

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1749

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1997-1998

Venessa Richter  
Box NKI -  
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Hanley, Mark  
Republican, Dist. 12  
Capital Room 507

Honorable Representative Hanley,

My name is Venessa Richter. I'm a 7th grade student at Naukati school. Naukati school is a school that has 38 kids. I think that it is not fair to fund schools with large numbers and not those with smaller numbers, all children deserve an equal education. Please don't let Senate Bill 36 pass. Vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

*Venessa Richter*

Venessa Richter

Shay M. McLeod  
Box NKI -  
Ketchikan, AK 99950

Representative Hanley, Mark  
Republican, Dist. 12  
Capital Room 507

Honorable Representative Hanley,

Hi, My name is Shay McLeod and I'm in the 7th grade at Naukati Middle School.

I am writing to you with concerns about Senate Bill 36. I live in a rural area and I think that it is an unfair bill. I think that we deserve the same resources that bigger schools have. It is bad enough that our budget is so low that we already have lost our music programs and sports. Cutting the budget lower would hurt us even more. Please, vote against Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,

*Shay M. McLeod*

Shay M. McLeod

April 10, 1998

Rep. Con Bunde

House of Representatives

State Capitol, Room 104

Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182

Re: SB 36

I am a Yupik resident of Tununak who opposes SB 36. I feel that the bill, if it passes, will take from the poor and give to the rich.

The BIA built a school in Tununak in the 1950's. At that time, the system did everything for parents, making them feel that only the school knew what was best for their children, and that they should not be involved with their children's educations. After the Molly Hootch lawsuit in the 1970's, small high schools were built in villages and parents became more aware of what was needed for their children's education.

I am a member of the Tununak Advisory School Board, and I have seen improvements in parental support of education in Tununak. Parents are getting involved. The Alaska Onward to Excellence process is used in the Tununak school, where parents, school staff, the students and community members work together to come up with goals that will work in both Western and Yup'ik cultures. Equal emphasis is placed on both cultures in the school, and students are succeeding. At

our recent third quarter student-parent conferences, 91% of parents attended. Parents do care about education of their children in rural Alaska.

I feel that if the legislature passes SB 36, this will be a major setback for the state of Alaska. The legislature should not take money from one district to fund another. I think we need to look for additional funding sources for urban districts, but not at the expense of the quality of education in rural areas.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Victor J. Kanrilak, Jr.

## TRADITIONAL VILLAGE OF PLATINUM

P.O. Box 8  
Platinum, Alaska 99651

## RESOLUTION No. 98-02

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36 ENTITLED "AN ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING PROGRAM ; RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS, TO SCHOOL DISTRICT LAYOFF PLANS, TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AGENCY, AND TO THE CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, The Platinum Traditional Council is the tribal governing body for the Traditional Village of Platinum, a federally-recognized Indian Tribe recognized and such by the United States, and

WHEREAS, The most important resource of the villages is its children and it is of critical importance to provide for the future and well-being of the children through education which is a basic human rights available to all children no matter where they live or what their ethnic background is, and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska formed and funded Rural Education Attendance Area School Districts to enable equitable and fair access to education of children living in rural remote villages throughout Alaska, and

WHEREAS, Education of the children through the Rural Education Attendance Area School District is vital not only to provide for the future of the children, but also to maintain the indigenous native culture, integrity, way of life, general well-being and livelihood of the people throughout rural Alaska, and

WHEREAS, The people of the region need and require the same level of basic education services afforded to all Alaskans, and

WHEREAS, The Alaska State Legislature intends to extinguish rural education funding through Senate Bill 36 which seeks to redistribute education funding dollars from rural school districts to urban schools, redefining school district boundaries, proposing employment taxes of 4% for districts without an economic base, and redefining most education processes as we know them, and

WHEREAS, The AVCP region and many other rural Alaskan regions lack the economic infrastructure and economic base to bear the burden of an employment tax to finance basic education and other basic human services, and

WHEREAS, Such a measure would cripple regions such as the AVCP region, already experiencing an economic disaster from recent fishery industry failures, and

WHEREAS, Passage of this bill will have long and drastic effects on the operations of the rural school districts and the support and assistance in all areas of education provided for the children of the region, and

WHEREAS, Passage of this bill will also halt the enormous academic progress of the children living in rural Alaska in areas of mathematics, reading, and writing, and in particular, it will halt the advancement of knowledge, skills and abilities of the children and their future contribution to the general well-being and economy of the region, and

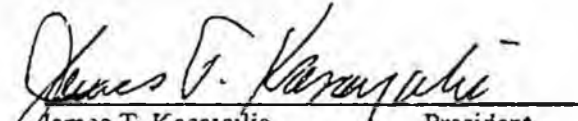
WHEREAS, The rural school districts are working diligently and successfully to support and assist in this process.

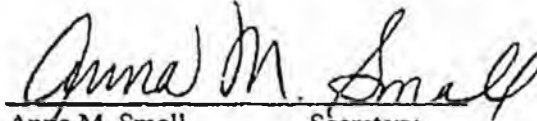
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Platinum Traditional Village Council respectfully implores and requests the Alaska State Legislature to reconsider its position and action towards the children of rural Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Platinum Traditional Village Council hereby opposes passage of senate Bill No. 36 by the Alaska State Legislature.

Passed 3/24/98 by the Platinum Traditional Village Council with a duly constituted quorum of members present.

CERTIFICATION:

  
James T. Kasayulie                      President

  
Anna M. Small                      Secretary

## FAX MEMO

PLATINUM TRADITIONAL VILLAGE  
P.O. Box 8  
PLATINUM, ALASKA 99651  
PHONE: (907) 979-8177 FAX: (907) 979-8178

TO: Finance Committee/ Mark Hanley, Jane Therriault, Aldan Mulder, Gary Davis  
Richard Foster, Pete Kelly, Vic Kohring, Carrie Martin, John Davies,  
FAX NO: (907) 465-2418 Carl. Moses, and Ben Grussendorf

DATE: April 13, 1998

NO. OF PAGES IN FAX (INCLUDING THIS PAGE): 3

Original in mail? YES ( ) NO (X)

IN CASE OF ERRORS INVOLVING THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT  
LOU KIRBY, TRIBAL ADMINSTRATOR, AT (907) 979-8177.

MESSAGE:

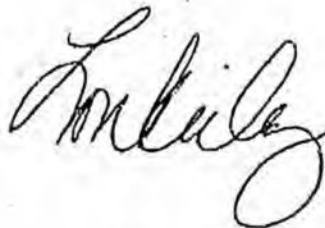
RE: Senate Bill 36

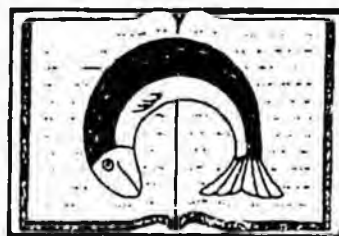
Finance Committee;

It is crucial that Senate Bill 36 not be allowed to pass, Costs have gone up for all School Districts, especially with population growth in both rural and urban districts. For number of years, education has been held harmless in budget cuts, receiving flat funding, Yet school districts have basically been required to eat inflation.

We believe that more money should be put into our education budget, The younger generation that are in schools are our future. And if this bill passes it will affect our region drastically, and it will be devastating for the smaller villages that will be affected.

Also icluded is our opposing resolution for senate bill36





# Lower Kuskokwim School District

**Bill Ferguson**  
*Superintendent*

P.O. Box 305 • Bethel, Alaska 99559-0305  
907 543-4800 Ext. 810, 811, FAX 907 543-4904

4-13-98

The Honorable Gail Phillips,  
Speaker House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 208  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-2689

Dear Representative Phillips,

I'm sorry I missed the opportunity to visit with you when I was in Juneau for the Superintendent's meeting. I realize you're extremely busy with the close of the session fast approaching and all the controversy over subsistence, education funding and the "normal" legislative bills that need to be worked on.

As the superintendent for the Lower Kuskokwim School District one of my major concerns is SB 36. In the current form our District would lose approximately \$8 million dollars and even with a three year transitional period I'm not sure our educational programs would be able to survive. Still in light of this, I think for every negative we can always find a positive, and I do feel SB 36 has a positive side. SB 36 has brought into focus across the State, for urban and rural areas alike, the need for adequate funding of education and a quality educational program for all. I feel these two concerns are shared by every citizen in the State of Alaska. They are not unique to urban and/or rural residences.

Legislators are well aware of the various sources of revenue for funding education at a level at which all Alaska children, urban and rural, would benefit and none would have to suffer. The revenue available is almost unlimited. It's just a matter of identifying the State's priorities. If the legislature is saying that the revenue is available but they feel that the residents in rural Alaska need to pay their fair share, just as urban residents do, then we need to look at how this can be done in a manner that isn't construed as being unfair and/or singling out a given group of people. There are several ways this can be done. 1) By a two-thirds vote of the legislature the yearly interest from the permanent dividend fund could be set aside in an education permanent fund. It would take several years to accumulate enough to become self sufficient, but it could be done. 2) The legislature could pass a State wide education income tax under which everyone would contribute, resident and non-resident alike, and the urban areas could reduce their property tax in relationship to the amount collected on urban residents' income tax. 3) Thirty to forty thousand people signed a petition to put the Educational Endowment on the November ballot, but the petition was considered invalid. The Legislature could take the leadership role and put this issue on the November ballot and let the people of Alaska decide. We need to look at funding for education, not as a personal issue, but an issue that focuses on what is the best for the children in the entire State. There are ways to make the State "whole" again, if the legislators want to.

Quality education for our children is a concern for all Alaskans, urban and rural alike. Every child has an equal right to an education that will provide them with the tools they need to succeed in life. A basic set of tools is needed by all children. It would not be fair to give one group of children a full set of tools and another a partial set. The State of Alaska is unique in its diversity of cultures, geographic accessibility and economic capabilities, all of which need to be addressed when providing the basic educational program for "our" children. Rural Alaskans realize it's not economically feasible to put libraries, swimming pools, bowling alleys, and paved play grounds in every community, while on the other hand urban Alaskans would not expect their children to learn how to sew mukluks, set blackfish traps and/or retain their native culture as part of their educational program.

Alaska and Alaskans are unique. This is what makes our State so great, and our educational program, urban or rural, should reflect this

uniqueness. Senate Bill 36 and Senate Bill 203 would stifle this uniqueness, as well as the creativity of educational programs in meeting the diverse needs of all "our" children.

In listening to Rep. Bunde on April 4, he said that the legislature had been working on the education funding formula, SB 36, for the past five years and that it wasn't something new. Last spring was the first I had heard about it and I have been working in rural schools for the past 30 years. I'm sure many other Alaska residents, urban and rural, weren't aware of it until this session. The State should be held accountable for adequate funding and the education "family" should be held accountable for quality education for our children.

SB 36 has the attention of most Alaskans today and it's now time to take a step back and look at the educational needs of every child in our State. Lets take this step back and look at "our" options again and develop an education funding formula that will help all of our children. I'm willing to commit my summer to accomplish this goal as i'm sure many Alaskans would be. Yes additional funding is needed for education, in both the urban and rural areas, but not at the expense of dividing our great State.

Sincerely,



Bill Ferguson  
Superintendent  
Lower Kuskokwim School District  
Bethel, Alaska 99559

cc  
Alaska Legislators  
Tundra Drums (letter to the editor)  
Anchorage Daily News (letter to the editor)

## FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

To: Representative Hanley                      Date: April 14, 1998  
Fax: 465-2418

From: Gary Zimmerman                      Subject: School Funding  
Tel: 249-8224; Fax: 249-8247

Dear Representative Hanley:

As a parent of two elementary age school children I am amazed at what the Anchorage School District cannot provide to support their school's basic operations. There has been considerable rhetoric about the foundation formula re-write, and I favor any attempt to fix the formula as it is currently written. To penalize larger school districts by providing fewer dollars per student (and using the excuse of "economies of scale" to justify the formula) just does not make sense in my book when the Anchorage School District is expanding at a rate of 500 to 1,000 students every year.

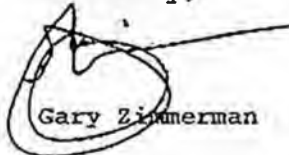
The basic question I have is that if it is the State of Alaska's responsibility to provide and pay for quality education why do the taxpayers of the Municipality of Anchorage get stuck for 1/3 of the total cost of education while other districts are totally funded by the State? It seems to me there is no incentive by some districts to be good stewards of their allocated money while other districts (like ASD) are forced to go to the voters year after year on bond issues that should simply be in maintenance and operation budgets (paid for by the State of Alaska like other school districts).

As the PTA President of an Anchorage elementary school the past two years I am also amazed at the things that are requested of and paid for by the PTA - things that should be basic items supplied by the school district (but how many times have we hear "it's not in the budget"?). In the past two years our PTA has spent tens of thousands of dollars on things such as computers and computer upgrades, wiring the school for e-mail and internet access, multi-cultural assemblies/speakers, grants to teachers for classroom supplies, snow removal/ice rink maintenance and on and on and on.....

