the President of the Arts For Kids board, which has tirelessly fought to keep the arts education in place in the Juneau School District. Our non-profit was instrumental in getting an elementary art program into our school district, after 25 years of having no elementary art across our district.

In looking at our school district, I see success. My son has gone to a very competitive college from Juneau Douglas Highschool. My children are doing well at this school also. This is because the parents, businesses and legislators have also fought tirelessly to keep funding education with inflation considered and cost of fuel considered.

To say that an increase in education money is not showing higher graduation rates, so why fund more money is foolhardy.

Our state must keep up with inflation rates and the rising cost of fuel alone, let alone the cost of drug counselors, high school counselors, art, physical fitness, and the four main core area of study,

If the legislators choose not to do this, then you will pay for incarceration rates, and adults that do not function in this society that is changing at a overwhelming rate. We want our kids to run the government in the future and we must continue to fund them to have this happen. Schools are continuing to look at ways to get test scores up. But you cannot go on test scores and graduation rates alone. You must look at the students that have succeeded and ask yourself why??? I feel it is because the legislature has continued to forward fund education, so our rates of success are not going down.

Simply put, you can feed a kid fruits and vegetables, which cost more than an unhealthy diet of cheerios and Mcdonalds. It simply cost alot to keep up with technology, abuse in the families, fitness and serving our children, that encompasses educating the whole child.

Please see that an increase to our district will keep all the programs that make a child happy and succeed. If this BSA is not increased our district will lose an art elementary specialist that services 2,000 children. This program alone is amazingly successful and creates learning with both sides of the brain. I could send lots of info that proves this. We will also loose a high school counselor. My son would never have made it to Dartmouth without a counselor that had time to help him in his high school career, but also help him get through the rigorous college application process. We will also loose our elementary EL program. You may think "oh, these smart kids will do fine without this," but studies show

that kids drop out of school that do not have their needs met with EL. These kids are considered special education because they have many needs to survive making it to adult life. I have raised three of these kids, and they have developed in a positive way due to this program.

Please make the right choice and forward fund education. We should have the best schools in the nation; since we don't, we need to let the educators try and still find success with a population base that is so diverse and facing so many issues.

Thank you for your work on this and continued effort on the part of our citizens.

Whenever I write to people I say that I am representing 200 voices because most people are afraid to contact the legislators. The average person on the street thinks that their voice is not heard and actually not worthwhile. They don't see that it matters. I have listened to 200 voices on my own that have relayed what I have said to you in this email.

Sincerely

Shelagh Sands a concerned parent.

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 5:06 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84 +

From: Denise Caposey [<mailto:dcaposey@skagwayschool.org>]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 7:55 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Cc: Denise Caposey
Subject: SB 84 +

Please support school funding on SB 84 and any other bill that seeks to support public education in Alaskan schools. Schools are not being adequately funded. The communities are strangled by caps and poorly calculated funding formulas that do not take into account the needs of small schools.

Dear Senators,

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

I don't know if you are aware of what dire straights Alaska's small schools are in. School budgets are in crisis all over the state. I don't think schools should attempt to balance their budgets at the expense of teachers and programs. The teaching staffs have been hit particularly hard as programs are eliminated and positions cut. Many districts are experiencing a wage freeze. This has been happening for up to three years already in some districts. Imagine being a teacher in an outlying village and not getting a cost of living increase each year. We're in Alaska, where we pay the highest fuel prices in the nation! Please look into the current budget crisis for your districts who are, or soon will be, negotiating teachers' contracts.

I repeat for emphasis- Alaska's teachers should not be responsible for balancing budgets and finding money to run mandated programs in Alaska's schools. I did not enter the teaching profession to be a fundraiser. I am a professional and I expect that my priority and focus should be my students. Its costs more to live here. Professionals like me will not be able to sustain living and working in Alaska with the added burden of having to subsidize our schools.

Support SB 84 and any other bill that seeks to increase state contributions to public schools. You do your job and I'll do mine.

Sincerely,

Denise Caposey, Elementary School Teacher

Skagway, Alaska

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 10:44 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

From: Debbie Collins [<mailto:dcollins@cordovasd.org>]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 7:42 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Please support increased funding for SB 84. I am employed by the Cordova School District and more importantly a community member. I see teachers and others work hard to support our children in academics and skills for life. With increased funding we can see smaller class sizes, which to me means children are not falling through the cracks, more small group instruction. Please help us give our best to our children. We want to do everything we can to ensure the best for our children.... and they are all our children, in Cordova, and in Alaska.

I realize that increased funding does not always ensure our children will receive a better education, but money is needed to build and maintain a strong program like we are proud to have in Cordova.

Thank you,
Debbie Collins

Cordova

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 1:50 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 84...vitaly important to CTE needs in our state!

From: Pam Collins [<mailto:mpcollins@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 12:21 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Kevin Meyer; [Senator Charlie Higgins@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Charlie_Higgins@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Dennis Egan; [Senator Johnny.Ellis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; [Senator .Lesil McGuire@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Linda Menard; Sen. Donny Olson; [Senator Joe.Paskvan@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Joe.Paskvan@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Bert Stedman; [Senator Thomas.Wagner@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Thomas.Wagner@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Cc: Maker Julie; rios_rick@asdk12.org; [comeau carol@asdk12.org](mailto:comeau_carol@asdk12.org)
Subject: Senate Bill 84...vitaly important to CTE needs in our state!

Re: Senate Bill 84 "An Act relating to funding for high school vocational education as a component of funding for public schools; increasing the base student allocation used in the public school funding formula; and providing for an effective date."

A few weeks ago my colleague, Leslie Moore and I met with many of you to discuss a number of issues, including this CTE initiative and forward, full funding, with a cap on core class (English, math, science, social studies) size of 27-28 students. We are grateful for your time and willingness to listen to our concerns, since testing and graduation rates are the main focus of our state.

Legislators, the need for the passage of this legislation has not gone away, and we support this new 2011 CTE initiative, Senate Bill 84. We are so grateful to Senator Joe Thomas and Senator Kevin Meyers and their staffs for introducing this much delayed and much needed CTE funding proposal. SB 84 assures that Legislative funds as provided in the education funding formula will be spent on secondary CTE programs.

As a middle school Career Guide, I see the daily importance in our school for 'hope', when students learn more about career options, they never thought attainable or knew anything about. Learning about these early in their school environment, opens doors. Through yearly Career Fairs, guest speakers from businesses and organizations, talks by community leaders, work with School Business Partnerships and available apprenticeships, our secondary students are given the tools to research their passions and seek out meaningful elective courses.

PLEASE don't let This bill stall in committee, like HB 317 last year. Senators, we need you to take action now. It is vitaly important that the hearings be scheduled and that Senate Bill 84 be passed.

Gratefully,
Mrs. Pam Collins
Mother of three successful college graduates and 50 year Alaskan resident

CORDOVA SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO Box 1330 * 675 Second Street
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907) 424-3265 * FAX (907) 424-3271

Cordova Jr/Sr High School
(907) 424-3266
FAX (907) 424-5215

Mt. Eccles Elementary
(907) 424-3236
FAX (907) 424-3117

March 12, 2011

Dear Senate Education Committee Members,

I am writing to encourage your committee to support SB 84, as it maintains critical support for Alaska's educational system. At a time when much of the legislature is fighting the lawsuits brought on by underfunded education, it is gratifying to see the efforts brought forward by SB 84. While the expectation of NCLB establishes unprecedented increases during its final years, it simply does not make sense to reduce support of Alaska's Schools and children.

SB 84 also complements the needs for vocational education...as "not everyone goes to college" hold true for a growing number of students. As the Governor campaigns for Alaska's Oil Resources/Pipeline, let's not forget the need to supply the necessary workers required to make these projects successful. SB84 brings a balance to the necessary support for Alaska's educational needs.

A review of data provided by EED will show substantial growth in schools across Alaska. Continued support brought forward by SB 84 will ensure uninterrupted progress for all of Alaska's children.

Thank you for your continued support of Alaska's most valuable resource.

Sincerely,



Superintendent of Schools
Cordova School District

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 11:29 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support for SB 84

From: Wendy Jacobsen [<mailto:wjacobsen@cordovasd.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 9:29 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Support for SB 84

Senator Meyer and Senator Thomas,

Thank you for taking the time to consider support for SB 84. As a secondary special education teacher, I urge you to support SB 84. Often times the students I work with thrive in vocational educational programs and having specific funding for such programs would ensure that students who don't always thrive in traditional classes, can feel success and build employability skills through vocational education programs. I also urge you to support the increase in base allocation for student funding. Being able to anticipate student allocations for the next few years, will help administrators in the budget process. Please continue to support districts throughout Alaska by providing the funding that we need to continue to build and maintain successful programs for our students.

Thank You,
Wendy Jacobsen
Cordova

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 7:14 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB84 K-12 funding

From: Anne Kilkenny [<mailto:annekilkenny@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 10:14 PM

To: Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Linda Menard; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Tom Wagoner; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. John Coghill

Subject: SB84 K-12 funding

Senators,

I support SB84 but think that it needs to be amended to provide increases in the BSA of \$170, 175 and 180 in FY2012, 13, and 14.

My reasons are:

- 1) The increase you are proposing doesn't even cover the increase the MatSu Borough District has incurred in health insurance expense this year.
- 2) Our schools need to do a better job of educating students in order to be competitive on the world market. You can't expect better performance without better funding.
- 3) The increase you are proposing (1.9%) is less than the 10 yr average for inflation of 2.8%. With the price of oil going up, expenses will increase, especially for rural districts which are disproportionately impacted by increases in the cost of diesel and transportation expenses.
- 4) We can afford it. House Finance passed a budget with a 5.2% increase in spending. A 5.2% increase in the BSA would be \$295. Certainly, under those circumstances we can afford a 3% increase for k-12 education.
- 5) Due to borough ordinance which confiscates 50% of the year-end fund balance of the MSB School District, the MatSu Boro SD has no reserves into which it can dip to cover budget shortfalls.
- 6) If you can consider giving TWO BILLION DOLLARS to the oil companies with nothing in return, you can give \$50 million more to our children who will be supporting more seniors than any other generation of Americans.
- 7) This is starvation funding. Our children deserve more than a 1.9% increase.
- 8) Without an increase the MatSu Boro Sch Distr will have to lay off about 35 teachers and class sizes will go up 4 to 6 students.

Thank you for consideration of my concerns,
Anne Kilkenny

Anne Kilkenny
P. O. Box 870163
Wasilla, Alaska USA
99687-0163

907-376-6225

Live Simply. Love Generously. Care Deeply. Speak Kindly. Leave the rest to God.

SEA LEVEL B & B

Jean L. Ellis
P.O. Box 1068
913 N. Nordic Drive
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
(907) 772-3240
jrellis@gci.net

March 17, 2011

Senator Joe Thomas
Co-Chair Senate Education Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing in support of SB 84 Vocational Education Funding / Base Student Allocation. We in Petersburg have been experiencing declining student enrollment. Our school has stepped up to the challenge and is reducing staff and making fiscally sound changes to our program.

However two items that continue to increase are heating fuel costs and health insurance costs. Through contract negotiations we have significantly increased the medical deductible which lowered our insurance costs however they are increasing again for next year and continue to be a large portion of our budget. Our elementary school (Stedman Elementary) built in the late 60's has single pane windows and uninsulated walls. It is on the DEED CIP list however energy needs receive a low ranking under the current system so it remains far down the list. The high heating fuel costs are hitting us hard.

We are currently projecting a budget shortfall for 2012 of \$177,000. An increase to the Base Student Allocation as proposed in SB 84 would not eliminate our shortfall but would be a significant help. Forward funding is extremely beneficial as it allows the School District to make decisions on staffing (job or no job) and programs in a timely manner.

The Vocational Education Funding portion of SB 84 is particularly important. In Petersburg we need more electricians, plumbers, cooks, welders, and the list goes on. We are shortchanging our community and our students by not offering more training in the vocational trades.

Petersburg is a great school with a very low drop out rate, high graduation rate, and high rate of students passing the HSGQE. However funding continues to be a real challenge, passage of SB 84 would greatly benefit our school district and community.

Thanks,



Jean L. Ellis, President
Petersburg School Board

SEA LEVEL B & B

Jean L. Ellis
P.O. Box 1068
913 N. Nordic Drive
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
(907) 772-3240
jrellis@gci.net

April 5, 2011

Senator Joe Thomas
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing in support of SB 84 Vocational Education Funding / Base Student Allocation. The Vocational Education Funding portion of SB 84 is particularly important. In Petersburg we need more electricians, plumbers, cooks, welders, and the list goes on. We are shortchanging our community and our students by not offering more training in the vocational trades. However to increase our vocational offerings we need additional on-going money that we can count on not one time funding.

Health insurance costs are skyrocketing. We just received notice from Aetna that our health insurance costs may increase by as much as 66.5% for next year. Through contract negotiations we have significantly increased the medical deductible which lowered our insurance costs for this fiscal year. This increase in Health Insurance costs is going to be very hard on our district as this will mean an increased expense of almost \$500,000.

Prior to the notice from Aetna we were projecting a budget shortfall for 2012 of \$177,000 if we add the \$500,000 for increased insurance costs that would bring shortfall to \$677,000. Obviously we are now facing some very tough choices. Any assistance you could provide through SB 84 would be greatly appreciated.

Our elementary school (Stedman Elementary) built in the late 60's has single pane windows and un-insulated walls. It is on the DEED Major Maintenance list however energy needs receive a low ranking under the current system so it remains far down the list. The high heating fuel costs are hitting us hard.

Petersburg is a great school with a very low drop out rate, high graduation rate, and high rate of students passing the HSGQE. However funding continues to be a real challenge, passage of SB 84 would greatly benefit our school district and community.

Thanks,



Jean L. Ellis, President
Petersburg School Board

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 8:22 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 84
Attachments: SB84 Support from Anchorage School Dist..pdf

From: Olson_Robin [mailto:Olson_Robin@asdk12.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 5:48 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: School Board; 'sean.parnell@alaska.gov'; 'mike.hanley@alaska.gov'; 'bjohnson@alaskaacs.org'; 'crose@aasb.org'
Subject: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 84

Good afternoon Senator Meyer and Senator Thomas,
Please find attached Superintendent Carol Comeau's letter in support of Senate Bill 84. It is also below for your convenience:

Dear Senators Meyer and Thomas:

On behalf of the Anchorage School District, I want to thank you for co-sponsoring Senate Bill 84. This legislation would insure that the Anchorage School District, and all other districts in the State, would be able to plan responsibly for the next three years, and would allow us to make much needed improvements to our Career and Technical/Vocational Education Programs. I applaud your leadership on this important issue.

The past three years of advance planning for education has allowed the Anchorage School District to advance their efforts in meeting our goal of graduating more of our high school students with a diploma, and reducing the drop-out rate. The efforts of the Joint Education Funding Task Force (JEFTF), chaired by Representative Mike Hawker and Senator Bert Stedman, have made a significant difference in our ability to plan ahead and we are grateful to the legislature and the governor for successful implementation of the three-year forward funding. Even with those significant increases, the Anchorage School District still had a \$12 million budget gap in the general fund to maintain current programs, pay for negotiated salary and benefit increases, pay for increased utility and fuel costs. The gap was NOT necessitated by our use of the ARRA (federal stimulus funds), but rather the ongoing general fund costs.

We still have a long way to go to insure that our students are college and/or career ready when they leave the Anchorage School District. We are very appreciative of the legislature's strong support for increases to the Base Student Allocation (BSA), the Intensive Needs Factor, and to pupil transportation. We are also supportive of the phased-in Area Cost Differential for all districts, even though Anchorage does not receive any funding under this part of the education formula. The increases to the Intensive Needs factor has allowed the ASD to use our general fund resources for non-special education students and programs for the first time; we are very grateful for that as many of our over 900+ Intensive Needs students require extra-ordinary services to meet the requirements of their Individual Educational Plans (IEP's).

We support Senate Bill 84's three year increases to the BSA as a way to assist districts in meeting the costs of inflation, fuel and energy cost increases, and to allow us to retain important programs and staff who are key to increasing our graduation rate over time. We believe the proposed increases are reasonable for the State of Alaska in support of quality education. We know that we must increase the rigor of our course offerings in order to meet the challenges of the Alaska Performance Scholarship; we have a graduation task force

reviewing our requirements and soliciting input in where to make needed changes. The additional funding will allow us to retain our effective teachers while keeping class sizes reasonable so our students receive quality education.

The Anchorage School District is also increasing our Career and Technical/Vocational Education offerings in order to better meet the needs of our non-college going student population. We have made great strides in this area at all of our comprehensive high schools, as well as at the King Career Center. We have strong partnerships with Alaska General Contractors, Alaska Works, and CITC at our Construction Academy at the King Career Center. We have incorporated upgrades to our high schools and middle schools in order to offer more CTE courses at home schools, as well as the King Career Center in our upcoming school bond election. Having additional funding to support the necessary teacher positions and the professional development required will go a long way to meeting the needs of our students in this vital area of 21st century education so all of our students are eligible for the Alaska Performance Scholarship for either college and/or career and technical training.

Again, I thank you for your leadership in bringing Senate Bill 84 forward. I urge the Senate Education Committee to hold hearings on the legislation and move it forward to Senate Finance and then hopefully to the floor for a vote of the Senate. At that point, I hope that a similar bill will have worked its way through the House for passage and eventual reconciliation in a joint conference committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at comeau_carol@asdk12.org or 907-742-4312.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Comeau
Superintendent

cc School Board members
Anchorage legislators
Governor Sean Parnell
Commissioner of DEED, Mike Hanley
Bruce Johnson, Executive Director, ACSA
Carl Rose, Executive Director, AASB

Robin Olson
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Anchorage School District
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99504
(907) 742-4312 FAX (907) 742-4318
olson_robin@asdk12.org

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 1:13 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: School Funding

From: Comeau_Carol [mailto:Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org]

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:26 PM

To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Representative Charisse Millett; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Lesil McGuire

Cc: School Board; Carl F.N. Rose; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org)

Subject: School Funding

To All Anchorage Legislators and members of Senate Finance:

Thank you to many of you for meeting with us when we were in Juneau earlier in the week. I want to thank you for your time, and for your past support for increasing the Base Student Allocation, the Intensive Needs funding, pupil transportation, and for all districts except Anchorage, the Area Cost Differential. Your long-time support for debt reimbursement has been a huge benefit for our taxpayers, and I do hope our voters approve our three ballot propositions on Tuesday.

I am hoping that you will carefully consider the importance of increasing the BSA and CTE funding in Senate Bill 84. This piece of legislation would allow us to keep up with inflation and to increase our CTE offerings. We are hoping to be able to reinstate some of our \$12 million in cuts for our 2011-2012 budget that passed the Anchorage Assembly on Tuesday night; we based our budget on not increasing the BSA. Senate Bill 84 would allow some of our cuts to be reinstated. In addition, we applaud the thought behind SB 97, sponsored by Senator Hoffman. As you all know, increasing energy costs are impacting our educational offerings at a time we are trying to increase graduation rates and reducing our drop out rates. We are definitely losing ground if we receive no increases in either the BSA or SB 97 for the 2011-2012 school year.

I hope you will give careful consideration to an increase in public school funding. Thank you very much.
Carol Comeau
Superintendent
Anchorage School District

Murray Richmond

From: Nancy lehnhart [lehnhart@gci.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 3:10 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: education funding

Dear Senate Education Committee members,

I am writing to urge you to ensure that districts around the state are given resources to do the important work of educating Alaska's kids. Increased funding for K12 education is important every year to keep up with rising costs, as you know. Please make sure that, with the resources we have in our state, we are not stripping our schools and reducing what students need to succeed. I can't think of anything more important.

Thank you for making sure the student base allocation keeps up with rising costs by adding at least \$100 per student per year, knowing that any more would add additional programming and resources that would make an even bigger difference for many of our students. As a parent of children in our schools, I feel that it would be drastically harmful to have larger class sizes and less individual and small group help for students who are struggling. Also, when districts have to make cuts, often the programs to go are programs like the arts which often are the key to learning for many students. Please keep our schools healthy.

