

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1997-1998 8672

9146 HOUSE HEALTH EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

Sincerely  
Mary Marchegiani

74016 Island Blvd  
Anchorage 99504

Author: hofseth@supersshadow.net at CC2MHS1  
Date: 3/13/98 10:31 PM  
Priority: Normal  
TO: Representative Gail Phillips at LAA\_CAP  
CC: www.galenaalaska.org@smtpmail1.legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1  
Subject: SB 36

Please either amend or defeat SB36 so that the Galena Correspondence program will still receive full funding. As it stands now, this program is being singled out among other district correspondence courses to only get 65% funding. As stats come in from end of the school year testing, I think the legislature will see that all of all programs, this one is getting superior results.

Author: hofseth@supersshadow.net at CC2MHS1

Date: 3/13/98 10:40 PM

Priority: Normal

TO: Representative Gail Phillips at LAA\_CAP

CC: www.galenaalaska.org@smtppmail1.legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Subject: SB36

I was disappointed to hear the Senate's decision re: SB36. Please either amend or defeat it so that Galena could still receive full funding. As it stands now, SB36 will allow that district correspondence programs will only get 65% funding. I have homeschooled for 12 years, and my oldest students are now in the high school with 4.0 g.p.a. Homeschooling works, and the Galena program helps parents do the excellent job they are doing.

# CORRECTION

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S)  
HAVE BEEN REFILMED TO  
ASSURE LEGIBILITY OR PAGINATION



Rev. 6/98

Central Microfilm Services  
Department of Education  
State of Alaska

Author: hofseth@supershadow.net at CC2MHS1  
Date: 3/13/98 10:40 PM  
Priority: Normal  
TO: Representative Gail Phillips at LAA\_CAP  
CC: www.galenaalaska.org@smtpmail1.legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1  
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Author: rhandley@galenaalaska.org (Robert & Leah Handley) at CC2MHS1

Date: 3/16/98 9:42 PM

Priority: Normal

TO: Representative Gail Phillips at LAA\_CAP

Subject: Change of address

Dear Gail,

After I sent the last transmission I found that it still had my old e-mail address. Here is the current one if you have need to get back with me:

rhandley@galenaalaska.org

Thanks for voting against SB 36,

Leah

Handley

Author: fernwood@xyz.net (Bob & Leah Handley) at CC2MHS1  
Date: 3/13/98 10:21 PM  
Priority: Normal  
TO: Representative Gail Phillips at LAA\_CAP  
Subject: SB 36

Hi Gail,

Your picture on the internet is very nice! We are having our District Convention next weekend at the Anchor River Inn and we'll miss you.

I wanted to write and share my thoughts on the SB 36 in regards to funding correspondence programs outside of district lines. We are part of the IDEA Program which is based in the Galena School District. It has been very beneficial to our family and I'm sorry to see that the Senate has chosen to cut funding for such an outstanding program. I'd like to see the House defeat this bill or at minimum ammend it to bring IDEA's funding back up to 100%. I would ask that you consider doing so.

On a lighter note, Spring is in Homer! WE have tulips and daffodils peeking their heads out of the snow and the mud has started to run! HURRAH!! Also, I have cut my hair AGAIN!

Thank You, Gail.....Leah

Handley

3/30/98

H.E.S.S Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Ak  
-99801-

H.E.S.S Committee,

I'm against Senate Bill 36. I would like to continue attending Innoko River School, because its nice and quiet out here. I'm not ready to leave home yet.

Dwayne Benjamin

3/30/98

**H.E.S.S Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Ak  
-99801-**

**Dear H.E.S.S Committee,**

**My name is Jackie Collins. I am a student at the Innoko River School in Shageluk, Alaska. We are in the Iditarod Area School District. A couple of weeks ago students in IRSD area had a teleconference together to talk about the Senate Bill 36. Together we came up with a Resolution against Senate Bill 36.**

**If this bill passes, we will lose teachers, maintenance, and sports trips. There will also be no more special events such as Youth Days, Dinayetr, Governor's Health Conference, other conferences in Anchorage. Grades k-12 will have to be in one class with one or two teachers. Our parents will then have to send high school students to boarding schools, and schools in Anchorage or Fairbanks. Who will pay the expense's for rural high school students to attend other school's? Personally, I think there will be more high school drop outs.**

**Please consider what will happen to Rural Alaskan Students if this Bill passes. There will be more over crowded schools in Anchorage then there already are.**

**Thank you for your time,  
Jackie Collins  
Innoko River School  
Shageluk, Alaska  
-99665-**

3/30/98

H.E.S.S. Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Ak  
-99801-

Dear Senators/Representatives,

Hi, my name is Keith Workman. I am a Senior at the Innoko River School in Shageluk. I am concerned about SB 36 because it would really affect Rural Alaska. If it passes the city schools would get more of our money. It would lead to the shut down of many small rural schools or they would have to run only from the 1st on up to the 8th grade. I would not want my fellow classmates to be forced into city schools.

Most small rural schools should be able to keep the money and keep on teaching. We don't even have enough money to travel on trips for sports and lots of educational trips. I also would want the future of the rural schools to keep up the good work on educating Alaska's youth.

It is really important to stay in the village, our hometown and learn both school work and our traditional ways of living.

Please vote against this bill!!

Keith Workman a student at the  
Innoko River School.

3/30/98

HESS Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska  
99801

Dear member of the H.E.S.S. Committee,

My name is Sonta Hamilton. I am a 7th grade student at the Innoko River School in Shageluk. I am very, very, very concerned about Senate Bill 36 and am trying hard to think about what will happen to me and my future kids.

Well, I thought about my school and what it has now. My school has a small library that doesn't have updated books. They're probably 10 years old. Our classroom textbooks are the same way.

Don't you know why we get more money? The reason is because we can't get to see museums every week. We'd have to fly in to see one. We need money for the sports trips which helps us compete and stay healthy. If you guys cut funding we also wouldn't have programs like Bilingual or Special Education. Another thing is that you guys just gave us the money and now you say that's it's not fair to urban schools. In our maintenance last year we didn't even have enough money to make basic school repairs on our fire alarm system.

The effect that it will have on our schools if it passes is that we students may have to do our own maintenance. We won't even be able to afford to buy animals for projects. In Anchorage you can just go to the pet shops and get deals like that. We have to pay shipping. We will also have one less teacher in our school.

In the Anchorage newspaper last week you said that Anchorage has overcrowded rooms, well, I invite you to come to our small school and see our K-3 in a class, 4-6 in a class, and 7-12 in a class but our poor school wouldn't have enough money to pay for it.

Please vote against Senate Bill 36. It will effect many other rural schools and children.

Sonta Hamilton  
A student that lives in a poor rural school.

**3/30/98**

**H.E.S.S Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK  
-99801-**

**H.E.S.S Committee,**

**Mg name is Roger Hamilton, i am a 7th grader at Innoko River School. I am against the Senate Bill 36. I think that it will affect the culture of Shageluk and it will affect me if this Bill passes. Because I am having a hard time in school already. I like to hunt, and get outdoors a lot. If I'm in a city I would be able to do nothing cultural.**

**Roger Hamilton**

March 31,1998

H.E.S.S. Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska  
-99801-

My name is Brandi Hamilton, I am a 9 th grade student at the Innoko River School in Shageluk, Alaska. I am concerned about the Senate Bill 36. If you vote for this bill to pass, a lot of students in Rural Alaska would be very upset and angry if the bill passed. Then students would either drop out or have to go to urban schools. We would also not be able to travel for things like Youth Days, sports, and conferences. For kids who go to school in Anchorage, and some urban schools live in places where there are museums and all they have to do is jump on a bus or in a car and drive to the places. Kids in Rural Alaska schools would have to fly to the city or wherever to go to things like museums. We students in our Rural villages would want to stay in their villages because we would have to get to know the people and the place.

Brandi Hamilton

March 21, 1998

The proposed SB.36 requiring local areas to significantly fund the schools would be a disaster for Eagle and our children. Our community is very isolated and remote and there are few paying jobs. Most people survive through subsistence activities and many different odd jobs for income.

Due to the remoteness of Eagle, our children have few opportunities for education, socialization and cultural exposure. The Eagle School provides a wonderful environment, membership and activity center for the children and for the community. The public health nurse, dentist and many others who travel to Eagle to provide services stay at the school and also provide their services at the school. Community activities, head start and cultural activities take place at the school and it is a vital part of our community. In addition, the school holds many historical pieces on display for the community and visitors.

We have an excellent staff at Eagle and they provide our children with the basic skills for life while making learning fun. There is an exceptional computer program system for K-12 and music is available, as well as, vocational education, foreign languages, and there is a strong emphasis on science and math.

Eagle's population fluctuates for many reasons, at the most we have is 180 local residents year round. Our school enrollments reflect this population fluctuation and make our problem one of continual danger and peril from funding cuts. We have strong parent involvement in the school, with the children, and in the community, however, and we are working to keep our school open.

Eagle Community School is critical to our community and our children. Please consider every option and work to meet the needs of all children, schools and communities, both rural and urban. The future of our children depends on the decisions you make. Please make them as if you were making them for your children. All our children deserve opportunity and the right to basic education is fundamental to our society and our future.

Please reply to: Donna Westphal  
P.O. Box 60  
Eagle, AK 99738

Thank you for your time, your efforts  
and your reply.

Donna Westphal

To:  
 From: Jackie Mitchell P.O. Box 68, Eagle, Alaska 99738  
 Date: 3/23/98

Re: School funding, Borough, City taxes proposition, for rural Alaska.

I have concerns for Eagle Community School. As an ASB member, as a parent, and as a homeowner, I believe that SB36, SB337, and others, are not acceptable to Rural Alaskans residents, for several reasons.