We need to fix the education funding situation in Alaska because it is not working. Not only is it not working for the State's largest school district, but it's not working for other districts as well. Is it a political hot potato? I am sure it is! Is it turning into a rural versus urban issue? Unfortunately, yes! Does it have to be? **NO!** If the Legislators and Governor realize the inequity of the current formula, increase spending on education and inflation proof any new formula then it can be done.

With revenue forecasts going the way of oil down the pipeline (South!) it is time for tough decisions. And that is why we elected you - to be good stewards of the State's monies AND to provide the quality of life that is expected by all Alaskans. Education should be the cornerstone of a prosperous future for Alaska and you have the obligation to build that future today.

Sincerely,



Gary Zimmerman

:cm

P.S. Please distribute to House Finance members.

# Calista Corporation

601 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 200 • Anchorage, AK 99501-2226 • (907) 278-5516 Facsimile (907) 272-5060

April 13, 1998

Via facsimile 907-465-2418

Hon. Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hanley

Calista Corporation is opposed to Senate Bill 36. The Calista region of fifty six villages stands to lose over \$9.2 million dollars if this bill passes. Of the \$9.2 million dollars, most will return to Anchorage by way of contracts in food servicing, telecommunications, and retailing. We urge you to vote against Senate Bill 36 in the State House of Representatives.


This bill is pitting rural and urban communities against one another on a very sensitive issue; the education of our future leaders. Education is the key element to the successful future of this state. We need legislative action that will not arbitrarily remove funds from one house district and place it another, no matter who is in power.

Instead, we recommend you develop an alternative plan by formation of a bi-partisan committee to review education funding. A committee that will improve educational funding statewide and benefit all citizens of our great state.

We thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

CALISTA CORPORATION



Matthew Nicolai  
President/CEO

April 4, 1998

The Honorable Senator Jerry Mackie  
Dear Senator Mackie:

Thank you for the response to my letter concerning SB 36. Apparently you missed my point, the resistance to changes in the status quo have blocked any attempts to reorganize, restructure and reform the management of education.

Jerry, you once asked me for ideas about balancing the budget. I took this question seriously and have ideas that need articulation and follow thru at the state level. I admire your ability to stand up and speak for what you understand to be honest and fair.

You are right about Alaskan schools and communities, "struggling with inflation factors, federal mandates, and other variables that have made it difficult to operate and maintain our state education system" and "the lack of adequate school maintenance funding". The solution is not more money to an entrenched establishment that refuses to negotiate and face head on the real complexities of restructuring the management of education. We need to take a good look at how and what we are doing to make ends meet and still provide children with good education. The proposal of a long-range statewide plan to build new schools and repair, maintain and expand existing schools is a step in the right direction. It is a separate set of funds designated for a specific purpose. These funds are separate from the education funding rewrite dilemma.

When rewriting the education foundation formula specific questions need to be asked:

1. What are the true and real costs of specific administrative positions in operating a school?
2. Is the budget in the perspective of a bare bones budget; what are the real \$\$ numbers?
3. What are frivolous and excessive costs?
4. What expenses are being duplicated on a region wide basis?
5. Can cost effective quality programs be integrated and shared by schools in close proximity?
6. What is fair and equitable when narrowing the spending gap between revenues & expenses?
7. Are children doing better academically because of increased dollars per child?  
Studies indicate that this is not the case.
8. Which districts are using funds effectively and have equitable funding per student?
9. What are the fundamental procedures used to achieve an affirmative education action plan?

The implementation of unfunded mandates is a frequent complaint of administrators. One solution is to consolidate smaller districts, the duplication of managing mandates and the overall costs of administration would decrease. Money can be focused to the actual provider of a service. A centralized office will determine equitable appropriations across the district. Yet each school site will have a say in making decisions that effects them locally as stated in State Statute.

**TITLE 14 CHAPTER 08 EDUCATION IN THE UNORGANIZED BOROUGH**  
**SECTION 14.08.115 Advisory school boards in regional educational attendance areas**

(a) A regional school board shall establish advisory school boards in each community in the regional educational attendance area that has more than 50 permanent residents, and by regulation shall prescribe their manner of selection and organization, and, in a manner consistent with (b) of this section, their powers and duties. (b) An advisory board shall advise the regional school board on all matters concerning schools in the community in which the advisory board is established.

Here is a summary of an education action plan needing implementation.

The Trend of Government (Nationally, Statewide & Locally) to reduce expenditures and to streamline services to the advantage of long term feasibility and quality program success.

School Districts have a need to recognize and utilize an **Education Service Agency** by:

1. Contracting out business services/central office services
  - A. Accounting and related services: electronically via modem - this service provides a substantial savings to districts. Financial accounting services are centrally located and members of the business office communicate with this system by modem on terminals located in their offices.
2. Contract special services itinerant staff designed to encourage districts to commit for special services early, to plan staffing needs for the ensuing year. Cost effective services.
  - A. Formation of Cooperatives/Consortiums to lower rates for services.
  - B. By pooling services to several districts, a specialist has full time employment.
3. Offer Facilities planning, Capital Improvement planning and preparation by a specialist.

Legislature needs to:

Designate an **Education Service Agency (ESA)**.

Secure statutory and regulatory provisions requiring participating districts to pay dues or provide an annual appropriation to cover basic administrative costs. The consolidation of services is a cost savings to the State of Alaska. There would no longer be a duplication of bureaucracy.

Federal Education program laws and regulations recognize the existence of education service agencies. Smaller schools have a need to pool resources through an education service agency that could do more for districts than could be done on its own.

It is a good idea, and other individuals committed to providing quality education would agree. Scattered across the State, it will require positions to be discontinued as the dollars shift. The inequities in education funding demands that serious actions need to be taken to resolve and improve the strategies of an education plan. In a responsible way, to trim the size and scope of government and still provide a quality program.

As an elected official, we have the tough job of making decisions not everybody likes. And to stand by those decisions because it is in the best interest of the children. And to voice concerns about the education of children and programs needed to streamline services to the advantage of long term feasibility and quality program success.

Thank you for taking the time to consider what my comments have to say.

Sincerely,

Patricia Phillips P.O. Box 33 Pelican, Alaska 99832

cc: Alaska State Legislature  
Governor Tony Knowles

Representative Mark Hanley  
Room 507 , Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 26, 1998

APR 03 1998

Dear Mark Hanley,

On behalf of the faculty, parents, students and Advisory Education Committee of White Mountain, Alaska, we are urging you to vote NO on SB36. We believe this piece of legislation, if enacted, would be detrimental to our educational programs at White Mountain School.

I believe the impression of many legislators is that "Bush schools have plenty of money and can stand a significant reduction in funds". That is not the case. We are on a tight budget and are proud of the process that we use to make every penny count.

We do not have new and updated facilities. We teach school in the same classrooms that were used to teach our student's parents and grandparents in over the past 50 years.

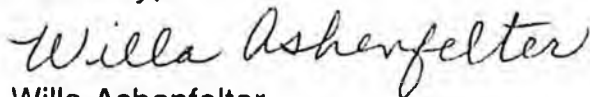
We are not over staffed and continue to search for every way possible to provide quality teachers and teacher aides for our ever growing student population.

We do not have ample, much less abundant funds for the purchase of computers or instructional supplies or classroom furniture. Each year we carefully prioritize the purchases that we believe will have the greatest impact on student learning.

Your vote in this critical matter will have a significant impact on rural education in Alaska. A yes vote from you is not a vote for fair equalization of educational dollars, it is not a reminder that we need to tighten our belts it is a vote that will surely cripple our educational system in White Mountain.

Please vote NO on SB36.

Sincerely,



Willa Ashenfelter  
White Mountain Chairperson  
Advisory Education Committee

APR 03 1998

APRIL 2, 1998

FAIRBANKS  
**Daily News "Miner"**

"Independent in All Things . . . Neutral in None"  
Established in 1903

CHARLES L. GRAY  
Publisher Emeritus

PAUL J. MASSEY  
Publisher

KELLY BOSTIAN  
Managing Editor

SAM BISHOP  
Editorial Page Editor

## School bill reasonable

Despite the impression one might gather from all the criticism, school spending cuts proposed by the state Senate's new formula are not based on a district's rural geography or the racial composition of its citizens. They are based on an objective assessment of the cost of operating and on the number of students served.

That's why, for example, schools on Annette Island, Alaska's lone Native reservation located on an island south of Ketchikan, wouldn't be cut at all. They would receive 19.3 percent more money in the year 2001 compared to what they would have under the current formula.

Craig, another remote southeast island town, would see an extra 11.3 percent. Hoonah, similarly situated, would see an extra 4.6 percent.

The Delta-Greely area, 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks, would see an extra 9.2 percent. The Denali Borough, covering the Healy-to-Cantwell area, .5 percent.

The Northwest Arctic Borough, covering Kotzebue and beyond? An extra 3.3 percent. Nome? The same.

Of course, some urban schools would cash in at an even greater rate—Ketchikan, with a whopping 24.7 percent for example.

But the biggest, most urban districts would not reap any great windfall on a percentage basis. Anchorage would get an extra 6.5 percent. Fairbanks, whose Sen. Gary Wilken who put this plan together, would get a modest 7.3 percent extra. Juneau could expect an extra 8.1 percent and the Kenai area could expect 7.72 percent more.

It's true, though, that someone would lose a lot, but for widely disparate reasons having nothing to do with a rural nature or a particular racial make-up.

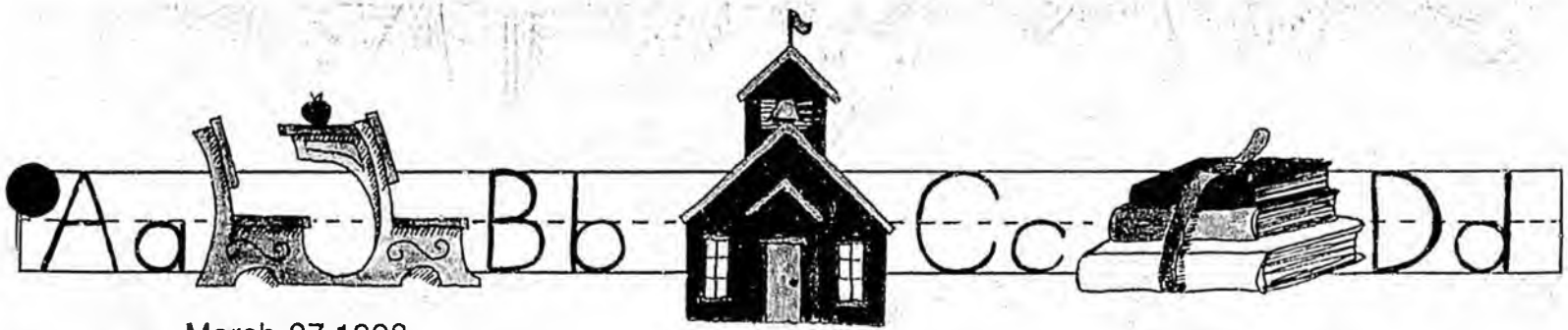
Unalaska would be hammered because the taxable property value of its fish-landing facilities and hotels make it rich on a per-capita basis. So, too, Skagway with its tourist facilities and Valdez with its oil pipeline terminal. None compare, however, to the North Slope Borough, where the Prudhoe Bay oil fields give the 9,000 residents an incomparable taxable resource. The Senate plan would make the North Slope pick up all its school costs.

Some relatively poor areas of the state would also be hit hard, though. The Yukon Flats and Yukon-Koyukuk districts, covering much of Interior Alaska, would lose 15.7 percent and 14.5 percent respectively. Nenana would lose 20.9 percent. The Tok area, 11 percent. Galena, 21.5 percent because its new correspondence students would be funded at a much lower level. And the largest district in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, the Lower Kuskokwim, would lose 17.4 percent.

These poor areas lose mostly because they will get the same amount of money for bilingual, gifted-talented and other "special education" categories as other communities in the state. The Senate adopted this flat rate because the state has not been able to police the definition of such students. Both urban and rural areas were defining the categories to their advantages and thereby reaping large amounts of extra money.

At the bottom line, though, Alaska's poor, remote communities would still be treated very well under the Senate's education funding reform bill. In the year 2001, for example, the Yukon-Koyukuk district's 550 (projected) students would receive state funding of about \$10,500 apiece. Lower Kuskokwim's 3,650 students would receive about \$8,800 apiece. In comparison, Fairbanks' 16,000 students would receive about \$4,350, and Anchorage's 47,800 students about \$4,250.

Providing more than twice as much money for students in undeveloped areas of the state as those in developed areas is necessary. You'd never know it from the hype, but the Senate's bill recognizes that necessity and provides the formula to accomplish it fairly.



March 27, 1998

APR 03 1998

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am very concerned for the welfare of education in the great state of Alaska. It has been brought to my attention that the Senate has passed Senate Bill 36. I find it truly appalling that this state is considering taking what little money the rural parts of the state have away.

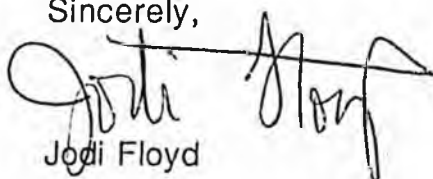
Ladies and Gentlemen, I have heard all the arguments for this proposal and I can say without a doubt that they are the most illogical and ill thought out I have heard in a long time. I can not find the logic in taking money out of the poor areas of the state and giving it to the richer areas of the state just because those areas hold more children.