I really appreciate your thoughtful service,

Nancy Lehnhart
15975 Glacier Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:59 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Erin Mitchell [mailto:erin_mitchell@jsd.k12.ak.us]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:16 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: Erin Mitchell
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senators and Representatives,

As an educator for the past sixteen years in the Juneau School District, I strongly urge your support in passing Senate Bill 84. It directly benefits all of our children.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Erin Mitchell

4th Grade Teacher

Auke Bay Elementary

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:59 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Please increase education funding!

From: Dick Monkman [<mailto:rdm@gci.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:35 AM
To: rdm@gci.net
Subject: Please increase education funding!

Dear Senator:

As a parent of two students (11th and 7th grades), and as a member of our local high school's site council, I write to encourage your support for increased education funding in this year's budget. In particular, please support SB 84, which would increase the base student allocation amount by (almost) enough to keep up with inflation.

The Legislature's support for education over the last few years has been greatly appreciated and has made a difference in our children's education. By all measures, Alaska's educational system needs improvement – and your help has started to make those improvements. But it takes time, and adequate funding, to achieve educational goals. The momentum is going in the right direction. Please keep it up by supporting SB 84 and an increased education budget!

Thanks
Richard Monkman
957 Gold Belt Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:59 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 97 and SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Kennedy_Crystal [mailto:Kennedy_Crystal@asdk12.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:36 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 97 and SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I noticed the attention that SB 97 has recently gotten and I have grave concerns that this bill might be considered as the one avenue to providing any additional funding for K-12 schools for their 2011-12 budgets. SB 97 does not provide for any increase or any inflationary adjustment for this year's budget (2011-12). Many districts had to develop a reduced services budget for the next school year and SB 97 will not even come into effect until July 2012 which is after the deadline for budget development of our 2012-13 school year. That two year gap will force us to reduce the 2012-13 budget at even greater levels than we did for next year. And there is absolutely no way to speculate, let alone guarantee, what the price of oil will be in July 2012 so there is no certainty of any additional funding getting to the school districts through this mechanism. SB 97 cannot be the only way to address school funding this year but certainly could be a compliment to SB 84 should any additional resources actually materialize from this bill.

Only SB 84 provides for a guaranteed nominal adjustment in the BSA for school funding and continues that trend for the next three years. SB 84 will allow districts to build budgets on known funding levels. Though it will be a nominal increase lower than current inflationary rates it will at least be an increase that will help to mitigate devastating cuts to our educational programs and services. Keep in mind that Anchorage does not benefit from any cost differential adjustment but relies on an adjustment to the BSA for any funding increases.

Please support SB 84. Our Alaska school districts need it.
Thank you!

Crystal Kennedy
Anchorage School Board, Vice President
Association of Alaska School Boards, President
907-696-2624

Dear Alaska Representatives and Senators:

My name is Rick Rios. I am the Coordinator for Career and Technology Education for the Anchorage School District. I also am past chairperson of Alaska Vocational and Technical Education Providers (VTEP), having served for over six years.

Thank you for your service and for this opportunity. I especially want to thank Senator Kevin Meyer of Anchorage and Senator Joe Thomas of Fairbanks, and their staffs, for their forward thinking and vision that resulted in Senate Bill 84, which supports vocational education for all Alaskans.

Please continue to advance Senate Bill 84 and persuade your colleagues in the Senate and House to pass it.

Nationally, vocational education programs were abandoned and disassembled during the 1980s and 1990s. During that era, skilled workforce education was ignored in place of federal special education mandates and college-driven admissions. This has resulted in the low graduation rates and high dropout rates of disenfranchised and misguided students. Because of other mandates and the cost of programs, CTE course became elective add-ons rather than relevant requirements. Now, the ability to revive and restore the infrastructure for CTE is beyond the capacity of local districts. This current situation is unsatisfactory and needs new vision for a smarter, engaged and relevant workforce to benefit Alaska's and America's future.

The vocational skills of the last century have changed. Skill sets and training tracks no longer serve 21st century workers. Initiatives such as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, better known as STEM, are now merging both academics and application into new models of learning. Career and Technical Education (CTE) is the application component. Problem-solving, processing, innovation and creative design are the worker's tools for the today and the future. Even our military is rejecting our high school graduates as unfit for service. The military not only needs a tough fighting force, but more importantly, it needs a better thinking and innovative force.

Career and Technical Education is slowly but steadily making this transformation. It starts in middle school and continues to employment with exploration and pathway education. It includes new engineering technology literacy skills in every career area.

This is a monumental task facing a program that was abandoned more than twenty years ago. In some districts, CTE classes consist of only a few elective options to serve the students who desperately need them and thrive on them. In many rural Alaskan communities, CTE courses are completely non-existent.

The Anchorage School District has seen a recent rise in graduation rates with the addition of CTE courses in after-hour, after-school programs, which we were able to offer using special grant funds.

This summer we are offering a Summer Career Camp with 24 intensive and enrichment CTE classes serving 600 students. This is not enough when you consider we have 15,000 students. The Anchorage School Board and the Anchorage Municipal Assembly recognize the need for more CTE and they are doing something about it. Welcome home to the sound of radio campaign ads! This is the time when we hear the ring of messages that are important to all of us. You are well experienced in the process. But this is the first time I have ever heard School Bond announcements promoting and promising a better workforce and employment, as well as college, for our students.

Anchorage is providing a general school bond this spring to advance CTE opportunities with new innovative middle and high school academies in construction, health and engineering.

We are providing new middle school career guides to help students align their interests and talents with career targets, college, work, and future contributions as citizens.

We are developing new plans for our graduation requirements. We are fighting to keep students in school for all the right reasons: to learn, to train, to prepare, and to provide and contribute to the community. These are the credentials of an Alaska High School diploma.

However, none of these urgent and essential initiatives will meet the immediate need for teachers, counselors, and classes. Remodeled facilities and new graduation requirements will not provide the teachers and programs need to fill the classrooms with students. More classes will need to be offered in extended day and extended school opportunities.

While Anchorage has some capacity to make a few of these difficult changes, rural Alaska does not. Senate Bill 84 provides equitable funding for all districts, without a competitive grant processes that deflects funding from classrooms and teachers into administrative and clerical sumps.

Now is the time to drill down to the core bedrock of workforce development. The pillars are in the minds and hearts of our next generation. The work has begun as the CTE foundation forms have been constructed. Now, I urge you to pour some concrete into them and establish a solid foundation for the future of Alaska, our students. Pass and fund Senate Bill 84 this year.

Thank you

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:59 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: HB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Janet Capito [mailto:janet_capito@jsd.k12.ak.us]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:16 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Chenault; Governor@gov.state.ak.us
Subject: HB 84

Hello,

I support Senate Bill 84 whole heartedly for many reasons. I work in the Juneau School District and see how hard the teachers work teaching the kids. They deserve more support than they are getting.

I hope you all saw the editorial page in the Juneau Empire on Wednesday where the cartoon asked "Which underperformer is getting addition U.S. aid?" The picture showed a student and a Libyan rebel.

Please support our schools and our under performing students.

Thank you for your time.

Janet Capito, RN

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 1:56 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84 - Support for Increasing the BSA

From: Mike and Andi Story [<mailto:andimike@ak.net>]

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 1:48 PM

To: Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman

Cc: Carl Rose; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Ellen Pavitt; Sarah Palin; Rep. Bill Stoltze

Subject: SB 84 - Support for Increasing the BSA

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Andi Story, I am a parent, 24 year resident of Alaska, and a member of the Juneau School Board. Many parents count on the Legislature and School Board members working together to provide for a sound educational system, K - 12. Let us not forget the work of the Legislative Task Force under the leadership of Representative Hawker, in prior years to providing for a stable funding picture for Alaska's school children. Many parents will not even be aware of the less resources to schools, until their children show up in school this fall.

I am writing to advocate for SB 84 to be approved by Senate Finance and moved in the legislative process, so it can come before the whole legislative body and be passed in this session. This bill provides for a three year adjustment in the BSA, and an increase for career and technical education for Alaska's high schools. The testimony in Senate Education committee was compelling for this bill. Juneau parent, Ellen Pavitt (also co-owner of Pavitt Health and Fitness in Juneau) wrote, "Many students don't intend to pursue a college degree following high school, and there is nothing wrong with this. In fact, there is a lot right with it . . . we need plumbers, electricians, and other people in the trades - why is it that their preparation at the high school level is so much less valued then that of the college bound student?"

Many commented on the importance of a multi-year funding plan for the BSA. It provides for certainty in instructional and budget planning and not the uncertainty of cuts to programs and services. As a Board member I can attest that we are working to maximize services to students in the classroom. I can attest that our Board and Board's across the state are implementing services that top performing districts are using. Whatever the career path of students; technical, military, college, work, School Board are working toward providing high standards and supportive climates for all students, Kindergarten thru 12th grade.

Please provide a stable funding picture that allows for BSA adjustment for increased costs. Please hear and approve SB 84. You have an opportunity to make an immediate difference in class size and services for students with the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Andi Story
789 - 4292
12069 Cross Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:26 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support school funding, Senate Bill 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Kesten [mailto:amy_kestes@isd.k12.ak.us]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 4:00 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Cc: Amy Kesten
Subject: Fwd: Support school funding, Senate Bill 84

>>> Dear Alaska Senators:

I have lived and taught in Juneau since 1989. Two of my children attend the JSD. There is no way that we can possibly do our jobs without an increase in funding. Please, please, please support Senate Bill 84. The increases that the bill proposes will help all of us to make a difference in education. Without the bill's passing, next year will be a disaster. I normally look at life in a very positive way, and I want to support you in your jobs. Please support me in my job and pass Senate Bill 84.

Sincerely,
Amy Kesten, Gastineau School Special Education Teacher

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 1:32 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

From: Jean Trainor [<mailto:jtrainor@apea-aft.org>]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 1:25 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas, I support SB 84 to increase the base student allocation. I hope you do, too!
Respectfully, Jean Trainor

Jean Trainor
APEA/AFT
Field Representative
825 College Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99701
phone: 456-5412
jtrainor@apea-aft.org

Murray Richmond

From: Ellen Pavitt [ellen@gopavitt.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 7:15 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: Re: POM

Thank you for your response, Mr Richmond. Here is something for you to include in the packet:

As a parent of a Juneau high school student, who has also raised two other older children in the Juneau community, I urge support of SB84. It is very saddening to see our education system faced with choosing which of the important student programs it provides to cut funding for. Our students need support and guidance in order to lead healthy, productive lives, and cutting back on what they receive at school is a step in the wrong direction during these times of rampant substance abuse and delinquent behaviors.

I also tutor students preparing to take their GED examination, and hold a masters degree in social work. I am very much an advocate for career tech programs in our schools, at a much higher level than they are presently provided. Many students don't intend to pursue a college degree following high school, and there is nothing wrong with this. In fact, there is a lot right about it - college is not for everybody. We need plumbers, electricians, and other people in the trades - why is it that their preparation at the high school level is so much less valued than that of the college -bound student? Instead we have countless students who are not motivated to finish high school because it doesn't give them what they need - preparation to support themselves at a decent wage after they graduate. They end up dropping out, and with low-paying jobs, thus continuing the vicious cycle of poverty, and often the associated substance abuse and other societal problems that can be associated with people living difficult lives.

Please support SB84, thus increasing the BSA and also providing some additional funding for our career tech programs.

Sincerely,
Ellen Pavitt, parent of Juneau high school students

On Mon, Mar 7, 2011 at 9:57 AM, Murray Richmond <Murray_Richmond@legis.state.ak.us> wrote:

Ms. Pavitt,

Thank you for your POM supporting SB 84. I would like to include it the packet of materials we send out to senators. Would you mind resending it as an email, and supplying your affiliation (and "parent of student" is a very good affiliation).

Again, thank you for supporting SB 84.

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 4:52 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Brad Allen [<mailto:ballen@kuspuk.org>]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 4:29 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Senator Thomas;

I am writing to ask for your support of Senate Bill 84 to help increase the Base Student Allocation and to help fund career-technical education.

With the increases felt across Alaska to school districts due to increased costs of materials and shipping/freight as well as the increased cost to keep schools open, the action of increasing the BSA is incredibly important to help districts do their job of educating kids. The funding to help provide students a quality education is paramount to the success of our young people to help guide Alaska into the next generation - and that is why this bill is so crucial to help districts' accomplish this task.

It also begins to address the long overlooked issue of career-technical education and the funding for these types of programs. While it is certainly the schools job to educate our young people, we are also tasked with helping them to be ready for employment and career options when they are ready to leave our instructional care. Having funding to help not only provide this critical component is essential but to help give all of our students the opportunity to be exposed to these resources is part of the solution to helping Alaska have a ready to hire work force - or go to college or whatever post-secondary training an individual would like to ascend to. While all district's face issues in providing these items, as a REAA, I can speak first hand about why these career readiness and vocational education programs are important to our students - they provide relative employability skills that can be readily used whether you are in bush Alaska or downtown Anchorage.

I encourage you to help make SB 84 an reality for the youth of Alaska. This piece of legislation has the opportunity to make real opportunities to our youth.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, Respectfully, Brad Allen - Superintendent, Kuspuk School District

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 9:18 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Please support SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Sara Irwin-Goudreau [<mailto:sgoudreau@valdez.cc>]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 8:54 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Please support SB 84

Thanking you in advance for your support of bill - SB 84

Sara Irwin Goudreau
Career Counselor
Valdez High School

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 5:36 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support SB 84
Attachments: letter SB 84.doc

From: Jean Ellis [<mailto:irellis@qci.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:10 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Support SB 84

Senator Thomas, The attached letter is in support of SB 84 Vocational Education Funding / Base Student Allocation.
Thanks, Jean, Petersburg

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 1:44 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support for SB 84

From: James Schwartz [<mailto:schwartz.jp.lf@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 1:30 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Support for SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing you in support for SB 84. I am a Petersburg school board member and I taught here for 27 years. Our school district will be cutting or not replacing several certified and classified positions and one administrative position next year. Our health insurance company has advised us to plan for a 10% increase amounting to \$130,000. Fuel costs will increase \$60,000 next year. Our business manager has projected even with our planned cuts a \$177,000 deficit in our budget for next year. This budget was based on "flat funding" from State appropriations. Of course, flat funding means significant reduced funding as a result of rising inflation. The increases detailed in SB 84 represent less than a 2% increase each year for schools. In light of the extraordinary budget surplus seen this year and the surplus projected next year it seems reasonable to pass SB 84. Please support SB 84 and voice your influence with other members of the legislature for their support. It will make a huge positive difference for our school district. Thank you for the work you do for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jim Schwartz

Petersburg School Board member

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:23 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: support SB 84

This woman is also a constituent. Can we get a letter back to her detailing all the boss's awesome work on this bill?

From: Martha Tomeo [<mailto:marthatomeo@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 10:36 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: support SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing to encourage you to support Senate Bill 84, in particular to increase the Base Student Allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education. Our school district budget in the Denali Borough is tighter each year, while student numbers are relatively stable and costs are increasing. SB 84 will increase the Base Student Allocation incrementally in the next three fiscal years, providing needed funds. Please support Alaska's students and our schools, particularly in rural Alaska, by increasing the Base Student Allocation and passing SB84. This legislation will bring positive support for our Denali Borough students, and schools statewide. A vote for SB84 is an investment in Alaska's future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Martha Tomeo
Denali Park, Alaska

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:26 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 84

Also a constituent – can you contact to get first name and mailing address?

Thanks! Be sure to save letters going out to constituents into the “Constituent” folder under “Correspondence” with the name of the person included in the title.

Thanks!

From: T Graham [<mailto:blueticee@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 8:06 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Dear Senator;

I am writing to encourage you to support Senate Bill 84, in particular to increase the Base Student Allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education. Our school district budget in the Denali Borough is tighter each year, while student numbers are relatively stable and costs are increasing. SB 84 will increase the Base Student Allocation incrementally in the next three fiscal years, providing needed funds. Please support Alaska's students and our schools, particularly in rural Alaska, by increasing the Base Student Allocation and passing SB84. This legislation will bring positive support for our Denali Borough students, and schools statewide. A vote for SB84 is an investment in Alaska's future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:28 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Denali Borough Schools

Another constituent...

From: Dana Morningstar [mailto:dana_mo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 4:02 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Denali Borough Schools

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing to encourage you to support Senate Bill 84, in particular to increase the Base Student Allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education. Our school district budget in the Denali Borough is tighter each year, while student numbers are relatively stable and costs are increasing. SB 84 will increase the Base Student Allocation incrementally in the next three fiscal years, providing needed funds. Please support Alaska's students and our schools, particularly in rural Alaska, by increasing the Base Student Allocation and passing SB84. This legislation will bring positive support for our Denali Borough students, and schools statewide. A vote for SB84 is an investment in Alaska's future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dana Williams
Cantwell, Alaska

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:06 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 84

Another constituent...

From: Stephanie Stickle [<mailto:stickle@mtaonline.net>]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:08 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing to encourage you to support Senate Bill 84, in particular to increase the Base Student Allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education. Our school district budget in the Denali Borough is tighter each year, while student numbers are relatively stable and costs are increasing. SB 84 will increase the Base Student Allocation incrementally in the next three fiscal years, providing needed funds. Please support Alaska's students and our schools, particularly in rural Alaska, by increasing the Base Student Allocation and passing SB84. This legislation will bring positive support for our Denali Borough students, and schools statewide. A vote for SB84 is an investment in Alaska's future.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Stephanie Stickle

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:59 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB84
Attachments: image001.gif

From: Sherrie Lyon [<mailto:SLyon@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:51 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB84

Hello,
I am both a school nurse and a grandparent and wish to express support for the above bill. Our children are our future. Please do not vote for SB97. Thank you.

Sherrie Lyon, RN, School Nurse

McNeil Canyon School
Susan B. English School
Port Graham School

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:59 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Please support Senate Bill 84

From: Karen Cleary [<mailto:kcleary@aptalaska.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:11 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Please support Senate Bill 84

Please support Senate Bill 84 which will give our school increases to the Base Student Allocation for K-12 education for 3 years and funding for increased Career and Technical Education opportunities. The school needs to keep pace with inflation, and increased energy and health insurance costs. Our CTE programs provide a pathway to success for the about 80% of HS students who do NOT graduate from a 4-year college program. Please support this bill.

Thank you.

Karen Cleary
Klawock, AK

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:00 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

From: Michael Byer [<mailto:mbyer@hbsd.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:55 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

Continued increases to the BSA that allow districts to contend with the increasing cost of goods and services are vital. Energy costs are skyrocketing along with the cost of health care. Keeping vocational education classes and other classes that students are interested in our schedule keeps them coming to school. This helps reduce the dropout rate, which though low, at less than 10% in Haines, still needs to improve. These costs are worth funding.

Forward funding is also of extreme importance. It is cost-effective. It reduces uncertainty and helps us to more quickly and efficiently budget. This allows us to spend more time focusing on ways to improve our students' education. It was one of the essential recommendations to come out of the work of the bipartisan task force on education back in 2007 and should be sustained.

Right now **SB 84** is the best vehicle for maintaining necessary funding increases and forward funding. It also addresses vocational education. **The Haines Borough School Board has passed a resolution supporting this SB 84.** This bill is in Senate Finance and we hope it will quickly get on the schedule and be kept moving forward. We hope that we have your active support and that you will exert whatever efforts you can. We will continue to follow the movement of this bill and will be available to provide additional testimony as needed.

We thank you again for your time and for your service to the needs of our school district and other districts across the State.

Thank you,

Michael Byer, Superintendent
Haines Borough School District
PO Box 1289
Haines, AK 99827
(907) 766-6725

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:00 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Eisemann, Jane [<mailto:Jane.Eisemann@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:12 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

As a teacher of vocational education at Kodiak High School, I see first hand the return on vocational investment dollars in Kodiak as well as the state. I fully support the passage of SB 84.

Thanks for all you do!

Sincerely,

Jane Eisemann
Kodiak High School
Natural Resources
Maritime Science and Technology
FFA Advisor

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:00 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Education Funding

From: Janet Reed [<mailto:jbirdreed@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:03 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Education Funding

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing in your support for your important education-funding proposal, Senate Bill 84. I would encourage action on this important legislation raising the BSA from the current \$5,680 per student to \$5,790 in July 2011, and then to \$5,905 in 2012 and to \$6,025 in 2013. The increases will be affordable to the state and important to the quality and stability of public education. It will help stabilize the ability of school districts to plan for the future rather than guessing from year to year.

