



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

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March 6, 2014

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am writing on behalf of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to support House Bill 356. If passed, the bill will create an Advisory Committee on Wellness which will make recommendations to the Commissioner of Administration on ways to decrease the incidence of disease in Alaska. The intent of the bill is to implement policies to keep Alaska state employees healthy by preventing disease, rather than waiting to react once people are sick. KPBSD welcomes this proactive approach and recognizes that it is a necessary step in ensuring a healthy workforce as well as reducing the amount of funds dedicated to health care.

The cost of health care for my district's employees is increasing. In FY09 the total spent on employee health care was \$15,376,426 while last year it was \$21,541,380. This 40% increase in four years is alarming and unsustainable. KPBSD is thus pleased to support this bill which can help stem increases in district funds to health care.

Please contact me if you require further information for why KPBSD supports passage of HB 356.

Sincerely,

Steve Atwater, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools