

House Public Testimony
HB 286 Operating Budget FY19 HB285
Mental Health Budget FY19

Compiled emails and letters
March 2, 2018

xFrom: Nikki Love [REDACTED@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 7:54 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for supporting early education

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for your continued support of early education programs. Programs like Parents As Teachers, Head Start, Infant Learning, and Best Beginnings ensure that our children are off to a healthy start in life. I see the direct benefit of these programs in my community and in my family. My granddaughter receives books in the mail through the Best Beginnings sponsored Imagination Library program. At the age of two she is already an avid reader with wonderfully developing language skills.

With your continued support, all children in Alaska will enjoy better outcomes in life.

Thank you again,

Mrs. Nikki Love

Grandmother, Alaska Native, Voter

xFrom: Randy Moore [REDACTED@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 1:15 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

HI Members

We spend about 3 times the national average on the budget per capita,, Way to MUCH

Cut government overhead, Don't tax us or take the PFD to support a BLOATED government.

Thanks
Randy Moore
Chugiak

-----Original Message-----

xFrom: John Meyn [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 11:30 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public school funding

To whom it may concern, the funding for schools needs to at least consider covering the cost of living adjustments so that we do not have a flat funding from the last few years. Our students are worth more than that.

Consider the impact on our state for a future growth not of stagnation fund education!

Sincerely, John C Meyn

xFrom: Amity Condie [mailto:REDACTED@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 12:08 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on HB 286 Operating Budget

My name is Amity Condie and I live in Palmer, AK 99645. I have a third grader at Butte Elementary, and a 2 year old who will attend in a couple of years. I believe it is essential to increase the base student allocation and help Alaska's schools provide quality educational experiences for all students. I know we are facing a budget crisis. I would be willing to give up my PFD or pay income tax in order to increase education funding.

I also am in favor of increasing the AK Public Defender's operating budget to provide legal services to those who cannot afford representation. Please make funding choices that will benefit the health and safety of our community, even if residents need to pay something in order to do that.

Thank you.

xFrom: Mary [mailto:████████@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 2:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Regarding budget

You ask me to support spending on multiple issues while all the time cutting services to the elderly and disabled.

I began with 27 PCA hours , then you cut it to ZERO, at hearing you quickly offered 10 hours, now you want to take 15 minutes away.

Well, 15 minutes is one less bath for me ..

It also equates to one less meal.

Which should I choose to give up?

Should I alter them by the week?

Will my Medicaid benefits be next?

That would save you a lot of money, by speeding my demise.

**Mary
Wasilla**

xFrom: Laural Jackson [mailto:ljackson@dgsd.us]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 8:52 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Education Funding

Good Morning

I am testifying to the need to not only fully fund education, but to increase the BSA. For the past three years, education has weathered the State fiscal crisis by receiving flat funding from the State. You all know that this is actually a decrease in funding in that our costs continue to rise while the funding is stagnate. We have done so with dignity, but not without pain.

During the coming year, our personnel costs alone will rise by approximately \$244,000 based on wage and salary increases that were negotiated in FY15. Those increases were in no way excessive. In fact if you look at the wages/salaries in Delta/Greely School District you will see that our pay scales are on the lower end of things for this state.

Of course, personnel costs are not alone in becoming more expensive. Everything from fuel and electricity to parts for boilers and insurance is increasing. All of this means we are trying to carving larger pieces out of a pie that stays the same each year.

The proposed \$100 increase to the BSA would be great and we would be appreciative of it; however, even that increase will not allow us to keep up with inflation. Please give careful consideration to how you are funding your most precious and most vital resource.

As someone much more eloquent than I stated:

The answer, again, comes from the most basic economic principles. Education is good not just for the person who becomes educated, but also for everyone around her. When citizens are more productive, they are able to contribute to the economy in ways that benefit others far beyond the salaries that they receive. They also become much less likely to need public assistance (when the economy is not in a slump), to commit criminal acts, and so on.

Economists call these beneficial aspects of education “positive externalities,” because so many of the good things that education creates are enjoyed by others—people who are “external” to the individual who is deciding how much money to spend on education. This is why it is important for a country’s people, acting together through their government, to increase the amount of spending on education beyond what individuals would choose to spend on their own. (Neil H Buchanan, 2012)

Thank you for all that you do to make our State great.

Laural Jackson, Superintendent
Delta/Greely School District
907-895-4657 ex 24

xFrom: May, Carol [mailto: [REDACTED]@juneauschools.org]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 7:38 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 286

March 2, 2018

Dear Legislators,

I am writing as a high school teacher and a parent of a senior at Thunder Mountain High school in Juneau.

The Juneau School District has had to cut their budget each year for seven years straight. At Thunder Mountain High School, we have lost important elective classes – the ones that keep some of our kids in school. We have gone from 8 sections of art per day to 5. We have lost our culinary certification program. Our World Language classes have been cut from 12 to 8. We no longer teach Economics or Small Engines.

Without additional funding, more of these classes will go away (3 more teachers will be cut), and core classes will increase in size.

Please consider increasing funding for education.

Sincerely,

Carol S May

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

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Carol May
Thunder Mountain High School Math Department
Juneau, Alaska 907-780-1988

xFrom: Brian Hakkinen [mailto: [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2018 9:28 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>
Subject: Money

I would like to see the state income tax reinstated. If you like living here then you should support state government. That is doubly so for the 70% of nonresident workers. They are taking the profits from the state and spending the money in the states or Asia or wherever. One thing I realized is that every resident in Alaska is a drain on the state treasury to some extent since there is no income tax.. But we live here and spend our money here. Nonresident workers are a drain on the state treasury and add nothing to the state. Ironically, many of them pay an income tax to their home state on money they earned in Alaska. Every time I read about some new oil development and the jobs it will create I now realize that that development probably cost the state treasury a \$billion and it will be developed with 90% nonresident workers, more drain on the treasury.

The legislature needs to cut school funding to only what is required by the state constitution. The constitution does not mandate swimming pools, athletics, school sports. {travel from Juneau to Barrow to play football}, psychologists, psychiatrists, special student handlers, free bus transportation. If the school districts want these extras then they should pay for them. Audit every school in the state and find out what it costs each school to provide an education. The 3 Rs. I went to territorial and then state schools and that is what we had and I got an education that set me up very well for the challenges college and a career. Parents can form sports clubs so their kids can still compete in athletics. The state is broke thanks to conservative republicans. The free ride is over. The school districts need to face the fiscal facts. Hi lite budget items and delete, delete, delete.

Brian Hakkinen
Kasilof

xFrom: Hayley Anderson [mailto: [REDACTED]@threadalaska.org]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 4:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please continue to support young children

House Finance Committee:

As a parent, I want to thank you for including supports for early childhood resources within the FY19 state operating budget. These resources give children like mine the opportunity to succeed in school and life. Thank you for making Alaska's children a priority, and please continue to support funding for early childhood resources in the FY19 state operating budget.

Thank you,

Hayley Anderson

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99507
907-229-2360

xFrom: Merry Ellefson / Wayne Carnes [mailto: [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 11:59 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Education Funding

Hi Representatives and thank you for your hard work.

If there is any resource to currently invest in, it's our youth/students.

I'm a coach/mom/teaching artist/volunteer of 20 years. The impact of flat funding is loss of teachers, counselors, activities, and educational engagement overall. Flat funding, as all other costs rise, results in an unhealthier way of being. We will pay in the long run for short-changing education now.

I urge you, when you consider the future, to put the education of our people ahead of politics.

Thank you,
Merry Ellefson and Wayne Carnes
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK

-----Original Message-----

xFrom: 'MICHAEL STORY' [REDACTED@ak.net]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 12:37 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Fwd: Please Support the Education of our Children

Dear Honorable House Finance Committee Members, My name is Andi Story. I am a member of the Juneau Board of Education.

I have three young adult children making their home in Alaska. My husband is a managing Principal in an engineering firm in Juneau. We believe part of keeping Alaska strong is being known for being a great place to educate and raise a family I've spent significant time dedicated to this.

