

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1999-2000 8672

9803 HOUSE HEALTH EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

March 9, 1979

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 10 month a year custodian for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 9 and House Bill 17, and wish to have it submitted as written testimony in favor of these Bills.

Our system is all about fairness and equality. So it appears that when one group of Public School employees (certified) are treated better than another (classified), it flies in the face of the foundation of what our system says is right.

It is capricious and arbitrary to deny us year for year credit towards retirement when teachers are given that credit. Especially when you consider the fact that we actually work more time in a calendar year than they do. They deserve this credit, and so do we.

The Public School System is the bedrock of our nation, and if anything should reflect fairness and equality it should be that system. We should all be treated in a fair and just manner. Too many decisions today are made, because they are politically expedient, and not because they are necessarily just. The State of Alaska considers us year-round employees. Isn't it time the State Legislature does? By the way, do legislators get this credit?

Sincerely,

John M. Johnson

P.O. Box 1683

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

MAR 09 1999

House, Labor, and Commerce

Re: PERS credit for non-certificated employees

To: Chair/Rokeberg

I have worked for the school district for 15 years. I have only 7.5 years of credit toward pers.

I started working for the school district when I was 24 years old, I am now almost 40. There is no way I can see retirement by 65 or even 70. People working with children have given their best years before then. But giving our best years for the education of our states children we are not given credit as we should be.

We are considered 9 month employees, not seasonal. It is difficult to find work in the summer months because everyone knows you will only be available for three months. We are not considered for unemployment benefits, we don't get due credit for pers.

Please pass HB17. It is the fair thing to do for the working class.

Sincerely,
Jan Wrigley
Jan Wrigley

Subject: HB 17

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 1999 09:07:15 -0600

From: bonnie@kpbsd.k12.ak.us (Bonnie Clouston)

To: Representative_Tom_Brice@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_AndrewL_Halcro@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_AndrewL_Halcro@legis.state.ak.us,
RepresentativeL_Andrew_Halcro@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Andrew_Halcro@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Lisa_Murkowski@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Jerry_Sanders@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Sharon_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us

Please support HB 17. I understand that this bill will be heard on Friday. I have sent POMs before on this bill and have had some response from several of the House Labor and Commerce Committee. I want to thank those who have contacted me.

I really need you help with this bill. I am an employee with the Kenai Peninsula School District, hired in 1981. If I were treated like the teachers, legislative staff workers and the school board members I would have 18 years credit in the PERS system. To date I have only 13.3 year in my PERS account. Please help the classified employee be counted equally with our fellow employees. My position is considered full time, as I can't collect unemployment like other seasonal workers but I am denied the year for year credit. Perhaps someone could explain to me why this is fair. Thank you for listening and I urge you to support this bill. Thank you.

Subject: House Bill #17

Date: Wed, 03 Mar 1999 18:48:57 -0900

From: "debi lichtner" <dubber@mtaonline.net>

To: Norman Rokeberg <Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
Brian Porter <Representative_Brian_Porter@legis.state.ak.us>,
John Cowdery <Representative_John_Cowdery@legis.state.ak.us>,
Tom Brice <Representative_Tom_Brice@legis.state.ak.us>,
Sharon Cissna <Representative_Sharon_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us>,
John Harris <Representative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us>,
Lisa Murkowski <Representative_Lisa_Murkowski@legis.state.ak.us>,
Jerry Sanders <Representative_Jerry_Sanders@legis.state.ak.us>

I have worked as an administrative assistant for the University of Alaska - Fairbanks (six years), the Kodiak Island Borough School District (five years) and am currently employed by the Anchorage School District (three years) as a Noncertificated Employee. Although on paper it appears that I have worked for 14 years, I only have accumulated 9.626 years with PERS.

Please support HB#17 which calls for full year PERS Credit for Noncertificated Employees as is currently being credited to our certificated counterparts in the educational field. Thank you. Deborah Bain Lichtner,
CPS

Subject: HB17

Date: Fri, 12 Feb 1999 08:38:33 -0600

From: pmills@kpbsd.k12.ak.us (Pauline Mills)

To: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us

FEB 12 1999

Please support HB17 and make the inequity end!! Would it be right to treat the senators with a full year credit towards retirement BUT tell the representatives they only get counted 9 months towards retirement?? Please Make it FAIR FOR ALL!!!

I am a Administrative Secretary III and have worked for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District since 1984. I am very disappointed in the legislature for not passing a similar bill earlier. This seems very UNFAIR! I guess if the legislature can't get this bill passed it may be something for the court system because it is very discriminatory!

Thanks for your support!

Subject: TRS legislation

Date: Sat, 06 Mar 1999 19:27:43 -0900

From: beachak@alaska.net

To: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Sir:

Having just received word that House Bill 17 and Senate Bill 16 have been introduced in an effort to make changes in the Public Employees Retirement System, I would like to enlist your help in making similar changes in the Teachers Retirement System. Currently, part-time employees who are under the Teachers Retirement System get only .5 years credit toward retirement for working a year at any part-time position, whether they work .5 FTE or .99 FTE. They must work 12 years to be vested in the system. This means that an employee who is working 80% of a full time job must work 40 years to get full retirement rather than the 20 years which an employee working 100% would work. This is an unfair situation which certainly demands a remedy similar to the one processed for the PERS employees.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Chris Boone

HB 17 from Fairbanks

Subject: HB 17 from Fairbanks

Date: Sun, 7 Mar 1999 17:30:20 -0900

From: Brad White <bwhite@polamet.com>

To: "representative_norman_rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@l

I would like to urge you schedule a hearing on HB17 as soon as possible. I feel this is an important bill that needs to be addressed.
JoAnne White

Subject: SB 9

Date: 3 Mar 1999 15:06:56 -0900

From: "Markson_JoAnne" <markson_joanne@msmail.asd.k12.ak.us>

To: "Representative Rokeberg" <Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us>

CC: "Rep. Brice" <Representative_Tom_Brice@legis.state.ak.us>, "Rep. Cissna" <Representative_Sharon_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us>, "Rep. Harris" <Representative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us>, "Rep. Murkowski" <Representative_Lisa_Murkowski@legis.state.ak.us>, "Rep. Sanders" <Representative_Jerry_Sanders@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative Halcro" <Representative_Andrew_Halcro@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representative Rokeberg:

>>>

I would like to request your support of SB 9 to provide nine and ten month classified school district employees with credit for full-year retirement under the Public Employee Retirement System.

>>>

As you are well aware, this change would mean that classified and certified staff would be treated the same way for the first time when it comes to earning retirement credit. This is only fair to employees who work in the service of students and the public.

This bill would benefit approximately 1,000 employees in the Anchorage School District and approximately 6,000 statewide.

Thank you very much for your time and I hope you will support the school district classified staff and provide for a more secure retirement after their years of work for students.

>

Sincerely,

JoAnne Markson, Administrative Assistant
Kincaid Elementary, Anchorage

>>>

>>>

>>

>>

>

>

MAR 03 1999

Subject: House Bill 17

Date: Mon, 1 Mar 1999 21:37:32 -0900

From: "Gary McIntyre" <AdvancedCybrSys@thevortex.com>

To: "Jerry Sanders" <Representative_Jerry.Sanders@legis.state.ak.us>, "Lisa Murkowski" <Representative_Lisa_Murkowski@legis.state.ak.us>, "Loren Leman" <Senator_Loren_Leman@legis.state.ak.us>, "Lyman Hoffman" <Senator_Lyman_Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us>, "John Harris" <Representative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us>, "Andrew Halcro" <Representative_Andrew_Halcro@legis.state.ak.us>, "Sharon Cissna" <Representative_Sharon_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us>, "Dave Donley" <Senator_Dave_Donley@legis.state.ak.us>, "Tom Brice" <Representative_Tom_Brice@legis.state.ak.us>, "John Cowdery" <Representative_John_Cowdery@legis.state.ak.us>, "Tim Kelly" <Senator_Tim_Kelly@legis.state.ak.us>, "Brian Porter" <Representative_Brian_Porter@legis.state.ak.us>, "Druc Pearce" <Senator_Druc_Pearce@legis.state.ak.us>, "Norman Rokeberg" <Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us>, "Jerry Mackie" <Senator_Jerry_Mackie@legis.state.ak.us>

Please vote in favor of giving noncertificated nine, ten, and eleven month employees credit for twelve months of service. Please vote accordingly. Thank you very much.

Nancy McIntyre
24375 Petunia Ct. Apt E
Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506
daytime phone 279-2541

MAR 03 1999

Subject: House Bill 17

Date: Tue, 02 Mar 1999 17:22:24 -0800

From: Mary Conner <MOONLITE@alaska.net>

Organization: H & W Printing

To: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Brian_Porter@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_John_Cowdery@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Tom_Brice@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Sharon_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Andrew_Halcro@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Lisa_Murkowski@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Jerry_Sanders@legis.state.ak.us

Please vote yes on House Bill 17. Thank you, Mary Conner (ASD)

MAR 03 1999

Mary Conner

Subject: HB17

Date: Tue, 2 Mar 1999 15:35:17 -0900

From: rachel tidwell <rtidwell@northstar.k12.ak.us>

To: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us

>Dear Rep. Rokeberg:

>

>I want to urge you to support the following bill, HB 17 to provide nine
>and ten month classified school district employees with credit for full-year
>retirement under the Public Employee Retirement System.

>

>As you are well aware, this change would mean that classified and cerified
>staff would be treated the same way for the first time when it comes to
>earning retirement credit. This is only fair to employees who work in the
>service of students and the public.

>

>Your bill would benefit approximately 450 employees in the Fairbanks North
>Star Borough School District and approximately 6,000 statewide.

>

>I hope that you will request a prompt hearing on the bill in the Labor &
>Commerce Committee. I will also be urging the other members to support
>this bill.

