

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 6:14 AM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW:

From: Pat Branson [mailto:scokinc@ak.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 6:22 PM

To: Sen. Donny Olson; Rep. Harry Crawford; Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Mike Kelly; Woodie Salmon; Rep. Les Gara

Subject:

I encourage you, House Finance Committee members, to pass the budget submitted to you by the HSS subcommittee which has an increment of \$609,917 for Senior Community Based Grants.

These grants are most important in keeping people 60 and older in their communities and own homes and out of costly institutional care, which is more than \$12,000 a month in Kodiak.

Without this increment, our NTS services such as congregate and home delivered meals, support services and transportation, will be greatly cut. Senior services in the rural areas will have to be reduced without this increment.

With Alaska now having the fastest growing senior population in the country, it is imperative we continue to meet their needs with the most important services: home and community based ones that keep seniors living independently longer and continuing to be vital economic contributors to our communities' economy.

Thank you.

Pat Branson
Alaska Commission on Aging Member

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 6:13 AM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: Please fully fund the Community Mental Health Programs

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

From: Kelly Sidebottom [mailto:kelly.sidebottom@atsuk12.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 8:08 PM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker
Subject: Please fully fund the Community Mental Health Programs

Kelly Sidebottom
PO Box 2962
Palmer, AK 99645-2962

March 4, 2009

Representative Mike Hawker
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hawker:

I don't know what we would have done without the Therapeutic Court Program that my oldest son went through. He was born with issues that grew as he got older. He had a TBI at age 12. When he was 22 he was diagnosed with Bi polar II, Major Depressive Disorder and Anxiety Disorder and Chronic Pain from a spinal injury from childhood. Before he was hospitalized in March 2005 he attempted suicide and was arrested and spent several days in jail before I could get him out. He was suicidal and very disoriented and no where near healthy. Before he attempted suicide he had never been violent but suffered with anxiety and depression. The CRP court in Palmer helped him get back on track. He would never have received the help he needed without this program and he would most likely be dead, homeless or in jail today. He will always live at home with us as he has been totally disabled at this point. We learned a lot from the Therapeutic Court Program and use what we learned every day. Today he is happy, healthy and is a wonderful help to our family. He will probably never function as a normal person but he deserves to be treated respectfully as he was by the CRP Court program. Please fully support the community mental health programs. These programs not only help people they help the community when someone is put on the right track. Not everyone has the support at home that my son has. Many of the people that need these programs are on their own and it breaks my heart to think of what would happen to them without the help they get from their community behavioral health services. Please fully fund the Governor's FY10 request for the community behavioral health services.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sidebottom
841-5186

This message has been verified by CapwizXC as authentic and sent by this individual.
Authentication ID: [69gvmha4]

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 6:13 AM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment

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

From: Christy McMurren [mailto:wawa907@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 9:09 PM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas;
Representative_Allen_Austerman@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Les Gara; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment

I am writing once again to urge you to fully fund treatment programs for persons with mental illness and substance abuse issues. Of course, by now, you must know that often those two things go hand in hand. It is well documented in mental health and substance abuse literature. It is also well documented that most people in prison suffer from mental illness. So, doesn't it make sense to treat these problems before they get so out of hand that people commit crimes. Then we have the added expense of court, lawyers, and housing criminals for years; never mind the injury that happens to other people.

I know a lot about this because my son suffers from mental illness. We are having a very hard time getting him educated because of lack of training of school personnel. So, he runs a great risk of not finishing high school. He has been to a residential treatment program, at great expense to the state. There was no discharge planning for him, and we have spent the last year trying to get services for him so that he wouldn't regress. Everywhere we turned, we were told that there was no appropriate service for him or too many people on a wait list. He is currently on a wait list for a therapist at Anch. Community Mental Health Center.

While waiting, he blew up at home, and is now at McLaughlin Youth Center. So, you can cut funding for mental health treatment and PREVENTION (now there's an idea!), but the people who need these services are not going to just disappear. You can cut the funding, and they will wind up in the justice system. It really doesn't make any sense.

You also must know how many people in Alaska suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome. We are learning more and more about the genetic aspects of mental illness. These are not people, who, if they just pulled themselves up by their bootstraps, they could do better. Their problems are very complicated.

I know you think that the state cannot afford to fund these programs. I'm telling you that we can't afford not to. I know you probably think that "therapy" doesn't work. Then, I would say that we need to invest in ongoing training for mental health and substance abuse treatment providers so that we get the best treatment for our money.

Maybe some of you have relatives or friends who experience some of these kinds of problems. Then, you know what I'm talking about. If you don't, then thank God for your healthy families and friends. I would welcome any questions you may have about this most serious public health issue.

Respectfully yours,
Christy McMurren

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 5:57 PM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: AVEC Testimony on HB 81 - Operating Budget
Attachments: PCE Funding FY10.doc

From: Meera Kohler [mailto:mkohler@avec.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 5:49 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Woodie Salmon
Subject: AVEC Testimony on HB 81 - Operating Budget

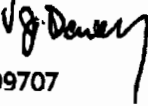
Attached is testimony from Alaska Village Electric Cooperative on the FY2010 Operating Budget.

<<PCE Funding FY10.doc>>

Meera Kohler
President/CEO
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.
4831 Eagle Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Voice: (907) 565-5531
Fax: (907) 562-4086
Email: mkohler@avec.org

This e-mail message has been scanned for Viruses and Content and cleared by **MailMarshal**

March 3, 2009

To: The Interior Legislative Delegation
From: Valerie J. Dewey 
P O Box 72757
Fairbanks Alaska 99707
907-458-7281
vjdewey@hotmail.com

Subject: Stabilization Center in the Interior for Mentally Ill Adults

As most of you know my name is Valerie J Dewey and I am a life-long resident of Fairbanks. My adult son is severely mentally ill and as a result he, and others like him, have been banished from this community because there is nowhere for adults with severe mental illness to live.

Recently, I was told by one of your legislative aides that I needed to raise \$30,000,000 for an endowment before a stabilization center for adults with mental illness would be built in the Interior. We all know that was neither a helpful nor realistic response. In fact, those words were hurtful and a veiled way of saying, "We really don't care about the mentally ill."

I have three suggestions for making quality mental health care available to those of us who live north of the Alaska Range.

1. Pass Senate Bill 21: The Alaska Mental Health Parity because access to medical care is the first step in addressing mental illness.
2. Fund relocation bonuses and tuition reimbursement for doctors of psychiatry willing to practice north of the Alaska Range under a five year contract. The use of locum psychiatric physicians because we have no others, provides inconsistent patient care and bloats the cost of all mental health services for all Alaskans.
3. Renegotiate the royalty rate for recently discovered gold deposits on Alaska Mental Health Trust property in the Interior to a rate commensurate with the current 12% royalty rate levied against extracted oil and gas.

With gold currently selling between \$650 and \$1000 per ounce the State should be able to fund a \$30,000,000 endowment in no time at all.

Once again, I remind you that mental illness hurts everyone.

Public Testimony on HB81

Page 1 of 1

Public Testimony on HB81

willajf@gci.net [willajf@gci.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 3:22 PM

To: LIO Fairbanks

To All The Legislatures (state of Alaska)

Dear Folks;

I have just learned of the cut in the governor's number that removed \$1.4 million from the Dept. of Public Safety budget designated to go to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. I discovered that \$1.2 million of that amount was to go to 20 domestic violence programs throughout the state and is critically needed. No other agency provides the service needed in these areas. They work together with other agencies to provide the best service they can with the dollars available. They are a critical piece of keeping victims safe and holding perpetrators accountable for their crimes. IAC provides a most valuable service in helping these folks look forward to hope, not only for themselves but also for their children. I would appreciate your help in passing Bill HB81 so that these agencies can get on with doing the fine job they are doing.

Sincerely,

Willa Frey

Fairbanks, Alaska

Public testimony/HB 81

Page 1 of 2

Public testimony/HB 81

McCarty, Coralie S (HSS) [coralie.mccarty@alaska.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 2:05 PM

To: LJO Fairbanks

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to you to ask that you review and consider replacing the reduction of funding to its original amount and consider adding more financial support to the proposed budget of Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The current close out amount suggested for funding the department of Public Safety will seriously impact the ability of shelters throughout the state that provide 24 hour a day resources and services to victims of domestic or family violence.

Funding over the past years has been decreased and there has been no appreciable change in the occurrence of domestic or family violence. Fairbanks has experienced an increase in reporting, due to many factors, one may be improved public education; however, the resource that provides assistance must be assisted to survive.

Our local shelter has been forced to cut staff and programs to adjust to reduced funding. With the latest decrease in funding, it may just be a choice to maintain overhead, electric, heat, water and sewer, and have minimal staffing, which may afford a place and no resources to assist in facilitating change in occurrences. Dealing with issues of violence requires a special skill set and major amounts of time and effort. Safety must be assured for a person to move forward.

Funding reductions remove people from practice that have special skill sets and removes services from people who need and may benefit from the services. Reductions remove the trooper/law enforcement officer who knows how to investigate, special medical professionals who process the needs, advocates to help people in navigating the legal system, acquire housing, and parenting, counselors and therapists from working with people who are involved, childcare providers who work with children in special programs to assist children and parents in the complicated process of healing and developing, and it takes away any safe haven for people to heal and develop. There appear to be no incentives for perpetrators to change; therefore, victims need resources to no longer be victimized.

These programs provide needed service that no other agency in the area provides under one roof. They work in tandem and collaborate with other agencies to ensure they are providing the best service they can with the dollars available and are a critical piece of keeping victims safe and holding perpetrators accountable for their crime.

I work daily in an environment that encourages self-sufficiency and independence from a temporary support system. Interior Alaska Center for Non-violent Living has been instrumental in assisting individuals to leave a violent situation and to garner the strength with constant support to move on. One single parent was able to leave a situation after four years of isolation, move into the shelter, have medical care to regain her health, and is now working a part-time job, will have income tax and earned income tax credit and will either stay in Fairbanks or relocate to family support and acquire another job. This family would have not been successful with Mom securing work without the shelter and therapeutic support of IAC.

Another parent with five children, recently divorced was victim to family violence, where ex-husband broke into home, attacked three of the children, broke furniture, did physical and mental damage to premises and people, and also jeopardized the family's subsidized housing. Through the efforts of an IAC advocate, a restraining order was secured, counseling is secured, and Mom is moving on with support and printed protection to become independent. The two older children are now refusing to go to

Public testimony/HB 81

Page 2 of 2

school as they feel they need to be at home to protect people and things. IAC will work with entire family to change the outcomes, as programs are in place through this agency for the children's training and future economic well-being.

I would appreciate your support and consideration to replacement of the \$1.4 million that has been removed from this budget.

Sincerely,

Sue McCarty

Public Testimony on HB81

kristin mcombs [superkristin80@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 1:31 PM

To: LIO Fairbanks

My name is Kristin McCombs. Proudly, I work at the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living. I am blessed to work with survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence who are in the process of defending and changing their lives. The work that takes place in our agency, in our shelter, and in the emergency room is both exhaustive and important in our plight to be of service to our clients and to end violence against women.

Before I began working at the agency, I did have an academic knowledge of misogyny and the crimes committed in this name. I have to tell you that this knowledge looks a lot different to those of us who sit on the phone with a woman who is both afraid to stay in her home and afraid to leave it. It is different when you are sitting in a SART exam room with a woman who has just been raped. It is different, still, when you look into the eyes of a child whose life has been permanently altered by the violence in their home. The courage and the bravery of my clients brings me to work every day.

Our clients are doing the best that they can. We at the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living are doing the best we can. All of us need your help. We need you to do your best as well. I implore you to stand with us. Please reconsider your decision.

Public Testimony on HB81

Page 1 of 2

Public Testimony on HB81

Ken Carr [ken_carr56@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:37 PM

To: LIO Fairbanks

Hello,

My Name is Ken Carr, and I work for the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living. I apologize that I cannot appear to testify in person today, but I'm teaching a class at the same time and unable to attend. I would like to tell you a bit about why the full funding should be reinstated for domestic violence shelters in Alaska.

Every week at work, I see a very dedicated and caring group of people doing their best work to help those who are struggling with domestic violence, yet their job is constantly made harder by a lack of pay and quality benefits. Many are desperately trying to make ends meet in their own lives, and they know how to help clients navigate the system partly because they do it themselves to receive benefits for their families. I am particularly lucky to have a wife who makes a considerable amount more than I do per hour, but many of my coworkers do not.

Many people do not realize the challenging nature of the work done at shelters. This job is emotionally exhausting, and the stress is high enough that we regularly train on how to take care of ourselves so that our employees don't give up and go work somewhere easier for higher pay. We call it "self-care" and it is a necessary component in this line of work. This is not a job for the weak of heart, and we have seen literally dozens of people who can't make it. Those who do have an enormous amount of personal investment in seeing clients succeed, but it is made much more difficult by the personal sacrifice in wage and other benefits that comes with working here.

One thing that makes me very proud of what I do is that we focus on putting every dollar we get towards our clients. No catered lunches, we pay for our own yearly party during the holidays, and low wages to make sure we are providing the best services we can to those who need it the most. No dollar is wasted, and every employee here closely monitors what they are costing the company. I only plug my car in when it needs to be, to use the least electricity possible. I think very carefully about how many supplies I am using, whether my internet usage is too high, and any other thing I can to make sure I am not wasting money.

I am educated and have the skills to go and make much more money somewhere else, but I'll keep working away for the people who others will not help. I'll still spend many sleepless nights thinking about what is happening to the families I work with, and an increase in pay won't help me rest more easily. It would make me feel like our state cares a bit more about the people who do this incredibly hard work, our sleepless nights, and our families who don't get our full energy and attention because we can't get work off of our minds. But mostly, it would make me feel like our state cares about the people who are running for their lives, victims of members of their own families who have no where else to turn.

Thank you for listening to what I have to say, and please take it into consideration when looking at the budget in House Bill 81.

Sincerely,
Ken Carr

Ken Carr
Program Facilitator
ABC'S: Alternatives to Violence

Public Testimony on HB81

Page 1 of 1

Public Testimony on HB81

Corinne White [corinne.vorenkamp@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 3:02 PM

To: LIO Fairbanks

Dear Legislators,

I am out of State this week and unable to testify personally in Fairbanks today, but want to express my concern over the removal of \$1.4 from the Department of Public Safety budget for funding to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. I ask for your support in replacing this \$1.4 from this budget in order to ensure adequate funding for critical services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

As you no doubt are aware, Alaska has one of the highest rates per capita of crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault nationwide. There already are too few resources available for the victims of these crimes. Programs like domestic violence shelters -- which typically also provide crisis counseling and other support for sexual assault survivors as well -- are critical for these victims.

These programs provide needed service that no other agency in the area provides. They work in tandem and collaborate with other agencies to ensure they are providing the best service they can with the dollars available and are a critical piece of keeping victims safe and holding perpetrators accountable for their crime.

In Fairbanks, the Interior Alaska Center for Nonviolent Living (IAC) provides an outstanding example of an essential community resource for DV and SA victims. In addition to the shelter beds that IAC provides for victims of domestic violence and their children (who often suffer the most from domestic violence), IAC also provides assistance to victims in applying for and obtaining Domestic Violence Protective Orders and Stalking orders, ongoing support groups, and other valuable services.

I would greatly appreciate your support in the replacement of the \$1.4 million that has been removed from this budget.

Sincerely,
Corinne Vorenkamp White

Number of Cases seen by Forensic Nursing Services at FMH

Angie Ellis, RN
458-5221
angie.ellis@bannerhealth.com

2008--- 280 cases

Sexual Assault cases--- 76

Domestic Violence cases --- 24

Suspects cases ----- 4

Other Forensic cases ----- 13

Strangulation cases*----- 8

Sexual Assault of a Minor cases --- 142

• Child Abuse cases----- 13

2009 ----- 75 cases

Sexual Assault cases--- 21

Domestic Violence cases --- 4

Suspects cases ----- 4

Other Forensic cases ----- 1

Strangulation cases*----- 8

Sexual Assault of a Minor cases --- 26

Child Abuse cases----- 19

*some of the DV and SA cases involved
strangulation as well.



*Lenetta Colbert
Fairbanks AK*

PO Box 22870 • Juneau, AK 99802
907.789.1235 • www.akaeyc.org

To lead, facilitate, and support the efforts of those working in the Early Care and Education profession throughout Alaska.

**Child Care Assistance Position Paper
December 2008
Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children**

What is it and why is it important?

*2004
VH*

Affordability of quality child care is a major issue for many Alaskan working families. The average monthly cost of full-time child care ranges from \$400-\$900 per month, depending on the age of the child and location of the care. 39,400 children under the age of six live in households where all available parents are in the workforce. Yet only 4,900 children received child care assistance in 2007.

- In Alaska, funds from the Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF) are used to subsidize the cost of child care for low income families to enable them to work.
- Under federal rules, the Child Care Assistance Program can provide financial assistance to help cover child care costs to families whose income is less than 85% of the state's median monthly income.
- The family eligibility has not been adjusted since 2002. The Consumer Price Index for Anchorage indicates a family would need to earn 20% less in 2007 to qualify for child care assistance, than a family in 2002. There are currently an increasing number of families that do not qualify for assistance, but still can't afford to enroll their child in a legal child care program.
- Child Care Assistance reimbursement rates were raised to the 50th percentile by the legislature in 2008. The recommendation from the U.S. Health and Social Services is the 75th percentile.
- Economic cost-benefit studies consistently show significant long range benefits when children from low income families receive high quality child care. Due to the financial burden of paying a required co-payment amount, in addition to the difference in what the state will reimburse for child care, families are choosing from lower priced and usually lower quality child care.

Recommendations:

*① Keeps parents in work force
back to work short term gain
② long term education gain — patient capital*

- Increase child care reimbursement rates to the 75% percentile. This will allow low income children the opportunity to access higher quality programs that will lead to outcomes such as increased school readiness. *gains made*
- Increase family eligibility to 85% of the state median income. This will enable more families to access child care in order to work. Without increased funding to the



program, this will result in a waiting list for the program. A waiting list will allow the Department of Health and Social Services to quantify the funding needed to support employment of parents in Alaska.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON HB 81"

To Whom It May Concern:

March 3, 2009

I came into the Emergency Shelter IAC, Oct. 2007. I was homeless, physically disabled and in physical danger because of my perpetrator.

I'm from Anchorage and someone told me about IAC. When I entered IAC, I heard about the Pre-Transitional Program. They were accepting applications and so I applied and thankfully - accepted.

Since entering the Pre-T. program my life has completely changed. I have a bone disease and can't physically do alot. I had applied for SST disability and had been denied. The Pre-T program housed me, ~~fed~~ me, provided clothing, counseling, educated me about life choices. They made it possible for me to pay for my housing by doing chores that I could physically handle. They helped me get a lawyer, and last December I won my disability case. Now I can get the medical care that I've needed for so very long. For the first time in 4 yrs, when I walk - I almost don't limp at all. It's unbelievable what Physical Therapy is doing for me.

Socially I'm a different person. With the help of the Staff here at IAC, especially the Pre-T

-2-

program - I'm a different person. They have provided a position for me downstairs - where I work 2 days a week as a receptionist. I had absolutely no training for that and they've taken care of that too.

When it was too cold outside and I couldn't be in it - because of my bone disease - they've provided transportation for me.

I'm just about ready to move on with my life - when I'm done here I'm going back to Anchorage and I'm not afraid or worried anymore. Because of this place - I now have confidence and know that I will have a happy and successful life.

~~Sincerely,~~

~~Kathy Allegrezza~~

what this place is doing and the staff here, to change women and their families lives is absolutely amazing.

Sincerely

Kathy Allegrezza

My Name is Kara Carlson and I work for the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living which provides services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. I could make a lot more money if I worked just about anywhere else. I have a BA degree and I am currently living in low income housing and for a long time I received child care assistance, Denali Kid Care and I qualified for Public Assistance food stamps.

In the 3.5 years I have worked here I have spent countless hours at the hospital comforting a woman who has just been raped. I have watched several women attempt to end their lives because their world seemed unbearable, I knew one who was murdered by her partner. I have assisted with hundreds of restraining orders, been to court many times in support of a victim, and provided resources, support and safety to thousands of women who have been hurt by someone they love. And sadly watched many of the supportive services we do provide, disappear because of lack of funding or we were unable to fill the position with a qualified person.

I want to remind you that my position starts at \$12.65 an hour. That is not a livable wage and I wonder how much the state pays to provide me affordable housing, child care, and insurance because the salary I make is not enough to survive on. I love my job and am very passionate about what I do but there have been many times where I have had to face the hard decision of leaving due to not being able to live off the salary I make. Some fast food restraints and retail stores start people off at a higher or close to equal wage and the work load and stress is much less. I'll leave you with this question: what kind of person would you like to assist your friend, family member, or child if they were raped or abused. My salary is the equivalent of an entry level position, and attracts those candidates. Do you really think that an entry level person should be doing my job?

Thank you for your time!

14381

March 03, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a current resident at The Women's Shelter (LAC), since 07/06/08 and part of the Pre-T program since September 08. I'm not from this country, and I have been here in Alaska with my son, for almost 2 years.

We arrived here related to our abusive situation that we where living with my ex-husband. Being here at this facility, has been a blessing. I received great advices and support from my internal legal advocate related to my divorce case and short term restraining order and she put me in contact with Alaska Legal Services for my long term restraining order, if it wasn't for their advices and my trust that they gain, I can see that we could be still attached to my abuser. The way that they told me how to act during the hearing was crucial, he get the message, with my cold attitude, and that's part of why we're free of that pathological circle.

The receptionist, shelter advocates, case managers, psychotherapist, and all the staff that works here, we receive from them all kind of services and protection. I clearly can see that they are doing their best with the resources that they have. I took really serious my situation, and I have a commitment with myself to change, and learn how to protect me and my son. That's why I'm involve in every class that they offer, like changing patterns, women's group, art healing, safety and sobriety, financial literacy, parenting classes. Some of them, I'm taking for second time, because it's good to reaffirm the knowledge. And extra from outside, I'm taking 12 steps, and bible study to help me to close my hurts from my abusive past and/or my divorce, all these classes and support are helping me to deal with my anxiety and heart health issues. I'm learning how to put boundaries, how to see red flags, how to live my life in freedom, how to be me and how to help my son. How to take care of my health, learning how to eat healthy to reduce my cholesterol, I'm doing exercise too (they provide the space). And they provide self-defense classes for the women interested. I have 2 free months of Tai-kuan-do, this is helping me to build confidence. The personnel here have been a big blessing for my son and for myself, I have the sense, that they put more then doing their job, they put humanity, care and love. Every time that I need to be heard, they do. They provide, when they can, transportation. They try always to look for more options in case that one is close, and they help me to reach our goals. Living here is not easy because there is so much pain in the residents, but I choose to focus on my own healing, and probably they can see, through my testimonies in the classes, that there is hope in the life of a person that is willing to change, to take the steps, the rules of the shelter for good. I'm full of gratitude with all of the people involve, God bless them.

Thank you all,

Rosa M. Piller Sanchez

DANA THOMAS
455-4561

TESTIMONY to HFIN
HB 81

Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY

Public Policy Analysis of Opportunity for Postsecondary Education

Number 200

www.postsecondary.org

February 2009

College Participation Rates for Students from Low Income Families by State FY1993 to FY2007

College participation rates for students 18 to 24 years old from low income families declined slightly, to 23.8 percent from 23.9 percent in 2006. This continues a long term decline in low income college participation rates since the peak of 27.7 percent reached in 1999.

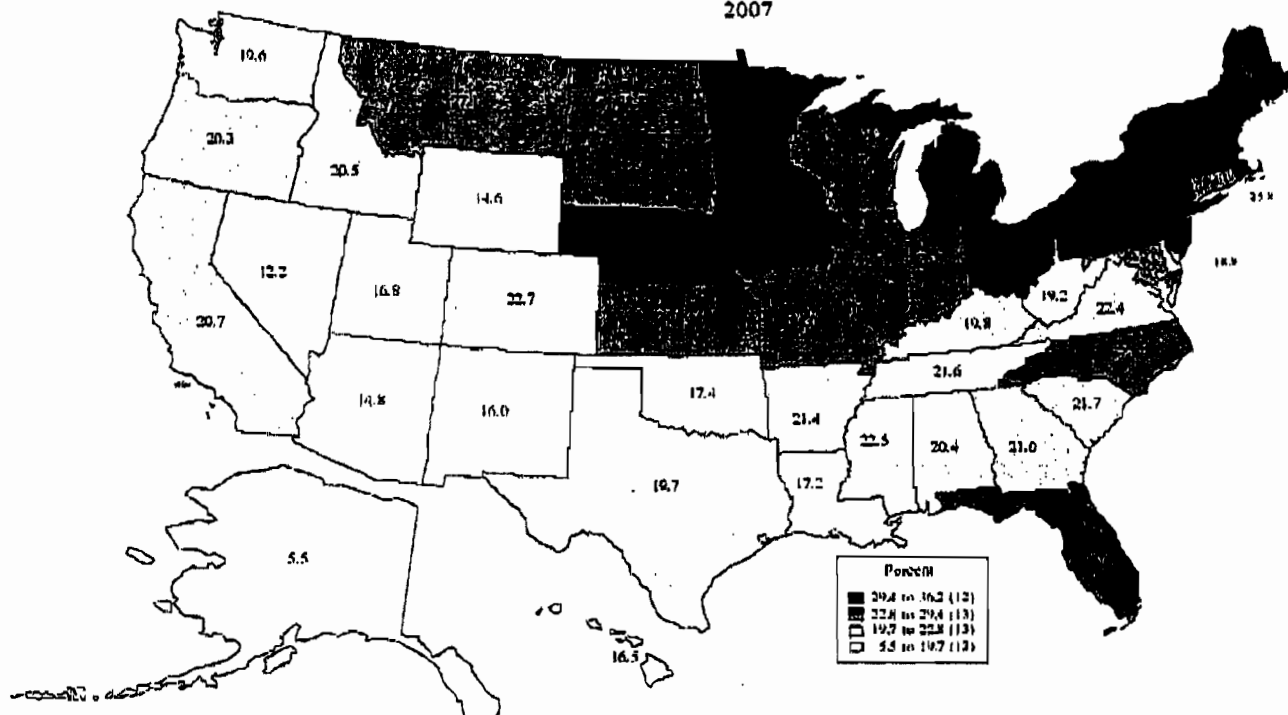
College participation rates for 18 to 24 year olds who were not from low

income families also declined in 2007, for the first time since 2000. The 2007 rate was 42.9 percent, compared to 45.2 percent in 2006. The rate for non-low income students had risen steadily since 2000 from 38.7 percent that year to the peak of 45.2 percent in 2006.

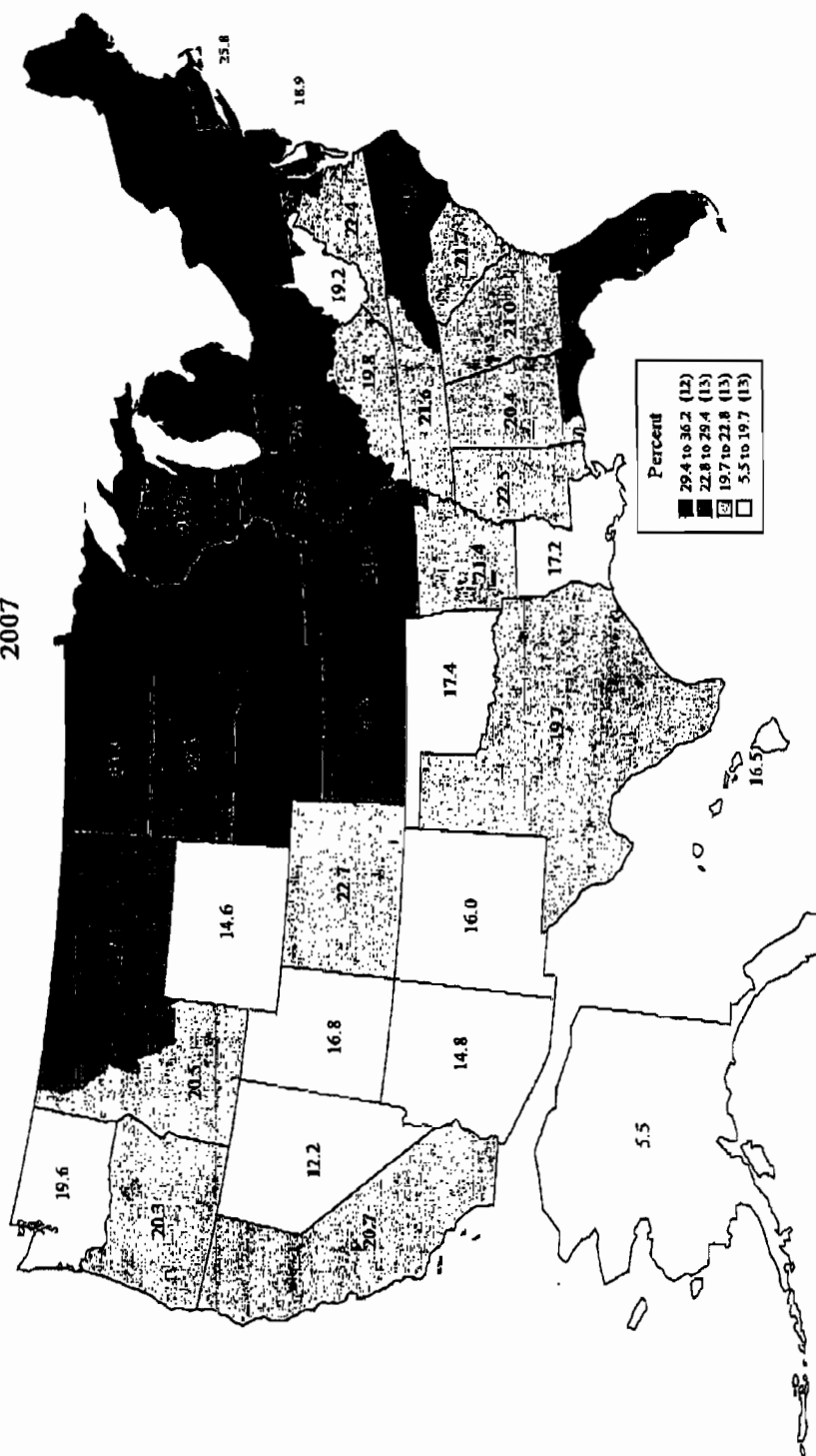
The gap in college participation rates between students from low income

families and those from higher income families has been growing steadily since 1999. The low income college participation rate fell 11.4 percentage points below the rate for non-low income students in 1999. By 2006 this gap had widened to 21.4 percent. For 2007 the gap narrowed to 19.1 percentage points, still the third largest gap in the last 15 years.

College Participation for Students from Low Income Families
2007



College Participation for Students from Low Income Families
2007



Of course the above data describe the national picture only. Within states the picture varied enormously. In 2007 the low income college participation rate ranged from 5.5 to 36.2 percent—a difference of 6.6 times between the top and bottom states.

In 2007 Pennsylvania and New Hampshire moved past perennial leader Iowa with the highest college participation rates for students from low income families. In our state rankings Alaska owns last place, by a wide margin.

Over the last 10 years, while the national low income college participation rate was declining by 3.9 percentage points, this rate actually managed to increase in eleven states. These states are mainly in the South where rates have traditionally been very low, including Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Mississippi. But progress is clearly occurring in these states, unlike most of the rest of the country.

Between 1997 and 2007 low income college participation rates declined in the remaining 40 states (including DC). The declines were greatest in those states that historically had the highest college participation rates for students from low income families. These states include Vermont, New Hampshire, North Dakota and Delaware.

These and other findings are summarized in our annual update report on college participation rates for students from low income families. We do this report both because low income students have always been underrepresented in higher education, and because they represent such a rapidly growing share of K-12 and higher education enrollments. In an economy that has been losing low skill jobs for a century and growing jobs that require college-level preparation these low income students represent a

vital asset for our country's future. Investing in their higher education before they enter the workforce as adults can convert social and economic liabilities into constructive, productive and contributing social and economic assets.

Low Income Population

In this analysis low income college students are defined as dependent undergraduates with federal Pell Grants.

The low income college participation rate is the ratio of dependent Pell Grant recipients to the population of 4th to 9th grade students nine years earlier that were approved for free or reduced-price school lunches. For the United States the FY2007 low income college participation rate is:

$$1,989,254 / (20,856,672 * 40.1\%) = 23.8\%$$

- There were 1,989,254 dependent Pell Grant recipients in the 2006-07 award year (Source: Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education).
- There were 20,856,672 4th to 9th graders enrolled in public schools in the fall of the 1997-98 school year (Source: *Digest of Education Statistics*).
- In 1997-98 40.1 percent of all K-12 students in public or non-profit schools were approved for free or reduced-price school lunches (Source: Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture).

These data and this calculation are replicated for all 50 states plus the District of Columbia to get the above national totals. These data are available as downloads to subscribers for each state from the OPPORTUNITY website in the state opportunity data books (Excel workbooks) at:

www.postsecondary.org/peocountry.asp

Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY

P.O. Box 415

Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577-0415

Phone: (641) 673-3401

Fax: (641) 673-3411

www.postsecondary.org

ISSN: 1068-9818

FEIN: 421463731

Published twelve times per year. \$178 for 12 print edition issues or \$162 for electronic subscription. Subscriptions may be started by check or institutional purchase order, mailed to the above address or on our website or faxed to the number below, or by e-mail. Please use the subscription order form on the back page of this issue or on the website.

Thomas G. Mortenson

Higher Education Policy Analyst,
Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY
Senior Scholar, The Pell Institute for the
Study of Opportunity in Higher Education
tom@postsecondary.org

Camille Stocker

Subscription Manager and Webmaster
camille@postsecondary.org

Nicole Brunt

Research Assistant
nicole@postsecondary.org

Mission Statement

This research letter is founded on two beliefs. First, sound public social policy requires accurate, current, independent, and focused information on the human condition. Second, education is essential to the development of human potential and resources for both private and public benefit. Therefore, the purpose of this research letter is to inform those who formulate, fund, and administer public policy and programs about the condition of and influences that affect postsecondary education opportunity for all Americans.

Not Copyrighted

Permission is granted to make copies from this research letter providing copies are not sold and the source is identified. Copies of research letter charts are available to subscribers in larger sizes at cost. Call for assistance.

The term "low income" is not defined clearly and consistently by many who use it (including us). Generally low income implies greater income than the poverty threshold which has specific meanings when family size, age and location are controlled.

Eligibility for free or reduced-price school lunches in K-12 is limited to school children from families with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Likewise Pell Grant eligibility for 18 to 24 year olds is limited to family income above the poverty threshold allowing for meeting basic family needs, family size, assets, number of children in college, age of family head, etc. Very roughly our analysis is limited to families with incomes below about \$40,000 per year, or the bottom quartile of 18 to 24 year old high school graduates.

Regardless of definitions or precision in calculating low income, the low income population is growing absolutely and relatively. The low income population is replacing the non-low income population in K-12 school enrollments and higher education enrollments.

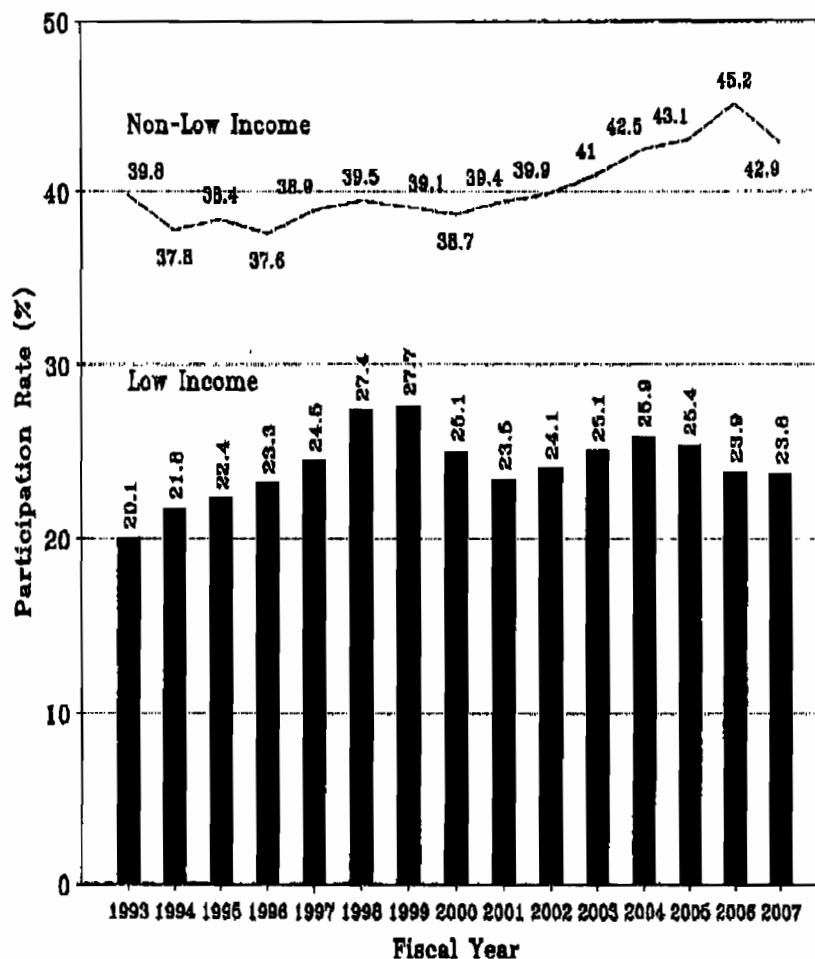
- The *share* of K-12 students approved for free and reduced-price school lunches

Eventually today's low income children will replace other children from affluent families in the adult workforce. How well they are higher educated for the jobs that will be there during their adult working lives will significantly influence the nation's prosperity for decades to come.

College Participation

Nation. In 2007 the low income college participation rate for 18 to 24 year olds was 23.8 percent. The 2007 rate was down slightly from 23.9 percent in 2006, and well below the peak of 27.7 percent reached in 1999. Generally the low income college

College Participation Rates for Students from Low Income and non-Low Income Families 1993 to 2007



participation rate rose yearly between 1993 and 1999, and has declined since 1999.

The college participation rate for all 18 to 24 year olds is reported separately by the Census Bureau from the Current Population Survey. In 2007 the college participation rate was 37.3 percent (13.5 percentage points above the rate for students from low income families). This rate has been drifting upward since 1994 when it was 33.8 percent.

The difference between the college

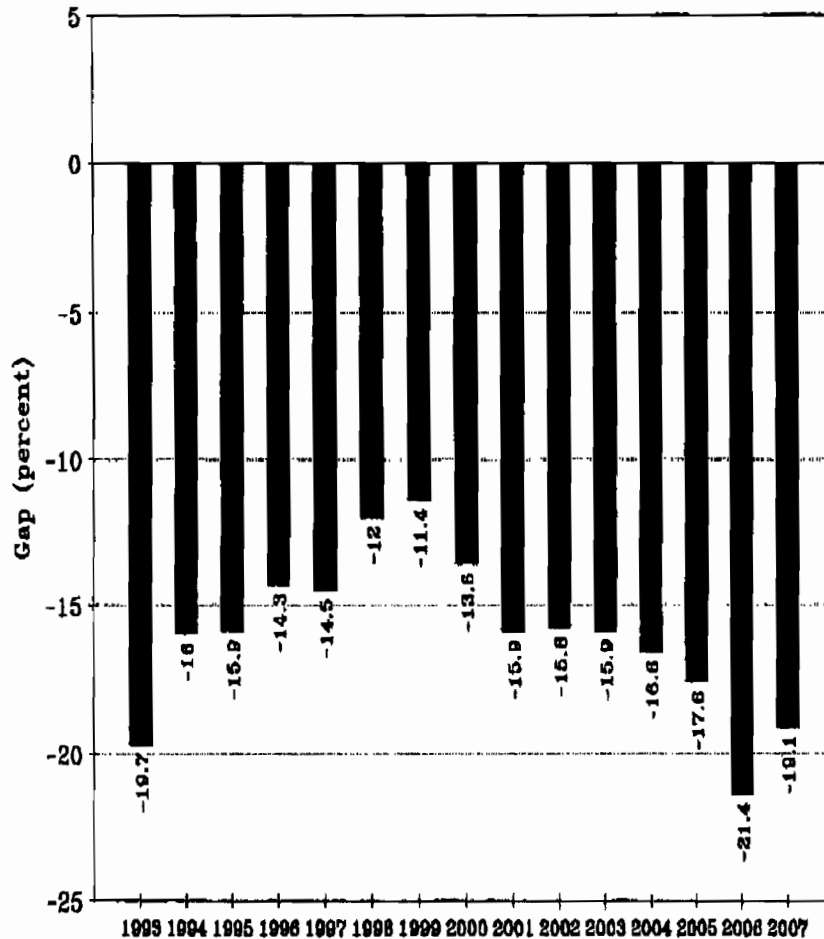
participation rates for students from low income families and for all 18 to 24 year olds is the college participation rate for students who are not from low income families--the affluent. Given the components of the first two rates, the rate for affluent students can be calculated from the difference. For 2007 that is:

$$8,597,746/20,024,439=42.9\%$$

Thus in 2007 the three college participation rates are:

All 18 to 24 year olds:	37.3%
Low income 18 to 24:	23.8%
Affluent 18 to 24:	42.9%

College Participation Rate Gap Between Students from Low Income and Non-Low Income Families 1993 to 2007



The difference between the college participation rates for students from affluent and low income families was 19.1 percentage points in 2007. This was less than the gap of 21.4 percent in 2006, but it was the third largest gap for any year since 1993 when these data first became available.

In fact the gap between the college participation rate for students from low income and affluent families narrowed sharply between 1993 and 1999, from 19.7 to 11.4 percentage points. But beginning in 2000 this gap began to reopen, from 11.4 percentage points in 1999 to 21.4 percentage

points in 2006. These data are shown in the chart on this page,

States. The national picture described in the preceding data is the summation of what has been happening in the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. While it provides a useful overall picture in fact it fails to describe what is happening in any particular state. Each state has its own unique story, as told in its own unique data.

While the low income college participation rate was 23.8 percent in 2007, across the states the low income college participation rate ranged from

5.5 to 36.2 percent. The low income college participation rate was 5.6 times greater in the highest state than it was in the lowest.

In 2007 the ten states with the highest low income college participation rates were:

Pennsylvania	36.2%
New Hampshire	36.0%
Iowa	35.5%
New Jersey	34.3%
New York	34.2%
Massachusetts	31.7%
Nebraska	31.4%
Vermont	31.4%
Maine	31.4%
Michigan	30.2%

These states are all located in the north and/or eastern regions of the country.

- Nine out of these ten states were in the top ten states in 2006. Michigan joined the top 10 from 14th in 2006, and North Dakota dropped from 10th in 2006 to 13th in 2007.
- Iowa had ranked first in four of the previous five years. While its rate remained unchanged in 2007 compared to 2006, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire surged past on increased rates.
- Pennsylvania had ranked between 5th and 10th between 1995 and 2005, then jumped to 2nd in 2006.
- New Hampshire had ranked 1st between 1995 and 1999, then slipped to 6th or 7th between 2001 and 2004.
- Michigan has seen the greatest increase in ranking among these top ten states. In 1994 Michigan ranked 25th. By 1999 it ranked 20th. Then 15th in 2004 and finally 10th by 2007.

In 2007 the ten states with the lowest low income college participation rates were:

Alaska	5.5%
Nevada	12.2%
Wyoming	14.6%

Arizona	14.8%
New Mexico	16.0%
Hawaii	16.5%
Utah	16.8%
Louisiana	17.2%
Oklahoma	17.4%
Delaware	18.9%

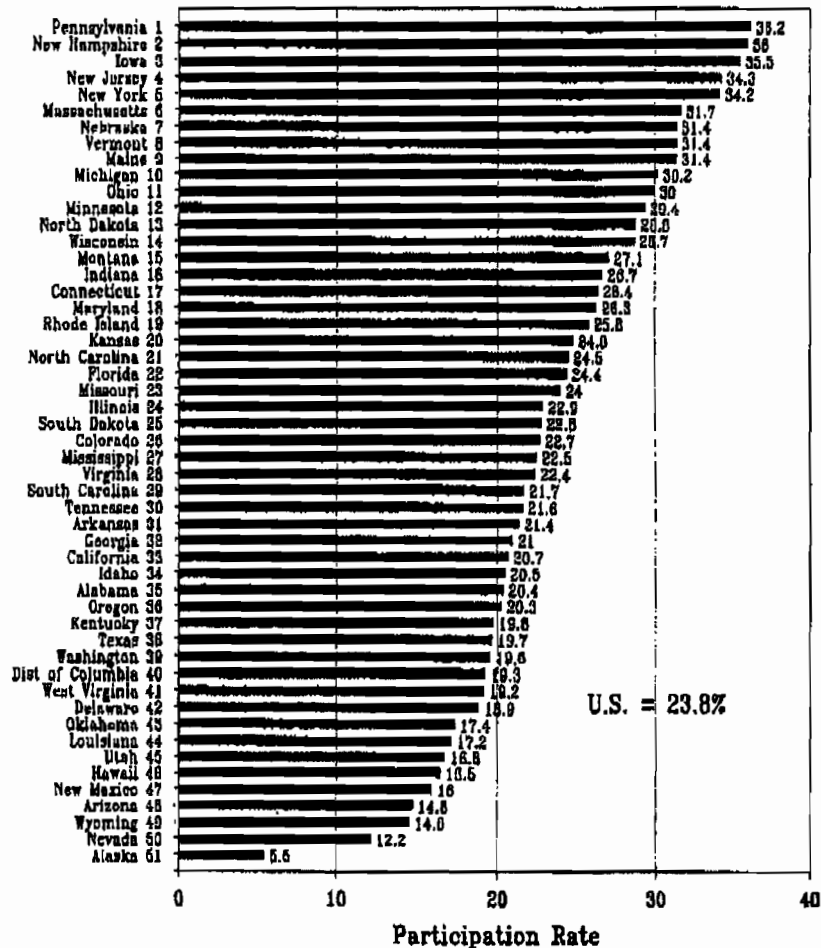
These states tend to be located in the western region of the United States.

- The bottom feeders are led by Alaska which owns last place. Every year for the last 15 years Alaska has ranked 51st. Out of 29,404 low income 4th to 9th graders in 1997-98, just 1,618 of them were enrolled in college with Pell Grants in 2006-07.
- Nevada has ranked 50th for the last seven years. Previously it had ranked as high as 31st in 1999. Looks like casino jobs make college unattractive.
- Wyoming has slid steadily down the rankings from 21st in 1998 to 49th by 2007. Looks like oil field jobs out draw college.
- Arizona has slid to the bottom too, from 33rd in 1998 to 49th from 2000 through 2006. Now that the construction boom has gone bust maybe these young people will get serious about their higher educations.
- Hawaii wins the race to the bottom hands down. In 2002 Hawaii ranked 11th with a low income college participation rate of 30.9 percent. By 2007 Hawaii ranked 46th with just 16.5 percent of its low income population enrolled in college.

Nine of these ten states were also ranked in the bottom ten states in 2006. Oklahoma joined the bottom ten in 2007, from 41st in 2006, and West Virginia left the bottom 10 in 2006 for 41st in 2007.

Between 1999 (when the low income college participation rate peaked) and 2007 the national rate declined by 3.9 percentage points, from 27.7 to 23.8

College Participation Rates by State for Students from Low Income Families 2007



percent. However, when the states are examined separately, between 1999 and 2007 the low income college participation rate actually increased in 11 states (including DC) and declined in the remaining 40 states.

The eleven states where the low income college participation rate actually increased between 1999 and 2007 were:

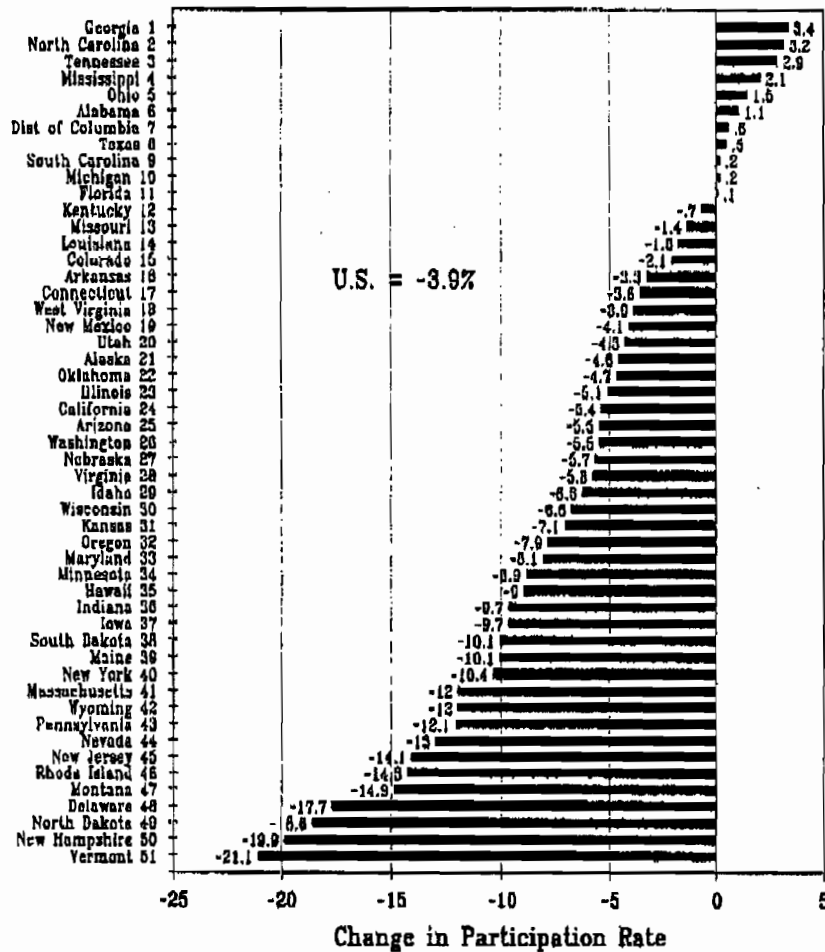
Georgia	+3.4%
North Carolina	+3.2%
Tennessee	+2.9%
Mississippi	+2.1%
Ohio	+1.5%

Alabama	+1.1%
District of Columbia	+0.6%
Texas	+0.5%
South Carolina	+0.2%
Michigan	+0.2%
Florida	+0.1%

Most of these states are located in the South. Historically college participation rates for students from low income families have been relatively low in the South. But clearly this picture is changing.

- Georgia's low income college participation rate has jumped from 17.6 percent (50th) in 1999 to 21.0

Change in College Participation Rates for Students from Low Income Families by State 1999 to 2007



percent (32nd) by 2007. The home of the HOPE Scholarship--and no state need-based grant aid--is making notable progress increasing its college participation for students from low income families.

- **North Carolina** is home of the Carolina Covenant. Here too there has been almost steady and quite substantial growth in low income college participation, from 21.3 percent (39th) in 1999 to 24.5 percent (21st) in 2007.
- **Tennessee** has also gone the state merit scholarship route. Its low income college participation rate

has risen from 18.7 percent (48th) in 1999 to 21.6 percent (30th) by 2007.

- **Mississippi** increased its low income rate from 20.4 percent (42nd) in 1999 to 22.5 percent (27th) by 2007.
- **Ohio's** low income college participation rate increased from 28.5 percent (22nd) in 1999 to 30.0 percent (11th) in 2007.
- **Alabama** increased its low income rate from 19.3 percent (45th) in 1999 to 20.4 percent (35th) in 2007.

Clearly a few states are increasing

their low income college participation rates.

But most are not. Among the 40 states where the low income college participation rate declined between 1999 and 2007 the eleven biggest losers were:

Vermont	-21.1%
New Hampshire	-19.9%
North Dakota	-18.6%
Delaware	-17.7%
Montana	-14.9%
Rhode Island	-14.3%
New Jersey	-14.1%
Nevada	-13.0%
Pennsylvania	-12.1%
Wyoming	-12.0%
Massachusetts	-12.0%

These states are mostly in the northern and eastern parts of the country. Moreover, most of these states have had historically high low income college participation rates, and still do. But the trend in the low income college participation rate is very strongly negative in these states.

Among the 40 states where low income college participation rates declined between 1999 and 2007 some of the biggest losers were:

- **Vermont** where the low income college participation rate dropped from 52.5 percent (2nd) in 1999 to 31.4 percent (8th) by 2007.
- **New Hampshire** where the low income rate declined from 55.9 percent (1st) in 1999 to 36.0 percent (2nd) in 2007.
- **North Dakota** where the low income rate declined from 47.4 percent (5th) in 1999 to 28.8 percent (13th) by 2007. The state had ranked 2nd in 2002.
- **Rhode Island** is clearly a state that is struggling with economic woes. Its low income college participation rate has declined from 40.2 percent (11th) in 1999 to 25.8 percent (19th) by 2007.

