

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2001-2002 8672

10228 HOUSE HEALTH EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

73

**Subject: Comments on HB464**

**Date: Mon, 04 Mar 2002 11:09:59 -0900**

**From: Jay Ver Hoef <ffjmv@uaf.edu>**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Jason:

Please pass these comments onto the committee members.

I would like to thank you committee members for sponsoring this important bill and encourage you to pass it.

Homeschool and correspondent students should not be faced with more restrictions than traditional public school students. It is important to keep in mind the main goal for everyone is providing excellent education for our children, and thus allow parents freedom in their choices what best suits the individual child's needs. The sytem is working well now with support from public educators (such as through IDEA).

This bill is an important step in gaurding against over-regulation to homechooled and correspondent students, and again I urge you to pass this good legislation.

Sincerely,  
Mary Ver Hoef  
Fairbanks, AK

**Subject: HB464 - Please support it!**

**Date:** Sun, 3 Mar 2002 06:43:24 -0900

**From:** "Bill Miller" <kenai@sarcomgs.com>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Fred\_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Reggie\_Joule@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Sharon\_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us>

**CC:** <Representative\_Peggy\_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_John\_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Gary\_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Vic\_Kohring@legis.state.ak.us>

HB464 - Please include this message in the packet for the committee members

Distinguished House HES Committee Members,

We wanted to take a moment to urge both of you to support HB464 as we feel that the Dept. of Education and Early Development should be limited with regards to enacting legislation that affects statewide correspondence programs. We homeschool our son and believe it is the best education that he could ever get. I work for XTO Energy, Inc., in Nikiski as District Administration Manager but my background/degree is Secondary Education. I've taught in the classroom and have seen first hand the problems with the system. With homeschooling, we've been able to overcome those and give our son a "world class education" and I'm willing to compare my son's scores with any student in the public system. We believe you'll find that the State of Alaska is getting a tremendous return on it's education dollars that are spent on home schoolers both in terms of better education and more efficient use of the dollars spent by the state on homeschooled kids. We believe if you compare all of the homeschooled kids in the state to the public system, you'll find the same. Please don't allow the Dept. of Education and Early Development to burden us homeschoolers with the same bureaucratic nightmare as the public system. We urge you to support HB464.

My parents moved to Alaska back in 1966 when I was three, and I've lived and worked all across Alaska thanks to my father being an Alaska State Trooper and my own career path. I've been involved with, and seen first hand the education system from St. Marys to Savoonga, Togiak to Tununak, Anchorage to Alakanuk, Fairbanks to King Salmon, and I can tell you that nobody knows first hand about the education of their children than the local people. The parents of Alaska know their children and their local situation better than anyone in Juneau, and the last thing any of us need is the Department of Education in Juneau or Washington D.C. dictating to us how our children should be educated or how our education dollars should be spent. I remember in Fairbanks as a child when native kids were sent from their villages to Fairbanks or Anchorage to attend elementary school, and always thought it was terrible that they couldn't live and learn in their own community where their parents knew what was best for their children's education. Years ago the State figured it out and now kids go to school in their own villages as they should have been able to from the beginning. We have a diverse population in a huge state - we need to respect that. Please support HB464 and let's keep the Dept. of Education off our backs.

Sincerely,

Bill & Linda Miller  
402 Eadies Way  
Kenai, AK 99611

907-283-2726

**Subject: adopt CS HB464**

**Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 13:45:04 -0900**

**From: kate@ae-data.com (Kate LaSota)**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Please know that I would like you to adopt the committee substitute of HB464 and not HB464 as it stands so that policy control is left more local and less general.

Thankyou.

Kate LaSota

**Subject: HB 464**

**Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 13:01:20 -0900**

**From: "Max Mitchell" <donna@xyz.net>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Jason please include our message to all members of the HES committee. I urge you to support HB 464. Patsy and I have adopted one of our granddaughters. We homeschool because we want our input in her education. Idea not only allows this but encourages it. DEED's attempt to burden statewide correspondence is outrageous.

Max and Patsy Mitchell  
Homer, AK

**Subject: proposed state regulations and CS of HB 464**

**Date:** Sun, 3 Mar 2002 23:39:21 -0900

**From:** "Floyd Wright" <fwright@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Please pass this e-mail on to the members of the EDU committee. I am a homeschool Mom on the IDEA homeschool program. I chose IDEA because I wanted to have someone to be accountable to, and I still wanted the freedom to be able to choose the best curriculum for my children's needs. IDEA allows me to look over curriculum and chose what works for each of my children. When I chose a curriculum that falls short in some areas the contact teacher let's me know. Then she tells me where I can get the supplemental help that the kids will need. In the meeting about HB464 on Friday, March 1st I listened to Mr.. McLain talk about the Cyberlinks and Delta Jct. programs and where they fall short. I felt like IDEA and other programs were being punished because of Cyberlinks and Delta's shortcomings. We do have to be in contact with our contact teacher periodically and our orders we put in are looked at carefully. If the office staff wonders why we are ordering something they ask the teacher and they have to approve the order. Candi Ahiers is our contact teacher and she frequently emails us about websites, upcoming Benchmark testing, and tells us where we can go for extra review to help us. When I go to the IDEA office for copies or help, Candi will frequently talk to my kids and myself about how things are going and ask if we need help with anything. Contact teachers will be in frequent contact if that is what you want or they will contact less often if that is what you want. As for the religious based curriculum IDEA doesn't pay for it and I don't ask them to. All I ask is that we be allowed to not only purchase religious based curriculum, but that we get credit for it. Mr.. McLain told the committee on Friday that we could still use religious based curriculum and be on the program, but that we wouldn't get credit for that class. Why does he think we are on the program? We want and need that credit! I have never ask my contact teacher for help on any of the religious aspects of any subject. I double checked with her about that. I don't need help with that part, I need help with reports - how long they should be and how many sources for what age group, how to cite material that was learned on the internet, etc.. Please help us to keep the right to use religious based curriculum and not only be on the program, but receive credit in those classes. When our kids reach college entrance age they need credit for the classes taken. One of the examples given on Friday about homeschoolers was a girl who had not finished even one of her courses and there was no accountability for it. IDEA has already covered that with rules of their own. We have to turn in Individual Learning Programs for each student and Progress Reports two times a year. If they don't see us or hear from us they do get in contact with us and check on our progress. There is no excuse for someone on IDEA not doing the work. Please protect our constitutional religious freedom by passing the CS of HB 464 and allowing us to use religious based curriculum and be on the IDEA program. If they can show me curriculum that is equal to or better than the curriculum I choose from A BEKA then I will consider changing curriculum. Thank you, Gaye Wright

Please pass CS (committee substitute) of HB464

**Subject: Please pass CS (committee substitute) of HB464**

**Date:** Sun, 3 Mar 2002 21:15:46 -0900

**From:** "Charlie & Joanne Hardesty" <chardesty@connect.kpbsd.k12.ak.us>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

**PLEASE adopt the CS (Committee Substitute) of HB464 and pass it as quickly as possible. This is very important to all home school families.**

**Please include this message in the packet for the House HES committee members.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Joanne Hardesty  
48271 Wild Rose Lane  
Kenai, AK 99611  
907-776-8137**

**Subject: HB464**

**Date: Sun, 03 Mar 2002 09:20:10 -0900**

**From: Mark Ridling <lokee@mtaonline.net>**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Sirs,

I have been a home school teacher with the IDEA program for the last five years and support HB464. Without quality programs like IDEA home schooling would not be what it is today. My children are able to achieve so much more through being schooled at home and I do not want to loose this valuable resource.

Sincerely,  
Sherry Ridling

P.S. Jason, please see that my comments are seen by all the committee members.

**Subject: Committee Substitute of HB464**

**Date: Sun, 3 Mar 2002 08:00:06 -0900**

**From: "Dempster" <mdempster@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Dear Jason:

Please include this message in the packet to all the committee members. I would like to urge them all to adopt the Committee Substitute of HB464. I definitely think the Department of EED needs to be limited in their ability to regulate statewide correspondence schools.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Marjie Dempster

**Subject: HB464 - Please support it!**

**Date:** Sun, 3 Mar 2002 06:43:24 -0900

**From:** "Bill Miller" <kenai@sarcomgs.com>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Fred\_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Reggie\_Joule@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Sharon\_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us>

**CC:** <Representative\_Peggy\_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_John\_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Gary\_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Vic\_Kohring@legis.state.ak.us>

HB464 - Please include this message in the packet for the committee members

Distinguished House HES Committee Members,

We wanted to take a moment to urge both of you to support HB464 as we feel that the Dept. of Education and Early Development should be limited with regards to enacting legislation that affects statewide correspondence programs. We homeschool our son and believe it is the best education that he could ever get. I work for XTO Energy, Inc., in Nikiski as District Administration Manager but my background/degree is Secondary Education. I've taught in the classroom and have seen first hand the problems with the system. With homeschooling, we've been able to overcome those and give our son a "world class education" and I'm willing to compare my son's scores with any student in the public system. We believe you'll find that the State of Alaska is getting a tremendous return on it's education dollars that are spent on home schoolers both in terms of better education and more efficient use of the dollars spent by the state on homeschoolers. We believe if you compare all of the homeschool kids in the state to the public system, you'll find the same. Please don't allow the Dept. of Education and Early Development to burden us homeschoolers with the same bureaucratic nightmare as the public system. We urge you to support HB464.

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Sincerely,

Bill & Linda Miller  
402 Eadies Way  
Kenai, AK 99611

907-283-2726

**Subject: HB464**

**Date:** Sun, 3 Mar 2002 13:39:11 -0900

**From:** "Lawrence Murray" <tagcsv@alaska.net>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Greetings Sir

Please add the following message to packet for the HES committee members.

Thank you.

Representative Jeannette James and Representative Fred Dyson have co-sponsored HB464, which limits the rights of the Dept of Education and Early Development to enact legislation for statewide correspondence program. I support HB464 and urge you to support it as well. I appreciate you hard work in representing me in the legislator.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence Murray

**Subject:**

**Date:** Mon, 4 Mar 2002 18:36:28 -0500

**From:** "akuto@alaska.net" <akuto@alaska.net>

**To:** "Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us." <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

**CC:** "HB 464" <HB\_464>

Concerning HB 464-Please distribute to all committee members.

I have homeschooled my children for the last 16 years. Our oldest daughter (16) is a  
Our 12 year old son is on a snowmachine driving to Nome with the mushers. He has sper  
Our 6 year old is just beginning her knowledge journey.

This November we, as a family, are flying one of our airplanes to Antarctica to explor  
None of this would be possible within the traditional schooling system.

For many years we homeschooled alone, with much pain and lots of our own money. Since

Please pass the committee substitute of HB 464. Organizations such as IDEA should ope  
Make the paperwork equal to public schools, our administrators don't need to do paperw

Most of us want our kids to be well educated. With the help of a great organization I

Thank you for your time.

Donna Claus  
PO Box 109  
Chitina, AK 99566  
akuto@alaska.net

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mail2web - Check your email from the web at  
<http://mail2web.com/> .