>

>Again, thank you very much for your time and I hope you will support the
>school
district classified staff to provide for a more secure retirement after
their years
>of work for students.

>

>Sincerely,

>

>Rachel Tidwell
>Weller Elementary

>

>

MAR 03 1999

R. Tidwell

Subject: In support of HB 17

Date: Sun, 28 Feb 1999 20:17:32 -0900

From: Peggy <peggyl@northstar.k12.ak.us>

To: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us

I am writing in support of House Bill 17 sponsored by Rep Tom Brice. I have been an employee of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District since 1982 and have earned less than 16 years of service for over 17 years of working for the District. HB 17 addresses the inequity in state law and the PERS system by giving noncertificated school employees a comparable amount of days the options to use the same retirement formula that certificated employees use. I strongly urge you to support this bill.

Peggy Hirt
288 Rambling Road #57
Fairbanks, Ak 99712

Phone: (w) 456-5775
(h) 457-2199

Ref LSA

MAR 03 1999

Subject: HB #17

Date: Wed, 03 Mar 1999 21:07:13 -0900

From: "debi lichter" <dubber@mtaonline.net>

To: Norman Rokeberg <Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us>, Brian Porter <Representative_Brian_Porter@legis.state.ak.us>, John Cowdery <Representative_John_Cowdery@legis.state.ak.us>, Tom Brice <Representative_Tom_Brice@legis.state.ak.us>, Sharon Cissna <Representative_Sharon_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us>, John Harris <Representative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us>, Lisa Murkowski <Representative_Lisa_Murkowski@legis.state.ak.us>, Jerry Sanders <Representative_Jerry_Sanders@legis.state.ak.us>

Please support the bills that call for full year PERS Credit for Noncertificated Employees.

Subject: House bill 17

Date: 3 Mar 1999 12:52:27 -0900

From: "Olson_Inga" <olson_inga@msmail.asd.k12.ak.us>

To: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Norman Rokeberg,

I need to let you know that I SUPPORT House bill 17. I also would like to THANK YOU for bringing it forward and I hope it will pass. I've always wondered why the teachers could retire after 20 years and the non certificated employees had to work 30 years. Here we're all professionals working for the same employer the Anchorage School District and I think it's time we get treated the same.

Thanks again for all your hard work

Inga Olson
Senior Clerk/Information Support Center

MAR 03 1999



General Teamsters Local 959 State of Alaska

Alliliated with International Brotherhood of Teamsters

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503, 520 E 34TH AVE. (907) 565-8122 FAX (907) 565-8285 GERALD L. HOOD, Secretary-Treasurer

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99707, P.O. Box 70609 (907) 452-2959 FAX (907) 452-5051
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801, 306 Willoughby (907) 586-3225 FAX (907) 586-1227
KENAI, ALASKA 99611, P.O. BOX 3150 (907) 283-4498 FAX (907) 283-8030

March 22, 1999

HAND DELIVERED

MAR 25 1999

Representative Dyson, Co-Chair
Representative Coghill, Co-Chair
Senate HESS Committee

Re: HB 17 PERS Credit For Noncertificated Employees

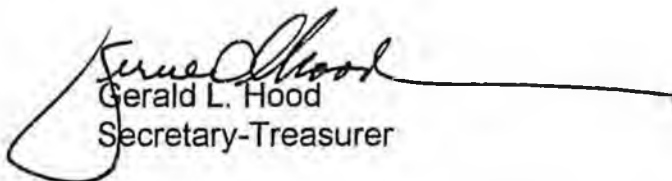
Dear Representative Dyson and Representative Coghill:

Teamsters Local 959 represents noncertificated employees, most predominantly in the Anchorage School District. Several hundred of those members actually work less than twelve months of the year due to the nature of their jobs; included are bus drivers, food service workers and some maintenance employees. If passed, HB 17 would allow those members, by individual choice, the opportunity to receive the same credited year as their certificated counterparts for purposes of retirement. Any increased cost under this bill would be borne by the employee, not the employer (School District).

We urge your support and passage of this bill to allow, by employee choice, the opportunity to increase their credited service time as is currently the option for the certificated employees.

Sincerely,

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 959


Gerald L. Hood
Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Representative Whitaker
Representative Green
Representative Morgan
Representative Brice
Representative Kemplen

pg\bht-leg\dyson17.1





J J Brice, Kemplen

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health Education Social Service
 committee name
 committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
 bill/subject

*Please support HB17. It is a
 fair and equitable law.*

Signed: Kathleen C. Brandt
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
3704 Nahibut Pt. Rd., Sitka, AK 99835
 Address
907-747-6447
 Phone No.

TO: House Health Education and Social Services Committee

DATE: March 23, 1999

Please include this testimony for the hearing on HB17 today, March 23, 1999.

Please support HB17. I have been employed with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District for 18 years. To date I have a 13.3 year credit in the PERS system. My co-workers who are teachers and work the exact amount of time as I are credited with the entire 18 years. I don't understand this, why I am treated differently. This year for year credit is also offered to the School Board members and Legislative Staff. The other interesting fact is I am considered a full time permanent employee with the school district which makes me ineligible to collect unemployment during the summer months but I am not obviously considered full time with the state. Please help pass this bill it means a lot to my future as well as the other classified employees. We all deserve to be equal.

Thank you,



Bonnie Clouston
P.O. Box 546
Kasilof, AK 99610
907-262-4478

Dyson, Loghill, Green, Morgan, Whitaker
Brice, Kemplen



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

*Please support HB17. It is a
fair and equitable law.*

Signed: Linda E. Swanson
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1903 Dodge Cr. Sitka, Alaska 99835

Address
907-747-3471

Phone No.

Dyson, Coghill, Green, Morgan, Whitaker
Brice, Kempleh



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Service
committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

*Please support HB17. It is a
fair and equitable law.*

Signed: Marilyn A. Loh
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
721 Sirstad St., Sitka, AK 99835
Address
907-747-6472
Phone No.

*Johnson, Wynn, Steele, Jorgun, Whitaker
Brice, Kemplen*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health ~~House~~, Education, Social Service
committee name

committee on HB17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

*Please support
House Bill 17!*

Signed: Faye Nutting
Testif

Representing (Optional)

708 Biskar, Sitka, Ak.
Address

747-8746
Phone No.

Dyson, Coghill, Green, Morgan, Whitaker
Brice, Kempler



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Service
committee name

committee on HB 17 . dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

*Please support HB17. It is a
fair and equitable law.*

Signed: Pauline G. Knouder
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Box 3072 Sitka, AK 99835
Address

907-747-8691
Phone No.

Dyson, Coghill, Green, Morgan, Whitaker
Brice, Kempleh



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17 , dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

*Please support HB17. It is a
fair and equitable law.*

Signed: Gina Lawson
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
2007 SMC Road, Sitka, Ak.

Address
747-8010

Phone No.

Dyson, Loughill, Green, Morgan, Whitaker
Brice, Kemplen



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Service:
committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

*Please support HB17. It is a
fair and equitable law.*

Signed: *Haig A. Pfeele*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 1346 Sitka, AK
Address 99835
(907) 747-4962
Phone No.

Brice, Kemplen



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the ~~House~~ ^{Health} Education, Social Services committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

I urge you to support and pass
HB 17. All classified employees
deserve this benefit.

Signed: Betsy Charlton
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
301 Islander Dr Sitka, AK 99835
Address
747-6565
Phone No.

Dyball, Coyhill, Biech, Irburn, Whitaker

Brice, Kemplen



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Health, Education, & Social Services committee name

committee on HB 17 , dated 3/23/99 .
bill/subject

I urge you to support HB 17.
Please vote for it's approval

Signed: Paula Hardy
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
Box 6032 110 Shuler Dr
Address
907-747-6525
Phone No.

Sitka, AK
99835

Lyons, Smith, Green, Morgan, Whitaker

Brice, Kempler



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services committee name

committee on HB 17 , dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

Please vote in ^{House} senate bill HB 17
Thank you

Signed: *Frank E. Roberts*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 703 Sitka AK 99725

Address
1-907-747-8556

Phone No.



Byrd, ... Brice, Kemplen

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health Education Social Services committee name

committee on HB 17 , dated 3/23/99 bill/subject

*I urge you to support
HB 17 by voting for it. Thank
you.*

Signed: *Barbara L. Arnold*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1022 Sawmill Ck Blvd. Sitka, Ak 99835
Address
(907) 747-8565
Phone No.

Byrd, ... Brice, Kemplen



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

Please vote for HB 17

Signed: Ruth Van Ock

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

801 Lincoln St

Address

966-3095

Phone No.



Brice, Kemplen
Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

"PLEASE VOTE FOR HB 17"

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
105 KIRSADI CT, SITKA AK 99835

Address
907-747-1018

Phone No.



Brice, Kemplen
Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

Please vote for H.B. 17.

Signed: Carrie Spachman
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
601 H.P.R. Sitka, AK

Address
(907) 747-8677
Phone No.



*Lyson, Lyson, Gillis, Morgan, Williams
Brice, Kempleh*

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17 , dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

Please note for HB 17.

Signed: Betty Jo Johns
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1972 Halibut Point Road - Sitka, AK

Address
907. 747 - 4751

Phone No.



Brice, Kemplen
Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17 , dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

Please vote for HB17

Signed: *John Brice*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1108 H.P.R. Sitka, AK 99835
Address
907 747 - 6490
Phone No.

Dyson, Coyhill, Steen, Morgan, Whitaker
Brice, Kempleh



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17 , dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

Please
I urge you to support
HB 17. I support HB 17
Thank you .

Signed: Tammy Sumawang Tammy Sumawang
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
220 Lance Dr.
Address
747-5358
Phone No.