- a). Changing Districts to Boroughs would enlarge the amount of rural areas per each, placing an honest funding at a more biased opinionated situation.
- b). Placing city taxes at any stated Mill rate is wrong. You would never get the funding needed, due to ANILCA & the amount of Federal Controlled Land, & still be "equal" to the people. Also, once this was instated, what would keep the stated 1 Mills tax rate from going up to say, 25 Mills, after the next couple of years?
- c). Your proposal would reduce funding for rural schools considerably, when, in fact, they have the most costly situations. For instance, have you taken into consideration, the price of oil for heating, or the price of electricity, even to keep a school open? Or even travel expenses, for those communities such as ours, when the road is closed for at least 6 months of the year?

I am quite willing to pay an equal share for public schools, for these children today, are our future leaders. That's not the problem. Bad tax, employment tax, are not bad ideas, for a start. But not city tax. Reason, other than stated above, is that a great deal of the taxable homeowners in this area, live outside the city limits. I believe the solution would have to come from the state, or, more preferably, even the PFD. That's about the only way I see that each & every Alaskan pays their share.

I know what was called in on your televised conference. The numbers stated for students & teachers here in Eagle, do you realize, was stated by a middle school student? Actual numbers are, 21 students, & 3 teachers, one of which we are losing this year, due to lack of students. I can understand that, & accept it. What I can't understand, is, also losing our half time secretary & principal. Our present principal is also our full time primary teacher. Losing one, perhaps, but why both? Who would be expected to tend to their many duties?

I have a daughter in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, this year, expecting to go to college. I also have a daughter who graduated from this school last year, & is presently in Juneau University of Alaska. She states, that had it not been for our high school teacher's methods of teaching, she would not have been at all prepared for this University. She is presently in school to learn to be a primary teacher, with, hopefully, Special Education Credentials, for this state. It would be a pity to see her, & others like her, to be "put off" by the state's lack of consideration for rural schools, which is where she wants to teach.

We have had problems with teachers in the past, but our present staff is nothing but terrific, thinking of the students first, instead of themselves. I feel they should be commended for their achievements with the students, instead of put in a chart that shows rural students' knowledge has declined. There is only so much that a multi grade level teacher can do, but our teachers here in Eagle, have repeatedly excelled in this. If you must give them a cut in pay, for instance, that is understandable. But don't, in the same breath, "put them down" for being lacking.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Sincerely,

*Jackie Mitchell*

Jackie Mitchell

To:

From: Jack Boone Box 32 Eagle, AK 99738

Date: 3/22/98

Re: SB36, SB37, and other attempts to change the foundation formula for school funding and/or devise a taxation solution for rural Alaska.

The present attempts at these measures are unacceptable to rural Alaska residents.

The two questions to be answered are: How much money do rural schools need?  
Where's it going to come from?

As to the first question, one need only compare present levels of funding for rural schools vs. funding for urban Alaskan schools, and average educational levels attained by rural students vs. urban students; to see that in order to achieve the goal of education in rural Alaska at least equal to that in the urban areas, the level of funding in rural Alaska would have to go UP, not down.

The reasons for this are many, and not all would agree on what they are, so I will not repeat them all in this letter. The result, however, is plain. More money must be spent on schools in rural Alaska, or educational quality will continue to suffer. If this problem could be addressed in another way, making education more cost efficient in the bush in some manner, great. But that answer will not be found by reducing funding and abdicating the responsibility of the state first.

I cannot intelligently address the actual numbers by which funding would be reduced in SB36. But I believe Senator Lincoln's statistic that 13 of 16 districts in District R would see funding reduced. And on a local level, Eagle Community School, Alaska Gateway District, I believe the numbers being quoted by Superintendent Hargreaves and Principal Millard that the reductions would be great enough to cause drastic reductions in services offered.

So on to the second question: Where should the money come from.

Obviously, those who live in rural Alaska should pay their fair share. But there are some real problems existing that with school support. The main problem is that, due to ANILCA and the vast amount of land under Federal control in Rural Alaska, most of the property is not taxable and most of the residents are effectively exempt from taxation. This is a problem not faced on this scale by urban Alaska. This problem was not created by those few of us who are non-native, don't work for the Federal Government, and live in Rural Alaska. And there sure aren't enough of us to pay the share of all those who don't have to pay, directly and indirectly. So create a statewide income tax if necessary to make up the education shortfall, or devise some other scheme where all Alaskans share the financial burden placed on us by ANILCA and the Federal Government, but don't abdicate your responsibility to provide education for rural Alaska and lay the problem at the feet of those few of us who would have to try to pay for it.

This question is totally separate from the question of whether rural Alaska should be organized into Boroughs, or otherwise taxed. The amount collected thereby would not support the schools.

Jack Boone

March 31, 1998  
H.E.S.S Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Ak,  
- 99801-

H.E.S.S Committee

My name is Harriett Arrow. I am a 9th grader at the Innoko River School in Shageluk, Alaska. If the S.B. passes most of the people in the village will be very upset. Because their kids will probably have to move to the city where there is violence and it is pretty dangerous in the streets. A young native person walks down the street, might get shot and just because some people don't like natives in Anchorage or Fairbanks.

I rather live and stay in my village and school where I know everybody and where everybody knows me. If kids here move to the city, they probably will forget or lose their culture and the fun things they do in the summer and winter.

Please do not support the S.B. 36. Think about what kind of education the parents in the villages want for their kids.

From,  
Harriett Arrow

Sharon L Fredericks  
P.O. Box 217  
McGrath, Alaska 99627

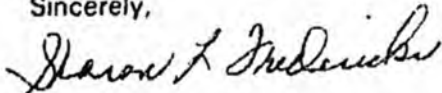
March 31, 1998

Members of House HESS  
Representatives Green, Bunde, Vzey, Dyson, Porter.  
Brice and Kemplen

Opposition of SB #36

Senate Bill 36 is a negative bill for all the rural schools. The legislators that are pushing this bill should realize that our children mean just as much to us in Rural Alaska as it means to their own children living in Urban communities. By cutting the funding for rural schools and giving to urban school is so unfair and unjust because they are not treating our children as equal. Our children are just as important and need just as much education as those in urban areas. Taking money from the rural school districts that are already barely getting by is not the answer.

Sincerely,



Sharon L. Fredericks

April 1, 1998

Dear Members of the House HESS;

I'm writing in opposition to SB36. The passage of this bill would cause an undue hardship on the education of the children in rural Alaska. There are very few jobs in the villages, and families depend on subsistence to make ends meet. How do you expect us to pay taxes if this bill was to pass??? The future of our children depends on this bill, please do not take money away from them. Thank you for your time and I hope that you deny the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

*Ernie Peters*

Ernie Peters  
Box 25  
Holy Cross, AK 99602

April 1, 1998.

H.E.S.S. Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska

99811

Dear H.E.S.S. Committee,

My name is Amber John. I am a 7th grade student at the Innoko River School in Shageluk, Alaska. I am very concerned about this S.B. 36. In the Anchorage Daily News, Randy Phillips said that Anchorage schools are overcrowded, but so are we! Here in rural Alaska we are overcrowded and multigraded. In Anchorage they have 1 or 2 grades in one classroom.

If this bill passes there might be more high school drop outs. Then parents will have a hard time with their kid or kids and be sad when they send their kid or kids away just to get a education! I mean think how we feel about this S.B. 36. Our schools might get shut down or we might not have any high school students. But you people don't think about stuff like that! If I was you I would stop and think about this more! Please don't support this S.B. 36. Thank you if you don't support this S.B. 36 and if you do support this S.B. 36 please think more about this! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Amber John

**Holy Cross Tribal Council**

Tribal Family & Youth Specialist  
P.O. Box 191  
Holy Cross, Alaska 99602

April 1, 1988

Members of the House Hess:

Representative Green  
Representative Bundy  
Representative Wazey  
Representative Dyson  
Representative Porter  
Representative Brice  
Representative Kemplen

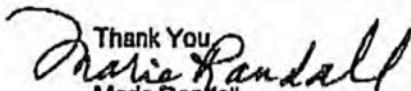
Dear Representatives of Alaska:

As the Tribal Family and Youth Specialist for the Tribal Village of Holy Cross, Alaska, I am writing to you in opposition of House Bill 38. Holy Cross School is in the Iditarod Area School District and the results would be devastating for the Students in the District, there would be a million dollar loss from their education if House Bill 38 was to pass the House. Do you know what a devastating impact this would have on the Native students who depend on these very dollars to survive in being educated in two worlds? Bi-lingual and Bi-cultural education is of a priority for these students to understand the basics in reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic. With Alaska rating low scores in the National ITBS tests yearly, do you know how House Bill 38 will further impact the results of this test if it were to pass?

I speak to you from my heart. I am a mother of five children: Three of my children are teenagers. Two are in elementary. I see the needs of a tutor, one of my children is in special reading class. He is a fifth grader and reads at a third grade level. Do you know the frustration he feels when he can't read as well as some of his other classmates? Do you know the frustration I feel as a mother to see how desperately this child needs extra help? Do you know that if House Bill 38 pass, that my child will not receive the extra professional help he need?

Please, look around you, at the children. Imagine, this being your child, who needs help. Would you cut their education in half? Would you cut their chance of being educated fairly and with all benefits?

Please oppose House Bill 38.

Thank You  
  
Marie Randall

Tribal Family & Youth Specialist



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the H-HESS  
 committee name  
 committee on S.B. No. 36, dated March 26, 1998.  
 bill/subject

Senate Bill 36 is advertised as a bill "to bring simplicity and fairness to the way Alaska funds its public schools."

Sec. 1 states that the purpose of Sec. 2 is to "provide a level of funding through the public school funding program that allows for an equitable level of educational opportunities."