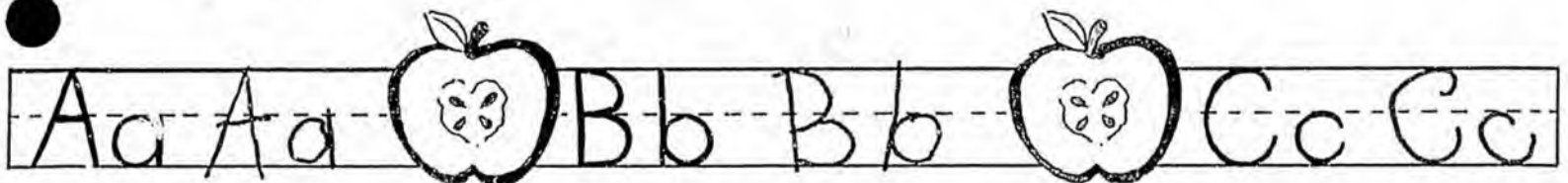
I am a product of the South Carolina school system. Like Alaska, the majority of the state is labeled rural with the majority of these rural districts being made up of minority students, yet South Carolina has made a commitment to education that Alaska has not, as shown by the Senate's passage of Bill 36. In South Carolina, the richer districts receive less money from the state while those that are poorer receive more, even when those poorer districts give little or nothing back to the state. Historically, these districts also score at the bottom during state wide testing. I have worked in other states where the funding was the same: richer districts get less, poorer districts get more. I realize this is not South Carolina, yet the idea is the same.

I become concerned when I hear that residents of the Bush do not contribute to the economy of Anchorage. I have been at the post office in our village when 4-6 boxes arrive from various stores and shops in Anchorage. I have shopped for some of our parents on my way through Anchorage so that their children might be able to have new clothes or a new bike. I have waited in line at the Bush shipping center in Walmart too many times and have seen people ship several hundred dollars worth of merchandise to believe that people from the Bush don't contribute to the urban areas.

In short ladies and gentlemen, I want you to vote No on this bill. I believe that it will ultimately destroy rural education and be extremely detrimental to our society's children.

Sincerely,

  
Jodi Floyd



*Tara P. Fuller*  
*200 Baranov Street*  
*P.O. Box 115*  
*Cold Bay, Alaska 99571*  
*907-532-2407*

APR 03 1998

March 31, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (MS 3100)  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Representative Hanley,

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent in the State of Alaska.

I am in opposition to SB36. This purpose of this bill was to bring equity to all School Districts in the State, when in fact it would do just the opposite. How could taking money from 1 district and redistributing to another be equitable? Thirty two of Alaska's 53 school districts representing 21,000 children would lose money, and this would force school's to close their doors. How could this bill possibly be considered for a moment? I believe that if the legislators in favor of this bill had children in one of these thirty-two districts losing money, they would take opposition also. I am not in support of any child in our rich state losing out on an education. As I see it, my children would either have to be home schooled or sent off to attend school in Anchorage??? I don't think that this is an answer. Children should be able to attend school in their home community. SB36 would force many children to be separated from their families in order to receive an education, who would be in favor of such a ludicrous idea? I urge you to vote no on SB36, think of those 21,000 children it would negatively affect.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Tara P. Fuller*

Tara P. Fuller - Parent and School Board Member - Aleutians East Borough School District

Hanley

Distributed by  
Rep. Foster by request

IRA Council  
P.O. Box 100  
Shaktoolik, Alaska 99771-0100

Phone (907) 955-3701

Fax (907) 955-2352

Native Village of Shaktoolik  
Resolution 98-08

APR 04 1998

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 36.**

**WHEREAS**, the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council is an Alaska Native Village organized as an Alaska Native/American Indian Organization Act of 1934, as amended in 1936 for Alaska; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council is the elected governing body of the Alaska Native/American Indian people of the Native Village of Shaktoolik; and,

**WHEREAS**, Education plays a vital role to the students in our Rural Communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, to now be successful in the Western World, we are encouraging our children to achieve the highest education possible in our Rural Communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Bering Strait School District is educating our students to become self-sufficient, productive citizens in a changing world recognized for their social, academic and marketable skills; and,

**WHEREAS**, with Proposed Bill 36, a lot of our Vital Programs would be lost; and,

**WHEREAS**, with Senate Bill 36 in place, Education for our Rural Students would be put in Turmoil leveling our Rural Students to the lowest Education possible, when Education is ranked at the Highest Priority Level.

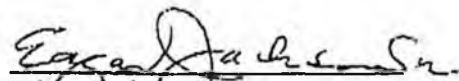
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Education is ranked as a very, very high priority for our students in the Rural Areas.

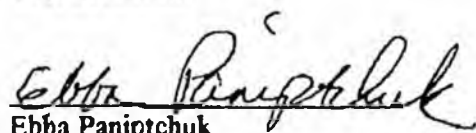
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that based on the critical criteria's listed above, we urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 36; or uphold the Governor's Veto of said bill.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned members of the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council do hereby certify that the Native Village of Shaktoolik, IRA Council is composed of seven (7) members of whom 5 voted on 'his 02nd day of April, 1998 and the foregoing resolution was adopted by the vote of 5 members.

YES 5 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 2

  
Edgar Jackson Sr.  
Vice President

  
Ebba Paniptchuk  
Secretary

Chad and Karen Neilson  
P.O. Box 997  
Bethel, Ak 99559

March 31, 1998

APR 06 1998

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

We have worked in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta as an itinerant career counselor and a nurse administrator for the past 20 years. We have put a great deal of our life's work and effort into trying to improve the lot of the native people of this area.

We have seen an increase in the number of natives completing high school and going on to college to become professional people of diversified endeavors within the Alaskan workforce. We have seen an increase in the number of Native Alaskans taking over positions of greater responsibility in the administration of both the educational system and the health care throughout the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. These accomplishments have come about due to great efforts made in the school and health care systems to expose the population to opportunities for self-improvement. This has been made possible by the educational budgets of the state and the allocations of funds from the Indian Health Service.

We have seen a phenomenal increase in the natives from this area being employed and having insurance policies decreasing the use for Medicaid and Medicare dollars for health care. Every person that is added to the productive workforce of Alaska is a valuable resource to the state and helps boost the economy. Most of this development has taken place due to the influence of a strong educational system in "BUSH ALASKA." Why cut the dollars to the Alaskan residents whose ancestors were here before the educational system and reallocate those dollars into the metropolitan areas of the state that experience a surge of newcomers from the lower 48 and have no life investment in the state?

Let us not drop the ball in the development of our own long-term residents who are working their way toward self-sufficiency. We need the dollars to support the future of "BUSH ALASKA EDUCATION."

Thank You,



Chad and Karen Neilson

# STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

**TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR**

GOLDBELT PLACE  
801 WEST 10TH STREET, SUITE 200  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1894

(907) 465-2800  
FAX (907) 465-4156

April 1, 1998

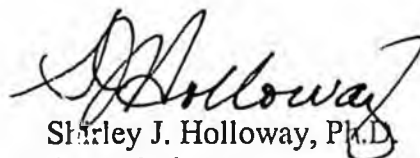
APR 04 1998

The Honorable Mark Hanley  
Alaska State Capitol Room 507  
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

On behalf of the Alaska State Board of Education, I am forwarding a copy of the Board's resolution strongly opposing the passage of Senate Bill 36. The Board unanimously adopted the resolution at its March 28, 1998, business meeting, held in Juneau.

Sincerely,

  
Shirley J. Holloway, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: State Board of Education

**Resolution  
Of The  
State Board of Education**

March 28, 1998

WHEREAS, the legislature is considering enacting Senate Bill 36 into law; and

WHEREAS, the effect of the legislation is to redistribute \$32 million of school foundation funds from 32 mostly rural school districts to urban school districts; and

WHEREAS, the 32 school districts adversely impacted by this legislation house 21,000 children, many of whom would have their current education seriously disrupted; and

WHEREAS, Region . Educational Attendance Areas are legally precluded from contributing local taxes to education and are unable to provide an adequate local share of education costs because of this local prohibition and because of a generally inadequate local tax base; and

WHEREAS, the result of this legislation will be to close some rural schools; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has established a system of public schools based upon the provision of local schools in nearly every village in Alaska, and that the decision to abandon that system now may be a violation of the legislature's constitutional duty to maintain a system of public schools open to all; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the funding cuts which will result from enactment of this legislation is racially biased and may violate constitutional rights to equal protection of the laws; and

WHEREAS, the policy of Alaska's support for education is to be equitable, fair and racially and culturally sensitive, with the intent that all children in Alaska be provided with a free, appropriate, public education, and that opportunities for such an education be reasonably equal without regard to residence of the child; and

WHEREAS, enactment of this legislation will diminish us as a society, catering to our most selfish and narrow instincts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Alaska State Board of Education:**

1. That the legislature is urged not to pass SB 36 in any of its present permutations;
2. That, if the legislation is passed by the legislature, the Governor is urged to veto this legislation; and
3. That the people of Alaska are urged to make their wishes known to the legislature and to the Governor in opposition to this onerous, and ill-advised legislation.

Passed and Approved by the State Board of Education at its meeting in Juneau, Alaska on March 28, 1998.

Abbe Hensley  
Abbe Hensley, Chair, State Board of Education

March 28, 1998  
Date

To: State of Alaska Legislature

From: Danielle R. Dizon  
Box 2262  
Bethel, AK -99559-

To whom this letter WILL concern;

March 31, 98

Hello, I am a fourteen year old freshman at Bethel Regional High School. (BRHS) I am half Yup'ik and half Filipino. I am a JROTC cadet.

I am in, with many other fellow students, in many extra-curricular activities. Such as: cross-country, basketball, and volleyball. Many students, including myself, want to progress in our strengths.

I am writing to you in concern about our education which pertains to Senate Bill-36. Like many others in our district, we don't support this bill. Many of us ask the question, " Why? " " What are we getting out of this?" " Why do you want to take away YOUR future leaders education and minimize our abilities to succeed in extra activities (sports, etc.) , succeed in school, and also succeed in life?" Some of us even wonder, " Who would come up with something like this?"

We've heard all the about the millions of dollars that may be taken away from us. We haven't heard this yet, " WHAT IS IT THAT WE GET OUT OF IT?"

If this bill passes, students who are active in extra-curricular activities will or might try new things. Things such as the cruel things of this world. If there's nothing for students to do on weekends or after school activities, they might try new things like drugs and alcohol. Students who have already experimented may even get deeper in to the drug use or alcoholism.

Drugs and alcohol is all it takes for a student to drop school and forget about all the important things in life.

That's all it takes.

Do you want your future to become a society who can become like that?

I don't.

I want all the opportunities in life to succeed. By taking away our education money isn't going to help.

I thought you wanted to have your future people to have the best education possible. You want us to accomplish things in life, don't you? Do you want the better for us?

We WANT education more than you think.

I bet that you " higher ranking" people haven't even been out here in our district. I may be wrong. But have you visited our school? Our school is alive. How can you make a ruling without knowing what you're getting in to? We cherish the good and the bad moments in our school. We love it and we don't want our education opportunities to be taken away.

Some parents in Anchorage are talking about US having all the money. What? Their kid's are the ones who have a big lunch area.

They have a variety to pick from. They can choose from Mc Donalds, Burger King, KFC, etc. We don't have a choice.

We have regular ordinary hot lunches. It would be GREAT to have a lunch area like East High School in Anchorage, but we don't mind. We accept it. It's a perfectly fine place to eat. It's small, but it's good enough for us. So what are those people bickering about? Are they jealous or something?

Before YOU make this ruling I want you to think. Ask this question to yourself.

*" Is this RIGHT to TAKE away MONEY from my FUTURE LEADERS EDUCATION?*

*Is this really the right thing to do? "*

Now we, the students, are going to ask the question IF this bill does pass.

*" What are WE supposed to do now? I thought they wanted the BEST for US? "*

Sincerely,  
With all respect for you,

  
Danielle Rae Dizon

April 10, 1998

Rep. Con Bunde

House of Representatives

State Capitol, Room 104

Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182

Re: SB 36

I am a Yupik resident of Tununak who opposes SB 36. I feel that the bill, if it passes, will take from the poor and give to the rich.

The BIA built a school in Tununak in the 1950's. At that time, the system did everything for parents, making them feel that only the school knew what was best for their children, and that they should not be involved with their children's educations. After the Molly Hootch lawsuit in the 1970's, small high schools were built in villages and parents became more aware of what was needed for their children's education.

I am a member of the Tununak Advisory School Board, and I have seen improvements in parental support of education in Tununak. Parents are getting involved. The Alaska Onward to Excellence process is used in the Tununak school, where parents, school staff, the students and community members work together to come up with goals that will work in both Western and Yup'ik cultures. Equal emphasis is placed on both cultures in the school, and students are succeeding. At

our recent third quarter student-parent conferences, 91% of parents attended. Parents do care about education of their children in rural Alaska.

I feel that if the legislature passes SB 36, this will be a major setback for the state of Alaska. The legislature should not take money from one district to fund another. I think we need to look for additional funding sources for urban districts, but not at the expense of the quality of education in rural areas.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Victor J. Kanrilak, Jr.