Ken
Payla
Haralina



Brice, Kemplen
Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

Please support HB 17

Signed: Therese L. Cole
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
105 Shelikof Sitka, AK 99835
Address
907-747-8431
Phone No.



Brice, Kemplen

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

Please vote for HB 17!

Signed: *Barbara Stocker*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
Box 2457 Sitka AK

Address
907 747-5110

Phone No.

Dyson, Loggins, Green, Morgan, Whitaker
Brice, Kempler



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

I Support HB 17
I Ask for your Support.

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier MARCIE MACHIN

Representing (Optional)
803 Lake St.
Address
747-3620
Phone No.



Byrd, ... Brice, Kemplen

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

Please support HB 17.

Signed: Cathi Markogard
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1201 A Edgewood Dr. Sitka, AK 99835
Address

907-747-6835
Phone No.

By: Bruce, Kemplen



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services committee name

committee on HB 17 , dated 3/23/99 .
bill/subject

Please vote FOR
HB 17!

I urge you to support
HB 17.

Signed: Luis Loree
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 756 Sitka, AK 99835
Address

Phone No.



Dyson, Coghill, Green, Morgan, Whitaker
Brice, Kempler

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17, dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

Please take the time to consider the benefits of supporting HB17. This will allow employees to buy out 12 months of employment to go towards retirement. This will be a tremendous help to many people.

Please vote for + Support HB17.

Signed: Lauri Sehafer
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
304 Wachusetts Sitka AK 99835
Address

Phone No.

*Lyson, Coghlin, Cullen, Morgan, Whitaker
Brice, Kempleh*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17 . dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

WHEN YOU HAVE TEACHERS ABLE TO WORK 9 MONTHS AND GET A FULL YEARS CREDIT, IT IS NOT FAIR TO HAVE THOSE CLASSIFIED STAFF WORKING ALONG SIDE OF THE TEACHERS GETTING ONLY 9 AND 10 MONTHS OF CREDIT.

I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT HB 17!

Signed: *Jan Bugman*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
212 LAKEVIEW DRIVE SITKA, AK 99835

Address
(907) 966-1256

Phone No.

Dyson, Luyall, STEEN, Morgan, WHITAKER
Brice, Kempler



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education, Social Services
committee name

committee on HB 17 , dated 3/23/99
bill/subject

Please support House

Bill 17

Thank you

Signed: *Lulu A. Young*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 3092 Sitka AK 99835
Address
907 747-8531
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

ALWESS
committee name

committee on

HB 17

bill # / subject

, dated

3/23/99

*The following submitted as
written testimony*

Signed:

Leslie W/O

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

March 23, 1999

HB17

Please support this bill. I have worked for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District for 13 years and am credited with approximately 9 years. It was very depressing for those of us in our school district, when we found out that even our own school board, city council and borough assembly got a year of recognition for each school year or session worked. We would like equity in formulating our years of service. We are very loyal, hard-working employees and many have hours of time they donate to keep our schools going and kids thriving.

Shirley Zabeck
260-2305 /w

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To . House Health, Education and Social Service Committee

FROM Marnie Bartolini

DATE March 23, 1999

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 17

Please include with public testimony on House Bill 17

I would like to express my support for House Bill 17. I am currently working for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District as a 10 month employee. I have never fully understood why the teachers who work 9 months are given full retirement credit of 12 months when they only work 9, and I receive only 10 months for my 10 months of work. We both have a job to do regardless of what that job entails. Teachers also do not pay for those extra months. I would at least like to be given the opportunity to choose to pay for those extra 2 months, thus entitling me to retire in 30 years instead of 39. Since the school district views us as permanent full time employees, this excludes us from applying for unemployment benefits and makes it difficult to apply for work with other employers, who don't want to put in the time to train and then to have us leave 6 weeks later.

Please support House Bill 17.

Thank you



Marnie Bartolini

To: House Health, Education and Social Service Committee
FROM: Dawn Stetz
DATE: March 23, 1999
SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 17

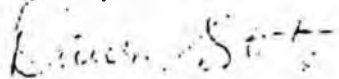
Please include with public testimony on House Bill 17

I started working for the KPRSD when I was 23 years of age - since August, 1985 which makes it almost 14 years. I currently have under 8 full years towards my retirement. To qualify for full retirement, I have to work a full 30 years. This means I will actually have to work 39 years because we do not get a full year's credit for each school year I work. This means I will be eligible for full retirement in the year 2027.

Any school teacher is going to retire in 30 years. Just because I don't directly work with students doesn't mean that I don't do my job just as a school teacher does. If I am willing to pay for the extra 3 months (which by the way I disagree with, but am willing to do) I don't see why this bill shouldn't pass.

Please support House Bill 17.

Thank you



Dawn Stetz

TO: House Health, Education and Social Service Committee

FROM: Dawn Daris
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

RE: Support of HB17

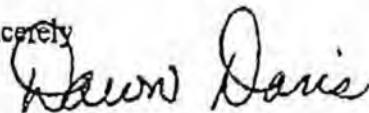
DATE: March 23, 1999

Please include in the testimony for the hearing on House Bill 17 today on March 23, 1999.

My starting date for the school district was on October of 88. Today I have 7 ¼ years credited to my retirement. That includes many extra days that I have put in working over the summers and spring breaks and Christmas breaks. I need 30 years for full retirement. I started when I was 28 years old, at this rate I will be 69 years old before I will be able to retire with full benefits. That means in the year 2029 I will have 41 years of service.

Please take the time to consider this inequity of support staff.

Sincerely



Dawn Daris

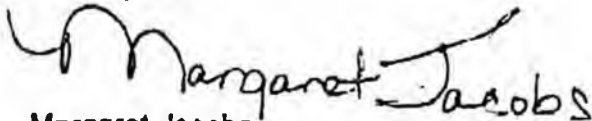
TO: House Health Education and Social Services Committee

DATE: March 23, 1999

Please include this testimony for the hearing on HB17 today. 3/23/99

I am taking part in the Early Retirement Plan this year and will be leaving as of June 1, 1999. I have worked for this district for 17 years and yet I am being credited for only 13 in the PERS system! I strongly support HB17 which I have fought for for years and even though, if it should pass, I would not be able to take advantage of it, I am thinking of my co-workers and their future. Not being credited for a full year of service or even allowed to collect unemployment during the summer has been a great injustice! How and why are we classified employees treated so unfairly???? Please help pass this bill as it will mean alot to those who will be retiring in the future. United we stand. divided we beg.

Thank you,



Margaret Jacobs
P.O. Box 1531
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-7407

Alaska Civil Liberties Union

An Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union

P. O. Box 201844, Anchorage, AK 99520-1844

Phone: (907) 258-0044 Fax: (907) 258-0288 Email: akclu@alaska.net

TESTIMONY

To: House HES Committee

From: Jennifer Rudinger, Executive Director

Date: Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Re: HJR 6 (Proposed Constitutional Amendment Regarding Public Funding of Private School Tuition Vouchers)

Good afternoon, Co-Chairmen Dyson and Coghill and Members of the House HES Committee:

My name is Jennifer Rudinger, and I am the Executive Director of the Alaska Civil Liberties Union. The AkCLU is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to preserving and defending the principles of individual liberty guaranteed in the U.S. Bill of Rights and in the Alaska Constitution. I have come here today on behalf of almost 900 card-carrying members of the ACLU in Alaska to urge you **not** to pass HJR 6 out of this Committee. The obvious intent of HJR 6 is to pave the way for the passage of HB 5, Rep. Kohring's school voucher scheme. The AkCLU objects to HJR 6 and to school vouchers for three main reasons: (1.) voucher schemes allow taxpayer dollars to fund institutions that are allowed to discriminate in their admissions, (2.) school voucher schemes would force taxpayers to support religious beliefs and practices with which they strongly disagree, and (3.) voucher schemes would abandon our local public schools.

First, we strongly urge you to consider the fact that unlike public schools, private schools are not required to accept everyone who applies for admission. The notion is, if you pick your students right, then your school's results will look good. Therefore, private schools tend to avoid students with the most problems, a luxury public schools do not have. For example, religious institutions are not subject to the Civil Rights Act and can discriminate on the basis of race, physical disability, learning disability, gender, or any other characteristic of a student. While religious schools have the right to do this, they should not be allowed to use taxpayer money to discriminate. Yet, under the voucher scheme being proposed to you now, all taxpayers would have to fund these vouchers for private school tuition, even though not all taxpayers will be able to *use* these vouchers. On the other hand, it is eminently fair that taxpayer dollars fund public school education, because all taxpayers at one time or another in their lives have the option of using the public school system.

Moreover, the notion that under a voucher system, parents will be able to choose "the best school" for their child is a fantasy if "the best school" can refuse to admit the child. That is precisely what will happen to many parents, thereby making the reality of choice something less than what was promised.

Second, HJR 6 and HB 5 would have the effect of forcing taxpayers to support religious beliefs and practices with which they strongly disagree. Whether the sponsors admit it or not, at the heart of this proposal is the goal of merging government and

MM-18-99 FRI 09:41 AM NATSU LIC

FAX NO. 9073780160

P. 01



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HESS Committee
 committee on HB 17 dated 3-23-99
 bill/subject

I support the PERS credit for Non-Certified Employees of school districts on a year for year retirement credit. The teachers are allowed this and their support staff should get the same benefit.

signed: David H. Hardage
 Teacher

Representing (Optional)
418 N. Alaska St., Prudhoe Bay, AK 99705
 Address
907-746-2732
 Phone No.

Alaska Legislature Document 0199

03/23 09:41

CSA

03/23/99 12:05 PM

MAR-19-99 FRI 09:41 AM MATSU C/O

FAX NO. 9073769180

P. 01



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Nese Committee

committee on HB 17 dated March 22, 1999
bill/subject

Committee Members,

I am in support of this bill and would appreciate your help in getting it passed. This is the bill to allow a year credit for a school year worked for non-certified employees. Thank you for your assistance.