Sec. 14.17.430 singles out, out-of-district correspondence students and calls for cutting that student allocation to 65%. How can the sponsors view this as equitable? The expense involved in educating children through a correspondence program is equal no matter where they live.

If one district offers a correspondence program better suited for a particular family's needs, than what is offered by their local district; why should out-of-district students be financially penalized for having their curriculum mailed to them from another district? Children in public schools are channeled according to their special needs (gifted programs, special reading programs etc.). Passage of Sec. 14.17.430 would eliminate any curriculum choice with correspondence students.

Forcing students to stay in their district limits educational opportunities. Forcing out-of-district correspondence students to operate on 65% funding is inequitable.

Signed: Joseph H Spann Joseph H Spann  
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

HCO3 Box 8102-E Palmer AK  
 Address

746-0209

Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

House HESS #

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance  
committee name

committee on

Senate <sup>Section 1417.430</sup>  
Bill 36 - School Funding  
bill/subject

dated March 26 '98.

Re: Senate Bill 36 sec. 1417.430, Concerning proposed simplicity and fairness in school funding?! I must voice serious concerns on the proposed budget cuts in the key area of correspondence studies. Correspondence studies/Homeschooling is a very viable, alive area of alternative schooling here in AK. Homeschool children have proven worth in high standardized test scores and overall quality of work. Please encourage those families who, for whatever reason have chosen the correspondence programs. Budget cuts in this area would not mean the children would flock to the public schools, only that the parents would shoulder the additional responsibility.

Signed: Karl To Johnson  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

HCO2 Box 7816

Address

Palmer, AK 99645 745-5441

Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Hess & H Fin  
Senate Finance  
 committee name

committee on Senate Bill No. 36, dated 26 March 1998  
 bill/subject

Dear Alaskan Legislators,

Regarding Sec. 14.17.430., please give full -100% - funding for correspondence study. Our three children, Ben Zwink, age 10, Andrew Zwink, age 8, and Sara Zwink, age 5, are enrolled in the correspondence study program through the Copper River School District. If the state funding was cut to 65% of its current level, our children would not be receiving "an equitable level of educational opportunities" - as stated in the purpose of Senate Bill 36 - Section 1.

We feel that correspondence study superbly meets the educational needs of our family. Decreasing the funding would mean that many families across the state would have to make even further economic sacrifices in order to provide a complete and high quality education for their children.

Please help strengthen and maintain Alaskan families' high educational standards and fully fund correspondence study. Thank-you.

Signed: Lynnette J. Carrier Lynnette J. Carrier  
 Testifier David L. Zwink David L. Zwink

Alaska's future - our children!

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 871236, Wasilla, AK 99687

Address

373-2956

Phone No.

House District 36

- Alatna
- Alcan
- Allakaket
- Aniak
- Anvik
- Arctic Village
- Beaver
- Bettles
- Birch Creek
- Canyon Village
- Central
- Chalkyitsik
- Chicken
- Chistochina
- Chitina
- Chuathbaluk
- Circle
- Circle Hot Springs
- Coldfoot
- Copper Center
- Copperville
- Crooked Creek
- Dot Lake
- Dry Creek
- Eagle
- Eagle Village
- Evansville
- Fort Yukon
- Gakona
- Galena
- Grayling
- Gulkana
- Healy Lake
- Holy Cross
- Hughes
- Huslia
- Kaltag
- Koyukuk
- Lime Village
- Livengood
- Lake Minchumina
- Lower Kalskag
- Manley
- Marshall
- McCarthy
- McGrath
- Medfra
- Mentasta
- Minto
- Nabesna
- Nenana
- Nikolai
- Northway
- Nulato
- Pilot Station
- Rampart
- Red Devil
- Ruby
- Russian Mission
- Shageluk
- Slana
- Sleetmute
- Stevens Village
- Stony River
- Takotna
- Tanacross
- Tanana
- Telida
- Tetlin
- Tok
- Tuluksak
- Tyonek
- Upper Kalskag
- Venetie
- Wiseman

# Representative Irene K. Nicholia

State Capitol • Juneau, Alaska 99801

Phone: 465-4527 FAX: 465-2197

Toll Free: 1-800-491-4527

E-Mail: Representative\_Irene\_Nicholia@Legis.state.ak.us



*Resources  
Rules  
Military and Veterans Affairs  
World Trade and State/Federal Relations*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Con Bunde, Chair  
House Health, Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Representative Irene Nicholia *IN*

DATE: April 1, 1998

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 36

Attached you will find letters and resolutions from residents of House District 36. The letters are from people in all walks of life, from school children to tribal elders. My district is united in its opposition to passage of Senate Bill 36.

Please distribute these letters to members of your committee. I would ask that, by reference, you read them into the permanent record of the House HESS Committee.

I strongly urge you to listen to the pleas of Alaska's people and vote against moving this bill from your committee.

**All Interested Parties:**

I know the urban area schools are overcrowded. I also know as soon as you build a new school in the city, it is filled to capacity the first day it opens. I do not think SB36 is the answer though. I am opposed to SB36

I think we need to work together and find out the best method. We need to find a method where no one loses and everyone gains. SB 36 is not doing that. This bill is causing a lot of fiction between Rural and Urban communities. We cannot afford to do this. Our children from both areas are important, I would love to see our children grow up and be able to live or work in either area (urban or rural). They should be educated and trained to be able to find work in either area.

SB 36 is not answer. I suggest everyone go back to work and find a method that will benefit all students. Children are our future, we need to give them all the advantages we can. The more money we spend on them now, the less money we will have to spend in the future, they will become a asset to us. We will not have to put so much money into prisons and Division of Family Youth Services, if we do our job now.

There must be a way we can address the school funding issue with respect, care, and understanding for all. We need to realize each district is different, just as each student is different. Those of us who are parents all understand that some of our children cost more then others. We cannot spend equal amount of money on each. Some have a need for glasses or excessive dental work. Some go to college, while others join the service. You cannot in the State of Alaska consider money divided equally as being equal. If \$2.50 is all that is given for a gallon of milk, since I live in McGrath I would not even be able to buy a half gallon. WE DO HAVE THE JOB OF MAKING SURE EVERYONE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A GOOD EDUCATION You have a tough job and a lot of people are behind you, but a government for ALL people needs to take preference. Thank you.



Patty Baldwin

Box 72

McGrath, Alaska 99627

March 31, 1998

House District

Summit, Alaska

Dear Representatives of the House,

I am writing to inform you that I am totally opposed to your bill (SB36). I live in rural Alaska all my life and it is very expensive living out here. If you don't have a job with a job and family it makes it a little easier, but not much. I did to really work hard in high school to earn my diploma. The schools in my area need the funding to keep providing valuable education to our students. If the funding isn't there, we are going to see a lot more students dropping out of school. As adults we keep telling our youth that "they are going to be our future leaders" we need to support them and one way is to keep the funding in the rural schools.

I just can't believe that bill (SB36) passed the Senate; it really shows that the Urban legislators are fighting our Rural legislators, and I encourage all the House Representatives to vote down SB36 and to continue working for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Thank-you!

Sincerely,

Phillip J. Demientieff Sr.

Phillip J. Demientieff Sr.

P.O. Box 84

Holy Cross, AK 99602

cc: Senators

**MEMORANDUM**

3/31/98

**TO:**

All House & Senate Legislators  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

**FROM:**

*Agnes Tony*  
Agnes Tony, Advisory School Board Member  
P.O. Box 9147  
Nikolai, Alaska 99691

**RE: Senate Bill #36**

I am writing regarding Senate Bill 36 which is very alarming for rural school children because it takes away what little they have in the way of education. I keep hearing the word "equity" which, we in the bush, relate to real well as that's been our push for awhile now. I fail to see where there would be equity in this bill at all. I know that passage of this bill will impact the small bush communities in a lot of ways and it's also obvious to me that this was timed to take effect before the 2000 census year. I can see where families would have to leave their communities to move to bigger communities so their children will get the education they desperately need. The influx of families moving to urban areas to seek better education will definitely mean limited funding for rural bush Alaska. BUT, I can also see families torn apart because the children would have to leave their communities to attend school. Some time ago, someone mentioned that urban areas were complaining about lack of schools for their children and that person said "Why not send the urban kids to the bush communities who have schools that are in danger of being closed due to limited enrollment?". Now, why not? We have modern schools out here with a lot of classroom space and passage of this bill will make these buildings vacant. What will happen to all the funding that was used for the construction of these buildings? Is this what equity means? Please consider the whole situation and think of us out here before voting NO on this bill. Also, whatever happened to the Molly Hootch case?

TO: Representative Irene Nicholia's office  
FAX # (907) 465-2197

3/31/1998

I am writing to let you know that I am strongly against Senate bill 36. It is very unfair to rural Alaska. As it is rural Alaska suffers from lack of access to many services that the urban area benefits from. For example their access to libraries, agencies, businesses, and many other resources. The rural schools also suffer from the high cost of living which affects the schools budgets.

PLEASE DO NOT support SB36. Do not take away valuable funding that the rural schools so desperately need.

Please give a copy of this letter to all those who will be voting on this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Debbie Turner  
Box 115  
Holy Cross, AK. 99602

Top of the Kuskokwim School  
PO Box 9190  
Nikolai, AK 99691  
4/1/98

To Whom It May Concern (RE: Senate Bill 36):

I have taught in rural Alaska since 1977, and am **appalled** by the recent urban support of Senate Bill 36.

Rural students need and deserve a quality education. To change the funding base in favor of larger schools, as proposed by SB 36 would take away the rural students' schools, thus jeopardizing the future of all communities in rural Alaska. This would have a negative impact on the **entire** state of Alaska.

Rural communities need to speak up and unite in giving Juneau a wake-up call to keep our small schools.