PO Box 240  
Kenai, AK 99611

March 4, 2002

House HES Committee

To Whom It May Concern,

Please adopt the committee substitute of HB464. Please pass this substitute quickly.

Sincerely,

Rosanne Carlson

March 6, 2002

Re: HB 464

Representatives Jeannette James, and Fred Dyson  
State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska

*H.E.S.S. Committee  
Members - Thank you.*

I would like to give you a copy of the attached letter to the Dept. of Education and Early Development regarding their proposed regulations for statewide correspondence programs (AAC 33.421-450) because I feel there may be some things overlooked that may be addressed by additions in your bill if you were willing to amend, or add something into it.

I did bold, on page 3 of my letter, something that I feel may change state law regarding the freedom of all parents to home school. I feel it may be implementing punitive circumstances for all home school families, whether they are associated to a correspondence program or not (33.450), if they are independently home schooling but opt to not do a benchmark, denying them also any entry into a state funded correspondence program for the current year they apply, and the following year from the first year they attempt to apply, which goes against the wishes of the legislature in the freedom home schooling families currently enjoy.

I would like to hear from you specifically on how we can help further the success of HB 464, and anything you feel we can do to help this bill successfully move towards passage.

Thank you so much for its introduction. I feel it is a very good thing you to have had the insight to have moved forward with this.

Sincerely,

*Joan Dangel*

Joan Dangel  
Box 34711  
Juneau, AK 99803-4711  
790-7265 [startraveler@aci.net](mailto:startraveler@aci.net)

*I would appreciate it if Ms. James & Mr. Dyson were allowed to read this personally as it may in some way aid the content of HB464.  
Thank you much.  
Joan*

Commissioner Shirley Holloway  
301 West Tenth Street, Suite 200  
Juneau, AK 99801-1894

March 4, 2002

Re: 4 AAC 33.421 Statewide Correspondence  
Study Program Requirements

Dear Commissioner Holloway,

I am a proactive and involved parent of an autistic child with sensory integration and expressive language disorders home schooling my son successfully, using the CyberLynx program to help with sound educational advice and resources to do so. I am homeschooling my son by myself, without any public district involvement, as was my wish due to their negative input, lack of working with my son, and after 3.5 years with them (2 preschools and 2 kindergartens they had him), reporting to me my son was totally incapable of learning enough to move past a preschool level. After being put on a 'complaint campaign' the public school system usually ensues with children with unusual differences, and being told he could not learn, I had to take my child out because I wanted him to make it to college, and I could see he was capable and felt in my heart he could learn. And, he could. I had asked all contacts with the child to work with him, they would not - and no - IEPs do not cause services to occur, they often exist as a paper tiger to obtain mis-distributed funding only. I went to the public school each day myself to work with my son after the 1.5 years of the kindergarten part they had with him, requesting they work with him, but they would not. I went into a panic state inside, because I felt he needed an education - it was my love to make him a success in this world that caused me to get proactive in his life in this area. And that it is clear to many, many parents in this state, IDEA's provisions are not enforced when it comes down to all the attorneys and disability law office involvement, as we currently see a number of families going through the same process I did, pulling their autistic children out of the schools in Juneau, just to find their children absolutely 'could' do it, had someone just stopped to sit at the table and work with them personally. As certified as they claim their educators to be - they are mis-certifying children as unable when it is untruthful in many cases right here in Juneau. I have obtained success unimaginable <sup>prior to</sup> ~~prior to~~ <sup>during</sup> their involvement.

I am concerned over the proposed regulations regarding correspondence programs due to the high success I have achieved with my son, as the correspondence program stands as it exists now. The proposed regulations immediately sharply appear too broad to know specifically what some of them are actually doing. To be accurately informed, I had requested from the Department (DEED) an accurate, honest, narrative explicitly stating exactly what and how each proposed regulation changed things, and did not receive one.

The regulations appear in many areas to come across as strongly bias to home schooling - when some children are receiving absolutely wonderful strides forward, they would not have otherwise experienced had they left it up to an incapable public system. By being bias to this worthy avenue of home schooling, it is ignorant of an avenue that is the only avenue that will or can work for some children in the world.

I am not a drifter type of home school parent, and most parents home schooling, I have found, are doing so because they want their children's education to be of a higher quality. Where classroom teacher campaigns are geared that the answer is in raising their salary, I disagree sharply. It is that they need to enforce lowering the teacher/student ratio to discontinue ruling it for each generation of children to 16, from the enormous amount of children a district is leaving a teacher alone to educate, as Cheney, Washington recently did with marked success.

Each year, my son is subjected to work much harder than anything ever handed to him in a public system. He does Saxon Phonics, a very difficult reading program and Saxon Mathematics. He was asked to pass an inquiry for level of academic understanding for entry into first grade after I home schooled him in CyberLynx a kindergarten year using Calvert's complete home school curriculum. He passed that home school curriculum, and did it in one school year. Please remember, that although it was his third attempt at kindergarten, it was his 1st year with me, and he passed his requirements in a timely period (one regular school year time), but could not pass two prior kindergartens under the public system's care. He is required to keep up with state standards.

When we began first grade, it was a very, very difficult program (Saxon), but my son will finish his first grade year in April, before the public system is even finished. I don't know if you have ever read the Saxon Phonics manuals, but they are extensive and very, very difficult. Saxon only has phonics programs for K-3. Our advisor was a 5th-grade teacher, she said that some of the Saxon 1st grade program was so difficult it was stuff she was teaching to 5th graders. Aside the difficulty level that I am not totally in agreement with for such a young

child with sensory processing issues, the program has wonderful structure to it with assessments each week, spelling tests each Friday, so many development worksheets it is up in the hundreds – but they are extremely well-prepared in their presentation. When other parents of autistic children leaving the district ask to see the Saxon things, they are just in awe of what my son can do. His progress and improvements have been significant (especially as he experiences 'actual' and hard-earned successes instead of constant flunking). Side-by-side with a research program (we found through Evening Magazine news show) he is on for a unique nutrient for central nervous system disorders discovered that is coming out of three universities in Canada, my son has come a long way. My son has earned his progress by very, very hard work.

I feel the author of the proposed home school regulations mistakenly feels home schooling is a 'lazy' lifestyle taking funds away from public schools. I am trying to make it clear to you that home schooling is not a lazy home life business, it is something that many parents take extremely serious and work very hard at. I have the education from 9-12. Then, we continue on the day with P.E. classes at the gymnastics program in Juneau, the Racquet Ball Club, or Juneau City Borough. Then, we have private speech and sensory processing therapies to attend. The day is full and there is gas money, food money, class money to worry about – as a single parent it is very difficult and I gave up everything to do this because I wanted him to make it in this world – to make it to college. If I had just given up and left it up to the public system and believed them he was incapable. It would have altered the course his life forever. The sacrifices are difficult and filled with hardships of their own to give up everything to educate a child. I ask that there be more mercy towards those taking responsibility for their children's education due to this, and the fact that we were not asked to help form these regulations so they appear to be a negative encroachment, or a negative, maliciously planned 'surprise' for home school families.

I have specific objections to the following provisions:

**33.421(c) Requiring curriculum material to be of the same quality as offered in the public schools programs** because there is apparent unforeseen inappropriate limitations this could be covering. For example, physical education services in Alaska are limited due to a majority of it being 'rural.' We take what we can, what comes up. If in some situations there are extreme limitations for art, physical education, music, etc., this could be a venue for forcing families to take what is dictated (like Alaska), rather than the only variety there is available in small communities. Additionally, this provision does remove flexibility from home schoolers if something very good is found, like we do find wonderful things now. One significant advantage of home schooling is our ability to fit the education to the individual needs of our children. I believe serious parents are better able than the school administrators to make this determination for children. It appears the regulation is written to force home schoolers to use only state sponsored and approved curriculum. This is very objectionable to me.

**Under 33.421(d) No instruction using religious, partisan, sectarian, or denominational curricula purchased privately by the parent, ...if the curricula teach particular religious beliefs, or a particular religion as true:** I have personal concerns for this reason – I used the Calvert full curriculum program for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for a full year, (Calvert out of Baltimore, Maryland), having NO knowledge at all it had anything to do with religion whatsoever until your agency did an onsite review of CyberLynx and stated they wanted to enforce Calvert's being discontinued. I, as a parent, do not choose to teach with religious curriculum. The Calvert program was so good; a fully transcribed, educational plan – and I never found even one reference in any of its education based parts to religion ever. I did see in an optional paragraph at the beginning of the lessons towards the start where a number of things were listed as possible contemplative discussions for an opening discussion to the school day, such as discuss the purpose of school, a salute to the flag, or even a review of yesterday's work or talk about something important to the child, etc. *One of those items listed, and it is only listed at the very beginning of the book, was, if you want, you could say a prayer and they tell you what they do say for a prayer at the actual Calvert Academy.* I feel it is a terrible mistaken disservice to the correspondence programs of this state to want to outlaw a course with extremely high educational benefit, for one small reference to a 'religious option', without putting religion itself in its curriculum such as Calvert does not do. Calvert does not put religious content into their program anywhere – and I feel it shows a little too much negative intent to have targeted Calvert like your team did. It is a wonderful, full, curriculum program. It just shocked me to see your agencies willingness to go after anything and everything. That program sends you everything for your \$300.00. It sends the pencils, the paint, the tape and glue, the rulers, the math books, the reading books – anything you could imagine. It sent everything and not even one religious book came in those highly educational natured boxes; not even one. I think the reviewers bias is so significant here – that to throw this curriculum out showed there was something wrong to me. Although we are

not a religion-based home schooling family, I feel 33.421(d) is an attempt to deliberately attempt to remove religious students from the correspondence programs.

**33.421(e)(2) grades, or standards met determined and assigned by a certified teacher.** After our experience with the public system, all the 'certification' it was claimed to have, this proposed reg can cause some resentment that we are stuck with an unstable, ineffective system, because you have allowed it to police itself by being the only one allowed to assign a grade. I know a certified teacher is not the only one competent for this task. Also, taking away all grading rights of parents makes Alaska one of the strictest in the nation when it was, before this proposed reg, one of the most user friendly for home schooling families in the entire union - and probably was so due to the large size of our state and remote locations of families - administrative costs are very high. I feel the correspondence programs should be allowed to set this requirement up or not based on the student's in their districts apparent needs as they come up, such as staying behind for too long. You are in fact creating an added administrative burden for the correspondence school, but not putting a fiscal note with the section - is this to make things harder on the correspondence programs?