I also support the portion of Senate Bill 84 that proposes the state fund a separate grant program within the foundation formula for high school vocational education. This is an investment that will help keep students in school and be prepared for Alaska jobs upon graduation from high school.

Sincerely,

Janet Reed

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:25 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Hutton [<mailto:hutton99829@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 7:12 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas:

As a member of the school board of Hoonah City Schools, I urge you to approve increases to the Base Student Allocation and also to career and technical education funding for high schools as reflected in SB 84.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Hutton
P.O. Box 185
Hoonah, AK 99829
hutton99829@yahoo.com

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:25 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: support education

From: Karyn Janssen [<mailto:kjanssen@ptialaska.net>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:12 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: support education

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am not sure of the specifics of Senate Bill 84, but encourage you to support anything that can help keep class sizes down, or helps teachers in classrooms. I think it would be great if more money was designated for only teachers and classroom aides/support staff, and less was for district office positions. I was a teacher and am currently a parent volunteer and active PTA member. I see, and have experienced, first hand how much is put on a teacher's plate. I also know that tutoring programs continue to need funding, but I believe money would be better spent on aides in the classrooms assisting teachers with those that need more help. I see students pulled out multiple times a day by various tutors and aides and feel that the constant disruption to both the students that need the help, and the rest of the class is just more for teachers to have to keep track of, distracting them from teaching- and students from learning.

Our children are the future of Alaska. Please support them by supporting funding for the employment of teachers and support staff that work directly with the students.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Karine Janssen Chingliak, Fairbanks mom

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:23 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support for SB84

From: Lee Ann Andrew [<mailto:landrew@swrsd.org>]

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:33 AM

To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens

Subject: Support for SB84

Members of the Senate Finance Committee;

I would like to express my support for SB84 on behalf of Southwest Region School District and as a parent of a student of Dillingham City School District.

Currently Southwest Region School District has built a budget the on FY11 foundation amount which has caused us to be conservative on our programs that are offered to the students. If we knew we were getting an increase in foundation we could either add a reading specialist at our largest site or we could properly budget for our science curriculum review and possible adoption of a new program. As it stands we cut a regular classroom teacher for the reading specialist and do not have the science curriculum review in the budget. Our classroom sizes will be increased to a point that may be detrimental to our current academic program but we had to make the choice. If we knew we could finance the science curriculum review and adoption we could be gearing up now so that we will be farther along in the fall and possibly finalize the decision in one year. With forward funding we would know if we had the funding for budget items such as these and could maximize our educational program each year as opposed to holding back and jumping when we find out funding is available. The sooner we know the actual funding the better chance we have of hiring an additional top notch teacher and we can move forward with the process for reviewing, adopting and implementing a new science curriculum. Our state dollars could be spent much more efficiently if the foundation amount is known up front during the budget development process.

Thank you for your consideration on SB84.

Lee Ann Andrew
Parent and
Director of Administrative Services – Southwest Region School District
907-842-8207

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:16 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Watkins, Bill [<mailto:Bill.Watkins@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:41 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

Below is a written statement I prepared for members of our community in Kodiak, Alaska. We are encouraging our Senate to do what's best for youth in Alaska - please support SB 84. Sincerely,

Bill Watkins
KHS Principal and Parent

Without SB 84 moving forward, KIBSD staff and programs are in Jeopardy. The senate finance will be hearing SB 84 on Wednesday, April 6th. SB 84 is a bill that increases the base student allocation in an attempt to keep up with inflation and ensures consistent funding for vocational education. Another bill (SB 97) will provide school district and municipal energy relief when the price of oil is above \$89.00 per barrel. While SB 97 is potentially helpful, it does not provide additional funds until FY 13, nearly two years from now! SB 97 does not offer a guarantee that funds would ever be appropriated given the required trigger price of \$89.00 per barrel for Alaska crude oil. A few Senators are trying to convince the public that SB 84 is dead and they are now focusing on SB 97 as the solution for education funding. SB 84 is not dead! But the Senate Finance committee needs to hear from their constituents that without SB 84, education programs (especially vocational, the arts, music and physical education programs) are in jeopardy. Do we really want our children's educational funding to be tied to the unpredictability of the oil market? SB 97 gives us no consistent formula for funding education from year to year. It is a great solution for high-energy costs and when available in FY 2013 would be a welcome tool to assist school districts and communities with high-energy costs. SB 97 will not solve our current dilemma of being forced to lay off teachers, administrators and cut programs with the additional funding from SB 84. Without SB 84, the pressure is put on the back of our local communities to increase funding - which means a direct burden on the local taxpayer. KHS has the potential of losing teaching and administrative positions and when staffing is cut we see a direct negative impact on programs. Districts cannot afford to cut Core (Math, English, Science and Social Studies) programs with the requirements for meeting adequate yearly progress (AYP). Instead, districts will be forced to cut the programs that make practical connections to physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs of every child we serve. These programs are our vocational classes, art classes, music classes and physical education classes. SB 84 allows consistent funding to support the existing staff and programs. SB 97 would not allow any additional funding for 2 years and only if the price of oil is above \$89.00 per barrel. Again, do we really want our children's educational funding to be tied to the unpredictability of the oil market? One year we have it, the next year we don't?

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:15 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support Education

From: karine chingliak [<mailto:kchingliak@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:18 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; david_guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us; joe_paskvan@legis.state.ak.us;
scott_kawasaki@legis.state.ak.us; steve_thompson@legis.state.ak.us; tammie_wilson@legis.state.ak.us;
eric_feige@legis.state.ak.us; bob_miller@legis.state.ak.us; john_coghill@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Support Education

I am not sure of the specifics of Senate Bill 84, but encourage you to support anything that can help keep class sizes down, or helps teachers in classrooms. I think it would be great if more money was designated for only teachers and classroom aides/support staff, and less was for district office positions. I was a teacher and am currently a parent volunteer and active PTA member. I see, and have experienced, first hand how much is put on a teacher's plate. I also know that tutoring programs continue to need funding, but I believe money would be better spent on aides in the classrooms assisting teachers with those that need more help. I see students pulled out multiple times a day by various tutors and aides and feel that the constant disruption to both the students that need the help and the rest of the class. Plus, all of the pull-outs for so many students is just more for teachers to have to keep track of, distracting them from teaching- and students from learning.

Our children are the future of Alaska. Please support them by supporting funding for the employment of teachers and support staff that work directly with the students.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Karine Janssen Chingliak, Fairbanks mom

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:15 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

From: Putt Clark [<mailto:clark.putt@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 8:57 AM

To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Bob Miller; Sen. John Coghill

Subject: SB 84

Please support Senate Bill 84. As other funding for schools decreases, class sizes increase. Larger classes mean there are more students who are sitting on the fence and will fail to learn without the funding programs provided by SB 84. Math and reading tutoring is hugely successful, and is fundamental.

The vocational and technical training funding in this Bill are also vital to certain students' futures. They keep kids in school and provide a trained workforce for Alaska's future.

PLEASE support Senate Bill 84!

Thanks you,

Putt Clark
Fairbanks

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:53 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

From: ehhilts@gmail.com [<mailto:ehhilts@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Sunni Hilts
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 6:36 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

Thank you for your continuing work for the children of the State of Alaska. I believe that their safety, health, education and future should be our top priority. So I applaud the discussion that is beginning to take place.

As we have worked with those involved in the legislation regarding education, we have attempted to be responsive to specific questions and requests. We have seriously taken your stated concerns to our local school districts to provide more and better data showing the results of your financial commitment. We brought that information to you. We have been careful to use Stimulus funds and any other one time money in a way that did not create ongoing need for support. We documented that. We have shown the improvement in our administration when we had the ability to plan ahead because of forward funding. We have explained the need for more and continued funding for career tech programs, documenting our use of those stimulus funds for equipment, technology and training.

Now it is the time to pass legislation. Our support for SB 84 is unequivocal. It is a vehicle that provides the minimum increase to maintain our programs across the state. It gives us forward funding which is one of our greatest needs and it provides for Career Tech monies, which we do not currently receive. Please consider getting this bill passed out as quickly as possible.

Thank you,

Sunni Hilts
Board of Education

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Murray Richmond

From: Kris Benson [kbenson722@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2011 1:09 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Cc: Sen. Dennis Egan
Subject: SB84

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Please pass SB 84 for education funding. Even if this bill passes, with an increase in the BSA, our schools in Juneau will be cutting numerous important teaching and support positions and programs. I hate to imagine the depth of cuts if the bill doesn't pass.

I would like to see Alaskans be able to be proud of our public schools some day. Without the planned increase in BSA, our schools will degrade further from the current evidence of funding shortfalls.

Kris Benson
145 Behrends Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801

Murray Richmond

From: Tom Conley [prophet@ptialaska.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2011 10:21 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB84 & SB97

Dear Senator Thomas-Thank you and the committee for the work on SB97 providing supplemental funds to schools and municipalities pegged to the fluctuating price of oil. It will be particularly beneficial to bush/rural communities where the price of heating and transportation fuel is so ruinous and an impediment to providing other routine services.

I am also delighted that the committee has decided to hear SB84 on April 6. For all of the state's schools this is critical legislation as it proposes to enact a three year schedule of modest increases to the Base Student Allocation and provide categorical funding for career and technical education (VocEd) in our high schools. With inflation, the need to ready students for the technological demands of our future workplaces, and rising insurance and other expenses we need the increased funding to keep our heads above water. The three year cycle of forward funding also permits more rational planning and budgeting. Importantly the targeted career and technical funding gives us the wherewithal to address this sadly neglected area of curriculum and begin the training the majority of our students will need for Alaska's future jobs.

As adjournment rapidly approaches, I would urge that SB84 get speedy attention so that it can get to the Senate floor and have time for consideration by the House.

Tom Conley
Sitka School Board

Murray Richmond

From: Robert Thomason [rft@me.com]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 5:57 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84 Support

Dear Senator Thomas,

Thank you for your concern and interest in doing what is best for students and schools across the state of Alaska. As a small rural school district, Petersburg City School District is especially vulnerable to rising fixed costs (insurance rates, fuel oil, electricity, gasoline). Each additional dollar devoted to heating fuel is one less dollar available for education. As an example, the cost of fuel oil has increased from \$2.69 in March 2010 to \$3.37 in March 2011.

SB 84, while not completely "filling the gap" is certainly better than flat funding for the coming year. This bill will allow districts to plan for the future through the forward funding mechanism and it will allow district to infuse valuable but underfunded vocational education programs.

I support SB 84 because it is needed, it is responsible, and the kids of Alaska need stable, functional schools.

Sincerely,

Robert Thomason
Petersburg, Alaska

Murray Richmond

From: Pete Lewis [pete.lewis@k12northstar.org]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:39 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Senator Joe Thomas,

Please ensure the future of Alaska. Funding for public education does just that. Currently SB 84 calls for an increase in the BSA of \$110, \$115 and \$120 over a three year period. It also contains a provision that provides funding for vocational education (CTE) that is vital to sustaining and enhancing programs that deliver job-ready graduates. Your support of this legislation is critical to our future.

With or without a surplus I would be advocating for an increase in the BSA. However, with a current surplus of over \$2.5 billion dollars, funding SB 84 with a fiscal note of \$37 million (1.5% of the surplus) is logical and a moral imperative. Failure to fund an increase of the BSA (SB84) will mean additional cuts of over 2.6 million dollars to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. A loss of \$2.6 million will dramatically impact what we do each and every day for students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Pete Lewis, Superintendent

Murray Richmond

From: John Conwell [jconwell@UCSD.net]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:05 PM
Cc: John Conwell; Bruce Johnson; aasb@aasb.org; Dan Masoni; magnusen@akwisp.com; Sonia Handforth-Kome; Tammy Pound (AASB); Tammy Pound (local); Tonya Miller
Subject: In Support of SB 84
Attachments: AJC Article.docx; SB84 Letter of Support.pdf; SB84 UCSD Letter of Support.pdf

Dear Senator,

Attached please find two letters written in support of Senate Bill 84 and a recent article from the Alaska Journal of Commerce.

Sincerely,

John P. Conwell
Superintendent
Unalaska City School District
P.O. Box 570
Unalaska, AK 99685
Office: 907-581-3151 Fax: 581-3152 Mobile: 359-3151
jconwell@ucsd.net www.ucsd.net

"To Provide an Exemplary Education"

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Unalaska City School District

Senate Finance Committee
Juneau, AK 99801



March 31, 2011

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 84. SB 84 provides a modest increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for each of the next three fiscal years and funding within the foundation formula for vocational education. Similar to the forward funding bill passed in 2007 at the recommendation of the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force, this bill enables school districts to plan their budgets and programs for at least the next three years with greater certainty.

Knowing the education funding outlook for the next three years will enable our District to plan more precise budgets and eliminate some of the uncertainty of fluctuating health care and energy costs. Further, our District hopes to implement the additional high school courses needed to meet the eligibility requirements for the Governor's Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) program.

The vocational education funding component of SB 84 will enable UCSD to build capacity within its Career and Technical Education programs. UCSD would utilize the additional vocational education funding to upgrade equipment, technology, and shop and classroom facilities. The District hopes to expand its Tech Prep Program to include career paths in addition to welding, which is presently offered at UCSD through a partnership with UAF.

With North Slope oil at \$118.44 per barrel today, the State of Alaska is in a position to appropriately fund its K-12 public education programs. As the father of two school-age children, and as a school district administrator responsible for the education of many more children, I implore you to invest in Alaska's children and pass Senate Bill 84.

Sincerely,

John P. Conwell, Superintendent

Cc: Representative Bryce Edgmon
AASB

Murray Richmond

From: Cindy Reilly [creilly@yksd.com]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 2:50 PM
To: Sen. Albert Kookesh
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: In Support of SB84
Attachments: image001.jpg

Senator Kookesh, Senator Stevens, Senator Stedman, Senator Hoffman, Senator Thomas, Senator McGuire, Senator Egan, Senator Olson and Senator Ellis:

I am writing in support of SB84, the education funding bill which relates to funding high school vocational education as a component of funding and increasing the base student allocation used in the public school funding formula. I would respectfully ask you to consider passing this bill which is so badly needed for our public schools.

During the past three years, we have been so very fortunate as school business leaders to have the benefit of forward funding which came about as a result of the Education Task Force. I want to sincerely thank you for that. It made planning for the best use of our state funding possible because we could depend on getting a base amount when writing our annual budgets. Here at Yukon Koyukuk School District (YKSD) forward funding allowed us to bargain with our teacher's union for a period of three years, allowing our teachers to spend less time at negotiations and more time in their classrooms with students. Last year, when we began bargaining with our teachers, we could only do so for a year at a time because we didn't know at what level we would be funded beyond FY11. We did the same this year when we reopened bargaining for salaries, deciding only on FY12 salaries, making it necessary to plan to come back to the table next year once again. And even now, we have arrived at a salary schedule for which we hope funding will be available since these decisions have not yet been made.

As with most school districts, we have been moving ever closer to reductions in staffing due to inflationary costs, not only in salaries and benefits, but also utilities, staff travel and the high cost of shipping necessary supplies and equipment to our villages. The Stimulus funds were very helpful in staving off these cuts, but we have been planning for them to go away this year as we had been told at the time they were given. I am thankful for the boost these funds gave our district; however now we find ourselves in the unenviable position of needing to cut staff. Seven of our nine village schools have fewer than 40 children K-12. Many of them are staffed to the bare bones now with multi-age classrooms, so there is no place to cut but in the jobs that are available for our local people. This is a further hit on the villages and their economies. By investing in our schools, you have the opportunity to multiply the State dollars as they bolster local economies.

I am very excited about the addition of vocational education funding as part of the foundation formula. YKSD has been analyzing student data looking particularly close at what happens to our graduates. In one study, we found that nearly three quarters of our 2009 graduates had not begun "real life" choosing instead to hang out at home in their village. Our school board and Superintendent Boyd has been moving us toward more voc ed in our schools for the purpose of making sure our graduates have practical and usable skills when they leave high school, realizing that many of them have no aspirations for post-secondary education. Our villages will be stronger and better places with skilled laborers in them to upgrade infrastructure. We have been able to provide intensive 2 week academies in the villages over the past few years in the areas of construction and welding. Next year, we hope to add a health care academy and to join with Kuspuk School District in their "Kick Ash" Firefighting Academy. Knowing we have the funding support from the State would certainly make attaining these goals easier.

With the predictions of falling oil production and dwindling state funding from oil, I know the temptation must be great to pull back and conserve the huge dollars our state is currently reaping from the oil industry. However, I would ask that you consider instead investing the money we have now in our State's future by touching our young residents who will be

the great minds leading us in the future. Please consider carefully the position we are in currently as a State with healthy coffers that are the envy of the rest of the United States, and pass SB84. Your support of Alaska's students is so very much appreciated, and will pay huge dividends in the future.

Thank you for your kind consideration and time.

Cindy Reilly, SFO
Chief Financial Officer
Yukon Koyukuk School District
4762 Old Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907)374-9410



Murray Richmond

From: Kristina M. Brophy [kristina.brophy@k12northstar.org]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 1:50 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senators Thomas, Stedman, Hoffman, Egan, McGuire, Ellis, and Olson,

Alaska's future lies in the hands of our children. The decisions you make regarding SB 84 will impact our children's ability to receive a good education and make Alaska even greater than it is today. Whether college bound or pursuing a career in the trades after high school, each student deserves our support. In order for us to do our good work for the benefit of Alaska's students, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of a multi year funding plan for the BSA and an increase in career and technical education in Alaska's high schools.

In Fairbanks, the budget we forwarded to the Assembly includes a \$100 increase to the BSA. This was not a random decision, but based on avoiding a climate of uncertainty and fear for district staff and the community prior to knowing conclusively what the legislature's decision would be regarding education funding. Currently, our budget includes cuts to technology, the curriculum, middle school math tutors, and graduation success coaches. Without the \$100 increase to the BSA, we will face an additional 2.6 million dollars in cuts. Knowing the increase to the BSA for the past three years has been extremely helpful as we conscientiously developed a reasonable budget. I am hopeful that you will once again support a three-year schedule of increases to the BSA.

Thank you for your consideration and for all you do for the citizens, and students, of this great State of Alaska!

Kristina Brophy

Davis-Ramoth Memorial School

April 1, 2011

Senate Finance Committee Members
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Senators Stedman and Hoffman and the entire Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to you on behalf of Davis-Ramoth Memorial School of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District located in Selawik, and asking you to make education a funding priority. Our Selawik school community includes parents and concerned community members who recognize the vital role of public education and the need to maintain its core purpose. We are very aware of the painful choices that must be made as you go through the budget process and we ask that you consider the long-term repercussions of depriving our children of an adequate education.

The State of Alaska has the responsibility of funding school districts adequately and this has never been more urgent than the present time with needed support for increased Base Student Allocation, Career Tech programs and the higher level of service required to reach federally mandated AYP requirements in rural villages. Because of the State's budget difficulties, your committee is considering not providing the funding needed to cover many required costs, instead opting to defer funding with the passage of the School District and Municipal Energy Relief bill providing for future relief. SB84 provides for additional funding over 3-years that will assist districts in addressing increasing costs and will help to invigorate vocational/career tech. The alternative, SB97, is a good solution for high energy costs and when the money becomes available in Fy13 would be a welcome tool to assist school districts and communities with high energy costs. 2013 is a lengthy amount of time to wait for needed funding causing the following detrimental issues:

- By not providing full funding you are depleting our school of critical classroom resources, including the loss of three certified teachers.
- Anything less than full funding places additional financial burdens on our school.
- The lack of priority placed on fully funding our schools for the costs incurred in implementing vital programs, including physical education and alternative education, suggests that the programs themselves are not of a high priority, giving reason to the argument that Alaska's legislature needs to review and sustain only the critical programs that it can afford to fund on an annual basis.

Davis-Ramoth Memorial School has a diverse membership that is united by support for maintaining full educational funding. We all have different positions on common issues but are united in the belief that during an economic crisis our State Leaders should make Education a priority. We want the following solutions considered:

- All unfunded programs should be immediately suspended and reviewed for their relevance.
- All programs deemed irrelevant or with duplicity shall be immediately eliminated

- The Legislature should adopt SB84 to fully fund current education programs.
- Education programs deemed necessary shall be prioritized and only fully funded programs will be required by the State Department of Education.
- School districts may continue to expect full funding via the State on State required programs for costs incurred.
- The Legislature should increase funding and staffing levels.

We are all feeling the strain and making tremendous sacrifices. We need you, our Elected Leaders, to publicly acknowledge that you understand the current situation and are committed to working together in finding solutions. We want you to take a leadership role in finding and implementing real results. This will require personal sacrifices that may reach into your comfort zones; just remember it is for the betterment of our State. This is your time to be our children's hero and make the hard decisions that will ultimately end Alaska's economic decline and start us back on the road to prosperity.

We appreciate your attention in this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Eddie R. Campbell, Jr., Ed. D.
Principal

Murray Richmond

From: Lon Garrison [Lon_Garrison@nsraa.org]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 12:50 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Cc: crose@aasb.org; Crystal Kennedy; prophet@ptialaska.net; smallfry@ptialaska.net; Mollie Kabler; pookc@mail.ssd.k12.ak.us; bradshaws@mail.ssd.k12.ak.us; Mike and Andi Story
Subject: Support for SB84 from Lon Garrison, Sitka School Board President

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a member of the Sitka School Board and a parent of a child in the Sitka school district I am imploring you to support increased education funding by supporting **SB84**. This is the only bill the legislature has put forward that continues the good work accomplished by the Education Funding Task Force begun in the summer of 2007. For the past three years, school boards have had the ability to budget knowing what the state would be contributing and knowing that the increases included in that package provided funds that helped to address increasing costs. Now as FY2012 approaches, we find ourselves right back where we had hoped we would not be: what can we expect from the state? Is there a plan? SB 84 continues that plan with moderate increases in the BSA over three years that barely keep up with the rate of inflation. We need to be able to know in advance what our funding picture looks like in order to plan appropriately. We are in jeopardy of eliminating programs such as extracurricular activities, music, art and so on if we cannot keep up with escalating costs. We may not even be able to provide the rigor of coursework the Governor is so keen on demanding for the Alaska Performance Scholarships, a program put forward as a way to motivate students to do better. Fewer resources mean fewer choices.

School districts and school boards face a variety of challenges in our constitutionally mandated charge to educate all of Alaska's children no matter who they are, where they come from, and whether they are prepared to learn. In Sitka it is a responsibility we take seriously and with zeal because we know **it is the right thing to do**. This is the essence of a free public education.

SB84 also provides funding that is intended to go directly to career and technical education(CTE) (voc-ed as we used to call it) as a block grant and we enthusiastically support this. In Sitka, we have maintained an excellent CTE curriculum that can readily use these funds and potentially expand its offerings. We know that upwards of 80% of our students may not choose a college path of post secondary education. This gives us the opportunity to continue or better yet, improve what we offer those students. Alaska will need these graduates to eventually fill the many skilled trades positions that are crucial to our economy and success.

On Sunday March 27th, I listened to Karen Rehfeld, Budget Director for the Parnell administration tell those of us attending the AASB legislative fly-in that the state is likely to receive nearly \$2 billion in excess revenue for FY2011 and another \$2 billion in excess revenue in FY2012. So there is a good chance the state could see an additional \$4 billion in the next 2 years. The current fiscal note for SB84 is just over \$95 million dollars for all three years combined! **Only 2.3% of the projected surplus!** I can't buy the argument we cannot afford this. We cannot afford to miss the opportunity to invest in our future each and every year, one student at a time!

Senators, let me be plain, to not support passage of SB84 is wrong. Please, explain to me how not doing this helps Sitka? How this won't help kids in this state and how this is not good for your constituents? Senators, you are in a critically important position as a leadership committee and we look to your leadership at this moment. The senate has been the only body in this session to show leadership and forethought regarding education. Please don't let us down. I have appreciated your measured and what I considered thoughtful

approach to our state budget. The state has work to do and education is one of the cornerstones of its constitutional responsibilities. Why can you not help but be compelled to continue that good work?

Respectfully yours,

Lon Garrison

President, Sitka School Board

Work: 747-6850

Cell: 738-9093

Murray Richmond

From: Watkins, Bill [Bill.Watkins@kodiakschools.org]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 12:46 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

April 1, 2011

Dear Senator Thomas,

As both a parent and a school administrator, and a resident of Alaska for 47 years, I see the youth of Alaska as our most important resource. I ask you to please support SB 84 to provide a long-term solution for maintaining and sustaining quality education programs in our great state.

While SB 97 may provide a short-term solution in FY 13 if the price of oil is more than \$89.00 a barrel, it is a very risky solution. We all know that oil prices are volatile and unpredictable, and for that reason our children's educational funding should not be dependent on the price of oil, which is affected by many international issues outside of our control.

Currently, school districts are doing everything they can to provide students with a "whole" education, one that includes Career and Technical Studies (Vocational) the arts, and music. To sustain quality CTE, Art, Music and Physical Education programs, districts must have a consistent funding formula. Connecting funding to the price of oil will allow districts to fund CTE, Music, Arts and Physical Education when the price of oil is above \$89.00 a barrel. However, when the price of oil decreases below \$89.00 per barrel the first programs to be cut will be CTE, Music, arts and physical education.

SB 84 provides for additional funding over 3-years that will assist all districts in addressing ever increasing inflationary costs and help invigorate vocational/career tech education. SB 97 is also a good solution for high-energy costs and when it's available in 2013 would assist school districts and communities with high-energy costs. Without SB 84, we would not have any consistency in the delivery of CTE, Music, Art and Physical Education programs.

On another note, I have heard legislators speak to the need for districts to cut administration as a solution for balancing the budget. As a high school principal providing oversight for 800 students, please know that I wear many other hats. I am also the director of two alternative programs, I manage over \$500,000 in grants that support these programs, and I am the CTE director and the director of secondary education. I am one administrator taking on the responsibilities of three full-time administrators. Most of my administrative colleagues in Alaska take on many more responsibilities than just providing leadership and supervision for one school or one program.

Without SB 84, our district will be forced to cut seven teaching positions and two administrative positions. In addition, with fewer teachers and administrators I will need to eliminate vocational/CTE choices from the Master Schedule.

For the sake of Alaska Youth please support SB 84

Sincerely,

Bill Watkins
KHS Principal
907 942 3171

Murray Richmond

From: scrawfor@alaska.net
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 12:22 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

Please consider supporting SB 84 for the Senate and moving on to the House. Our kids need this 3 year funding guarantee and voc tech training. Our kids and grandkids don't wait for the price of oil to settle but need these funds now.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Crawford

Kenai

Murray Richmond

From: Sally McLaughlin [tsmclaughlin@hughes.net]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 12:15 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; senator.lesil.mcguire@legis.ak.us; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Dear Senators;

I am writing to ask for your support for SB 84. Our district is presently cutting teachers, considering classified staff reductions and non-replacement of retiring teachers to cope with the proposed flat funding for next year.

Our district has made academic improvements in our students' performance based on last year's SBA test results. At least one of our struggling schools has made AYP for two years in a row for the first time. The potential for losing ground is very high if our staffing is reduced due to flat funding; reduced class sizes equate to better test results. Given the recent state budget projections of 2.5 to 3.0 billion in increased state revenue due to higher oil prices, the logic for holding the line is less logical. We realize there are always competing interests for the existing funds, but K-12 public education serves our future by helping prepare our current students for taking our place as they grow up and take their rightful place in our wonderful state. Please do not let them down.

Here are some to the reasons to support SB 84:

- Alaska is receiving a strong financial return from high oil prices and it is appropriate to invest more in Alaska's future through K-12 education.
- The tremendous benefits that districts, teachers, support staff, families and students enjoyed with our recent three-year forward funding package that allowed for more precise budget planning and eliminated much of the upheaval that occurs with staff layoffs and program reductions.
- SB84 provides for additional funding over 3-years that will assist all districts in addressing ever increasing inflationary costs and help invigorate vocational/career tech.
- SB97 is a good solution for high energy costs and when available in Fy13 would be a welcome tool to assist school districts and communities with high energy costs.

Thank you for your consideration on this very important piece of legislation. I appreciate your efforts to put children first!

Sally McLaughlin
President, Chatham Regional School Board
Gustavus, AK

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 10:07 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB84
Attachments: image003.jpg

From: Kathy Gearhart [<mailto:kgearhart@crsd.k12.ak.us>]

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:57 AM

To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens

Subject: SB84

Dear Senators,

Thank you for your hard work in Juneau to ensure the well-being of this great State.

I would like to share my thoughts with you on SB84. I have worked for Copper River School District for seven years now and the budget has always been a worrisome affair for the coming school year. With the continuing increase in energy costs, pay increases, and health benefits our district has had to continue to make budget cuts to balance each year. As you know, the education of our children is so important to the future of our country. SB84 would allow all school districts to plan for that future in a more efficient and effective way.

As Alaska benefits from the high cost of oil, please consider SB97 as well to help school districts deal with the rising cost of energy.

Sincerely,



Kathy Gearhart
Superintendent/Board Secretary
P.O. Box 108
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
(907) 822-3234 ext. 223
Fax (907) 822-3949

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:46 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

From: Leslie Evenden [<mailto:dldmevenden@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:35 AM

To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis

Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 84. This bill is critical for our schools to be able to plan and guarantee a level of funding that they can count on.

I am the mother of two children in the Haines School District and appreciate your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Leslie Evenden

PO Box 244

Haines, Alaska 99827

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:46 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: No on SB 97; Yes on SB 84

From: Lynnette Dihle [<mailto:dihles@gci.net>]

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:29 AM

To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Governor@gov.state.ak.us; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz

Subject: No on SB 97; Yes on SB 84

Dear Govenor, Senate Finance Committee and Juneau Legislators,

Thank you for your work and dedication.

We came to Alaska in 1975, two years after we were married. We are parents of Alaskan adult children, and grandparents of 3 local children. We have worked in the field of education as teachers, and counselors in the schools, and community since 1978. We do not like wasting money. We understand what quality education is and much of what it takes to get there. We basically understand the fiscal challenges of our country and state.

We **SUPPORT SB 84**. We **DO NOT SUPPORT SB 97**. It is too little, if at all, and late. We urge you to be the legislative leaders of our wonderful state of Alaska that views children as our most valuable resource.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Lynnette and Nils Dihle
2454 Engineers Cutoff (since 1978)
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:27 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB84

From: William Mcleod [<mailto:wmcleod@dlgsd.org>]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:23 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Senartor.Donny.Olson@legis.state.ak.us; Senator.Johnny.Ellis@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Gary Stevens
Cc: dcsd@dlgsd.org; Kimberly Williams; Deon Lopez; Izetta Chambers; Bernina Venua; Kyle Belleque; Alice Ruby; Keggie
Subject: SB84

Hello Senators,

On behalf of Dillingham City School District I want to thank each of you for your previous support of education funding. I am sure you have received many correspondence regarding the reasons for approving SB84 and continuing support for educational funding. Our district is one that has struggled with student achievement, limited resources, and many demands on our limited resources. That being said we are in the process of implementing significant instructional changes that are based on the Alaska Standards, current research, and best practices. We are starting to see significant improvement such as **increasing our graduation rate from around 50% for several previous years to 70% last year. Student improvement is increasing with our current initiatives** and we expect this years annual assessments to reflect this. We initially forecast our FY12 budget on a modest increase to the student base allocation of \$100 which included two new staff positions (a reading specialist and a K-2 instructional aide) that we know is needed to help our struggling learners. We focused these positions on our youngest kids (k, 1, & 2) knowing if we do more to help them get up to grade level proficiency by the 3rd grade they will have a much higher opportunity for academic success. The reality of removing this modest increase from the budget we submitted to the City of Dillingham has been the reduction of these needed positions. I am asking each of you to support a modest increases for education funding in SB84 and thus significantly helping DCSD meet the needs our kids.

Respectfully,

William (Bill) McLeod,
Superintendent DCSD

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:18 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 84

From: Scott Butterfield [<mailto:sbutterfield@chathamisd.org>]

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:11 AM

To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens

Subject: Senate Bill 84

Dear Senators;

I am writing to seek your support for SB 84. Our district is presently cutting two teachers, not rehiring one other retiring teacher and is also looking at classified hour reductions or layoffs to cope with the proposed flat funding for next year.

Our district has made academic improvements in our students' performance based on last year's SBA test results. Angoon has made AYP for two straight years where it never made AYP before. This is no small achievement! The potential for losing ground is present if our staffing is reduced due to flat funding. Given the recent state budget projections of 2.5 to 3.0 billion in increased state revenue, due to higher oil prices, the logic for holding the line is less logical. We realize there are always competing interests for the existing funds, but K-12 public education serves our future by helping prepare our current students for taking our place as they grow up and take their rightful place in our wonderful state. Please do not let them down.

Here are some to the reasons to support SB 84:

- Alaska is receiving a strong financial return from high oil prices and it is appropriate to invest more in Alaska's future through K-12 education.
- The tremendous benefits that districts, teachers, support staff, families and students enjoyed with our recent three-year forward funding package that allowed for more precise budget planning and eliminated much of the upheaval that occurs with staff layoffs and program reductions.
- SB84 provides for additional funding over 3-years that will assist all districts in addressing ever increasing inflationary costs and help invigorate vocational/career tech.
- SB97 is a good solution for high energy costs and when available in Fy13 would be a welcome tool to assist school districts and communities with high energy costs.

Thank you for your consideration on this very important piece of legislation.

Thank You,



Scott Butterfield, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Chatham School District
907-788-3302 ext. 3112

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:14 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support for Senate Bill 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Davis [<mailto:mdavis@cordovasd.org>]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 8:46 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 84

This email is to encourage your support for Senate Bill 84. This 3 year forward funding would allow districts to plan their budgets more precisely. It would help to invigorate our vocational education programs which haven't been funded sufficiently in the past. Districts have faced increase energy costs and have had to cut staff in order to meet these costs. Our district has had to cut teachers at all levels due to budget cuts. We have had the support of the community to renovate our grade school, but due to these cuts, we can't afford to hire a maintenance person to keep the building well-maintained.

Please consider supporting this bill as a critical investment in our children's future.

Mary Davis
Mt. Eccles Elementary School

January 14, 2011

Alaska Legislature Education Committee Chairs
Senator Joe Thomas / Senator Kevin Meyer
Representative Alan Dick
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Senators Thomas and Meyer, Representative Dick:

I'm writing on behalf of the Alaska Business Education Compact (ABEC) with congratulations on your committee appointments and thanks for your participation in the 27th Alaska Legislature. The Education committees you will lead are critical to preparing Alaskans for the future, both as part of the workforce and for their own success in life.

In 2010 a major effort was made to put together a plan for Career and Technical Education in Alaska. Endorsed by the Board of Education, Alaska Workforce Investment Board and the UA Board of Regents, the collaborative plan of the DOLWD, DEED and UA is now a blueprint for preparing our Alaskan students for successful and economic careers. The Alaska Business Education Compact was among many groups in Alaska to both support the initiative and to participate in the development. From our perspective, the CTE plan is a great step forward in attaining the goals of the state in educating Alaskans. The collaboration of the state departments and the university marks a long overdue step in assuring articulation among the major players in delivering education to Alaskans for a clear career pathway.

The Vocational Technical Education Providers (VTEP, a sub-committee of AWIB) and the ABEC led an effort to inform legislators, business and industry and other groups across Alaska about the plan and supported efforts to help allocate funding to support the plan. Those efforts included supporting bills (like HB 317) to route funding from the state to CTE programs as well as communications to school districts regarding budget planning and information to business communities about support for the plan.

Partners in the effort included business and industry associations, school districts and education associations. Part of the information process included packaging of letters of support from over 50 entities from across the state, urging the state and the local communities to provide strong career and technical education for all students in all regions.

While the Legislative bills have not yet addressed the allocation issue of funding, we would encourage the education committees to look at the previous bills and some new approaches. At

the local level, many districts are already including support in their budgets and bonds for the infrastructure to deliver CTE per the plan: as examples, with their board support, ASD and Mat-Su are working with their local governance entities to assure that the CTE is strengthened in their regions.

There is strong support from the ABEC and other business / industry organizations to enhance and support the basic elements of the CTE plan. That support should include such integral concepts as the following:

- Designated state funding for CTE should be provided with categorical designation in the funding formula or a budget appropriation from the legislature to the locally controlled school districts or institutions with intent to support CTE.
- Increase and Enhance Industry Financial Support by way of allowing tax incentive for a broad type of business entities that financially support CTE programs.
- CTE Programs of Study should be industry driven and validated and should lead to a certification and/or placement in a post-secondary program. They should be developed, implemented, and evaluated, based on their ability to link students to high wage, high skill, or high demand occupations.
- CTE Course Credits should be able (as applicable) to qualify for core academic status (i.e. math, science) to enable students to use these credits to meet graduation requirements and qualifications for the Alaska Performance Scholarships. The requirement for instructors to attain highly qualified teacher status for the core subject area should be sufficiently flexible to include industry-qualified CTE instructors.
- Alaska Department of Education and Early Development should have an adequate administrative support unit specified for administering, regulating, and monitoring CTE in Alaska.

The Alaska Business Education Compact would like to reiterate our continuing advocacy of the CTE plan as an integral part of the state's education plan. We hope to work to provide insights to the Legislature from the Business / Industry sectors as well as to continue the dialogue of employers, educators, parents and communities. We would offer to assist the legislative committees in developing the appropriate bills and processes

Dave Rees, Facilitator



Alaska Business Education Compact

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 8:14 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: School Funding

-----Original Message-----

From: Ex_Steve [mailto:Ex_Steve@asdk12.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:09 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Representataive Charisse Millett; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Cc: School Board; Carl F.N. Rose; bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org; Comeau_Carol
Subject: School Funding

Elected officials,

Having seen Anchorage Superintendent Comeau's email to you, please also accept my thanks for your long-time efforts in support of our community and state through funding of education. As a 30 year Eagle River resident, with a special needs son who was provided excellent educational opportunities in ASD, and as uncle to seven nephews and nieces (all current ASD students or graduates), I have directly experienced the difference your efforts and those of your predecessors have made for our community.

My urging your support of Senate Bills 84 and 97 is motivated by my strong interest in our community, and is informed by 28 years of teaching and administrative work with ASD. I'm retiring this June, and expect to live in this area the rest of my life. Although my professional life will no longer be directly impacted by K-12 funding decisions, the quality of the place I call home clearly will diminish if the cuts our current FY12 budget reflect go into effect. It is no secret that education is the smartest investment we can make for the future of our community in a highly competitive global economy. Your actions now in support of increased school funding would make a substantial difference in the return on our current investment.

The ASD Board, superintendent and her leadership team have worked incredibly hard to minimize negative impacts to nearly 50,000 students in making those cuts. Nonetheless, there remains vital work the current budget cannot support. As the curriculum coordinator responsible for K-12 social studies, I can assure you that our students and teachers need more support than is possible with available resources. Like others in the curriculum department, I consistently seek and frequently obtain grant funding to strengthen that situation. ARRA (federal stimulus) funding the past two years made possible some critically needed curriculum support. The current budget cannot provide for other curriculum work that is long overdue. Those projects directly impact students and teachers, because they involve updating instructional materials and providing professional development.

Your passage of Senate Bills 84 and 97 would allow ASD leadership to seriously consider such projects through budget prioritization. I know they will act in the best interest of our students in that process, investing in what is perceived as most urgently needed. Thanks in advance for your serious consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely, Steve Ex

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 8:13 AM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support Senate Bill 84

From: Shelagh Sands [<mailto:shelaghsands@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:39 PM

To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis

Subject: Support Senate Bill 84

Dear Senators,

I am a parent of three children, two who are in the Juneau School District, one who is at Dartmouth and made it there from the same district. I am begging you to support Senate Bill 84. Our schools cannot cut another million dollars from there budget. We will lose our Elementary Art position, who services over 1200 kids. We will lose a highschool counselor that serves 400 hundred kids, plus many more programs and teachers.