*Candace Waruch*

Candace Waruch  
Teacher  
907-293-2449

~~Representative~~ Irene Nikolai  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

March 27, 1998

Joel Ross Carpenter  
P.O. Box 9126  
Nikolai, AK 99691

Dear Mrs. Nicholas

My name is Joel Carpenter. I'm 11 years old and in the 6th grade. I have gone to school in many rural villages. Currently I'm living in Nikolai, Alaska; my mom is the 6th - 8th grade teacher.

I don't support Senate Bill 36 because if it passes many people in rural villages will lose their jobs. Here in Nikolai about 1/4 of the people will lose jobs because of Senate Bill 36. It may cause 8 out of 9 schools in our district to be closed; this includes Nikolai's school. If the school gets closed the power plant may get closed also, because of the school funding it.

The reason it costs more money to educate us is because we heat & maintain a school built for about 100 students, when we only have 26 students. That's not the students' fault, and we shouldn't have to pay for the mistakes adults made before we were even born.

I propose that we do away with Senate Bill 36 because of how poor our schools are, and try to come up with a solution that will benefit all of Alaska's kids.

Sincerely,

Joel Ross Carpenter  
Joel Ross Carpenter

I really dont like this bill. My family  
and friends will be poor and out of jobs.  
We will be forced to move if we want a proper  
education.

Please dont pass this bill, I would be  
very grateful if you dont.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

-Royce Holm

Royce Holm

Irene Nicholia  
Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska, 99801

3-23-98

Royce Holm  
P.O. Box 4144  
Nikolai, Alaska 99691

Dear Irene Nicholia

My name is Royce Holm. I'm 13 years old, and I'm in the eighth grade attending Top of the Kuskokwim School in Nikolai, Alaska.

I'm against Senate Bill 56 because it is very unfair. If this bill passes I will be put out of an education. I really don't want to move.

The school will be shut down. My family will have their electricity shut off because the city can not afford the electricity. The generator will be shut down. Everyone in the town will have to go back to a subsistence way of life.

Most of the teachers in the school district will be put out of a job and they will have to move. Many people will lose their jobs if the school is shut down or budgets decreased. If you help this bill pass you helped ruin the lives of everyone in rural Alaska.

Senate Bill 36 is unfair because it's taking the only chance of getting an education away from many kids in rural Alaska. Since you guys had a chance as a kid, you should be considerate enough to give other kids a chance. You also need to realize that the teachers spent four years going to college to be a teacher. They also have to support their families. Many of these teachers are from rural Alaska. It's like your wasting 4 years of these teachers' lives, and forcing them to be jobless or move from their homes. I do not want the Senators or Representatives to pass Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,

Sarah Joy Holm  
Sarah Joy Holm

Irene Nicholia  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, A.K. 99801

3-27-98

Sarah Joy Holm  
Box 9144  
Nikola A.K. 99691

Dear Irene Nicholia

I am Sarah Holm, and I'm in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I am an Alaskan. I used to live in Homer, A.K., but I moved to Nikolai because my dad and step-mom live here. I am 11 years old.

I do not support Senate Bill 36, because it's not fair. It's not fair because it's stealing money from our school, and putting it in other schools. If they pass Senate Bill 36 our school will be shut down. This will cause the city electric company to have to go out of business, because it's supported by the school. That means there will be no heat, running water, or electricity.

Irene Nicholia  
Alaska State legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

March 26, 1998

Andrew Runkle  
P.O. Box  
Nikolai, AK 99691

Dear Irene Nicholia

My name is Andrew Runkle. I am 13 years old and in the eighth grade. I will be going to a rural high school next year. I plan on playing high school basketball.

If Senate Bill 36 takes our funding away and gives it to urban schools, we will have no sports at our schools; we won't have a good school to go to. People will have to move away from their homes, send their kids to boarding schools, or else they will just have to teach their own kids.

I think this is unfair. There will be a lot of kids that would drop out of school because school won't be fun anymore. Some of my friends are already saying that they'll drop out of school if this happens.

A lot of families in rural areas aren't rich enough to move to Anchorage or Fairbanks so their kids could go to school. These are some of the reasons that I don't support Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,

Andrew Runkle

Irene Nicholia  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Ak. 99801

March 25, 1998

Dietrich M. Nikolai  
P.O. Box 9153  
Nikolai, AK 99691

Dear Irene Nicholia

My name is Dietrich Nikolai. I am 13 years old and I'm in the 7th grade. I really look forward to playing basketball when I go into 7th grade.

I'm against Senate Bill 36 because I probably won't be able to go to school here for my last year. If the State shuts down these schools, the City of Nikolai will be forced to shut down the generator. We won't have any running water or electricity. This town won't be fun to live in any more if all this happens.

If you think about how Senate Bill 36 will realistically affect rural Alaska, you will realize that it could destroy all of our lives. Most of us won't be able to get a good education, and we will have to get sent away from our families to attend boarding schools.

Everybody will lose their jobs, even my mom will lose her job working here at the school. So I really hope that the State Politicians don't allow this to happen to us and all the other schools around the district.

Please, vote against Senate Bill 36. Don't take away our future.

Sincerely,

Dietrich Nikolai

Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

March 27, 1998

Brandon P. Esai  
P.O. Box 9144  
Nikolai, AK 99691

Dear *Irene Nikolai*

My name is Brandon Esai, and I'm in the 6th grade. I am 11 years old.

My problem with Senate Bill 36 is that I might not be able to go to school here next year. If our school gets shut down our power plant will get shut down also, because the school supports it. Then the whole town of Nikolai will have no electricity.

A lot of people will have to move from Nikolai. They will have to go to McGrath, Alaska. McGrath will have a lot of people if people from Nikolai move there, but the adults won't have any jobs. I don't want to move. Our teacher, Michelle Carpenter, won't have a job; she's from McGrath, so she'd have to leave her home too. These are the reasons why I don't want this bill to pass.

Sincerely,

*Brandon Esai*

Brandon Paul Esai

Representative Irene Nicholia

Alaska State Legislator

Juneau, AK 99801

March 27, 1998

Angela Tony

P.O. Box 9147

Nikolai, AK 99691

Dear Irene Nicholia

This I am Angela Tony and I am thirteen years old. I am in seventh grade and I am from Nikolai, Alaska.

I don't think Senate Bill 36 is a good thing because I live in a small village. If this bill passes I will have to leave Nikolai and I don't want to. It will affect everyone in Nikolai.

People will lose their jobs. There might not be any more electricity in Nikolai. I hope you think about what will happen to all the people this will affect. I lived in Nikolai all my life and I really like it here. It's what I am used to. Please, do not let this bill pass.

Sincerely,

Angela Tony

Angela Tony

Representative Irene Nicholiz  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

03-23-98

Miranda Betty Petruska  
P.O. Box 9162  
Nikolai, Alaska 99691

Dear Ms. Nicholiz,

My name is Miranda Betty Petruska and I live in Nikolai, Alaska. I go to the Top of the Kuskokwim School. I am thirteen years old and in the eighth grade.

I do not support Senate Bill 36 at all. I just wanted to say what would happen if that bill passes through. My school will probably get shut down. Most people here will lose their jobs; that includes my family members. The electricity in this town will probably get shut down because the school supports the electricity here and the school might have to close. There may not be a lot of kids here but the school district still has to maintain the schools.

Think about what the ramifications to rural Alaska are if Senate Bill 36 passes. We won't have lights; we will have to wash our clothes by hand, we won't have running water, we won't be able to use our computers; we won't be able to take showers; and some people who have electric furnaces won't have any heat.

I think you guys are going way over board with this. You don't have any idea how this specific school works. If you support Senate Bill 36 you will probably destroy some children's futures. I was planning on going to high school in Sitka, Alaska; now I'm concerned that this won't be a possibility. There is possibly some kid out there who wants to be a teacher and teach in rural Alaska, but will have to give up that dream.

If you support the bill you will be ruining the villages just to support a few cities. That is so unfair. You should put yourself in a villager's position and see how it feels. I feel scared, frustrated, and very annoyed.

Sincerely,

Miranda Betty Petruska

Miranda Betty Petruska

3/23/98

Stephanie Petruska  
P.O. Box 9111  
Nikolai, AK 99691

Dear, *J. Gene L. Nikolai*

Hi, my name is Stephanie Petruska. I am 13 years old, and I am in the 6th grade. I go to school in Nikolai, Alaska.

I do not want to support Senate Bill 36, because it might cause our school to shut down, and our electric company too. It is not good. We won't have any lights or running water. We will have to carry water from the river, and use a candle or start a fire to see. We will have to wash our clothes where there is water and rocks mixed together; maybe down by Salmonberry Lake. I'd rather go swimming at the lake than have to wash our clothes.

It will be no good to shut down our school. The parents want their children to go to school at home, and not have to go somewhere far away to go to school. I have a little brother who's 5 years old. I don't want him to have to live with strangers at a boarding home if he's going to go to school.

That's why I don't support Senate Bill 36. You shouldn't support it either, because too many people will get hurt by it.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Petruska*

Stephanie Petruska

Please speak with the Governor about this. We want to know what he's doing to work with the legislature to help solve this problem. We'd rather worry about whether we're going to get an "A" on our science test tomorrow or whether we're going to be ready to teach our students something new next week, than worrying about whether our dreams of a successful & productive future are no longer possible!

Sincerely,

Top of the Kuskokwim School students & staff

Michelle Carpenter  
Martha Nelson

MIRANDA PETRUSKA

Mitch Nikolai  
Dietrich Nikolai

Angela Tony

Sarah Holm

Stephanie Petruska  
Jad Ross Kopent

Andrew Runke

Brandon Paul Esai

Robert Alexie

Prayer John

Cardace Warner

Debbie John Holm

Dylan

Jeremiah

Nick Alexie SR

Shawn  
Lynn

Damian  
Dennis

Steven Nikolai Jr.