**33.421(h)(2) material purchased with state funding are property of the program; non consumable material must be returned to the program when the students exit the program for any reason.** This provision is ineffective totally. With Saxon Publishing rights alone, they say right in their manual they will not allow you to 'share' their materials - that it is intended for just your family's use. With my child's unique learning style, I also need to keep the manuals, dictionaries, and space and human body encyclopedias at least one year longer as encyclopedias for memory issues. Given to the correspondence program, they will sit useless upon a shelf with rules of law governing its inability to be given to anyone else. Also, our computers are purchased with part of our own money, part is purchased with school money - they are non-consumable. How are you going to account for that in this reg? Also, you are turning parents and the correspondence program into expensive mailing, sorting, inventorying, storage and redistribution agencies. They will have to purchase a warehouse to put all the things - how will we ship desks? Where will we get the money? How will we ship large calendar displays and software, which outdates quickly? The software will sit upon a shelf unusable by anyone else. This takes money from the needs of the children, to make a new and greater financial need you are not providing the money for. This specifically complicates things and seems like someone's over zealous imagination got carried away. A successful program stays that way by keeping it simple for children and families.

**33.450 If a student fails to take a state-mandated assessment test, the student is ineligible for enrollment in the statewide correspondence programs for the following year unless the district of enrollment has excused the student from the state mandated test.** This seems to punish all home schooling families in the state and once again, the author's sincerity is questioned as it is unclear why it is written so austere towards home schooling families. This appears to be punitive towards families attached to a correspondence program or not. **If a family has been home schooling all along, and decides they could benefit from enrolling in a correspondence program, they are turned down the requesting year, and the next year, if in their private home schooling experience they did not do benchmark examinations. Well, our legislatures kindness towards home schooling families did not have this in mind, that they be punished in any way for exercising this right. This seems to violate existing state laws and should be stricken from the proposed regs: It does not provide for alternate testing dates whatsoever and seems to punish 'children' for nothing, for absolutely nothing.** I further object to the district where the tests are being taken having any say in the student's educational future. The correspondence program district should have sole oversight of the students along with the parents. At the very least, there should be a pattern of non-compliance for the correspondence program to feel concern - for example, refusing to take the test two years in a row. Alternate testing dates are a must if enrollment or re-enrollment is to be denied for failing to take a test.

My son is 8 years old and has progressed remarkably. My motivations for home schooling are so that my child will get an education as to where in the public system he was not getting an education at all. I plan to continue home schooling as long as I can and the Alaska Correspondence Program has provided an excellent forum for educating a child the district said 'could not be.' These changes proposed seem to prefer residential public school programs unfairly and are biased against the correspondence programs. No changes are needed in my view. The proposed changes seem to meet some education administrator's ideas of what meets his or her needs, but do little or nothing to help children and parents - none of these provisions should be adopted without a full, open, accessible, fair process. They go far beyond what is required by law.

Sincerely,

*Joan Dangeli*

Cc: Rep.'s Jeannette James & Fred Dyson

Joan Dangeli 790-7265 Box 34711; Juneau, AK 99803-4711 starttraveler@gci.net

**Subject: HB464 Comments on proposed regulations**

**Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 09:56:08 -0800**

**From: "Richard & Carol Hamilton" <rhamilton@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Dear JH:

Please include this message in the packet for the committee members. Thanks. CH.

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen:

My husband and I have homeschooled our 3rd grade daughter for four years through the I.D.E.A. Program and believe that she is receiving a superior education. She has taken the CAT-5 for three years at home and scored 97-99 percentile. She will be taking her first Benchmark exam this week. I am happy with the I.D.E.A. program--the certified teacher support, the staff support, the resource room support, the meetings and seminars, the curriculum fairs, and the financial allotment. The educational plan we submit at the beginning of the school year and two progress reports seem perfect to keep us all on track. This statewide correspondence program is a real blessing to us.

I hate to see more regulations for these state correspondence programs and especially for us parents and students. I am particularly concerned with the following.

**4AAC33.421(d), AAC33.421(e)(1), and 4AAC33.421(g)(2)**. As I understand this, it effectively prohibits parents from using privately purchased curricular materials with any religious content to teach their own children in their own home.

We are home educators--not evangelists. When we talk to IDEA personnel--we talk education--not religion. To prevent us from participating in a statewide correspondence program, because some of our books, that we purchase with our own money, come from Christian publishers and that we use inside our own homes--is a little restrictive, isn't it?

Another restriction is that all curriculum materials must be reviewed by a certified teacher for all students. This is a huge burden which would cause delays in homeschooling and would probably hard to administer. That's why we submit an Individual Learning Plan at the beginning of the new school year. Also, FYI, some (or maybe all) of our allotment funds are put on hold until this ILP is received and approved by the IDEA certified teacher.

**4AAC33.421 (h)(5)** says that all expenditures from the fund account must be approved by the certified teacher signing the student's plan. This is cumbersome and unnecessary if the guidelines are followed. The IDEA Order department monitors all purchases and reimbursements and provides far greater consistency by applying the same standards to all. Any questions on orders or lessons are referred to contact teacher. And, believe me, they strictly adhere to the rules. Also, the certified teachers are teachers--not accountants. It is a waste of their valuable teaching time to have them pushing accounting papers.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I'm sure a re-write of the regulations (if they are really necessary at all) could be done more effectively if input is received from homeschoolers and programs like IDEA.

Most sincerely,  
Carol A. Hamilton

**Subject: CS of HB464**

**Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 12:15:17 -0900**

**From: "Shawn" <slayton@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

**Please adopt the CS of HB464. I fully believe in this. Thank you for your time and service. One of the main reasons for remaining in Alaska after my husband and I completed a long and honorable military service was because of IDEA and the freedoms it provided as it pertains to my children and their most important education.**

**Please forward this to ail who should be aware of my opinion and request.**

**Cristy Layton**

**IDEA parent teacher**

**907-457-1213**

**Fairbanks, AK**

**Subject: HB 464**

**Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 12:29:50 -0900**

**From: "Art & Ann Ward" <award@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

House HES Committee Members:

Please adopt HB 464! This legislation, if passed, will protect parents' rights to use curriculum material as they see fit. During this budget deficit, support for statewide correspondence schools which accomplish their goals "better, cheaper" is important. The freedom for parents to educate their children at home has already been successful. Please, let's protect parental rights to choose and use curriculum material as they see fit. Adopt HB 464.

**Subject:** HB464

**Date:** Mon, 4 Mar 2002 13:39:56 -0900

**From:** "John & Valerie Turner" <jturner@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Jason,

Could you include this message in the packet for all of the House HES Committee Members.

I would like you to adopt the CS of HB464 in a timely fashion. It is very important for our family, as we homeschool our children. We have appreciated all the support we receive from the state regarding homeschooling. And we feel blessed to live in a state that holds homeschooling in high regards. It is our wish that we would continue to be supported but not have such tight regulation as the Department of Education is currently try to adopt.

Thank you,

Valerie Turner

**Subject:** packet for committee members

**Date:** Mon, 4 Mar 2002 14:09:53 -0900

**From:** "Michael Hutchison" <mhutchison@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

To the House HES Committee Members,

I am a homeschooling mom of 18 years. Two children are in college with 3.5 to 4.0 grade averages. As a parent/teacher, I concentrate on reading, writing and arithmetic. I am not in agreement of the regulations.

1. I do not see the need for teacher interaction on a monthly basis. Semester progress reports seem sufficient. An educated teacher can "see" where there might be holes.
2. Testing is not accurate as all teachers "teach to the test" so what's the point. We do participate in state testing, though. If a student misses the test, they aren't allowed to re-enroll in another program. This seems like the boundaries are getting a little tight, don't you think.
3. Teaching with our own privately purchased curriculum should be no affair of the state, as long as the student is learning.
4. Paperwork becomes burdensome for everyone when adding another middle man such as a teacher to approve expenditures. The standards or boundaries are laid out detailed enough for parents to stay within or without.
5. No need for yearly applications. If there's a problem, pull the program.

Please adopt the CS HB64. Thank you for listening.

Mary Hutchison

[mhutchison@ideafamilies.org](mailto:mhutchison@ideafamilies.org)

**Subject:** HB464

**Date:** Mon, 4 Mar 2002 18:27:20 -0900

**From:** "jmurray" <jmurray@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Mr. Hooley, Please include my message below in the packet for the House HES Committee Members.

Dear Health, Education, and Social Services Committee Members,

Regarding the proposed regulations as stated in 4AAC 33.420-.490 by the Department of Education & Early Development, I have the following concerns and comments. I am against the regulations period. I find it extremely intrusive and limiting in my ability to home school my children. It is nothing more to me than a grave interference over my directing the education of my own children. I find it poorly thought out and not necessary. I do not support it at all. However Representative Jeannette James and Representative Fred Dyson have co-sponsored HB464, which limits the rights of the Dept of Education and Early Development to enact legislation for statewide correspondence program.

I support HB464 and urge you to adopt the Committee Substitute of HB464 as well. I appreciate you hard work in representing me.

Sincerely yours,

John Murray

**Subject:** HB464

**Date:** Mon, 4 Mar 2002 19:41:54 -0900

**From:** "Garrett & Melanie Heusser" <mheusser@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Please include this message in the packet for the committee members:

We (as homeschooling parents in the I.D.E.A. program) support this bill and would like to see it passed.  
Garrett & Melanie Heusser

**Subject: HB464**

**Date: Mon, 04 Mar 2002 11:09:13 -0900**

**From: "Doudna Family" <ddoudna@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us, "Carol Gregory" <carolg@ideafamilies.org>**

Dear House HES committee members,

As a concerned home schooling parent involved with the I.D.E.A. program, I urge you to support HB464. The state DEED does not seem to have much respect or trust in what home schooling parents are doing, yet I believe that the I.D.E.A. program is already currently addressing areas of concern without the excessive oversight being considered. I am a certified teacher who decided to home school our children in order to better challenge them academically while avoiding the many distractions and problems inherent in a typical classroom. Our children are soaring! Our 7th grader just scored a 610 on her SAT (out of 800 - better than 81% of seniors taking the test,) and our 5th grader nearly beat an 8th grader to take Alaska's Interior to the National Spelling Bee this weekend!

Please allow us to continue to educate our children in the way that is optimal for each of them, without forcing us to comply with cumbersome evaluations which would detract from the time we want to spend teaching and learning.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Heidi Doudna

**Subject: CS of HB464**

**Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 12:15:17 -0900**

**From: "Shawn" <slayton@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

**Please adopt the CS of HB464. I fully believe in this. Thank you for your time and service. One of the main reasons for remaining in Alaska after my husband and I completed a long and honorable military service was because of IDEA and the freedoms it provided as it pertains to my children and their most important education.**

**Please forward this to all who should be aware of my opinion and request.**

**Cristy Layton**

**IDEA parent teacher**

**907-457-1213**

**Fairbanks, AK**

**Subject: HB 464**

**Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 12:29:50 -0900**

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**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

House HES Committee Members:

Please adopt HB 464! This legislation, if passed, will protect parents' rights to use curriculum material as they see fit. During this budget deficit, support for statewide correspondence schools which accomplish their goals "better, cheaper" is important. The freedom for parents to educate their children at home has already been successful. Please, let's protect parental rights to choose and use curriculum material as they see fit. Adopt HB 464.

**Subject: HB464**

**Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 13:39:56 -0900**

**From: "John & Valerie Turner" <jturner@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Jason,

Could you include this message in the packet for all of the House HES Committee Members.

I would like you to adopt the CS of HB464 in a timely fashion. It is very important for our family, as we homeschool our children. We have appreciated all the support we receive from the state regarding homeschooling. And we feel blessed to live in a state that holds homeschooling in high regards. It is our wish that we would continue to be supported but not have such tight regulation as the Department of Education is currently try to adopt.

Thank you,

Valerie Turner

**Subject: packet for committee members**

**Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 14:09:53 -0900**

**From: "Michael Hutchison" <mhutchison@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

To the House HES Committee Members,

I am a homeschooling mom of 18 years. Two children are in college with 3.5 to 4.0 grade averages. As a parent/teacher, I concentrate on reading, writing and arithmetic. I am not in agreement of the regulations.

1. I do not see the need for teacher interaction on a monthly basis. Semester progress reports seem sufficient. An educated teacher can "see" where there might be holes.
2. Testing is not accurate as all teachers "teach to the test" so what's the point. We do participate in state testing, though. If a student misses the test, they aren't allowed to re-enroll in another program. This seems like the boundaries are getting a little tight, don't you think.
3. Teaching with our own privately purchased curriculum should be no affair of the state, as long as the student is learning.
4. Paperwork becomes burdensome for everyone when adding another middle man such as a teacher to approve expenditures. The standards or boundaries are laid out detailed enough for parents to stay within or without.
5. No need for yearly applications. If there's a problem, pull the program.

Please adopt the CS HB64. Thank you for listening.

Mary Hutchison

[mhutchison@ideafamilies.org](mailto:mhutchison@ideafamilies.org)

**Subject:** HB464

**Date:** Mon, 4 Mar 2002 18:27:20 -0900

**From:** "jmurray" <jmurray@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Mr. Hooley, Please include my message below in the packet for the House HES Committee Members.

Dear Health, Education, and Social Services Committee Members,

Regarding the proposed regulations as stated in 4AAC 33.420-.490 by the Department of Education & Early Development, I have the following concerns and comments. I am against the regulations period. I find it extremely intrusive and limiting in my ability to home school my children. It is nothing more to me than a grave interference over my directing the education of my own children. I find it poorly thought out and not necessary. I do not support it at all. However Representative Jeannette James and Representative Fred Dyson have co-sponsored HB464, which limits the rights of the Dept of Education and Early Development to enact legislation for statewide correspondence program.

I support HB464 and urge you to adopt the Committee Substitute of HB464 as well. I appreciate you hard work in representing me.

Sincerely yours,

John Murray

**Subject: HB464**

**Date:** Mon, 4 Mar 2002 19:41:54 -0900

**From:** "Garrett & Melanie Heusser" <mheusser@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Please include this message in the packet for the committee members:

We (as homeschooling parents in the I.D.E.A. program) support this bill and would like to see it passed.  
Garrett & Melanie Heusser

**Subject: HB464 CS**

**Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2002 22:20:47 -0900**

**From: "Heyes" <dhey@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Dear Jason,

Please include this message in the packet for the committee members.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen on the HES Committee,

I encourage you to adopt the Committee Substitute of HB464 and pass it as soon as possible. We need the legislation to limit the ability of the Department of the EED to regulate statewide correspondence programs. Thank you for working on this matter.

I am involved with the IDEA program, and further regulations will hinder the functioning of the program rather than improve it. Programs like this are performing quite well and they need to be encouraged. Homeschooling works. IDEA (and others) were formed to support homeschoolers in the educating of their children. Please support us.

Sincerely,

Patty Heyes

12174 Gara Dr.

Kodiak, Alaska

**Subject: Comments to House HES committee members regarding HB464**

**Date:** Mon, 4 Mar 2002 23:06:20 -0900

**From:** "Stacie Werner" <swerner@gci.net>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Mr. Hooley,

Please include the following comment of mine in the packet for the committee members for their viewing during/before their meeting on March 7th in which they will be considering HB464 "An act relating to statewide school district correspondence study programs."

Thank you for your service,

Stacie Werner

***Dear House HES Committee members,***

***I strongly urge and support a decision to adopt HB464 as soon as possible.***

I currently homeschool my 2 children and thankfully enjoy the freedom, flexibility, and respect as a capable parent/teacher that the Galena School District has exhibited toward me in the teaching of my children. The Galena School District's IDEA program has provided a wonderful, professional and balanced support in our homeschooling endeavors. I believe the balance that the IDEA program has between instructional flexibility and trust in the parental/teacher role combined with the availability of a "certified teacher's" assistance when REQUESTED by the parent, is a wonderful balance for a truly "homeschool" or "correspondence" study program. I believe that any further requirements, above the ILP (annual Independent Learning Program) APPROVED by a certified teacher, two progress reports (one midyear and year end), ON TOP OF the Terra Nova and Benchmark tests are sufficient to monitor/supervise the progress of my children's educational progress. I believe any more would be unnecessary. Any student in the public schools (not in correspondence studies) may have possibly 2 more quarterly reports, but above that, their classroom teacher is responsible for monitoring each student's daily progress. In the IDEA program I, as the parent/teacher, am daily monitoring my child's progress and reporting 3 different times (2 progress reports and a Benchmark or Terra Nova test) throughout the year in addition to keeping my OWN personal records of their progress. I view the Galena District's (or local district's) "certified teacher's" role as more of a "principal" of our homeschool rather than the "classroom" teacher which is what I believe further requirements and "monitoring" would turn their role into. I am my child's daily teacher/instructor and have the resources through IDEA for further assistance when needed.

I do not see the need for further regulation or monitoring of my child's progress above what is being enforced at this time - ESPECIALLY when the new "regulations" that may come would be above and beyond what the students in the regular public classrooms are being held to. This appears to be discriminatory in nature. In the correspondence study, the parent is the teacher. My child does not need 2 teachers. As I stated above, I believe the "certified teacher" might play the part of a principal by overseeing students' general progress at least 2 times a year, seeing to it that they are adhering to the state mandatory tests and offering educational assistance or guidance when needed or requested by the teacher (me). Above this,

involvement would just make my home another public school classroom and would be unnecessary additional expense to the district and state by needing more "certified teachers" to oversee all these student's progress when the parent themselves are capable of doing it.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment and I appreciate your service on this committee.

Sincerely,

Stacie Werner  
Seward, Ak

**Subject: Please Pass the CS of HB464**

**Date: Tue, 5 Mar 2002 01:03:50 -0900**

**From: "Mike and Janice Lopez" <seabound@aptalaska.net>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Janice Lopez  
PO box 1004  
Petersburg, AK  
99833

Please include this message in the packet for the committee members.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am in support of the CS of HB464 and would like to encourage the timely passage of this bill. I am a Homeschooling parent with a child currently enrolled in the I.D.E.A. program. It is a very good effective program and if the CS of HB464 does not pass, it will greatly effect our ability to effectively educate our own children. I have had four of my children graduate from the public school. We have chosen to homeschool our last child the last three years of her seven years of school, and are very pleased with the results we are getting.

This is an important issue that many people care about. I again encourage the timely passage of this bill introduced by Representative Jeanette James and Representative Fred Dyson.

Thank you very much,  
Janice Lopez

**Subject: HB464**

**Date:** Tue, 5 Mar 2002 07:05:51 -0900

**From:** "Bryon and Michele Pfundt" <lupinhil@aptalaska.net>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

**CC:** "Carol Habeger" <carolh@ideafamilies.org>

Dear Mr. Hooley:

Please include this message in the packet regarding HB464 for all HES Committee Members.

Thank you,

Michele Pfundt

Michele Pfundt  
P.O. Box 1162  
Petersburg, AK 99833

March 5, 2002

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the HES Committee:

I urge you to pass the CS for House Bill No. 464. I am a homeschool parent and my child is currently enrolled in the I.D.E.A. program. I value my right to choose the style of education for my children and I truly appreciate the assistance that I.D.E.A. provides for me and my family. The recent proposed regulations (4 AAC 33.420-.490) threaten our ability to educate with a state correspondence program. I view the recent proposed regulations as an attempt to hold the state correspondence programs to a significantly higher standard than any other public school. I would appreciate any attempts by this committee to legislate the equal treatment of all public schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Pfundt  
[lupinhil@aptalaska.net](mailto:lupinhil@aptalaska.net)

**Subject: CS Of HB464**

**Date: Tue, 05 Mar 2002 08:01:43 -0900**

**From: "Patricia Bingham" <wbbm@hotmail.com>**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Jason:

Please include this message in the packet for the committee HES members.

Dear Committee Members: My name is Patricia Bingham. We are 4 1/2 year members of IDEA Correspondence School. My family urges that you do all you can to see that CS of HB464 is passed to ensure our rights and desires in the home schooling our children according to regulations of an already established and successful correspondence program.

---

Send and receive Hotmail on your mobile device: <http://mobile.msn.com>

**Subject: HB464**

**Date: Tue, 5 Mar 2002 13:01:19 EST**

**From: JDGer@aol.com**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Jason,

Please include in the committee packets, our plea for them to please adopt HB464 in a timely manner. It is so important to my husband and myself to continue home-schooling our child. We want to be able to continue with the IDEA program, which, over several years of home-schooling in different states, is the best program I've ever been privileged to work with. If this new revision of HB464 is passed, then we will continue to give our daughter this wonderful education thru the IDEA program. Thank you for your listening to a concerned set of parents. John and Debi Germain 4438 Trafalgar Avenue Juneau, AK 790-4048

**Subject: Please Pass CS of HB 464**

**Date: Tue, 5 Mar 2002 14:04:33 -0900**

**From: "MMS" <cseeley@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Dear Mr. Hooley:

Please share this message with all HESS committee members:

I urge you to pass the committee substitute version of HB 164 relating to homeschool correspondence programs.

Thank you,

Margaret Seeley  
(homeschooling mother)

**Subject: HB 464**

**Date: Tue, 5 Mar 2002 17:21:27 -0900**

**From: "Daniel Long" <wllong@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Dear Mr. Hooley,

I would like to see the committee adopt the Committee Substitute of HB 464 and would appreciate its timely passage.

I would also appreciate it if you would include this message in the packet for the committee members.

Thank you,

Linda Long

**Subject: HB 464**

**Date:** Tue, 5 Mar 2002 18:41:06 -0800

**From:** "John Russell" <jrussell@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Jason,

Please adopt the CS of HB464! We encourage the timely passage of this bill. This affects so many students in the state of Alaska, and their families. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Please include this message in the packet for committee members.

Sincerely,

John and Debra Russell

In partership with the IDEA program

**Subject: Committee substitute of HB464**

**Date: Tue, 5 Mar 2002 21:42:15 -0800**

**From: "Corey, Ellen & Jackson Pavitt" <pavitt@gci.net>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Mr. Hooley:

Would you please include the below message in the packet for Health, Education and Social Services committee members.

Thank you,  
Ellen Pavitt

Dear Health, Education and Social Services committee member:

My name is Ellen Pavitt and I am a parent whose child is enrolled in the IDEA statewide homeschool correspondence program. I am very pleased with the IDEA program the way it is, and am seriously concerned about the regulations currently being proposed by the Dept. of Education and Early Development. We would discontinue enrollment with IDEA if those regulations were adopted the way they stand currently.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to adopt the committee substitute of HB464 and ask you to work toward timely passage of this important bill.