I want to thank you for your investments in public education for our children. Like all States, public education is one of the biggest investments every Legislature will make each year. This will always be so, as public education is primarily a state constitutionally mandated responsibility to educate their youth.

The current amount in the Operating Fund for education will be the same as it has been for the past three years. I want this committee to be aware that this amount will mean three million in reductions to our children's education here in Juneau. In reading the local statewide newspapers, I see that it means steep reductions for many children's education across our state. I urge you to increase the amount of investment in education to the Operating Fund.

I am aware that Alaska is facing a tough economic environment. We are fortunate that we do have resources that can be made available for a state fiscal plan and to provide for this generation of children's educational needs. Education is a dynamic field. It is constantly changing to meet current academic, cultural, emotional and employment needs to raise contributing citizens.

Your actions to increase the resources available to children will help to; ensure reasonable class sizes, provide interventions to help students make catch up academic growth, use curriculum that reflects local culture and place, meets some updated technology needs and offers access to information through counselors and staff on how to help our students create healthy relationships and cope with stress.

As you know, there is a wide variety of needs that we are trying to provide for our children. Progress is being made in our children's learning. All the levels of policy makers are working together to build on this goal. I urge an increased investment for our children's education to the Operating Budget. This sends the message to our communities that the Alaska Legislature values their children and will provide for their education even in tough budget times. Thank you for your hard work on behalf of Alaskans and their families.

Respectfully,

Andi Story [REDACTED] [27]Juneau, AK 99801 [28](907 [29]) 723
[REDACTED]

xFrom: Laura Cisneros [mailto:lcisneros@bestbeginningsalaska.org]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 12:48 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for supporting early learning!

Members of the House Finance Committee:

The scientific evidence is clear. The first years of a child's life offer a critical window to set them up for lifelong success. Thousands of Alaska families have affirmed that the services Alaska early childhood organizations, more specifically Best Beginnings, are providing are making a positive impact in their children's lives.

That is why I thank the committee for demonstrating its commitment to Alaska children through its funding of early childhood programs and request that the committee continues to promote the foundation for a vibrant future for our state with continued funding for these programs.

Respectfully,
Laura Cisneros

Laura Cisneros/Director/ Best Beginnings
3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 104A, Anchorage, AK 99501 / P: 907.297.3311/ F: 907.297.3304
lcisneros@bestbeginningsalaska.org
www.bestbeginningsalaska.org



BEST BEGINNINGS
Alaska's Early Childhood Investment
Pick.Click.Give.

xFrom: Savoonga Head Start [REDACTED]@ruralcap.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 4:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Hello my name is Matilda Kingeekuk and I am from Savoonga Alaska. I want to thank you for your support of early childhood. The Savoonga Head Start program has made a difference in my Children, Families, and Community by helping us with teaching and getting our children ready for Kindergarten. Thank you.

xFrom: Malan Paquette [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 3:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Operating Budget March 2018

The State Of Alaska owns and operates major instigator of gun violence in our state. Our suicide morbidity is a direct result of the socio-economic horror inflicted by ACPE. We need the truth about Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education irreconcilable student loans in their annual report. It is demanded that all state office implement language for student loan forgiveness, income based repayment in employee recruiting, and demand ACPE implementation. I for example am facing income attachment should I achieve employment state staff will rain down intimidation and financial detriment to any prospective employer, am I employable to you?

All professions needed to address OEDD, legal shortage, REAL ID Act Comply and linguistic emergency declaration stand to benefit in an about face regarding student loans management.

It is demanded that State of Alaska end management distribution of student loans. It is demanded that UAA be voided from the budget or significant cuts be issued. UAA knows all to well the favor they have cultivated with only organization providing their oversight that is ACPE. ACPE fails violence on campus, ACPE fails the disenfranchised, ACPE FAILS, cut their AG legal budget, cut the administration salaries, cut student loans.

Develope individualized plans for ACPE resolve. Retract all defaults, damming assets while our state cottels criminal and criminal Enterprises allowing for massive business debt to be washed away in bankruptcy while scholarly assets are so put-down, deceived, and disregard defaulted turning up in morbidity reports.

How many suicide/deceased also experienced default in household?

Cut liquor licenses issuance, cut work visa', cut academic visa, especially where it is planned for visa recipient to borrow Student Loans to attend school here, then vanish into thin air. I still can't believe we are issuing student loans in a no REAL ID Comply capacity, aiding criminal enterprise working the APD into frenzy PFD seasons hard, wonder if APD know how many DV calls regard debt arguments, defaulted, PFD taken, upset callers, unable pay rent getting kicked out?

The Administration of Alaska is observably failing constituency. [And Special Thank You to Honorable Wilson for standing up for Alaskans.] Let make sure the 'third party review' is not performed by Ombudsman. Ombudsman fails grossly in demonstrating resolve for borrowers. They say the Governors Office gave that order, Ombudsman may not assist student loan borrowers, No ONE WILL assist ACPE borrowerz.

We are it. The voice of the voiceless, standing alone mitigating future loss at the hands of socio-economic horror, defaults hurt, suicide hurts, Governors office failing to provide

instruction regarding needed forgiveness, income based repayment, and fair deferment or forbearance. Why does ACPE hide these economic resources?

My story: Defaulted at 22, it has hurt my career to date. It was demanded I pay 350.00 monthly, unemployed at the time. Annual income was less than \$11,000 the year of my default. This is affecting me, it is affecting my career potential, it has been a horrendous shunning to endure. As a trained observer I see massive failures in ACPE execs ability to work in the best interest of people served.

We are not served, we are churned, Defaulted, income attachment factories without resources to achieve fairness, it appears, in our morbidity report that suicide is the alternative many disenfranchised take.

I am Paquette v ACPE. I have never had a court date, I was not properly served, I have had my voice raped from me, I have no hope for the future, I am indebted, shunned by infrastructure I chose to support. I've worked over 15 years, enduring fear, shunning, and family shaming for going to college. ACPE calls family, step family, former employers stalking me, divulging personal debts to strangers, casting shade on me damming me, declarations to family or anyone who answers. Turning parents into informants betraying the trust began with ACPE.

ACPE once told an employer they could force them into bankruptcy and coached employers and family to act in covert capacity stalking after me as though I couldn't be trusted. I originally borrowed \$7,000 ACPE says it's \$17,000 I have no recourse, I question if default was fair, internal review declares it so accurate, and referral to Administrative Courts, failed to be sent in reasonable time frame, shows up just days before deadline. PFD attached, appeals notice on those often delayed to prevent recipient react before deadline. This year, ACPE waves appeals fee, after a bitter arguing episode involving Governors office (just for \$35.00 appeals fee), and later decided under waver status, the borrower with no income didn't know her Medicaid status, not eligible for appeal, another internal decision never witness by OAH or Alaska courts although my appeal Paquette v ACPE remains unresolved.

All the suicides voiceless Defaulted borrowers remains unresolved. This Operating Budget needs to include funding research for suicide prevention including all behavioral health screens to include financial screens for student loan debt. We must seek resolve in the best interest of the people. Default and shunned all disenfranchised youth is not in the Program description for ACPE. Why does it feel like defaulting borrowers is really massive government effort to oppress Alaskans People!!!!????!!!! Our suicide rate is shameful, and I demand Operating Budget funds to help our Representatives make sense if this! No more money to ACPE or any of the third parties they portend to pay on behalf of Alaska. END STUDENT LOANS
MANAGEMENT/DISPERSEMENT BY THE STATE OF ALASKA.