Convergence. This analysis has found

College Participation Rates for Students from Low Income Families by State
FY1993 to FY2007

State	Fiscal Year															
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Alabama	13.6%	15.4%	13.6%	11.5%	13.1%	18.4%	19.3%	18.8%	18.4%	20.3%	21.6%	22.8%	22.4%	20.8%	20.4%	
Alaska	4.5%	5.5%	6.5%	5.4%	5.5%	9.6%	10.1%	8.1%	8.2%	7.5%	7.7%	9.4%	8.6%	7.9%	5.5%	
Arizona	16.3%	14.3%	23.3%	18.5%	20.0%	23.2%	20.3%	17.4%	16.0%	15.8%	16.7%	17.9%	18.1%	16.1%	14.8%	
Arkansas	16.0%	13.6%	14.0%	14.6%	14.8%	21.3%	24.6%	20.2%	19.4%	18.5%	23.5%	24.2%	23.8%	22.0%	21.4%	
California	16.5%	24.1%	25.8%	28.4%	30.0%	27.2%	26.1%	24.4%	22.5%	22.7%	22.6%	22.9%	22.1%	21.2%	20.7%	
Colorado	16.4%	21.8%	18.9%	14.0%	15.8%	22.7%	24.8%	21.2%	18.5%	17.2%	21.9%	24.7%	25.4%	23.5%	22.7%	
Connecticut	17.2%	21.1%	24.3%	31.8%	30.1%	30.0%	30.0%	24.9%	24.0%	24.5%	25.3%	26.2%	26.0%	26.5%	26.4%	
Delaware	14.1%	12.4%	11.1%	10.4%	21.9%	24.7%	36.6%	24.0%	20.2%	19.7%	19.9%	20.4%	20.0%	17.7%	18.9%	
Dist of Columbia	12.2%	12.3%	13.0%	20.6%	19.4%	14.6%	18.7%	15.4%	16.1%	17.3%	17.8%	19.6%	19.0%	19.5%	19.3%	
Florida	20.7%	20.0%	23.0%	27.7%	26.4%	26.4%	24.4%	22.7%	21.9%	22.8%	24.3%	24.7%	23.6%	22.7%	24.4%	
Georgia	19.1%	13.9%	14.6%	18.3%	19.0%	20.7%	17.6%	19.2%	16.2%	19.1%	20.1%	20.4%	20.0%	20.1%	21.0%	
Hawaii	9.0%	15.0%	14.2%	16.1%	22.9%	21.2%	25.5%	28.6%	29.4%	30.9%	29.5%	22.2%	19.9%	17.4%	16.5%	
Idaho	16.4%	16.6%	17.3%	15.3%	19.6%	27.0%	26.8%	24.7%	23.3%	23.6%	24.4%	25.0%	25.0%	21.2%	20.5%	
Illinois	23.4%	22.2%	20.5%	24.3%	23.2%	26.3%	28.0%	24.6%	23.6%	28.7%	26.5%	27.6%	25.7%	22.9%	22.9%	
Indiana	18.9%	21.1%	21.6%	19.6%	22.9%	32.3%	36.4%	25.5%	23.4%	25.0%	27.6%	29.6%	28.8%	27.4%	26.7%	
Iowa	26.9%	28.6%	22.8%	31.7%	28.2%	43.5%	45.3%	39.0%	37.0%	39.3%	42.1%	43.7%	41.3%	35.5%	35.5%	
Kansas	24.5%	29.0%	22.2%	27.4%	33.6%	30.7%	31.5%	28.0%	26.3%	26.7%	26.8%	28.3%	28.2%	25.0%	24.8%	
Kentucky	20.0%	17.8%	17.2%	18.7%	19.8%	20.3%	20.5%	18.8%	17.4%	18.7%	20.0%	21.1%	21.1%	19.8%	19.8%	
Louisiana	18.7%	19.2%	22.1%	18.1%	16.0%	19.8%	19.0%	18.2%	17.1%	17.9%	18.5%	19.0%	19.1%	17.6%	17.2%	
Maine	26.4%	27.7%	31.9%	38.8%	35.5%	37.0%	41.4%	41.6%	31.0%	30.9%	33.0%	33.2%	34.0%	31.3%	31.4%	
Maryland	33.0%	25.4%	26.3%	26.4%	28.7%	33.8%	34.4%	32.8%	28.7%	28.5%	27.7%	27.6%	27.2%	25.9%	26.3%	
Massachusetts	32.0%	33.0%	32.7%	34.0%	40.0%	47.0%	43.7%	37.6%	33.0%	32.3%	32.6%	33.5%	33.5%	30.5%	31.7%	
Michigan	21.6%	21.2%	22.4%	22.2%	26.0%	28.1%	30.1%	26.3%	24.3%	25.5%	28.5%	29.3%	30.5%	28.6%	30.2%	
Minnesota	48.4%	63.3%	42.4%	41.4%	45.8%	38.0%	38.3%	29.9%	28.4%	30.6%	30.5%	33.1%	32.8%	29.4%	29.4%	
Mississippi	17.4%	18.1%	17.7%	16.5%	18.5%	20.4%	20.4%	18.9%	19.6%	21.1%	22.4%	23.5%	23.5%	22.4%	22.5%	
Missouri	23.6%	25.1%	25.2%	23.6%	24.4%	25.6%	25.4%	23.8%	22.7%	23.0%	25.0%	25.5%	25.8%	23.9%	24.0%	
Montana	23.8%	25.4%	23.3%	23.4%	23.9%	37.3%	42.0%	36.2%	34.0%	32.2%	30.5%	34.0%	31.8%	29.1%	27.1%	
Nebraska	29.5%	30.9%	26.5%	29.2%	33.9%	37.6%	37.2%	33.9%	32.1%	32.8%	37.2%	37.8%	41.2%	33.0%	31.4%	
Nevada	15.4%	12.6%	9.2%	17.5%	14.6%	23.2%	25.2%	17.8%	15.8%	15.4%	15.5%	15.9%	14.9%	14.2%	12.2%	
New Hampshire	33.3%	41.3%	47.6%	79.8%	63.7%	54.9%	55.9%	45.5%	37.1%	35.2%	35.7%	36.6%	38.8%	34.3%	36.0%	
New Jersey	24.5%	30.1%	37.7%	37.6%	43.5%	37.9%	48.4%	49.7%	41.3%	38.2%	43.7%	41.8%	36.1%	33.6%	34.3%	
New Mexico	12.3%	15.4%	15.6%	13.1%	14.7%	18.5%	20.2%	18.5%	16.1%	21.2%	17.1%	19.5%	21.3%	17.6%	16.0%	
New York	29.6%	32.3%	33.4%	42.0%	40.6%	43.0%	44.6%	41.7%	42.2%	37.9%	37.8%	38.3%	37.5%	34.2%	34.2%	
North Carolina	15.2%	16.2%	16.4%	16.3%	17.7%	19.8%	21.3%	20.3%	19.7%	21.9%	24.6%	26.6%	26.6%	24.6%	24.5%	
North Dakota	33.0%	28.1%	26.2%	31.3%	37.1%	46.1%	47.4%	41.2%	39.0%	38.9%	39.8%	40.4%	32.4%	30.3%	28.8%	
Ohio	22.0%	21.4%	21.5%	20.7%	21.3%	26.6%	28.5%	25.2%	23.8%	25.3%	26.8%	29.3%	30.1%	30.1%	30.0%	
Oklahoma	19.5%	23.3%	19.1%	21.5%	19.3%	22.3%	22.1%	20.5%	19.1%	19.4%	19.9%	20.6%	20.2%	19.0%	17.4%	
Oregon	14.3%	19.6%	20.6%	20.1%	17.7%	25.7%	28.2%	23.7%	22.4%	25.4%	26.3%	26.4%	26.4%	21.3%	20.3%	
Pennsylvania	24.0%	23.7%	35.0%	37.5%	37.3%	48.0%	48.4%	44.4%	38.3%	32.7%	34.1%	34.6%	32.6%	24.9%	36.2%	
Rhode Island	18.3%	23.8%	34.2%	35.0%	42.3%	41.1%	40.2%	32.4%	30.3%	29.5%	29.9%	27.0%	27.0%	25.4%	25.8%	
South Carolina	18.3%	18.5%	20.2%	17.8%	20.3%	20.5%	21.5%	20.3%	19.1%	19.9%	21.4%	22.6%	22.8%	21.1%	21.7%	
South Dakota	21.5%	24.4%	19.9%	20.3%	22.4%	31.0%	32.8%	26.9%	27.1%	23.1%	25.7%	29.1%	27.6%	23.3%	22.8%	
Tennessee	16.5%	17.4%	15.8%	14.9%	16.9%	18.0%	18.7%	18.0%	17.9%	19.1%	20.1%	18.9%	20.6%	21.0%	21.6%	
Texas	16.5%	15.6%	15.4%	14.7%	15.2%	19.1%	19.1%	17.5%	16.3%	17.1%	19.0%	20.9%	20.8%	20.0%	19.7%	
Utah	13.8%	17.0%	16.1%	12.9%	15.3%	24.5%	21.0%	18.1%	16.8%	16.5%	17.8%	19.3%	19.7%	17.5%	16.8%	
Vermont	17.9%	25.3%	36.2%	31.4%	38.8%	48.4%	52.5%	44.6%	38.2%	36.2%	35.8%	32.9%	35.4%	31.5%	31.4%	
Virginia	13.9%	18.9%	19.3%	20.5%	21.4%	29.5%	28.2%	21.9%	24.7%	24.5%	24.3%	25.8%	25.4%	21.8%	22.4%	
Washington	16.9%	17.7%	17.1%	16.7%	23.0%	24.5%	25.2%	22.0%	21.4%	21.6%	22.7%	23.0%	22.3%	20.5%	19.6%	
West Virginia	16.6%	17.9%	16.5%	16.5%	18.1%	21.6%	23.1%	21.5%	20.6%	21.4%	22.4%	21.4%	21.8%	18.6%	19.2%	
Wisconsin	36.8%	23.7%	29.7%	31.2%	32.1%	33.1%	35.5%	27.9%	25.8%	27.6%	28.6%	30.4%	30.8%	27.4%	28.7%	
Wyoming	17.9%	19.6%	17.1%	13.9%	21.9%	29.0%	26.6%	23.7%	20.3%	19.8%	19.1%	18.3%	20.9%	16.2%	14.6%	
Total	20.1%	21.8%	22.4%	23.3%	24.5%	27.4%	27.7%	25.1%	23.5%	24.1%	25.1%	25.8%	25.4%	23.9%	23.8%	

increasing college participation rates for students from low income families among states with historically low rates, and declining low income college participation rates in states with historically high rates.

This appears to be a case of convergence. So we tested this perception with our data using the coefficient of variation (CV) over a period of 15 years. This is a normalized measure of dispersion of a probability distribution. It is the ratio of the standard deviation of a set of data divided by its mean.

Over the fifteen year period from 1993 through 2007 we calculated the following coefficients of variation for the 51 low income college participation rates for each state. The results were:

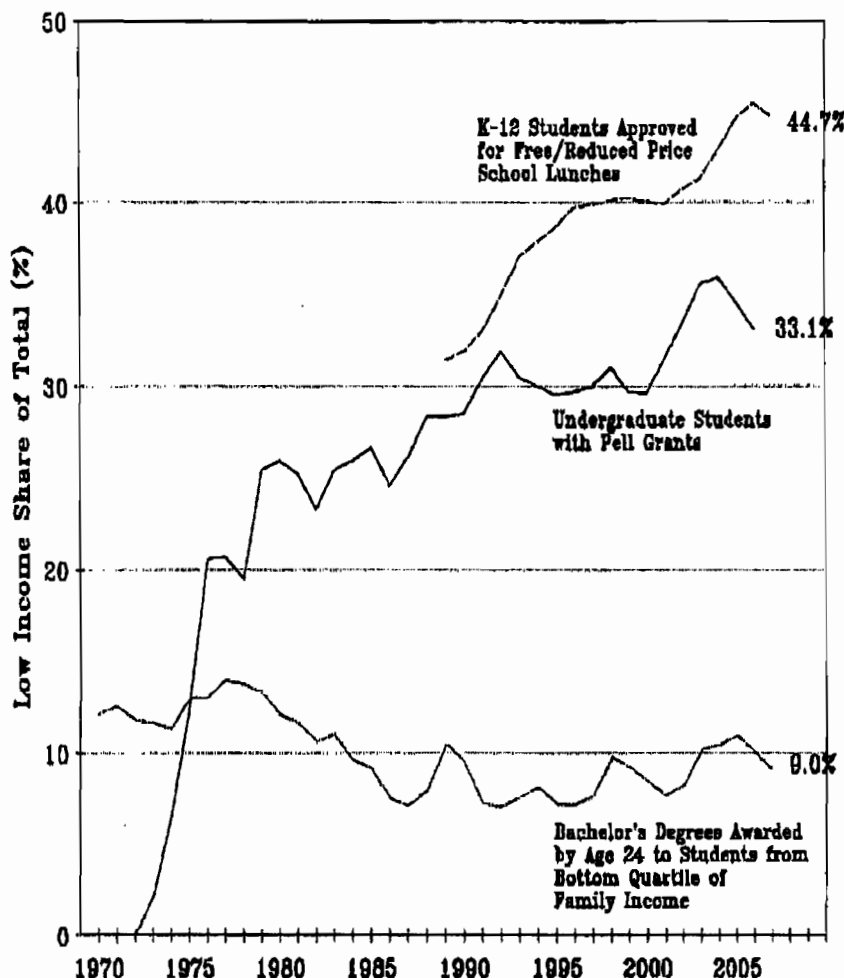
Fiscal Year	Simple Mean	SD	CV
1993	20.2%	7.6%	37.4
1994	22.0%	8.7%	39.7
1995	22.2%	8.4%	37.9
1996	23.7%	11.8%	49.7
1997	25.4%	10.6%	41.9
1998	28.8%	9.9%	34.4
1999	30.1%	10.5%	35.0
2000	26.4%	9.2%	34.9
2001	24.4%	7.8%	31.9
2002	24.7%	7.1%	28.6
2003	25.7%	7.3%	28.4
2004	26.4%	7.1%	27.0
2005	26.1%	6.8%	26.1
2006	23.9%	6.1%	25.5
2007	23.7%	6.6%	27.8

These data indicate that the state mean data diverged between 1993 and 1996, and have quite substantially converged between 1996 and 2007. The low income college participation rate appears to be less influenced by variations between states, and more influenced by common conditions across states since 1996.

Summary

Students from low income families

Low Income Student Shares of Totals 1970 to 2007



represent 44.7 percent of K-12 student enrollment, up from about 31 percent in 1989. Students from low income families represent 33.1 percent of undergraduate college enrollments, up from about 20 percent in the late 1970s. By these measures students from low income families represent large and growing shares of the future adult populations of parents, workers, taxpayers, citizens and voters.

However, college participation rates for students from low income families have been in general decline since the late 1990s and are just over half the

rate of students from affluent families. The share of bachelor's degrees awarded by age 24 to students from low income families stood at 9.0 percent in 2007, down from about 14 percent in the late 1970s.

Students from low income families reach college at far higher rates in some states than they do in others. But in every state the low income college participation rates are well below those of all 19 year olds. We know they are here. We know how many and where. We know they are not leaving. We cannot ignore them.

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:26 PM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: from Haines

More testimony

From: Robin Grace [mailto:robingrace@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 11:11 AM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker
Subject: from Haines

Dear Mr. Hawker,

I am emailing you at this time because I am very concerned about the many and complex mental health needs in our community. We have so few resources with so much need. We operate on a small budget – it is hard enough to attract strong Clinicians to our community – we currently have a wait list because we cannot afford to hire the staff we need here and in Skagway. I am writing to ask you to support increase, not cut backs in funding.

- Here are the facts: This funding supports grants to community behavioral health services providers **to maintain existing mental health and substance abuse treatment services for Alaskans without resources.**
- Without the increment, people with mental illness or substance abuse problems returning from out-of-state placements or prison, or veterans returning from service overseas suffering from mental or addiction disorders are at risk for not being served because the waiting lists in community-based centers are too long. They are too long because they are under-funded and cannot serve all the people needing services.
- As with any other industry, inflation affects the cost of providing behavioral health services. While the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development reports low overall inflation for 2007, growing inflation in crucial sectors such as energy and health insurance puts pressure on providers to maintain existing services. This recommendation for additions to the base budget will minimize the impact of inflation on costs of providing services.
- We support the Governor's FY10 request for community behavioral health services grants: \$1.75 million (GF/MH) for mental health, \$1.75 million (GF/MH) for substance abuse.
- The most recent prevalence data shows that 56,479 Alaskans require behavioral health services, including 21,754 adults experiencing serious mental illness (SMI), 12,725 children experiencing serious emotional disturbance (SED) and 22,000 Alaskans dependent on alcohol.
- The FY2008 unduplicated count (clients served by community providers) totaled 22,882 = 7,347 (SMI) (34%); 6,197 (SED) (49%); 7,071(non-SMI); 2,267 (non-SED).
- In 2006, 7,914 clients received substance abuse treatment from community providers (36% of the estimated total of people dependent on alcohol).
- Most Sincerely, Robin Grace LCW, Program Director Lynn Canal Counseling Services

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:28 PM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: Funding for Mental Health Center services

More testimony

From: lobaugh@gci.net [mailto:lobaugh@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 10:35 AM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Representative_Allen_Austerman@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Les Gara; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Cc: Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bill Stoltze; "Representative_ Beth_ Kerttula"@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Funding for Mental Health Center services

Our 43 year old son has been receiving services from the Juneau Mental Health Center (JAMHI) for over 20 years and Medicaid Waiver services from Hope for 10 years. Previously, he spent over three years in API during the late 80's. However since he has been receiving Mental Health and Medicaid Waiver services he has been able to live independently and work in our community. He continues to do very well because of this support and ***has not needed readmission to a hospital or institution in over 20 years because of these excellent services.***

Please reinstate the needed funds to the Governor's FY10 request for community behavioral health services grants: \$1.75 million (GF/MH) for mental health, \$1.75 million (GF/MH) for substance abuse.

*Also, we urge you to increase the funding for Medicaid waiver providers by **supporting this bill - CSSB 32(HSS)***

**Cliff and Sharron Lobaugh
3340 Fritz Cove,
Juneau, AK 99801**

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:27 PM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: Community Behavioral Health Services Grants

More testimony

From: Maryalice Larson [mailto:MLarson@matsuhealthservices.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 10:52 AM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Representative_Allen_Austerman@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Reggie Joule; Representative_Mike_; Represenative_Harry_Crawford@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Les Gara
Cc: Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: Community Behavioral Health Services Grants

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Mat-Su Health Services I am respectfully requesting the restoration of funding for mental health services and substance abuse grants as submitted by the Governor in her budget. The full increment will not expand services, but will maintain our existing services.