Respectfully,

Ellen Pavitt  
Homeschool parent

**Subject: HB464**

**Date:** Tue, 5 Mar 2002 21:23:48 -0900

**From:** "Carol Habeger" <carolh@ideafamilies.org>

**Organization:** IDEA

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Mr. Hooley:

Please include this message in the packet regarding HB464 for all HES Committee Members.

Thank you,

Carol Habeger

-----  
Carol Habeger  
4942 Steelhead St.  
Juneau, AK 99801

March 5, 2002

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the HES Committee:

I urge you to pass the CS for House Bill No. 464. As a homeschool parent with a child currently enrolled in the I.D.E.A. program, I value my right to choose the style of education for my children. I.D.E.A. has been a wonderful program for our children. I have greatly appreciated the support we have been given and feel that our children have received an education, with their assistance, that has been invaluable. The recent proposed regulations (4 AAC 33.420-.490) threaten our ability to educate with a state correspondence program. The recent proposed regulations seem to me an attempt to hold the state correspondence programs to a significantly higher standard than any other public school. I would appreciate any attempts by this committee to legislate the equal treatment of all public schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Habeger

**Subject:** HB464

**Date:** Tue, 5 Mar 2002 22:41:11 -0900

**From:** "John & Margaret Loew" <jloew@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Jason, I just read the proposed HB464 & think it adequately addresses the issues. I agree with the proposal. Please forward my approval to the committee members. Thank You very much. Sincerely, Margaret Loew, HC 4 Box 9166, Palmer, AK 99645, 745-5639

include your message in the packet for the committee members

**Subject: include your message in the packet for the committee members**

**Date:** Wed, 6 Mar 2002 02:16:07 -0900 (Alaskan Standard Time)

**From:** "Larks" <llark@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

I am a homeschool mother. I am very happy with our IDEA program. They are always in the office when I need help and they respect my ability to teach my children at home. Also my children are able to have more activities because of the allotment that my family receives. Please pass the House adopt the CS (Committee Substitute) of HB464 and encourage the timely passage of this bill. This is a friendly committee, but it is important that they receive lots of input to pass along the message that this is an important issue that many people care about.

**Count Your Blessings  
Not Your Woes**

*Liliah E. Lark*

---

 **IncrediMail** - Email has finally evolved - [Click Here](#)

**Subject:** HS464

**Date:** Wed, 6 Mar 2002 06:38:14 -0900

**From:** "Jan Newman" <windborn@mtaonline.net>

**Reply-To:** "Jan Newman" <jan@atwistbeyond.com>

**Organization:** A Twist Beyond

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

[Please include the following message in the packet for the House HES committee members. Thank you, Jan Newman]

My name is Jan Newman and I am a Home Educator from the IDEA program. Please adopt the CS (Committee Substitute) of HB464 and encourage the timely passage of this bill. We are very concerned about this issue. Thank you.

**Subject: Support for CS of HB464**

**Date:** Wed, 6 Mar 2002 07:44:49 -0900

**From:** "Joe Kelleher" <jkelleher@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Mr Hooley,

Please include this message in the packet for Committee members:

To the HES Committee,

I am writing in support of the Committee Substitute of HB 464. Please adopt the CS and pass HB 464. We care about these issues very much and appreciate your efforts. We feel that the proposed Alaska Department of Education and Early Development regulations treat homeschoolers in correspondence programs unfairly.


Thank you,  
Joseph Kelleher  
Tamra Kelleher  
James Kelleher

---  
Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.

Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).

Version: 6.0.325 / Virus Database: 182 - Release Date: 2/19/02

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|  winmail.dat | <b>Name:</b> winmail.dat<br><b>Type:</b> application/ms-tnef<br><b>Encoding:</b> base64 |
|---|---|

**Subject: message for committee members**

**Date: Wed, 06 Mar 2002 09:23:25 -0900**

**From: "Ruth Reuter" <rreuter@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Please include the following message in the package for the HES committee members.

To Whom It May Concern;

I would encourage you to adopt the CS HB46X.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Reuter

**Subject: House Bill 464**

**Date: Wed, 6 Mar 2002 10:10:27 -0900**

**From: "mbachman" <mbachman@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

To the House HES Committee Members;

When people ask me what my job is I answer them enthusiastically that I am a home school teacher with the IDEA program. We are able to select curriculum to meet the special needs of our children, where other programs such as ACS and traditional classrooms have failed to do so. We spend hours researching curriculum for a children, making sure that they receive curriculum that meets our high standards. My ninth grader is taking Algebra II, Honors Zoology, with a dissecting lab, Honors U.S. Government, Honors American Literature, French, violin lessons and she is in the Anchorage Youth Symphony, my seventh grader is taking Pre Algebra, High School Physical Science, Honors World History, EMC Literature, Spanish, and viola lessons. I feel that the House Bill 464 will help us to continue with the excellent education that IDEA is providing for our children. Thank you for supporting Alaska's children with this education bill.

Respectfully,  
Jennifer Bachman

**Subject: Re: HB646**

**Date:** Wed, 6 Mar 2002 10:59:44 -0900

**From:** "Dan & Sharylee Zachary" <dzachary@pobox.com>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Jason,

"Thank You" for submitting my testimony to the HES Committee members:

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the House HES Committee,

My husband and I have been homeschooling our children for 10 years, now. Up until three years ago, we provided for all the cost for our children. We believe in a well rounded Christian based curriculum.

In HB464, line 04-05 (c). if the 'local school board' is IDEA or any of the other homeschool based programs, - then this would be o.k. BUT if the 'local school board' is the City of Petersburg School Board, then this would be a disaster. You see, they do not allow 'Christian curriculum', which we believe in ... but they do allow curriculum and resources that has beliefs in it that we do not want our children schooled in.

**PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WILL TAKE AWAY OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE CHRISTIAN CURRICULUM FOR OUR CHILDREN!**

With the income we have, we are eligible for food stamps, - although we do not use them. You can imagine the drain that paying for all our homeschooling has been on our family. In order to provide piano classes for the children, and gymnastics for phy.ed. I spent a significant amount of time baking and selling cookies and bread.

You see, our school system in Petersburg does not allow homeschoolers to enter into band, track, volleyball, basketball, swimming, or any other 'extra-curricular' activities with the public school kids. The policy is that a student has to carry 4 core curriculum classes in order to be eligible to participate in these areas. We even offered to pay a 'fee' so the kids could participate in the before school, after school, and weekend activities, - but were rejected. This is not with our family along, but with all homeschooling families.

When we started schooling through IDEA, they really made it possible to expand our children's education. In lieu of band, we can give them piano; - in lieu of chorus, one takes voice lessons; - in lieu of sports activities, we can now give them dance classes for phy.ed. - which, by the way, they are lead dancers and even help teach classes to younger students! Without IDEA, this would not be possible!

The Petersburg's public school system also forbids homeschoolers to come into the school libraries. They are not allowed to even come into the libraries, - much less sit in the school libraries and look through or read the books the books. IDEA has expanded the educational resources available to our children.

IDEA has allowed us many opportunities to advance our teaching abilities by coming and putting on workshops for us parents. When we have questions, they are always there for us, - They work together with us for the benefit of our children. We are able to mix and match curriculum for the benefit

of each child.

Wherever we go, people are always commenting on the poise and education of our children, - on their polite and respectful behavior and ability to carry on intelligent conversations with folks of a variety of ages and backgrounds. They also are involved in many areas of community outreach.

Please support us as homeschoolers .... our schooling is just as important as the public schools.

Respectfully,

Sharylee Zachary      PO Box 1531   14 S 3rd St      Petersburg, AK   99833

**Subject: Please Adopt CS of HB 464**

**Date: Wed, 06 Mar 2002 11:47:33 -0900**

**From: Michael and Diana <drossmil@ptialaska.net>**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Mr. Hooley,

Please include the following message in the information packets for members of the HES Committee.

Thank you,  
Diane Rossmiller

March 6, 2002

8844 N. Douglas Hwy.  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Rep. Fred Dyson, Chair  
Rep. Peggy Wilson, Vice-Chair  
Rep. John Coghill  
Rep. Gary Stevens  
Rep. Vic Kohring  
Rep. Sharon Cissna  
Rep. Reggie Joule

Dear Members of the House HES Committee,

Please adopt the Committee Substitute of HB 464 and encourage the timely passage of this bill. We deeply care about this issue because we are committed homeschooling parents.

My husband and I are home schooling our three children and we are enrolled in the Galena City School District - Interior Distance Education of Alaska (IDEA) statewide correspondence program. We strongly support this program because it works with us to encourage and cultivate the individuality of our children while enabling us to provide them with an excellent education.

The changes that you have proposed are fair and would ensure that we could continue providing our children with a high quality education within the framework of Alaska State Standards and in conjunction with the support and expertise we receive from the IDEA program teachers and field representatives.

Thank you for your consideration and your efforts on behalf of our children.

Sincerely,

Diane Rossmiller and Michael A. New, D.V.M., M.R.C.V.S.

**Subject: HB464**

**Date: Wed, 6 Mar 2002 16:13:34 -0900**

**From: "David & Mary Norris" <dnorris@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Dear Sir,

Jason, would you please include my message in the packet you will be preparing for the committee members on HB464. Thank You. Mary Norris

I have read over House Bill No. 464, and want to encourage you to pass the Committee Substitute of HB464. As a home schooling parent, with a child enrolled in I.D.E.A. program I see the necessity for this bill, as helping protect the rights of all home scoolers in Alaska. Please help us to continue to teach our children to become educated and empowered future citizens of the United States of America. Sincerely, Mary Norris

**Subject: HB 464**

**Date: Wed, 06 Mar 2002 23:59:57**

**From: "mark hackworth" <markhackworth@hotmail.com>**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Please refer to members of House HES Committee for HB464:

We've homeschooled for 20 years with 5 children and are currently in IDEA under the Galena School system. We have 1 in grad school in Boston, MA, 1 at UAA Anch, and 3 still at home. In this competitive world we desire to use the very, very best material that is available in our homeschool program. 20+ years experience has lead us to a combination of nonsecular material (from HBJ and Scott Foresman that IDEA pays for) and secular material (from Abeka that we pay for). The proposed DEED regulation changes for correspondence schools (4 AAC 33.420-.490) would not permit us to be enrolled in IDEA with this type of blended material. If the changes go through as proposed our only option will be one followed by many: drop out of the IDEA program. Please don't change something that has worked so well for us. We've seen the proof in our own children that the system already really does work.

Respectfully yours,

Mark Hackworth  
Sharon Hackworth  
Corey Hackworth (22 yo)  
Zachary Hackworth (19 yo)  
Brynna Hackworth (13 yo - 7th grader)  
Jesse Hackworth (10 yo - 5th grader)  
Makenna Hackworth (8 yo - 2nd grader)

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**Subject: HB 464**

**Date: Thu, 7 Mar 2002 08:45:39 -0900**

**From: "Dan & Linda Wiese" <dwiese@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Dear Mr Hooley,

Please include our message in the packet to the committee members regarding HB 464. Thank you.