Katelyn Gregoritz

ROBERT

TZHN CU

KEISTIA

Beth Petruska

Bella Gregory

Top of the Kuskokwim School, IASD  
P.O. Box 9190  
Nikolai, AK 99691

March 25, 1998

Dear Irene Nicholia,

We are writing in regards to Senate Bill 36. We are the students & staff of a K-8 school within the Iditarod Area School District. We currently have 21 students in grades Kindergarten - eighth grade, in addition to five Preschool students. Our school employs six classified part-time employees and two certified full-time employees. We are concerned about many comments & "threats" made by Alaska's politicians over this last month in regards to our education and jobs.

It's obvious to us that both rural and urban school districts have many needs, much of which are at a "crisis" status. We are concerned because it appears that a political game is being played. This educational crisis is being turned into a rural vs. urban issue, when the real issue is that all of Alaska's schools are in crisis, and all need help! We are concerned because it appears that politicians are more interested in making noise than working together to come up with the best possible solution to our education problem.

In the Anchorage Daily News' article "School funding scuffle", Gregg Erickson used the North Slope and Anchorage school districts to illustrate the inequity of state funding in rural schools & urban schools. As we're sure you know this is painting an inaccurate picture of rural Alaskan schools. Most rural Alaskan schools are like ours.

We are concerned about the threat of money being taken away from our school budget when we've already cut back and are operating with skeleton budgets;. For example, out of town field-trips, professional development training, and "special" classes (art, music, etc.) have been eliminated; our high school was closed three years ago; certified staff are expected to teach classes with wider grade-spans and often with many special education students without the on-site help from special education teachers; teachers often have extra duties placed on them without monetary compensation, are expected to do the

Nikolai, AK 99691

March 23, 1998

As residents of the interior community of Nikolai, we were disturbed by the Senate passage of Senate Bill 36.

Nikolai has 21 students in grades K to 8, and could be slated to close if this bill passes. The ramifications of this would be great. The closing of the school creates a domino effect. City revenues that provide light & power, sewage, water, and cable TV services could dry up. Families would have to move elsewhere to educate their children. Our language and subsistence life-style would be in jeopardy.

The future of Alaska is our children, yet legislators in Juneau want to reduce or cut off their education opportunities. Does this make sense? We think not.

Signed:

Candace Waruch  
 Jerry Gregory  
 Nick Alexia SR  
 Nick Alessis  
 Steve D. Nikolai  
 Irene N. Nikolai  
 Abraham N. Petruska  
 Samoy Johnsen  
 Beverly Gregory  
 Ann H. Alexia  
 Bobby Essi Jr.  
 Mary Ellen Kimball  
 Wanchell Jackson  
 Gregory L. Okliff

Greg Long - MAYOR  
 Annie M. John  
 Phil P. P. P.  
 Oline Nukalun  
 Juniors P. P.  
 David Peterson  
 Helen A. P. P.  
 W. B. P. P.  
 Joshua P. Nikolai  
 Michael Sabino  
 Roger Jenkins  
 Debbie Gray/John  
 George Gregory Sr.  
~~George Gregory Sr.~~

Nikolai, AK 99691  
March 23, 1998

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The future of Alaska is our children, yet legislators in Juneau want to reduce or cut off their education opportunities. Does this make sense? We think not.

Signed:

Sarah Ostkolchoff  
Martha Nikolai  
Robert Gregory  
John Runkle  
Verdria Bessis  
Agnes Tony  
Clarence Gofenberg  
Anna L. Alexie-John  
Carl Gregory  
anna alexie  
Sobias R. Wills  
Bette Petruska  
Michelle Carpenter  
Miriam Peterson  
Mich Nikolai

Angela Tony  
Sarah Holm  
Stephanie Petruska  
ANDREW RUNKLE  
Joe Ross Carpenter  
Brandon Paul Esai  
Robert Alexie  
Kouze Holm  
Katelyn Carpenter  
Robert  
Tina  
Jeremiah  
Sahm  
Dietrich M. Nikolai

Dylan  
Kristin  
Sharl  
Cannon

To: Senate & House Legislators  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Fred Dennis  
P.O. Box 9156  
Nikolai, AK 99691



RE: Senate Bill 36

I am writing this letter regarding Senate Bill 36. This bill, if passed, would be very devastating to Nikolai. Not only will the school here be forced to close but people here in the community would be forced to move elsewhere so their kids could get the education they needed to succeed in the future. Also, the economy here in Nikolai is next to nothing if people are forced to move. We as a community would stand no chance of keeping the community going. The people living here will have no place to go. The education in rural Alaska is just as important as that of urban communities. I feel that Senate Bill 36 is discriminating to kids in rural Alaska just because some people seem to think that city folks are not getting their education. Back in 1984 when I was still in sixth grade or so I was one of the kids who asked the Governor for money to build this school and it cost just over a half million dollars. So if the funding is cut all that asking and pleading would have been for nothing. So please be fair to the kids here and VOTE NO on SB 36.

THANKS

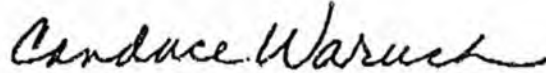
Top of the Kuskokwim School  
PO Box 9190  
Nikolai, AK 99691  
4/1/98

To Whom It May Concern (RE: Senate Bill 36):

I have taught in rural Alaska since 1977, and am **appalled** by the recent urban support of Senate Bill 36.

Rural students need and deserve a quality education. To change the funding base in favor of larger schools, as proposed by SB 36 would take away the rural students' schools, thus jeopardizing the future of all communities in rural Alaska. This would have a negative impact on the **entire** state of Alaska.

Rural communities need to speak up and unite in giving Juneau a wake-up call to keep our small schools.



Candace Waruch  
Teacher  
907-293-2449

Senate Finance Committee  
 Room 532 Capitol  
 Senate Finance Room, 5th Floor, Capitol

Co-Ch: Senator Drue Pearce  
 Senator Bert Sharp

February 27, 1998

Scheduled hearing Saturday February 28, 1998 at 10:00 AM on CS SB 36 (FIN)

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. In the beginning the Legislature created the Foundation Formula to fund Education, and REAA'S were formed. It has been said that there needs to be a more "Fair and Equitable" solution. Taxing REAA'S will not pay for Education in Rural Alaska. A school tax will. A retail tax will. An Educational Endowment will.

Are we inviting violence, crime, addiction, intolerance, and lost potential? Is the Legislature prepared to pay the cost of a 100% increase in supporting delinquent children and Families because of and increase of drug use, tobacco use, violent and anti-social behavior, depression, suicide attempts, teenage sexual activity, all because of REAA School Closures? We spend more to house and rehabilitate criminals than Education for children.

Why did we get a D+ grade on the Quality Counts 98 Report, its not because of students, teachers, superintendents, school board members, or community leaders, the fault lies with the State Legislature. Funding has not been provided by the state to keep up with inflation. It has been pass the \$BUCK\$ for the last 10 years!

With CS SB 36 (FIN), We the REAA'S are being forced into Cultural Genocide. Are you the Elected lawmakers and leaders of this great state prepared to face the consequences of cutting off the hand that FEEDS YOU?

McLaren C. (Mac) Carter  
 Secretary-Treasure  
 Yukon Flats Regional School Board  
 (H)PO BOX 30009  
 Central Alaska, 99730  
 (H) 907-520-5999  
 e-mail mcarter897@aol.com  
 fax 907-520-5151

*McLaren C. Carter*

Senator: Georgeann Hinkley  
 Rep: Ernie Nikkola

cc: Gov Tony Knowles  
 Comm. Shirley Holloway  
 Lt Gov. Fran Ulmer  
 Honorable: Frank Munkowski  
 Honorable: Ted Stevens  
 Honorable: Don Young  
 Senator: Bert Sharp  
 Senator: Randy Phillips  
 Senator: Jim Duncan  
 Rep: Reggie Joule  
 Rep: Gene Kukina

**PSTC**

Pilot Station Traditional Council

P.O.Box 5119 Pilot Station, Alaska 99650 Ph#(907) 549-3373 Fax #(907) 549-3301

**RESOLUTION NO. 98-01**

**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 Pilot Station Traditional Council represents the political interests and promotes the well-being of the Pilot Station Tribal Community of Pilot Station, and

**WHEREAS,** PSTC's role and responsibility includes advocating for the rights and interests of the people of the community in pursuing governmental services to address their basic human needs and improve their living conditions, and

**WHEREAS,** The most important resource of the community 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 right 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 Districts 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 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 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 mathemtic, 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 Pilot Station Traditional Council respectfully implorcs and requests the Alaska State Legislature to reconsider its position and action towards the children of rural Alaska.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Pilot Station Traditional Council, hereby opposes passage of Senate Bill No. 36 by the Alaska State Legislature.

**PASSED** March 14, 98 , By the Pilot Station Traditional Council with a duly constituted quorum of members present.

**CERTIFICATION:**

Arthur Heckman Sr  
Arthur Heckman Sr President

Barbara Heckman  
Barbara Heckman Vice President

Julia B. Nick  
Julia Nick Member

Rose Zacharof  
Rose Zacharof Secretary

Albert Beans Jr  
Albert Beans Jr Member

**Sleetmute Traditional Council  
P.O. Box 34  
Sleetmute, Alaska 99668  
Phone No. (907) 449-4205**

**RESOLUTION # 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 Sleetmute Traditional Council is a federally recognized Tribal governing body for the Native Village of Sleetmute, Alaska, and;**

**WHEREAS: The Sleetmute Traditional Council represents the political interests and promotes the well-being of the Native Village of Sleetmute, and;**

**WHEREAS: The Sleetmute Traditional Council's role includes advocating for the rights and interests of the people in our village by pursuing governmental services to address their basic human needs, and;**

**WHEREAS: The most important resource of this region is the 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 right available to all children no matter where they live or what 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 Districts 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: Graduate students should be confident and capable individuals, who possess academic skills and technology skills that are marketable. The people of this region need and requires 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 No. 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 Sleetmute Traditional Council and many other rural villages 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 the Middle Kuskokwim Region along with many other regions, already experiencing economic disasters from recent fishing industry failures, etc., 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 education provided for the children of the regions, 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, 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;

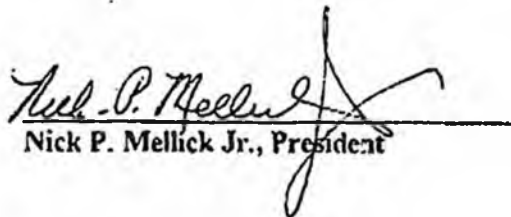
**WHEREAS:** The rural school districts are working diligently and successfully to support and assist in this process.

