



Craig City School District

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Dear Congressman Begich,

On behalf of Craig City School District (CCSD), I'm reaching out to urge you to protect federal funding for public schools in the FY26 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill.

The cuts outlined in the House proposal (H.R. 5304), including the major reduction to Title I and the elimination of both Title II and Title III, would have serious consequences for Alaska's students. In Alaska, districts rely on \$77.8 million in Title I funding for schools, \$10.8 million in Title II funding to support effective instruction, and \$1.1 million in Title III funding to support English language acquisition.

Title I is the backbone of federal support for K-12 education, and it is essential to our small rural district. These funds make it possible for us to provide reading and math interventions, direct instructional support, and the additional help our students need to meet challenging academic standards. Title I exists to ensure a child's opportunities aren't defined by their zip code.

Title II is equally essential. It is the only dedicated funding we have for professional development, helping our teachers and staff strengthen their practice and stay current with new instructional approaches like the Science of Reading and James Nottingham's Learning Challenge. Without Title II, CCSD would be unable to offer this level of professional development, as our current budget has no capacity to absorb these costs.

The Senate's bipartisan proposal is appreciated, as it maintains these important investments in education. It also preserves the long-standing July 1 funding schedule, which gives districts the stability needed to plan for each school year. As FY26 negotiations continue, I urge you to support these critical K-12 funding sources that make it possible for Alaska's students to receive high-quality instruction and the services they need to succeed.

In support of all Alaska's students,

Jackie Hanson
Superintendent, Craig City School District