We are Dan & Linda Wiese, 17506 Baronoff Ave, Eagle River, Alaska; phone number 907-696-8771. We have two boys who are students in the IDEA program. Please enter into the record our testimony to the House HES Committee on HB 464, dated March 7, 2002, that would like for you to adopt and quickly pass bill HB 464.

Dan and Linda Wiese

**Subject: HB464**

**Date: Wed, 6 Mar 2002 16:31:18 -0900**

**From: "Tabitha Hooker" <Tabitha@MatSuShopper.com>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Jason Hooley:

I understand that you are the aide that manages the HES Committee. Please include the following message in the packet that all the committee members receive. I am writing to ask the committee members to adopt the CS of HB464 which is important for homeschoolers who are part of a correspondence school program. I also ask that the bill be passed in a timely manner so as to protect the interests of correspondence school participants against any unnecessary regulations that may be passed by the Dept. of Education. This matter is of great importance to my family and many others in IDEA and similar programs.

Thank-you,  
Deborah "Tabitha" Hooker  
dhooker@ideafamilies.org  
357-6023

**Subject: HB464-School district correspondence programs**

**Date:** Wed, 6 Mar 2002 16:37:25 -0900

**From:** "Jonathan Pollard" <jpollard@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

House HES Committee Members

I urge this committee to adopt the Committee Substitute of HB464. Adoption of this bill will make it clear that school district correspondence programs will not be subject to unnecessary and burdensome regulations that are not imposed on all school districts.

We have been in a school district correspondence program for four years. I am impressed with the teacher and other support available. I also appreciate the way the program recognizes that homeschool is a different experience than public school, and that we continue to grow and learn our own way. I enjoy drawing up yearly learning goals for my children and we have enjoyed the homeschool experience (most days!).

This committee can help homeschoolers and other participants in school district correspondence programs stick with the business of educating children. We homeschool parents will continue to supply our districts with learning plans and progress reports and we will continue to participate in state-required tests. We will continue to use high-quality materials to educate our children.

We appreciate that Alaska is so supportive of education alternatives. Together we will provide Alaska's children with a good education--some in public school, some private and some at home.

Susan Pollard  
814 Goldbelt St.  
Juneau AK 99801

**Subject: HB 464**

**Date: Wed, 6 Mar 2002 16:47:19 -0900**

**From: "LaDonna Nelson" <nelsonld@aptalaska.net>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Please include this letter in the packet for the committee members.

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are a homeschooling family of some seven years. We have three children ages 13, 10 and 7. We ask that you pass HB464 to prevent the virtual destruction of the correspondence programs like IDEA and PACE. Homeschooling is extremely important to us as a family, for we believe that our children's future and the future of this nation depends on the education which they receive. The correspondence programs have been extremely helpful to us in pursuing the finest education possible for our children. According to State testing scores our children are years ahead of their peers and it is our intent that they remain so. Even at the tender ages of 13 and 10 our sons are demonstrating great abilities to choose goals and pursue them with discipline - self-motivated discipline. We believe that without the aid of such correspondence programs we will not be as well equipped to meet their needs. Regardless of what occurs however, we want it known that the public school system is not the proper environment for our children at this time and we will not enroll our children.

We are hard working, dedicated parents who desire nothing but the best for each and every child in the state and the nation. Our request is that no one take away the advantages we have acquired through participation in the correspondence programs. Our participation in no way punishes those in public school and those in public schools should not punish our children. Let us remember the purpose for the public school system when it was established - to provide the best educational opportunities possible for all children. My husband and I have determined to make sacrifices in order to homeschool, and expect to be treated fairly for doing so. This country was built on the principal that hard work should be rewarded. We are working hard to provide what we deem to be best for our children.

The correspondence programs provide a wonderful alternative for those who do not fit into the public school system. A teacher with 25 students cannot provide the type of curriculum that our children require. They are extremely bright, very quick learners with excellent retention. The normal repetition required in a school classroom would have created frustration for any of our children, and frustration leads to poor behavior. Instead of creating problems for the public school systems and allowing our children to become restless we have chosen to provide them with challenging curriculum and allow them to learn at their own pace.

We take their education very seriously. Hundreds of hours have gone into the search for the right curriculum for each child. When a chosen curriculum does not work, we find something that does. When the child moves through the curriculum quickly we purchase more to keep them learning. I study catalogs, do research, read books and rely on excellent advice provided by the teachers in order to meet and exceed all state requirements. We see to it that they have extra curricular activities also to provide them with a well balanced education. There is no need that we allow to slide through the cracks or ignore.

Please understand that it is our goal in life as parents to provide the best for our children so that they may pursue careers that will be fulfilling and will be of benefit to whatever community they may live in. We thank all the people who have helped us these past five years with IDEA. They have been there to meet our needs and to help us grow as a homeschooling family.

Sincerely,

**Subject: HB 464**

**Date:** Wed, 6 Mar 2002 17:31:19 -0900

**From:** "Adrian Slater / Justine Emerson" <aslater@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Please forward this message to the members of the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee.

Rep. Fred Dyson, Chair  
Rep. Peggy Wilson, Vice-Chair  
Rep. John Coghill  
Rep. Gary Stevens  
Rep. Vic Kohring  
Rep. Sharon Cissna  
Rep. Reggie Joule

I am writing to ask you to adopt the committee substitute of HB 464. I am the father of 3 children who have all been home-schooled at some time in the last 10 years. Presently we have one daughter enrolled in the IDEA program. We have been very pleased with every aspect of the way the IDEA program is being run. They are working well with parents, providing resources and access to support staff, which has helped us educate our own children.

I feel that the proposed DEED regulations for state-wide correspondence place an unreasonable burden upon these programs, are discriminatory, and appear to be micromanaging the programs. I believe that it is best to give the school districts the responsibility for deciding how they will administer their own programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Adrian Slater  
3140 Pioneer Ave  
Juneau, AK 99801

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**Subject: CS of HB464**

**Date:** Wed, 6 Mar 2002 17:39:46 -0900

**From:** "Cina Keefe" <cinakeefe@gci.net>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

I know this is last minute but could you please forward these comments to the House HES Committee?

Ladies and Gentleman:

I am a homeschooling parent in the Anchorage area. I strongly encourage you to adopt the CS to HB 464. Without getting to wordy, HB 464 takes the power away from people who do not understand the homeschool system and its benefits to our children.

Thank you for your time and willingness to serve.

Cina Keefe  
11800 Mary Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99515

**Subject: CS of HB 464-support**

**Date: Wed, 6 Mar 2002 19:21:15 -0800**

**From: "Greg and Shari Lewis" <gslewis@pobox.alaska.net>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Hi Jason,

I'm a homeschooling parent and I feel that this bill is very important and many people care about it. Please pass it and allow our freedom in homeschooling to continue. We will gladly have our students tested to prove they're getting the best education possible. Check out test scores of homeschoolers around the nation. They rank very high because they're getting the one-on-one help where needed most. So again I urge you to pass this bill.

Please include this message in the packet for all committee members.

Thanks so much,

Shari Lewis

re: HB464

**Subject:** re: HB464

**Date:** Wed, 6 Mar 2002 19:42:06 -0900

**From:** "The Carter Family" <pcarter@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Please support the passage of the CS version of HB464. Please include this message in the packet for the committee members. Thank you.

Yours respectfully,

Paul D. and Laura Carter

**Subject: HB484**

**Date:** Wed, 6 Mar 2002 23:04:35 -0900

**From:** "Weis Family" <sweis@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>, <fran\_ulmer@gov.state.ak.us>

Dear Mr. Hooley,

Please include the following letter in the HES committee members' packets.

Dear Lt. Governor Ulmer, and Legislators,

I am writing to express my deep concern over recently proposed regulations being considered by the state school board. I feel that if passed, these regulations would serve to deprive hundreds of Alaskans of the opportunity to greatly enrich their children's educations.

We have in Alaska a unique educational choice, that of the "distance learning" schools such as IDEA and Cyberlynx. There are many families in our state who feel that the needs of their children are not being met in a traditional public school setting. These programs have offered to those families a fresh, innovative approach to providing an excellent education in the setting of their choice. They have taken away the penalty suffered by those who have had to trade many of the options provided by public funding (sports programs, music instruction, computers and software, art courses and supplies...) for the opportunity to teach their children in the manner they feel is best for them.

I would encourage you to do everything in your power to see that these regulations are limited in the damage they can cause to these excellent programs. Please support the CS of HB 484, and work against any delay in its passage. Alaska can lead the way in providing quality educational choices if we don't allow ourselves to be regulated out of existence.

Thank-you for your support in this matter,

Cindy Weis

741 Bennett rd.  
Fbks., Ak. 99712

[sweis@ideafamilies.org](mailto:sweis@ideafamilies.org)

**Subject:** CS of HB464

**Date:** Thu, 7 Mar 2002 00:27:06 -0900

**From:** "Tom and Amy Pitzer" <pitzer@wildak.net>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Mr. Jason Hooley,

Please include my comments in the packet for the House HES Committee Members.

To the House Health, Education, and Social Services Committee Members:

I would like you to adopt the Committee Substitute of HB464 and encourage timely passage of this bill. I am a mother of six children, five of whom are school age and are home-educated. It is vital to homeschooling parents to be able to educate their children without cumbersome state regulations. Please adopt the CS of HB464 and encourage its timely passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Amy M Pitzer

**Subject: HES Committee - HB 464 - March 7 Meeting**

**Date: Thu, 7 Mar 2002 03:12:27 -0800**

**From: "McClures" <rmcclure@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Dear Mr. Hooley,

Please include the following message with the packet for all of the HES Committee Members for the meeting of March 7, 2002.

Dear HES Committee Members,

We are concerned parents who have homeschooled a number of years here in Alaska and have enjoyed the freedoms and opportunities we have in raising/teaching our children. We understand that strict regulations by the State DEED would eliminate many of the choices we make in our curriculum, testing and having to add expensive staff to budgets for districts already imposed with too much paperwork. Please consider our request to keep simple logic in check, and adopt the C.S. of HB464. Then please, encourage the passage of the final bill. Just as the old saying goes, 'If it isn't broken, why try to fix it?'

Thank you for your time and all you do keeping Alaska a great place to raise our children!

Sincerely,  
Richard & Judy McClure  
831 Briny Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
(907)345-6988

**Subject: House Bill 464**

**Date:** Thu, 7 Mar 2002 06:51:39 -0900

**From:** "Richard Hand" <rhand@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Representative\_Fred\_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us>

**CC:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Representative Dyson

It has come to my attention that you are attempting to adopt a Committee Substitute proposal for HB464. If this is true, please accept my wholehearted support for your efforts.

I recently attended a briefing concerning EDU initiatives to place additional constraints on public funded home schooling programs, and I am not pleased. My family participates in the IDEA program, and I believe in its current form it is the best educational vehicle available in America.