I know that you are aware of the valuable services we provide in your communities. Without these treatment programs the cost of mental illness and substance abuse will just be transferred and indeed increased to other agencies in communities.

While we are not-for-profit organizations we operate as businesses to ensure sustainability. I do not know of many small businesses that could stay open without increased revenues to meet the increased costs for over 16 years. We have actually experienced decreases in State grants during that time.

Mat-Su Health Services is one of the largest centers in the state serving over 500 people with nearly 2,500 service encounters each month. In the past 10 years we have only been able to provide salary increases for the majority of our staff during one fiscal year. We have cut all but our core services and monitor our expenses very carefully. I am aware that there are some community behavioral health centers that are cutting programs and some are on the verge of closing.

Please help us to maintain our core services of emergency, outpatient, and rehabilitation services for our seriously and chronically mentally ill clients.

Maryalice Larson, CEO

Mat-Su Health Services

1363 West Spruce Ave Wasilla, AK 99654

907-376-2411

mlarson@matsuhealth.org

www.matsuhealthservices.org

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:26 PM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: from Haines

More testimony

From: Robin Grace [mailto:robingrace@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 11:11 AM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker
Subject: from Haines

Dear Mr. Hawker,

I am emailing you at this time because I am very concerned about the many and complex mental health needs in our community. We have so few resources with so much need. We operate on a small budget – it is hard enough to attract strong Clinicians to our community – we currently have a wait list because we cannot afford to hire the staff we need here and in Skagway. I am writing to ask you to support increase, not cut backs in funding.

- Here are the facts: This funding supports grants to community behavioral health services providers **to maintain existing mental health and substance abuse treatment services for Alaskans without resources.**
- Without the increment, people with mental illness or substance abuse problems returning from out-of-state placements or prison, or veterans returning from service overseas suffering from mental or addiction disorders are at risk for not being served because the waiting lists in community-based centers are too long. They are too long because they are under-funded and cannot serve all the people needing services.
- As with any other industry, inflation affects the cost of providing behavioral health services. While the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development reports low overall inflation for 2007, growing inflation in crucial sectors such as energy and health insurance puts pressure on providers to maintain existing services. This recommendation for additions to the base budget will minimize the impact of inflation on costs of providing services.
- We support the Governor's FY10 request for community behavioral health services grants: \$1.75 million (GF/MH) for mental health, \$1.75 million (GF/MH) for substance abuse.
- The most recent prevalence data shows that 56,479 Alaskans require behavioral health services, including 21,754 adults experiencing serious mental illness (SMI), 12,725 children experiencing serious emotional disturbance (SED) and 22,000 Alaskans dependent on alcohol.
- The FY2008 unduplicated count (clients served by community providers) totaled 22,882 = 7,347 (SMI) (34%); 6,197 (SED) (49%); 7,071(non-SMI); 2,267 (non-SED).
- In 2006, 7,914 clients received substance abuse treatment from community providers (36% of the estimated total of people dependent on alcohol).
- Most Sincerely, Robin Grace LCW, Program Director Lynn Canal Counseling Services

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:29 PM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: Please support the UA K-12 budget, From Alaska FFA

More testimony

From: Jeffrey Werner [mailto:jeff.werner.ak@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 10:05 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Woodie Salmon
Subject: Please support the UA K-12 budget, From Alaska FFA

I encourage you to support full funding of the University of Alaska's budget request for the K-12.

As the State Director of the Alaska Association of the FFA, Along with the State Officers, we represent the students and educators of agriculture, natural resources, marine technology, and environmental science. The FFA can only exist within a systematic curricula of K-12 education as it is an activity within the classroom as per Federal Law. We have accomplished our objectives for the past 20 years without much support, however, with the assistance of the University of Alaska we can better serve the State of Alaska educational system, grow the FFA and other programs such as SkillsUSA and increase support and better serve our local communities.

We have been, and believe that we will always be, an integral part of Alaska's current and future economy dedicated to ensuring the food, fiber and natural resources to feed, fuel and finance Alaska. Your support for this item is great appreciated. Your investment in this K-12 request is an investment in the future of Alaska.

The FFA is an integral part of agricultural, natural resources, marine technology, and environmental science education nationwide. Although some think FFA is a club..it is not. It is a part of education, and supposed to be taught in the classroom. FFA is the leadership component as recognized by the US Department of Education, US Department of Agriculture, and the agricultural industry of these United States. The more than 300 students, and FFA Alumni members statewide are in full support of the University budget item and request your support.

There are agricultural, natural resources, marine science and technology programs that will greatly benefit from this activity in the following communities. Anchorage, Fairbanks, Palmer, Delta Junction, Homer, Kodiak, North Pole, Galena, Nome, Soldotna, Seward, Barrow, Kenny Lake, Wasilla. The entire state will benefit though a stable economy in the future.

--

Thank you for your support of the UA Budget.
Respectfully,

Jeff Werner
Alaska FFA State Director
Fairbanks
jeff.werner.ak@gmail.com

Rachel Kenley
Alaska FFA State President
Palmer High School
r_kenley@alaskaffa.org

**Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc.**

*Quality Community-Based Mental Health Services
Since 1985*

March 2, 2009

Representative Mike Hawker and
Representative Bill Stoltz, Co-Chairs
House Finance Committee and
Committee Members

Dear Representatives Hawker and Stoltz:

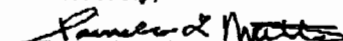
As the House Finance Committee evaluates the proposed budget in the area of **Community Behavioral Health Services grants**, it is important to note the impacts of any reductions to the Governor's FY10 request for \$1.75 million (GF/MH) for mental health, and \$1.75 GF/MH for substance abuse. These increments to the budget will minimize the impact of significantly increased costs of providing services. The increased costs have been absorbed by programs for some time and have in many cases, resulted in services reductions in critical areas of need.

At Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc. (JAMHI), the local community mental health center, our staff reductions in recent years include reducing the number of case managers to support severely mentally ill persons living in the community, and we reduced the number of clinicians in our Adult Outpatient Clinic over a year ago, from 4 to 3, resulting in longer waiting periods for persons needing access to services and less ability to provide ongoing clinical support to people. Unless the need is urgent, people seeking appointments now wait approximately 2 months for an initial appointment. This includes people with severe depression, schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, and other serious mental illnesses that could be treated through psychiatric and clinical management.

JAMHI provides emergency mental health assessments for persons who may be suicidal, homicidal, or actively psychotic and who may meet statutory criteria for commitment to a psychiatric facility. The same counselors who provide outpatient clinical assessments and follow-up care, also conduct these often very time-consuming on-call emergency mental health assessments at the hospital, in between working in the Outpatient Clinic. These competing responsibilities limit the total number of individuals who can be treated in the Clinic by staff, so any reduction in the number of staff clearly reduces access to services. Recent increases in Medicaid rates might allow programs to fill some needed positions that are currently vacant due to increased operating costs, however, if base funding is inadequate many will be unable to do so.

Unserved or underserved mentally ill and/or chemically dependent youth and adults will enter "the system" somewhere, whether it is for treatment services, hospital care, courts and corrections, or homeless shelters. It all costs money. The most cost-effective means of helping these high-risk populations is through the treatment door. Please fully fund the recommended increments to the Community Behavioral Health Services grants. Thank you for your hard work and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,


Pamela L. Watts
Administrator

3406 Glader Hwy
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Tel. (907) 463-3303
Fax: (907) 463-6858
pam@jamhi.org



Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • 825 "L" Street • <http://www.muni.org>

Health and Human Services Commission



*Matt Claman,
Acting Mayor*

March 4, 2009

Mike Hawker, Representative
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Bill Stoltze, Representative
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 515
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hawker and Representative Stoltze,

The Municipality of Anchorage Health and Human Services Commission supports the inclusion of \$923,100 for Reversing Alaska's Childhood Obesity Trend: A Comprehensive Initiative. The primary mission of the Health and Human Services Commission is to ensure the health and well-being of the Anchorage community. In fulfilling that mission we are frequently confronted with the seemingly intractable effects of obesity in our community.

Obesity is a complex health problem that has reached epidemic proportions in Alaska and the nation. The Mayor's Taskforce on Obesity and Health and the resulting 10 Year Plan to combat obesity in the Municipality of Anchorage was developed through a cooperative effort between the Municipality, local businesses, insurance providers, health care providers, and the Anchorage School District. State funding for the initiative to reverse the childhood obesity trend will benefit Anchorage. Through the support of our Obesity Coalition, the state program will help provide the technical assistance and tools needed to implement our 10 Year Plan, by providing continued data collection and analysis of Anchorage School District height and weight data to track Obesity in our schools, and provide training for school district staff on health and physical activity education standards and evidence-based curricula.

School-based intervention programs that prevent even a small number of students from being overweight amount to costs averted through reduced medical costs, increased quality of life, and increased productivity. The Comprehensive Initiative and the Obesity Prevention and Control Program are crucial to Anchorage's efforts to reduce the toll of obesity on our children.

Sincerely,

Brian Saylor, PhD MPH, Chair
Anchorage Health and Human Services Commission

Cc.

Representative Bill Thomas
Representative Alan Austerman
Representative Anna Fairclough
Representative Richard Foster
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Mike Kelly

Representative Harry Crawford
Representative Les Gara
Representative Woodie Salmon
Representative Mike Chenault
Matt Claman, Acting Mayor Municipality of Anchorage
Diane Ingle, Director Department of Health and
Human Services Municipality of Anchorage

Community, Security, Prosperity

Public Testimony on HB81

Sheri Brechan [sbrechan@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 12:08 PM**To:** LIO Fairbanks

Dear Representative Mike Kelly,

I have been educated regarding the recent actions in our government which has drastically decreased Governor Palin's budget for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. \$500,000 was going to be allocated toward increased statewide collaboration and prevention and \$1.2 million was to be allocated to 20 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs around the state. According to the information I received, in the final days of the Public Safety close out in the House - \$1.4million of the \$1.7million was removed. This funding that was slated to go to the 20 domestic violence programs throughout the state is imperative. In the Northern Region, a vast area of the State of Alaska, only two agencies provide these kinds of domestic violence services. These agencies are a critical piece of keeping victims safe and increasing accountability for perpetrators of domestic violence.

As a probation officer, I rely on these programs to assist the families I work with and to make sure victims and the perpetrators are receiving services that will truly help them. Interior Alaska Center for Non Violent Living (IAC) and LEAP collaborate on a daily basis with community agencies to make sure that we are all working together to meet the needs of this population. One of the few things IAC has collaborated on was providing trained volunteers to accompany law enforcement officers and probation officers for community outreach during the Alaska Federation of Natives conference. Collaborations like these over the years have been a huge success.

IAC created a domestic violence task force years ago involving and educating many community agencies. This task force which also includes the military, law enforcement, the District Attorney's office, juvenile and adult probation, and corrections, is still ongoing and proactive due to IAC and their continued support.

As a community member and professional who depends on these services, I would appreciate your support in the replacement of the \$1.4 million that has been removed from this budget.

Sincerely,
Sheri Brechan

SALVATION ARMY CLITHEROE CENTER

Administration
1709 S. Bragaw Suite B
Anchorage, AK 99509
Phone (907) 276-2898
Fax (907) 279-8526

Residential
P.O. Box 190567
Anchorage, AK 99519
Phone (907) 743-8701
Fax (907) 743-8780

Reflections
P.O. Box 190567
Anchorage, AK 99519
Phone (907) 743-8701
Fax (907) 743-8780

Outpatient
1709 S. Bragaw Suite B
Anchorage, AK 99509
Phone (907) 276-2898
Fax (907) 770-8880

Dual Diagnosis
P.O. Box 190567
Anchorage, AK 99519
Phone (907) 743-8728
Fax (907) 248-7473

Records
P.O. Box 190567
Anchorage, AK 99519
Phone (907) 743-8722
Fax (907) 342-1455

CONFIDENTIAL FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DIRECTED TO: Representative Hawker **DATE:** 3/4/09

AGENCY: _____ **FAX NUMBER:** 907-465-6813

FROM: SACC Brie **NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING FACE SHEET:** _____

AGENCY: SACC **FAX NUMBER:** 743-8780

MESSAGE: Enclosed are letters from
clients that receive substance abuse
treatment + recommendations to
maintain the governor's recommendation
of 3.5 million for SA and MH treatment
1.75 for SA + 1.75 MH - Thank you Brie David
Chief Director 743-8706

PROHIBITION ON REDISCLOSURE: THIS NOTICE ACCOMPANIES A DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING A CLIENT IN ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT, MADE TO YOU WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CLIENT. THIS RECORD HAS BEEN DISCLOSED TO YOU FROM RECORDS PROTECTED BY FEDERAL CONFIDENTIALITY RULES 42 CFR PART 2. THE FEDERAL RULE PROHIBIT YOU FROM MAKING ANY FURTHER DISCLOSURE OF THIS INFORMATION UNLESS FURTHER DISCLOSURE IS EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY 42 CFR PART 2. A GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE RELEASE OF MEDICAL OR OTHER INFORMATION IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE FEDERAL RULES RESTRICT ANY USE OF THE INFORMATION TO CRIMINALLY INVESTIGATE OR PROSECUTE ANY ALCOHOL OR DRUG PATIENT.

WARNING: THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE IS LEGALLY PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY NAMED ABOVE. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIANT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY REPRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, OR COPY OF THIS FACSIMILE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU RECEIVED THE FACSIMILE IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE IN THE MAIL. THANK YOU.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
Committee name
Committee on Community Behavioral Health Services Grant dated 3.4.09
Bill/Subject

I would like to advocate for increased level of funding for the mental health + substance abuse treatment services. These services provide education for those citizens with addictions, mental health issues or co-occurring disorders + help them learn to be productive members of society

Signed: JR L. Jorgensen
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1614 Tamara Cr Anchorage AK 99508
Address

(907) 245 6285
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee

Committee name

Committee on Community Behavioral Health Services dated 3-4-09

Bill/Subject

I would Recommend that the full amount ~~of~~ of the current Level for funding be restored to Mental Health and Substance Use Treatments. I myself am currently engaged in Co-Occuring Treatment Processes which is Inpatient Treatment. If it weren't for this chance to engage in treatment for my mental health and my Substance use I would be out in the community Drinking and Drugging, and not moving any closer to A healthy way of thinking and a Sober life style. I Hope to gain Knowledge here to be able to reenter the community and be able to be a podutive part of my society

Signed:

Lisa Smith

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee

Committee name

Committee on Community Behavioral Health Services, dated

3.4.09

Bill/Subject

My name is Juanita and I have been in treatment for 2 months. If it were not for this treatment I would probably be dead by now.

My mental illness has kept me from living a normal life for over 30 years. Now I feel that I am getting the medication and information that will help me to live a more productive life. I am grateful for this chance that I am getting now.

Signed:

Juanita C. Owens

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee

Committee name

Committee on

Community Behavioral Health

Bill/Subject

dated

3-4-09

Session

I would recommend the the Finance Committee continue to fund both Substance Abuse treatment ; substance abuse and mental health services. I have been working with youth and families who suffer from substance abuse and mental health issues. Treatment has been a very important life line for people in Alaska. If we do not help people get free of substances and seek mental health treatment we stand to lose many lives and witness continued tragedy for people caught in these circumstances. I have seen many people take back control of their lives with the help of caring treatment providers. Please don't turn your back on the folks who need your help. I recommend that we increase the current level of funding for these services.

Signed:

Testifier

Ann Bartley, Ph.D. Psychologist

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee

Committee name

Committee on

Community Behavior Health Services

Bill/Subject

dated 3/4/09

Grant

TO THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE,

I AM WRITING TO ASK YOU TO PLEASE
NOT CUT THE FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
SERVICES. I AM CURRENTLY IN TREATMENT
FOR CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS (MENTAL
ILLNESS & DRUG ADDICTION) & THESE SERVICES
ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT TO ME & SOCIETY
IN GENERAL. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS
REQUEST & HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO ME
& A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION.
THANK YOU.

Signed:

BRYCE EDGEMOEN

Testifier

ANONYMOUS

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
Committee name

Committee on Community Behavioral Health Services dated 3-4-09
Bill/Subject

I am writing to let you know
I am in a treatment center. It
has helped me a lot I learned about relapse
how to help myself. I have schiz - effective
I have a mental I please keep the funding
coming it helps me with my mental
illness. My illness can be bothersome. I am
learning new ways to help myself. please
help me to stay in my program and keep
the funding to help me and others like
me.

Signed: Lotu Kaveolok
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
Committee name

Committee on Community Behavioral Health Services dated 3/4/09
Bill/Subject

I came to This treatment center from ~~Correctional Facility~~
Before I came to This treatment I really did not
understand my Disability of mental illness and co-occur
Disorders. I now have a better chance of Staying
Sober after being educated about my co-occurring
Disorders and Drug addiction.

I have gotten One on one counseling that has helped
me with my PTSD, and Thinking Errors to help me
Change my Thinking. I'm Graduating on 3/5/09
And I feel like I have a better chance after going
Through this Treatment Center of Success in Recovery
where before I just lived Homeless in my addiction.

Signed:

Lorena Hartman
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
Committee name

Committee on Community Health Services Dept. dated 3/4/09
Bill/Subject

I am a client at Salvation Army Clithero Center. I have been in the Correctional System for ten years. This is the first opportunity I have had to address my Alcohol Abuse in an in-depth manner. This center not only addresses my addiction, but how it has effected my community, my employment, my family and friends. This inpatient facility allows me to live in a controlled environment, with counselors and staff knowledgeable in the field of addiction. In just the last three weeks here I feel my life can be manageable and recovery is an achievable option. Not only here at Clithero, but in a functional life in the community and my home state, Alaska.

Signed:

Carrie Mayer

Testifier

Clithero Salvation Army Sponsored

Representing (Optional)

10260 Jamestown Dr. Anchorage Alaska 99507

Address

907-279-0333

Phone number

Cont...