Att'y  
Finance  
Committee

P.O. Box 56  
Kwigllingok, AK 99622  
April 7, 1998

Mr. Gene Therriault  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Therriault:

My name is Michael Manchuak, a junior in the Lower Kuskokwim School District. I am writing this letter to tell you I oppose Senate Bill 35.

Because the rural schools have fewer opportunities than the urban schools, it would be unfair to take money from the poor ones to the rich.

Although, I oppose Senate Bill 36, I support Governor Knowles bill to add 24 millions dollars to the States Education Budget.

The children are the future leader of this country and the state. Please support that.

Sincerely,



Michael Manchuak

AH/4  
Finance  
Committee

P.O. Box 78  
Kwigillingok, AK 99622  
April 6, 1998

Gene Therriault  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mr. Therriault:

Hello! My name is June L Andrew. I am writing a letter because I would like to tell you that I oppose SB 36.

SB 36 would hurt our bilingual program and make our school district close several schools. Many jobs would be lost.

Please help our schools. Vote no on SB 36.

Thank You,

*June Andrew*

June Andrew

Att  
Finance  
Committee

P.O. Box 4  
Kwigillingok, AK 99622  
April 6, 1998

Gene Therriault  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Therriault:

Hello, my name is Brendan Lewis. I would like to tell you I oppose SB 36. SB 36 would hurt our bilingual programs and make our school district close several schools. Many jobs would be lost.

Please help our schools VOTE no on SB 36.

Thank You,

*Brendan Lewis*

Brendan Lewis

ATTN  
Finance  
Committee

P.O. Box 54  
Kwigillingok, AK 99622  
April 7, 1988

Gene Therriault  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capital  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Therriault:

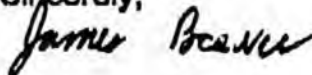
I would like to tell you that I am in opposition to Senate Bill 38.

This bill would rip us off of valuable money. If this bill was passed then the schools in the Kuskokwim Delta might have to cancel basketball, volleyball, and cross-country. They also might have to cancel travel for Academic Decathlon, Speech Contest, and the Career Field Trip. Without basketball more kids will have nothing to do so they will turn to alcohol and drugs. Basketball gives kids something to do and is a good alcohol and drugs awareness activity. I don't think we did anything bad to deserve it.

Please vote no on the bill.

I am a student at Kwigillingok High School and a basketball player.

Sincerely,



James Beaver

*Att 1  
Finance  
Committee*

Sydnia Phillip  
P.O. Box 3  
Kwigillingok, AK 99622

Mr. Gene Therriault  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mr. Gene Therriault:

I am writing to you because I feel frustrated. Randy Phillips is trying to take the money from our school to make Anchorage schools better.

I think all kids deserve to learn about their culture. I think we want to keep our bilingual program strong, so please help us. Vote no on Senate Bill 36.

Thank You,

*Sydnia Phillip*  
Sydnia Phillip

*Atti  
Finance  
Committee*

**Kwigillingok, AK 99622  
P.O. BOX 55  
April 3, 1988**

**Gene Therriault  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182**

**Gene Therriault,**

**Hello! My name is Roderick Atti. I would like to tell you that I oppose SB 36.**

**SB 36 will hurt our bilingual program and make our school district close some schools. Many jobs will be lost. We will also lose some of our school activities, such as sports, academic decathlon, speech contest, or close-up programs.**

**Please help our schools. Vote no on SB 36.**

**Thank You,**

*Roderick Atti*

**Roderick Atti**

Aff  
Finance  
Committee

P.O. Box 77  
Kwigillingok, AK  
April 8, 1998

Gene Therriault  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mr. Therriault:

I would like to tell you that I oppose Senate Bill 36.

If this bill passes, three schools in the Lower Kuskokwim School District will shut down. Many people will lose their jobs, and our bilingual program will come to an end. Many field trips, like Academic Decathlon, Speech Contest, and Summer Camps would be cut, and all the other trips that the school pays like basketball program would also take a hit.

Thank you for voting no on Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,

*Clifton J. Beaver*

Clifton J. Beaver

Att'n  
Finance  
Committee

P.O. Box 7  
Kwigillingok, Ak 99622  
April 6, 1998

Mr. Gene Therriault  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Ak 99081-1182

Mr. Therriault

Hi. My name is Seralee Kalraluak. I am writing a letter because I would like to tell you that I oppose Senate Bill 36.

SB 36 would hurt our bilingual program and make our school district close several schools. Many jobs would be lost.

Vote "NO" on SB 36.

Thank You,

*Seralee Kalraluak*  
Seralee Kalraluak

*Attn Finance Committee*

P.O. Box 10  
Kwigillingok, AK 99622  
April 6, 1998

Mr. Gene Therlault  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mr. Gene Therlault:

I am writing to let you know that I am in opposition to Senate Bill 36.

I am a student in a small village called Kwigillingok. If this bill passes it will destroy the education of younger students by eliminating the bilingual program; also, about 200 jobs will be lost. There will be at least three schools that will be shut down if this bill passes: Oscarville, Platinum, and Mekoryuk.

Again, please vote no on Senate Bill 36.

On the other hand, I support the Governor's plan to give the schools \$24 million more next year. The Governor's plan shows that education is important to the state of Alaska. I agree.

Without education, we have no dreams. Without dreams, we have no future.

Thank You,

*Jennifer Klunya*

Jennifer Klunya

DATE: April 9, 1998

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE  
HESS / HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

FROM: JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT.

REGARDING: SENATE BILL NO. 36.

SENATE BILL NO. 36 RECENTLY PASSED THE SENATE AND IS CURRENTLY IN THE HOUSE (HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES) COMMITTEE.

THE PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL FOUNDATION FORMULA , BUDGET CUTS IS A NEGATIVE IDEA FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS, INSTEAD (INCREASE) MORE MONEY SHOULD BE PUT IN THE EDUCATION BUDGET.

THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION NO. 98-2 CLARIFIES OUR POSITION AND THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE THAT WILL DEMOTE OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM AND OUR STUDENTS IF THE BILL PASSES.

IT HAS BEEN OUR OBJECTIVE, PARENTS, PARENT COUNCIL, ALASKA ONWARD TOWARD EXCELLENCE (AOTE), ASB BOARD , MUNICIPAL (STATE CHARTER), TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS JOINTLY AND OVER MANY YEARS CAME TO CONSENSUS TO PROMOTE THAT OUR CHILDREN RECEIVE THE HIGHEST QUALITY EDUCATION POSSIBLE. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND IMPERATIVE TO PROVIDE MODERN MATERIAL.

WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IS THE ONLY TOOL WE CAN PROVIDE THEM WITH FOR THEIR FUTURE SECURITY AND WELFARE. WE FEEL EDUCATION ENHANCE STRONGER AND EFFECTIVE LEADERS, CARE TAKERS FOR TOMORROW.

WE SINCERELY AND STRONGLY URGE YOU VOTE DOWN ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36.

SINCERELY,



JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT NAPAKIAK CORPORATION.

ENCLOSURE: RESOLUTION NO. 98-2

CC: FILE  
(SEE ATTACHED COPY).

*Napakiaak Corporation*  
P.O. BOX 3030  
NAPAKIAK, ALASKA 99634  
(907) 589-2227

RESOLUTION 98-2  
OPPOSITION TO SB- 3, FUNDING CUTS TO RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAPAKIAK CORPORATION  
OPPOSES SENATE BILL 3, AND,

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAPAKIAK CORPORATION  
DO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE CHILDREN THAT THEY HAVE AN  
QUALITY EDUCATION, AND,

WHEREAS, THE ADVANCED EDUCATION REQUIRE STABLE FUNDING FOR  
ADVANCED EDUCATION MATERIALS AT THIS COMPUTOR AGE, AND,

WHEREAS, WITHOUT QUALITY EDUCATION MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENTS  
WE KNOW OUR CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ABLE AND BE BEHIND AT  
THIS ADVANCED EDUCATION PROCESSES, AND,

WHEREAS, THE EDUCATION IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES HAS HAD AND  
IS IMPROVING WITH QUALITY EDUCATION MATERIALS, AND,

WHEREAS, THIS CHANGING WORLD MUST ADAPT TO MEET THE NEEDS  
OF A CHANGING SOCIETY BY EFFECTIVE EDUCATION, AND,

WHEREAS, OUR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS ARE OUR FUTURE LEADERS IN  
THIS EVER CHANGING WORLD AND MUST BE SELF WORTHY ONLY BY  
QUALITY EDUCATION.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
NAPAKIAK CORPORATION OPPOSES SB- 3 FOR THE REASONS STATED  
AND REQUESTS THE BILL NOT BE PASSED, AND,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, IF THE BILL PASSES, WE WILL HAVE WIT-  
NESSED THE STRATEGY EFFECT, EACH INDIVIDUAL, FAMILIES, COMMUN-  
ITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WORK AND EFFORT THEY HAD FOR A GOOD  
EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDRENS, THEY ARE ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SOCIETY.

*Carl Motgin*  
CARL MOTGIN, PRESIDENT

03/06/98  
DATE

COPY ATTACHED AND SEND TO THE FOLLOWING:

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages ▶

To AK. House Finance	From Julie Roberts
Co. Please Distribute	Co. Tanana, AK 99771
Dept. to all members	Phone # 306-7124
Fax Thank you	Fax # 306-7195

April 8, 1998

Members of the House Finance Committee and  
TO all other Members of the Senate and House,

"I am a child and I live in Rural Alaska. I attend my school every day, even though I have to walk three miles to and from school. I carry my sack lunch, so I will not get hungry during the day. I even have to dress very warm, because they now have to heat the school with a wood stove. My teacher said even though we are no longer a modern school, it is still necessary to learn how to read and write. I wish I could move to Fairbanks, or Anchorage so I could go to school there, at least I wouldn't have to walk and I could have new books to read. Kids in the city are so lucky, they get so much new stuff, like computers and a swimming pool," I'll never live in a village when I grow up. I don't care.

Can you imagine this is what our children are thinking. I remember the days when I did walk to school everyday and I did carry my lunch and our school was heated by a wood stove. I never in my wildest dreams thought we would have to go back to the " Abe Lincoln Days". It's crazy to know that even though our State has so much wealth and that more often than not it comes from our back yards that we still cannot educate our children with fairness and equity. Come to your senses before you make the situation turn into something that really separates the people. Subsistence is bad enough. Thank you for your time and I really pray during this Easter Week that you would have a clear conscience when you vote on this issue.

Sincerely,

*Julie M. Roberts*  
Julie M. Roberts  
Mother of Three Boys In  
Tanana, Alaska

DATE: April 9, 1998

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE  
HESS / HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

FROM: JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT.

REGARDING: SENATE BILL NO. 36.

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IT HAS BEEN OUR OBJECTIVE, PARENTS, PARENT COUNCIL, ALASKA ONWARD TOWARD EXCELLENCE (AOTE), ASB BOARD , MUNICIPAL (STATE CHARTER), TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS JOINTLY AND OVER MANY YEARS CAME TO CONSENSUS TO PROMOTE THAT OUR CHILDREN RECEIVE THE HIGHEST QUALITY EDUCATION POSSIBLE. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND IMPERATIVE TO PROVIDE MODERN MATERIAL.

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SINCERELY,



JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT NAPAIAK CORPORATION.

ENCLOSURE: RESOLUTION NO. 98-2

CC: FILE  
(SEE ATTACHED COPY).

*Napakiaak Corporation*  
P.O. BOX 3000  
NAPAKIAK, ALASKA 99634  
(907) 589-2227

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ITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WORK AND EFFORT THEY HAD FOR A GOOD  
EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDRENS, THEY ARE ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SOCIETY.

*Carl Notgin*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CARL NOTGIN, PRESIDENT

*03/10/98*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

COPY ATTACHED AND SEND TO THE FOLLO. INC.:

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages >
To: Irene Nicholas	From: Julie Roberts	
Co. "H" - Have a real	Happy Eas	
Dept. "E" Happy Eas		
Fax # 465-2197	Fax # 3106-7195	

April 8, 1998

Members of the House Finance Committee and  
TO all other Members of the Senate and House,

"I am a child and I live in Rural Alaska. I attend my school every day, even though I have to walk three miles to and from school. I carry my sack lunch, so I will not get hungry during the day. I even have to dress very warm, because they now have to heat the school with a wood stove. My teacher said even though we are no longer a modern school, it is still necessary to learn how to read and write. I wish I could move to Fairbanks, or Anchorage so I could go to school there, at least I wouldn't have to walk and I could have new books to read. Kids in the city are so lucky, they get so much new stuff, like computers and a swimming pool." I'll never live in a village when I grow up. I don't care.

Can you imagine this is what our children are thinking. I remember the days when I did walk to school everyday and I did carry my lunch and our school was heated by a wood stove. I never in my wildest dreams thought we would have to go back to the "Abe Lincoln Days". It's crazy to know that even though our State has so much wealth and that more often than not it comes from our back yards that we still cannot educate our children with fairness and equity. Come to your senses before you make the situation turn into something that really separates the people. Subsistence is bad enough. Thank you for your time and I really pray during this Easter Week that you would have a clear conscience when you vote on this issue.