I am a LtCol in the USAF flying F-15s. This line of work has caused the family to move 10 times in the last 16 years making education of the children a challenge. We adopted home schooling in 1987 and have never looked elsewhere. Alaska's public support for out of district educational programs greatly enhances this choice of schooling, and in the process, producing world-class students and future adult citizens.

Am I qualified to comment on the merits of the Alaskan Educational system? I will let you decide. I do pay taxes and vote. I do have children in the IDEA program. I am a product of some private and public education in the K-12 grades, and I have a degree in Aerospace Engineering along with three additional Masters Degrees. With this background, and having lived on 5 different continents and 18 different states, I emphatically promote the IDEA program in its current form without additional constraints.

I have specifically avoided the urge to tout my children's accomplishments - most made possible by the IDEA program and funding (the boastful parent rarely comes across in a good light). Please accept my word that they are significant. I welcome the opportunity to assist you with your efforts and can be reached during the day at (907) 552-2704.

Thank You,  
Richard Hand  
Palmer, AK

**Subject: HB 464**

**Date:** Thu, 7 Mar 2002 07:46:04 -0900

**From:** "Linda" <linda@ctcak.net>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Please include this message in the packet for committee members. Thank you.

Linda Brown  
Box 782  
Cordova AK 99574  
424-3943

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House HES Committee on HB 464, dated March 7, 2002.

I have been homeschooling in Alaska for more than 13 years. I have used several of the homeschooling programs offered by the State and school districts. I appreciate the choice and freedom we have in Alaska. Our state government should be encouraging and supporting the progressive school districts that offer correspondence programs. Homeschool students have the most involved parents, are getting an excellent, personalized education, and are costing the state less than classroom students. I support HB 464 with changes by Rep. Dyson.

**Subject: HB 464**

**Date: Thu, 07 Mar 2002 07:46:17 -0900**

**From: "diane conway" <conway\_diane@hotmail.com>**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Hello Mr. Hooley. Please enter into the record my testimony to the House HES Committee on HB 464 Dated March 7, 2002.

I am a homeschool mom with the I.D.E.A. program. My daughter is a competitive snowboarder getting ready to take off next week for National competition in Mammoth CA. She is realizing her dream as an athlete thanks to the homeschooling option we have with IDEA. We are proud to be a part of such a great school. Please adopt the Committee Substitute of the HB 464 and preserve our program as is. Thanks for your time. Diane Conway 2815 Knik Ave. Anchorage Alaska 99517 245-8702

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Chat with friends online, try MSN Messenger: <http://messenger.msn.com>

**Subject:** HB464 testimony

**Date:** Thu, 7 Mar 2002 07:54:47 -0900

**From:** "Kacy and Sara Stafford" <kstafford@ideafamilies.org>

**Organization:** IDEA

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House HES Committee on HB464, dated March 7, 2002, the following:

I am in support of HB464, co-sponsored by Reps James and Dyson. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the hearing in person, but wish this statement of support for HB464 to be included as testimony.

Name: Kathleen Kacy Stafford

Address: 889 Chena Hot Springs Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99712

Phone: 907 457-5229

I am representing IDEA, as a parent of an IDEA high school student.

Thank you, Kacy Stafford

**Subject: HB 464**

**Date: Thu, 7 Mar 2002 12:13:58 EST**

**From: Wiedenht@aol.com**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Mr. Hooley,

Please include my message in the packet to the HES committee members.

My name is Kathleen Wiedenhoft, and my family is enrolled in IDEA. Thank you for your amendment to the regulations. It is apparent the accomplishments of IDEA were not taken fully into account when the initial regulations were proposed.

I agree with your amendment proposals regarding curriculum choices, reviews and approval. Please do all you can to curb the improper use of authorization in these and further matters. Alaskans have benefited greatly from this program and we appreciate all you can do to save those in statewide correspondence programs from undue restrictions which could reverse the progress made in the education of it's children.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wiedenhoft

**Subject: HB464**

**Date: Thu, 07 Mar 2002 08:26:21 -0900**

**From: Annie Dougherty <adougherty@gci.net>**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Please include this message in the package for House HES Committee Members.

Dear Committee Members,

I urge you to support passage of CS HB464.

My pleas come to you from three perspectives. Closest to my heart, I am a home school parent, my students are 4 and 6 years old. Professionally I am the Advisory Teacher for Chugach School District's Fairbanks Extension Program. I work with the home school families in the region which are enrolled in the Chugach School District. Thirdly, I have spent 15 years as a classroom teacher in the public schools of Alaska.

At this very moment that I am composing this message to you, 14 representatives from the Chugach School District are in Washington DC meeting with the President. The purpose of the meeting is to be awarded the Malcom Baldrige National Quality Award. After rigorous reviews, interviews and examinations, the Baldrige examiners determined that Chugach School District with its three physical schools and three home school programs is among the first educational establishments to ever receive the Baldrige National Quality award for Education.

This fact is significant in considering if individual school districts are capable of monitoring their own programs and determining the the needs of that program. Not only has the Chugach correspondence program met and exceeded Alaska Standards but we gained National recognition for the quality which we insure. Legislation should be passed to protect efforts to provide quality options for parents and not to hamper or eliminate them.

Just yesterday I received notification that one of the home school students which I supervise scored among the top 100 applicants to enter the Alaska National Geographic Geography Bee to be held in Anchorage on April 5th. The finalist will be sent to Washington DC for the national competition. This story is not unique, but rather common for the home school scenario. Parents have a vested interest in insuring that their students are learning, and deserve support from the state.

It is understandable that the state desire accountability. It would be unfortunate for students to go through the system, receive a diploma and not be able to read and write. Do not impose regulations on correspondence programs which are designed to follow a failing system or restrictions which exceed those placed on the public schools. The Benchmark exams which are being administered statewide this week are designed to insure that students have learned what is required. In the following weeks correspondence students will be taking the Terra Nova tests. A plan already exists. Why impose further regulations?

One of the most significant provisions of several correspondence programs is that they allow parents to choose curriculum. This is an extremely important option. As a classroom teacher I was part of many textbook adoption procedures and implementation. It is impossible to

choose textbooks which will match every teaching style and meet every students needs. In the school building version of education it may be necessary to make compromises to allow uniformity of content delivery. In a home school setting such impositions are unnecessary. Please fight to protect the right of parents to choose their own curriculums.

Please adopt CS HB 464 and encourage its timely passage.

Sincerely,  
Annie Dougherty

Annie Dougherty  
2216 Penrose Lane  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
907-455-6570

To House HESS Committee Members

**Subject: To House HESS Committee Members**

**Date: Thu, 07 Mar 2002 10:16:33 -0800**

**From: Livengood <livengo@mosquionet.com>**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

Please include my message in the packet for the House HESS Committee Members:

I support the committee substitute of HB464.

Please adopt the Committee Substitute of HB464.

Thank you. I appreciate the job you're doing for us homeschoolers, in Juneau!

Sarah Livengood  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**Subject: CS HB 464**

**Date: Thu, 7 Mar 2002 09:51:49 -0900**

**From: "Ohmann" <johmann@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

**Dear Sir:**

**Please include the following in the packet for the Committee Members. Thank you.**

**From: Pamela A. Ohmann**

**Bx 878126, Wasilla, Ak 99687**

**Tel.(907)376-7844**

**To: All Members of the House HES Committee Members:**

**Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Please enter into the record my written testimony to the House HES Committee on HB 464,dated March 7,2002.**

**I urge you to adopt the CS of HB 464 and encourage a timely passage of the bill. I am a parent with the I.D.E.A**

**program and oppose any regulations that would negatively effect my ability to homeschool my children in the manner that I choose. I thank you in advance for your hard work and dedication the education of our children.**

**Respectfully,**

**Pamela A. Ohmann**

**Subject: HB464**

**Date:** Thu, 7 Mar 2002 09:59:29 -0900

**From:** "Pam & Mike Eberhardt" <pame@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear HES Committee Member,

I am a homeschooling parent with two sons in the IDEA Program. I believe that the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development is proposing to over-regulate the statewide correspondence programs. The test scores of students enrolled in the statewide correspondence programs are similar to those of public school students attending traditional schools. I don't believe that we should have to prove the results of our homeschooling beyond the test scores. The proposed regulations would cause a need for the programs to hire more paper pushers resulting in less money going into the allotments for the education of our children. IDEA's teachers, workshops, resource rooms, curriculum fairs, field trips, etc. have greatly enhanced our homeschooling. I urge you to protect this program from over-regulation.

Respectfully, Pamela Eberhardt (789-3407)

**Subject: CS of HB464**

**Date: Thu, 7 Mar 2002 10:14:38 -0900**

**From: "Ohmann" <johmann@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

**Please include the following in the packet to the HES House Committee.**

**From: JOHN H. OHMANN**

**box 378126**

**Wasilla, Ak 99687**

**Dear Members,**

**Please enter into the record my testimony to the House HES Committee on HB464, dated March 7, 2002.**

**Please adopt CS of HB464 and see it passed in a timely manner. Thank you.**

**John H. Ohmann**

**Parent in IDEA**

To all HES Committee Members:

**Subject: To all HES Committee Members:**

**Date:** Thu, 7 Mar 2002 10:19:08 -0900

**From:** "Clan McConnell" <mcconnel@arctic.net>

**To:** <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Mr. Hooley,

Our names are Bruce & Lisa McConnell and we are nearly 10 year residents of Unalaska, Alaska.

Please forward our message of support for HB464 to all of the committee members of the House HES. We would like to ask each of the members to adopt the Committee Substitute of HB464. We currently have 3 children enrolled with the I.D.E.A. program and have enjoyed the encouragement and support of I.D.E.A. We believe that this bill, like I.D.E.A., acknowledges the parent as qualified and the BEST decision makers for their children/students.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Bruce & Lisa McConnell

**Subject: HB464**

**Date: Thu, 07 Mar 2002 10:26:29 -0900**

**From: "Stephanie Olson" <sbritton@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us**

House HES Committee Members,

I am sending this e-mail regarding HB464. As a parent of an I.D.E.A. student I strongly support this bill and request a timely passage of HB464.

Thank you for your time and consideration concerning correspondence programs and HB464.

Stephanie Olson  
Houston, AK



Hotmail® akpolitics@hotmail.com

[Inbox](#) | [Previous Page](#)

**From :** "Carol Gregory" <carolg@ideafamilies.org>  
**To :** Multiple recipients of list regionf <regionf@ideafamilies.org>  
**Subject :** Region F Notice: Comment on HB 464  
**Date :** Wed, 6 Mar 2002 21:32:46 -0900

Dear parents,

Below is the previous note about HB 464. The House HES Committee meeting is tomorrow (Thursday, March 7th) afternoon, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Testimony in support of the Committee Substitute of HB 464 is very important. **I encourage you to go to the Legislative Information Office, located on the first floor of the Denali State Bank Building on Cushman, to give oral or written testimony tomorrow if you can.** Even if you get there late, if they are still taking testimony, you can testify. If they are not, you can fill out a form for written testimony, as long as it is before 5:00. At a minimum, you can either agree with someone who testified before you, or you can ask the committee to adopt the CS (Committee Substitute) for HB 464 and to pass the legislation quickly. Carol Simpson will plan to testify early so that you can agree if you like. The advantage to oral testimony is that the committee members hear what you have to say. The advantage to written testimony is that it is attached to the bill packet, as it moves from committee to committee and to the floor. Oral testimony is typed up and also attached, but sometimes they get behind in the transcription, especially as the session progresses.

