

Dear Congressman Young and staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to visit with you and your staff last July 15th. You had asked for the total federal spending in Alaska on education. The total spending is \$318,965,057. The following link may be of use to you:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/index.html>

I especially appreciated my conversation regarding Resistance to Intervention/Instruction (RTI) with Holly Croft. I presently chair an RTI committee within my school district and have frequent dialogue regarding framework development, best practice, and implementation. Please do not hesitate to ask for further information in future legislation.

As your constituent and as a school psychologist, I am writing to ask for your support as a cosponsor of House Resolution 700 designating the week of November 9–13, 2009 as National School Psychology Week. This resolution has bipartisan support and was introduced in July in the House of Representatives by Rep. Loeb sack (IA-2) and Rep. Ehlers (MI-3) and in the Senate by Sen. Lincoln (AR) and Sen. Cochran (MS).

Believing that “all children can learn” is essential to realizing the potential of every student in America. We know that all children can achieve healthy development and academic success when provided with a positive learning environment and the supports necessary to meet their individual needs. However, across this country too many children enter schools each day having experienced incredible hardships, tragedies, and chronic problems that distract them from learning. Research suggests that 1 out of 5 children will experience a significant mental health issue during their school years (U.S. Surgeon General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999). The landmark report, *Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*, brought the hidden mental health crisis to the attention of the U.S. public. According to the report, over 13.7 million of the nation’s children and adolescents are in need of treatment for emotional and behavioral disorders, but only one third of these children receive any services. Further, the dropout rate for students with severe emotional and

behavioral needs is approximately twice that of other students (Lehr et al., 2004). School psychologists work in public and private schools to help remedy the social, emotional, behavioral, and academic barriers to learning.

More than 30,000 school psychologists are currently working in public and private schools in America. School psychologists support the safety, well-being, and academic success of students across the country every day. They serve on school crisis teams; develop prevention and intervention services; create behavior plans for distracted and disruptive students; teach students organization, problem-solving, and social-emotional skills; screen for and assess academic and social-emotional problems; provide threat assessment and intervention for students who could potentially harm themselves or others; and consult with parents, teachers, administrators, and community providers on how to help all children achieve. School psychologists are an integral part of the dedicated teams of professionals working in schools to ensure that every student in America has his or her best opportunity for academic success.

Please show your support for school psychologists working in our schools by cosponsoring the resolution designating the second week in November as National School Psychology Week. A “Dear Colleague” letter is currently being circulated in both the House and the Senate. For more information or to become a cosponsor, please contact Joe McAndrew in Representative Loeb’s office at ext. 6-3378

or

Joe.McAndrew@mail.house.gov, Rachel Fenton in Representative Ehlers’ office at

Rachel.fenton@mail.house.gov, Tony McClain in Senator Lincoln’s office at ext. 4-6428 or

tony_mcclain@lincoln.senate.gov, or Rachelle Johnson in Senator Cochran’s office ext. 4-5054.

Thank you for your service to our country and your time and attention to this matter. Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in any way.

Sincerely,
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