Signature: Alice Wiley
Teacher

Representing (Optional)
PO Box: 826624 Wasilla, AK 99687
Address
(907) 746-9205 AK.
Phone No.

ALSO LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

PAGE 03/92

CEA

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Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Hess Committee
 concerning on HB17-Per Credit You For You Bill/Subject 3.22.99 Committee Name

All Committee Members,

Please pass this bill giving a year credit for non-certified employees who work in schools along with Teachers who receive it, as well as school board members & other groups whom I'm sure you have been notified of. It is a fair & equitable issue which we have been working on for many years! Thank you

Sign: Kathy Z...
 Teacher

Representing (Optional)
907 R 210 28 Ward
 Address
907-378-5197 WK-907-246-9254
 Phone No.

Use separate form for each



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Hess Committee
committee name
 convened on HA 17-year Ex year, and 5-22-99
the subject

All Committee Members,
 Please pass this bill to give non-certified employees a year for a year credit. This bill would really make work credit more equitable with school employees that work for their full school year. Other groups such as teachers already have this benefit. Thank you for your assistance with this very important issue.

By: Barbara Mack
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 670955 Wasilla 99687
Address
907 376-2238 hm. (907) 746-9305 wk.
Phone No.

443 Legislative Information Sheet

Page 02/02



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Wess
committee name
 committee on SB9 & HB17 dated 3/22/99
bill/subject

Please support the
 few retirement bills before
 you. - 1 - employees are willing
 to pay the small increases
 2. It the right thing
 to do! Thank you

Signed: Sandy Jensen
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
TO Rep 81129, Denali, AK
Address
907 373-6198
Phone No.

9.88 Legislature Information Office

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: March 16, 1999

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: 3/23/99

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

HB 17

HOUSE BILL NO. 17

PERS CREDIT FOR NONCERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES

"An Act relating to the calculation of employee contributions and credited service in the public employees' retirement system for noncertificated employees of school districts, regional educational attendance areas, the Alaska Vocational Technical Center, and the state boarding schools; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute _____ [] the same title
[] a new title

[] additional referral to _____ Committee
[X] attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) _____

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) _____

[] fiscal note(s) _____

[X] fiscal note(s) DOA _____

[] zero fiscal note(s) _____

[] zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>			✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE

[Signature]

[Signature]

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HB 17

1 Page 1, line 3, following "areas,":

2 Insert "the special education service agency,"

3 Page 1, line 9, following "area,":

4 Insert "of the special education service agency,"

5 Page 2, line 22:

6 Delete "district or"

7 Insert "district, a"

8 Following "area.":

9 Insert "the special education service agency,"

10 Page 2, line 26:

11 Delete "or"

12 Insert ", a"

13 Page 2, line 27, following "area":

14 Insert ", or the special education service agency,"

15 Page 3, line 1:

16 Delete "or"

17 Insert ", a"

18 Page 3, line 2, following "area":

19 Insert ", or the special education service agency,"

- 1 Page 3, line 6:
- 2 Delete "or"
- 3 Insert ", a"
- 4 Following "area":
- 5 Insert ", or the special education service agency."

- 6 Page 3, line 12, following "area.":
- 7 Insert "the special education service agency."

HB

21 & 37

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, MEMBER
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MEMBER
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UTILITY RESTRUCTURING, MEMBER
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM, MEMBER

e-mail: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us



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ALASKA STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
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FAX: (907) 465-2040

Representative Norman Rokeberg

MEMORANDUM

March 9, 1999

TO: Representative Fred Dyson, Co-Chairman
Representative John Coghill, Co-Chairman
Health, Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Rep. Norman Rokeberg

SUBJECT: HB 37 Committee Packet Contents

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Rokeberg".

In addition to the materials initially submitted in my request for hearing, please include the following in the committee packet for House Bill 37:

1. Why Alaska Should Use Its Tobacco Settlement Money To Support A New Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Control Strategy
2. *Quitting Time for Smokers*

Please note that the letters of support for HB 37 are included in the HB 21 committee packet. I will also have my aide distribute copies of the Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance's Tobacco Control Program tomorrow.

Source: Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Why Alaska Should Use Its Tobacco Settlement Money To Support A New Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Control Strategy

Alaska has already begun deciding how to use the millions of dollars it will receive each year from the settlement agreement with the tobacco companies. While some state legislators and others might be tempted to direct these new funds to a tax cut or to other favorite projects or causes, the arguments for directing a substantial portion of the settlement payments to establish a comprehensive statewide tobacco control strategy are overwhelming. It would substantially reduce smoking and other tobacco use, save thousands of lives and millions of dollars, dramatically improve public health, and do more to help Alaska and its citizens than any other option.

Tobacco Company Payments Should Go To Fight Tobacco Company Harms. The tobacco companies' payments to Alaska for past tobacco-related harm to the state should be used to reduce the amount of damage tobacco use will cause Alaska and its citizens in the future -- and that means using settlement funds to sharply curtail smoking and other tobacco use throughout the state, especially among children.

The Public Supports Using Tobacco Settlement Money For Tobacco Control. In a pre-election poll of likely Alaska voters, 77% said that about half or more of the settlement funds should be spent to reduce smoking among kids (with only 1% saying that none of the funds should be so used). Similarly, in a recent nationwide poll, 84 percent of the respondents favored spending the money their state receives to reduce tobacco use among kids, including more than two-thirds (69%) who "strongly favor" spending the money for this purpose.

The Smoking Problem Is Big And Getting Worse. Approximately 27 percent of adult men and 25 percent of adult women in Alaska are current smokers, along with 36 percent of all high school students. While adult smoking has generally been declining in recent years, the number of kids who are smoking has been increasing steadily throughout the 1990s, and has only just experienced a small decline. Underage smoking remains at historically high levels, and over the past 10 years the number of kids under 18 who become daily smokers each year has increased by more than 70 percent. In Alaska alone, more than 4,000 kids under 18 become new daily smokers each year.

A Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Control Strategy Would Dramatically Reduce Smoking And Other Tobacco Use In Alaska. California and Massachusetts have already initiated tobacco control campaigns that have reduced overall smoking levels within their borders at a faster rate than elsewhere in the country. Similarly, while youth smoking rates were going up nationwide, in California and Massachusetts they either declined or increased much more slowly -- despite significant reductions to both states' tobacco control efforts and despite aggressive tobacco company efforts to dampen the impact of the state programs.

New Tobacco Control Spending Will Save Lives. Tobacco use is responsible for more deaths than alcohol, auto accidents, AIDS, suicides, murders, and illegal drugs combined. Each year, about 400 people die from smoking-related causes in Alaska, and countless others suffer from tobacco-related disease and distress, including many of those exposed to second hand smoke. If current smoking trends are not reversed, roughly 17,000 of the children currently alive in the state will eventually die from smoking-related causes. Directing tobacco settlement monies to tobacco control can reduce this unnecessary disease, misery, and death -- and there is no better investment Alaska can make to save lives and improve public health.

New Tobacco Control Spending Will Save Alaska Money. Public and private direct expenditures in Alaska to treat health problems caused by smoking annually total roughly \$150 million, with the state government paying approximately \$20 million every year in cigarette-related Medicaid expenditures. Alaska and its citizens annually pay millions more for health care relating to smokeless tobacco use, cigar and pipe smoking, and exposure to second hand smoke. Beyond these direct health expenditures are tobacco-related labor costs and lost productivity (e.g., tobacco-related sick days); damage and loss from cigarette-related fires; and tobacco-related maintenance and cleaning expenses. An aggressive statewide tobacco control strategy would reduce all of these tobacco-related costs and save the state, its businesses, and its citizens many millions of dollars each and every year.

Nickel And Dimeing The Problem Won't Work. Significantly reducing tobacco use in Alaska requires substantial investment in a sustained and comprehensive multi-year tobacco control strategy. Anything less will not effectively counter the addictive power of nicotine or the tobacco companies' advertising and marketing expenditures (more than \$11 million per year in Alaska). Existing tobacco control efforts throughout the country show that the best way to reduce tobacco use, other than raising prices, is to take full advantage of a wide range of proven effective measures, including counter advertising, school and community-based prevention and cessation programs, the enhanced enforcement of laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to kids, and the firm maintenance of smoke-free workplaces and public areas. While any one of these tobacco control measures can reduce tobacco use by itself, they work much more powerfully and effectively when done together.

Relying On The Settlement Agreement's Tobacco Control Provisions Won't Work. Although the tobacco settlement contains some useful restrictions on tobacco marketing, they will not, by themselves, significantly hinder the tobacco industry's ability to market to kids. Similarly, the new national public education campaign financed by the multi-state settlement can significantly reduce tobacco use only if it is accompanied by strong state tobacco control efforts. Put simply, the tobacco settlement can dramatically cut tobacco use in Alaska only if the state uses its tobacco company payments to finance new tobacco control initiatives.

If The State Doesn't Do It, No One Else Will. Because of a special provision in the settlement agreement, until 2003 the tobacco companies' payments to Alaska will be reduced by any new federal funding made available to the state for tobacco control efforts that comes from an increase in the federal tobacco tax or from any other new charges against the tobacco companies. Consequently, it is highly unlikely that Congress will direct any new federal tobacco control funding to Alaska for some time.

Adequately Funding A Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Control Strategy Would Still Leave Plenty Of Settlement Funding For Other Purposes. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that adequately funding a comprehensive tobacco control effort in Alaska requires \$8 to \$17 million per year in new funding. Accordingly, Alaska could create a strong new tobacco control program and still have roughly \$10 million or more per year available for other purposes. Moreover, by increasing its tax on cigarettes (currently 100¢ per pack), one of the best ways to reduce tobacco use, Alaska could secure even more funding for tobacco control and other worthwhile initiatives.