I am the President of the Arts For Kids board. I have worked diligently to place and fund the Elementary Art Program that exists in our schools. Before this is had been 25 years since we had elementary art throughout our district. Kids need to have things like art to stay in school. It has been documented that art increases math and science scores.

Please relize that if you don't keep kids in school they cost the government more later in life. It is wise to fund our children now and keep forward funding education.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope you see the future for our children by supporting this bill to raise SBA.

Shelagh Sands

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:11 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: CONSTITUENT - Funding for Education, Senate Bill No. 84
Attachments: What I Learned at School - NYTimes.pdf

From: Art Gelvin [<mailto:amgelvin@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:13 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Funding for Education, Senate Bill No. 84

Dear Senator Thomas:

Recently, a friend shared an article with me that was posted on the New York Times website, which caused me to want to share it with my friends and it is something that I'd like to share with you. If you have a few minutes, please read this article, and maybe reflect on who was the most influential teacher in your education.

Funding for schools is of the utmost importance and any increase in school funding will help our schools. I see many classrooms that are overcrowded; my daughter is currently in a fourth grade class with 32 students. Schools are holding fundraisers and collecting aluminum cans to buy construction paper and basic supplies. Teachers' are spending money out of their own pockets for educational tools that the District won't or can't supply. There is a lack of resources to help those kids with emotional and physical needs, especially when dealing with a deployed parent, who is away for a year in Iraq or Afghanistan.

I urge you to support Senate Bill No. 84. The increase that is within the bill allows the school district's funding to keep pace with inflation and maybe the increased cost of utilities. I urge you to keep increasing the funding for education. Our teachers' work hard with the resources that they have, they are not the "glorified baby sitters" as some would view them, but are caring people who want to make a difference.

Regards,

Arthur (Art) Gelvin
PO Box 83588
Fairbanks, AK 99708

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March 30, 2011

What I Learned at School

By **MARIE MYUNG-OK LEE**

Providence, R.I.

THE tumult over state budgets and collective bargaining rights for public employees has spilled over into resentment toward public school teachers, who are increasingly derided as “glorified baby sitters” whose pay exceeds the value of the work they do.

But how exactly do we measure the value of a teacher?

As a writer, I often receive feedback from readers I have never met. But the other day, I received a most unexpected message in response to one of my essays:

“I am so proud of you and all you have accomplished. I shared your opinion from The L.A. Times with my family and reminisced about you as my student at Hibbing High School.”

It was signed Margaret Leibfried, who was my English teacher — a teacher who appeared at a critical juncture in my life and helped me believe that I could become a writer.

Thirty years ago, in Hibbing, a town in northern Minnesota that is home to the world’s largest open-pit iron mine, I entered high school as a bookish introvert made all the more shy because I was the school’s only nonwhite student. I always felt in danger of being swept away by a sea of statuesque blond athletes. By 10th grade, I’d developed a Quasimodo-like posture and crabwise walk, hoping to escape being teased as a “brain” or a “chink,” and then finding being ignored almost equally painful. I spent a lot of time alone, reading and scribbling stories.

Ms. Leibfried taught American literature and composition grammar, which involved the usual — memorizing vocabulary and diagramming sentences — but also, thrillingly, reading novels.

Thrilling to me, that is. Many of my classmates expressed disdain for novels because they were “not real.” For once, I didn’t care what they thought. Ms. Leibfried seemed to notice

my interest in both reading and writing, and she took the time to draw me out; she even offered reading suggestions, like one of her favorite novels, “The Bell Jar.”

That year’s big project was a book report, to be read aloud to the class. However, Ms. Leibfried took me aside and suggested I do something “a little different.” Instead of a report, I was to pick a passage from a book, memorize it and recite it in front of the class.

While I longed for the safety and routine of the report, I was curious how this new assignment might work out. By then obsessed with “The Bell Jar,” I chose a passage that I thought showed off the protagonist’s growing depression as well as Sylvia Plath’s sly humor.

The morning of the presentations, I remember my palms sweating so badly as I walked to the front of the class that I held my hands cupped in prayer formation, so I wouldn’t wipe them on my shirt.

I saw the days of the year stretching ahead like a series of bright, white boxes, and separating one box from another was sleep, like a black shade. Only for me, the long perspective of shades that set off one box from the next had suddenly snapped up, and I could see day after day glaring ahead of me like a white, broad, infinitely desolate avenue.

It seemed silly to wash one day when I would only have to wash again the next.

It made me tired just to think of it.

I wanted to do everything once and for all and be through with it.

Dr. Gordon twiddled a silver pencil. “Your mother tells me you are upset.”

I finished and, to my surprise, the class broke out in applause. “As a writer and a good reader, Marie has picked out a particularly sensitive piece of prose and delivered it beautifully,” Ms. Leibfried said, beaming. I felt, maybe for the first time, confident.

Ms. Leibfried was followed the next year by Mrs. Borman, quiet, elderly and almost as shy as I was. She surprised everyone when she excused me from her grammar class, saying my time would be spent more productively writing in the library. I took the work seriously, and on a whim submitted an essay I’d come up with to Seventeen Magazine. When they published it, it was big news for the high school — it was even announced on the P.A. system. Mrs. Borman wasn’t mentioned, nor did she ever take any credit; in her mind she

was just doing her job.

I can now appreciate how much courage it must have taken for those teachers to let me deviate so broadly from the lesson plan. With today's pressure on teachers to "teach to the test," I wonder if any would or could take the time to coax out the potential in a single, shy student.

If we want to understand how much teachers are worth, we should remember how much we were formed by our own schooldays. Good teaching helps make productive and fully realized adults — a result that won't show up in each semester's test scores and statistics.

That's easy to forget, as budget battles rage and teacher performance is viewed through the cold metrics of the balance sheet. While the love of literature and confidence I gained from Ms. Leibfried's class shaped my career and my life, after only four short years at Hibbing High School, she was laid off because of budget cuts, and never taught again.

Marie Myung-Ok Lee, the author of the novel "Somebody's Daughter," teaches writing at Brown.



**WRANGELL
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
DISTRICT OFFICE

P.O. BOX 2319
WRANGELL, ALASKA 99929
Telephone (907) 874-2347
Fax # (907) 874-3137

GATEWAY TO THE STIKINE

April 1, 2011

Honorable Senator Joe Thomas
State Capitol
Juneau, AK. 99801

Dear Senator Thomas:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 84, which would increase the Base Student Allocation for K-12 education and provide additional funds for vocational and career education. Base Student Allocation increases and an increase in support for high school vocational and career education classes are crucial for districts to "maintain" programs. Our health insurance, liability insurance, salaries, energy costs increase annually. This amount will not keep up with all of our inflationary costs. However, if we can at least stay close to inflation the cuts we have to make will be easier.

Also being forward funded is the only common sense way to run the state's business. With tenured teacher contracts rolling over in March, for a district not to know how much money it will have is extremely dangerous.

I also appreciate your insight for Alaska's worker preparation. We should be training our own people to take the jobs that are available in state. Adding a dedicated amount to the Vocational allotment is a good thing.

Without this additional money we will be forced to cut programs and services. I strongly support both parts of this bill and thank you for leadership in proposing it.

Sincerely yours,

Larry "Woody" Wilson
Superintendent

Murray Richmond

From: AASSP [aassp@alaskaprincipal.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 9:39 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Support for SB84 - increasing the Base Student Allocation and funding for vocational/career and technical-education

ATTN:
Sen. Joe Thomas
Senate Education Co-Chair

Dear Senator Thomas:

I understand that the Senate Education Committee will be hearing testimony on Monday, March 14, 2011 on SB 84, VOC ED FUNDING/BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION.

The Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals supports this bill as it provides for a new multi-year funding formula with annual increases in the base student allocation, and additional funds that support career and technical education. SB84 will be beneficial, as it will allow the continuation of the recommendations that were part of the 2007 Joint Legislative Education Task Force. The multi-year funding has been extremely helpful for district and school planning for instruction and avoiding layoffs due to funding uncertainty.

With the current three year funding plan ending this school year, without the passage of SB84, schools and school districts will be facing renewed funding uncertainty. Faced with the certainty of greater fuel costs in 2011-12, increases in health insurance, food service, transportation and other costs, districts require funding certainty to make wise budget decisions that reduce the impact of cuts to instructional programs and reduce the disruption caused by lay-offs that are avoidable with funding certainty.

SB84 is a reasonable bill that will ensure no ground is lost in the progress districts have made over the past three years to offer a rigorous core curriculum. The provision in this bill would also allow districts to offer a vibrant career and technical education curriculum; something industry leaders have said is a priority if Alaska is to have a qualified workforce and a diverse economy. SB 84 will be very important in furthering the implementation of the state Career and Technical Education Plan

The Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals supports SB84 and appreciates your efforts to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Andre' Layral, M. Ed
Executive Director
Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals
P.O. Box 83530
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Office: 907-458-8880

FAX: 907-458-8889

Email: aassp@alaskaprincipal.org

Web Page www.alaskaprincipal.org

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:08 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: AASSP supports CSSB84

From: AASSP [<mailto:aassp@alaskaprincipal.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:08 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: AASSP supports CSSB84

ATTN:
Sen. Joe Thomas
Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senator Thomas:

I understand the Senate Finance Committee will be allowing testimony on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 on CSSSB 84, a bill introduced by the Senate Education Committee that provides for a new multi-year funding formula with annual increases in the base student allocation (BSA). The provision in this bill would also allow districts to offer a vibrant career and technical education curriculum; something industry leaders have said is a priority if Alaska is to have a qualified workforce and a diverse economy. SB 84 will be very important in furthering the implementation of the state Career and Technical Education Plan

The Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals supports SB84 as written. We support this bill because it will allow the continuation of the recommendations that were part of the 2007 Joint Legislative Education Task Force. The prior funding plan included annual increases in the BSA. This was extremely helpful for district and school planning for instruction and helped schools avoid unnecessary layoffs and disruption due to funding uncertainty each spring.

AASSP acknowledges that SB 97 appears to be attractive as it would provide relief to school districts when oil prices are anticipated to be high. However, SB 97 does not provide schools with the the needed multi-year funding predictability in the BSA or predictable vocational funding that would allow districts to plan, implement and evaluate expanded vocational/CTE programs.

SB84 provides schools with certainty each year that the previous funding plan provided in annual defined BSA increases to keep pace with inflation for health insurance, food service, transportation and other costs. This certainty would ensure wise school district budget decisions that reduce the impact of cuts to instructional programs and reduce the disruption caused by lay-offs that are avoidable with funding certainty.

SB84 is a reasonable bill that will ensure no ground is lost in the progress districts have made over the past three years to offer a rigorous core curriculum. The Alaska Association of Secondary School

Principals supports SB84 and appreciates your efforts to move this bill forward so that schools can continue progress made the past three years.

Sincerely,

Andre' Layral
Executive Director
Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals
P.O. Box 83530
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Office: 907-458-8880

FAX: 907-458-8889

Email: aassp@alaskaprincipal.org

Web Page www.alaskaprincipal.org

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:08 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support education

From: luke dihle [<mailto:lukeolaf@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:07 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: Support education

I'm a lifelong Alaskan who loves this great state I work, play and raise a family in. I have one child in the JSD and two more that will be in JSD soon. I'm writing to state my support of education. With all the recent talk about cutting billions of dollars from unconscionably rich oil companies it greatly saddens me that in the same breath we would not adequately fund education for the children of Alaska. I hope your conscious leads you when considering this issue.

Luke Dihle

April 4, 2011

Honorable Senator Joe Thomas
Senate Finance Committee

Senator Thomas,

I am a concerned parent of two students in the Anchorage School System.

I understand you are involved in an important piece of legislation, School Funding Bill SB84; that would provide a modest increase in the base student allocation for the next three fiscal years.

I would like to ask you to consider the importance of strong educational system and vote to ensure proper funding is included in SB84 when it is voted on during the current session.

I understand there are other bills in consideration; however, I don't believe they provide a solid funding that ensures our schools have the resources they need to provide for our children.

I appreciate your consideration and hope I can count on your vote in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Faith
5270 Heritage Heights Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:06 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Christian Martens, Heather [<mailto:Heather.ChristianMartens@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 7:48 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Dear Senator Thomas:

I am a Special Education Director in Kodiak, AK. Many students receiving Special Education services have very limited career options with coursework which prepare them only for college. As public education in most states moved from a balanced pre collegiate/vocational curriculum, Alaska remained a strong advocate for vocational training. Students in Kodiak have enjoyed several strong vocational programs. However, those programs are overtaxed. Kodiak High School offers many vocational programs during zero hour (before school.) All students do not have access to zero hour due to lack of transportation or family commitments. An improved funding stream is needed to develop additional programs outside our outstanding welding, shipbuilding, automotive, and culinary arts programs. An improved funding stream is also needed to create increased opportunities in our established programs.

Kodiak Island Borough School District is a fiscally responsible district. We squeeze all the instruction possible out of our BSA. With an increase in the BSA, we can continue to support instruction which will help our students meet the rigorous and increasing targets set by our state.

Thank you for your time,
Heather Christian Martens, PhD
Special Services Administrator
Kodiak Island Borough School District

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:06 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84 and I need you to read this

From: Sherry L. Blizzard [<mailto:sherry.blizzard@k12northstar.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 7:03 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Bob Miller; Sen. John Coghill
Subject: SB 84 and I need you to read this

The increase in the base student allocation in the last few years has helped our school district fund programs that are making huge differences in our children's lives. Math is the best example I can give. In my school there are a number of students who fail to learn when class sizes are too large. Every day I see 5-6 different at-risk students going to math tutoring class at 8:30 a.m.--their own time! They WOULD NOT be passing a math class without this one-on-one instruction.

. We will go backwards if this allocation does not keep up with inflation. Understand that every child is unique, they do not learn new concepts in a one mold-fits-all concept.

. Kids are Alaska's future. We should fund programs that are making all the difference in our children's lives now, and in the future.

. Vocational and technical training are critical to Alaska's future.

These programs not only keep kids in school, they also provide a trained workforce for our economy and support business. If vocational and technical training is not funded, individuals will suffer, and Alaska's economy will suffer. Every year I am asked to write a letter of recommendation for a student who wants to be admitted to a school to learn auto mechanics, or nursing. Not every student wishes to pursue college, we need to keep the appropriate curriculum open for them to succeed.

. Please support Senate Bill 84.

Sincerely,

Sherry Blizzard

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:04 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB84

From: moorelori@lycos.com [mailto:moorelori@lycos.com]

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 5:27 PM

To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens

Subject: SB84

Dear Senator,

I am a resident of Noatak, AK in the Northwest Arctic Borough and I am urging you to support the passage of SB84. Without the funding that comes with this bill, crucial teaching positions will be cut in the high school and our children will have very few class selections. The teachers have been working to improve our children's achievement and test scores have started rising. With the loss of teaching positions, our children will lose ground. Again, I ask you to please support SB84!

Sincerely,

Lori Moore

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:04 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support SB84

From: Robert J. Kirk [<mailto:rkirk@maniilaq.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:34 PM
To: Senator.Bert.Steadman@legis.state.ak.us; Senator.Lymon.Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Support SB84

Senators,

I would like to communicate my support to fund SB84. With 2 Children in the Noatak School, I would like to see them have the best opportunity to learn in my hometown. Increased funding would allow them to receive more time with a teacher that may otherwise not be able to return to teach. Increasing the load on teachers would reduce their opportunity to receive quality learning. I am sending this urgent message on behalf of many constituents who are unable to voice their concerns over the potential to lose teachers in our community.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Kirk

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:04 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support for SB 84

From: mike6154488802@gmail.com [<mailto:mike6154488802@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Mike Brawner
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:15 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: Support for SB 84

Thank you for your support of education and the future of Alaska's kids! I urge your support of SB 84. This bill provides much needed stability for planning and the program development process and it addresses the much-needed support of high school vocational education. As I observe the dramatically increasing oil prices and other basic costs of operating a school district, an increase Base Student Allocation (BSA) with a 3-year formula could not come at a more critical time.

I strongly support this very vital legislation.

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:03 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 84

From: Reed, Bob [<mailto:Bob.Reed@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:02 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Senate Bill 84

To Senator Thomas:

Please be sure to support Senate 84. We need a multi-year increase to the base student allocation from the state.

Thanks.

Bob Reed

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:03 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB84

From: Dwight Taylor [<mailto:taylor46@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:46 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB84

Thanks you for your work on our behalf in the state legislature. Please pass SB84. Restore the \$110 funding increase and always forward fund education. Our children are the states most important resource

Dwight Taylor
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary." (Vince Lombardi)
"You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself" (Harry Firestone)

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:03 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Langfitt, Diane [<mailto:Diane.Langfitt@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:39 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@leis.state.ak.us; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: Senate Bill 84

I am from Kodiak and I urge your support for Senate Bill 84. Adequate funding for education should be one of the top priorities of the state legislature. Thank you for all of the work you do on behalf of the youth of Alaska.

Diane Langfitt

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:03 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support of Senate Bill 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Jones, Kristin [<mailto:Kristin.Jones@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:33 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Support of Senate Bill 84

I'm Kris Jones I would like to ask that you support Senate Bill 84. Thank You.

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:03 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: support for SB84

-----Original Message-----

From: Dorner, Kimberlee [<mailto:Kimberlee.Dorner@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:17 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: support for SB84

My name is Kim Dorner and I would like to express my support of raising the base student allocation for public schools. This is an important legislative issue that deserves your consideration. As you know, any 'one shot' monies (while better than nothing) don't help us invest in sustainable programming to improve our schools. One time monies don't help us increase funding available for salary increases (which we need to stay competitive and retain and recruit quality educators to a state). Funding that doesn't allow school districts the local control that they need to make improvements over time is not very helpful. At a time when education is under the gun to raise standards, have 100% of our students proficient, and keep up with federal and state mandates; it is impossible for us to move forward if we are not given increases that allow us to expand programs to meet student needs.

The costs go up- just like they do for every government program annually. Yet, the dollars we have to make it all happen remain the same. It doesn't add up and I believe students suffer and programs get cut so that we can barely keep our heads above water. I am aware that there is a limited amount of money and that we need to be fiscally responsible as a state but really if it's a problem- then I will gladly pay a state income tax or you can have my dividend but PLEASE we have to be able to meet our students where they are to give them the best hope for the future that they can have. We've cut it all- right here at home. There is less art, music, PE, theater, vocational programs, social studies, science, health now than there was 15 years ago and that is just SAD. You can't ask us to do MORE for kids on less money annually because a dollar 10 years ago was worth more than today.

I am an educator in Kodiak because I want to invest in my community and I want to raise my children in the place I call home but they deserve a better than 'average' education and since when are we striving for 'average?' I want the BEST. I am willing to pay for the BEST, and I want to work for the BEST.

Ok- thank you for all of your hard work and commitment to Alaska's schools.

Kim Dorner

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:03 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: base allocation

From: Doug Dorner [<mailto:dougdorner@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:16 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: base allocation

Hi,

I would like to express my support for raising the base allocation given to schools per student. I've heard that in lieu of this you are considering a one time payment. I do not accept this as a solution. One time moneys can not replace the base allocation. It can not give the stability and foundation to build long lasting and meaningful programs.

Please fight for the future of education in Alaska, please support increasing the base student allocation.

Thanks,
Doug Dorner
907-486-5407

Catherine Reardon

From: rjsnoatak@inutek.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:25 AM
To: senator.donny.olson@legis.state.ak.us; senator.bert.stedman@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Our community implores your help

Senators, Donny, Bert, Lyman, Joe, Lesil, Dennis, Johnny, and Gary:

Please read these 3 short paragraphs that I've written following a Alaska School Council meeting just yesterday and incorporate them into the bigger picture of our great State's need for educational support and the passing of SB84. When it gets to paragraph 3, I am practically in tears and despair as I contemplate the struggle that our community(ies) face with an enormous imbalance of resources to unmet need. We need YOUR help.

Tina, Please include these comments from the community concerns of the ASC Napaaqtugmiut School meeting held on April 4, 2011.