Without this inpatient facility I believe I would not have been able to receive the power of healing on a day to day basis. It teaches ~~me~~ one to rely on ones self, and give back to the community in general. Clithero makes sure its clients give solid support after they are released from the program, making sure we understand that sobriety and recovery is a lifetime goal. It involves family members and sponsors from non-profit organizations like NA and AA.

I truly believe that state funding is absolutely necessary in these type of facilities. For they will lower the cost of Department of Corrections and turn around the lives that are caught in that system, and change the lives of so many people here in the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,
Cassie Meyer



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee

Committee name

Committee on

Community, Behavioral, health Services

Bill/Subject

grant dated

3-04-09

This place is helping with my recovery. I think that the funding is real important because there are some of us that can't pay for services and without treatment there would be a lot of more problems in are ~~community~~ community. There are a lot of crime do to addicts who don't seek treatment for there diseases. Funding help people know that there not alone and there is help for them so that we can succeed in are diseases. I very thankful for funding and it has help me get ~~through~~ through my treatment without having that burden on my mind on how much it going to cost.

Signed:

Synisha Merriams

Testifier

Synisha Merriams

Representing (Optional)

1208 Wilshire #3 Anchorage, AK 99503

Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
Committee name

Committee on Community Behavioral Health Service grant, dated 3/04/09
Bill/Subject

I feel that funding for substance abuse treatment is really needed in the State of Alaska, I am a 24yr old Female and have been a drug addict for over 10 years, unfortunately I have no means or money for my treatment I have 2 lil girls who need me and since I've been in Residential treatment my life is taking a drastic turn I am learning better ways to deal w/ my Anger and my sadness through Strategies that they teach me, I feel it is better for me getting help while I want it than being out in the Community smoke Dope and Robbin Folks, and continuing criminal acts treatment is necessary for me because all I've ever known is Drugs and the Streets I am 100% for my Recovery but if the funding is dropped I feel I would have less chance of surviving out there sober because I have no funds for the treatment at this time. I am working on my Recovery and have been clean 90 days thanks to programs available my Recovery is important to me please help

Signed: _____

Testifier

Nicole McCourt

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 190567 Anchorage, AK 99519

Address

(907) 720 3273

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee

Committee name

Committee on Community Behavioral Health Service Grant, dated 3/4/09

Bill/Subject

I think that Drug abuse treatment is vital to any community. Alaska's problem on drugs has grown! I am a drug addict from Wasilla, there are limited resources out there! There are no inpatient, with exceptions to Neugens Ranch which is very hard to get into. There is no needle exchange or methadone clinic. In my opinion Drug abuse treatment is vital to our community. Affordable ones! A lot of people who abuse drugs do not have the money to go to treatment, or get the assessments! Outpatient ~~programs~~ runs about \$300 a week, that is more than a lot of people make! And you can get discharge from treatment for falling back on your payments. Currently I am at Clithero Center. I am very thankful for this facility! Like I said I am a drug addict and I need treatment! Outpatient counseling is another important thing for addicts. Most addicts have mental health problems, and counseling is expensive also, I am having a hard time finding affordable mental health counseling, which I will need when I leave here to help me with my sober life. I have met a lot of people in treatment who stay is a lot like mine, how will I pay for this now will I pay for that. Is all we want is to learn how to live clean and sober, and we need our State's help with that! The more money for programs to help addicts become productive members of society the better.

Signed:

Michael O'Brien

Testifier

Community

Representing (Optional)

3125 Snowgoose Wasilla, AK 99654

Address

748-1340

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee

Committee name

Committee on

Community Behavioral Health Service dated 3/4/09

Bill/Subject

Grant

To Whom it may Concern,

I am a registered nurse and a heroin addict. I lost my job last year and needed inpatient treatment for my disease of addiction. Since I was financially unable to go to an outside treatment facility I found the Salvation Army Clitheroe Center, who is willing to give me the help I need, without giving them money upfront. When I am successful in my completion of treatment and continued recovery I will be able to be a valuable contributing member of society. The Clitheroe Center has been valuable in facilitating my recovery, but it has been obvious that they are struggling financially and any budget cuts could take away from the effectiveness of this valued service. I feel this service is necessary for our community because of the amount of people in prison for drug related crimes that don't get treatment and then go back out and re-offend, when treatment can help cut down on re-offenders significantly. None of the ladies here at Clitheroe could have been here without Government funding.

Signed:

Testifier

[Signature] (Urshata Cockerstaff)

Representing (Optional)

5528 E. Edgerton-Parks, Palmer, AK 99645

Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee

Committee name

Committee on

Community Behavioral Health Care Grant

dated March 4, 2009

Bill/Subject

I have worked in the substance abuse field for approximately 8 1/2 years, while it can be a difficult job, the rewards are at times amazing. I work with women, all ages and ethnicities who have found themselves caught up in the vicious cycle that addiction can create. Many have lost and/or many lose their children. Many have suffered years of abuse, either from parents, other family members, perpetrators of various types. Many have been victimized to the point where they know no other way out than to keep repeating the "same ol' pattern". Coming into treatment exposes them to choices, education, healing, opportunity and above all hope that life can be different. It may take some of the women I've worked with more than one or two times through treatment to fully understand what they need to do to change their lives - it may take one time. Some succeed, some fail repeatedly but keep working at it, and some die trying, a few give up. I am privileged & honored to actually see some of the change occur. I am no longer surprised to see the same faces return but I am touched that they keep trying. We are frequently understaffed and under resourced but I don't know any other work I'd rather be doing. But, I couldn't do it without your ongoing support and efforts. Thank you for your ear & consideration.

Signed:

Victoria M Nelson MDW CCH

Testifier

Salvation Army Clithero Center

Representing (Optional)

Anchorage AK 99508

Reflections Unit - 1709 S. Bragaw, Ste B

Address

907-743-8701

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee

Committee name

Committee on

Community Health Behavioral Service Grants

Bill/Subject

dated 3/7/09

I am a client at Clitheroe Inpatient center, I can see these people are trying very hard to educate us on recovery & sobriety.

I have a long history of alcohol use, this program is helping me to become stronger person, by separating myself from old friends or even loved ones, it helps me to recover,

Recovery & sobriety means so much to me, I can't do it on my own.

I love America, the people here are very helpful, & also the clients here are very kind, they are all very understanding.

This program also will help me get my children back, I am a single parent of 5. I am the only parent they have.

I've made so many mistakes, & I'm here to fix my problem with help from Clitheroe staff. If you can please help fund the program because I care about my recovery. Thank you for your time to read my letter, & I hope you make a good choice about the funds. God Bless you all.

Signed:

Ernestine Washington

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

(907) 440-4526

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee
Committee name

Committee on Community Behavioral Health Service Grant, dated 3/4/09
Bill/Subject

I as a Client, been here at the Clitheroe Treatment Center. Since Feb. 19, of 2009. I am OCS refered and I have 90 days of Residetal and 24 weeks of outpatient. When I first came to Clitheroe, I was horabel. the first three days I was here. And I thought that I was going to be like that for a long period of time. But I wasn't. I got alot of Support from Staff + other Clients here. Which made me even more Comfortable to be here. And made me relize of what I really needed in life. + in the ~~future~~ future. What I want to get out of this treatment is Relaps Preven- tion, A better mother for my children, to have a happy life. Sober ~~life~~ life. Copping Skills. ~~and~~ And I am now looking forward to Complete my Inpatient treatment. And I really Appritiate all the Support ^{and needs} I have here at The Clitheroe Treatment Center.

Signed: Kristen K. King
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

227 W 11th Ave. Apt #5

Address

(907) 720 9256

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
Committee name

Committee on Community Behavioral Health Service Grant dated 3/04/2009
Bill/Subject

I am currently a residence @ the Anchorage Clithro Center, Substance abuse treatment center. I have struggled with substance abuse throughout my life affecting many in a very negative way. I am fighting my disease by learning once again not only how to deal with my disease but how to live a clean and sober healthy lifestyle. I do have a disease. I could of never got better without the support and knowledge I have gained while attending treatment. I know by cutting budgets and closing doors on substance abuse things will only get worse. Why, why make things worse and hurt our future? I feel the more positive changes we make now in our community and across the world the better our future. I feel treatment has not only saved my life but has educated me how to live clean, sober and healthy. I can now give away what I have gained. I could save many more, who knows. But, I could never give away what I do not learn. I know alcohol/substance abuse disease will only increase without treatment/education to offer which will then cost more. It would of cost me my life... How many lives much we loose before we act?

Signed: Rushia Moser
Testifier

Clithro Center Anch, AK
Representing (Optional)

HC33 Box 3027 Wasilla, AK 99654
Address

(907) 932-1568 c (907) 376-0549 moser
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee
Committee name

Committee on FUNDING / COMMUNITY BEHAVIOURAL dated 3/4/09
Bill/Subject HEALTH SERVICE GRANT

THIS PLACE IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE ITS A PROGRAM THATS HELPING ME TO RECOVER AND WORK ON ME. IF THE FUNDINGS GET CUT THIS PROGRAM WOULD SOON BE CLOSED DOWN AND THOSE THAT ARE SEEKING HELP WOULD HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE AND MIGHT EVEN HAVE TO CONSIDER GOING OUT OF STATE, WHICH WOULD CAUSE CIVILIANS TO BE FURTHER AWAY FROM THEIR LOVED ONES! THIS PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE BEST COMPARED TO OTHERS I'VE SEEN AND HEARD ABOUT. CUTTING FUNDS WOULD BE A LOT HARDER FOR ME TO ACHIEVE MY GOALS IN TREATMENT, BECAUSE IT WOULD MEAN THAT WE WOULD HAVE VERY LIMITED EDUCATION AND NOT MANY OF US HAVE A LOT OF MONEY TO SEEK HELP ELSEWHERE. THIS IS A PLACE WHERE I FEEL I CAN WORK ON MYSELF AT MY OWN PACE AND WITH FUNDINGS BEING A CONCERN, IT WOULD MEAN THAT US AS INDIVIDUALS WILL NOT BE GETTING MUCH SUPPORT FROM SPONSORS, GETTING INFORMATION CONCERNING OUR HEALTHS, AND COMING UP WITH STRATEGIES ON HOW WE CAN SEE OUR SOCIETY WHEN WE RECONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY AGAIN. THIS PLACE HELPS ME TO FOCUS ON MY FUTURE, MY LIFE, MY HEALTH, MY ABILITIES, MY STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES, AND GETTING MY LIFE TOGETHER FOR THE SAKE OF MYSELF AND MY FAMILY. IF I WAS TO NEED THIS PLACE IN THE FUTURE HOW CAN I DEPEND ON THEM WHEN THE FUNDINGS ARE CUT? I WOULD HAVE TO SEEK HELP ELSEWHERE THAT PROBABLY WON'T DO A GOOD JOB!

Signed:

Testifier

LINDA VONGPRACHANH

Representing (Optional)

8400 E. NEW HOPE PALMER, AK 99645

Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee

Committee name

Committee on

Community Behavioral Health Service Grant

dated

3/4/09

Bill/Subject

To Whom it may Concern,

I have started working in the field of substance abuse only 6 months and already I have noticed a great need for more funding and support of the individuals in our community struggling with substance abuse and mental illness. Not only do I work in this area but my family has also been greatly impacted by substance abuse and mental illness. This is a vulnerable population and with what we now know about substance abuse we know that these individuals need all the help they can get, not only for themselves but also for the community. When you look around there is not anyone who has not been impacted, whether directly or indirectly by substance abuse and the ramifications of it. Whether we like it or not this is a community issue and it needs to be addressed. Treatment is a very important part in addressing this issue and to be honest we are not functioning at our full potential. We are understaffed and overworked with limited means to assist the caring and concerned people with know how and want nothing more but to help those in need. I understand money is tight for everyone but that is even more reason to give funding to this cause because the people struggling are the people who are not able to financially help themselves.

Signed:

Lacy Jensen - Lacy Jensen

Testifier

Clitheroe Center

Representing (Optional)

4140 N. Preston Ave, Wasilla AK 99654

Address

907/232-6816

Phone number

If we look at the bigger picture and at our community where our kids and family live, we want the safest environment possible. Think about how many crimes and violence are drug related. The women that come in to our program are different than when we see them on the streets. This is why we need to help them so they can help us by being a productive member of society. This funding is desperately needed in order to help both this vulnerable population and ~~and~~ our community. Please consider each of these individuals and their family and future families when considering how much to help them. Also like I said earlier my own loved ones have been affected by drugs and alcohol, and I can really see how they are struggling and deep in a hole they feel. This is a very important issue, one that needs to be taken seriously. Please help us (treatment facilities) do the best we can to help people get healthy. Thank you for your consideration !



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee

Committee name

Committee on

dated 3-4-09

Bill/Subject

I AM GARY BROWN AND I AM A ALCOHOLIC. I HAVE HAD 4 DWI' TWO WHICH WERE FELLOWSHIP'S IN THE PAST 3 YEARS. I WENT TO A OUTPATIENT PROGRAM IN WASILLA AK. I COMPLETED THE PROGRAM AND ALSO GRADUATED FROM AFTER CARE. I RELAPSED IN JAN 2008. I HEARD GREAT THINGS ABOUT CLITHERE IN HOUSE PROGRAM. I NEEDED THE SKILLS AND THE POWER IN MYSELF TO KEEP ME ALCOHOL FREE. CLITHERE TREATMENT IS GIVING ME THE LIGHT TO MAKE THIS ALL POSSIBLE FOR ME. I NEED THIS TREATMENT PLAN SO THAT I CAN MANAGE MY LIFE. I AM ON DISABILITY AND DISABLE, WHICH I FELT WAS THE ROOT OF ALOT OF MY PROBLEMS. CLITHERE IS SHOWING ME THE WAY. I NEED THIS PROGRAM PLEASE DONT CUT OUR FUNDING

Signed:

Gary M Brown
Testifier

THANK YOU

Representing (Optional)

14543 TERRACE LANE EAGLE RIVER AK 99527
Address

907-696-2850
Phone number

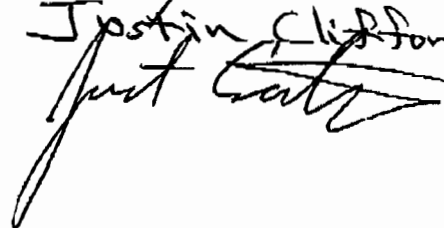
To who it may Concern:

~~#~~

My name is Justin Clifford Eaton and I am a 34 year old carpenter and Father of one boy 10 years old, one girl 7 years old and a 6 month unborn child, unfortunately I am also a alcoholic. I was born in Anchorage Alaska at Providence Hospital, I believe I was also born a alcoholic because my mother drank while she was pregnant with me she had very few options for Help or treatment back Then. My mother and father both died here in Alaska in separate car accidents involving alcohol when I was just two years old. I became an Award of The State of Alaska and lived with my Fathers sister in California. I returned after High school in 1993, I started to drink alcohol at age 15, I was a heavy drinker by 20 years old and have been drinking ever since. I have been to 4 different treatment center since I was 20 years old. Alcohol has ran my life and ruined it I could not stop drinking on my own. I have been a threat to myself my family and Society because of my addiction and have been in jail for several DUI convictions. I Am currently a active client with the Wellness Court here in Anchorage. I was Hopeless to my situation and my addiction the last time I was in jail.

I had give up all Hope of my Ability to Live Life on Life's termes I struggled everyday. I gave up ~~but~~ was given a chance to go to a inpatient Treatment Center with the Felony DUI Court. I entered treatment 2 month's ago here a Salvation Army Clithro Center Hopeless and Frustrated. I was give a Timeout on Life to focus on myself I started to see some light at the end of the tunnel I was traveling. Coming her has been the best chance and choice I made in my Adult Life. I now have Hope restored to my Life I see a future with my children and confidence that I can overcome my addiction and be a positive person to my family and society instead of a burden and menace. While here at SACC I have learned that it is more than just stoping drinking I have learned that I must change my life for positive outcomes. ~~I~~ This Timeout I have had here was and is so positive I have a whole new outlook on my Sobriety and Life. My whole Attitude and personality have changed. I now can start rebuilding my life with my family without the use of alcohol. I never really thought this possible before. I have this Treatment Center to thank for my new chance at Life. I've seen changes here at SACC that have had an effect on Staff and Clients because of

situation and we now are without
a morning Cook and only have 2
out of 6 showers working now. With
this place functioning properly I am
afraid that people like me won't get
everything they need to change their
lives. It takes a lot to run one of
these Treatment Centers so please look
at my voice on paper so you can understand
my life as a alcoholic and see
how important these places are for
hopeless drunks. Please understand that
for a chronic Alcoholic DuIer like me
this place has saved my life. They are
the only hope we have without the
it Jails or Death. I've been able to
break my Addictive Vicious Cycle here
and in my life and I hope you will
give others like me the same chance
at a new wonderful experience.
Thank You for Reading my Letter
GOD Bless

Sincerely
Justin Clifford Eaton


To whom it may concern, I started drinking at the age of 15 I believe. It started out as ~~as~~ just to have fun. My alcoholism progressed over the next few years, to ~~where~~ where when I drank on the weekends I would lose all control, I would drink more than I planned on drinking and I would start to do stupid things.

I got an felony assault charge as an juvenile. This happened in 1997. When I was drinking in 1999 a misconduct ~~and~~ involving weapons, Damage to Property, and Malicious destruction of property because someone owed me money and I thought why not take it out on something of theirs. I was drunk and not thinking clearly. In 2000 I was out drinking and driving around with some friends, and I got an robbery charge, an assault charge.

They dropped the assault charge and reduced my Robbery to an class B felony I did five years on that. I got out in 2002 for about 6 months. I got an agreement at the clubhouse center. I got kicked out for getting my first D.W.I.. I got violated and on my probation. In 2004 I went to the S.A.R.P. Program and got kicked out for racial remarks and sent back to prison, where I did the rest of my five years in jail.

