



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE  
committee name

committee on HB 284, dated MAR. 7, 2012  
bill/subject

\$196,900 is a small amount of money  
set aside for training our young fisherman.  
Keeping everyone on the water safe and  
educated. Many communities in Alaska are  
fishing based economies. I hope this small  
amount of money will be available to everyone  
that wants to get educated. I ~~am~~ have  
had safety training over the last 20 years  
and I think this should continue.  
Thank you.

Signed: Bret Fowler  
Testifier  
SELF  
Representing (optional)  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
Address  
512-7422  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

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I would like to take this time to thank the committee for special consideration in reviewing items pertaining to student success as outlined in the Board of Regent budget request. These funds are important in student success statewide at the University of Alaska, and will aid in more students receiving better advising. As students, we have pushed this hot topic issue and are extremely satisfied that the university not only heard us, but have followed up by including money in the budget to go towards this issue. We need to keep our state strong by maintaining increased graduation rates and retention. Thank you again for your consideration.

Signed:

Nicholas S Pennington  
Testifier

Coalition of Student Leaders, UAA

Representing (optional)

PO Box 1283 Kodiak, AK 99615

Address

(907) 942-7727

Phone number

House Finance Committee  
Public Testimony  
RE: Corrections

There has been a recent change within the Department of Corrections that is creating a tremendous amount of stress and difficulty within the institutions. I live in Palmer and until recently I have been working at Palmer Correctional Center.

I have been proudly serving the people of Alaska for 6 years as a Correctional Officer. One of the key recruitment tools that attracted me was the week on / week off rotation. I have found this most helpful in recovering from the stress associated with this line of work. And now with an arbitrary decision what I agreed to is being changed.

This decision has nothing to do with saving money but everything to do with political grandstanding in response to the "Legislative Audit". It is always difficult to speak accurately to the motivation of a person or agency but it is obvious that this is not designed to enhance the safety, security or well being of offenders or staff.

- How do these changes to staff scheduling help with the reformation and reintegration of our offender population?
- How will the safety and security of both staff and offenders be addressed with the proposed reduced staffing at affected institutions between 2300 and 0600?
- Specifically with regard to Minimum Palmer correctional center . The memo for the blended schedule states that between the hours of 2300 and 0600 staffing will be reduced from 3 Officers to 2. They are responsible for the management of 176 inmates residing in 4 dormitory hallways. One of these 2 officers is on a "Hard Post", with keys, log books and other security equipment. In the event of an incident i.e. fight, fire, medical emergency etc. How do they respond safely to any of these incidents with the minimum of 2 officers responding?
- The Medium facility has approximately 330 inmates 100 of which are unsentenced. By design three of the 10 houses do not have locks on their exterior doors. The memo states that 1 of the house officers will leave at 2300 and return at 0600. This leaves only 2 house officers to provide safety and security for 330 inmates. How do these officers perform their jobs safely and efficiently?

I am greatly concerned that the current intent language proposed in the operating budget for corrections staffing is good; however it may not be strong enough. I would suggest an independent audit and a means of enforcing the findings of any audit conducted.

Please help us stop this  
OFC Harry Moore COIII  
907-746-6369  
PO Box 10  
Palmer AK 99645

LIO INTERIOR DELEGATE HEARING

Wednesday, 7 March 2012

**Legislative Bullets & UA/UAF Thanks**

I am:

Gary A. Laursen  
682 Lancaster Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99712

**A registered voter**

Today, I've come to thank our Interior Delegation and the Legislature for

- supporting the UA System statewide,
- instituting the AK Performance Scholarship,
- supporting Honors Programs within UAA and UAF and
- the FY11 \$100K appropriation made to our UAF Honors Program!

Please continue the \$100K contribution in support of Honors programming by establishing a permanent budget line item much like that in Governor Parnell's submitted FY13 Capital Budget and President Gamble's UA budget.