As a parent when I went to the school at the end of the school day I was approached by 2 community members that said a School Board meeting was in progress that regarded 2 teachers being cut. I assumed one to be Jr. High teacher Darlene Campbell who had spoken of taking a sabbatical and was told the other was Timm Nelson, Jr. High/High School teacher. Seeing that the library was quite full including students, I was prompted to take part since I knew that our students and staff needed help, not "cuts". I had volunteered and subbed for the school this year and last year did school practicums, with any less help our children would have little chance of meeting adequate progress goals and in my opinion actually receive less than adequate education.

2 things I heard were quite appalling to me: 1, that Timm Nelson had received only this morning an e-mail from the NWABSD that said he was being offered either a volunteer transfer to Buckland or to accept an involuntary transfer if he wished to remain in the district. The appalling/shocking part of this news was he had only 24 hours in which to respond; I am sure there are many reasons and other sides we might not be privy to know, but where is the courtesy in this? Timm is highly involved in our students and community lives. He is well accepted and just now getting to a point of where after a couple of years of learning can make a tremendous impact; longevity and less turnover is proven to be a key factor in being able to reach a population effectively.

The other detriment to this happening, is it appears that "ok...Darlene Campbell is leaving, so let's not fill that position". Losing one junior high teacher could be bad enough and is unacceptable but cut another one who also happens to teach high school would leave only 1 teacher to cover our entire junior high population and only 2 teachers to cover all of the high school. 3 teachers in a village of 500+ to adequately instruct all of our jr high/senior high students? We want our kids to be ready and succeed in college? We want our kids to grab a hold of professions and role model success for future generations? I'm sorry, but 3 teachers do not have the resources, time or expertise in areas to give adequate education to our most valuable resource.

Please accept my comments as a desperate outreach and attempt to right what could be a possible and terrible wrong. Thank you.

Robert Sheldon
Parent and community member
PO Box 77
Noatak, AK 99761
907-485-2297

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:12 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84
Attachments: REVISEDDear Lesgislators docx 110326.docx

From: Rios_Rick [mailto:Rios_Rick@asdk12.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:06 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson
Cc: CTE_coordinators@list.state.ak.us; Comeau_Carol; Dave Rees <daverees@gci.net> (daverees@gci.net)
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senators

Please recommend, approve, and pass SB 84 in 2011. For more than ten years Alaska vocational education and training providers have diligently pursued the ability to educate and prepare students for the world of work, by re-establishing and renewing vocational education programs that were abandoned in the 80's and 90's. Finally the right Bill, SB84, has reached the Capital. It is on the porch steps of your committee today. It has a State of Alaska CTE Plan to follow, unanimous Alaskan community support, and sustainable funding to make performance measurable in three years. Don't let the Juneau legislative process deny what Alaska wants, needs and is willing to sacrifice for. Pass Senate Bill 84 this year!

Attached is a presentation given to the joint House/Senate Anchorage Caucus earlier this month.

Sincerely,

Rick Rios
Coordinator - Career & Technical Education
Anchorage School District
2650 East Northern Lights
Anchorage Alaska, 99508
(907) 742-8942 fax. 742-8978

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:13 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Constituents in Noatak

From: Robert J. Kirk [<mailto:rkirk@maniilaq.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:22 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Constituents in Noatak

Senators,

Please consider SB84 for increased funding. We are asking that the senate please give the education system the funds needed to allow our schools to operate at levels that give our children the opportunity to obtain a quality education in our communities. Our communities need the quality education to grow our children. I ask again, with many of our parents voices, urging you to increase the funding needed.

Robert J. Kirk

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:13 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Sally Spieker and Jeff Slaughter [<mailto:spieker@ptialaska.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:31 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: SB 84

Good Morning,

Please support SB 84. Alaska needs long-term funding to support career, technical and vocational education (CTE). All students need the services provided by CTE and schools need the assurance that funding will be available to provide these services.

Our expectation as a society is that individuals will work to provide revenue to support their families. CTE helps students explore, develop career pathways, and develop skills for work. It is for all students, including those who will develop skills to go directly into the workforce, those who will seek short-term training after high school, those who complete an apprenticeship, and those who go to college.

Families, businesses, and students will benefit from direct support through legislation. If you or your staff are interested in success stories, please let me know.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sally Spieker Slaughter
Anchorage

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:14 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Request to support SB 84

From: Michelle Zenger [<mailto:MZenger@hecla-mining.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:42 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Request to support SB 84

4/5/11 8:35am

The Honorable Joe Thomas
[Senator Joe Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Joe_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us)

Dear Senator:

As a member of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) as well as a concerned Alaskan, I am seeking your support of SB 84 as it designed to:

- Increase the base student allocation (BSA) for the next school year
- Specify the BSA increases for the next three years
- Add additional funds for Career and Technical Education

Last year the AWIB passed a resolution in support of the Alaska Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan (Resolution #10-03). SB 84 has the intent of providing funding for CTE as well as allowing school districts to better manage the planning process by providing specificity about the next three years BSA.

Although the proposed substitute SB 97 would most likely increase education funding in the short term; as a community revenue sharing allocation tied to oil price (revenues), there is no predictability for the future. It also does not directly support CTE as there are no directions for spending the funds.

To sum up, the predictability and direction for the funding in SB84 makes more sense than a one time or short term influx of money with no guidelines for spending attached.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you choose to support SB 84.

Regards,
Michelle M. Zenger
Alaska Workforce Investment Board – Vice Chair (Business & Industry seat)
Juneau/Alaska resident

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:14 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW:

From: Randy Hughey [<mailto:hugheyr@mail.ssd.k12.ak.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:32 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject:

Dear Senators

The time has come for SB 84. For decades vocational programs in Alaska have languished, underfunded, and undervalued. Having taught in the state for 28 years in three communities I have witnessed the steady decline of vocational education. Lets change that pattern.

I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,
Randy Hughey
Sitka High School

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:14 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84 - please help it get approved

From: Jennifer Mannix [<mailto:jenak05@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:57 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Subject: SB 84 - please help it get approved

Good morning,

My name is Jennifer Mannix. I live in Juneau, and I have a 9-year-old daughter in the 4th grade at Glacier Valley Elementary School.

I am writing to ask that the Senat Finance Committee do what it needs to do to recommend approval of SB 84 and forward the bill to the floor for a vote. I strongly believe that as far as education is concerned, the more support the better. The increase in funding of the base student allocation, as well as increased support for vocational and technical ed programs at the high school level are important steps in that direction.

Thank you in advance for your support of education! And thank you, in general, for your time and efforts serving in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mannix
8496A Thunder Mountain Rd.
Juneau, AK 99801

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:16 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84, FFA Funding

-----Original Message-----

From: Eisemann, Jane [<mailto:Jane.Eisemann@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:26 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84, FFA Funding

Dear Senator Thomas,

As an educator for the past 20 years in the community of Kodiak, I URGE you to please support the passing of SB 84. The State of Alaska needs SOLID/PREDICTABLE funding for our educational programs. Funding that is not influenced by the rise and fall of oil prices.

On another note, I believe there has been a request to fund a State FFA Coordinator for the sum of \$50,000.00. I hope you will support that budget request as well. I am the FFA Advisor at Kodiak High School and have first hand knowledge of the benefits that leadership, agricultural and natural resource education brings to our state. It is a VERY WORTHY investment that brings huge dividends to our state as we prepare our youth to take over the stewardship of our vast resources.

Thank you for your efforts and all you do for the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jane Eisemann
Kodiak High School
Maritime Science and Technology
Natural Resources
FFA Advisor

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:16 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB84

From: Jackie Smith [mailto:unagsiq_wtk@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:39 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB84

My name is Jackie Smith. I live in Rural Alaska. I have a child who is in Jr High. I am a concerned parent.

I am asking you to please pass SB84.

Alaska is receiving a strong financial return from high oil prices and it is appropriate to invest more in Alaska's future through K-12 education.

The tremendous benefits that districts, teachers, support staff, families and students enjoyed with our recent three-year forward funding package that allowed for more precise budget planning and eliminated much of the upheaval that occurs with staff layoffs and program reductions.

SB 84 provides additional funding over 3-years that will assist all districts in addressing ever increasing inflationary costs and help invigorate vocational/career tech.

SB97 is a good solution for high energy costs and when available in FY13 would be a welcome tool to assist school districts and communities with high energy costs.

The cost of living in Rural Alaska is outrageous. We are paying \$8.99 for gas & heating fuel in Noatak. When we get our next load of fuel our cost is going up. We will be paying over \$10 a gallon for gas & heating fuel. They are going to cut 2 teacher positions in our school next year. They are both Jr High teachers. Like I said I have a child who is in 7th grade. Next year they are going to be 36 students in Jr. High and one teacher. I don't see how my Son will get the adequate education he needs to enter high school.

Thanks for your consideration,

Jackie Smith
Noatak, AK

April 5, 2011

Senate President Stevens and Finance Committee Members:

As the principal of Service High School in Anchorage, and I write to encourage the passage of essential K-12 education bills, SB 84 and SB 97. Both pieces of legislation, in their original forms, will help offset inflation and enable school districts across the Alaska to continue at least three key practices that serve Alaska's children well:

1. Early hiring of teachers. The Anchorage School District hires approximately 70 percent of its teachers from Outside. With forward funding, and the ability to offer competitive but reasonable compensation packages, we have been able to successfully compete for the best teachers in our nation. Alaska, just as it does for the oil industry, needs to be an attractive option for professional educators in which to invest.
2. Re-emphasis on Career, Technical, and Vocational Education. Designated funding for C&TE, rather than block grant funding that needs to be spread thinly, will allow us to capture more students whose acumen and interest lies in the vocational fields. Concentration on college readiness will continue, but through the vocational programs both current and in development, we will be able to accelerate more students' readiness to learn by offering them increased relevant curricula. The result will be a more prepared workforce.
3. Extended school day and school year. With the sharp increase in public education students coming from economically disadvantaged families (see ASD Profile of Performance, p.9: http://www.asdk12.org/depts/assess_eval/POP/0910/POP_0910_District.pdf) the need is greater than ever to extend the school day and year. Non-traditional, C&TE (again), and remedial programs are essential to meet the needs of this often underprepared population. The modest increase in the BSA in SB 84 will help provide resources to continue our programs that extend beyond the regular school day.

After regular school hours, Service High School currently offers carpentry, Certified Nursing Assistant, Personal Care Assistant, physical education, and credit recovery classes. We scramble for dollars to fund teachers, materials, and transportation – all necessary to sustain the programs. Keeping students here at school after hours engaged in learning has been a huge benefit. Finding resources to sustain these programs has been a challenge.

Passage of SB 84 and SB 97 will help offset inflation and allow districts in Alaska to continue to meet the needs of our changing public school population. I urge you to act in support of both bills.

Most Respectfully,

Lou Pondolfino
Principal
Robert Service High School
742-8123

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:18 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Our community implores your help

-----Original Message-----

From: risnoatak@inutek.net [mailto:risnoatak@inutek.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:25 AM
To: senator.donny.olson@legis.state.ak.us; sentator.bert.stedman@legis.state.as.us; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Our community implores your help

Senators, Donny, Bert, Lyman, Joe, Lesil, Dennis, Johnny, and Gary:

Please read these 3 short paragraphs that I've written following a Alaska School Council meeting just yesterday and incorporate them into the bigger picture of our great State's need for educational support and the passing of SB84. When it gets to paragraph 3, I am practically in tears and despair as I contemplate the struggle that our community(ies) face with an enormous imbalance of resources to unmet need. We need YOUR help.

Tina, Please include these comments from the community concerns of the ASC Napaagtugmiut School meeting held on April 4, 2011.

As a parent when I went to the school at the end of the school day I was approached by 2 community members that said a School Board meeting was in progress that regarded 2 teachers being cut. I assumed one to be Jr. High teacher Darlene Campbell who had spoken of taking a sabbatical and was told the other was Timm Nelson, Jr. High/High School teacher. Seeing that the library was quite full including students, I was prompted to take part since I knew that our students and staff needed help, not "cuts". I had volunteered and subbed for the school this year and last year did school practicums, with any less help our children would have little chance of meeting adequate progress goals and in my opinion actually receive less than adequate education.

2 things I heard were quite appalling to me: 1, that Timm Nelson had received only this morning an e-mail from the NWABSD that said he was being offered either a volunteer transfer to Buckland or to accept an involuntary transfer if he wished to remain in the district. The appalling/shocking part of this news was he had only 24 hours in which to respond; I am sure there are many reasons and other sides we might not be privy to know, but where is the courtesy in this? Timm is highly involved in our students and community lives. He is well accepted and just now getting to a point of where after a couple of years of learning can make a tremendous impact; longevity and less turnover is proven to be a key factor in being able to reach a population effectively.

The other detriment to this happening, is it appears that "ok...Darlene Campbell is leaving, so let's not fill that position". Losing one junior high teacher could be bad enough and is unacceptable but cut another one who also happens to teach high school would leave only 1 teacher to cover our entire junior high population and only 2 teachers to cover all of the high school. 3 teachers in a village of 500+ to adequately instruct all of our jr

high/senior high students? We want our kids to be ready and succeed in college? We want our kids to grab a hold of professions and role model success for future generations? I'm sorry, but 3 teachers do not have the resources, time or expertise in areas to give adequate education to our most valuable resource.

Please accept my comments as a desperate outreach and attempt to right what could be a possible and terrible wrong. Thank you.

Robert Sheldon
Parent and community member
PO Box 77
Noatak, AK 99761
907-485-2297

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:19 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: HB 84

From: Kathleen Galau [<mailto:eowvnsister@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:53 AM

To: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Chenault; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Governor@gov.state.ak.us

Subject: HB 84

I am writing to urge you to support HB 84. It does three very important things:

- 1) Increases the base student allocation (BSA) by \$110 for the next school year
- 2) Specifies the BSA increases for the next three years (very helpful for planning purposes)
- 3) Adds additional funds for Career Tech and Vocational education (1% of the BSA each year)

Our schools already face cuts due to the loss of stimulus funds. The SBA increases covers the cost of inflation in wages and materials. Textbooks cost at least \$100 each and schools must supply them. Students must have heat and electricity, which are both expensive in this state and with the current state of affairs those costs will outstrip inflation. Without the increase this year, pupil to teacher ratios will need to be increased. Our schools also need dedicated career and vocational funds to create sustainable programs to meet the diverse needs of Alaska.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Iler Galau
3845 Melrose St
Juneau AK 99801
907.789.1740

--

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

Chief Seattle Suqwamish (1786-1866)

Your life is an occasion. Rise up to it.

Mr. Magorium (1764-2007)

April 4, 2011

I am a parent of a 6th grader who will be going into Junior high next school year. We just found out that there might only be 1 (one) teacher for about 35 students. That is not right! We need help in finding for our school to keep our Junior High Teacher. We can't afford to lose another teacher. Please find a way to help the students and teachers to get educated.

Thank you
Tina Mills, Parent

~~April 4, 2011~~

April 4, 2011

I will be in the 7th grade next year. We just found out there will be only 1 junior high teacher for 35 students. When I was in 6th grade ~~we~~ had 22 students and everybody didn't cooperate. Some students were always going to the office because everybody talked a lot. Please help us find funding to keep our other junior high teacher.

Thank you,
Davidson Mills



Message

Tue, Apr 05, 2011 9:52 AM

From:  rjsnoatak@inutek.net

To:  Tina Mills

Subject: April 4 ASC mtg

Please include these comments from the community concerns of the ASC Napaaqtugmiut School meeting held on April 4, 2011.

As a parent when I went to the school at the end of the school day I was approached by 2 community members that said a School Board meeting was in progress that regarded 2 teachers being cut. I assumed one to be Jr. High teacher Darlene Campbell who had spoken of taking a sabbatical and was told the other was Timm Nelson, Jr. High/High School teacher. Seeing that the library was quite full including students, I was prompted to take part since I knew that our students and staff needed help, not "cuts". I had volunteered and subbed for the school this year and last year did school practicums, with any less help our children would have little chance of meeting adequate progress goals and in my opinion actually receive less than adequate education.

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Please accept my comments as a desperate outreach and attempt to right what could be a possible and terrible wrong. Thank you.

Robert Sheldon
Parent and community member
PO Box 77
Noatak, AK 99761
907-485-2297

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:21 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: CONSTITUENT: support SB 84

From: Jayne E. Naze [<mailto:jayne.naze@k12northstar.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:11 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: support SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I write to you as a voting resident of Alaska and educator of our future adult citizens. Our state is not in a budget deficit and currently proposed budget cuts impacting education are severe and uncalled for. SB 84 is about kids. Reasonable class sizes (25-30) and critical tutoring programs are at stake and so is the student drop out rate. Programs that support transition to high school, like the 9th grade teaming program, have influenced a lowered drop-out rate in our local high schools. Programs like these and many more which foster student success hang in the balance. I implore you to continue to be an advocate for our youth and their future. Please support Senate Bill 84.

Thank you,

Jayne Naze
P.O. Box 80101
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:21 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84

From: Tommy Thompson [<mailto:thompsot@isd.k12.ak.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:11 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Tommy Thompson
Juneau, Alaska 99803
Supporting SB 84 and Increased Education Funding
Dear Senator Thomas:

I am a 47 year resident of Southeast Alaska and have worked in the fisheries industry and in the education field. My grandfathers came to Alaska in the early 1900's and had successful careers in the fish business and the medical field.

Knut Thompson in Petersburg and Dr. Joe Rude in Juneau were both men who worked in private practice and held SE Alaska and their communities in highest regard. Both of them also knew how important education was for their own children and for developing and sustaining an informed, involved, and contributing citizenry.

I am a father of two students in the Juneau School District and I know first hand from the district budget meetings that flat funding for our district means the loss of important programs and jobs. Already the district has cut funding for needed high school counselors and extended learning programs (to name just two) that are detrimental to the education of our children. Further cuts, due to flat funding, will erode our programs and what we can offer to our students even more so.

Investment. It is a choice. I believe supporting, encouraging, and funding our educational system to fullest extent is an investment we can't ignore. My children's teachers have been fantastic, caring, involved, and empowering. Flat funding education, I believe, sends a message from the legislature to the public NOT that you are tightening your belts, but that you don't believe investment in our children is worth it.

Please increase the student allocation in Alaska and continue to support our very diverse state that has so many kids from so many places depending on you.

I appreciate all the work you do, and I hope you make the right choice regarding education.

Sincerely,

Tommy Thompson
PO Box 32820
Juneau, Alaska
99803
tjomslan13@yahoo.com
thompsot@isd.k12.ak.us
907-723-4752
--

523-1579 JDHS Math
<http://www.isd.k12.ak.us/~thompsot/>

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:23 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Pass SB84

From: S.E.AK. Career Consortium [<mailto:edu@ak.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 12:59 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Pass SB84

Dear Senators

PLEASE pass SB 84 Today! I have put in decades of work toward better preparing our youth to live, WORK and succeed in Alaska. Our best economic driver is the young adults today! We absolutely must provide the early training in career awareness and industry skills in order for youth to see how they fit into the Alaskan economy. Without this, we will continue high non-Alaskan employment rates. In construction alone, 21% of the workforce DO NOT live here. What a drain on our economy- millions of dollars leaving our state every month! Career & vocational education are the key to our economy! This is much more than funding for schools - this is Alaska's future! Thank you. Karen Martinsen

Karen Martinsen, Director
Sitka Education Consortium
S.E. Alaska Career Consortium SEACC
P.O. Box 58
Sitka Alaska 99835
907 966 1355 work
907 966-1353 FAX
907 738 6999 cell NEW

"There ain't no rules around here. We're trying to accomplish something" Thomas Edison

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:25 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB94

From: stan vanamburg [<mailto:kvan6@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:09 PM

To: senator.donny.olson@legis.state.as.us

Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman; senator.lyman.hoffman@legis.state.as.us; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; senator.gary.sstevens@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: SB94

I am concerned parent and community member of Noatak. Just yesterday I was informed of major teacher cuts across our school district. My heart goes out to these young people who want to have the opportunity to better their lives with education and training options after high school. If our district is forced to cut teaching positions, it will greatly impact the quality of education our children will have. Teachers are already overworked and going the extra mile to help students be successful, cutting more teacher positions would be detrimental to their education.