In 2004 I also got an Domestic
Violence charge, and destruction of communication
equipment. That was before I went to S.D. & R.P.
program. I was drinking at the time as
well. When I got out from doing the last of
my five years I went to the Copper River
Native Association for an outpatient program.

I completed that program so I could get
my license back. I finally got it back and
I stayed sober for a while. I got complacent
with my recovery. I started going back to bars,
hanging out with old friends, being an designated
driver for friends, and finally I thought I
could control my drinking. It worked for a while,
but it progressed quickly. I got my second D.V. I.
in 2007. When I got out I got drunk driving
home to Gleneden, and got my felony D.V. I. -

I got 3 years with 1 suspended. Now
I'm here at the outpatient program for the
Culivie Center. I'm here because I want to be
here this time, not to get the words off my back,
or to get my license back. I'm tired of putting
my family through hell, not being there for my
son, because I want to drink and then go to
jail. I have caused a lot of pain, suffering,
and worry amongst the community and my family.

I have learned a lot of tools from this treatment center, that I didn't learn before because it wasn't open minded, and I didn't want to change. This treatment has taught me how to change my life and live one day at a time. I've had many friends die because of alcohol. One tried to quit a cold turkey and had heart failure. Another got stranded and froze to death.

Clithore has had to cut stuff back and we don't get hot breakfast any more because of budget cuts. I think you guys should put more money into treatment centers because the more help that is out there the more people would sober up. It would bring the crime rate down, the D.W.I. would drop eventually as well. My family and friends have seen a big change in me this time around.

My family and friends are really proud of me, and are willing to go to any lengths to help keep me sober. Clithore Thacker is of her important a sponsor is, and how having sober support will benefit our recovery. It would be nice to have hot breakfast again, and to keep the same kind of care they provide for us now. They also teach us when to stop and catch our relapse in time before we drink or go out and are again. Treatment centers are

really beneficial for us addicts and alcoholics. It's nice to have a place to go to for help when we need it, instead of going to jail or causing trouble ~~in the~~ ~~community~~ ~~and~~ ~~for~~ ~~our~~ ~~families~~.

They help us look at all aspects of our lives.

If no programs are not there when some one desperately needs it, it could cost them their lives, or the lives of others and maybe your priorities.

We all share the same roads and the same state. Someone who is chemically Dependant does not think clearly. I know I didn't.

These programs teach us to look at our thinking errors and how we can change them, to change our behaviors.

I think the more treatment centers we have and the quality of treatment would be beneficial for everyone who needs it and for the community as a whole.

Sincerely,
Dillon L. Matheson



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
Committee name

Committee on _____, dated _____
Bill/Subject

CLITHERO IN house is a good place
to learn to stay sober and get a way
from addiction, they change my way of
thinking and my life, give me a knowledge
to start a new life. They need a finance
help to keep up the good work
so I'm 100% to give them a finance support

Signed: Joseph Cheney
Testifier

Po. Box
Representing (Optional)

Po. Box 190567 Anch AK 99519
Address

907-764-1273 - 907-743-8701
Phone number

Salvation Army Clitheroe Center
Residential Services
1709 S. Bragaw St. Suite B
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

March 4, 2009

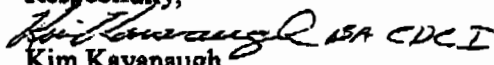
Chemical Dependency Treatment Funding
Alaska State Legislature, House Finance Committee

Dear Committee members,

I am writing in support of current levels, or increased levels, of funding for chemical dependency treatment. In my professional work, I see first hand the impact of substance abuse on individual Alaskans, their families, and the communities in which they live. I have witnessed the negative impact of untreated alcoholism and drug addiction. The problem is heart breaking and compounded by long wait lists for treatment space for individuals seeking treatment. We, in the field of chemical dependency treatment, have been task with assisting individuals with making profound changes in their lives, and we do this with an absolute bare minimum of funding, low pay scale and staff shortages. I have no complaint with these conditions. The critical decision rests with us as a community whether we are going to provide the opportunity for individuals with substances abuse and addiction to make the needed changes in their lives to take their rightful place as responsible, law bidding, productive members in their respective communities.

On a personal level, I can attest to the value of investing funding in chemical dependency treatment. I am in recovery from chemical dependency. Sixteen year ago I was a chronic fourth stage alcoholic and a burden to my family and the community. Although I was dying of alcoholism I was not able to help my self. I was frequently using the services of the Salvation Army, Clitheroe Center Detoxification unit to be medically supervised while withdrawing from alcohol. On one of these occasions I was approached by the staff and interviewed and encouraged to get help in the form of treatment. I was admitted to residential treatment with Salvation Army Clitheroe Center for several months. I started my recovery and have been in recovery for over sixteen years continuously. In the years since, I have been employed and have not needed the resources of the community i.e. police, jail, emergency services, food stamps the list could go on ad infinitum. Since my recovery, I have completed a BA degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage and have been an asset to the community. I am overwhelmed with the gratitude of being able to work as a chemical dependency counselor in the treatment center where I began my recovery sixteen years ago. I was as hopeless as any one individual could possibly be. I was an IV drug user and chronic alcoholic. I hope my personal information will not be viewed as any personal triumph on my part. The transformation in my life was a direct result of the availability of treatment at a crucial point in my life and all the people, altruistic and professional, who were in the right place at the right time with the right resources to help me. Please consider your decisions related to funding of chemical dependency carefully. It is my hope that my personal story will encourage all of the committee members to realize the value and imperative of fully funding chemical dependency treatment programs for those who have no money, no private health insurance, and no resources. Unfortunately, this condition describes most of my clients who are physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausted.

Respectfully,


Kim Kavanaugh
BA CDC I, Counselor II
The Salvation Army
Clitheroe Center Residential Services
(907) 743-8731

3-4-09

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brad Holl I am a substance abuse counselor at the Clitheroe Center in Anchorage. I have had first hand experience with the effects of alcohol and drug abuse in Alaska for the last 15 years. Being born and raised here I have seen the devastation that people with addictions have caused and I myself have been one of those people. I started drinking and using illegal drugs when I was about 15 years old and that lifestyle continued and worsened dramatically for nine years. During that time I was arrested, I lost a long term relationship with the woman I intended to marry, I was mostly an absent father who was only drunk or high when I was around my son and I did too many things that I am ashamed of to list here. All this is to say that I have seen and participated in the terrible lifestyle of addictions. When I finally did get sober I spent several years going to 12 step meetings and hearing the stories there of others who were caught up in the insane life of an addict or alcoholic. The amazing thing is that almost none of us wanted this lifestyle, most of us genuinely wanted to quit. We wanted to stop hurting our loved ones we wanted to stop hurting ourselves and we wanted to stop putting everyone else in the community in danger by drinking and driving. However we were unable to do that alone or on our own will power. We needed the help of others, people with addictions need the help of others to get sober and maintain sobriety.

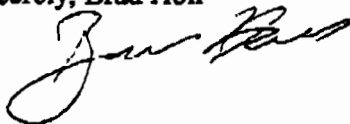
So once I got sober I decided to help others with addictions. I went and got a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and I am currently working on a Masters in Counseling Psychology at APU. I also found a job doing substance abuse counseling at a residential treatment facility where I work with some of the most extreme alcoholics and addicts in the state. Most of the men I work with have lengthy criminal histories tied to their substance abuse. They have ruined their lives multiple times by pushing away loved ones, friends, losing their material possessions, wrecking their health, wasting years in jail, filling their lives with guilt and shame over who they have become and what they have done and most of all missing out on a good life that they could be living. However many of these people want to change as well just like I did and they are willing to work to stop their addiction, they are willing to work to stop hurting their families and stop putting the community at risk they are willing but most are unable to do it alone. They need help.

This brings us to the ongoing problem here in Alaska. We have a major problem with alcohol and drug addiction in the people in our population. The problem with drugs and alcohol is tied to many of our other problems specifically physical and sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect of elders and children, violent crimes like robberies and assaults, DUI's and so on. But the problem is not just related to legal problems there is much to be said about the impact on lost work hours, hospital visits, federal and state money spent on counseling and the wasted potential of Alaska's talented people. And unfortunately the problem is getting worse; children are being raised in unhealthy households and turning out like their parents. This has created a cycle that is rotting Alaska out from the inside; at the families.

We need an intervention to stop this cycle. We need to stop just barely having enough substance abuse treatment to get by. At our center there is up to a six month waiting list to get in and that is because we can't afford to operate at a higher capacity. Other substance abuse companies are the same. They cannot afford to hire more staff to take on more clients. The effect of this is that we are leaving people out there who want to get sober and would work to do it but need help; our help. While we wait these people hurt or kill themselves their families, and even strangers. They hurt society more, they fill up our prisons, they waste their lives and wait for their turn to get treatment. I know that everyone wants money from the state for different projects and I respect how hard it must be to allocate where funding goes and how much to spend but I would like to propose strongly supporting and funding substance abuse treatment as a long term strategy for the State of Alaska. Imagine if we had to fund the prisons less in ten years or the office of children's services, or STAR or AWAIC because of a decrease in crimes, offenses, abuse and so on. Imagine the difference in revenue for the state with more productive employees and less worksite accidents. On the other hand imagine not doing these things and hearing in ten years that we are still at the top of the national rankings for substance abuse, suicide, rape and alcohol related deaths.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely, Brad Holl



To Whom it may Concern,

My name is James Spears I am a war vet of Iraq and a alcoholic. I have a fiance and five children a 6yr old son a 5yr old daughter a 3yr old daughter and two twin girls who are two. If it was not for this treatment center at Clithrope my children would not have a father, I have been in jail for Domestic Violence and a DUI. I was out of control on my way to a coffin. I would drink until I passed out or all of the alcohol was gone, sometimes for a week or more straight. I hurt myself my family and anyone else around me. I didn't care I was so deep in my sickness, My life was unmanagable, I hadn't worked in months or

acted like a father, I pushed my family away and isolated myself. Now with this treatment I'm happy, in recovery and I'm learning more everyday about living ~~sober~~ sober and personal responsibility. I have a excellent group of peers who support me a great counselor and a family who loves me to death. If it was not for this center I would not be writing this letter, it took me months before I got in here I would hate to see it done away with.

Please please think wisely about your decisions.

Clean and Sober,
James Spears



TO Whome it may Concern

I am writting you this letter in hopes it will have a impact on funding for treatment programs. I am a client at the Salvation Army Clitheroe Center. I am a alcoholic and I am here trying to learn how to cope with my illness. I have never ~~be~~ had any trouble in my life with the exception of alcohol. I have had two D.U.I.'s and it has caused a great strain on my family and community. Without programs like this where could people like myself go. Some people may say throw those guys in jail and keep them there. I think the cost of one year in prison for one person is \$44,000 that is alot of money. Without programs like this that could be the outcome for me and many others.

You cant even bring money into this when dealing with lives and familys that are destroyed by something like this. Money can never replace those things but treatment can prevent the loss of both. With the help and education provided in programs like this one people like myself can return to society a productive person. Please take this into consideration when you make your vote.

Thank you



To whom it may concern,

Well hello there this is Sheldon mckinney I have been a client here at The Salvation Army Clithroe Center for 23 days now. And let me tell you this much, I have learned so much about myself in this 23 day stay so far. Now if this treatment center wasn't available to me and thousands of other clients and soon to be clients. That would deffinetly be a tragedy. Not only for me but for my community, and family. Now let me tell you a little about myself. I am a 24 year old heroine addict. I started using heroine when I was 19 years old. So they say I have a disease, and that very well may be true. Now what happens when a person is diagnosed with cancer? You give them treatment right. It is kind of the same thing, a disease is a disease. Now I don't think it would be right for me and also the other people in the state to have treatment taken from them. so please keep this thing going. You may be looking at the statistics of treatment centers and I know it isn't very high. But let me tell you something, lets just say that 1 out of every 5 people get this thing called long term sobriety. So now you have 1 out of 5 people that get to pass it on to the new person. Now that can go pretty darn far I would think. So then you would have more working, honest, trustworthy people working in this community to make it an over all better place. So once again please pretty please keep this thing going for us. Now if I didn't have this place who knows where I would be right now. probably on the street robbing and steeling from people in our community. Either that or probably in jail. And you and I know that the jails are already crowded as it is. Instead I am here getting the help I need to be a productive member of society. And that is exactly what I am going to be once I leave here. Reguardless if you all take the monies that support treatment centers. Like this one I am at right now. so please keep in mind that if the monies for treatment centers are cut or deducted. That you are doing a lot of people great harm.

Sincerely, Sheldon R Mckinney

To whom it may concern,

On November 10th of 2008 I had hit the lowest point of my life. I was cold, homeless & had no money. I was desperate & needed help. I was hooked on drugs. I didn't know what to do or where to go or even if I would make it another day. I did know one thing though & that was I needed help. I called my parents in Michigan & I was in tears. My parents were devastated & also saddened to hear that their son was a drug addict.

My parents set up an assessment with the Salvation Army Clithro Center & I was admitted to inpatient treatment.

It's been here that I've learned how to live, so that is hasn't been necessary for me use any kind of drugs in my daily life. It has been here that I've learned a lot about myself because we addicts are very much alike.

I have learned from my counselors in this program of recovery that there is hope for me & that I can once again be a productive member of the society & make my parents proud.

Thank GOD there is a program to help people such as me.

The Salvation Army Clithro Center has given me a new meaning to life.

James Marovich

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jonathan Cole. I am here at Clitheroe on a treatment furlough from Wildwood Correctional Complex.

I was incarcerated for a DWI and two assaults against the people that were riding in the vehicle with me. I had been using dangerous drugs and alcohol. I was on a very destructive path. That made everyone that I came into contact with threatened for their safety.

In jail there was almost no services made available to me. I was struggling every day with the reality that I would face once I was released from jail.

With no support, my chances of recovery, and continued safety of the community and my family, would be precarious at best. If I were to begin using and drinking again, I would eventually reoffend. Go back through the court system. Then return to prison for yet another lengthy incarceration.

In the short term, is not providing abundant, or even limited resources, to treat the chemically dependant. It might seem that the savings is there.

However, in the long term, the consequences of not continuing to do all that is in your power to help prevent and treat those that so desperately need it, would be immeasurable and damaging to the economic and social structure of communities all over the state of Alaska. It would send shockwaves that reach all of its infrastructures. Effect all of its inhabitants.

The cost is just a drop in the bucket to the losses that would incur.

Jonathan Cole

Economic Distress and Intimate Partner Violence

NIJ has funded a number of studies that look at aspects of economic distress, unemployment, neighborhood characteristics and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) including studies that examine the relationship between:

- Employment instability and risk for IPV
- IPV and financial strain
- Repeat victimization and financial strain.
- Financial strain and abusive relationships
- IPV victimization and employment stability
- Economic Disadvantage, Neighborhoods and IPV

A recent study looked at data from the National Survey of Families and Households to examine whether employment instability and financial strain were related to the risk for IPV against women. The study also looked at the relationship between feelings of financial strain and the likelihood of IPV.

Employment instability increases the risk for IPV

The study showed that for couples where the male was always employed, the rate of IPV was **4.7 percent**. When men experienced one period of unemployment the rate rose to **7.5 percent** and when men experienced two or more periods of unemployment the rate for IPV rose to **12.3 percent**.

Intimate partner violence is more likely to occur when couples feel financial strain

The same study showed that there was a strong relationship between subjective feelings of financial strain and the likelihood of IPV.

- The rate of IPV for couples experiencing low levels of subjective financial strain was **2.7 percent**.
- The rate of IPV for couples experiencing high levels of subjective financial strain was **9.5 percent**.

Repeat victimization of women is more frequent in couples feeling financial strain.

- Women in couples with low levels of financial strain report **less than 2 percent** of repeat victimizations or being injured by their male partner, while
- **Just over 5 percent** of women in couples with high levels of subjective strain report repeat victimizations or being injured by their male partner

Financial strain may keep women in abusive relationships.

Women at greatest risk of IPV tend to be those in couples with few economic resources, high subjective stress about finances, higher unemployment and proximity to economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. The choice to stay or leave violent relationships may be based on the decision that a partner's economic contribution to the relationship outweighs the risk of violence, and may compel women to live with men's violent behavior rather than seek help or take other steps to leave violent relationships.

Women who are victimized by IPV may experience unstable employment as a result.

One study examined the impact of intimate partner violence (IPV) on labor force participation. The study interviewed 1311 women in Illinois once a year for three years and found that:

- Women experiencing recent IPV (but not long past intimate violence) experienced unstable employment over the three year period.
- Women who were victims of recent IPV worked fewer months compared to women who were not abused during that period or were abused only in the past.
- Women who reported that they had been abused by their partner at time one rated their health as poorer and their need for mental health services as greater a year later as compared to non abused women.
- Women with abusive partners reported more stress related concerns and emotional problems. Additionally they reported more headaches, ulcers, and back problems than did non-abused women.
- Chronic IPV is associated with poor health.
- **Most notably:** IPV contributes to stress related physical and mental health problems for as long as a year after the abuse has occurred. In turn these health problems decrease women's ability to hold stable employment even as long as two years after the abuse has occurred.

Economic Disadvantage, Neighborhoods and IPV

Researchers examined two types of economic distress — employment instability and subjective financial strain and concluded that both are strong risk factors for intimate violence against women. This study defined employment instability as the number of periods of unemployment for men between waves of the National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH). Subjective financial strain was defined as perceptions of financial inadequacy and was operationalized by combining responses to questions about satisfaction with finances and questions regarding worry about money.

- Violence against women in intimate relationships occurred more often and was more severe in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. According to a recent study the rate of IPV in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods is **8.7**

percent compared **with 4.3 percent** in more economically advantaged neighborhoods.

- Women living in disadvantaged neighborhoods were more than twice as likely to be the victims of intimate violence compared with women in more advantaged neighborhoods.
- Women who live in economically disadvantaged areas and while in relationships are struggling to make ends meet are at the greatest risk for IPV.
- African-Americans and whites with the same economic characteristics have similar rates of IPV however African-Americans have a higher overall rate of IPV due in part to higher levels of economic distress and residence in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- Women in disadvantaged neighborhoods were more likely to be victimized repeatedly or injured severely by their partners than women who lived in more advantaged neighborhoods (**6% vs. 2%** respectively).

