

From: Anne Dennis-Choi [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 3:20 PM
To: Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Forrest Dunbar; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Robert Yundt
Subject: testimony ins support of SB129/HB 133

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 129/HB 133, and for your continued service to the people of Alaska. I would also like to thank Senator Kawasaki and Representative Himschoot for introducing this important legislation.

My name is Anne Dennis-Choi and I serve as President & CEO of AK Child & Family, a nonprofit behavioral health organization with over 130 years of service. We provide a continuum of care to Alaska's youth and families—including psychiatric residential treatment, therapeutic foster care, early intervention/prevention services, and school, home, and community-based behavioral health care.

With over three decades of experience in this field, I have seen firsthand the impact of delayed state and federal pass-through funding. Nonprofit and tribal providers, who deliver essential services on behalf of the state, often experience payment delays ranging from three months to more than a year. SB 129/HB 133 brings critical parity by aligning payment expectations for human services providers with those already in place for private contractors working on public projects.

Prompt and predictable disbursement of funds allows organizations like ours to sustain vital services, support our workforce, and meet the needs of Alaskans efficiently and responsibly.

I urge your support of this legislation and appreciate your thoughtful attention to this issue.

Warm regards,
Anne Dennis-Choi
President & CEO
AK Child & Family

Anne Dennis-Choi
President & CEO



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From: [Amy Simpson](#)
To: [Senate Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Public testimony for SB 129
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 12:54:03 PM

I am Amy Simpson, Executive Director for Programs for Infants and Children or PIC. I am providing my support for SB129. PIC is a private, nonprofit organization providing valuable early intervention services to Alaskans in need of these supports. PIC receives the almost half of our financial support from State Grant Funds to provide Early Interventions services mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education act. As a nonprofit organization we provide services as outlined in a grant agreement executed with the state with many requirements for service delivery, financial/accounting timelines, and program data objectives.

I have been the Executive Director for PIC for 21 years and have experienced delays in payment from the state for executed grants. These delays required PIC to secure short-term loans to cover personal and facility costs just in case the payment would be delayed. I have heard from my colleagues in the nonprofit sector of unbelievable delays of more than 6 months for payments due to them as outlined in their grant agreements. Those kinds of delays would have put the agency I run in danger of not meeting financial obligations to staff, vendors, leasing agents, and insurance companies due to our small size. I have experienced delayed payment of up to four months. Even this delay is stressful and makes recruiting staff challenging because we don't know the timeline we will have the funds to pay the salaries. It does not build confidence for new staff that we are struggling to make payroll.

Nonprofits are the workhorses that implement programs and provide direct services to Alaskans at a cost that is more efficient than the government could possibly do. Without nonprofit organizations in Alaska, many would have to go without the services that keep them in their homes, keep them healthy, keep them fed, and keep them out of institutional care. It only makes sense that the state prioritizes reimbursement for executed contracts for nonprofit partners for the good of Alaska's citizens.

Amy Simpson
Executive Director
Programs for Infants and Children
907-550-3024



United Way of Anchorage

April 8th, 2025

Representative Rebecca Himschoot
Senator Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Support for Prompt Payment Legislation

Dear Representative Himschoot and Senator Kawasaki,

As President and CEO of United Way of Anchorage, I am writing to express strong support for prompt payment to Alaska nonprofits that provide critical services to our communities. At United Way of Anchorage, we are dedicated to removing barriers to opportunity and solving our community's toughest challenges. In doing so, we partner closely with many of the same organizations the State relies on to execute policy and deliver essential services.

Unfortunately, we have become increasingly aware that many of these organizations face lengthy delays in receiving payments from the State. These delays strain already limited resources and jeopardize the delivery of services that Alaskans depend on.

United Way of Anchorage believes this systemic issue must be addressed. Nonprofits, municipalities, and tribal organizations that depend on state and federal pass-through funding should receive the same statutory payment protections afforded to private contractors delivering public works projects.

Prompt payment will ensure more efficient execution of state policy, increase the stability of Alaska's vital nonprofit sector, and strengthen the quality and continuity of service delivery. We are grateful for your leadership in introducing HB 133 and SB 129 to advance this much-needed reform.

United Way of Anchorage stands with you in advocating for timely, fair, and responsible payment practices. Your leadership on this issue will have a meaningful impact on organizations and individuals throughout Anchorage and across Alaska.

Sincerely,

Eric Billingsley
President and CEO
United Way of Anchorage

Jenna Colquhoun

From: Marie McCarty [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 3:17 PM
To: Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Letter of Support HB 133 and SB 129

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Dear Representative Himschoot and Kawasaki,

I am writing on behalf of Alaskan nonprofit Kachemak Heritage Land Trust to support the above-referenced bills. As the oldest land trust in Alaska, founded one month prior to the Oil Spill, we work with private landowners to permanently preserve land on the Kenai Peninsula. Much of our permanent land conservation work is completed with funds that pass through the State of Alaska from the federal government, and from funds we receive directly from the State. Like other nonprofits in Alaska, we serve important needs of our young state.

As a relatively small nonprofit that receives State funds, receiving timely payment is critical to our ongoing success. It only seems right to require that there is parity in State payments to nonprofits with those provided to our for-profit community members.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter.

--
Marie McCarty
Executive Director
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust
[REDACTED]

Direct line [REDACTED]
www.kachemaklandtrust.org



Conserving the natural heritage of the Kenai Peninsula for future generations