With that being said, I am requesting that you support the Base student allocation. Our schools and teachers need this support and our children and students deserve the benefits of having a chance at the best possible education. I want to help provide that for them. I trust you do as well.

Doris Van Amburg

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:48 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: funding for education

-----Original Message-----

From: Dillard, Bonnie [<mailto:Bonnie.Dillard@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:43 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: funding for education

Senator Thomas,

I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 84. In order to provide for our children, our richest resource, we MUST increase funding for education. The future of Alaska, of the world, depends on young people having access to QUALITY education.

Thank you for your time,

Bonnie Dillard
Kodiak, Alaska



April 5, 2011

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau Alaska 99811

RE: Support for SB 84 "An Act relating to funding for high school vocational and technical instruction as a component of funding for public schools; increasing the base student allocation used in the public school funding formula; and providing for an effective date."

Dear Legislator;

Southeast Conference is an organization that promotes workforce development and encourages entrepreneurial success and resource development for Southeast Alaska. Because of these goals we fully support SB84.

SB84 is the most promising of the school funding bills currently before the legislature. It does three things that we feel are very important:

- Increases the base student allocation (BSA) by \$110 for the next school year.
- Specifies the BSA increases for the next three years which is very helpful for planning purposes. BSA increase allows school districts the opportunity to plan better for future years and budget more wisely.
- Adds security as well as additional funds for Career Technical and Vocational education. (1% of the BSA each year) This component will offer school districts more security to further develop the options that are so desperately needed for our region and around the state. There are significant advantages to the increase in funding for Career Tech, but the security in having a "permanent" increase is invaluable to our students -- a one-time or short term influx of money is not enough to allow districts to develop viable career tech programs.

Southeast Conference is a regional, nonprofit corporation that advances the collective interest of the people, communities and businesses in Southeast Alaska. Members include municipalities, native corporations and village councils, regional and local businesses, civic organizations and individuals throughout the region. Our goal is to support policies that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment for Southeast Alaska. We are the State-designated Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR), the federally-designated Economic Development District (EDD), and the federally designated Resource Conservation and Development Council for Southeast Alaska. Each of these designations requires Southeast Conference to take an active role in regional resource management and economic development planning.

We thank you for your service to our state and strongly encourage you to support SB84. Our state is in a precarious situation, our population is aging and our young people are not prepared to continue the resource development that is so important to our future success. It is imperative we give them the education and training they need. SB84 will put us another step closer to this goal.

Sincerely,

Shelly Wright

P.O. Box 21989 612 W. Willoughby Avenue, Suite B, Juneau Alaska 99802

(907) 523-4350 (907) 463-5670 Fax info@seconference.org

www.seconference.org



Executive Director

Letter sent via email to:

Senate Finance:

[Senator Lyman Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Lyman_Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Bert Stedman@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Bert_Stedman@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Donald Olson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Donald_Olson@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Dennis Egan@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Ioe Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Ioe_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Johnny Ellis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator Lesil McGuire@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us)

House Finance:

[Representative Bill Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Anna Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Anna_Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Bill Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Bill_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Mia Costello@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Mia_Costello@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Brvce Edgmon@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Brvce_Edgmon@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Mike Hawker@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Mike_Hawker@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Reggie Ioule@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Reggie_Ioule@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Tammie Wilson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Tammie_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Mike Doogan@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Mike_Doogan@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Les Gara@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative David Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_David_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative Mike Chenault@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Mike_Chenault@legis.state.ak.us)

Governor@gov.state.ak.us

P.O. Box 21989 612 W. Willoughby Avenue, Suite B, Juneau Alaska 99802

(907) 523-4350 (907) 463-5670 Fax info@seconference.org

www.seconference.org

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Rachel Sherman [kellyriver12@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:41 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: SB84

As a parent,community member, and substitute teacher for Noatak School I strongly support the passing og SB84.We do need more staff here in order for our children to achieve whatever goal they want to pursue. Thank you Rachel Sherman Box 33 Noatak, Alaska 99761

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Gordon Wrobel [gordonwrobel@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:19 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Honorable Senator Thomas:

I am writing in support of SB 84. This bill provides essential funding to create permanent funding for Career Tech and Vocational education. Making this funding permanent will provide educators with the ability to engage a long term planning process. This will result in the creation of new and innovative educational opportunities that will keep Alaska competitive.

This bill will also support a more effective budgeting process for elementary and secondary education. By raising the base student allocation districts will be able to temper the anticipated cuts and retain key staff and programs.

I encourage you to support passage of SB 84.

Gordon Wrobel, Ph.D.
Elfin Cove
907-321-1009

Joe Hardenbrook

From: neici becerra [neicibecerra@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:22 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: Current Session

My name is Neici Becerra and I am from Kodiak. I feel that it is critical that you push for House Bill 143 or Senate Bill 84 to increase the base student allocation. I believe this is an investment in our future and I believe that it is critical that funding be increased during this session to support the continuation of current programing in our schools.

I hope you will fight to see an increase for our public schools during this legislative session!

Please consider my opinion.

Thank you for your time,

Neici Becerra

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Janet Reed [jbirdreed@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:20 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Hoffman,

I am writing in support of SB84. Due to high returns from oil profits, the increase in education funding should be affordable and should be a priority to our state. Forward funding only makes sense. It allows schools to do sensible future planning that avoids staff layoffs and limiting program offerings for our students, including the vocational education that is so important to our state's workforce. While SB 97 will be a help offset rising energy costs when it's available in 2013, it will not offset those increasing costs that our schools are experiencing now.

Thank you,

Janet Reed

Valdez, AK

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Wall, Kristie [Kristie.Wall@kodiakschools.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:33 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

My name is Kristie Wall. I'm writing from Kodiak, asking you to support Senate Bill 84. Our school district has started several promising instructional improvement initiatives-- Forward funding is a crucial component to being able to see the full benefits these program changes. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration, Kristie

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Ruth [cottagesonmonastery@alaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:39 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Support SB84

Senator Thomas -

I am a local business woman who also has a daughter graduating from high school this year. I am writing to ask you to support SB84. It is vital for our school systems to have this increase in the Base Student Allocation for the next few years. Plus the additional support for vocational education where it is also much needed and well used for our young adults in giving them a solid base starting out. We all need to keep on track in supporting the education of our children instead of cutbacks that will cripple vital programs.

Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Ruth Ann Stough

Cottages on Monastery

Sitka

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Heather Mildon [northernheather@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:57 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I write to urge your support of SB 84, which will increase the base student allocation and includes a high school vocational/technical education funding factor, and a tax credit for businesses contributing to educational institutions.

It is vitally important that Alaska's schools realize an increase in the BSA in order to continue serving our students in a manner that furthers their learning and development. In Anchorage, this additional funding will allow us to recommend restoration of programs with demonstrated effectiveness that have been cut due to funding limitations in our recently approved budget for 2011-12, programs our students need.

Thank you for your consideration,
Heather Mildon

Anchorage

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Annette Freymueller [alaskapt@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:12 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Bob Miller; Sen. John Coghill
Cc: nharun@mosquionet.com; 91-Liz Styer
Subject: Please vote FOR SB#84

Imagine the following editorial cartoon:

A bunch of fat, corporate oil men with \$1 billion spilling out of their pockets,

Stomping over a bunch of school children with signs that say, "We only wanted an extra \$20 million."

With legislators in the background saying, "Because that's how we decided to vote."

PLEASE, invest in our school children. Money spent on education will save in the long run. By cutting spending in education, you will see an even *higher* drop-out rate, and, for those who graduate, higher numbers of children with poor preparedness for jobs.

The increase in the base student allocation in the last few years has helped our school district fund programs that are making a huge difference in our kids lives. Students fail to learn when class sizes are too large, and it becomes classroom management, rather than a learning environment.

Schools, like any financial structure, will go backwards if this allocation does not keep up with inflation.

Kids are Alaska's future. We should fund programs that are making all the difference in our children's lives NOW and in the future.

Vocational and technical training are critical to Alaska's future. These programs not only keep kids in school, they also provide a trained workforce for our economy and support business. If vocational and technical training is not funded, individuals will suffer and Alaska's economy will suffer.

Annette Freymueller
1258 Viewpointe Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907 479 3550

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.
Henry David Thoreau

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Ed Hays [hays6780257@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:38 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Please pass SB84 this year.

Dear Senator Thomas,

Please recommend, approve, and pass SB 84 in 2011. As an Alaskan vocational educator, I know that we work hard to prepare students for the world of work. In our school we have re-established vocational education programs that were abandoned in the 80's and 90's. This looks like the right bill to provide sustainable funding and to make performance measurable in three years. It also provides a State of Alaska CTE Plan to follow.

Pass Senate Bill 84 this year!

Thank you.

Ed Hays
CTE Teacher
Haines High School
Haines, Alaska

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Lori Holcomb [lholcomb@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:40 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB84, SB97

Senator Thomas,

I would like to thank you for your work on the Senate Finance Committee and ask for your continued support of SB84 and SB97.

I am a teacher in the Mat-Su School District as well as a parent. It is budget time and we are feeling the impacts of possible cuts throughout our district.

This causes a tremendous amount of anxiety each year and anything we can do to make the budgeting process more consistent and stable the more people will be able to focus on their jobs as they relate to students, instead of worrying about what to do when cuts are made.

Again I thank you for your work. I am grateful for the forethought of the people who created SB84 and SB97. I would like to see these two bills move forward to the full senate.

Lori Holcomb

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Buchinger, Michael [Michael.Buchinger@kodiakschools.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:54 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Hi Senators,

My name is Mike Buchinger and I'm emailing from Kodiak, Alaska. I am asking for all of your support of Senate Bill 84.

Thank you for your time.

Mike Buchinger

Joe Hardenbrook

From: PATRICIA-JOHN GEORGE [prgeorge@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:55 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB84

I would like to ask that you support and pass out of committee SB84. The additional funding is needed to support vital programs that will be cut from school district budgets. I recently testified at the Juneau School Board meeting for the need to reinstate the literacy coaches at the middle and high school levels. Many teachers who have been coached testified to the quality of the program and the benefit of having on going professional development. This program and the vocational education funds are vital if we are going to meet the needs of all students as well as increase the high school graduation rate.

Thank you for all your work to support literacy for all Alaskans.

Patty George, 3328 Fritz Cove Road, Juneau, AK 99801

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Bridget Kauffman [ak.bridget@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:16 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: SB84

Please support Senate Bill 84. The cost of education has continued to increase and the money available does not meet all of the needs of the educators and the students. Fees for classes and programs continue to increase. Fees for extracurricular activities increase as well. Students and athletes rely increasingly on donations from businesses in the community and fundraising (garage sales, door to door collection of change, raffles) to meet the financial needs of the various programs. How many of you must work 2 - 3 jobs and engage in fundraising so children can attend and participate in school programs or pay your own salaries? Many programs all students should have access to have become programs for students of well to do families. Education is less and less for all people and only for those students of families who can afford to pay the additional fees. These last few years have presented many financial challenges for myself, my family, and others Sitka families. No children should be excluded from opportunities for financial reasons. I have received school fee bills stamped with a message stating if the school fees are not paid by graduation my children will not be able to graduate. This month we have been asked to pay \$115.00 per child so they can attend music fest in Ketchikan. We have 2 children attending. I asked for a scholarship and was then asked to chaperon. Chaperoning will cost me 5 days of wages. Neither of my employment situations offer paid vacation time. Soccer fees are \$250.00 paid this month as well. How many more fees will be asked of parents? How many more programs will be cut or substantially reduced? How many more positions will be cut? Please support Senate Bill 84. If we want our children to succeed they need to be offered a quality education. If we want people to want to move to Alaska we need to offer a quality education. If we want to keep people here we need to offer a quality education. Our schools need funding they can count on, not funding that fluctuates with the flow of oil. Please increase funding for the education of our children and for the future of this state and our country. Two foreign exchange students sat at our dinner table this weekend and said they are just getting dumber the longer they are here. I have heard this from several exchange students and from students who have moved here from the Lower 48. The education we offer our children in the state of Alaska must keep pace with the education offered to students from the Lower 48 and around the world. We cannot afford to teach to the lowest common denominator any longer. Thank you for your time. Bridget Kauffman

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Rob Goldberg [artstudioalaska@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:00 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I hope you will support SB 84. Funding for our schools is so important for our future.

My wife and I adopted two boys from Bulgaria. The school here in Haines has done an incredible job with our kids. Starting with English as a Second Language classes and moving on through remedial and special ed, the teachers and staff have given our kids a future they would not have had. Our older son will graduate this May, and will go to UAS Juneau next year to major in computer science.

Please don't shortchange our kids' futures. Please support SB 84. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rob Goldberg and Donna Catotti
Catotti and Goldberg Art Studio
PO Box 1154 Haines, AK 99827 USA
907-766-2707
artstudioalaska.com

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Friedman_Jeff [Friedman_Jeff@asdk12.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:01 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Cc: Comeau_Carol; Olson_Robin; Steiner_John; Kennedy_Crystal; Carl Rose; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: SB 84

Dear Co Chairs and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

I am writing again to urge your support for SB 84. I understand that a revised version will be considered by Senate Finance tomorrow. Any of the versions of SB 84 that have been under consideration would provide important benefits to districts throughout the state. While I prefer some aspects of some versions more than other versions, I am thankful for the support to Alaska's children that each of these versions would provide.

Jeff Friedman
Anchorage School Board
1534 D Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-742-4699 (Home)

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Ruth Baumgartner [boogbomb1@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:48 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Cc: Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz
Subject: Education Funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

I am writing in support of increasing per pupil spending for the 2011 - 2012 school year. With this additional funding, our students at Mendenhall River Community School in Juneau will continue to be provided smaller class sizes, extra support (both extended learning and lower achieving) and most of the services being offered presently.

I understand there are concerns being voiced in the legislature about achievement levels throughout the state. Teaching is not an easy task when you have a varied group of backgrounds, academic, social and emotional needs enter your classroom each and every day. I know as an educator, I strive to provide my students with an educational experience that meets their needs and addresses the standards set forth by the state. This becomes extremely difficult when services are being cut all around you and you are unable, as one individual, to provide support to all children or to have collegial support to do so because the specialists are no longer in your building due to budget cuts based on the per pupil allotment.

I invite each of you as well as all your colleagues to come visit our school (meeting AYP) and those throughout the state to see what transpires throughout the course of a day needless to say the year. You will see the devotion, dedication, focus on learning and all out desire to provide environments (though varied) that support each child's individual needs to succeed not only academically, but socially and emotionally. I strongly encourage and ask that you support the increase in per pupil spending and to work with the Department of Education and Early Development to continue to help those failing districts and schools to support the concerns being voiced by your colleagues.

Again, I ask you to show your support of education in Alaska by providing an increase in per pupil spending this year. This money supports Alaska's future and allows the teachers, like myself, to continue the job of educating students to our best ability

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruth Baumgartner

Teacher, Mendenhall River Community School, Juneau

Joe Hardenbrook

From: King, Sami [Sami.King@kodiakschools.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:51 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: education funding

Good Morning,

It is always interesting and depressing to me when our legislators gather and bash our education system and teachers. They proceed to put more requirements on educators, talk about how we are failing as teachers, and then turn around and expect us to be even better with more work and less funding. If you were continually bashed like that, what would you do? You have a huge voice- why not use it for good? There are some absolutely amazing things happening across this state educationally. Yet, the majority of legislators looks at faulty statistics and has no idea how the educational process works. How many legislators have any experience in education? Have any of you been a teacher? Do you know what it is like to come to work every day and give all that you have to your students? At the end of the day, teachers return home spent and exhausted only to turn on the television and hear that they are lazy or that those who can't, teach. Words and attitudes like this do nothing for education. It does not help the teachers and more importantly, it does not help the students. I beg of you to think before you bash the people who have given their life to the kids of this state. Give teachers the respect that they deserve, I am certain that they have earned it.

Before assuming that all the statistics you read are true, it would behoove you to take a closer look at them. When you look at drop out numbers in the state, do you really know how they are determined? I do. The dropout rate in this state is nowhere near what legislators are claiming it is. If you were to track students when they transfer schools, you will have a more accurate number. Please remember that Alaska is a transient state. It is very common to find that a student will begin high school in Kodiak and change schools partway through their high school career because their parents are transferred. The student has not dropped out but rather is transferring to Sitka High School; however this is recorded as a dropout according to faulty statistical methods. This is just one case where legislators have taken a random number and used it to bash our educational system without fully understanding how the number was obtained. Can teachers do better? Yes, teachers can always improve and are constantly looking at ways to improve how students are educated. I ask you to listen to what the teachers are doing, listen to what they need, and listen to what works and what does not work. Legislators are not there, legislators are not doing the teaching. Please stop making judgments without having a full understanding of what is really happening. I beg of you- talk to teachers! As a teacher of 14 years, I can tell you that every morning when I get up for work, I am excited to be a teacher. I am so happy to know that I get to work with bright and excited students. Not all of these students will go to college but because of all the teachers who have spent countless hours working with them, they will be a productive member of some lucky community. We are proud of the products we are delivering and we are improving those products year after year. Cutting funding is not the way to do it. It is extremely difficult to continue educating the students with the same level of enthusiasm and devotion when more is required of teachers but we are given less funding with which to do it with. Respect the profession. Teachers help to mold the future and we love our jobs.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/darling-hammond-us-vs-highest-achieving-nations-in-education/2011/03/22/ABkNeaCB_blog.html

Please do the right thing and put solid funding for education in place. Do not rely on a dying oil industry to fund the future of the state. Take a stand and do the right thing.

Thank you for your time,
Sami King

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Comeau_Carol [Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:23 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Cc: Sen. Kevin Meyer; School Board; Bruce Johnson (bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org); Carl F.N. Rose; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Senate Bill 84

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Once again, I want to thank you for your past support for funding education. We have been able to make major strides forward because of the past three years of education funding increases in the BSA and for Intensive Needs students. We are very excited about the possibility of an increase to the BSA and to Career and Technical Education in Senate Bill 84. The Anchorage voters clearly supported our Career and Technical Education bond yesterday, and we are hoping that an increase to the C and TE funding in SB 84 will allow us to enhance our C and TE program. We firmly believe that will lead to a higher graduation rate, and lower drop out rate, for our students.

I realize that there are many issues surrounding education funding, and I hope that some increase to the BSA and C and TE is possible for school year 2011-2012 and beyond.

Thank you all for your service and consideration.

Carol Comeau
Superintendent
Anchorage School District

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Kito_John [Kito_John@asdk12.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:00 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Representative Charisse Millett; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Subject: School Funding
Importance: High

To All Anchorage Legislators and members of Senate Finance:

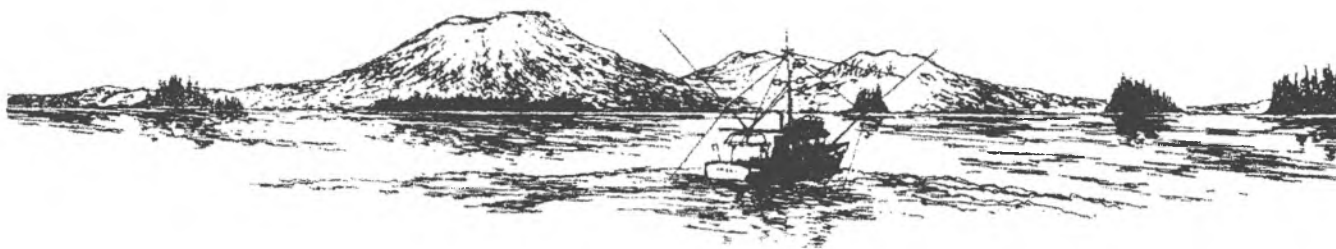
Good morning, I would like to thank you all for what you have done in previous years to support Education in Alaska. I have been working in education and with students for many years and find that there I have a need to ask for your support to continue what we have been successful in doing, educating the children of the Great State of Alaska. Please consider the importance of increasing the BSA and CTE funding in the current Senate Bill 84. This piece of legislation would allow our city to keep up with inflation and to increase CTE offerings. I thank you for your careful consideration to an increase in public school funding. John Kito

John Kito, National Distinguished Principal William Tyson School
2801 Richmond Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99508
742-8000 School 742-8008 Fax

SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.ssd.k12.ak.us

300 Kostrometinoff
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone: (907) 747-8622
Fax: (907) 966-1260



RESOLUTION OF THE SITKA SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution No. 2011-01

SUPPORT FOR THE PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 84

The Sitka School Board resolves to urge the 27th Legislature to pass Senate Bill 84 which provides for a three year funding increase to the base student allocation and incorporates a 1% block grant to be used for career and technical education within school districts.

Passed Unanimously and Approved on April 5, 2011

Lon Garrison, President

"Educating Today's Children to Become Tomorrow's Leaders"

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:34 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SUPPORT SENATE BILL 84

From: Kristen M. Gallo [<mailto:kristen.olive@k12northstar.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:33 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Bob Miller; Sen. John Coghill
Subject: SUPPORT SENATE BILL 84

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Please consider supporting Senate Bill 84. I am a Special Education Teacher in the State of Alaska. I have seen the benefit of the math tutoring first hand. I also see a need to support Vocational and Technical Programs and promote them in the schools.

I work in a math class with a math tutor, and have had the math tutor in my Study Hall. Students have difficulty and anxiety about math and it makes an amazing difference with student performance and confidence to have 1:1 support in the math area. Students who have difficulty also go and work with our Math Tutor before school. These students come in on their own time to be better learners and master math content. Students want to do well and learn, it is our responsibility as community members and educators to create those opportunities for all students.

Technical and Vocational training are critical to Alaska's future. It is important that we have well-educated, and skilled workers that will stay and work in Alaska. I have personally written letter's of recommendation for students that are excited to apply to the high school vocational and technical program. We need to give students a wide variety of options for their future.

If we do not continue to fund tutoring and vocational programs and have the ability to keep class sizes smaller, our Alaskan community will suffer. Let us support a strong community by educating our students to the best of our ability, by giving them the confidence and the options to let them be all they can be in their lives.

Please Support Senate Bill 84, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kristen Olive

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:34 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: CONSTITUENT - FW: ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS and SB84

From: Roland K. Ginnaty [<mailto:roland.ginnaty@k12northstar.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:41 AM

To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Bob Miller; Sen. John Coghill

Subject: ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS and SB84

Dear Sirs and MS,

I am concerned that if the Senate does not fund the **ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS** that a lot of our most talented Seniors will leave the state to go to school outside and not return.

The Alaska Scholars Scholarship for the top 10% is awarded and not used by most of those that receive them because they are heavily recruited by schools outside. Those that are only a few grade points below the top 10%, even those with 4.00GPA, are left without the same options to go to school in state, funded by the state.

What we are effectively doing is exporting our future.

I also would like to say I do Support SB84.

The increase in the base student allocation in the last few years has helped our school district fund programs that are making huge differences in our children's lives. Math is the best example I can give. In my school there are a number of students who fail to learn when class sizes are too large. Every day I see 5-6 different at-risk students going to math tutoring class at 8:30 a.m.--their own time! They WOULD NOT be passing a math class without this one-on-one instruction.

. We will go backwards if this allocation does not keep up with inflation. Understand that every child is unique, they do not learn new concepts in a one mold-fits-all concept.

. Kids are Alaska's future. We should fund programs that

are making
all the difference in our children's lives now, and in the future.
. Vocational and technical training are critical to
Alaska's future.
These programs not only keep kids in school, they also provide a
trained
workforce for our economy and support business. If vocational and
technical
training is not funded, individuals will suffer, and Alaska's
economy will
suffer. Every year I am asked to write a letter of recommendation
for a student who wants to be admitted to a school to learn auto
mechanics, or nursing. Not every student wishes to pursue
college, we need to keep the appropriate curriculum open for them
to succeed.

. Please support Senate Bill 84.

Sincerely,

Roland Ginnaty

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:35 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB 84 support

-----Original Message-----

From: Mrs. Andriesen [<mailto:landriesen@hbsd.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:46 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: SB 84 support

Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of SB84. I believe it is important to do forward funding for schools so they can plan their budget in advance. Schools need adequate funding in order to operate all their programs. Our school in Haines is down to a bare bones operating budget. If our district takes cuts in the form of increasing costs, we would have to cut major programs or grade level teachers.

It is important to put our resources into educating our future.

Thank you for listening to me,
Lisa Andriesen
Haines, Alaska

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:35 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Increasing Student Allocations

-----Original Message-----

From: March, Fran [<mailto:Fran.March@kodiakschools.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Increasing Student Allocations

Dear Senator,

Thank you for considering increasing the student allocation for Alaskan students. As you know, many students struggle to gain the academic skills needed to compete in the job market. There are many reasons why; but I will speak about two in my letter.

Increasing student achievement must be a team effort. When I attended college, one of the theorists I studied was Maslow. Maslow said that before students can learn, they must have their primary needs met and feel safe. This is referred to as "Maslow's Hierarchy". Students coming to school from safe environments where they are well fed, provided adequate clothing to keep warm, and given encouragement to "do your best" goes along way to support student growth. Educators, legislators, health and welfare providers need to come together so we can all raise a child to meet their potential. It is a community effort. Big Brothers Big Sisters has come to Kodiak through the and I am thankful we have a program like this to help us "raise" our kids. This effort came through the efforts of the Kodiak Area Native Association as well as with people at the Child Abuse Prevention Summit. They are coordinating efforts with other agencies in our community. This is an excellent example of team work. This involves a system that works together efficiently to serve the needs of all. Legislative funding needs to encourage agencies working together.

We need dedicated educators who are well trained to work with a variety of cultures and in a variety of settings. We need to be competitive with other states in drawing the best teachers to Alaska. We need to grow our own Alaskan teachers who already understand the critical needs of our communities. This does mean adequate salaries, health compensation, and housing for teachers in communities around our state. It means on-going training so our teachers can reaffirm skills or learn new skills. Teachers do make a difference in a young person's life because they work with them daily not only to improve academic skills, but to help nurture a child in becoming a productive citizen. We need the best teachers in front of our students who are willing to work together to increase student achievement so all Alaskan's will be productive in the work place.

Education is expensive, but the results of a good education can make our state a strong competitive environment. Good teachers and administrators are worth every cent. As I reading teacher, I have had students come into my program four to five years behind. Within two years I have caught them up to their peers or advanced them beyond their peers in the area of reading. I have improved my skill through continued training and on-going education. I am

dedicated to our students. I have worked in this profession for over 30 years and am passionate about student achievement. Other less veteran teachers are coming into the profession with no less passion, but will continue to need ongoing training and support to meet the needs of every student. We need to attract the best educators to this profession.

Thanks,

Fran Yates-March

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:35 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: support for SB84

From: Howard and Noelle Carbone [<mailto:carbone@mtaonline.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:52 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: support for SB84

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing regarding SB84 to strive for more consistent school funding. This bill is so important for the quality of education in our state and I respectfully urge you to support the passage of this bill. I am a parent and PTA board member at Talkeetna Elementary. Our school is doing so much with so little resources, and as it is budget time again our small school is facing yet more cuts its teaching staff. I am deeply concerned that the school will not be able to function as it is suppose to in the face of more cuts. We need investment in education to ensure that our children have the smallest class size possible. With so much focus on oil and gas issues, we tend to forget that our greatest resource is our children. Alaska can afford to to this for our children and should be proud to do so.

As a small rural school our community has very few resources to tap into when school funds are cut. We are already doing a lot with a little. I am so proud and constantly impressed with our teachers as I see how dedicated they are to our children. Please put education funding as a high priority.

I thank you for the work you do, as I know this is a busy and hectic time for you.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Noelle Carbone
907-733-1237

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:36 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Pass SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Cisco-Robyn Ramos [<mailto:ramos@gci.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:16 AM
Cc: Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz
Subject: Pass SB 84

Thanks for moving this out of Senate Finance. I hope it will have continued success in the House.

The entire state will benefit from this bill passing.

Thank you,
Robyn Ramos
parent of two students in the Juneau School District

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:37 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: CONSTITUENT - FW: Please support SB 84

From: Cheryl Cameron [<mailto:cheryl.cameron@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:52 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. John Coghill
Subject: Please support SB 84

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask you to support Senate Bill 84, which aids school funding in keeping up with inflation. It's unconscionable to have our school districts with budget shortfalls while the State now projects a 3.4 billion dollar surplus. Our schools really do ensure the future of Alaska, and our childrens' education should not be vulnerable because of political machinations.

Increasing the base student allocation does valuable things for our children and our community. The math and reading tutors are fantastic resources, and smaller class sizes benefit every child. Last year my child was in a kindergarten class that was 31 children during the part of the day when afternoon and morning kids were together. It was way too many children - not just for the teacher to teach, but even for the classroom's square footage. This year she is in a class of 20-24 first graders, and there is an enormous difference! Smaller class sizes should be our priority, not larger! With approximately half of entering UA students needing remedial math and reading, I'm dumbfounded about why we would want to not better fund our elemenatary, middle, and secondary school programs.

Thank you for your work representing us in Juneau - please support SB 84.

Cheryl Cameron
Fairbanks

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:59 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: SB84

From: Heather Lende [<mailto:hlende@aptalaska.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:57 PM
To: Sen. Lesil McGuire
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: SB84

Dear Senator McGuire and honorable senators,

Funding Alaska's public schools well is the best investment the senate can make in our state's future. All five of my children attended the Haines School, two are college graduates, one will graduate from the University of Colorado in May and two are enrolled at UAA. All of them make Alaska home or plan to after graduation. I have a granddaughter who is a few years away from kindergarten and a big reason her parents live in Haines is because of the school. Our community supports it as much as we are able through property tax, sales tax, donations, volunteers, and booster clubs. Please make sure the state contributes at least as well. I'd hate to see young families leave Alaska for better opportunities for their children. This is a wonderful place to live and work, and for many Alaskans, especially in rural areas, the only option for education remains the public school system. Weak schools lead to unstable communities. You don't have to be a college grad to know stable communities make for a stronger Alaska socially and economically. I trust you'll agree with me and the Haines school board and support SB 84.

Thank you,

Heather Lende

<http://heatherlende.com/>
<http://www.facebook.com/heatherlende>

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:59 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: CONSTITUENT - FW: Please support Senate Bill 84

From: Duncan Marriott [<mailto:duncan.marriott@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:25 PM
To: Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. John Coghill; Rep. Bob Miller
Subject: Please support Senate Bill 84

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask you to support Senate Bill 84, which aids school funding in keeping up with inflation.

In a very fundamental way, the economic future of Alaskan communities rests entirely on the skills we teach our children today. The future innovators and leaders of Alaska are today working hard to learn how to read, how to add, how to understand science. The world will judge Alaska by measuring our student's skills and abilities as they take over from us.

Which of them should we not teach?

As inflation acts to reduce the real per-student investment we provide to our schools, to which child should we say "Sorry, we can't afford to teach you how to read well"? As we stash billions of dollars from the budget surplus into savings accounts, to which parent should we say "We could help you prepare your child for college, but we think it is better to put the money in the bank instead"? As oil companies can find fewer and fewer qualified Alaskans to fill their "highly skilled, highly paid" jobs, forcing them to hire people from outside who will bring their salaries back to their home state, should we really say "yeah, but look at how big our surplus was!" ?

Our children are our future. Our schools require more funding to meet current educational needs, not less. The money we spend on education will come back to us many times over in economic growth.

Thank you for all your hard work, and for being my voice in Juneau. Please support Senate Bill 84

Duncan Marriott
Fairbanks

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:37 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: CONSTITUENT - FW: Please support SB 84

From: Cheryl Cameron [<mailto:cheryl.cameron@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:52 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. John Coghill
Subject: Please support SB 84

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask you to support Senate Bill 84, which aids school funding in keeping up with inflation. It's unconscionable to have our school districts with budget shortfalls while the State now projects a 3.4 billion dollar surplus. Our schools really do ensure the future of Alaska, and our childrens' education should not be vulnerable because of political machinations.

Increasing the base student allocation does valuable things for our children and our community. The math and reading tutors are fantastic resources, and smaller class sizes benefit every child. Last year my child was in a kindergarten class that was 31 children during the part of the day when afternoon and morning kids were together. It was way too many children - not just for the teacher to teach, but even for the classroom's square footage. This year she is in a class of 20-24 first graders, and there is an enormous difference! Smaller class sizes should be our priority, not larger! With approximately half of entering UA students needing remedial math and reading, I'm dumbfounded about why we would want to not better fund our elemenatary, middle, and secondary school programs.

Thank you for your work representing us in Juneau - please support SB 84.

Cheryl Cameron
Fairbanks

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:36 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Pass SB 84

-----Original Message-----

From: Cisco-Robyn Ramos [<mailto:ramos@gci.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:16 AM
Cc: Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz
Subject: Pass SB 84

Thanks for moving this out of Senate Finance. I hope it will have continued success in the House.

The entire state will benefit from this bill passing.

Thank you,
Robyn Ramos
parent of two students in the Juneau School District

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Mike Andrews [mike.andrews@alaskaworks.org]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 7:45 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Support SB 84

Sen. Kevin Meyer, co-chair, Sen. Joe Thomas, co-chair, Sen. Bettye Davis, Sen. Hollis French, Sen. Gary Stevens.

Members of the Senate Education Committee. I am writing to express my support for CS Senate Bill 84, and act related to funding High School vocational and technical instruction. SB 84 is the right investment at the right time. Providing School Districts funds for high school vocational and technical education will increase high school completion rates and prepare more students for success in future education, work and career training.

Mike Andrews, Director, Alaska Works Partnership
1413 Hyder Street, Anchorage, Ak 99501

March 14, 2011

Senator Joe Thomas
Member Education Committee

Alaska State Senate

RE: Letter of Support for SB84 for use in the legislative committee process

Dear Senator:

Laborers' Local 341 representing over 2,000 Alaskan workers, strongly supports passage of SB 84. Our public schools are the foundation of our nation's greatness. The small annual increases to the base student allocation (BSA), included in SB 84, are essential to maintain a basic level of K-12 education for Alaska's children. We additionally fully support the statutory changes contained in SB 84 regarding vocational instruction funding.

An excellent K-12 education system is essential to economic development of all kinds and a crucial element to ensure a strong state economy. Good schools attract employers and improve employment opportunities. Funding for Alaska's K-12 schools has barely kept pace with inflation over the past 12 years. Adequate funding is an essential component of a good K-12 education system. Without the BSA increases included in SB 84, our real value school funding will decline significantly as inflation rises over the next several years. Providing K-12 education is a constitutional duty of the State of Alaska.

Article 7 - Health, Education and Welfare

§ 1. Public Education

The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State . . .

Education funding should accordingly be prioritized not to decrease in real value. In fact, we support a real increase in state education funding, but SB 84 is a good first step.

Serving on the Alaska Workforce Development Investment Board, the AGIA Steering Committee, and as an active member of many civic organizations, I can confidently say that there is overwhelming public support for increasing vocational education opportunities in our high schools. Unfortunately, the structure of the current school funding formula is inhibiting improvements to vocational education. We strongly support the revisions proposed by SB 84 to create a separate "high school vocational and technical instruction" funding component within the formula. This is an absolutely necessary first step toward addressing the growing demand for vocational training.

We request the support of all Alaskan legislators and executive branch officials toward the passage of SB 84.

Sincerely,

A.J. "Joey" Merrick II
Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer
Laborers' Local 341

Superintend - Building, Teacher, Bus, meals, Principal, Asst. Princ.
 CFOs. text books, lab equipment, Gym & Rec equipment, secretary
 technology, Janitors, counselors, heat, desks, chairs, library books, substitute teachers.
 Fire systems, Insurance

Lighting
 Art supplies

Student A	Student B	Student C
1	1	1
C gifted Talented music	Basketball Ski team	remedial programs Public safety Reduced meal
6-12 teachers	6-12 teachers	Detention costs
University Classes	ROTC	IEP costs
School Newspaper	Science Fair	
Acca Deca	Language Labs	

PA system

Murray Richmond

From: Carey_Dan [Carey_Dan@asdk12.org]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 10:28 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB84

Please support SB84.

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:30 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support Senate Bill 84 to increase funding for education

From: ruth_beattie [mailto:ruth_beattie@isd.k12.ak.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:05 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Cc: Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Governor@gov.state.ak.us
Subject: Support Senate Bill 84 to increase funding for education

Support Senate Bill 84 to increase funding for education

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:33 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Support Senate Bill 84 to increase funding for education

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth Case [mailto:kanshari_fern@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:08 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Cc: Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Governor@gov.state.ak.us
Subject: Support Senate Bill 84 to increase funding for education

Support Senate Bill 84 to increase funding for education

Alaska State Legislature



Senator Meyer, Co-Chair

State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4945
Senator_Kevin_Meyer@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Thomas, Co-Chair

State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-2327
Senator_Joe_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

April 4, 2011

Commissioner Hanley, Co-Chair
Commissioner Streur, Co-Chair
Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council
Alaska Department of Education
& Early Development
PO Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

Commissioners Hanley and Streur:

On behalf of the Senate Education Committee, co-chair Senator Thomas and I would like to thank the Department for the presentation Director Curran gave on Friday, April 1. The data provided on Alaska's pre-kindergarten pilot program was very thorough and informative. We are glad to see the program has had such positive results.

Over the interim, co-chair Thomas and I will continue the committee's work on studying pre-kindergarten programs in the state. The recently formed Early Childhood Coordinating Council is of particular interest to us, and we welcome any opportunity to participate in council meetings or events. We would also like to request periodic updates on the work being conducted, and hope to have regular communication with council members for the purpose of information sharing.

With that in mind, we would appreciate notification of your ECCC meeting schedule when it is developed and would appreciate an opportunity to meet in September and November to keep our committee apprised of the ECCC progress and to lend any assistance deemed helpful.

Best Regards,

Senator Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
Senate Education Committee

Senator Joe Thomas, Co-Chair
Senate Education Committee

Joe Hardenbrook

From: John.Alcantra@neaalaska.org
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:11 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: Willie.Anderson@neaalaska.org
Subject: TRS - Daniel Walsh question

Dear Senator Thomas,

I have worked with my staff colleague Willie Anderson (NEA-Alaska since 1987) to research the question you presented me last week via a Daniel Walsh. This questions deals with NEA-Alaska service for the union and how that can be attributed to retirement.

During the SB 141 fight in 2005 they did bring up and drive a nail into the coffin to no longer have service for NEA-Alaska be TRS able. We did not really protest because this was clean up language that had been on the books since I believe 1974 but inactive since the early 80's. The last grandfathered NEA-Alaska employee (Jim Alter) retired in 2000.

Our locals with full time release presidents (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Kenai) are able to stay in the system because they are still considered employees of the school district and their salary is reimbursed by the local. When one becomes NEA-Alaska President an agreement must be reached with the local school district where the President comes from (Currently Lower Kuskokwim – Barb Angaiak) and NEA-Alaska. I believe Bill Bjork -Fairbanks and Rich Kornberg- Anchorage and others before them (and my time) were under this agreement

The statute that was repealed was [AS 14.25.045](#) in 2007.

I have not heard of a TRS audit attempting deny NEA members years for *Past NEA Employment time*. I can't imagine this type of attempt passing legal and constitutional muster, but I am not an attorney.

If you wish for me to do more research or to have further discussions please let me know. I will return to Juneau on April 3 and will be in Juneau until April 19. My cell is 354-3765 and my number in Juneau is 907-586-3090 Ext: 328.

Thanks for all that you do for NEA-Alaska members!

John Alcantra
NEA-Alaska
Government Relations
907-263-8547 (direct)
907-274-0551 (fax)

Murray Richmond

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:29 PM
To: Murray Richmond
Subject: FW: Please support Senate Bill 84

From: The Murphy family [<mailto:sitkakids@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:02 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Please support Senate Bill 84

Dear Senator Thomas,

Please support Senate Bill 84 that would increase the BSA (not SB 97).

I have 3 children in the Sitka School District & I myself attended Sitka's schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. The lack of funding is quite evident in the lack of programs that I benefited from versus what is available to my children.

All of Alaska's schools need more money to better serve our students.

Sincerely,
Richelle Murphy