Sincerely, Ms. Malan Paquette M.A.
Anchor Point

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: lio.petersburg @akleg.gov
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
(Please Write Clearly and Legibly)

xYOUR FULL NAME: Erin Anne Michael

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF): Self

BILL #: HB285/286 **Subject:** FY19 Operating Budgets

COMMITTEE NAME: House Finance

HEARING DATE: March 2, 2018

I would like to express the importance of supporting financially the following state entities as they provide critical services to Petersburg:

- Public Health Nursing
- Public Radio
- Public Schools
- Alaska Marine Highway

Thank you for submitting my written comments to the record.

xFrom: Sharon Sparks [mailto:ssparks@alsc-law.org]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 2:18 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written Testimony HB 286, HB 285

Public Assistance Field Services

Applicants and applications pending re-certifications for children and families in rural Alaska are hit hard with gaps in services for assistance; not to mention our mail system being so slow it takes weeks/months to receive anything, if at all. Especially for those children that rely on items because of their medical health conditions. Please support this for sake of those not able to advocate for themselves and be a voice to be heard and hire more workers to help process backlog for those most vulnerable.

Enhanced Training for Front line Social Workers

Speaking from rural Alaska (not in road system); it takes months or years to get and retain workers in remote Alaska communities. Services are "not there" for most vulnerable asset - "our children" ! Who is going to be the voice and advocate? Hiring and training workers for remote/rural areas in Alaska would effectively provide support.

Public Defenders

This program is so understaffed with so many caseloads and the gap is just widening and widening with lack of support and services. Clients are contacting other sources for services yet, they require payment upfront that low-income Alaskans cannot afford or the sources do not handle criminal cases. Please support funding for additional attorneys in Public Defender agency.

Thank you in advance for your time and support

--

Sharon Sparks.Paralegal
Alaska Legal Services Corporation
P.O. Box 1429
Nome, Alaska 99762
110 Front Street, 2nd floor - Suite 204A
P: (907)443-2236 or 2230
F: (907) 443-2239
toll-free: 1-888-495-6663
Office hours: 9 am - 12 pm & 1 pm - 3 pm

-----Original Message-----

xFrom: Scat Mail [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 1:57 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 286

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my opinion about this year's operating budget and my concern about the potentially 3rd consecutive year of flat funding for the BSA.

Given that insurance, energy, and other expenditures continue to rise on a yearly basis, a flat funding of the BSA effectively results in a yearly decrease to the BSA. As the BSA effectively decreases, districts have less money to pay for the most important education expenditures; teachers, and counselors.

I am the parent of a high school senior and I have witnessed first hand what happens as class sizes increase and counselors in the schools decrease: our kids pay the price.

It makes no long term sense to take money out of the class room! It is illogical, short sighted, and detrimental to our kids, our communities, and the ultimate economy of our state.

Please include inflation proof funding for the BSA, at the very least.

Please include this email as my public testimony.

Thank you,
Catherine Coward
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99507

-----Original Message-----

xFrom: Bruce Van Dusen [mailto:bvandusen@alaska.net]

Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 1:47 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Operating Budget

To Our Esteemed Legislators in the Alaska House, The Comprehensive Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grant provides essential services and supports for residents of Alaska. These funds ensure that members of a vulnerable population, those living with serious and persistent mental illness diagnosis, have access to housing, education and employment. Polaris House uses these funds to not only provide these services in the right amount at the right time, but we also contribute to lower recidivism, less use of valuable Emergency Room resources, fewer expensive inpatient stabilization episodes, and less frequent need for Police Department involvement.

The individuals who benefit from the Polaris House service appreciate and are grateful for the important services they receive as a result of organizations receiving these CBHTR grant funds. An added benefit to the community is through achieving goals selected by the Department of Behavioral Health. The Polaris House use of these funds contributes to DBH being able to leverage federal dollars to support care for Alaskans.

Thank you for all of the important work that you do.

Bruce Van Dusen
Executive Director
Polaris House, Inc.
434 W Willoughby Av
Juneau, AK 99801
bvandusen@alaska.net
907-780-6775

xFrom: Lynn Wilson [REDACTED@ruralcap.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 1:28 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Hello my name is Lynn Wilson and I am from Anchorage, Alaska. I want to thank you for your support of early childhood. The Anchorage Head Start program has made a difference in our community by providing a safe, loving, and developmentally appropriate learning environment. Thank you.

Thank you for all that you do!

Lynn Wilson

From: ida nelson [mailto:nelsonida2901@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 5:24 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testifying on State Budget

Sate Budget.

Good evening Members of the finance committee, I am Ida Nelson from Igiugig, which is located at the head water of Lake Iliamna in the Bristol Bay Region. I am here today to testify on state budget in support of Public safety, Education, and fisheries.

Public safety: We cannot afford to cut any more funding from public safety. We have drugs that are impacting our families and tearing them apart and creating monsters due to their own bad choices. We as family members of those abusers of drugs are left alone to deal with them due to the lack of funding from the state. I am in full support of adding more prosecutors, pre-trial officers, and criminal investigators. We also need to increase State Troopers presents in Alaska because we currently do not have a State Trooper or a VPSO in our Lake Iliamna Region.

Education: I am in full support of Representatives Les Gara's House bill 339 to increase the BSA. We cannot afford to cut our students future by removing teachers and pink slipping them before their time. Increasing it by only 1.7 % is by far the best way of investing in our future for Alaska and not robbing them of what could have been.

Fisheries: The Alaska fisheries program does not need to be cut any further. My fear is that if you decide to cut further funding from the fisheries budget then You have failed to support our students. The Lake and Peninsula School Borough taxes a portion of the fish that comes out of Bristol Bay and in return helps funs the Lake and Peninsula School District, which affects my Children's education needs. Lake and Peninsula School District has already shorted our school year by 4 weeks thus saving \$500,000 and our School District cannot afford to cut two more weeks of school, it just cannot be done.

The funding that has been cut already has dramatically affected our predictions of salmon returns because we no longer have that data therefore, causing a ripple effect through out our Bristol Bay salmon fisheries.

Thank you for your time, I appreciate this opportunity.

Ida Nelson

(also called in for public testimony on 3/2/18)

March 1, 2018

To: The Honorable Representative Neal Foster
House Finance Committee Co-Chair
State Capitol Room 410
Juneau AK, 99801

The Honorable Representative Paul Seaton
House Finance Committee Co-Chair
State Capitol Room 505
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Letter in support for operating budget amendments impacting mental health and substance use treatment for Alaskans

Dear House Finance Committee;

The Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) share the joint mission to advocate for programs and services that serve people with behavioral health disorders, their families, care providers, and communities. Our Boards identified several budget items that serve our constituents.

We strongly support the operating budget amendment to utilize designated Alaska Comprehensive Health Insurance funds over the next three years to leverage an additional \$1.9 million in federal authority through the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program. The Alaska Psychiatric Institute is often operating at capacity, which affects waitlists and causes delays in patient admittance, resulting in people who are often a danger to themselves or others waiting for days or longer in hospital emergency rooms. This funding will help hospitals offset uncompensated care costs to better respond to the increase in psychiatric emergency services for Alaskans who experience acute mental health and substance use disorder episodes.

We also support the Governor's Request for \$18 million state funds (GF) to expand substance abuse treatment throughout the state. As part of the Public Safety Action Plan, we see a critical need for expanding community substance use and mental health (behavioral health) services in both urban and rural areas. Services would include residential and outpatient treatment, intensive case management, medically-monitored outpatient (ambulatory) withdrawal management and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), sobering centers, recovery and reentry supports, housing and other assistance.

Our Boards also recognize the need for an additional \$1 million state funds (GF) for public guardians in the Office of Public Advocacy. This needed funding will support hiring additional public guardians and one guardian ad litem to serve vulnerable Alaskans found by the court to be

incapacitated and in need of a protective order. Seniors and people with disabilities are often served by public guardians, who manage finances and benefits, make medical decisions, and insure suitable housing for citizens in need. Caseloads have continued to grow, approaching 100 cases per guardian, over double the recommended national maximum of 40, causing OPA to fail to meet its statutory and ethical obligations.

We understand the current fiscal climate is not conducive to additional budget requests. However, services and supports such as these help people with mental illness and substance use disorders remain safe, stable, sober and productive in the community. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alison L. Kulas".

