

Thomas E. Harvey



September 25, 2007

Honorable Judge John Sedwick
United States District Court
222 West 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Dear Judge Sedwick,

I am writing to you on behalf of Tom Anderson. While serving as the Assistant Executive Director of NEA-Alaska, I first met Mr. Anderson when he applied for an appointment to the Anchorage School Board. I interviewed him on several occasions and determined that he cared about children, he would listen to all points of view, and he makes a decision based on all the facts. He was willing to question the administration and not just follow their lead. Mr. Anderson was appointed and performed his duties as he indicated he would during the interviews. Once he was in office, he remained true to his values and did not change as many policy makers seem to do today.

When Mr. Anderson ran for the Alaska legislature, NEA-Alaska interviewed him again. The interview committee was composed of members who lived in Mr. Anderson's legislative district and were frequent voters. There were an equal number of Democrats, Republicans and Independents conducting the interview. The committee's decision was to recommend Mr. Anderson to the membership. This was surprising given that three of the members were declared supporters the other candidate, but chose to recommend Mr. Anderson. I believe the reason all but one of the committee members recommended Mr. Anderson was his demonstrated dedication to making education better for our children and parents and his keeping his commitments to public school employees.

When Mr. Anderson served in the legislature, I was the chief lobbyist for NEA-Alaska. We had many tough conversations on retirement issues, school safety matters and adequate funding. We did not always agree, but I could count on knowing exactly where Representative Anderson stood on a bill. As a member of the Republican majority, I witnessed Rep. Anderson being lectured by conservative members of the majority

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because the conservatives believed Rep. Anderson was too liberal when it came to education. It would have been easier for Rep. Anderson to hide behind the majority caucus and not support NEA-Alaska's positions, but he remained true to his word.

When Mr. Anderson most recently became a father, I was able to see him in another light. He demonstrated a loving nature I had not seen before. He is a very proud father, who does spend time caring for his young son. I witnessed him changing diapers and feeding the newborn. He is an actual caregiver, which I believe is very important. Although I have not seen Mr. Anderson with his three other sons, I understand from others that he attends to their needs as well.

In conclusion, I would ask that you consider Mr. Anderson's public service, support for quality public education and parenting responsibilities when you sentence him. I would hope for a minimal amount of time served in prison.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Harvey

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