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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Board of Education Supports Education Opportunity Act

JUNEAU – The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting March 13 and 14 in Juneau, unanimously approved a resolution in support of Governor Parnell's Education Opportunity Act, which is contained in companion bills House Bill 278 and Senate Bill 139.

For more information on the bills, see <http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell/priorities/education/alaska-education-opportunity-act.html>.

The complete text of the State Board's resolution is below:

RESOLUTION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

In Support of the Governor's Education Opportunity Act

Resolution 02-2014

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education & Early Development is head of the Department of Education & Early Development, one of whose statutory duties is to recommend plans to improve student performance,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would increase funding, provide families with more choice in education, and promote student readiness for careers and postsecondary education,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would increase the base student funding in fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017, recognizing that districts' operating costs increase over time,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would repeal the outdated High School Graduation Qualifying Exam and, instead, offer public school students state-funded

A large, light-colored watermark logo is positioned in the bottom right corner. It features a circular emblem with a hand holding a star, surrounded by the text "ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT". Below the emblem, the words "EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT" are written in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

**EDUCATION
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

administration of a college-admission or work-readiness assessment, which also may be used to qualify for an Alaska Performance Scholarship,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would require districts to allow high school students to earn course credits in math, language arts, science, social studies, and world languages by passing a district-chosen assessment, so students can advance at their own pace and use their school time productively,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would offer tax credits to companies to fund scholarships for high school students enrolled in dual-credit (postsecondary and high school) courses, and to fund housing costs at public residential schools,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would extend for 10 years the state's Technical Vocational Education Program, which funds training programs that align with Alaskan industries' workforce needs, including rural Alaska,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would require training programs that receive funds under the Technical Vocational Education Program to offer dual-credit (high school and postsecondary) courses,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would require local school districts to put in writing approvals and denials of charter school applications, with relevant findings of fact and conclusions of law, thus providing a public record,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would provide applicants for charter schools a state appeal process for local denials of charter applications,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would clarify the components of state funding that districts must provide to charter schools, providing for equal treatment of schools,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would require the department to open an application period for residential schools each year, providing a regular opportunity for districts to establish such schools, which increase educational opportunities for students, especially in rural Alaska,

WHEREAS, the Education Opportunity Act would increase state funding for room and board at residential schools, promoting the financial stability of such schools,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the State Board of Education & Early Development, in its desire to improve student performance, supports passage of the Education Opportunity Act.

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