Sincerely,  
*Julie M. Roberts*  
Julie M. Roberts  
Mother of Three Boys in  
Tunana, Alaska

DISTRIBUTED BY  
REPRESENTATIVE IRENE NICHOLIA

DISTRIBUTED BY  
REPRESENTATIVE IRENE NICHOLIA

Andy Durny  
Box 90  
Nulato AK 99765

Representative Con Bunde  
House Education and Social Services Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau AK 99801

April 1, 1998

RE: Senate Bill 36

Dear Representative Bunde,

I am writing to express my views on Senate Bill 36 regarding the redistribution of funds for education. I would like my letter to be included in the record of public testimony.

I have lived in Nulato since 1971. I have 3 daughters in the local school here. I was on the local Community School Committee from the mid 1970's to early 90's and am currently on the CSC again.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 36. I believe this bill tries to reduce the problem of education funding to a very simplistic and unfair formula. Furthermore, I believe that Senate Bill 36 is a very divisive piece of proposed legislation which intentionally pits urban and rural residents against one another.

I have listened to public testimony in a previous teleconference on Senate Bill 36. I have discussed this bill with urban and rural residents, and I have read numerous articles and letters regarding this proposed legislation. I do not believe that the people of Alaska support this bill. Over and over, people are telling the legislators that the solution to our education funding problem is to provide more money for education. For more than 10 years, there has been no increase in education funding, despite increases in enrollment and costs.

I believe that one of the functions of government is to provide adequate public education. Alaska has a diverse population, living in very diverse locations and conditions, and with very diverse needs. It does an injustice to all the hard-working people of Alaska to base education funding on an overly-simplified formula and on misconceptions, especially misconceptions which state or imply that rural schools are not contributing to education and are taking money unfairly from urban schools. Even worse, the proposed Senate Bill 36 does an injustice to the students of Alaska, the young people who are supposed to be our future leaders.

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶ 2	
To	Rep. Irene Nicholia	From	Andy Durny
Co.		Co.	
Dept.		Phone #	907-898-2205
Fax #	907-465-2197	Fax #	907-898-2207

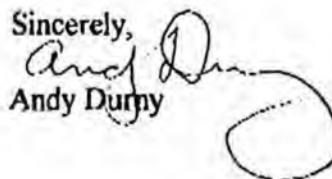
Educators in urban and rural schools alike say that more funding is needed for our schools. Yet, the legislature is unwilling to provide such funding, instead criticizing our schools, and blaming one section of the population for taking more than it's share. How can we deny funding for education when we can pay over \$1,000.00 to every man, woman and child who has been a resident for 9 months? Why can't we put a cap on the permanent fund and place the balance into an education endowment? Or why can't we have a statewide school tax, or sales tax, or state income tax?

Rural residents are "accused" of not contributing their "fair share"; what about the thousands of dollars our community contributes to school and student activities each year through local fund-raisers? We may not have a property tax, but it doesn't mean we are parasites either. And what about all the out-of-state seasonal workers who come to Alaska every year and take money out of the state without putting anything back in? What about all the urban engineers, contractors, equipment operators, plumbers, electricians, and laborers who come out to rural Alaska each summer to to work on rural projects - generally at much higher rates of pay than the local workers and generally with all living expenses paid - and then leave at the end of the project without "paying their fair share" to the local economy?

The schools, the economy, the population, the politics and the needs of Alaskans differ greatly from one part of the state to another. It's wrong to think that our schools and our students can be reduced to single common denominator that fits the notions of people who have never even lived in the remote and rural areas. Certainly, there is a vast difference between the school facilities provided to most rural students and those provided to most urban students. It is unfair and wrong for the majority to ignore or overlook the needs of the minority, no matter what the motivation.

I realize that we need to reduce state spending, and that we need to improve our schools; on the other hand, I believe that the proposals set forth in Senate Bill 36 are the wrong way to reduce spending or to make improvements. SB36 is based on incomplete information, on preconceived notions, and on a biased report (the McDowell study): it is a bad bill and should not be passed. The State of Alaska has the resources to provide adequate and quality education to all students: we can come up with a better solution than SB36.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
  
Andy Durny

cc. Rep. Irene Nicholia

ANDREW K. DEMOSKI SCHOOL  
P.O. BOX 65029  
NULATO, ALASKA  
(907) 898-2204  
FAX(907) 898-2340

DATE: April 2, 1998

TO: Irene Nickoli

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX #: 907 465 2197

FROM: John Abrams

SUBJECT: Demoski School Students & Bill 36

No of Pages: 5

MESSAGE:

Sorry, we didn't have more.  
It was short notice for the  
teachers.

Irene - these students would  
like us to distribute their letters.

Please do -

Thank you,

*Irene*

Dear Representatives,

I'm writing to you about state bill 36 and I don't think that's a good idea because some or a lot of people don't have enough money to move in to the city and if they don't get a good education they will turn out hanging around with nothing to do trying to get a job but most jobs you need at least a regular school education

Jesse Darling  
grade 8/Andrew K. Demoski school

April 1, 1998

Dear Irene Nicholia,

I am a 8th grade student here at A.K.D. School in Nulato. I am writing to share my thoughts and concerns of the SB 32 bill and of getting a hot lunch program here at A.K.D.

I am totally against the SB 32 bill. A.K.D. is the biggest school in the district and has the least amount of money. We need money to do things like extra curricular activities.

I think that there should be a hot lunch program here at the school because some kids come to school hungry and have no lunch. That's also a concern.

Our community had to raise money for our jr.high and high school basketball teams to travel to other villages and compete in tournaments. We also didn't have any field trips this school year due to no money. In Anchorage and in Fairbanks there are a lot more sports programs. All we do down here is play basketball. If the SB 32 bill ius passed, we probably won't have any sports programs. And during the whole year w: (jr.high students) were doing the same work as the high school students; trying hard to keep up a good g.p.a. to play basketball. Please voice our concerns. Thank you for your time.

Cassius Kuiska Grade 8 Andrew K. Demoski School

Dear Gov. Tony Knowles

I am a 8th grade student at AKD school in Nulato. I am against the SB36 bill cause its hard enough for us to get funding from are district now your taking it away From us for some other school. So your kids can get a better education. The kids in Anchorage can go to Mcdonalds or Pizza hut or they can stay in school and get a hot lunch. Here we don't get to do that kind of stuff we don't even have a hot lunch program. In my class we have to share books and other stuff like Computers we only have four colored computers the others don't have color our the internet.

Jorgan Bower 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
AKD School

To whom it may concern,

I am an eighth grade student in Andrew K. Demoski School  
Nulato, Alaska and I think that the senate bill 36 is unfair to rural  
schools and their students. Our school has no money as it is and if  
they take away more money from us, we may not even have books  
or a sports program. We won't have enough money to buy textbooks.  
We don't have enough textbooks for all of our students and we have  
to share books or make copies. Our copy machines are always  
breaking down. We have to wait for about a week to get the right  
supplies to fix them. We are running out of paper, we have no art  
supplies, and we have no money. Schools in Anchorage and  
Fairbanks have all that stuff, and more. They have football, hockey,  
art classes, photography classes, and we don't have any of that stuff.  
We don't even have a hot lunch program. We can't drive anywhere  
for field trips, we have to travel by airplane. We don't have enough  
classes and teachers to teach all of the students here.

I think that they shouldn't be taking any money from us  
because they would be putting us in worse condition than we already  
are.

Sincerely,

Amy Durny

*Amy Durny*

Senators & House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Legislators:

I am writing this letter about SB36.

I am opposed to this bill. Because if it is passed Nikolai School has a great chance of being closed.

I'm over 60 yrs. old my kids never had any threat like this before. And now if this bill is passed it will face Nikolai with a great out pouring of the population here. It would be next to nothing because families will be forced to move so their kids could get educated.

I'm not to well educated. And now these kids now have a chance to walk in my shoes for a mile. I don't want to see it happen. Vote No on SB36!

Sincerely,  
*Philip Esai*  
Philip ESAI

State legislators  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

4-1-98

Steven Nikolai SR.  
P.O. Box 9104  
Nikolai, AK 99691

Steve Nikolai Jr.

RE: Senate Bill 36

I'm writing this letter in regards to Senate Bill 36. I feel this bill is discriminating to rural schools. Such as The Nikolai School. IF this school is forced to close I will be force to move to another town so the kids could get educated. Because this school here in Nikolai will close if this Bill is passed. IASD will have lost over a half million pretty close to three quarters of a million if this Bill is passed. Just because of a few city folks who think their kids aren't educated enough. What about the kids here they will be without a school. Nikolai's Community would be devastated it would become another home stead on the banks of the Kuskokwim River. I lived in Telida for years The school closed there now the population is 4. The same thing will happen here if this Bill passes. **VOTE NO ON SB 36!**

POSTAGE PAID

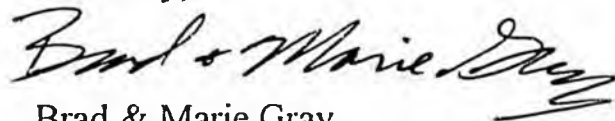
March 27, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley  
State Capitol Rm 507  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley;

My wife and I are writing to you in regards to SB36. It is our understanding that this bill would take money away from rural school districts and give it to urban school districts. We believe that this is very wrong and pray that this does not happen. We have three children just starting school and we want them to have every opportunity to have a decent education, so they can grow up to be productive citizens. Cutting funding to our school district would mean our children would never have such opportunities. Please vote NO to SB36. It is very important that our children have a chance in life.

Sincerely,



Brad & Marie Gray  
Unalakleet, Alaska

DATE: April 9, 1998

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE  
HESS / HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

FROM: JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT.

REGAKDING: SENATE BILL NO. 36.

SENATE BILL NO. 36 RECENTLY PASSED THE SENATE AND IS CURRENTLY IN THE HOUSE (HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES) COMMITTEE.

THE PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL FOUNDATION FORMULA , BUDGET CUTS IS A NEGATIVE IDEA FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS, INSTEAD (INCREASE) MORE MONEY SHOULD BE PUT IN THE EDUCATION BUDGET.

THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION NO. 98-2 CLARIFIES OUR POSITION AND THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE THAT WILL DEMOTE OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM AND OUR STUDENTS IF THE BILL PASSES.

IT HAS BEEN OUR OBJECTIVE, PARENTS, PARENT COUNCIL, ALASKA ONWARD TOWARD EXCELLENCE (AOTE), ASB BOARD , MUNICIPAL (STATE CHARTER), TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS JOINTLY AND OVER MANY YEARS CAME TO CONSENSUS TO PROMOTE THAT OUR CHILDREN RECEIVE THE HIGHEST QUALITY EDUCATION POSSIBLE. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND IMPERATIVE TO PROVIDE MODERN MATERIAL.

WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IS THE ONLY TOOL WE CAN PROVIDE THEM WITH FOR THEIR FUTURE SECURITY AND WELFARE. WE FEEL EDUCATION ENHANCE STRONGER AND EFFECTIVE LEADERS, CARE TAKERS FOR TOMORROW.

WE SINCERELY AND STRONGLY URGE YOU VOTE DOWN ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36.

SINCERELY,



JOSEPH CHIMEGALREA, PRESIDENT NAPAKIAK CORPORATION.

ENCLOSURE: RESOLUTION NO. 98-2

CC: FILE  
(SEE ATTACHED COPY).

*Napakiaak Corporation*

P.O. BOX 400  
NAPAKIAK, ALASKA 99634  
(907) 589-2227

RESOLUTION 98-2  
OPPOSITION TO SB- 3, FUNDING CUTS TO RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAPAKIAK CORPORATION OPPOSES SENATE BILL 3, AND,

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAPAKIAK CORPORATION DO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE CHILDREN THAT THEY HAVE AN QUALITY EDUCATION, AND,

WHEREAS, THE ADVANCED EDUCATION REQUIRE STABLE FUNDING FOR ADVANCED EDUCATION MATERIALS AT THIS COMPUTOR AGE, AND,

WHEREAS, WITHOUT QUALITY EDUCATION MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENTS WE KNOW OUR CHILDREN WILL NOT BE STABLE AND BE BEHIND AT THIS ADVANCED EDUCATION PROCESSES, AND,

WHEREAS, THE EDUCATION IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES HAS HAD AND IS IMPROVING WITH QUALITY EDUCATION MATERIALS, AND,

WHEREAS, THIS CHANGING WORLD MUST ADAPT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A CHANGING SOCIETY BY EFFECTIVELY EDUCATION, AND,

WHEREAS, OUR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS ARE OUR FUTURE LEADERS IN THIS EVER CHANGING WORLD AND MUST BE SELF WORTHY ONLY BY QUALITY EDUCATION.

NOWHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAPAKIAK CORPORATION OPPOSES SB- 3 FOR THE REASONS STATED AND REQUESTS THE BILL NOT BE PASSED, AND,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, IF THE BILL PASSES, WE WILL HAVE WITNESSED THE STRATEGY EFFECT, EACH INDIVIDUAL, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WORK AND EFFORT THEY HAD FOR A GOOD EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDRENS, THEY ARE ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SOCIETY.