The FY11 \$100K UAF Honors Program appropriation was applied to building energizing, and facilitating student's needs. In so doing, this appropriation assisted:

- A **219% FY11** growth during Fall term,
- In preparing for an **FY12 68% projected** growth,
- The realization of a **242% 6-yr. baccalaureate graduation rate**,
- **Leveraging** to effect **\$50K/yr.** Honors Program funding by Chancellor Rogers,
- A **95%** Honors Students graduate rate with Honors distinction,
- The **90%** of Honors student who graduate and also work in Alaska,
- In **refurbishing** our year-round day-use centrally located 2,400 sq. ft. facility,
- In purchasing new IT equipment for **three computer labs** (eight PC and Mac stations),
- Establishment of **student use facilities** (employees office, conference room, full-service laundry, supporting PPT and poster printing capabilities,
- Providing **equipment** and logistical support in developing an IT-smart classroom,
- Prepping facilities for developing **Distance Delivery and Outreach capabilities** serving Honors students in Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Dillingham and CTC-Fairbanks,
- **Data and metrics** management toward maximizing accountability,
- **Building curriculum** (10 new courses with 5 developments) insuring student **retention**.

Respectfully submitted

## **Testimony to the Alaska State Legislature House Finance Committee**

Wednesday, March 7 2012 at the Fairbanks Legislative Information Center

Offered by Dr. Gregory Newby, Director of the Arctic Region  
Supercomputing Center at the University Alaska Fairbanks

My name is Gregory Newby. I have been an Alaskan resident since 2003. I am employed by UAF, and have been director of the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center, or ARSC, since June 2011. Today, I am here to tell you about some expanded roles that ARSC and other University partners are engaging in. We will be providing data and forecasting capabilities to all of Alaska, including schools, businesses, decision makers, and the general public.

These efforts are led by ARSC, the International Arctic Research Center, the UAF Library, and several others. We will be making the outputs of University research, observations and forecasts available at a central location, called [data.alaska.edu](http://data.alaska.edu). This Web site will be home to a data portal, a computational portal, and an institutional repository.

The University budget proposal “camo book” includes a request that would provide partial support for this effort, called “High Performance Computing for Alaskan Research.” The request is for much more than computing, however – it is for broadening the utility of the University’s intellectual outputs, to reach all Alaskans.

ARSC has demonstrated an amplifying effect for campus researchers, who leverage the strength of a State supercomputing resource for their own external funding. As of February 2012, ARSC users identified over 49 million dollars in current external funding with some reliance upon ARSC. The budget request seeks an appropriation that will help sustain the amplifying effect, and jumpstart the data portal.

Thank you for your consideration of this University budget request. On behalf of ARSC and our partners, I invite you to visit [data.alaska.edu](http://data.alaska.edu) during upcoming months.

HB 284

Greetings Representatives of the House Finance Committee

My name is Jennifer LaRoe. I live at 5134 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK with my children, Lila Quigley (turns 9 this month-third grader at Harborview Elementary), and Miles Quigley (turns 6 next month-kindergartener at Harborview Elementary) and their father, Dylan Quigley.

I moved to Juneau in 1994 after living in Bethel as a volunteer for one year. I have a strong background in children and education, having worked in a variety of non-profit youth programs and educational settings for over twenty years, including working with children with special needs. Since my children started receiving formal education, I have consistently committed time to volunteer in their classrooms on a regular basis. I am a current parent representative on the Harborview Site Council and have been making great effort to build a school garden this year.

I am concerned with the pupil to teacher ratios being affected by proposed budget cuts. Special education positions are being considered to be cut. These staff members were the key ingredient to making a difference in my son's Kindergarten. There are currently three aids that spend time in the classroom daily and help keep the peace and provide important one-on-one guidance to identified students who would otherwise dominate the teacher's time, effort and energy. Neither of my children demands much attention, but they still deserve educational attention from their teachers. Cutting increases to school funding puts my children's education at risk. I am not willing to continue supporting the school system if you are not.

It's up to the State Legislature to provide the financial resources to ensure my children get a great education here in Alaska. Funding as proposed in the Governor's budget doesn't get the job done.

