



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Clayton Holland, Superintendent

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February 21, 2022

Representative Ken McCarty
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Support for HB 108 "An Act relating to concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs for students enrolled in public secondary schools; relating to child labor; and providing for an effective date."

Dear Representative McCarty,

HB 108 will provide public secondary school students over 14 years of age the opportunity to participate in concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs from nonsectarian agencies providing industry-standard instruction.

Students enrolled in career and technical programs in schools have been shown to have higher graduation rates, increased earning potential and often with zero or minimum post-secondary debt. Alaskan industries such as healthcare, oil & gas, mining, maritime and construction are dependent on highly skilled employees whose wage growth is outpacing other industries.

Vocational learning experience provides a successful and effective avenue for advanced entry into the workforce for our students. The concurrent learning process of students in secondary education, whether toward college or trade certification, provides greater application of curriculum and sooner opportunities for our students in the workforce.

HB 108 encourages collaborative efforts in our community, as master level professionals will be able to instruct our students toward respected industry standard certifications. It sets out a policy that aims to help bridge the gap between available training resources and secondary school students by providing access to a curated list of vetted concurrent technical training programs.

We are encouraged by the efforts of HB 108 to inspire students to seek career opportunities earlier in their life. We need our Alaskan students to have Alaskan jobs! As our schools are in tight financial situation, I do encourage consideration of the potential financial implications to districts already operating with tight budgets.

Sincerely,

Clayton Holland

Superintendent