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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Gary Stevens
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RECEIVED
MAR 14 2024

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority vested in me by Article II, Section 15 of the Alaska Constitution, I have vetoed the following bill:

CSSB 140(FIN) am H

“An Act relating to funding for Internet services for school districts; relating to charter schools; relating to transportation of public school students; relating to correspondence study funding; relating to the base student allocation; relating to funding for reading improvement plans; and providing for an effective date.”

While I support the basic idea of education funding reform, this bill fails to address the innovations necessary to allow Alaskan students to excel. Without a comprehensive plan to address the education issues of the State, simply increasing funding to the current system does nothing to increase the educational outcomes and potential of our youth.

The bill ignores the teacher recruitment and retention issues facing the State. Attracting and retaining top quality educators to the State is vital to fulfilling Alaska’s obligation to provide an education to our children. However, due to the uniqueness of Alaska’s geography and the remoteness of some of our schools, we are experiencing a crisis in recruiting and retaining the best teachers for our children. It is imperative that the Legislature take direct financial action to incentivize top quality educators to teach and remain in Alaska.

The bill also fails to enhance charter school opportunities in a meaningful way. Charter schools are an innovative and proven alternative to traditional education for many children. Education


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reform is more than funding. True reform must embrace a willingness to provide alternative methods of education to meet the varying needs of our student population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure