

March 28, 2012

Hello,

My name is Mallory Hamilton and I have a child with down syndrome and autism. She is 16 years old and recently returned home from an out-of-state placement.

My husband and I spent the 2 years prior to agreeing to the outside placement, trying to find a solution for her here at home. We were not able to. Alaska doesn't have an appropriate instate placement for children like my daughter, nor were we able to find the professionals that could work with us to train us to help her.

I cannot begin to express the turmoil and heartache that our family experienced before and during her 2 year absence from our family, but we are lucky...she is one of the success stories.

She came back to us a much happier, and therefore more successful, child. The program worked for her. It got her back on track and able to function in our society. However, that does not mean she was "cured".

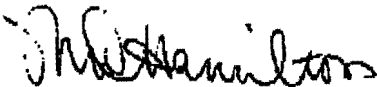
Everyday is a struggle for her. Her behavior can still have a very negative impact on all our lives. I am constantly looking for ways to help her. Before she even came back to Alaska, I was looking for an available behavior specialist to work with us. I couldn't find one. I even contacted the local training program to see if I could get a student to take on our family...no go.

I have signed up for email notifications from any and every agency that I thought might offer training, just hoping to stumble across something that could help us. In fact, my daughter's PCA (personal care attendant through Waiver services) has had zero training because her employer hasn't been able to find any for her either.

It just make sense to provide families training to keep the forward momentum going. Obviously, the state of Alaska spend untold thousands of dollars to send her to an out-of-state program, let's not lose what was gained due to lack of training once ours kids return home. Let's keep them home!

Please include a \$650 GF/HM funding increment in the FY13 budget. Comparatively speaking, training costs so much less then sending our kids out of state to receive the help they need.

Sincerely,



Mallory Hamilton

FBO Simon Choi In Anchorage By Cera Choi**1:00 - 2:15 pm Wednesday 3/28/12****Anchorage LIO: 716 W. 4th Ave. 99501 between G & H street**

I am a US citizen with a teenage son who is now 6'2" and has a very rare developmental disability. Only 1 out of 15,000 to 20,000 has his condition. It is complex with syndrome-driven behavior issues as well as physical challenges.

1. Throughout his life, I have had difficulty finding skilled help in the medical profession, the school district and agencies that provide care services so I could work and support my family. Due to the complexity of my son's condition, I have had to deal with conflicting diagnosis and insurance policies. I have now reached the life time benefit limit for mental health services with my private insurance.
2. For the past 3 years, my son has been placed in a special residential facility for youth with his condition on the East Coast. This placement was necessary because there were no options here in Alaska with trained staff and the kind of 24/7 supervision like he needed. As you can imagine, the close bond we once had will never be the same. Our phone visits are time-limited and I cannot travel to Massachusetts more than a few times each year due to cost. I am worried about the future when he ages out of this facility now that his family ties have been broken.
3. Alaska needs more specialized, residential treatment facilities so persons with disabilities like my son can continue to receive strong family support and ties to their culture and community, including vocational opportunities. By investing in facilities closer to home, we can save the longer term public costs of corrections, hospitalizations and psychiatric emergencies.

Complex Behavior Collaborative Consultation & Training Talking Points

GOAL: For people to remain in their homes, communities and cultures, and to avoid people being placed at in/out-of-state residential placements, such as the Alaska Psychiatric Institution or corrections.

WHAT:

- 1) Training and consultation services provided by behavior experts for people with complex behaviors. For example: people with multiple diagnosis such as: autism, blind, and non-verbal.
- 2) Training is provided to the family and local providers to increase their skills and to develop in-state capacity.

WHY:

- 1) During the last year, the number of people who experience developmental disabilities sent to out-of-state placements increased from 11 to 20.
- 2) There has also been an increase in the number of people with disabilities placed in the Alaska Psychiatric Institution or the correctional system.
- 3) To annualize the one-time funding the legislature provided last year.

SHARE: a personal story or other's story

ASK: Include a \$650.0 GF/HM funding increment in the FY13 budget

FBO Simon Choi in Anchorage By Cera Choi

1:00 - 2:15 pm Wednesday 3/28/2012

Anchorage LIO; 716 W. 4th Ave. 99501 between G & H street

My Name is Cera Choi.

I am a US citizen with a teenage son who is now 6'2" and has a very rare developmental disability. Only 1 out of 15,000 to 20,000 has his condition. It is complex with syndrome-driven behavior issues as well as physical challenges.

1. Throughout his life, I have had difficulty finding skilled help in the medical profession, the school district and agencies that provide care services so I could work and support my family. Due to the complexity of my son's condition, I have had to deal with conflicting diagnosis and insurance policies. I have now reached the life time benefit limit for mental health services with my private insurance.
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KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICEEmail: Kenai_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Terri Zopf-Schoessler
REPRESENTING: Parent/self
BILL # or SUBJECT: HB284
COMMITTEE & DATE: SEIN 032812

Dear Senator Dennis Egan and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As a parent, a long-time Alaskan, and a teacher, I insist that you keep the promise you made to the students of this state and restore ALL of the money promised for the Alaska Performance Scholarship program.