Alison L. Kulas, MSPH
Executive Director



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

P.O. Box 110693
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0693
Main: 907.465.3250
Fax: 907.465.1398

March 2, 2018

The Honorable Representative Paul Seaton
House Finance Committee Co-Chair
Alaska State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1182

The Honorable Representative Neal Foster
House Finance Committee Co-Chair
Alaska State Capitol, Room 410
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1182

Subject: Alaska Commission on Aging Operating Budget Recommendations, HB 285 and HB 286

Dear Co-Chair Seaton and Co-Chair Foster:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA or the "Commission") thanks the **House Finance Committee** for preserving funding for services that comprise the *Senior Safety Net*. As Alaska's population continues to age, a growing number of older people are at risk for developing serious and chronic health conditions as well as being possible targets for elder abuse and exploitation. We appreciate your support of continued funding for the Community Based Grant Funded Services for seniors, Alaskans Living Independently (ALI) Waiver, Personal Care Services, and elder protection. These services promote the health and safety of Alaska's older people, provide support for their family caregivers, and allow seniors to remain living safely in their homes and communities for as long as possible at the lowest cost. In FY2017, grant and Medicaid-funded community based services provided support for approximately 31,300 older Alaskans.

The Commission respectfully encourages your support of the following budget recommendations as proposed in the Operating and Mental Health budgets, HB 286 and HB 285. We believe these programs, administered by the divisions with the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and the Department of Administration (DOA), are cost effective as they protect the health and safety of all Alaskans, including our older citizens, leverage additional federal funding, and control increases in state spending over time.

Hospital-based Behavioral Health Care, DHSS, Division of Behavioral Health: Seniors who suffer from co-occurring conditions of dementia and serious mental illness can demonstrate behaviors that put themselves and others at risk of harm. While the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) serves this vulnerable population, they have reached capacity which, in turn, leads to delays in patient admittance and results in people waiting for days or longer in hospital emergency rooms. This funding will support the development of "safe rooms" staffed with licensed mental health professionals to appropriately treat patients in crisis. In Juneau, Bartlett Hospital has 10 beds dedicated to serving people with opioid addiction. These beds are full most of the time.

ACoA supports the House Finance budget subcommittee's recommendation to add \$1.9 million state GF funds that will leverage \$1.9 million additional federal Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding for three years to help hospitals better serve Alaskans with complex behavioral health disorders.

Public Guardian Support, DOA, Office of Public Advocacy: Vulnerable older Alaskans who are found by the court to be incapacitated and in need of a protective order depend on public guardians to help them maintain their benefits, manage personal finances, make medical decisions, and secure appropriate housing. While guardians are often family members, friends, or trusted others, some at-risk vulnerable adults have no one to serve in that role and require the services of a public guardian. Currently, the caseload of 100 cases per public guardian is more than double the recommended national caseload of 40 cases per guardian. The proposed \$1 million increment of state GF to the Office of Public Advocacy will be matched with an increment of \$86.7 Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipt funding. This funding, originally proposed in the Governor's budget and accepted by the House Finance budget subcommittee, will be used to secure additional staff to reduce caseloads in order to properly manage the affairs of each ward over time.

The Commission supports the Governor's budget recommendation to provide additional funding for the Public Guardianship program. Public guardians protect vulnerable seniors and other disabled Alaskans from financial exploitation and other forms of abuse, ensure proper medical care, access to appropriate services, and prevent crisis situations from occurring.

Public Assistance Field Services, DHSS, Division of Public Assistance: Financial security is a serious worry for many older Alaskans living on fixed incomes. The risk of poverty increases with advanced age. Older people are more likely to spend increasing amounts of their budget on health and other basic necessities. Many depend on food stamps, public assistance, General Relief, heating assistance, and Senior Benefits. Moreover, a growing number of seniors are raising their grandchildren on a limited income. Submitting an application for public assistance may require waiting months before an application can be processed due to the extensive backlog of public assistance applications and excessive worker caseloads. When a person suffers from hunger, poor housing, or lack of heat in the dead of winter, this wait can feel like an eternity.

ACoA supports the House Finance budget subcommittee's recommendation of \$2.2 million state GF funds that will leverage additional \$2.2 million federal funds that would be used to increase staff capacity and address the backlog of applications so that low income Alaskans may receive the assistance they desperately need today.

Information Technology, Telehealth Service System Improvements, DHSS, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS): The Commission supports the Governor's request of \$100,000 GF/MH to expand the telehealth pilot project statewide administered by SDS in collaboration with regional health organizations and local clinics. ACoA views this project as a cost effective strategy using technology to provide timely annual reassessments for seniors and persons with disabilities who live in rural, remote communities to determine their eligibility for Medicaid waiver services. This project implements the expansion of telehealth, as identified in SB74 passed by the legislature in 2016, to reform Alaska's health care system by improving access to care and reducing costs. The use of telehealth will allow for increased access to services and significantly reduce travel and staff costs, without the vulnerable person having to leave their home community for the reassessment. Further, Adult Protective Services will have access to the telehealth project for their investigations involving cases in rural, remote communities.

The Alaska Commission on Aging appreciates your thoughtful consideration of these operating budget items that impact services used by vulnerable Alaskans, including seniors and persons with disabilities. Thank you for passing HB 236, reauthorization of the Senior Benefits program, for an additional six years! For further information, please contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's Executive Director, at 465-4879 or denise.daniello@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



David A. Blacketer
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise L. Daniello
ACoA Executive Director

To: The Honorable Representative Neal Foster
House Finance Committee Co-Chair
State Room Capitol 410
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Representative Paul Seaton
House Finance Committee Co-Chair
State Capitol Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Operating and Mental Health budgets (HB 286, HB 285)

Dear Representative Foster and Representative Seaton:

Please accept this letter of support for several budget items affecting individuals living with mental illness and substance use disorders. NAMI Alaska is the state-wide umbrella organization for Alaska's four local and regional NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) affiliates. We provide advocacy, education, support, and public awareness so that all individuals affected by mental illness can build better lives.

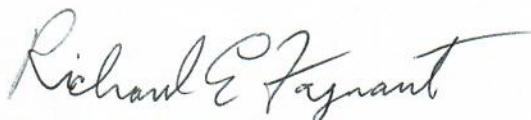
We strongly support the subcommittee recommendation to add \$1.9 million state funds that will leverage additional federal authority through the Disproportionate Share Hospital funds. These funds will help hospitals better respond to the increased demand for psychiatry emergency services and provide the appropriate level of care to Alaskans in crisis at hospitals most impacted by the lack of treatment beds at Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API). Additionally, please support the one-time funding of \$159,000 to study the need for forensic beds serving justice-involved individuals with serious mental illness.

Please support the Governor's request of \$375,000 to provide access to community reentry and rehabilitation supports for returning citizens after incarceration. The Department of Corrections should not be Alaska's largest provider of behavioral health services. We support expanding substance use and mental health treatment across the state, in both rural and urban communities, and continuing to fund recidivism reduction services. These funds support services that research has shown to greatly increase a returning citizen's chances for rehabilitation, and decreases the likelihood they will reoffend.

Please support the subcommittee recommendation to add \$2.2 million to address the backlog of applications for public assistance and the Governor's request to add \$1 million for public guardians in the Office of Public Advocacy. Roughly 17,500 Alaskans are waiting an average of 231 days for their first-time Medicaid application to be processed. This backlog of applications delays care and may limit an individual's healthcare and treatment options. When more Alaskans are insured, it benefits everyone, including those with disabilities who shouldn't have to go without coverage.

Thank you for carefully considering these requests and ensuring that Alaskans have access to the services, supports, and benefits that they need.

Sincerely,



Richard Fagnant,
NAMI Alaska Board President



March 2, 2018

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th St
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to convey the Alaska Marine Conservation Council's (AMCC) support for the Fish and Game Subcommittee's report and amendment to the State Operating Budget. AMCC is a community-based organization dedicated to protecting the integrity of Alaska's marine ecosystems and promoting the health of ocean-dependent coastal communities. Our members include fishermen, subsistence harvesters, marine scientists, small business owners, and families—all of which are Alaskans with a stake in the long-term success of our fisheries.

