

Bills Need Native People's Backing

Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Mike Gravel, along with the House members LeFevre, Christiansen, Guess, Balone, Carr, Jackson, Johnson, Kerttula, McCombe, O'Connell, Pinkerton, Poland, Sheldon, Wold, See, and Ditman, introduced a series of bills and resolutions "designed to delineate an over-all plan for the present and future implementation of a Regional High School System and a Comprehensive Curriculum in high schools throughout the state."

The quote is from Gravel's cover letter of intent to his fellow legislators.

The series of bills and resolutions represent an ambitious plan for a regional high school system in the state and if they are passed, they could mean a giant step toward proper education for the youth of Alaska, especially the Native youth. With this in mind, we would like to urge our Native people to back the bills and make their intent known to proper people in the state legislature. Letters, or any other way of communication, should be written as quickly as possible. The people cannot afford to be slow about sending them and lose an opportunity that could greatly improve our educational system in Alaska.

Letters may be sent to Mike Gravel, Speaker of the House, Alaska State Legislature, Box 2199, Juneau, Alaska, or to Rep. Lucille Pinkerton, Chairman of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee. Letters could also be sent to the State Senate to Sen. Dixie Hall on senate side of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee.

The following is the index of the bills and resolutions:

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Regional High School & Comprehensive Curriculum Plan

HB 439 "An Act defining a regional high school and providing for establishment of a system of regional high schools throughout the state."

HB 440 "An Act defining a comprehensive curriculum, requiring the establishment of a comprehensive curriculum in certain schools, and authorizing the establishment of a comprehensive curriculum in other schools."

HB 441 "Requisite bonds and appropriation for (1) regional high schools, (2) comprehensive curriculum, and (3) miscellaneous school projects."

HCR 34 Requesting the Governor to make certain general directions to the Department of Education as to the uses and places of use of money appropriated to the department from the "1956 School Construction and Expansion Fund."

HJR 77 Requesting the Bureau of Indian Affairs to construct and provide funds for the operation of dormitories at regional high schools in the state.

HCR 35 Requesting the Governor to direct the Department of Education to provide for the establishment of regional high schools in accordance with the directions of the legislature.

HJR 78 Requesting the federal government to allocate funds to the state on a per capita basis for the education of each native child enrolled in the state school system.

HCR 36 Requesting a study and a report relative to the impact of absorbing native children into the state school system, to serve as the basis on which the legislature's request for distribution of federal funds to the state and to local school districts can be granted.