Directing Settlement Payments To Tobacco Control Will Not Waste Money. Tobacco control efforts throughout the country have been carefully researched and evaluated. Accordingly, Alaska could easily direct its settlement payments to support only those types of tobacco control initiatives that have established track records and follow available research findings on how to maximize beneficial results. To further enhance cost effectiveness, Alaska could also require that all of its new tobacco control activities be carefully monitored and evaluated, both to avoid fraud and abuse and to continually improve program performance.

Sources

Polling data on using tobacco settlement payments for new tobacco control efforts from state-specific and national polls of likely voters conducted for the National Center for Tobacco-Free Kids by Mason Dixon Political/Media Research in early October 1998, and by Market Facts' TeleNation in early November 1998, respectively.

For state-specific data on deaths caused by smoking, smoking and smokeless tobacco use rates, and other tobacco-related information, see Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, State Tobacco Control Highlights 1997 (1998) [<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/osh/statehi/statehi.htm>]. See also, CDC, "State-Specific Prevalence Among Adults of Current Cigarette Smoking and Smokeless Tobacco Use and Per Capita Tax-Paid Sales of Cigarettes - United States, 1997," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 47(43): 922-926 (November 8, 1998); "1995 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey"; CDC, "State-Specific Prevalence of Cigarette Smoking Among Adults, and Children's and Adolescents' Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke - United States 1996," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 46(44): 1038-1043 (November 7, 1997); CDC, "Smoking Attributable Mortality and Years of Potential Life Lost - United States, 1984" [with editors update for 1990-1994], Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 46(20): 444-451 (May 23, 1997). For projected smoking deaths among today's youth, see CDC, "Projected Smoking-Related Deaths Among Youth - United States," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 45(44): 971-974 (November 8, 1996).

For state-specific data on smoking-related health expenditures and smoking-related Medicaid expenditures, see L. Miller, et al., "State Estimates of Total Medical Expenditures Attributable to Cigarette Smoking, 1993," Public Health Reports 113: 447-58 (September/October 1998). See also, L. Miller, et al., "State Estimates of Medicaid Expenditures Attributable to Cigarette Smoking, Fiscal Year 1993," Public Health Reports 113: 140-151 (March/April 1998).

For additional information on tobacco-related costs, see U.S. Department of the Treasury, The Economic Costs of Smoking in the U.S. and the Benefits of Comprehensive Tobacco Legislation (1998) [<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/docs/tobacco.pdf>]; F.J. Chaloupka and K.E. Warner, "The Economics of Smoking," in J. Newhouse and A. Culyer (eds), The Handbook of Health Economics (in press); CDC, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 46(44) (November 7, 1997); CDC, Making Your Workplace Smokefree: A Decision Maker's Guide (1996); D. Mudarri, "The Costs and Benefits of Smoking Restrictions: An Assessment of the Smoke-Free Environment Act of 1993 (H.R. 3434)," U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report submitted to the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives (April 1994); P. Brigham and A. McGuire, "Progress Toward a Fire-Safe Cigarette," Journal of Public Health Policy 16(4): 433-439 (1995); E.K. Adams and C.L. Melvin, "Costs of Maternal Conditions Attributable to Smoking During Pregnancy," American Journal of Preventive Medicine 15(3): 212-19 (October 1998); CDC, "Medical Care Expenditures Attributable to Cigarette Smoking During Pregnancy," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 46(44) (November 7, 1997); J.J. Stoddard and B. Gray, "Maternal Smoking and Medical Expenditures for Childhood Respiratory Illness," American Journal of Public Health 87(2): 205-209 (February 1997).

For nationwide data on smoking trends see CDC, "Tobacco Use Among High School Students - United States, 1997," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 447(12): 229-233 (April 3, 1998); Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study (1998) [<http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/mlf/index.html>]; CDC, "Incidence of Initiation of Cigarette Smoking - United States, 1965-1996," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 47(39): 837-40 (October 9, 1998).

For evaluations of the Massachusetts and California comprehensive state tobacco control strategies, see T. Pechacek and M. Eriksen, Office of Smoking and Health, CDC, "Efficacy of Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs: California and Massachusetts" (in press); J. Pierce, et al., "Has the California Tobacco Control Program Reduced Smoking?," Journal of the American Medical Association 280(10): 893-899 (September 9, 1998); T. Hu, et al., "Reducing Cigarette Consumption in California: Tobacco Taxes vs. an Anti-Smoking Media Campaign," American Journal of Public Health 85: 1218-1222 (September 1995); Abt Associates, Independent Evaluation of the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program: Fourth Annual Report, January 1994 to June 1997 (1998); J.P. Pierce, et al., Tobacco Control in California: Who's Winning the War? An Evaluation of the Tobacco Control Program 1989-1996 (Univ. of California, San Diego 1998).

CDC estimates on how much Alaska would have to spend to implement a comprehensive statewide tobacco control program are from Office on Smoking and Health, CDC, "State Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Guidelines" (October 1998). Information on the states' tobacco settlement receipts from the website of the National Association of Attorneys General <http://www.naag.org/>, and related links.

December 31, 1998

Healthwise by Andrea Rock

Quitting Time for Smokers

New products and programs can quadruple your chances of success.

IF YOU'RE among the millions of smokers who resolve to quit each New Year's Day, only to find yourself a few days later dejectedly puffing away, take heart. A revolution in medical understanding of how smokers get hooked has led to new approaches to quitting that can increase your chances of success from the 5% typical of cold-turkey quitters to 20% or more. And at least part of the \$206 billion tobacco settlement will go to funding programs to help you.

Recent studies provide clues to why breaking an addiction to nicotine is so difficult—even more difficult than kicking heroin or cocaine, according to Steven Adelman, medical director of substance abuse services for Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates. Nicotine stimulates brain cells to release a pleasure-inducing chemical called dopamine. "Each puff of a cigarette is a hit, a neurobiological mini-orgasm that is repeated millions of times, which explains why smokers yearn for that experience much longer than people addicted to many other pleasure-giving substances," Adelman says.

To still quitters' cravings, doctors and counselors have come to rely on various forms of nicotine replacement—from the now familiar skin patches to the cigarette-like Nicotrol Inhaler introduced last year. And the new drug Zyban targets the pathways of nicotine addiction in the brain, rather than replacing nicotine. The table at right details the cost, side effects and percentages of smokers

who are still off cigarettes a year after quitting while using each of these products. Although you may see ads touting a product's success among those who've used it for a month or two, the one-year success rate is the best indicator of effectiveness, says Richard Merrick, whose 10-week smoking-cessation program at Kaiser Permanente in Harbor City, Calif. has an astounding 57% one-year quit rate.

How Zyban helps





Richard E. Hurt, director of the Mayo Clinic's \$3,000 eight-day inpatient program, which has helped 43% of its severely addicted clients kick the habit, generally recommends that smokers start taking Zyban—the first pill to be approved by the FDA as a smoking-cessation aid—about a week before they plan to quit.

The drug, which is also sold as an antidepressant called Wellbutrin SR (the initials stand for sustained release), lessens the desire to smoke by raising dopamine levels in the brain, just as cigarettes do. Zyban also whittles the average quitter's five-pound weight gain.

Zyban has no effect on 15% to 20% of smokers who try it, says Linda Ferry, a researcher at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, who first discovered that the drug helped people quit smoking. Experts suggest giving Zyban a one-month trial; most people take it for 12 weeks. Some health plans don't cover Zyban, but a few less than forthcoming smokers have gotten around that by asking doctors to diagnose them with depression and prescribe Wellbutrin SR, which is generally covered.

TOOLS FOR THE WOULD-BE NONSMOKER

Consult your doctor before using any nicotine-replacement product, particularly if you have heart disease or are taking medication for asthma or depression.

Product	How it works	One-year quit rate	Monthly cost
Nicorette gum 	Average smoker chews six to nine pieces daily; each piece has 4mg of nicotine. Side effect: jaw pain	10% to 15%	\$120
Nicotine-replacement patches (Nicoderm and Nicotrol are both sold over the counter; other brands are sold by prescription only) 	Smokers apply skin patches daily, absorbing doses of nicotine that range from 7mg to 21mg. Side effect: skin irritation	10% to 15%	108
Nicotrol Nasal Spray (prescription only) 	Delivers 0.5mg per spray; can be used daily for up to six months. Nicotine hits bloodstream faster than gum, patch or inhaler.	10% to 15%	120
Nicotrol Inhaler (prescription only) 	Patient puffs on plastic mouthpiece containing nicotine cartridge to receive 4mg of nicotine, or about one-third the blood level delivered by a cigarette.	10% to 15%	160
Zyban (prescription only) 	Two tablets a day changes brain chemistry to relieve cravings. Also reduces weight gain that occurs after quitting. Side effects: dry mouth, insomnia and a one in 1,000 risk of seizure	23%	\$84 to \$100

Sources: Sol Schiffman of the University of Pittsburgh (nicotine-replacement success rates), McNeil Consumer Products, SmithKline and Glaxo Wellcome

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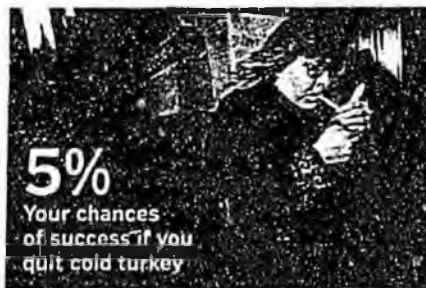
1-800-345-5702

PERSONAL INTEREST

Healthwise *continued*

Because Zyban carries a slight (one in 1,000) risk of seizures, Harvard Vanguard's Adelman prefers starting patients off with a nicotine patch. But for smokers who find they crave the ritual and hand-to-mouth activity of smoking, nicotine gum, the inhaler or nasal spray may work better, he says. The nasal spray gets nicotine into your system fastest, while the inhaler most closely replicates the act of smoking. The gum's advantage is that it's available without a prescription; most smokers will need the 4mg version.