Adequate funding for the Department of Fish and Game is an investment in Alaska's economy. Fisheries data collection, management activities, and other key projects supported in the Fish and Game Subcommittee's report and amendment form the foundation for our world class commercial fishing industry. Inadequate funding leads to less fishing opportunities, less income for Alaskan residents, and—importantly—less tax revenue for Alaskan communities and the Alaska. By supporting the Subcommittee report, the House Finance Committee can help ensure that commercial fishermen, coastal communities, and the State of Alaska reap the full benefits of higher catch limits, greater economic gains, and a more stable investment environment.

Alaska's commercial fishing industry is a significant contributor to the State and local tax base. Investing in the proper management of the industry ensures that this contribution can continue.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Shannon Carroll
Deputy Director



10014 Crazy Horse Drive • Juneau, Alaska 99801-8529 • (907) 523-1700

March 1, 2018

Dear Honorable Representative Seaton, Representative Thompson, Representative Foster, Representative Grenn, Representative Pruitt, Representative Wilson, Representative Gara, Representative Guttenberg, Representative Ortiz, Representative Kawasaki, and Representative Tilton,

Thank you for your attention to education and for the investments made each year on behalf of our children. At our last Board of Education meeting, we passed a resolution in support of the Alaska Education Challenge. Having education policy makers at all levels working together and complementing the work happening directly with our children and communities is a critical step to making progress.

Our Board's Legislative Priorities include strong support for a state fiscal plan. In addition, our Board strongly supports investing in the Operating Budget an increased amount in the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for each child in the state.

It is critical as House Finance Committee members that you are aware that by keeping the same Base Student Allocation per child for the third year in a row, our district will be forced to eliminate three million dollars (5% of our spending budget). This is a significant amount to our district. There are simply no areas to cut without significant hardship to our children's education.

Currently ninety percent of our budget costs are in personnel. Since 2011 we have cut 92 positions and millions of dollars in educational services (while student population decreased by just 299 students). Administration has been cut 32 percent and teachers 11 percent. A BSA increase will allow students to receive more counseling services, personalized attention and interventions to help them make progress in their learning.

Please work with your colleagues to support a statewide fiscal plan. Please provide for an increase in the Base Student Allocation and prioritize investment in Alaska's most precious asset: our own people. Parents and community members look to a strong economy and value their children's education as a top priority. Our children are making progress in their learning and our graduation rates are at an all-time high for our students who have been struggling.

Respectfully,

Juneau Board of Education, schoolboard@juneauschools.org

Attachments: Resolution in Support of Alaska's Education Challenge
Juneau Legislative Priorities

2018 Juneau Board of Education Legislative Priorities

Provide for a Sustainable, Reliable and Adequate State Fiscal Plan

The Fiscal plan would provide a long term approach to providing for constitutionally mandated investments in public education and other critical government services

Increase the Base Student Allocation to account for inflation. Additionally, if the Legislature does not pass a budget in the 90 day session, maintain the BSA from the prior year.

School districts have weathered silent budget cuts over the past several years in the form of flat funding that does not account for inflation. These silent budget cuts have resulted in a 16% decrease (over \$800 per child) over the past 5 years. These cuts are having direct impacts in the quality of education the Juneau School District is able to provide. An increase of at least \$100 per child in BSA (less than 2% BSA Increase) is requested to provide funding for an adequate and equitable education for all students statewide.

Additionally, each year school districts are required to submit budgets by specified deadlines. This is difficult to do without knowing what a minimum budget will be. This is in effect a hold-harmless provision so that districts can confidently prepare a minimum budget in years when the Legislature has not passed an education budget within the 90 day session.

Honor school construction debt reimbursement

Communities voted for school construction bonds with the understanding that the legislature would provide their percentage of cost for school construction bonds. This impacts municipalities' budgets significantly as they seek to provide for their infrastructure needs.

Fund Early Learning Programs for Alaska's Children

Every child deserves the best start in life. Studies show that for every \$1 sent on early childhood education, \$8 is saved in later services that are not necessary. Funding Early learning programs help children arrive at Kindergarten with the necessary skills to be successful.

Supporting STEAM Education for Alaska's Children

Students learn science best by actively engaging in the practice of science, and they develop cognitive skills needed to excel in science and math through the arts, especially music. Teachers need professional development and science resources to offer students outstanding hands-on, active learning opportunities in the sciences. Excellence in STEM fields is vital to Alaska's and the nation's long-term economic prospects.

Continuation of Funding for Career and Technical (Vocational) Education

Vocational, career tech, and trades education engage students and prepare them for the kinds of jobs that will employ the majority of them after graduation. This funding is necessary to provide CTE education along with the necessary equipment to help middle and high school students learn about and focus on potential career paths that address the needs of Alaska's employers, and are vitally important for our state's economic prosperity.

ANCHORAGE

Consumer Price Index, All Items, 1982-84=100 for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

YEAR	SEMI-ANNUAL AVERAGE		ANNUAL AVERAGE	YEAR	OVER-THE-YEAR PERCENT CHANGE			ANNUAL AVERAGE
	1st Half	2nd Half			1st Half	2nd Half	1st Half	
1990	116.9	120.4	118.6	1990	5.4	7.0	6.2	
1991	123.3	124.7	124.0	1991	5.5	3.6	4.6	
1992	127.3	129.1	128.2	1992	3.2	3.5	3.4	
1993	131.5	132.8	132.2	1993	3.3	2.9	3.1	
1994	134.3	135.8	135.0	1994	2.1	2.3	2.1	
1995	138.2	139.5	138.9	1995	2.9	2.7	2.9	
1996	141.8	143.7	142.7	1996	2.6	3.0	2.7	
1997	144.1	145.4	144.8	1997	1.6	1.2	1.5	
1998	146.7	147.0	146.9	1998	1.8	1.1	1.5	
1999	148.6	148.3	148.4	1999	1.3	0.9	1.0	
2000	150.0	151.9	150.9	2000	0.9	2.4	1.7	
2001	154.4	156.0	155.2	2001	2.9	2.7	2.8	
2002	157.5	159.0	158.2	2002	2.0	1.9	1.9	
2003	161.1	163.9	162.5	2003	2.3	3.1	2.7	
2004	165.6	167.8	166.7	2004	2.8	2.4	2.6	
2005	169.6	174.1	171.8	2005	2.4	3.8	3.1	
2006	176.7	177.9	177.3	2006	4.2	2.2	3.2	
2007	179.394	183.080	181.237	2007	1.5	2.9	2.2	
2008	187.659	191.335	189.497	2008	4.6	4.5	4.6	
2009	190.032	193.456	191.744	2009	1.3	1.1	1.2	
2010	194.834	195.455	195.144	2010	2.5	1.0	1.8	
2011	200.278	202.576	201.427	2011	2.8	3.6	3.2	
2012	205.215	206.617	205.916	2012	2.5	2.0	2.2	
2013	210.853	213.910	212.381	2013	2.7	3.5	3.1	
2014	214.777	216.833	215.805	2014	1.9	1.4	1.6	
2015	217.111	216.706	216.909	2015	1.1	-0.1	0.5	
2016	216.999	218.660	217.830	2016	-0.1	0.9	0.4	
2017	218.616	219.131	218.873	2017	0.7	0.2	0.5	

Table of over-the-year percent increases. An entry for 2ndHalf 2005 indicates the percentage increase from 2ndHalf 2004 to 2ndHalf 2005 (in this example 3.8 percent).