~~I do not understand why the Governor has decided to cut schools and education funding.~~

\* Please consider my voice strongly as a representative of the parent community.

Not many parents have flexibility and time to come before you.

I am losing pay in order to be here.

Thank you.



6 March 2012

The Honorable Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Bill Thomas, Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 515 and 505  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

**RE: Support for Senior In-Home Services, Adult Day Services, and the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative (Operating Budget)**

Dear Chairman Stoltze and Chairman Thomas:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, I am pleased to extend our support for increased funding amounts for the Senior In-Home Services and Adult Day grant-funded programs as proposed in Governor Parnell's budget. I also extend our support for annualized funding for the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative Program.

The number of Alaskans with Alzheimer's disease is expected increase dramatically, and within the next fifteen years, there will be approximately 8000 individuals with the disease. In addition, Alaska has the fastest growing senior population in the country, and thus, has the fastest growing population of individuals at highest risk for developing Alzheimer's disease. With the impending epidemic of Alzheimer's, and the corresponding growth in the need for, and utilization of, home and community based services, it is vital for programs that serve seniors with cognitive impairment to be adequately funded.

Senior In-Home Services provides assistance to elderly Alaskans and their caregivers through respite care and care coordination. These services are essential for individuals and families living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Adult Day Services program similarly provides cost-effective community care in a safe and structured environment, and is an invaluable resource for family caregivers.

The Complex Behavior Collaborative provides additional services which help sustain individuals and caregivers living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The collaborative provides consultation and training services for community providers and family caregivers that improves care for individuals with cognitive impairment who also exhibit challenging behaviors, such as aggression, self-harm and wandering.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue and applaud your continued support for these essential services.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RChapman", written in a cursive style.

Randi Chapman  
Director, State Affairs  
Alzheimer's Association



Edith S. Nageak teaching baby Inupiaq song with hand motions.

**The Best Moments of the My Life.....**

**Edith S. Nageak, Elder  
P.O. Box 348  
Barrow, Alaska  
00723  
Cell: 1-907-367-3961**

**March 7, 2012**

**House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska  
99801-1182**

**Attn: House of Representative Reggie Joule**

**I am respectfully submitting this letter in support of the "Best Beginnings" funding for FY2013. Thank you very much for your continued support of Best Beginnings and early learning programs.**

**Terrie Chang Weckerle, M.L.I.S who is a Project Manager for Ready to Read Resource Center at the Anchorage Public Library did a presentation at the Tuzzy Library in Barrow when I came back to health education 2010 on "Baby Brain Development". She taught me that brain cells of a newborn start connecting at the time of birth. That means when we connect with newborns with reading, singing, talking whether they are our children or grand-children that they LEARN.**

**I was hooked on early education at that point. This is why we need your continued support in teaching our newborns, toddlers and when they go to school they are more connected to learning more and the rest is awesome! They become teachers, lawyers, doctors in their adult lives.**



That is where prevention and intervention starts too. I have been in health education field since 1987 as an Assistant until I retired in 1997. I was hired as a Health Educator in 2010 and I love the fact the solution is right in front of us where we teach at a very early age. Children learn what they live.

The North Slope Imagination Library of Barrow is connected with Best Beginnings which started off from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The community came together and "Babies On Track" DVD was filmed in Alaska featuring babies from all over the state, including the North Slope. We just had our first premiers in all of the outlying north slope communities starting February 25 up until March 1<sup>st</sup>. Excellent turn out of parents and their children and of course the grand-parents were more excited about the whole thing. Thank you very much for your kind support and your valuable time. I do watch your sessions on TV. Yes. I keep abreast of what is going on in our government. We are all parents, grand-parents, uncles, aunts who wants the best for our children and grand-children. Even, if we do not have children or grand-children we do have extended families that we support in some way.

Respectfully,

Edith S. Nageak  
Elder

Cc: North Slope Imagination Library  
Best Beginnings  
Terrie Chang Wekerle