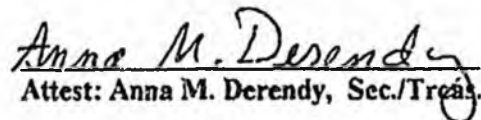
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Sleetmute Traditional Council respectfully implores and requests the Alaska State Legislature to reconsider its position and action towards the children of rural Alaska.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Sleetmute Traditional Council hereby opposes passage of Senate Bill No. 36 by the Alaska State Legislature.

### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was passed and approved by the Sleetmute Traditional Council at the Special meeting on this 16 day of March 1998. With a quorum of 4 present and 1 absent.

  
Nick P. Mellick Jr., President

  
Attest: Anna M. Derendy, Sec./Treas.

TULUKSAK NATIVE COMMUNITY  
PO BOX 95  
TULUKSAK, ALASKA 99679-0095  
TELEPHONE: (907) 695-6420  
FAX-LINE: (907) 695-6932

RESOLUTION NO. 98-03- 06

A Resolution opposing Alaska Senate Bill No. 35 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 Effective Date."

WHEREAS; The Native Community of Tuluksak - Tribal Council is the Federally Recognized Governing body for the Tuluksak, Alaska, and;

WHEREAS; Tuluksak's role and responsibility includes advocating for the rights and interests of the people of the region in pursuing governmental services to address their basic human needs and improve their living conditions, and

WHEREAS; The most important resource of the region 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 right 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 Districts 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 AVCP region, already experiencing as 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 economic progress of the children living in rural Alaska in areas of math, reading, and writing, and in particular, it will halt the advancement of knowledge, skills of the children and their 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 Tuluksak Native Community Tribal Council support implores and requests the Alaska State Legislature of reconsider its position and action towards the children of rural Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Tuluksak Native Community Tribal Council hereby opposes passage of Senate Bill No. 36 by the Alaska State Legislature.

#### CERTIFICATION

It is hereby Certified that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 1998. With a quorum of the Tuluksak Native Council was formed, did Pass and Adopt the preceding Resolution by 6 Affirmative and 0 Negative Votes. 1 Absent

Signed by;

Joseph Alexie  
President, Joseph Alexie

Attested by;

Elcna D. Gregory  
Secretary, Elcna D. Gregory

**TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.**

TOK SUBREGION  
P.O. BOX 129  
TOK, ALASKA 99780  
Phone: (907) 883-5181  
Fax: (907) 883-1114

Representative Bunde  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

April 1, 1998

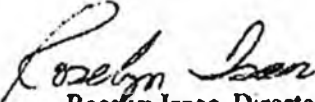
Dear Representative Bunde,

I am opposing Senate Bill 36 because it is extremely unfair to rural children and our rural schools. It will close smaller schools and when this happens, does that mean that our children will be transferred to another school? In isolated places like Eagle, where the only mode of transportation is by air or road depending on the season and Healy Lake, by air and boat or snow machine; to transport school children will not only be costly but unrealistic. Will parents have to put their children on home correspondence?

The amendment that would impose a 3% employment tax in the REAA's is unfair as it imposes an income tax on Alaskans who most of the year are unemployed. There is a high unemployment in Upper Tanana area. Most employment is seasonal through out rural Alaska.

Also, it causes a very unnecessary division between urban and rural as this legislation is not equitable as it will take all the state education funding from one school district in the state, as is being done to the North Slope Borough. Approximately 80% or more of the state revenue comes from oil and gas development in the North Slope Borough. Is this fair? Why not provide Equitable share among all school districts so that every Alaskan child will have the same opportunities to Equitable education? Rural Alaskan children deserve the same Equitable education as Urban Alaskan children per our State and Federal Constitution!

Sincerely;

  
Roselyn Isaac, Director  
Tok Subregion

cc: Gov. Tony Knowles  
Representative Vezey  
Representative Dyson  
Representative Porter  
Representative Brice  
Representative Kemplen  
Representative Green  
Upper Tanana Subregion Village Councils

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.  
TESTIMONY ON CS SENATE BILL NO. 36 (HOUSE HESS)  
BY  
Reva Shircel ON 4/1/98

Mr. Chairperson, Members

My name is Reva Shircel and for the past 15 years, I have been the director of Education for the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

I appreciate this opportunity to speak today.

I have listened very closely to the people who have spoken before me.

In the Indian way, it is a moral obligation to provide adequate education for our children. In the state of Alaska, every child has that right-~~the~~ right to an adequate education is guaranteed to all its citizens under the state's constitution.

The 37 federally recognized tribes of the Tanana Chiefs Conference wish to make their position known on Senate Bill 36- the proposed bill changing the public school funding formula. As you are aware, this bill would move millions of dollars in state aid from rural to urban school districts with the expectation that rural communities would somehow be able to finance the loss of funds through the establishment of organized boroughs. We respectfully request that committee members of House HESS consider carefully the ramifications of taking away the educational resources of **any** of Alaska's children.

This state has **never-never in its history**-taken away from one child so it can give to another. They have always made sure that all of Alaska's children's needs and rights were met.

Until plans are implemented for long-term and sustainable economic development within rural Alaska, the legislature must be realistic in their expectations that an adequate tax base could be generated from newly-created organized boroughs to support the educational needs of rural Alaskan children.

All of us as parents, and the Alaska legislature which serves us-must always be committed to providing quality educational opportunities to all of Alaska's citizens no matter where they live in this state.

I've heard the numbers bandied around that Anchorage has 40% of the state's students and receives 30% of the state's education funds. That may be true but we also need to remember that the overwhelming majority of this state's schools are located not in Anchorage or Juneau or Fairbanks or on the Kenai Peninsula, but in rural Alaska's communities. The needs of this great state are many when it comes to preparing our next generations to live together as Alaskan citizens. The spirit of this bill and its obvious

impact on the future generations of rural Alaska's children neither addresses those needs nor prepares Alaska's children to enter the 21st Century together with equal chance and opportunity and on equal terms as Alaskan citizens.

SB36 fails to take into account the realities of the higher cost for services in the majority of Alaska's smaller communities.

Sb36 would make our children in rural Alaska bear an unconscionable future cost, - the quality of their education. That is ethically and morally wrong!!

In the Indian way, it is a moral obligation to provide adequate education to our children, and that has always been the Alaskan way, too. As Alaskan citizens, let's all keep it that way.

Thank you.

*Closing of  
schools  
that will  
affect  
quality  
of Educ*

*There is  
no equity  
in closing  
schools*

**TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Proposed Resolution No. 98-03**

**SENATE BILL 36 UNFAIR TO RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**WHEREAS,** Senate Bill 36 would move millions of dollars in state aid from rural to urban school districts; and

**WHEREAS,** Senate Bill 36 was written as a result of a study by the McDowell Group, where each school in both rural and urban areas was treated as a Single-Site school, with little attention paid to the extreme differences in the cost of living in rural areas vs urban areas; and

**WHEREAS,** Senate Bill 36 does not increase funds for rural school districts even though the current funding formula foundation has not kept up with the inflation rate since 1987, and even though rural school districts are already operating on a "bare-bones" existence; and

**WHEREAS,** the McDowell Group Study does not take into consideration the different costs of educating students in different areas as evidenced by SB36 placing a cap on categorical funding at 20% for every school, regardless of whether they have higher percentages of students than 20% who are in Special Education, Gifted and Talented, Bilingual, or in Vocational Education programs; and

**WHEREAS,** because of the devastating educational cuts affecting of instruction being imposed by Senate Bill 36, one school district in the TCC Region will be forced to cut its certified staff by over 20%, or 10 teachers, and within that school district, one site consisting of 19 students would be reduced to one principal/teacher who would be responsible for the entire K-12 curriculum; and

**WHEREAS,** under this bill, there are plans being suggested by legislators to consolidate school districts, i.e. Yukon Koyukuk and Yukon Flats, which will result in one school district of 139,000 square miles with one school board, and one Chief Administrative Officer; and

**WHEREAS,** due to a new requirement in Senate Bill 36 that states that a school must have 20 students in order to receive funding, seven school sites within the two above-mentioned school districts will be closed, and children in a school with smaller than ten students within the TCC Region will be forced to be included in the largest school in the district existing as of July 1, 1998, or may be sent by their parents to regional boarding schools across the state, disconnected from their families; and

**WHEREAS,** legislators from the majority party are requiring unorganized areas to become municipalities or boroughs in order for them to financially support the operations of their school through taxation or other local contributions even though there is no tax base; and

**WHEREAS,** monies will be taken away from fiscally under-funded school districts with a large Native population who live in areas of high poverty, low income, high unemployment, and low test scores.

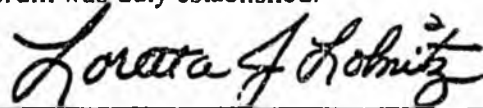
**WHEREAS,**

Senate Bill 36's proposed state aid, less existing foundation aid, would affect the following school districts and numbers of students in our region as follows: Alaska Gateway, minus \$654,086 in funding for 494 students; Galena City, minus \$1,671,683 in funding for 222 students; Iditarod, minus \$590,819 in funding for 436 students; Nenana City, minus \$481,537 in funding for 111 students; Tanana City, minus \$188,863 in funding for 102 students; Yukon Flats, minus \$881,511 in funding for 409 students; and Yukon Koyukuk, minus \$922,820 in funding for 554 students.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tanana Chiefs Board of Directors strongly oppose the passage of Senate Bill 36 because of its inequity towards all students in rural Alaskan school districts.

**C E R T I F I C A T I O N**

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. Board of Directors on March 19, 1998 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.



Loretta Lolnitz  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Submitted by:**

Holy Cross Village Council



**TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Proposed Resolution No. 98-19**

**STATE INITIATIVES**

**WHEREAS,** in the Alaska State Legislature, the urban legislative majority has passed or proposed laws to:

1. take school funding from rural/bush districts with higher costs to increase urban school funding;
2. force boroughs in rural/bush areas with no or little tax base;
3. force boroughs in rural/bush areas without the consent of those affected;
4. impose an income tax only on rural/bush Alaskans, those with the least economic opportunity and income;
5. oppose the rural subsistence priority which is the cornerstone of rural/bush spiritual, economical, and cultural life;
6. recognize "English only" but not Native languages;
7. eliminate the Department of Community and Regional Affairs; and

**WHEREAS,** the legislative majority has authorized and used hundreds of thousands of dollars to initiate action to destroy tribal powers within Alaska; and

**WHEREAS,** the school districts, tribal governments, non-profit and for-profit corporations and individuals of rural/bush Alaska do multi-millions of dollars for business with retail, wholesale, banking, transportation, professional and other services in urban Alaska; and

**WHEREAS,** all rural bush Alaskans must fight and take action in self-defense against the spiritual, economic and political tyranny of the urban legislative majority.

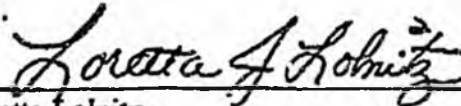
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tanana Chiefs Board of Directors directs TCC staff to:

1. Contact all urban firms with which it does business and inform them of the harm being done to rural/bush Alaskans by the urban legislative majority, and inform them of the harm that a boycott by our people would do to their businesses;

- 2. Except for services that are life or property threatening, limit doing business with urban firms that support and contribute funding to legislators who oppose the interests of rural Alaska;
- 3. Limit holding meetings, conferences, workshops and training programs in urban areas;
- 4. Urge all school districts, tribes, governments, corporations and individuals of rural/bush Alaska to take similar action to defend the education, economy and spiritual and cultural culture of rural/bush Alaska.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. Board of Directors on March 19, 1998 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Loretta Lohritz  
 Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Fort Yukon  
Lower Yukon



**Alaska Inter-Tribal Council  
Resolution 98-01**

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 36**

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council (AI-TC is a statewide consortium of 176 tribes in Alaska dedicated to protect, advocate, and preserve the sovereign culture and traditional lifestyles of the indigenous tribal peoples of Alaska, and; .

**WHEREAS**, the quality of education for our children in the villages is the poorest received throughout the State of Alaska, and ;

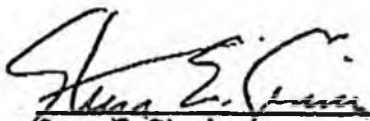
**WHEREAS**, rural school districts rely on State funding to provide the basic fundamentals in reading, writing, and mathematics, and;


**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 36 (Funding Cuts to Rural School Districts) would reallocate millions of dollars of State Education Funding from rural schools to urban districts.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council oppose the passage of Senate Bill 36, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council ask the Governor of Alaska to veto this bill.

**PASSED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE ALASKA INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH 1998 BY A VOTE OF 12 YES, 0 NO, AND 0 ABSTAINING.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve E. Ginnis  
Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Vo  
Executive Director

**RESOLUTION 98-05  
YUPIIT OF ANDREAFSKI**

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ALASKA SENATE BILL NO. 36 RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING PROGRAM, THE DEFINITION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT LAYOFF PLANS, THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AGENCY AND THE CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS, The Yupiit of Andreafski is a Federally recognized governing body representing the Native Village of Andreafski, and**

**WHEREAS, The Yupiit of Andreafski's role and responsibility includes advocating for the rights and interests of its Tribal members in pursuing governmental services to address their basic needs and improve their living conditions, and**

**WHEREAS, The most important resource 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 right available to all children regardless of 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 is vital not only to provide for the future of our 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 children of the Yupiit of Andreafski and this 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, Many 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, Passage of Senate Bill 36 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 Yupiit of Andreafski and this region, and**

**WHEREAS, Passage of Senate Bill 36 will halt the academic progress of the children living in rural Alaska in areas of mathematics, reading and writing and it will also halt the advancement of knowledge, skills and abilities of the children and their future contribution to the general well-being and economy this region, and**

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

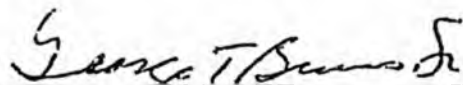
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Yupiit of Andreafski Tribal Council respectfully implores and requests the Alaska State Legislature to reconsider its position and action towards the children of rural Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Yupiit of Andreafski Tribal Council hereby opposes passage of Senate Bill No. 36 by the Alaska State Legislature.

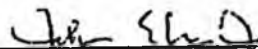
PASSED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE YUPIIT OF ANDREAFSKI  
THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 1998 IN ANDREAFSKI, ALASKA BY A VOTE OF 5 IN  
FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, AND 0 ABSTAINING.

BY:

ATTEST:



George T. Beas, Sr.  
President



John Elia, Jr.  
Vice-President

**AKIUK MEMORIAL SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Resolution # 98-03-15**

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SB-36 AN ACT RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS** The AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board have become aware of SB-36 via Legislative Bulletin, week 1, dated January 16, 1998 and radio reports; and

**WHEREAS** The AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board realizes that we are approaching a new century beginning with the year 2000; and,

**WHEREAS** The new century, and advanced computer age, will require more advanced education for our Alaskan Native people; and,

**WHEREAS** SB-36 intends reduction of funding for Rural School Districts such as the Lower Kuskokwim School District where the reduction amount will be Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00); and,

**WHEREAS** the reduction will be detrimental to the education of our students in the Rural School Districts; and,

**WHEREAS** The AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board being in charge and having a duty that our Alaskan Native youth receive quality education are in complete agreement with Governor Knowles objective that the Alaskan children come first and that all the children/students receive quality education; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board opposes SB-36 for the stated reasons and request that the bill is not passed, and that if the bill passes the Alaska State Legislature, the Governor vetoes it; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** that the copies of this resolution is sent to the following:

- Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of Alaska
- Honorable Randy Phillips, Alaska State Senator
- Honorable Gail Phillips, Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Honorable Mike Miller, President of the Alaska Senate
- Honorable Lyman Hoffman, Alaska Senator
- Honorable Ivan M. Ivan, State Representative
- Myron Naneng, President of Association of Village Council Presidents
- Julie Kitka, President of Alaska Federation of Natives
- Jeanine Kennedy, President of RURAL CAP
- Steve Ginnis, Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
- Dr. Shirley Holloway, Commissioner, State Department of Education

Passed and Adopted this 12 th day of March, 19 98 on a duly called meeting of the Advisory School Board.

  
Sam Twitchell, ASB Chairman

ATTEST:   
Catherine Berlin, Secretary

WE THE UNDERSIGNED OPPOSE SENATE BILL 98

Signature	Print	Signature	Print
	Russ G. Johnson		Nora Brink
	Catherine Berlin		Emma Kalila
	Paul D. Andrew		Alexandra Brink
	Howard R. Tinker		Sassa Brink
	Selma Bair		Anna Maxie
	Diane Fournier		WILLIAM C. MAXIE
	Christine Fournier		Anita A. Berlin
	Andrew Lesh		RODERICK DEMIENTIEFF
	Palasia Tinker		Martha Demientieff
	John Twitchell		Henry Charles
	Alexandra White		Maria A. Charles
	Irene M. Thomas		Agnes K. Charles
	Fannie Brink		Molly C. Oscar
	Lucy Kassel		John A. Andrews
	DORA WASSILLIE		Juanita Andrew
	Nastasia Evan		Caryl C. Tommy
	Mike Martin Sr.		Annie Twitchell
	Maureen Nicholas		Maria Nicholas
	Naomi Tinker		Evan J. Nicholas
	ANNIE K. ANDREW		Paul Nicholas
	John P. Slim		Sillafie Thomas Sr.
	Yeako Slim		Martha M. Keene
	George H. Keene Jr.		George H. Keene Sr.
	Lucy Brink		Victor P. Keene
	Grace Brink		Jennette Berlin
	Nellie Slim		Daniel Berlin Sr.
	Kalila Slim		AGNES BERLIN
	Mary Brink		Teddy Sipary
	Martha Brink		



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House HESS  
committee name

committee on SB 316 Public School Funding dated April 1, 1998  
bill # / subject

I would urge you not to allow this bill to become a bone of contention separating urban and rural schools. Our district, the Kenai Peninsula, has more "rural" students than most "rural" districts do. We have students riding buses 45 minutes one way on a two lane highway every day to get to school. We also have students that must leave their homes and live in another community in order to finish high school. Our district has been hurting for a long time. I believe that this bill does address some inequities, however, I would like to see enough money added to education funding that, with the new formula, the rural schools would still end up with the same amount of money that they now have. I do not believe that rural schools are over-funded, however, I know that Kenai schools are under-funded. I would be supportive of setting up an education fund

Signed: Deborah Adams

Testifier

KCHS PTSA

Representing (Optional)

606 Laurel Dr. Kenai, AK

Address

283-4982

Phone number

using part of individual permanent fund dividends. It is ridiculous that, in the richest state in the Country, we have to beg for money for our kid's education.