ANCHORAGE
 Consumer Price Index, All Items, 1982-84=100 for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)

YEAR	SEMI-ANNUAL AVERAGE		YEAR	OVER-THE-YEAR PERCENT CHANGE			ANNUAL AVERAGE	
	1st Half	2nd Half		ANNUAL AVERAGE	1st Half	2nd Half		
1990	116.6	120.2	118.4		1990	5.5	7.2	6.4
1991	123.0	124.5	123.8		1991	5.5	3.6	4.6
1992	127.0	129.1	128.0		1992	3.3	3.7	3.4
1993	131.4	132.6	132.0		1993	3.5	2.7	3.1
1994	134.1	135.5	134.8		1994	2.1	2.2	2.1
1995	137.8	139.1	138.5		1995	2.8	2.7	2.7
1996	141.4	143.5	142.4		1996	2.6	3.2	2.8
1997	144.0	145.0	144.5		1997	1.8	1.0	1.5
1998	146.1	146.6	146.3		1998	1.5	1.1	1.2
1999	147.7	148.0	147.8		1999	1.1	1.0	1.0
2000	150.0	152.2	151.1		2000	1.6	2.8	2.2
2001	154.9	156.8	155.8		2001	3.3	3.0	3.1
2002	158.2	159.7	158.9		2002	2.1	1.8	2.0
2003	162.0	164.8	163.4		2003	2.4	3.2	2.8
2004	166.2	168.7	167.4		2004	2.6	2.4	2.4
2005	170.2	174.1	172.2		2005	2.4	3.2	2.9
2006	176.6	178.0	177.3		2006	3.8	2.2	3.0
2007	179.112	182.957	181.035		2007	1.4	2.8	2.1
2008	187.396	190.568	188.982		2008	4.6	4.2	4.4
2009	188.161	191.881	190.021		2009	0.4	0.7	0.5
2010	193.257	194.038	193.647		2010	2.7	1.1	1.9
2011	199.061	200.987	200.024		2011	3.0	3.6	3.3
2012	203.514	204.607	204.060		2012	2.2	1.8	2.0
2013	209.005	212.554	210.779		2013	2.7	3.9	3.3
2014	213.142	215.679	214.411		2014	2.0	1.5	1.7
2015	215.424	214.803	215.113		2015	1.1	-0.4	0.3
2016	214.522	216.266	215.394		2016	-0.4	0.7	0.1
2017	216.398	216.901	216.649		2017	0.9	0.3	0.6

Table of over-the-year percent increases. An entry for 2ndHalf 2005 indicates the percentage increase from 2ndHalf 2004 to 2ndHalf 2005 (in this example 3.2 percent).



ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION NO. 2018-01

Supporting the Department of Education and Early Development and the adoption of Alaska's Education Challenge.

WHEREAS, The Juneau School District Board of Education recognizes Alaska's Education Challenge as an opportunity to inspire Alaskans to implement a vision to provide an excellent education for every student; and,

WHEREAS, this will happen by:

- 1) Increasing Student Success;
- 2) Cultivating Safety and Well-Being; and
- 3) Supporting Responsible and Reflective Learners; and,

WHEREAS, Alaska faces obstacles to student achievement unlike those that exist in any other state in the nation; and,

WHEREAS, Alaska's Education Challenge is to address our student achievement gaps and increase our graduation rates by making sure that every student across our state has equal opportunities to learn and succeed; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Education Challenge should result in more successful learning opportunities for ALL of Alaska's students, regardless of location, race, or income; and,

WHEREAS, the ultimate goal is for students to achieve and be prepared for career and/or college. Our efforts will look at providing an excellent education for every student in the most efficient manner possible; and,

WHEREAS, the Juneau School District Board of Education has adopted a Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 that aligns with the Alaska's Education Challenge's Three Commitments and 13 Recommendations and has developed the following Action Plan to meet the Commitments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Juneau School District supports the Department of Education and Early Development and the adoption of Alaska's Education Challenge. Together, we will meet Alaska's education challenge by honoring our heritage, innovating for the future, and prioritizing for today's fiscal challenges.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 13th day of February 2018.

ATTEST:

Brian Holst, President

Josh Keaton, Vice President

Proposed by:

Date Submitted:

Date Passed by Board:

JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

FEBRUARY 13, 2018

ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

Juneau School District Action Plan:

1) Increase Student Success

Work with community organizations to develop and implement practices to help prepare young children for Kindergarten.

- Partnerships with DEED (preschool grant, 21st Century grant), AASB (STEPS grant), CBJ (City and Borough of Juneau various supports), Central Council (STEPS, Head Start), Friends of Montessori (Children's House), AEYC (Early Learning Fair, Parents as Teachers, preschool coordination), Juneau Community Foundation (Grants and grant coordination) to increase the number of preschool seats available to children three to five, as well as increase the quality of preschool experiences for all students, especially those at risk of not being prepared for kindergarten. Partnerships with these same organizations to provide summer jump start programs for at-risk incoming kindergarten students.

Align curriculum with Alaska State and World Class Standards while integrating culturally relevant, place-based instruction.

- JSD ELA and math curriculum is aligned with the state 2012 ELA and math standards.
- JSD social studies and science curriculum documents are aligned with national standards as well as Alaska state standards.
- All four core curricula are also aligned with ISTE and Alaska cultural standards for educators.
- JSD social studies and science curriculum documents include extensive resource sections to provide teachers with guidance and connections to inform place-based and culturally relevant lesson planning.

Implement evidence-based instructional practices such as system wide curricula and instructional design that support staff effectiveness and student learning.

- Common curricular materials in math have been implemented in K-10, and common materials assigned to teachers of math courses beyond Algebra 2 at both high schools. Common curricular materials are in use at all regular schools K-12. Teachers K-12 meet in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) regularly to examine teaching practices and student data).

ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

- Elementary schools are in their fourth year of implementing Professional Learning Opportunities and Response to Instruction (RTI)/Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) frameworks. PLCs examine core instructional practices, student performance data, and make instructional and grouping decisions for next instruction, interventions, and enrichments.
- Secondary schools have been using PLCs, horizontal PLCs (6-8 and 9-12) and vertical PLCs (6-12) to align curriculum, pacing, and resources for at least 6 years. The schools are in their first year of systematic implementation of RTI/MTSS. This work further aligns the schools horizontally and vertically for core instruction, intervention, and enrichment/extension.

Maintain opportunities for students to be engaged with school and support their social-emotional growth.

- Elementary schools are providing social-emotional learning opportunities through a number of efforts, including the use of Responsive Classroom morning meetings, staff training in SEL best practices, and employment of full time school counselors. The new health curriculum also supports teachers and counselors in providing appropriate SEL instruction to students.
- Secondary schools have also provided teachers and students with resources, including Sources of Strength, advisories, and as a secondary team this year - restorative practices.

Maintain a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and school effectiveness and uses the results to guide instruction.

- 2017 4-year Graduation Rate reached 86%, 5-year rate is 87%.
- Student Attendance Rate is 93%.
- Data is collected via Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in grades K-10 three times each year. PLCs at all levels use this data to make instructional and grouping decisions.
- Elementary utilizes reading screener and diagnostic data (collected three times each year) to make instructional, grouping, intervention, and enrichment decisions.

ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

2) Cultivate Safety and Well-Being

Develop processes that engage staff, students, parents, caregivers, labor partners and community members to collaboratively participate in educating our students and leveraging community resources.

- Student services and teaching and learning support maintain memberships on several community-wide committees, including Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition, Juneau Violence Prevention Coalition, ROCK Juneau, Trauma Sensitive Schools working group, AEYC early childhood and early literacy committees, Native Education Advisory Board, Indian Studies Parent Advisory Committee, Juneau District-wide Equity Committee, Best Starts, and others.
- Partner with Juneau Police Dept, Capital City Fire Rescue, Red Cross, Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, Juneau Emergency Manager and Juneau Public Health to maintain a comprehensive plan for emergency preparedness, school safety, ALICE and crisis response.

Prioritize equity and effectiveness when allocating resources to ensure success for all students.

- The JSD has an equity policy and an equity work book.
- JSD school sites are required to submit an equity report to the school board three times each year.
- JSD board action items include an equity analysis.
- JSD sites have site councils that advise the principal on programming, budget, and staffing.

Ensure that students feel safe and supported while at school and at school functions.

- JSD secondary students are surveyed annually with the AASB Climate and Connectedness Survey.
- Each high school has an active student council.
- Secondary schools have begun implementation of restorative practices.
- Elementary schools utilize Responsive Classroom, the 4th R, Second Steps, Playworks, and other strategies.
- Elementary schools use trauma sensitive practices.

ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

Create a service-oriented environment in which staff support each other, our families and our community to maintain and communicate a commitment to high expectations and shared values for teaching and learning.

- Schools prepare an annual parent involvement plan as part of their annual action plan.
- Through trauma sensitive practices, Responsive Classroom, and other training, all staff are trained on how to create inviting environments for teachers, students, and families.

3) Support Responsible and Reflective Learners

Create a coordinated professional development program that focuses on adding to our staff's expertise in curriculum, equity, instruction and learning.

- JSD provides six days of in-service each year - for certified staff, this in-service time is split between the site and district. The JSD training is usually provided to smaller groups, and followed up with both PLC work on the same topic, site-based work on the topic, and site-based work provided by instructional coaches and PLC meetings between staff and/or facilitated by district specialists.
- A district curriculum council advises the teaching and learning director on curriculum and professional development planning.
- The teaching and learning director works with the directors of student services and human resources to plan district wide, PLC, and classroom modeling PD.

Develop Human Resource strategies that promote the recruitment, hiring, evaluation and retention of outstanding talent.

Patricia Chapman
3233 Emma Court
Ketchikan Alaska
99901

Honored House Members;

I am writing to you to endorse the requests made by the Governor's request. All of these affect the many residents of Alaska.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment and Community Supports

This is so vitally needed in all of our communities. This would relieve the hospitals of trying to assist these folks without the capabilities.

Public Defenders

These are needed to assist the low income residents who are having to wait way to long to get a resolution to help them start back into a life that maybe more stable and less offending behavior.

Information Technology, Telehealth Service System Improvements

This is so important to those of our State who live out in rural communities that do not have the medical services. This would save the state in Medicaid funds that is presently spent on transportation and housing to get to a appointment. Would allow small clinic to serve the local better with guidance from higher quality professionals.

Recidivism Reduction Services - Third Year

This will allow citizens the opportunity to perchance change their behavior and pattern of life in their communities. Each once changed saves us much expenses in the legal and prisons arena.

Public Assistance Field Services

This would allow more staff to get the applications completed. This may stop some of the criminal behaviors as many folks get so depressed that they resort to petty crimes to feed the family and themselves. They end up many times in homeless situations and often lose their children.

Public Guardians

Seniors and those with disabilities are often incapable of maintaining their medical and or financial affairs, they need assistance. At the present the guardians are over loaded with cases to the point that they are not capable of doing the job with 100% efficiency.

Hospital-based Behavioral Health Care

This is needed as many whom need a place to stay safely and get the treatment to allow them to be in the general public life. We send many home from the emergency rooms to return to their homes or street to end back up in the emergency rooms. Many wait months to years before they get assistance, often through being incarcerated.

I know there are many other things that need funding and your job is to filter out the ones that will do the most for the most of the residents who need it.

I sincerely hope that you will find funding and fix our budget. I hope you are looking at the Marijuana taxes and that perchance those will help fund many of these services.

Thank you

Patricia Chapman

House Finance Committee

HB 286-APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS

Public Testimony

Juneau, Alaska

March 2, 2018



To whom it may concern,

My name is Nate Hietala and I am currently attending UAS as part of the marine Biology department. I believe that UAS is a unique college in the US. The job opportunities for undergraduates attending UAS are quite abundant. I obtained a job my first year here at UAS. I believe that these opportunities are due to the funding from the government, therefore, I implore you to fund the college.

Sincerely,

NATE HIEATA

My Name is Chessica and I think state funded college is important to everyone especially natives! Thank You!

To whom it may concern,

I, Nicholas W., a lifelong Alaskan resident and current University of Alaska Southeast student, am writing to support the University of Alaska Board of Regents Budget proposal of \$341 million dollars. Also, as a current Alaska Performance Scholarship recipient, I want to express my concern for its protection, as well as the Alaska Education Grant. Thank you, Nicholas

My name is Olga, I am in my 4th year at UAS, and I am studying Psychology. I've had the opportunity to participate in the Sustainability club, the Psychology Club here on campus and it has been an educational joy to learn of how to make a positive difference in society.

The cost of attending UAS needs to be considered when you have young adults trying to succeed in their college career. There is a great value to a full-staffed university because it leads to internships, educational opportunities that lead to jobs! Please help fund the University of Alaska System!

I am a UAS student
and I believe that funding
for the VA system is
crucial to the future of
the state.

- Jon

My mother -
his wife & name.
A college young man who loves
would be nice if he stays.

big
funding for the university
you are an okay job
our state legislative office

Hello! I'm a lifelong
Alaskan and had to
leave the state for
my PhD. More funding
would mean more future
students can stay
in state instead of leaving
like I did. Invest in
them! Invest in our future!

Dear State legislature,

Last year during the summer of 2017
I shipped off to US Army basic training,
8 weeks into my training I was medically
discharged due to a vascular issue
that required surgery - so I was shipped
to Washington to get surgery and then I
was sent back home to Juneau. This is
not the path I expected to take but
it is the one fell onto. Please help
the VA so that I don't have to
spend the rest of my life trying to
repay my debts.

Thank you Christian English

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Anastasia Erickson and I am a freshman at UAS, Juneau. Financial aid is very important to my family and I. I have 2 other siblings in college and planning to go through college and my mother is a single mother. It took a lot of sacrifices for my family to help me go to college. I was a 4.4 GPA student in high school and I still had to work really hard to get scholarships so that I could go to school in state. I am an APS scholarship recipient and I plan on becoming a teacher here in Alaska. I strongly advise you to consider the financial difficulty every student has to go through in order to receive a degree. It affects us all differently, but it still affects us all. Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Have a great day.

- Anastasia Erickson

My name is Dyllyn Peterson. I'm a UAS senior in the Creative Writing program. I work in the Writing Center, and I'm a former Whalesong reporter. Without state funding, my jobs wouldn't exist, and my program certainly wouldn't be as high-quality. I would never been able to attend without the APS. Please, fund the VA Board of Regents and VA.

Hello,

My name is Gerak Hartman, I'm a student at UAS. I feel that this school is definitely underfunded and could use more.

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Rumfelt, and I'm a junior at UAS Juneau campus. I am pursuing a BA. in English with a minor in Spanish. I am a recipient of the Alaska Performance Scholarship, and receiving this scholarship is the main reason I decided to attend UAS. I have two part-time jobs on top of being a full-time student and being senior editor of Tidal Echoes. The scholarship has allowed me to be not only a successful student, but a successful individual in Alaska. Supporting Alaska's university budget is a decision that would help more students like me succeed. Sincerely, Elizabeth class of '19

To Whom it may concern

Hello my name is Erin Laughtin I am a Business Admin - Accounting major and editor of the UAS Whalesong. UAS is extremely important to me since it is the reason why I decided to live in Alaska.

PLEASE fully fund the UA Board of Regents Budget of \$341 million dollars. Fully funding the budget allows the university to have a fully staffed university.

Erin Laughtin

Hello,

My name is Eleanor Ruckti and I am a current student at UAS. I am a freshman in the Elementary Education program. My goal is to be a teacher in Alaska when I graduate. State funding is important to me because college is expensive and working two jobs while being a full time student is difficult.

I would greatly appreciate it if when discussing funding you would take this into consideration.