However, it may be difficult to attend, in light of the Benchmark and Exit Exam testing going on. If you would like to help us in this effort by testifying but are unable to attend to testify orally, you can send written testimony by fax or e-mail. **You must include: your name, address, phone number, and (optional) who you represent (IDEA in this case).** You must write "Please enter into the record my testimony to the House HES Committee on HB 464, dated March 7, 2002." The Legislative Information Office will print and fax this, but must receive it before 5:00 p.m., preferably before 3:00 p.m. The phone number for the Fairbanks LIO is 452-4448 and the fax number is 456-3346. In Delta Junction the LIO is located at the Jarvis Office Center, Rm 210 and the phone number is 895-4236, the fax number is 895-5017.

See the note below for more details about who is on the committee and what wording is included in the Committee Substitute in the e-mail below. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of this bill, which would completely solve many of our difficulties with the proposed regulations, both now and in the future, if passed.

Carol Simpson, Kenai Field rep

Dear IDEA Families,

The House HES (Health, Education, and Social Services) Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 7th, at 3:00 p.m. to consider HB464, "An act relating to statewide school district correspondence study programs." The effect of this bill (co-sponsored by Representative Jeannette James and Representative Fred Dyson) would be to limit the ability of the Department of EED to regulate statewide correspondence programs. This bill is a reaction by the legislatures to the recently-proposed regulations, which go well beyond the clear intent of the legislature towards homeschoolers and programs like IDEA. You can read the text of this bill at [http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_bill\\_text.asp?hsid=HB0464A&session=22](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill_text.asp?hsid=HB0464A&session=22). Representative Dyson will propose that the committee adopt a substitute version of the bill. I am including a list of the committee members and the text of the substitute bill at the end of this e-mail, with the changes in red.

(1) Please write to the House HES Committee Members and ask them to adopt the CS (Committee Substitute) of HB464 and encourage the timely passage of this bill. This is a friendly committee, but it is important that they receive lots of input to pass along the message that this is an important issue that many people care about. It goes to the Education Committee after this, which is not likely to be a friendly committee. Three of the HES members are also on EDU, so it is important to make them aware that we care about the passage of HB464. (Rep. Wilson, Stevens, and Joule are also on EDU.) You can write to any by following this format: [Representative\\_Firstname\\_Lastname@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Firstname_Lastname@legis.state.ak.us). For example, Rep. Dyson's e-mail is [Representative\\_Fred\\_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us). You can write to all of the committee members at once by writing to Jason, the aide that manages the committee, and asking him to include your message in the packet for the committee members: [Jason\\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Jason_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us).

(2) This meeting will be teleconferenced, so you can go to your local Legislative Information Office to listen in. You will be asked to sign in and indicate if you want to testify or not. Please testify! It is important to get a lot of comments into the record. Just signing in without testifying does not add much to the fight to get this through. If you are not comfortable with this, you can sign in later on the list (make sure a few others go first) and simply say, "My name is \_\_\_\_, I am in the IDEA program, and I agree with <the person or people before you, or a specific person who spoke previously>." They appreciate the "I agree" comments, which is preferable to hearing the same things over and over! If you do comment, please keep your comments short. It is easier if you write your comments down beforehand.

(3) Please do NOT write to other members of the House or Senate about HB464 until after this committee meeting, so that we can see what wording comes out of it. A similar bill will be introduced on the Senate side by Senator Lyda Green. Once it gets out of the House HES and the Senate version is introduced, we will suggest further action.

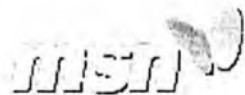
House members listed below, along with the text of the committee substitute of HB 464. Thank you for continuing to participate in our efforts to see that you can continue to homeschool the way that you see fit, with our help.

Sincerely,  
Carol Simpson, Kenai Field Trip

House HES Committee Members:

Rep. Fred Dyson, Chair  
Rep. Peggy Wilson, Vice-Chair  
Rep. John Coghill  
Rep. Gary Stevens  
Rep. Vic Kohring  
Rep. Sharon Cissna  
Rep. Reggie Joule

00 CS for HOUSE BILL NO. 464  
01 "An Act relating to statewide school district correspondence study programs."  
02 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
03 \* **Section 1.** AS 14.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:  
04 **Sec. 14.07.175. Powers relating to statewide school district**  
05 **correspondence study.** (a) The board may adopt regulations regarding statewide  
06 school district correspondence study programs. A regulation applicable to a statewide  
07 school district correspondence study program  
08 (1) may not require that the correspondence study program be  
09 approved by the department more than once every 10 years; this paragraph does not  
10 apply to a statewide school district correspondence study program if the statewide  
11 school district correspondence program is designated as deficient or in crisis  
12 under AS 14.03.123(a).  
13 (2) must provide that an enrolled student shall be monitored at periodic  
14 intervals as established by the school district;  
15 (3) may not be imposed if the regulation is not imposed on other public  
01 school students.  
02 (b) In this section, "statewide school district correspondence study program"  
03 includes a state supported home-schooling program.  
04 (c) The local school board has the authority to establish procedures for the  
05 purchase of curriculum materials.



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**Subject: HES Committee/HB464**

**Date: Thu, 7 Mar 2002 12:55:01 -0900**

**From: "Joan Schwandt" <cschwandt@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Please include my message in the packet for all HES Committee members.

Joan Schwandt  
10215 Main Tree Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507-6933  
(907) 248-4443

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House HES Committee on HB 464, dated March 7, 2002.

As a home-schooling parent for seven years, three of which occurred in California and prior to enrolling in the Galena School District's Interior Distance Education of Alaska (I.D.E.A.) home-schooling program, I am here to testify to the professional manner in which the Galena School District has run its' statewide home-school program. I.D.E.A. has always sought to respect the rights of parents and students and to maintain a high degree of mutual accountability.

The administrators of I.D.E.A. run an exemplary program and are truly looking-out for what is in the best interest of its' students. My two children have placed above the 90th percentile in their previous standardized tests, and I.D.E.A. has played a big part in their academic success.

Please adopt the Committee Substitute for HB 464 and promptly pass the legislation so that the I.D.E.A. program can continue to work so well toward the goal of excellence in home-school education.

Sincerely,  
Joan Schwandt

**Subject: HB464**

**Date: Thu, 7 Mar 2002 12:47:30 -0900**

**From: "Marcella Ewing" <dewing@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Dear Mr. Jason Hooley:

I am requesting that you please include the following message in the packet for the Committee Members of HB464. Thank you, Marcella Ewing

Dear HES Committee Members:

This is a request for you to please adopt the committee substitute of HB464. This is an important issue to our homeschooling families of Alaska. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marcella J. Ewing

P.O. Box 1396

Dillingham, AK 99576

907-842-4189

dewing@ideafamilies.org

please include my message in the packet to committee members

**Subject: please include my message in the packet to committee members**

**Date: Thu, 7 Mar 2002 11:24:19 -0900**

**From: "Garrett & Melanie Heusser" <mheusser@ideafamilies.org>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

(please include my message in the packet to committee members)

Melanie Heusser

7805 Klana Cr. Anchorage, AK 99507 907-522-7345

Representing myself as a homeschooling member of I.D.E.A.

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House HES Committee on HB 464, dated March 7, 2002.

I am in favor of HB464. I agree with Carol Simpson in Homer.

Please help us reserve the right to school our children with freedom.

Melanie Heusser

**Subject: Fw: Comments to House HES committe members regarding HB464**

**Date: Thu, 7 Mar 2002 13:25:21 -0900**

**From: "Stacie Werner" <swerner@gci.net>**

**To: <Jason\_Hooley@legis.state.ak.us>**

Mr. Hooley,

Please include the following comment of mine in the packet for the committee members for their viewing during/before their meeting on March 7th in which they will be considering HB464 "An act relating to statewide school district correspondence study programs." I think I left out all the prilliminary information that I added in the Italics below, in my frst copy I sent you.

Thank you for your service,

Stacie Werner

***Dear House HES Committee members,***

*My name is Stacie Werner, I live in Seward Alaska at 1908 Forget-Me-Not Circle, my phone number is 907-224-5608. I representing IDEA families or speaking from the context of being enrolled in the Galena School district's IDEA statewide correspondence program.*

***I strongly urge and support a decision to adopt HB464 as soon as possible.***

I currently homeschool my 2 children and thankfully enjoy the freedom, flexibility, and respect as a capable parent/teacher that the Galena School District has exhibited toward me in the teaching of my children. The Galena School District's IDEA program has provided a wonderful, professional and balanced support in our homeschooling endeavors. I believe the balance that the IDEA program has between instructional flexibility and trust in the parental/teacher role combined with the availability of a "certified teacher's" assistance when REQUESTED by the parent, is a wonderful balance for a truly "homeschool" or "correspondence" study program. I believe that any further requirements, above the ILP (annual Independent Learning Program) APPROVED by a certified teacher, two progress reports (one midyear and year end), ON TOP OF the Terra Nova and Benchmark tests are sufficient to monitor/supervise the progress of my children's educational progress. I believe any more would be unnecessary. Any student in the public schools (not in correspondence studies) may have possibly 2 more quarterly reports, but above that, their classroom teacher is responsible for monitoring each student's daily progress. In the IDEA program I, as the parent/teacher, am daily monitoring my child's progress and reporting 3 different times (2 progress reports and a Benchmark or Terra Nova test) throughout the year in addition to keeping my OWN personal records of their progress. I view the Galena District's (or local distirict's) "certified teacher's" role as more of a "principal" of our homeschool rather than the "classroom" teacher which is what I believe further requirements and "monitoring" would turn their role into. I am my child's daily teacher/instructor and have the resources through IDEA for further assistance when needed.

I do not see the need for further regulation or monitoring of my child's progress above what is

being enforced at this time - ESPECIALLY when the new "regulations" that may come would be above and beyond what the students in the regular public classrooms are being held to. This appears to be discriminatory in nature. In the correspondence study, the parent is the teacher. My child does not need 2 teachers. As I stated above, I believe the "certified teacher" might play the part of a principal by overseeing students' general progress at least 2 times a year, seeing to it that they are adhering to the state mandatory tests and offering educational assistance or guidance when needed or requested by the teacher (me). Above this, involvement would just make my home another public school classroom and would be unnecessary additional expense to the district and state by needing more "certified teachers" to oversee all these student's progress when the parent themselves are capable of doing it.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment and I appreciate your service on this committee.

Sincerely,

Stacie Werner  
Seward, Ak