HHES - SB 36 TESTIMONY FROM DEBORAH ADAMS PG. 2 OF 2  
606 LAUREL DR  
KENAI, AK 99611  
283-4982

These names shown here will be affected by CSSB 36 if it passes into law. Ekula Eitnaurvik is a rural school located 25 miles west of Bethel.

Serena R. Demientieff

Katherine M. Sergi

Michael Mikulak

Jayson Hoover

Pat Nicholas

Satiana Nicholas

Cherie Isaac

Meraldine Tinker

Paula Brink

Marie K. Nicholas

Charlotte Charles

Hoss Charles Nicholas

Nathaniel Beaver

Curtis Kassel

Julianne Tinker

Kristine Tinker

Thomas Nicholas

Olga Christie

Norman Neer

Yeako Wassie

Annita Hoover

Charity Jackson

Gelga Brink

Habe Brink

Michael Demientieff P.

Michael T. J. Tinker III

Nicholas Nicholas

Michael Y Demientieff

Patrick Sergi

Gabriel Nicholas

Yvonne Jackson

Cynthia Anvil

Thomas Brink

Robert Tinker

Moses Brink

Harry Tinker

Karlene Peter.

Timothy Beaver

Timothy Nick

Yvonne Tinker

Leroy Brink

Kimberly Hoover

Elizabeth Beaver	Leri Nicholas
Grand Beal	Joe
Nastasia Nicholas	Joseph Jr.
Gabby Sergie	Nicole Peter
Waniel Andrew III	Anna Nicholas
Jamie Nicholas	Robert Brink
NICHOLSON TINKER	Julia Sergie
Jermilyn Andrew	Marie Martin
CHASTITY KELLY	Cherilyn Demientin
Tackletha <del>PK</del>	Deric Tinker
Caroline Hoover	Annmarie Beaver
Alexis Nicholas	Jaclyn Hoover
Jonathan Twitchell	EMMANUEL Nicholas
Ezekiel Thomas	Jamie Brink
Natalia Martin	Marlene Kinegart
Michelle Tinker	Thomas Active
Jackie Brink	
SAM Brink	
LeeAnn Berlin	
Kimberly twitchell	
Tia Tinker	
Misha Charles	
Timantia Brink	
Joshua Peter	
Jackie Nicholas	
Derek Active	

Dear Legislators,

April 78

We are the juniors and seniors of Akwa Elitnaukvik in Kasigluk Alaska. We are one of many schools that will be affected by CSSB 36. Some of the rural schools in our district will close and other schools that are still open will become overcrowded and be filled with a lot of discomfort. Some parents worry about their children's education because some will attempt to drop out and never go back to school. Some parents wonder how their six year old students will be able to go to school at another place where their parents won't be there due to the jobs that they might have in their home where they were staying for a long period of time.

We think that Urban and Rural schools should be treated equally. Urban schools have huge gyms with bleachers that are almost as high as the ceiling while Rural schools have small gyms that don't even as high as the rims. Urban schools also have football fields and swimming pools for students while rural schools ~~don't~~ have only a gym to practice all sports in. Why take what rural schools have and give it to urban schools, they have so many things that we don't have.

There is also one important thing that we have a chance of losing if the bill is passed, something that helps keep our pride of who we are. - our culture, our native language. We won't be able to study what our ancestors did in the early days. We will lose our native tongue and only be adjusted to the western way of life. Please don't take this away from us. What would you legislators do if you lost your pride in what

you know about your way of life or where you came from  
or the language that your ancestors spoke?

Sincerely  
Akula Juniors + Seniors

Serena V. Demientieff

Dawson Hoover

Peter Nicholas

Mike Nicholas  
Patrick Sergie

Serena Demientieff

Dawson Hoover

Peter Nicholas

Mike Nicholas

Patrick Sergie

Katherine Sergie

Olga Martin

Box 57

Kasigluk, AK 99609

To whom it may concern.

Well I am here to complain about the Senate Bill 36 thingy. Students from here don't want to move away from here which is Akula Eitnaurvik. They're saying that they don't want to move because it is a very good school. They have learned a lot of new and different things. They also want to graduate where they started school.

So please, do not take away our important thing away from us. It will ruin ~~our~~ the students. Most students are saying that they will not move away from this Akula Eitnaurvik school.

Olga Martin

YeaKo Wassilie

P.O. Box 11

Kasigluk AK 99609

Dear Legislators

We dont like what your doing taking eleven million dollars from the schools if you take that much of the money we'll have to let two teachers quit and we have good teachers And we might have no more basket ball.

YeaKo

3-27-98

Kristine Tinker

PO Box 31

Trinidad, CA 97609

Dear Legislators,

Please don't give money to the big cities from the LKSD. We need the money as much as you do. I had a good education at this school and I don't want to leave or drop out.

Kristine  
Tinker

P/O Boubé

Kensiglik AK

99609

Dear Legislators.

Please don't take our money okay? We want to travel anywhere to other villages and we want to see our friends. Last week Michael P Demientiff and I went to Canada at Yellowknife for N.Y.O. I learned about other countries and I had lots of friends from other countries. I learned Triple Jump and Sled Jump and it was pretty hard to me but it was very fun having N.Y.O. I don't want to leave this school to go to another school. We want to travel for sports and have fun with my friends. If you take it, I will be very sad.

Your friend  
Nicholai  
Nicholas

9074653871: # 9  
P.O. BOX 123  
Kasiluk, AK  
3/26/1998

Dear Legislators,

Please don't take away the money. We need it as much as you do. We like all of our yupik teachers. I don't want to move to an other school if ours close down. Well please don't take 1 million dollars away from the LKSD schools.

Gabe Brink

P.O. Box 178

Kasiglut #4

99009

Dear Legislators,

I would like to know why you people are taking our money away? How would you people feel if we took your money away and you had no schools? To us it is really terrible and we wouldn't like it to happen.

Sincerely,

Michael

P.O. Box 117  
Kasiglan A.K. 99607

Dear Legislator,

3-26-98

Why are you gonna take 11 million dollars  
from our school? What I'm saying is I love  
school, I love to travel, I love to play basketball,  
Eskimo dance, NY, and other sports + stuff  
and I wish to graduate Highschool right now  
I'm in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

SincerelyNorman  
Neek

Dear Legislators,

I'm a student from Kiangluk school.  
and I don't want to go to school in another  
place. We need the money just like you guys  
do.

Christy Jackson

9074653871;#13  
DANIEL KASSEL  
P.O. Box 37  
Kasiglak, AK  
99609

Dear Legislators,

Please don't take away \$11,000,000 from the LKSD. We need to have school in our village. We want the money as much as you do. We learn different things we never knew before in school. We want to have school in our village so we don't have to go to another school and leave our family, so please don't take away the money from the LKSD.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Kassel

## Why Is Senate Bill 36 Bad?

Education is important to us in our village. It is important because our language and culture are important to us. If Senate Bill 36 passed it would change our education and it wouldn't be the same anymore. Senate Bill 36 shouldn't pass because education will suffer, dropout rate will rise, and bilingual arts will be cut down.

Senate Bill 36 shouldn't pass because education will suffer. We students like to go to school and learn. We have favorite subjects in school, like to participate in them, and we like to show people what we can do. School is the fun place to be; it is better than staying home and doing nothing. SB 36 would mean that some students in LKSD could no longer learn in their school anymore, and wouldn't get to go to college. I even planned to go to college after I graduated from high school, but SB 36 might change that.

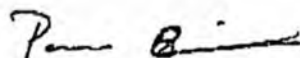
The next reason Senate Bill 36 shouldn't pass is because the dropout rate will rise. We students don't want to go to school anywhere else. Plus, we would even have a harder life.

The last reason Senate Bill 36 shouldn't pass is because bilingual arts will be cut down. We don't want that to happen because we ought to learn more about our culture and language, too. At school, bilingual arts means something to us and that's where we get our money to travel for sports and activities. The reason why sports and travelling is important is because we would want to show people what we can do and meet people from other villages. If Senate Bill 36 passes we wouldn't learn more about

our culture and languages and what they mean.

Education in our village is important to us, and it will always be important to us. We don't want our lives to be harder than they are. We hope Senate Bill 36 will not be passed because we don't want our language and culture to change, or dropout from school, or have a poor education. We want things right now to be the way they are now.

Sincerely,



Paula Brink

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Cherie Isaac and I am a sophomore at Akula Elitnaurvik. In my village, education is very important to us. Senate Bill 36 is bad because the bilingual will be cut, the drop out rate will rise, and the sports will be closed down.

Senate Bill 36 is bad because the bilingual will be cut. It is our culture and we don't want to lose it. If the bill passes there will be no kindergarten. The Bilingual Program pays for kindergarten children to go to school. Kindergartens are important because they learn different things about being a student before becoming first graders. The Bilingual Program also pays for our traveling money without it students will not be traveling anywhere. The importance of this will be discussed later. As you can see from the above argument, Senate Bill 36 is a bad idea because the bilingual will be cut, there will be no kindergartens, and no traveling money.

Another reason SB 36 is bad is because the drop out rate will rise. Students come to school to learn and to play in sport activities. Students will not be going to school because there will be no sports to join in. Students will be totally bored in school without sports and will want to quit or drop out of school. Senate Bill 36 is bad because the drop out rate will rise. There will be students quitting school because there will be no sports and no traveling.

The third reason about this bill is that education here in our village will suffer if this bill passes. The students will not be educated as much as before. Students will not learn a lot because there will be too many students in one room. Education will also suffer without teachers. If the bill passes we will lose teachers. Teachers are very important to us; They