To help the most intractable smokers, specialists now combine Zyban with nicotine-replacement products, using double patches or patches plus gum or an inhaler. "Most patches deliver only half the nicotine a smoker would get from one pack a day. So some may find nico-



5%
Your chances
of success if you
quit cold turkey

tine replacement hasn't worked well simply because they're being underdosed," says the Mayo Clinic's Hurt. Some doctors keep patients on the products for several months rather than the 10 to 12 weeks most manufacturers recommend.

But to avoid dangerously high blood pressure or nicotine overdosing (40mg to 60mg is considered lethal, but individual tolerances can vary), combining products or straying from dosage instructions should be done only under a doctor's supervision. And while nicotine replacement is safer than smoking, new studies from the University of Minnesota suggest that using nicotine replacement for more than three to six months may damage blood and lung cells, possibly leading to artery disease, bronchitis or both.

Why you may need a support group
"Smoking is a way of coping with stress as well as of obtaining pleasure, so break-

CHRISTOPHER SMITH/IMPACT VISUALS

ing that psychological addiction is just as crucial as eliminating the physical one," says Bonnie Spring, a University of Illinois-Chicago psychologist whose programs achieve long-term quit rates of 40% or more. Adding some form of counseling to your quitting plan is essential, says Richard Merrick. Participants in his highly successful Kaiser Permanente program attend Nicotine Anonymous meetings (415-750-0328). Merrick says that the group, which applies Alcoholics Anonymous principles to smokers, is the best of the many low-cost or free groups because it offers long-term support. If Nicotine Anonymous doesn't meet in your area, both the American Cancer Society (800-227-2345) and the American Lung Association (800-586-4872) sponsor counseling programs of four to eight weeks' duration.

What's coming

In the research pipeline now are several drugs that, like Zyban, target brain chemistry. There are also novel forms of nicotine replacement, including an under-the-tongue tablet and a lollipop. The market for these drugs is expanding at a rapid pace. In 1998, sales of over-the-counter nicotine-replacement products exceeded \$568 million, according to Information Resources, a Chicago-based marketing research firm. That's nearly double total sales in 1996, when these products first became available over the counter. Prescriptions are soaring too. Sales for the 12 months that ended September 1998 totaled \$184.4 million, up 154% from the previous year, according to IMS Health, a health-care information company in Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

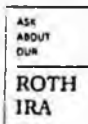
Using smoking-cessation aids as part of a plan you develop with an experienced doctor makes you more likely to reap their full benefits. First, though, talk to your health plan. About 75% of HMOs now cover smoking-cessation products and programs, which may be provided by the plan itself. You can also locate a physician who specializes in smoking cessation by calling the 3,200-member American Society of Addiction Medicine (301-656-3920). **ES**

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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 37()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE ROKEBERG

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to restricting sale of cigarettes and to smoking education and
2 cessation programs administered by the Department of Health and Social Services."

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

4 * Section 1. AS 43.70.075 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (g) A person who holds a business license endorsement under this section, or
6 an agent or employee of the person, may not sell cigarettes to another person unless
7 the cigarettes are sold in groups of at least 20 and the cigarettes are in the
8 manufacturer's original cigarette pack or contained in a cigarette carton or box.

9 * Sec. 2. AS 44.29.020(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) The Department of Health and Social Services shall administer the state
11 programs of public health and social services, including

- 12 (1) maternal and child health services;
- 13 (2) preventive medical services;
- 14 (3) public health nursing services;

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- (4) nutrition services;
- (5) health education;
- (6) laboratories;
- (7) mental health treatment and diagnosis;
- (8) management of state institutions, except for adult penal institutions;
- (9) medical facilities;
- (10) adult public assistance;
- (11) Alaska temporary assistance program;
- (12) child welfare services;
- (13) general relief; [AND]
- (14) licensing and supervision of child care facilities; and

(15) a comprehensive smoking education, tobacco use prevention, and tobacco control program; to the maximum extent possible, the department shall conduct the program required under this paragraph by contract with nonprofit organizations in the state; the program must include

(A) a community-based smoking cessation component using cessation aids such as a nicotine patch or a gum tobacco substitute;

(B) school-based efforts;

(C) anti-tobacco marketing;

(D) tobacco use surveillance and evaluation; and

(E) enforcement components.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, MEMBER
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MEMBER
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UTILITY RESTRUCTURING, MEMBER
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM, MEMBER

e-mail: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us



INTERIM:
716 WEST 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 640
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
PHONE: (907) 269-0117
FAX: (907) 269-0119

SESSION:
ALASKA STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
PHONE: (907) 465-4988
FAX: (907) 465-2040

Representative Norman Rokeberg

MEMORANDUM

March 9, 1999

TO: Representative Fred Dyson, Co-Chairman
Representative John Coghill, Co-Chairman
Health, Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Rep. Norman Rokeberg

SUBJECT: HB 21 Committee Packet Contents

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Rokeberg".

In addition to the materials initially submitted in my request for hearing, please include the following in the committee packet for House Bill 21:

1. Letters of support from:
 - American Lung Association of Alaska
 - Alaska Native Health Board
 - Alaska Dental Society
 - Alaska Women's Resource Center
 - Juneau Tobacco Prevention Network
 - Alaska Public Health Association
 - Anchorage School Board (resolution)
 - Cordova High School Students
 - Native Village of Gambell
 - Judy Downs, Safe & Drug-Free Schools
 - Rena Anderson, ASDHA President
2. NCSL article with background on the tobacco settlement
3. Detail of Governor's proposal for use of tobacco settlement funds
4. Detailed component description of Governor's DHSS tobacco control program proposal
5. Anchorage Daily News editorial

Since 1934, the American Lung Association of Alaska has been fighting lung disease through research, education, community service and advocacy.

David Smith
ALAA President
Little Caesars

David Lawer
ALAA President Elect
First National Bank of Anchorage

John Petrakis
ALAA Vice President
University of Alaska, Anchorage

Joyce A. Miles
ALAA Secretary
Respiratory Care, PRN

Beverly A. Reem
ALAA Treasurer
ATU

George Stewart, MD
ALA Representative Delegate
Alaska Pulmonary Clinic

R. Kevin Fischer
ALAA Past President
Geneva Woods

Christie McIntire
ALAA Executive Director

1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 201
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-1760
TEL: (907) 276-LUNG (5864)
Statewide: (800) LUNG(-USA)
FAX: (907) 263-2090
URI: www.aklung.org

When You Can't
Breathe,
Nothing Else
Matters"



 **AMERICAN
LUNG
ASSOCIATION.**
of Alaska

March 8, 1999

Representative Fred Dyson, Co-Chair
Representative John Goghill, Co-Chair
House HESS Committee
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representatives Dyson and Coghill:

I am writing to express the American Lung Association of Alaska's strong support for investing tobacco settlement money in effective tobacco prevention and cessation programs. We believe tobacco company payments should go to fight tobacco company harms and therefore support House Bill 21 and House Bill 37.

The Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA) has prepared a comprehensive tobacco control plan that would utilize these dollars effectively toward reducing tobacco use and associated costs. This plan is based upon state of the art programs that produce results. We believe the proper use of these dollars will be an investment in our future for individual health and Alaska's fiscal health.

The failure to allocate the settlement funds for tobacco control and prevention will not only fail our kids, it will result in rising costs related to caring for sick smokers. The tobacco tax is already bringing in approximately 50 million per year to our state from addicted smokers. Don't we need to provide some help to those who want to quit and prevent our children from becoming addicted?

The settlement funds provide an unprecedented opportunity for us to reduce the death and suffering from tobacco addiction. Please support House Bill 21 and urge your fellow legislators to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christie McIntire".

Christie McIntire
Executive Director

cc: Representative Norman Rokeberg

MAR 08 1999

MAR 08 1999



Alaska Native Health Board

4201 Tudor Centre Dr., Suite 105
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Phone: (907) 562-6006
FAX: (907) 563-2001

March 8, 1999

Fred Dyson, Co-Chair
John Coghill, Co-Chair
Health, Education, and Social Services Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Dyson, Representative Coghill, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Native Health Board to urge your support for House Bill 21 and House Bill 37, sponsored by Representative Norm Rokeberg. These pieces of legislation will provide critically needed resources and programs to address what is now an epidemic of tobacco addiction and death in Alaska.

For years, health workers, educators, and parents have been hampered in our efforts to address the tobacco problem in Alaska because while the tobacco industry spends an estimated \$11 million dollars a year on advertising and promotion (in Alaska alone), spending on tobacco control has been piece-meal at best. Tobacco taxes in Alaska bring in about \$48 million a year, but only \$200,000 was appropriated last year for tobacco control programs.

There is now overwhelming evidence that investing significant resources in tobacco prevention and cessation programs works. In California, Massachusetts, and now Oregon (see attached article from the *Washington Post*) tobacco use has been cut drastically as a result of well-funded, comprehensive tobacco control programs. Because tobacco use is currently the leading cause of death in Alaska and nationwide, it is imperative that we use all the weapons at our disposal to fight this epidemic.

Governor Knowles' proposal to spend \$3 million on tobacco control is not enough. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that Alaska invest \$8 million to \$17 million annually for a comprehensive program. The Alaska Native Health Board commends Representative Rokeberg for proposing to use 50% of the tobacco settlement money to fund a strong statewide program. It is only because of the damage caused by tobacco that we have this money at all. Clearly it should be used to fund programs that will reduce future tobacco-related disease, death, and health care costs.

