



Craig City School District

P.O. Box 800, Craig, Alaska 99921
www.craigschools.com
Phone (907) 826.3274
FAX (907) 826.3322

Chris Reitan, Superintendent
Jackie Hanson, Elem./MS Principal
Betty Hall, HS Principal
Mollie Harings, PACE Principal

Date: February 9, 2022

To: House Education Committee re HB 273

From: Chris Reitan, CCSD Superintendent

For the record, I am Chris Reitan the superintendent with Craig City School District.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to HB 273.

First, Craig City School District supports this bill. HB 273 provides a consistent, reliable, and predictable avenue for the state of Alaska to invest in the education of our PreK-12th grade students.

As the committee is fully aware, the Base Student Allocation has not been addressed by the Alaska legislature since 2017. School districts across the state annually need to develop budgets that address the ever increasing fixed costs that are embedded within our budgets that annually reduce the amount of funds we can dedicate to classroom instruction and improving the educational context we provide all students.

- Medical insurance is one of the most significant fixed costs within school district budgets that increases annually. To put medical insurance in perspective, medical insurance accounts for more than 12.5% of CCSD's annual budget. Our insurance increased 5.7% from FY 21 to FY 22. The three year average percent increase for our medical insurance is 5.41%, and the 10 year average is 4.27%
- Heating fuel oil has increased 24% since FY 2018.
- Freight for food service has increased 6% in one year.

These annual fixed cost increases continually erode the monies available for school districts to address the learning needs of our students. HB 273 provides a regular, consistent, and reliable mechanism for the state of Alaska to invest in the educational needs of our children. Additionally HB 273 eliminates the annual legislative battle of how to address public education funding each year and would provide the legislature the opportunity and space to proactively address other significant needs across our state.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of HB 273.