-Erie R

Dear Alaska State Legislature,

To whom it may concern:
I'm a student at UAS studying nursing & Spanish. State funding the university is important to me because having a fully staffed university with excellent faculty & staff is important to me. I've had wonderful experiences here with faculty & staff & hope to continue.
Please fund the University of Alaska System at \$341 million

My name is Julia Merritt and I am a sophomore biology student at UAS. State funding is important to me because it creates so many educational opportunities. As time passes, tuition increases, and the opportunities for majors in the state of Alaska disappear. Let's band together to fund the University, keeping Alaska's bright minds in state, so we can continue to be successful. Sincerely, Julia Merritt

Greetings from your constituent,
I am a person returning to
school next summer for a
couple of reasons, one I
recognize that I am at a place
in my career where professional
development includes achieving
a Master's degree. Two, in order
for me to improve access for
my community my education
will enhance how I support
students through the work I do.
All of this can't happen

if I don't have access to a solid
education. A solid education
includes degree program with fully
staffed positions, positions include
Faculty, ~~and~~ ^{and} staff. Cutting the
budget fractures the degree program
UNIVERSITY **STUDENT**
which **of ALASKA** **GOVERNMENT** Solid
SOUTHEAST **Solid**
education. Empower me to
empower our students to
empower our state. Kolene James

The U.A. System is an important resource for local, state, and federal governments. University trains your future employees and constituents, not to mention future legislators. Students learn valuable skills related to their fields of study, they learn professionalism through campus employment, and they learn valuable critical thinking skills. In order to cultivate a future generation of intelligent, professional, and critical thinkers, the legislature needs to provide proper funding and resources.

Help!

I've returned to School and Alaska after a 20 year absence because UAS offers the best value of any of the schools I could have attended in Colorado.

I'm amazed by the opportunities for undergraduate students at this school. This has to be one of the best quality universities on the coast. as far as class size, research opportunities, and Exchange programs. Please continue to fund us, and keep my education affordable!

Theresa Koenig, B.S.

Hello my name is Jordan Lewis, I'm a first year student reporter at UAS. funding the University is essential to having an educated populace that can be engaged in our democracy. I implore you ~~Act~~ to fund the entire Board of Regents Budget.

Sincerely, Your Constituent

Jordan Lewis

Alaska State
legislators:

February 2018

Thank you so much for investing in the UAS system. As you know, we all want Alaska's future leaders to be educated. Please keep this in mind when you vote on the Budget. Please find the \$341 to the University mill system!

Find the Future!

Dear Alaska State Legislature,

I support the UA Board of Regents Budget of \$341 million. As a university professor, I've seen & experienced first hand how students & UA system have been negatively impacted by budget cuts. A great state needs a great university! Sincerely, Lora Vess, UAS.

Dear House financing Committee,

As a University of Alaska Southeast Student, I understand financial hardship - I work full-time, live with my parents and use their car (middle class family), and still have a hard time affording my education... I am thankful for qualifying the Alaska Performance Scholarship which I would not be able to go to school without. I urge you to fund APS and the UA system. Thank you,

Miss Powers

Dear Senators &
House Reps:

Feb. 2018

As a Senator & young leader
in Alaska, I cannot stress the
importance of funding the UA
system. Please continue to fund
the Universities, to ensure a
continuation of Alaskans leading
Alaska! Fund the Board of
Regents \$341 million!

Thank You - Kristen Lyda Pees

Greeting Alaska!

I am Elizabeth Wassilie and am originally
from Kwiguk prior to my arrival to
Juneau for my post-secondary education.
I am studying Biology through my major,
I have applied for many National Parks
Internships throughout the country but
we will live to travel on one in our
beautiful state of Alaska.

The cost of education in Alaska is a
growing problem for many of students who've
met and some of them have said they don't
want to come back for their education. So,
I urge you to fully fund the UA Budget.

I am an Alaska Education grantee and
this was helping a lot. I also urge you to
protect this program for future Alaskan
College Students. Thanks, Elizabeth

Hi,

My name is Penelope. I am a freshman at UAS, but also took college credits through UAA while I was in high school. I am from Nenana, AK. At UAS I am in the health sciences program, but am interested in UAA dietetics program. I'm also in the Alaska Leadership Initiative, where I learn about leadership and receive a housing scholarship that really helps with my away-from-home education. I also work for the campus newspaper, the UAS Whalesong. As college is a starting point for my career, university funding impacts my life because the resources available to me make my strong foundation possible. Thank you!

Alaska State legislature: February 2018
As a young Alaskan student with a desire to stay in Alaska after graduation, I ask that you continue to fully fund the UA System at \$341 million.

Education is the best key to the success for the future.

Please understand the importance of fully funding the University System!

The Constituency has spoken!

To the House Finance Comity,

I am writing to express the importance of the funding you can allot towards the UAS school system, and through that the APS (Alaska Performance Scholarship) and the UAS Scholarship. Although, for many students, studying instate is a more economic choice than studying out of state, tuition may still exceed what is feasible for residences to pay. The existence of these scholarships makes education possible. I had a 3.9 GPA in high school & was accepted into over 6 private, out of state colleges with scholarships, the lowest tuition available was 36k/year, with the highest 65k/year. Alaska's was 21k/year, but without scholarships, I still would not have been able to attend.

-Bella Posey

Hi,

My name is Mollie Dwyer and I'm a non-traditional student here at UAS. I am from Southeast AK and decided to transfer to UAS and continue my education after living out of state for a few years. I am a senior at UAS, and am so happy I decided to transfer to UAS Juneau a few years ago. I am an environmental science major and I can't stress enough how incredible the ENVS program is. I have interned as a GIS tech, a research assistant in a kelp lab, and doing hydrology testing both in the lab and in the field. Our opportunities to study climate change here are unparalleled. We have small class sizes and Harvard-educated professors who are here because Juneau is so special. I love it here, but I can barely afford to attend. I work part time on top of a full load of credits. Budget cuts have impacted my experience here more every year. UAS continues to lose talented staff and the loss is apparent with the staff that are left picking up the slack. Please fully fund the university \$341 million this year. thank you

-Mollie Dwyer

My name's Danny.

I want a good education
through Alaska.

Please don't take that away from
me or the students. We need
funding.

Hello.

My name is Shelley and I'm from Tok, Alaska.
Attending UAS was the best and most affordable
option.

My family is homeless, jobless and is
very unstable living wise, and attending UAS
is still manageable in my situation.
My situation is not uncommon in
Alaska and the ability to still get a
college education is rare and extremely
helpful in my quest of a better future.
Thank you and God bless - Shelley Clark

that education is important.
Hope to hear from you. Remember
forty-million dollars please. We
please. I would like you to give
and we would like you to help us
that UAS has a funding problem
Hello Alaska Legislative Assembly

Dear House Finance Committee,

Hi, I'm India Busby and I'm a student at the University of Alaska Southeast. State funding the university is important because we as students are already paying so much money to attend college. As someone who constantly struggles to pay for school, it's getting harder to pay for it. Even though I have three jobs, it still doesn't help me. The staff and faculty here at UAS have been amazing and so helpful, and if it wasn't for all of the encouragement they give me, I would not be a college student anymore. Please give the university funding so not only me, but thousands of other students around Alaska. Staff and faculty deserve to also keep their jobs and shouldn't have to worry about their job.

- India Busby

Pear Legislature,

The University of Alaska Southeast, is a special place for me, and it has become a critical part of my plans for my future. Since high school, I knew that I wanted to enter the field of Biology, which is why I have decided to be a Biology major here at UAS. I know that I will be able to be a positive contributor to our society one day. However, I depend on UAS and the Alaska Performance Scholarship that I worked hard to qualify for, but I am so appreciative of the University System for the privilege to accept this scholarship. My future depends the funding!

Addressed to:

Feb. 2018

The Alaska State legislature,
Please fully fund the Board of Regent's Budget of \$341 million!
The University is Directly tied to Alaska's future.

Do Not let us fall back into being a fridged back-water.

Educate Alaska's Future!

I moved from Ohio to attend UAS in 2004. Without the assistance from UAS scholarships, I would not ~~be~~ have been able to afford college. I graduated with my BCA and happy to make Juneau my home.

College is expensive. Please do everything possible to fully fund UAS. Keep students in AK.

Thanks, Amanda Triplet

My name is Delton Claggett. I was born in Sitka, and I was raised on the waters of South East Alaska. My major is Education, as I want to teach and prepare young Alaskans in the field of science.

Education is the best provision for old age. An education can rise people from poverty, bring down the crime rate, and flourish the economy. Fully funding the University of Alaska is the best thing that can be done for the people of this beautiful state. Signed, A registered voter