The tobacco tax increase was only a start in fighting tobacco in Alaska. We must continue the fight, and there is no better use for the tobacco settlement money than to fund these efforts. Let's do it right. Please support House Bill 21 and 37.

Sincerely,

Leo Morgan
President and Chief Executive Officer

ALEUTIAN/PRILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION
BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION
CHUGACHMIUT
COPPER RIVER NATIVE ASSOCIATION
EASTERN ALEUTIAN TRIBES
KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION
MANILAQ ASSOCIATION

METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY
MT. SANFORD TRIBAL CONSORTIUM
NATIVE VILLAGE OF EKLUTNA
NATIVE VILLAGE OF TYONEX
NINILCHIK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION
SELDOVIA VILLAGE TRIBE
SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION
SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION
VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE



Alaska Dental Society

3305 Arctic Blvd., Suite 102
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-4975
(907) 563-3003 • FAX: 563-3009

MAR 09 1999

March 5, 1999

Norman Rokeberg
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Rokeberg:

The Alaska Dental Society wants to urge your support to save a percentage of the "Tobacco Settlement" money to create an Alaska based tobacco prevention and cessation program. We understand Alaska's portion of the settlement with the tobacco industry will net \$669 million dollars. This money is to be paid to Alaska in annual payments of \$25 million dollars for 25 years.

There is a bill currently before the legislature HB 21 which asks that 50% of this money per year be put toward tobacco prevention and cessation projects. The Alaska Dental Society supports this legislation, but realizes there are many hands in this pot. Because we have participated with the *Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance*, we have turned to them for expertise.

ATCA is a consortium of many agencies, associations, and the State of Alaska working to lower the consumption of all tobacco products. They have proposed a comprehensive tobacco control program which would cost approximately \$8.2 million annually - only 30% of the states annual allotment.

1. Community Programs for tobacco education & cessation. (\$2.3 million)
2. School based tobacco education and cessation (\$1 million)
3. Statewide tobacco education and cessation partnership contracts (\$2 million)
4. Enforcement (\$750,000)
5. Counter-marketing (\$750,000)
6. Surveillance and evaluation (\$800,000)
7. Administration and management (\$400,000)

Please vote for HB 21 - BUT, if you cannot because of other obligations, we strongly urge you (for the 35.5% of Alaska's high school kids who use tobacco - highest in the nation) to approve \$8.2 million dollars of the annual \$25 million dollars be used for the program outlined above.

Sincere Thanks.

David Logan, DDS

David G. Logan, DDS - President
Alaska Dental Society



Alaska Dental Society

3305 Arctic Blvd., Suite 102
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-4975
(907) 563-3003 • FAX: 563-3009

MAR 09 1999

March 4, 1999

Representative Fred Dyson, Co-Chair
Representative John Coghill, Co-Chair
House HESS Committee
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Gentlemen:

The Alaska Dental Society is writing to urge strong support for investing the "tobacco settlement" money on effective *tobacco* prevention and cessation programs. These dollars were made available only through the serious and long term efforts of those individuals who know first hand the horrors tobacco addiction can cause. To spend these monies on anything but *tobacco* concerns is wrong.

Representative Rokeberg has introduced House bill #21. It requests 50% of the tobacco settlement monies be appropriated for tobacco reduction programs. We applaud Representative Rokeberg's efforts and realize that between now and the passage of HB 21 there will be many alterations. Please through your deliberations, be sensitive to the reasons why this money is now even available and be prudent in your decisions to amend, delete and/or tack on other items which would dilute the purpose of this bill.

Dentistry, like everyone else is more and more recognizing its particular responsibility in addressing tobacco concerns. One huge step forward would be a comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation program in Alaska. These programs work, the expertise to create Alaska programs is here - the only item lacking is the feeling that tobacco cessation is a public health issue worthy of funding.

Sincerely,

David Logan, DDS

David G. Logan, DDS
President
Alaska Dental Society



Alaska Women's Resource Center

111 W. 9th Avenue • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • (907) 276-0528 • Fax: (907) 278-8944

March 2, 1999

MAR 05 1999

Ms Janet S. Seitz, Staff
Representative Norman Rokeberg
Alaska State Capitol, #24
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Janet:

I had a lot of conversations with a lot of people during my recent visit to Juneau. It was great to have the opportunity to speak with someone who I personally know.

As a follow-up to our conversation, I am sending you a couple of our publications. First, our agency brochure: this succinct write up gives a brief synopsis of our program services. Individuals can quickly read through it and determine if they are in need of our assistance. Second, our annual report: this publication gives information on the specific services we provided to women and their families for the year ending June 30, 1998. Your perusal of these documents will clarify our conversation on the need to maintain core services for Alaskans.

Please let Representative Rokeberg know that I appreciate his concerns regarding the use of the tobacco settlement funds. Use of addictive drugs is not part of a healthy life style for Alaskans. We, along with non-profit agencies around the state, are helping by providing effective and efficient substance abuse treatment services.

Again, thank you for spending some of your time with me. I'll see you at Sourdough Bowl.

Sincerely,

Diane J. Heard
Executive Director

Enclosures

PLEASE PUT THIS IN P.01/01
my PACKET WHEN I HEAR THIS
BILL OR VOTE ON IT.

JUNEAU TOBACCO PREVENTION NETWORK

3200 HOSPITAL DRIVE, ROOM 202
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 463-5845
FAX: (907) 463-5877

March 3, 1999

Representatives John Coghill and Fred Dyson, Co-chairs
Health Education and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Coghill and Representative Dyson:

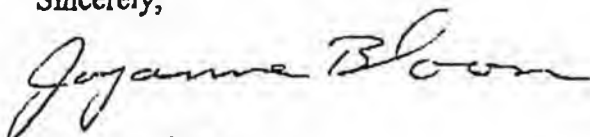
The Juneau Tobacco Prevention Network supports the intended purpose of HB21 which ensures that tobacco settlement money goes to tobacco prevention and control.

Our volunteer group has been working hard to keep children from becoming addicted and helping those who want to quit. Some events we have sponsored are: The Great Alaska SmokeScream, Kick Butts Day 3K Camel Chase, a Nicoderm Patch giveaway in conjunction with American Lung Association and our most recent Pink Lung Award Luncheon. We have also led the state in our vendor compliance checks and convinced our international airport to go smoke-free. We are proud of our Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) group of 15 - 20 outstanding students who presented in over 50 elementary school classrooms reaching well over 1,000 children with their tobacco prevention message. They are also active at local health fairs and have done radio interviews and public service announcements.

Despite all that we have done, there is still a lot of smoke filling the air and causing health problems in our community. There's much more to be done to counter the \$11,000/minute media campaign of the tobacco industry especially preventing youth from becoming addicted. It takes funding to continue our presence in the classrooms and to offer help fighting youth and adult addictions. It also takes funding to campaign against the exposure of children to secondhand smoke in their homes, cars and play areas.

With your help we believe we can make Juneau and all of Alaska a healthier environment while saving futures dollars that would be spent on the medical costs of tobacco addiction.

Sincerely,



Joyanne Bloom
Coordinator

JUNEAU TOBACCO PREVENTION NETWORK

3200 HOSPITAL DRIVE, ROOM 202

JUNEAU, AK 99801

(907) 463-5845

FAX: (907) 463-5877

MAR 04 1999

March 2, 1999

Representative Norm Rokeberg
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Rokeberg:

The Juneau Tobacco Prevention Network wants to congratulate you for your effort to use tobacco settlement money for paying the bills of those suffering from tobacco illness and for keeping others from becoming ill and addicted to nicotine.

Our volunteer group has been working hard to keep children from becoming addicted and helping those who want to quit. Some events we have sponsored are: The Great Alaska SmokeScream, Kick Butts Day 3K Camel Chase, a Nicoderm Patch giveaway in conjunction with American Lung Association and our most recent Pink Lung Award Luncheon. We have also led the state in our vendor compliance checks and convinced our international airport to go smoke-free. We are proud of our Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) group of 15 - 20 outstanding students who presented in over 50 elementary school classrooms reaching well over 1,000 children with their tobacco prevention message. They are also active at local health fairs and have done radio interviews and public service announcements.

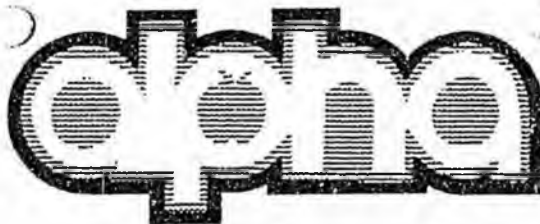
Despite all that we have done, there is still a lot of smoke filling the air and causing health problems in our community. There's much more to be done to counter the \$11,000/minute media campaign of the tobacco industry especially preventing youth from becoming addicted. It takes funding to continue our presence in the classrooms and to offer help fighting youth and adult addictions. It also takes funding to campaign against the exposure of children to secondhand smoke in their homes, cars and play areas.

With your help we believe we can make Juneau and all of Alaska a healthier environment for all!

Sincerely,



Joyanne Bloom
Coordinator



Alaska Public Health Association

P.O. BOX 9-1825

Anchorage, Alaska 99509

JAN 28 1999

January 22, 1999

Representative Norman Rokeberg
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Rokeberg:

The Alaska Public Health Association, whose purpose is to improve the public's health, is a statewide organization representing over 200 public health professionals and advocates.

At our 1998 annual meeting, the Alaska Public Health Association passed the attached resolution in support of state funding for a comprehensive tobacco and prevention and control program. The association urges you to insure that full funding for an ongoing, statewide, comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program, based on sound analysis and "best practices" guidelines such as those developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, be the first priority for any dollars received as a result of Alaska's lawsuit against the tobacco industry.

