May 3, 2018

CBJ Assembly  
155 South Seward Street  
Juneau AK 99801

Greetings,

Tlingit & Haida Head Start continues to participate with the Best Starts Initiative of ROCK Juneau to plan for a comprehensive community wide plan to increase high quality early learning in Juneau. We know that many of our Head Start families utilize local child care programs and additional school district preschools in order to piece together child care in order to work. We also know that many of our Head Start families are blocked from their ability to work and support their families when they are unable to find adequate and affordable care.

Multiple transitions between early care and learning programs during the day are challenging for any child, and even more for our Head Start children. The majority of Head Start programs in Alaska are now expanding to offer full time programming to serve working families. This is strongly recommended nationally, but no longer mandatory due to lack of appropriation for funding supports.

With funding support of $250 per month per child as outlined in the Best Starts proposal, Head Start would be interested in expanding to a full day classroom for children whose parents are working or in approved education or job training programs. A higher dose in a high quality program, combined with eliminating the transportation and transitions for children would result in stronger kindergarten readiness, as well as increase employment opportunities for their parents.

Tlingit & Haida Head Start would also supplement the expanded day with tribal and state child care assistance dollars, and continue to seek any available federal or state funding in order to reduce the need for local funding support in the future.

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[Signature]

Richard J. Peterson  
President

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