*Carl Motgin*  
CARL MOTGIN, PRESIDENT

03/06/98  
DATE

COPY ATTACHED AND SEND TO THE FOLLO. ORG:

Printed by: Margie Jackson/LKSD Travel  
Title: SB-36

Tuesday, April 07, 1998 6:24:12 PM  
Page 1 of 2

☐ Tuesday, April 07, 1998 5:02:34 PM

☐ Unsent Urgent Message

From: ☐ Margie Jackson

Subject: SB-36

To: ☐ Representative Mark Hanley@legis.state.ak.us,Internet  
☐ Representative Terry Martin@legis.state.ak.us,Internet  
☐ Representative Gary Davis@legis.state.ak.us,Internet  
☐ representative brian porter@legis.state.ak.us,Internet  
☐ Representative Joe Green@legis.state.ak.us,Internet

Cc:

I have had to gather my thoughts on this SB-36 and came up with these:

I graduated from Kwethluk Community School, a village located 20 miles outside of Bethel and upon my employment with the Lower Kuskokwim School District had no idea how a School District was run. In my eight years of working at LKSD I have learned and grown a lot. I have also seen a lot. At the time of my graduation in 1988, we have been having problems with our school water. The Kwethluk School water is considered "fit for drinking" at the moment, but I wouldn't allow my own children to drink it as it wasn't allowed when I was in school. Yes, I am skeptical and do not trust it. Would you?

There are many schools in our District that are having problems with their school water, do the Anchorage schools have this problem? Why hasn't our District perfected them?

It saddens me that these "urban" people have to fight over the money with the "rural" people and why aren't the "rural" administrators suggestions good enough for the legislators? Is it because they did not think of them or because they are so resentful of the administrators who work for the rural School Districts? I understand the administrators do make a lot of money in our Districts and yes I think some of the positions are **RIDICULOUSLY overpaid**, these things the legislators should review and investigate. These cut-backs should be made against the administration, but not to our students!!

It has been said over and over again that it is easier for Anchorage and Fairbanks schools to get from one destination to another and I agree. Our students have to **FLY** to get to their competitions and if this bill passes, this will eventually discontinue; therefore, taking our students back to the (dare I say) stone age. They will fall more behind in current events and will hurt their future. Recently at our District 1A Basketball Tournament, a group of students came from the coast with **FOOD STAMPS** as their spending money. This made me so angry, that our students had to come with food stamps and have to be talked about in that way and had to be pitied. In this day and age with welfare reform and now with this Senate Bill 36, what are our people supposed to do? Basically this bill tells our "rural" students that the legislators do not support them and they are expected to fail!!

I also was in Kodiak chaperoning students to the Spring Association of Alaska School Governments Conference and reviewed the school. I was angered at the wealth of

Printed by: Margie Jackson/LKSD Travel  
Title: SB-36

Tuesday, April 07, 1998 6:24:19 PM  
Page 2 of 2

their school and resented the fact that our own students are not allowed that type of luxury. The Kodiak School has two schools entwined into one building, being the High School and the Middle School. The school has an olympic size swimming pool, an auditorium, and each school has their own GYM and commons area; whereas, some of our schools do not even have a GYM and they have never heard of a commons area! Where are all our advantages?? Where has all our money gone??

Yes, the foundation formula needs to be revised, but more investigation should be done before they pass the bill. The Anchorage School District has more students than the majority of our schools, so in that sense the formula is fair. And the school books need to be updated for both rural and urban schools.

Again, it is my suggestion that the administrations salaries be investigated and revised. The Personnel Department of each School District needs to be investigated, especially that of the Lower Kuskokwim School District. And the position specifications of each School District should be passed by DOE before they are passed in the District. That is where all our students monies are going. Our own Technology Director who has a teaching degree makes well over \$80,000 per year. Our own Plant Facilities Director who only has an AA degree (the position requires a BA degree) makes over \$85,000 per year. Our own Business Manager who does not even have any kind of degree makes over \$63,000 per year. These are all unfair and prejudiced against our students. Teachers are hired to do one thing and that is to teach, they should not be allowed to become part of an administration team unless they have the degree to back themselves up. Afterall, we wouldn't let a mechanic become a doctor because he can "fix" things. Or am I wrong??

Thank you for your time and hope my thoughts made sense to you. Good Luck on your success to override Senate Bill 36.

ELAINE M. LANDON  
3747 Linnaea Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

April 3, 1998

Honorable Alaska Senators  
& House members,

I am writing regarding SB 36. It is not a bill I support, despite the fact that I am a 20 year Fairbanks resident and know our schools need more funding. The funding formula proposed in SB 36 is tremendously unjust to our rural schools.

It is an oversimplification to assume that school funding should be based on the percentage or number of students alone. Fairbanks and Anchorage enjoy a large economy of scale benefit in their operating and maintenance costs compared to rural schools. The new formula does not recognize these factors.

As citizens of Alaska, we are responsible to provide quality education for all students. It is unrealistic to expect true education to occur when school buildings are falling apart, when the books are old, and when the student/teacher ratio is out of balance. The new formula virtually guarantees such problems for rural schools. It costs money to provide a good education for our student citizens. And yes, the cost of educating those in the rural areas is higher. But we have an obligation to provide a quality education for all students, not just those in Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Anyone with a good education knows that numbers can be easily manipulated to provide justification for many positions and needs. When the McDowell Study did not consider higher operating costs for rural schools, or the greater economy of scale experienced by urban schools, it did not look at the whole educational picture. And without looking at the whole picture, e.g., the true cost of education, the proposed funding formula is simply a manipulation of figures to justify a self-serving idea.

SB 36 does not benefit the state overall in the long run. While it may provide better funding for urban schools in the short run, for the long haul, it will cost us more. As rural educational quality declines, there will be fewer Alaskans qualifying for good jobs, more people unemployed, higher rates of crime, etc., etc., etc.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that the SB 36 school funding formula is not fair or just. I urge you to do what is right for Alaska and not just for the urban districts. Please vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

  
Elaine Landon

**URGENT**  
**FAX**

---

**RUSH TO:** Mark Hanley, House of Representatives

---

**FAX:** 1-907-465-2418

---

**FROM:** John A. Rusyniak

---

**PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER):** 1

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I urge you to vote against SB-36. Rural schools need to operate also. As a business person, I know it takes more to do business in rural areas. We wouldn't want to be funded at NYC costs would we? We all choose to live in Alaska for a good reason. Please Vote AGAINST SB-36

Thursday, April 9, 1998

---

Representative Mark Hanley  
Room 507 , Alaska State Legislator  
State Capitol (MS3100)  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

APR 09 1998

Mina Eningowuk  
P.O. Box 72008  
Shishmaref Alaska 99772

Dear Rep. Hanley :

I am writing in response to the SB 36. I think that passing the SB 36 would have a negative effect on rural villages of Alaska. We would have to eliminate the extracurricular activities. I and others don't want to see that happen to our village.

If SB 36 passes, then boarding schools would come back. The negative side to that is we would be sending our children to other places. And they might not have a chance to learn our Native way of life. And I wouldn't want that to happen.

Also, we would be taken away from our families and our communities. That is the worst thing that could happen. The future children might be raised in the urban cities and not know their Inupiat back ground or have knowledge of the surrounding area of Shishmaref.

School is pretty much the main flow of money here on the island. It would also take away many jobs. We would lose our Bilingual/ Bicultural class, and that's important. We learn a lot from that class, how people in the past hunted and preserved subsistence foods, stories about the past, and sewing and carving Eskimo crafts.

In closing I would urge you not to pass SB36.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Mina Eningowuk*

Mina Eningowuk

Student at Shishmaref High School

Room 507

Unalakleet Elementary  
P.O. Box 130  
Unalakleet, AK 99684  
March 24, 98

Dear Mr. Hanley,

Please vote NO on SB 36. It will take money for our schools away from us.

We need the money for our students for the best education they can receive. It is very important for the educators to have supplies so they can have the material to teach their very best.

As a teacher-aide working with three different grades it is very important for the educators to have their material for different levels. I can see a lot of youngsters going off to higher education, so please make it possible for our students to achieve their goals.

It is very important to me as a parent and an educator for my children to learn and have a good education.

Thank you,  
Yvonne Spang  
Teacher-aide

March 25, 1998

*Rep. Mark Hanley*  
Honorable House of Representative Member  
Juneau, Alaska

APR 06 1998

Dear Representative,

As the principal of Unalakleet Schools in the Bering Strait School District for the past two years and as the principal of Brevig Mission School for six years, I am very concerned about the impact that SB36 would have on the students in our classrooms, in my school, in my school district and in rural school districts throughout the state!

I urge you to vote against SB36 because I believe that this bill is inherently unfair to students living in rural communities. Although I understand why state legislators from urban areas would be looking for ways to increase funding for schools in their personal districts, I do not feel that they should be trying to take money away from students in rural, bush areas of Alaska. The school districts in Alaska need more money to educate the children and prepare them for the second millennium!

Students living in bush Alaska have unique needs and problems that are not the same as for those students living in larger metropolitan areas. Our students are impacted by living in remote villages where local Inupiat dialects complicate the use of standard English in reading, writing and oral communication proficiencies. These students have to struggle with the effects of drug addictions, substance abuse, alcohol dependencies, physical, emotional and sexual abuses that are considerably more complicated to deal with because service providers are simply unavailable or non-existent. The state of Alaska does not have enough money to provide adequate social services for people living in Eskimo villages. Additionally, the cost of procuring materials, hiring qualified educators, maintaining buildings and facilities and just feeding students is astronomically expensive in bush Alaska.

These students are disadvantaged in so very many ways that to take further funding away from these students is inexcusable. Children should not be adversely affected by budget cuts because they cannot vote or defend themselves from adults trying ignore their needs and take away essential opportunities to succeed in life and become productive members of our society.

Rural areas do not have a tax base, but the federal government provides Impact Aid to help rural school districts equalize services and educational access to their students. Currently the state of Alaska takes almost all (approximately 98%) of these federal monies for use in the general budget. If the legislature decides to formulate a new funding scheme for the state which will only adversely impact the rural villages, then the state should relinquish the Impact Aid funding!

Please help the children of rural Alaska by defeating SB36. They will appreciate your concern about their future. They want to learn and do well. Your assistance will benefit them and all the citizens of our state!

Sincerely,

*Monica Dickens*  
Monica Dickens, Principal  
Unalakleet School, Box 130, Unalakleet, AK 99684



Box 130  
Unalakleet Elem. School  
Unalakleet, AK 99684  
March 25, 1998

Dear Representative Hamley,

Please vote no on Senate Bill 36. We want to keep the quality of education that we have now and all the programs we currently enjoy.

I want to keep lunch programs, lunch, ball, wrestling, cheerleading, volleyball, music, bilingual/bicultural, and art.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Cooper

P. O. Box 240  
Unalakleet, AK 99684  
March 30, 1998

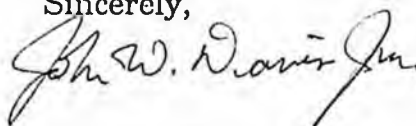
Representative Mark Hanley  
Room 2507  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

**Please vote NO on SB36.** Reducing funding for rural schools affects our entire state in a negative manner. It is important for ALL of our state's children to receive a quality education, not just those living in the urban areas. Please remember that the cost of living is much higher in the Bush. Therefore, more (not less) funding is necessary in order for the educational opportunities of Bush students to be equal to those of urban students. It is unfathomable in this day and age for there to still be a "rob from the poor to give to the rich" mentality.

Many of our rural citizens have and are making valuable contributions to our state. We must continue quality educational programs so that ALL of our citizens can be productive members of society. **Please do NOT support SB36.** Thank you.

Sincerely,



John W. Davis, Jr.

March 25, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley  
Rm 507  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (MS3100)  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

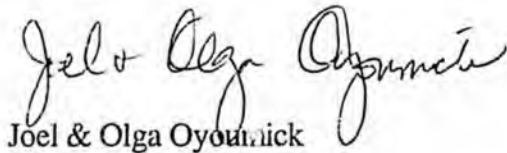
Re: SB36

Dear Representative Mark:

Please vote NO on SB 36. I am a concerned parent living in Unalakleet, Alaska. Our children's education is very important! We are at a time when our students are showing better language and math scores and if SB36 is passed, it will only do damage to our children's education and future.

Please consider our request!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel & Olga Oyoumick". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joel & Olga Oyoumick

cc: Dave Bowling, BSSD Superintendent

P. O. Box 180  
Unalakleet, AK 99684  
March 30, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley  
Room 507  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pcuch V  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

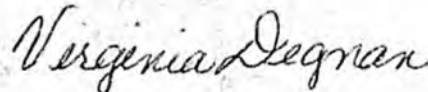
APR 06 1998

Dear Representative Hanley:

**Please vote NO on SB36.** Reducing funding for rural schools affects our entire state in a negative manner. It is important for ALL of our state's children to receive a quality education, not just those living in the urban areas. Please remember that the cost of living is much higher in the Bush. Therefore, more (not less) funding is necessary in order for the educational opportunities of Bush students to be equal to those of urban students. It is unfathomable in this day and age for there to still be a "rob from the poor to give to the rich" mentality.