On behalf of all the members of the Alaska Public Health Association, I appreciate your timely attention to this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Kilgore/BMC". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Cheryl Kilgore
President

attachment: Resolution 1-98

**ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION 1-98
IN SUPPORT OF STATE FUNDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO
PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM**

Sponsor: Anne Marie Holen

Whereas smoking is the leading cause of death in Alaska, representing 20% of all deaths¹; and

Whereas smoking-attributable medical costs in Alaska are estimated to be \$96.5 million annually²; and

Whereas rates of tobacco use among both teens and adults in Alaska exceed the national average³; and

Whereas approximately 14,000 Alaskans currently under the age of 18 will eventually die from tobacco-caused disease unless effective action is taken to end the tobacco epidemic⁴; and

Whereas the public health community faces an enormous challenge in its efforts to reduce the burden of tobacco-caused disease due to the wealth, influence, and unethical business practices of the tobacco industry⁵; and

Whereas public health experts are in agreement that only a comprehensive approach can achieve a major reduction in tobacco use such as outlined in the Healthy People 2000 national objectives⁶; and

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control has developed guidelines recommending a budget of at least \$8.7 million annually for an effective statewide tobacco control program in Alaska⁷; and

Whereas Alaska has settled its lawsuit with the tobacco industry to recover the costs of treating sick smokers, and will receive a large monetary payment distributed to the state government over the next 25 years⁸; and

Whereas the cost of treating tobacco-related disease is not recoverable with this settlement and tobacco is still readily available;

Whereas 77% of Alaskans surveyed in a statewide poll (October 1998) said they believe that half or more of all tobacco lawsuit settlement funds received by the state should be spent on programs to reduce smoking⁹; and

Whereas the state currently invests only \$200,000 annually in tobacco prevention and control despite collecting approximately \$40 million annually in tobacco taxes¹⁰;

Therefore be it resolved that full funding for an ongoing, statewide, comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program, based on sound analysis and "best practices" guidelines such as those developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, be the first priority for any dollars received as a result of Alaska's lawsuit against the tobacco industry.

Adopted at ALPHA Annual Meeting, December 2, 1998

Fiscal Note: \$50

Action Steps:

1. Send a cover letter and the resolution to Governor, Commissioner Karen Perdue, and Dr. Peter Nakamura.
2. Send a cover letter and the resolution to members of the Alaska State Legislature.
3. Send the resolution to the Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance.

¹ Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Epidemiology Bulletin: "Smoking Related Mortality in Alaska, 1992-94," Jan. 12, 1996.

² Catherine Schumacher, "Smoking Attributable Mortality and Economic Costs in Alaska 1992-94," Alaska Medicine, Jan/Feb/Mar 1996, Vol. 38, No. 1.

³ U.S. DHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, YRBS and BRFSS data.

⁴ U.S. DHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Projected Smoking-Related Deaths Among Youth-United States," MMWR, November 18, 1996, Vol. 45, No. 44 estimated 17,999 premature deaths. This figure revised to 13,949 deaths by Kids Count Alaska 1997, based on assumptions by Alaska DHSS regarding effect of tobacco price increases on youth smoking rates (price elasticity).

⁵ For numerous examples, see: The Advocacy Institute, Smoke and Mirrors: How the Tobacco Industry Buys and Lies Its Way to Power and Profits, Washington DC, August 1998.

⁶ This view has been expressed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (see #7 below), among others.

⁷ U.S. DHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "State Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Budget Guidelines," November 19, 1998.

⁸ Announced by Governor Knowles on November 19, 1998.

⁹ 628 Alaskan voters interviewed statewide by telephone October 15-17, 1998 by Mason-Dixon Political/Media Research, Inc. Poll commissioned by the National Center for Tobacco Free Kids, Washington, DC.

¹⁰ Tobacco control budget figure from the FY 1999 General Fund budget, Alaska Legislature. Tax revenue figure from the Alaska Department of Revenue.

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
ASDR 98/99-8

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INVESTING TOBACCO SETTLEMENT MONEY
ON EFFECTIVE TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CESSATION PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, youth smoking and smokeless tobacco use rates in Alaska are higher than the national average; and,

WHEREAS, nearly 90 percent of adults who smoke began using cigarettes by age 18; and,

WHEREAS, more than 80 percent of Alaskans who smoke report that they want to quit; and,

WHEREAS, tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, each year 470 Alaskans die and countless others suffer from tobacco-related distress, including many of those exposed to secondhand smoke; and,

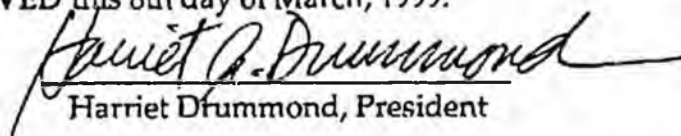
WHEREAS, direct public and private expenditures in Alaska to treat health problems caused by smoking total roughly \$150 million annually; and,

WHEREAS, a comprehensive statewide tobacco control strategy would dramatically reduce smoking and other tobacco use in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, in a pre-election poll of Alaskan voters, 77 percent said that at least half of the tobacco settlement funds should be spent on reducing smoking among kids;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Anchorage School Board supports the intent to invest at least 50 percent of the tobacco settlement money on effective tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 8th day of March, 1999.


Harriet Drummond, President

Bettye Davis
Rita J. Holthouse
Dave Werdal

Kathi Gillespie
Debbie Ossiander
Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Bob Christal, Superintendent

Cordova Public Schools

P. O. Box 140
100 Fisherman Avenue
Cordova, Alaska 99574
424-3265
(FAX) 424-3271

MAR 08 1999

March 8, 1999

Representative Fred Dyson, Co-Chair
Representative John Coghill, Co-Chair
House HESS Committee
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representatives Dyson and Coghill,

We are writing to express our support for investing tobacco settlement on effective tobacco prevention and cessation programs. We are members of a class at Cordova High School who are learning about tobacco and its effects, particularly on youth. We believe tobacco company payments should go to fight tobacco company harms and we support the intent of House Bill 21.

We have learned that tobacco-related diseases are the leading cause of preventable death in Alaska, claiming the lives of one in every five Alaskans. Almost all of these people started using tobacco as children. They saw were victims of tobacco industry advertising that focused on them. The tobacco tax was a good first step, but we need more help in getting a comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation effort in Alaska.

We go to the elementary school to help young children learn about the dangers of smoking and we know that some of them will start before junior high. It has happened to us and now even though we want to quit smoking and are trying to do so, it is very difficult.

Representative Rokeberg's House Bill 21 requests 50% of the tobacco settlement monies to be appropriated for tobacco reduction programs. We thank him for his effort and support the intent of this bill. We have learned that seventy-seven percent of Alaskans who have been asked believe that half or more the settlement should be invested to reduce smoking among kids.

A comprehensive statewide tobacco prevention and cessation program would dramatically reduce tobacco use rates in Alaska. We know the tax made a big difference. Now the tobacco industry has given us the opportunity to go all the way. We encourage you to take the step necessary in making this opportunity a reality. Support Representative Rokeberg's House Bill 21.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Sarah Cleylon

CHS Students

Mylene Mapili
Chris Sarcus

Susan Harding

CC: representative Rokeberg



NATIVE VILLAGE OF GAMBELL

P.O. Box 90 • Gambell, Alaska 99742 • (907) 985-5346 • FAX (907) 985-5014

March 5, 1999

Representative Fred Dyson, Co-Chair
Representative John Coghill, Co-Chair
House HESS Committee
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Dyson and Coghill:

The Native Village of Gambell is in strong support for investing tobacco settlement money on effective tobacco prevention and cessation programs. A comprehensive plan would dramatically reduce tobacco use in Alaska and therefore support the intent of House Bill 21.

Nearly 90% of adults who smoke began using cigarettes by or at age 18. More than 80% of Alaskans who smoke report that they want to quit yet this is difficult since nicotine is widely regarded to be as addictive as heroin or cocaine. Alaska needs a comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation programs. The tobacco tax was an important first step, but only part of what is needed and less than 1% of tobacco tax revenue is spent to curb tobacco use in Alaska.

Representative Rokeberg's House Bill 21 requests 50% of the tobacco settlement monies be appropriated for tobacco reduction programs. We applaud Representative Rokeberg's effort and support the intent of this bill.

We are concerned about the health of Alaskans. We encourage you to support adequate tobacco program funding and prevent the past from becoming our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Deborah K. Apatiki'.

Deborah K. Apatiki
General Manager

Cc: Representative Rokeberg
file

Subject: letter of support for HB 21

Date: Mon, 08 Mar 1999 09:36:24 -0600

From: jdowns@kpbsd.k12.ak.us (Judy Downs)

**To: Representative_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us,
representative_john_coghill@legis.state.ak.us**

CC: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us

March 5, 1999

Representative Fred Dyson, Co-Chair
Representative John Coghill, Co-Chair
House HESS Committee
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representatives Dyson and Coghill:

I am writing to express strong support for investing tobacco settlement money on effective tobacco prevention and cessation treatment programs. I therefore, strongly support House Bill 21. As a Safe and Drug-Free Schools Specialist, I work with young people on a daily basis. Many are struggling with trying to stop using tobacco products but need support to end this deadly addiction.

Tobacco kills one out of five Alaskans. While the tobacco tax is working (sales are down 17%), we still have a long ways to go. Even with decreased consumption, it is estimated that 14,000 Alaskans alive today between 0 and 18 years of age will die from a tobacco related illness.

Representative Rokeberg's House Bill 21 requests 50% of the tobacco settlement monies be appropriated for tobacco reduction programs. We cannot keep citing these young people for using tobacco products and not offer them assistance to quit or better yet never start.

Please consider offering your support to HB 21 and to those of us working in the trenches trying to help our young people make healthy choices.

Sincerely,
Judy Downs. RN, MS
Safe & Drug-Free Schools

Cc: Representative Norman Rokeberg