As a parent, I have watched my senior daughter work hard to assure that she qualifies for the APS program: She has turned down opportunities to apply out-of-state, scheduled retakes of the ACT, taken—and paid full-price for—25 semester credits through Kenai Peninsula College, and scored 56/60 on her intake interview for the pre-med program at UAA. As a 29-year resident of the state, I was incredibly appreciative of the foresight and long-term planning represented by the APS program. As a teacher, I have watched my daughter and many of her classmates take challenging classes including AP classes taught here as well as college release classes at KPC in order to prepare themselves to be successful in college. I have seen our school counselors urge all students to take additional math and science classes to help qualify for the program as well as encourage students interested in more hands-on training to find out how the APS program applies to them.

All of these things were done with the understanding that, if they kept their part of the bargain, the legislature would keep their part. Not only are you currently planning to renege on your responsibilities, but you have waited until the last possible minute to do so—and that leaves 2012 graduates in an impossible situation.

I cannot express my disgust with your short-sighted and devastating political maneuverings. The young people of Alaska have done their work; I insist you do yours and restore all funding for the Alaska Performance Scholarship program.

Sincerely,
Terri Zopf-Schoessler
PO Box 2371
Soldotna, AK 99669
trzopf@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICEEmail: Kenai_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Rachel Uopnen
REPRESENTING: Independent Living Center
BILL # or SUBJECT: HB284
COMMITTEE & DATE: SFIN 032812

My name is Rachael Uponen and I work at the Independent Living Center in Soldotna. We also have offices in Homer (our main office location) and Seward.

The majority of Alaskans will experience disability at some point in their lives. Disability can be found in virtually every demographic, be it age, financial situation, or gender. Disability can become part of a person's life at any given moment, without warning—for this reason, many disability rights advocates refer to those without disabilities as TAB—"temporarily able-bodied."

An overwhelming majority of people with disabilities wish to live their lives in their homes and as independently as possible. Those of us who work at Centers for Independent Living (CILs) assist people with disabilities (the numbers of which include myself and others in our staff) with our services.

I can personally attest to how the center where I work has helped me with independent living. I have obsessive-compulsive disorder, which has made such things as living by myself and holding down a job difficult. The ILC allowed me to participate in job training and job coaching, which ended with me working here. In addition, I learned skills for independent living such as cleaning and paying rent. I now live on my own, away from my parents, and couldn't be happier.

In addition to seeing things from a consumer's perspective, I have also seen them from a staff member's perspective. As the receptionist at the ILC, I am often the first person a consumer meets. This gives me an insight regarding who requires assistance, and for what reasons. Our most popular program is the taxi voucher program, where a consumer may purchase vouchers for a reduced cab fare rate. Consumers on this program are either disabled or over 60, and they are either unable to drive or do not have a car. So many people have joined the program that we have had to stretch our budget more than we had expected. Consequently, the number of vouchers we can sell has been reduced, which in turn places a financial burden on many of our consumers. This is only one example of how necessary funding is for CILs across the state.

My experience at the ILC has taught me that independent living is absolutely essential to everyone living with disabilities. I fully support any additional funding for IL services in Alaska.

Rachael Uponen
Receptionist
Independent Living Center
47255 Princeton Ave. #8
Soldotna, AK 99669
(907) 262-6333 (Phone)
(907) 260-4495 (Fax)

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICEEmail: Kenai_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

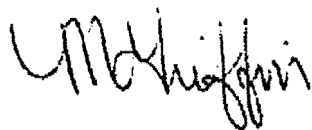
NAME: Margaret J. Griffin
REPRESENTING: Soldotna High School
BILL # or SUBJECT: HB284
COMMITTEE & DATE: SFIN 032812

I am very concerned that the Senate currently has plans to cut funding for the Alaska Performance Scholarship, so that only the Class of 2011 has funding.

I am working with a number of students who have done their part in taking a fourth year of Math, Science, and Social Studies and/or foreign language to qualify for APS. I also have students who took the WorkKeys test a second time so that they would be sure to qualify for the Vocational track of APS and are planning on accessing that scholarship.

My students are counting on this scholarship and many will change their college plans if the APS is not funded. Some students who had planned to stay in Alaska because of the APS may leave Alaska for schooling if the APS is not funded.

Please re-consider the funding for the APS, Alaskan students are counting on it.



Margaret J. Griffin, School Counselor
907-260-7073
Soldotna High School
425 W. Marydale Avenue
Soldotna, AK 99669



Mar. 28, 2012

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I wish to submit a testimony. Thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Todd Brinkman and I am a Research Assistant Professor with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), and graduate of the UAF Resilience and Adaptation Program (RAP). RAP is an internationally recognized program that trains students to contribute to the social, ecological, and economic well-being of Alaskans. With the support of RAP, I completed a doctoral degree in Wildlife Biology in 2009.