Many of our rural citizens have and are making valuable contributions to our state. We must continue quality educational programs so that ALL of our citizens can be productive members of society. **Please do NOT support SB36.** Thank you.

Sincerely,



Virginia Degnan, Ed.D.



# LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 32089  
Mountain Village, Alaska 99632  
Phone: (907) 591-2411  
Fax: (907) 591-2449

PAMELA S. VANWECHEL  
Superintendent

March 30, 1998

House of Representatives  
Juneau, Alaska

MAR 30 1998

Ladies and Gentlemen,

*Dear Mark,*

I have worked these past two years in the Lower Yukon School District. As a long-time Alaskan Educator, I feel qualified to say that there are some problems in rural Alaska that need to be dealt with on a state-wide level. Quality educational programs and appropriate sanitation and health issues should be given priority attention. When social problems, educational issues and health problems are not addressed in rural Alaska, there is a negative impact on the entire state.

Of particular note, I've observed the following. I would also appreciate your insight:

1.) Budget Crisis - A shortfall of funding, in any organization, brings out the worst in some people and even causes chaos in some instances.. Scarcity causes some people to become greedy and to behave in unkind and uncharitable ways. In the Alaska Legislature, there is obviously a strong feeling that our resources are becoming scarce. To some extent, that may be a concern, and we may need to prioritize. Do you think that it is possible for Alaskan Legislators to put the needs of all Alaskan children - our greatest resource - as a first priority ?

2.) Urban & Rural Rivalry - There is a low level of tolerance, and much misunderstanding between urban and rural legislators. This lack of tolerance and lack of compassion, on both sides, has created an unhealthy split among Alaskan legislators and also among some Alaskan citizens. I have lived in the cities of Alaska, and I have lived in Bush Alaska. There are good people throughout Alaska. Alaskans should be united. - there are so few of us, sharing a beautiful, but harsh and unforgiving land. Shouldn't we be working together for the best possible conditions for all the people of Alaska ?

3.) Intolerance, Racial Tension & Anger - The most discouraging issue that I have dealt with in my twenty year career in Alaskan education is the intolerance and the prejudice that I have seen throughout this great state. When I am in Anchorage, shopping or at restaurants, I see the unjust way that native people and other minorities are often treated. In the villages, my family members and I have been subject to the anti-white sentiments and the distrust that develops when people of differing backgrounds feel that they are being treated unjustly. Will Alaskans ever be free from prejudice and intolerance ?

Thank you for your consideration of the above issues. I will be in Juneau this week, and hope to visit with you about the specific legislation that may help to meet the priority needs of all Alaskans.

Of particular concern should be the educational and social needs of our children and families. For our youngest and most vulnerable citizens, the charity and goodwill of the Alaska Legislature is their only hope. Thank you, in advance for all you can do to help us to care for the children.

Sincerely,

Pamela S. VanWechel

# Age Daily News

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1998

FINAL EDITION

© 1998 Anchorage Daily News

# Dad



The race  
 is on  
 D-1  
 Musher Rick  
 Swenson is  
 back F-12  
 Trail map  
 A-12  
 1998  
 To follow the Last Great Race on-line  
 log on to <http://www.adn.com/iditarod/1998/coverage.html>

## School funding scuffle

### Urban, rural legislators split over spending plan

By LIZ RUSKIN  
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — To illustrate the inequity of the formula used to dole out state education dollars in Alaska, state Sen. Randy Phillips returns again and again to this point: Anchorage has nearly 40 percent of the state's students yet receives only around 30 percent of the money.

In recent weeks, the Eagle River Republican has repeated his mantra so often that he sometimes reduces it to verbal shorthand.

"Thirty percent funding, 40 percent enrollment," Phillips said last week in a Senate debate. "A lot of my people that I represent are saying, 'What's wrong with this picture?'"



Phillips is one of the main backers of a bill moving through the Legislature that would significantly overhaul the way the state distributes hundreds of millions of dollars to local school districts each year. Senate Bill 36, which passed the Senate last week and now moves to the House, provides more money for Anchorage and Fairbanks and some other large districts while cutting funding to many rural areas.

The proposal is at the center of an increasingly loud debate over education funding and

Please see Page A-6, SCHOOL

# SCHOOL: With millions

Continued from Page A-1

fairness and is drawing criticism from rural school districts, Democratic legislators and others. Gov. Tony Knowles has threatened to veto it as written.

Critics say the measure funnels money to urban areas by robbing from schools in some of the state's poorest communities, where test scores are low, unemployment is high and the cost of providing education is often much higher than in cities.

"What this bill is about is greed," said Sen. Al Adams, D-Kotzebue. "That's all this bill is about."

Adams and other critics of the plan argue all schools — city and Bush — deserve more money. The state's foundation funding level has remained constant for a decade, while inflation, increased teacher salaries and higher fuel costs have eaten away at what it actually buys. Legislative leaders argue the state can't afford to spend more money.

Alaska spends \$660 million a year on public schools — a quarter of the state's operating budget. Because so much is at stake, the legislative debate sometimes drifts into a discussion of lofty values and the future of the state, with legislators making reference to "all Alaska's children" and constitutional obligations. Sometimes it seems to be a simple donnybrook over who gets to bring home more bacon.

The details of how school funding in Alaska actually works can baffle citizens trying to make sense of it all.

As it stands, the bill moving through the Legislature would:

- Shift how money is awarded to districts to reduce state aid to 24 districts by nearly \$36 million.

- Split nearly \$18 million of the savings among 31 other districts.

- Reduce overall spending by \$18 million, bringing the total to \$643 million.

- End state aid entirely for North Slope Borough schools, which this year received \$11 million.

- Give \$6 million more to Anchorage and nearly \$3 million more to Fairbanks.

SB 36 is a combination of concepts contained in several separate bills by Phillips and other Republican lawmakers. Now that it's out of the Senate, the measure is scheduled for its first House committee hearing this week.

## A BROKEN FORMULA?

The bill rewrites the current recipe for divvying up state education dollars, the notoriously complex "foundation formula." The formula calculates a district's "basic need" and gives credit to districts with higher costs of living and more special-needs students. Year after year,

legislators have attacked the recipe as arcane and unfair.

It's no wonder so many people hate it, said Gregg Erickson, a Juneau economist who has analyzed education funding in his newsletter, *The Alaska Budget Report*.

"My personal opinion is that the current formula embodies injustices, inequities that most Alaskans would not be comfortable with, if they had the time and ability to work them out," he said.

The current formula, he said, violates two principles of fairness, which he has dubbed "God Helps Them That Helps Themselves" and the "Robin Hood Principle."

The first idea holds that the state should reward with more education dollars communities that sacrifice for schools by taxing themselves at a higher rate. The second contends that poor districts should receive more state aid and rich districts less.

But when Erickson analyzed the numbers, he found that under the current formula, whether a community is rich or poor and whether its taxes are high or low have no bearing on the amount of education money it gets from the state. Property tax assessments in Anchorage, for example, total about \$300,000 for every schoolchild. The owner of a \$100,000 house pays \$770 a year in local taxes for schools.

The total property assessment in the North Slope Borough, on the other hand, comes to \$5.7 million per child, thanks to the oil extraction facilities at Prudhoe Bay and elsewhere. The owner of a \$100,000 house there pays only \$235 in property taxes for schools.

But the state gives Anchorage less than \$4,000 per student in education aid. The North Slope Borough, where the wealth per child is greater and the tax rate lower, gets more than \$5,700 per student. Phillips and other backers of the change argue that's not fair. North Slope officials counter that the borough's local contribution to its school budget is greater, by percentage, than Anchorage, and its overall property tax rate nearly as high.

Critics of the current system also complain that 20 school districts around the state are not incorporated in cities or boroughs and don't collect taxes for schools at all.

"The question is: Is it right that one part of the state pays while the other pays nothing?" Phillips said.

## LOOKING FOR A FIX

Phillips and others who want to change the system argue that more money alone won't solve the problem, because more money will only increase the inequities. Besides, the Republican-led majority is in the third year of an austerity plan, which

## How the school found

Money is allocated to each school district groups of children roughly correspond students it takes to make an instructor of students in the community. The state unit, then adjusts based on various fac

- ✓ Deducting local tax contributi
- ✓ Adding money for each disabl or gifted student. It also adds
- ✓ Districts outside Anchorage a

## SB 36 would shift m district in thre

- ✓ Overhaul the way the state fi students in different areas.
- ✓ Give every district the same r bilingual and multicultural ed
- ✓ Dispenses with the "instructor to a base student allocation" o school and other factors.

Source: Alaska Department of Education

this year calls for cutting \$50 million from the budget, so they say there's no new money to add.

With the help of a private consultant's report on district-by-district school operating costs statewide, they say, they've figured out a fairer, simpler formula.

Their plan would cut state aid completely to the North Slope and would chop 45 percent of the state education money given to Valdez, an-

# is on the line, spending plan divides lawmakers

Winners, Losers		
Solutions to the funding formula under Senate Bill 36		
Losers	Difference in dollars	% change
North Slope	\$11,686,868	-100.00%
Lower Kuskokwim	\$7,296,090	-5.23%
Galena	\$1,554,434	-6.28%
Valdez	\$1,387,280	-44.61%
Bering Strait	\$1,299,622	-2.48%
Gainers		
Anchorage	\$11,806,112	3.16%
Fairbanks	\$4,738,904	4.16%
Kenai Peninsula	\$3,249,460	4.45%
Ketchikan	\$2,409,459	23.48%
Juneau	\$1,825,171	5.54%

Source: Alaska Department of Education

RON ENOSTROM / Anchorage Daily News

## How the school foundation formula works:

Money is allocated to each school district based on "instructional units," groups of children roughly corresponding to classrooms. The number of students it takes to make an instructional unit varies according to the number of students in the community. The state allots \$61,000 for each instructional unit, then adjusts based on various factors, including:

- ✓ Deducting local tax contributions.
- ✓ Adding money for each disabled child, poor English speaker or gifted student. It also adds for vocational education classes.
- ✓ Districts outside Anchorage are credited for higher cost of living.

## SB 36 would shift money from district to district in three major ways:

- ✓ Overhaul the way the state figures the cost of educating students in different areas.
- ✓ Give every district the same money per student for special, bilingual and multicultural education.
- ✓ Dispenses with the "instructional unit." Funds districts according to a "base student allocation" of \$4,012, adjusted by the size of the school and other factors.

Source: Alaska Department of Education

RYAN HOBBSON / Anchorage Daily News

this year calls for cutting \$50 million from the budget, so they say there's no new money to add.

With the help of a private consultant's report on district-by-district school operating costs statewide, they say, they've figured out a fairer, simpler formula.

Their plan would cut state aid completely to the North Slope and would chop 45 percent of the state education money given to Valdez, an-

other community with high per-student property wealth because of the oil industry.

Beyond that, Bush legislators complain the bill would unfairly slice away at the school budgets of dozens of poor rural communities. Sen. Lyman Hoffmann, D-Bethel, pointed to Quinhagak and Toksook Bay, where nearly 40 percent of the population lives in poverty. What about Nightmute, he asked, where more than 60 percent of the resi-

dents are classified as poor?

Sen. Gury Wilken, R-Fairbanks, proposed a 3 percent income tax on unincorporated areas so those regions would be forced to help pay for schools. That provision, opposed by Bush legislators as well as mining and timber interests, died before it reached the Senate floor.

Despite the criticisms, supporters argue that, overall, the new plan is fair, and they point to the fact that, as written, it will give more money to 84 percent of Alaska's students.

Opponents ask: What about the remaining 21,132 children?

"Don't we care about that 16 percent?" said Sen. Georgianna Lincoln, D-Rampart. Many of the schools targeted for cuts don't have anything to spare, she said.

### A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Among the losers under the plan being considered is the Lower Yukon School District. Its \$15 million state appropriation would be cut by about \$1 million.

The district serves 11 villages with about 1,750 students. Most of its schools were built by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs more than 30 years ago, said Superintendent Pamela VanWechel, who is based in Mountain Village. The schools were fine in their day, she said. But the communities have steadily grown, part of a baby boom across the Bush, and the schools are struggling with overcrowding.

"The children just keep coming," VanWechel said. To cope, most of the schools have added free-standing classrooms outside the main buildings. They are inefficient to heat, and to build them the district often took money from its maintenance budget.

"We have a situation now where the facilities we're using are very much in need of replacement," she said. "We've been dealing with deferred maintenance for six to eight years, putting all of services in the classroom with the hope that someday there'd be some relief."

When money gets tight, art programs, music and vocational classes are usually the first to go, she said.

"Really, all those are gone from the rural schools now," she said.

At the Pilot Station school, the sewer backs up every spring and dumps raw sewage on the playground. The children there have gone weeks using honey buckets because the plumbing isn't working. It's hard for children to learn in that environment, she said.

In rural Alaska, schools also often have extra expenses beyond those of urban schools, according to Bush school administrators and

legislators. Because it's often the biggest room in town, the school gym is sometimes pressed into service for funerals and coming-of-age dances, she said. The school's water system is often superior to what the families have at home. At some schools, the children shower during the school day while parents go in the evening to clean up and get their younger children ready for bed.

VanWechel said she's pleased that families are comfortable in the school, but it does add to the school's bills. And it's disheartening, she said, to hear urban legislators talk about rural children as if their futures aren't important to the rest of the state. "If the rural children don't get a good education," she said, "they will become a burden to society in the way that people who are not educated do: through the welfare system, through the prison system."

In Adams' Senate office at the state Capitol, he keeps a photo album of the Noorvik elementary school, showing pictures of the caved-in roof, holes in exterior walls the size of bread loaves, the rotting floor. The building is still in use. During the Senate debate last week, he invited other legislators to visit Bush schools.

"And then you will tell me about the equality of our school systems," he said.

### URBAN NEEDS

City schools are suffering, too, argues Anchorage School Board member Kathi Gillespie.

"We've had to increase class sizes and cut programs," she said. "Cuts to the janitorial staff have had a visible impact."

"Our schools are dirtier," she said. "We're not able to clean all the rooms every night."

But the biggest problem, she said, is overcrowding. At Goldenview Middle School, her daughter's eighth-grade algebra class had 40 students, she said.

Phillips says all 18 schools in his Muldoon-Eagle River Senate district are overcrowded.

The Anchorage district has eliminated a large program for drug and alcohol abusers, halted funding for special "choice" programs at each high school and written hockey rinks out of elementary school budgets. To find more places to cut, it launched a citizens effort to uncover fat a couple of years ago and as a result cut staff districtwide, from assistant principals to maintenance workers and janitors.

Senate Bill 36 isn't perfect, Phillips says, but it's better than the current formula.

"I am concentrating on the Anchorage School District," he said. "That's what I'm fighting for."



FAX COVER LETTER

DATE: March 23, 1998  
TO: Senator Randy Phillips  
DEPT: FAX: (907) 465-4979  
CC: All Legislators

FROM: Orin Seybert

DEPT:

Total number of pages 1 including the cover letter. If you do not receive all the pages or if any of the pages are illegible, please call (907) 243-2485.

## MESSAGE:

Dear Randy:

Regarding the proposed change in funding for schools between rural and urban areas, I would like to offer the following:

It seems to me educating children is not that much different than running an airline, or many other businesses.

Unit costs are driven by volume, so the larger the volume, the lower the unit costs, that is exactly why rural areas need more money per student.

Thank you for considering this input.

**SB**

**36**

**HFIN**

**FILE**

**(File 3)**

**PUBLIC**

**TESTI-**

**MONY**

DISTRIBUTED BY:

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cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia

---

Subject: Budget-cut

From: tcadzow@ftyukon.yfsd.schoolzone.net (Terri Cadzow) at CC2MHS1 3/11/98 2:08 PM

To: Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA\_CAP

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As a sophomore of the Fort Yukon School, I am writing this letter to tell the Legislature not to take money from our school. If there is a budget-cut we will not have enough money for our school activities. Like for example, basketball, school gatherings and other extra circular activities.

One of our rural school districts won the state Battle of the Books. Our Fort Yukon Boys ball team has a good chance of going to the State Championships. None of that will happen next year if the budget is cut. Our school may not be that big in all, but we the students love our school and like to be involved in the School activities. Why take money from the students? It's our education, our future.

Rural Schools deserves your attention and help. As a concerned student I'm asking you to please don't take money from our school.

Terri Cadzow

Yukon School

Fort

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**cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia**

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**Subject:** School Funding

**From:** eansaknok@ftyukon.yfsd.schoolzone.net (Elia Ansaknok) at CC2MHS1 3/11/98 3:18 PM

**To:** Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA\_CAP

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Dear Representative Nicholia :

My name is Elia Ansaknok, I am a Sophomore at Fort Yukon High School. I am writing to you to ask you not to cut off our school Budget, because the things we have this year has increased a lot from last year: The Central school kids won the battle of the books competition in our rural district, and the high school boys basketball team has a slight chance on going to state at Anchorage. If you cut off our Budge money we will not get to provide these activities for our schools.

Why cut money from schools? You will be taking the Education from everybody and our future kids that will be going to school here and there. Every where else will be the same if you cut the mney from those schools. People will not be able to do activities and they would drop out or they will think this school is born and move to some other school.

Thank you  
Elia Ansaknok

---

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**cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia**

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**Subject:** school funding

**From:** jthomas3@ftyukon.yfsd.schoolzone.net (Joseph Thomas) at CC2MHS1 3/11/98 2:12 PM

**To:** Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA\_CAP

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Dear Represenative Nickoli

My name is Joseph Thomas. I'm a sophomore at Fort Yukon High school and president of the student council. I'm writing a letter to you to tell the Legislature not to take money from our school. If the budget for our school cuts, we would be in a lot of hurt. We wouldn't be able to any extracurricular activities, like play basketball. Our basketball team is doing real well this year. We might even have a chance to go to Anchorage for the state championship. But if the budget gets cut we wouldn't be able to play basketball anymore.

If the the budget for our school cuts, our school district won't be able to hire teachers that we need for certain things and we won't get educated very well. Why cut education money if people want us be successors and leaders of state. It will not only hurt us but it will hurt everyone in Alaska.

Thank you

Joseph Thomas

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cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia

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Subject: Sb-36

From: joesepha2@hotmail.com (Joeseeph Alexander) at CC2MHS1 3/31/98 11:25 AM

To: Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA\_CAP

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March 30 , 1998

Dear Representative Irene K. Nicholia:

I don't like SB-36 because it is taking money away from rural Alaska. The cities have a lot of money. It will be bad for our school.

If SB-36 passes we will lose over a million dollars. We might lose the internet and we just got the internet. We will lose the computers and it will not let us learn how to type. We will lose a lot of supplies. Some teachers might have to quit and students might move and the schools might close.

I hope you vote against SB-36. So we will still have our money and we will buy supplies. I want to get a good education and I want to stay in Minto.

Sincerely

Joeseeph Alexander

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**cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia**

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**Subject:** SB-36

**From:** dakid36@hotmail.com (Dustin Semaken) at CC2MHS1 3/31/98 2:23 PM

**To:** Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA\_CAP

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3/30/98

Dear Irene Nicholia:

I am against SB-36. I feel taking money away from our school and giving it to another school district is unfair. Taking the money will cut our sports program that is why most kids go to school. They go to play sports and if they take it away some kids might not want to go to school any more.

This year Minto had only one extra curricular activity and that was basketball. They had to cut running and cross country skiing because we don't have the money to travel. Fairbanks and Anchorage have 6 or 7 different activities for their students. Why don't they cut some sports to have extra money because we had to cut our sports so we could have extra money? This year Minto barely made it by the school year because of lack of school funds. If we lose money, the school might close and there will be a lot of people out of jobs which will make the unemployment rates go up. This another reason why SB-36 should not be passed.

I would like you to get the other house members not to pass SB-36. I'd like to tell the house members this bill should not pass because there would be a lot of unhappy people in rural Alaska. There are a lot of voters rural Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Dustin Semaken  
Minto School

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**cc:Mail for: Representative Irene Nicholia**

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**Subject:** SB-36

**From:** lenutz@hotmail.com (Lena Daigle) at CC2MHS1 4/2/98 3:51 PM

**To:** Representative Irene Nicholia at LAA\_CAP

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Dear Irene Nicholia,

I am an 8th grade student attending a rural school in Alaska. I am writing this letter regarding SB-36 and how it will effect the rural schools throughout Alaska.

It will affect the schools a lot because students and teacher will be leaving because there will be no money to pay for education because they gave it to city schools who have money.

I think the city schools have enough money to support everything. It will be unfair to take our money and give it to city schools that have more money than rural schools.

Please do not pass this bill because we in the rural schools will lose everything. We look forward to going to school for such things as extra curricular activities and a quality education.

Sincerely,

Lena Daigle  
Minto School

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Get Your Private, Free Email at <http://www.hotmail.com>

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**cc:Mail for Representative Irene Nicholia**

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**Subject:** SB-36

**From:** cendar45@hotmail.com (Lucy Frank) at CC2MHS1 4/2/98 4:16 PM

**To:** Representative Irene Nicholia

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April 2, 1

998

Dear Representative Nicholia,

I would like to thank you for helping out with the article in the school newspaper. It all turned out really good and we will be sending you a copy. Oh yeah and thank you for dedicating that song to me that was cool.

I am writing to you to let you know how I feel about SB-36. I think that this bill should not be passed. It is a devastating and unfair bill. Taking money away from the students in rural Alaska and giving it to the city kids is not right. We are students just like them, we need an education just like them and I think that we deserve a FAIR share of the money.

In our school district we will be losing 1.5 million dollars. The loss of this money is going to take away our ability to buy supplies and have activities for students. This year we barely had enough money to buy paper for the school. We only have one extra curricular activity and that is basketball. We never had enough money for any other sports. In the big schools they have about 7 to 10 extra curricular activities, and seem to be doing just fine. And now they want to give them more money?

This bill hurts me, my classmates and the other students in rural Alaska. If this bill passes it's like saying that the government doesn't care about the students in rural Alaska. I will support your voting no to this bill.

Sincerely,  
Lucy Frank

P.S. Andrea asked the students and it's ok to forward on our letters.

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# A Fax from the Alaska Gateway School District

Darroll Hargraves, Superintendent  
P.O. Box 226  
Tok, AK 99780

Phone:(907) 883-5151 Fax:(907) 883-4356

Deliver Fax To:	Representative Hanley
Fax #:	(907)465- <del>3884</del> 2418
Sender:	<i>BP</i> Barbara Pine
Sender's Phone #:	(907) 883-5151
# of Pages Sent:	4 (including this cover sheet)
Date Fax Sent:	April 9, 1998

### Message:

Dear Representative Hanley,

The following petitions arrived at my office April 9, 1998. I believe they came from the a group of Senior Citizens in the Tok area. These persons all stand in opposition to Senate Bill 36. I will send the original's on to you.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Pine*  
Barbara Pine

Some of the people who signed this petition's phone numbers:  
Dorothy Marunde (907) 883-4601, Laura Sanford (907) 883-5524, Freeman Lolley (907) 883-5934, Lois Morgan (907) 883-5647.

**If you do not receive all of this fax, please call (907) 883-5151.**

**Resolution #98-6**  
**Opposition to SB-36 by the Alaska Gateway**  
**School District, Board of Education**

**Whereas**, the Alaska Gateway School District has been in a severe cost cutting mode for the past several years; and

**Whereas**, the state foundation funding for public schools has not kept pace with inflation over the past decade; and

**Whereas**, the Alaska Gateway School District sees a bleak year though the next budget cycle if additional funding isn't realized; and

**Whereas**, certain legislators have shown themselves to be persistent in trying to cut even further the funding that REAAs in the rural areas will receive; and

**Whereas**, the proposed legislation, SB-36, will further reduce the state funding to Alaska Gateway School District; and

**Whereas**, 32 school districts across the state with enrollments of 21,000 children will be further cut by SB-36; and

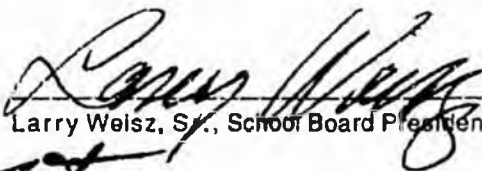

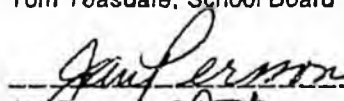
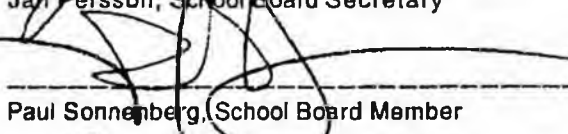
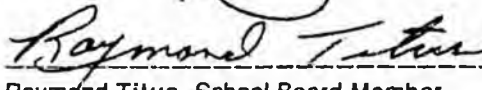
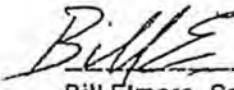
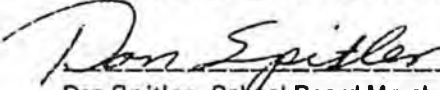
**Whereas**, the sponsors of SB-36 have shown themselves to be parochial in their thinking without giving due attention to the entire needs of the state; and further, if the funding cuts in SB-36 are allowed to become law, the legislature will have shown itself to be racially biased and may violate the constitutional rights to equal protection of the law; and

**Whereas**, the Alaska Gateway School District Board of Education believes that support should be given to increasing funding for all school districts in the state of Alaska to account for inflation over the past decade;

**Now therefore be it resolved**, by the Members of the Alaska Gateway School District Board of Education that the legislature be asked to vote against SB-36 in any form;

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And further, that the legislature be encouraged to increase foundation funding in the current statute which will allow additional funding for every school and student in the state of Alaska whether urban or rural.

	<u>4-8-98</u>
Larry Weisz, S., School Board President	Date
	<u>4-8-98</u>
Tom Toasdale, School Board Vice-President	Date
	<u>4-8-98</u>
Jan Persson, School Board Secretary	Date
	<u>4-8-98</u>
Paul Sonnenberg, School Board Member	Date
	<u>4-8-98</u>
Raymond Titus, School Board Member	Date
	<u>4-8-98</u>
Bill Elmore, School Board Member	Date
	<u>4-8-98</u>
Don Spittler, School Board Member	Date