I'm writing today because the future of RAP is in jeopardy. Ten-years of external funding expire this year, and RAP is being considered in the FY13 University Operating Budget for base funding (Board of Regents' budget request under "Alaska Research, Economic Development, Intellectual properties"). I urge you to support the continuation of this program.

Future funding for the RAP Program is important for a number of reasons:

- 1) This program solves "real world" problems. The issues you see in the newspaper each day are the research topics that RAP students tackle. From the decline of logging in the Tongass, to development of the Susitna Dam, to whaling in Barrow, RAP students have been involved.
- 2) RAP graduates fill our workforce needs (90% stay in Alaska). Because of the quality of the program's contributions, it is common for RAP students to be quickly recruited by Alaska employers. These students bring the diverse skills and tools to address contemporary needs (ex. sustainable energy, wildfire disturbance, hunting controversies, infrastructure dilemmas).
- 3) The foundation of RAP is in place. The struggles of early development of a non-traditional program are behind us. "Pulling the plug" on the program now will be a huge blow to the partner communities, agencies, tribal organizations, non-profits, and private companies that benefit from our work. There is not another program like it in Alaska!

Thank you for your time. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,
Todd Brinkman
Fairbanks, Alaska
Phone: (907)978-2584; Email: tjbrinkman@alaska.edu

From: Delzers <mgdelzer@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:12 PM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: GPS program

To all Senators and to Whom are Concerned,
The GPS program is instrumental in Alaska's future. It has inspired students to strive even past what they thought they could achieve for the promise of further education. This is a scholarship that acknowledges achievement, not based on race, ethnicity, finances... but simply an individuals determination to succeed as an Alaskan.

My son is presently a sophomore in high school and has been basing his educational career on the standards and elements stated within this scholarship. It has driven him to achieve and he knows (or thought he knew) that he could trust the Alaska government to hold to their word... unlike many in the federal government. Set Alaska apart and let the decision makers of tomorrow have faith in OUR state, giving them more incentive to stay and develop all that we have into the best it can be.

Provide funding for this year, next year and ten years in the future. Alaska has money, it is just like any other part of government... allocation. Choose education for our future. We are worth it. Our children are worth it. It is an investment that will have a greater return than anything else we can invest in these days.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Delzer
907 457-2298
1565 Holy Cross Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: maria <emwriter@ak.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:52 AM
To: LJO Fairbanks
Subject: APS concern

Importance: High

Senator Egan and Finance Education Subcommittee,

I'm writing in regard to the Alaska Performance Scholarships program that has taken a major hit. My grandsons graduate this year and next and have worked hard to place well and earn scholarships to help with their college. I'm very upset that this carrot has been dangled in front of them to be torn away months before the current senior will be starting at the UAF.

Please strongly reconsider this action that targets our students with the most potential.

Sincerely,

Maria Crites

118 Mountain View Drive

Fairbanks, AK 99712

[REDACTED]

From: Leslea Nunley <lesleanunley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:51 PM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: student aid for college

I am writing regarding the program that allows students in Alaska who are willing to work hard at their academics & make good grades to have their tuition to the University of Alaska paid for. I cannot attend today's meeting as I am in Grand Jury duty but I would appreciate it if my voice were heard through this letter.

My son would not have been able to go to college without this program. He studied hard through high school to maintain the grades that would allow him to go on to college. He is at the University of Alaska in his 3rd year of school and has been on the Deans list all 3 years. Because of this program the state and the country have one more educated young man to enter the workforce and become a leader.

I know this program is expensive but an uneducated public is more expensive. There must be some other program that you can cut instead that does not have the long term value of this one. Thank you for your time. Leslea Nunley 2008 Perkins Drive Fairbanks 479-3374

From: Patricia White <pm_white@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:43 AM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: Alaska Performance Scholarships

I would like to show my support for this very important program for all young Alaskans

Patricia M. White
Po Box 77012
Tanana, AK 99777
907-366-7187 hm
907-366-1013 cell

3/28/2012

Senate Finance Written Testimony HB 284

From: Billyann W <badgerroad@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:29 AM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: Alaska Performance Scholarship

I am a high school senior and will be going to UAF this fall. I am writing to show my support for continuing the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Billyann White
PO Box 77012
Tanana, AK 99777
907-366-7187

██████████ Senate Finance Committee HB284 3/28/12

From: George and Barbara Bowen <gpbowen@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:34 AM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: AK Performance Scholarship funding

Dear AK State Legislator:

I am writing this e-mail in support of restoring the funding for the AK Performance Scholarship. Funding the post secondary education of Alaska's top scholastic performers is essential to preparing our state's future leaders. The students who qualify for this scholarship have demonstrated their dedication to achieving their academic goals. They are worthy of our financial support. I applaud the governor's efforts to reward scholastic excellence.

I respectfully request the state legislature to restore the funding for the 2012 AK Performance Scholarship.

Sincerely,
George P. Bowen
(a voting citizen)