The link between individual economic stress and community economic disadvantage raises the possibility that these two conditions may combine or interact in ways to influence the risk of IPV against women.

Research Cited:

Benson, M. L. & Fox, G. L. (2002). Economic Distress, Community Context and Intimate Violence: An application and Extension of Social Disorganization Theory. NCJ 193434

Benson, M. L. & Fox, G. L. (2004a). Concentrated Disadvantage, Economic Distress, and Violence Against Women in Intimate Relationships. In Violence Against Women and Family Violence: Developments in Research, Practice, and Policy, Bonnie Fisher (ed.) NCJ 193433.

Benson, M. L. & Fox, G. L. (2004a). When Violence Hits Home: How Economics and Neighborhood Play a Role, Research in Brief. NCJ 205004.

Glass, N., Laughon, K., Rutto, C., Bevacqua, J., & Campbell, J. C. (2008). Young Intimate Partner Femicide: An Exploratory Study. NCJ 222774.

Riger, S., & Staggs, S. (2004). The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Women's Labor Force Participation. NCJ 207143.

Salomon, A, Bassuk, E. Browne, A., Bassuk, S. S., Dawson, R., & Huntington, N. (2004) Secondary Data Analysis on the Etiology, Course and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence Against Extremely Poor Women. NCJ 199714.

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 6:30 AM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: Please HELP Mental Health

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

From: BACK2 BALANCE [mailto:b2b@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 4:52 PM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker
Subject: Please HELP Mental Health

Dear Representative Hawker,

My name is James Johnson Sr. and I am writing this letter on behalf of my son who was diagnosed 5 years ago with paranoid schizophrenia. He has been in and out of Jail over a dozen times during this time due mostly to his medications no longer being effective or his non-compliance due to the side effects inducing terrible psychotic episodes because of the demons(voices) in his head. He lives with us because he has no where to go besides living on the streets. IF there was a Mental Health Court in Juneau like there is in Anchorage he might someday be able to get out on his own? He would not be denied housing because of his misdemeanors due to his illness. He was also denied his PFD and employment because of this and it is not fair for he did not ask to get this sick. Mental Health Services (JAMHI) have tried many different medications and some times the older meds have not worked because he has to start on a low dose and bui ld up to a dose that might work for him. It has been a roller coaster ride trying to get him the right combination of meds so that he is not a danger to himself or others. It is so important that my son and other mentally ill people like him have access to All and any Mental Services that are already hurting for adequate funding. It could save a life (while saving money for the State Judicial system) and or the future hope of any severely mentally ill person. There was a time that I did not have that hope for my son and was very depressed with the system. His Mental Health Services have saved his life a dozen times. 3 weeks ago my son was given a new dose of Haldol that has been an answered prayer. It is the first time in a long time that we have laughed together and shared some beautiful moments. I treasure these times and will prepare for his future. One day at a time. I know that you all will make the right decision for my son and for society. Please Support FULL funding o f the Governor's request. Thank You.

Sincerely,

James A. Johnson Sr.
907-780-9955

ALASKA PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

A District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association

*P.O Box 231147 Anchorage, AK 99523-1147
(907) 566-7800 E-mail: akpsychassoc@gmail.com*

March 7, 2009

Dear Representative Mike Hawker,

I am the President of the Alaska Psychiatric Association, the professional organization of Alaskan psychiatric physicians. We work in a broad spectrum of clinical settings that include for-profit and non-profit, community and hospital-based facilities, Alaskan Native Corporations, Veterans Affairs, state hospital (API), Department of Corrections, managed care, and disability determination.

Costs have risen in all these settings but the ability to provide even the same level service is particularly challenging for community based agencies. A number of agencies, including Alaska's largest community health center, the Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, have laid off people including clinicians who serve so many adults and children in crisis.

Please support the Governor's FY10 Budget request for Community Behavioral Health Service Grants and Substance Abuse Grants at the requested level of \$1.75 million for each grant program for a total of \$3.5 million. I recognize that this is an increase over the current year appropriation but one that is vital for Alaskans depending on these grant funds for treatment of serious mental illness and addition disorders.

Thank you very much your public service.

Sincerely,

David Telford, MD
President, Alaska Psychiatric Association

*Lucy Curtiss, M.D.
Treasurer/Secretary*

*Alexander von Hafften, M.D.
Representative*

*Verner Stillner, M.D., DFAPA
Legislative Affairs*

*Charles Burgess, M.D.
Public Affairs*

*Wandall Winn, M.D.
Deputy Representative*

*David K. Holladay, M.D.
Ethics*

*Jenny Dial
Executive Director*

03/04/09

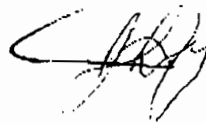
Mr. Chairman,

My name is John A. Yarbrough. I am representing myself.

My story dates back March 2008. Where I received Services for my Mental illness. At the time, I did not realize that I had a mental illness except for the fact that I ended up in the Emergency Room for suicidal/homicidal thoughts. The staff at ^{Petersburg} Mental Health saved my life. They provided me with the right therapy and medications. I am now living my life with more security. In short, I ~~can~~ would not be alive, if it was not for ^{Petersburg} Mental Health. Please do not reduce the funding for Mental Health.

Thank you
for hearing my testimony.

HB-83



Yarbroughja@yahoo.com

PO Box 1791

Petersburg, AK 99833

Jennifer and Jeffery Ray
P.O. Box 1864
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

March 4, 2009

State of Alaska
State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative,

Please do not reduce funding for behavioral services funding for the citizens of Alaska who are mentally disabled. The people who are in need of behavioral services are the least of our population to be able to speak of their needs and that is why it is so important that you not dismiss them when deciding to fund House Bill 83. You will probably be hearing from caregivers, family members and therapists. The mentally ill who are able to talk with you and write you letters are few and far between. They are the ones who were gifted with the ability to communicate where most people suffering behavioral disorders do not communicate well. So, we must be advocates for them and help them to get the services that will allow them to be full functioning citizens. Unless they can get therapy there is no way for a person with a mental illness to progress.

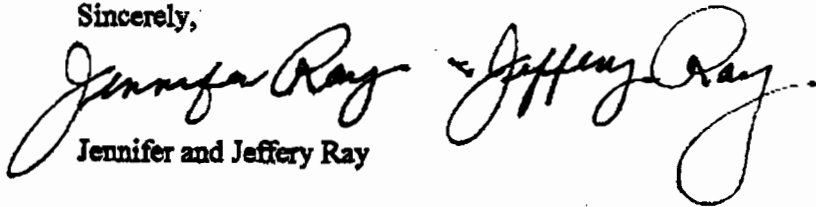
In our town we have incredible mental health services. Petersburg Mental Health Services has been assisting our daughter, Madeline Ray, for nearly two years now. Her illness is severe, so her progress has been gradual, but she is progressing and she has survived and that is only because she has had daily therapy. Her care providers see her without getting paid on the weekends because they care. Our community has mental health professionals who do not go to work for the paycheck. They are dedicated counselors who keep their clients on a course. I know this because I have recently started working as a file clerk/receptionist for Petersburg Mental Health Services. I have seen first hand how they treat all the clients of Petersburg and it is with the same seriousness that they treat my daughter, that they treat all of their clients. Their goal is to get the client well and be ready to treat the new clients coming in.

Our family has used all of our savings on care for our daughter. We do not regret that but it does depress our daughter because it makes her feel bad that we have no extra money for emergencies and it has put us in a heightened state of anxiety trying to juggle things. We are grateful our daughter is alive and we will continue to do whatever we need to do to help her get better. There are so many people with mental illnesses that have no caregivers and have so little that I really hope you will fund House Bill 83 and work towards always caring for the mentally ill. Many times family members give up on the mentally ill because they are so difficult. They then become institutionalized and are lost

or homeless. If there are services in the community to help when mental illness first starts, we will have a better chance to keep the ill person from becoming hospitalized and be able to help them get on track and deal with their disability so they can be independent, happy, working members of their family and community. Please fund House Bill 83 in its entirety.

Thanks for taking the time to read our letter,

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Jennifer and Jeffery Ray in cursive script, written in black ink. The signatures are positioned above the printed names.

Jennifer and Jeffery Ray

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 5:20 PM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: Budget Increases for Community Behavioral Health Services Grants

From: Fred [mailto:fred@voaak.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 4:53 PM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker; Representative_Bill_Stoltz@legis.state.ak.us
Cc: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Budget Increases for Community Behavioral Health Services Grants

Please consider reinstating the Governor's budget recommendations for Community Health Services Grants. She recommended increments of \$1.75 million for both the community mental health and the community substance abuse grants. The House Finance Committee is recommending reducing the increments to \$1 million for each of the two grant categories. While any increase is preferable, the Committee's recommendation is not sufficient for the unmet demands for treatment services. The Committee's recommendation is also not sufficient to maintain the viability of community-based systems undergoing extreme stress in our current economic environment.

I am sure you are aware that our state's community-based systems are meeting only about half of the statewide need for behavioral health services. The most recent data shows over 56,000 Alaskans need behavioral health services. In 2008 the unduplicated count of clients served by community providers totaled less than 23,000 Alaskans. Treatment for these illnesses is often long in duration and costly. It is generally much less expensive to receive treatment in our own communities. These grants make it possible for Alaskans who otherwise could not afford this treatment to receive the care they need and to receive it near their home.

I am the Family Support Coordinator at Volunteers of America. I am not a professional counselor. I serve in this position because I am the parent of a recovering addict. It took our daughter eight years to reach the point that she was ready to seriously engage in recovery. Today, she is employed, engaged as a member of our family, contributing financially to our household, and a full-time student at UAA. As little as two years ago, we would have settled for her to merely be alive. During her journey to recovery she was in treatment three times. I do not believe we would have survived this ordeal if we did not have the support of dedicated employees of the State of Alaska and treatment staff at local nonprofit service providers.

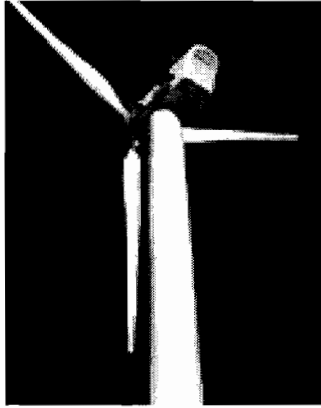
Having seen several treatment facilities and programs, I know that Volunteers of America stands with the best of them in terms of their compassion, the quality of services, and dedication to the success of their clients. We are blessed as a community for their presence. One of the most frequent statements I hear regarding our excellent treatment staff and administrators is "We are not here for the money." I personally see every day why they are here. They are here because they believe they are saving the lives of children and families by their service. And they contribute monetarily by doing this for compensation well below their worth.

It should be your role as decision-makers to make their difficult task a bit easier by supporting a reasonable request. Please reconsider your action and restore the Governor's recommendation.

Thank you,

Fred Jenkins
Grateful Parent and
Family Support Coordinator
Volunteers of America of Alaska
1675 C St Suite 230
Anchorage AK 99501
907-279-9683

3/5/2009



Alaska Environmental Power

3411 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
Phone: (907) 457-5623
Mobile: (907) 388-9917
Email: mikecraft@akwind.net

February 24, 2009

To whom it may concern:

Re: Letter of support for UAF INE ACEP to use Event Data collected by Alaska Environmental Power as well as our proposed Delta Junction, Alaska Wind Facility

Alaska Environmental Power (AEP) is dedicated to the advancement of wind energy generation technology. We wish to include a multitude of people and organizations in our push for the acceptance of wind generated energy into Alaska's electrical grid. Towards this goal AEP is willing to work closely with University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Institute of Northern Engineering (INE) Alaska Center for Energy and Power's (ACEP's) to further the research and development of cold weather wind turbines and all the associated technologies built to work in Alaska's unique climate, geography, and demographic.

Specifically, AEP is ready to share specific wind event data with UAF INE ACEP to assist in their research. Alaska Environmental Power has meteorological (met) towers in Healy, Alaska and Delta Junction, Alaska. In addition AEP has a 100 kW tower standing in Delta Junction. UAF INE ACEP would have access to specific wind event data, by request, collected by Alaska Environmental Power in their research. This would include Alaska Environmental Power's permission to publish that data and any results. UAF INE ACEP would also have access to AEP's facilities and infrastructure, by request, for experimentation. They would again have our permission to publish this data and any associated results.

It is our hope that such co-operation between organizations working for the advancement and acceptance of wind turbine technology will spearhead the growth of wind energy in Alaska's electrical grid.

Cordially Yours,

Mike Craft
Managing Partner
Alaska Environmental Power
(907) 457-5623 business
(907) 388-9917 mobile
macraft@acsalaska.net



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance

committee name

Committee on HB 81 Operating Budget & HB 83 Mental Health Budget dated 3-4-09

bill # / subject

public hearing date

I do NOT have A direct Affiliation with the Leashore Center nor Haven House, but as A Resident of the Kenai Peninsula I CANNOT THINK OF A MORE VITAL SERVICE to FUND than A SAFEHOUSE-ESPECIALLY IN light of the FACT that BOTH of these ORGANIZATIONS operate so very frugally on A minimal budget, ARE NORMALLY AT FULL CAPACITY. OUR CURRENT Economic Conditions may very likely result in AN INCREASE in this very VITAL NEED. I Am typically IN FAVOR of less government spending but in this case, I implore you to REINSTATE the \$1.2million originally allocated to the Council on DVSA, AND FUND ANY "BATTER'S INTERVENTION" Programs to help STOP the cycle. THANK you.

Signed:

Julie Woodward JULIE WOODWORTH

Testifier

me and my family

Representing (optional)

PO Box 1012 Homer AK 99603

Address

907-235-6742

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
committee name

Committee on HB 81 Operating Budget & HB 83 Mental Health Budget dated 3-4-09
bill # / subject public hearing date

Dear Chairman and Committee Members

My name is Tom Bearup and I am a former Mayor of Soldotna. I am also an organizer for the Kenai Peninsula Childcare Providers which is in the process of being formed.

I have spoken with many of the local providers and all of us are concerned as private childcare facility owners and employees that the objective of the Department of Education and their goals for a pre-school pilot program in the public schools would affect the established childcare providers on the Kenai Peninsula and throughout the state of Alaska in a negative way.

Childcare providers have been giving much love and care to Alaska's children for many years as professional childcare providers. It is concerning that the Department of Education would desire to take those children out of the people that have been providing this service for so many years, under the over site of the state of Alaska childcare licensing division in Anchorage.

We as a professional group of providers have no problem with the states desire to require additional education for workers and childcare providers that are licensed in the state but we do believe that with the additional requirements that monies be provided for that additional education.

We also believe that since the state is looking at the possibility of the pilot program for preschool age children that instead of creating a new area of education in the school system that they take any monies and provide it to the private sector through grants and other forms of assistance to the childcare providers for the purchase of additional equipment and upgrading their facilities.

The childcare providers here on the Kenai Peninsula are currently paid for state of Alaska clients lower than other areas of the state and that does not seem to be a fair practice. We do believe that the state payment should be on the same level as in cities like Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Should this pilot program be set into motion it is our belief that some of our employees would have to be let go, which would place additional burdens on them and their families and some facilities would have to close.

The private sector should not have to compete with the government when we have been successful for some many years in providing professional childcare services to our communities and the families that we serve.

Thank you for the time to share my thoughts and the thoughts of so many that are not able to either attend or draft comments for this meeting today.

Again, my name is Tom Bearup. My address is P.O. Box 2763, Soldotna, Alaska 99669-2763. My home phone number is 907-262-8741 and my cell phone is 907-953-9233 should you have any further questions.

Signed: Tom Bearup (BEARUP)
 Testifier
KENAI PENINSULA CHILDCARE PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION
 Representing (optional)
P.O. BOX 2763, SOLDOTNA ALASKA 99669-2763
 Address
907-262-8741
 Phone number

FAX

DATE 3/4/09Number of pages including cover sheet: 3

TO:

Representative Mike Hunter

Re:

Phone:

Fax 465-4979

FROM:

Denise DanielsAlaska Commission on AgingPhone: 907-465-3250 Admin
Assistant:

907-465-4879 Ex Director

Fax 465-1398

E-Mail:

REMARKS:

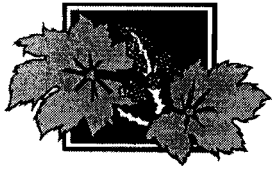
☐ Urgent☐ Please Reply☐ For your info☐

Dear Representative Hunter:

Please find attached a support letter from the
Alaska Commission on Aging for the Community Senior
Grant increment that is included in CSHB 81.

Please contact me should you have questions or
require information. Thank you for your consideration.

Denise Daniels
465-4879



SEARHC

SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

3245 Hospital Drive, Juneau, AK 99801
907 463-4000 • www.searhc.org

March 5, 2009

The Honorable Anna Fairclough
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Mike Hawker
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representatives Fairclough and Hawker,

I am writing to request your consideration of full funding for House Bill 81. House Bill 81 contains a University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) health package that includes funding for a nutrition degree program. Over the past year, a statewide Nutrition Advisory Committee has met and created the curriculum for a first-ever nutrition degree program. The nutrition degree program will offer three nutrition tracks:

1. A Dietetics Degree that is pending approval by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education that will enable students to be eligible to apply for a Dietetic Internship Program and ultimately be qualified to become a registered dietitian.
2. A Community Nutrition degree that will enable students who are interested in non-registered dietitian careers such as public health, wellness and WIC careers. This career track does not require completion of a dietetic internship.
3. A Nutrition Science degree for students interested in the advanced study of nutrition and who wish to continue their graduate nutrition work. This career track prepares students for careers in nutrition research or for students applying to medical school.

I have worked with nutrition professionals in our health consortium and understand that registered dietitian positions are difficult to recruit and fill. It is also my understanding that the University of Alaska Anchorage currently does have an approved post-graduate dietetic internship program, but does not have an approved undergraduate nutrition degree program. This creates obstacles for students residing here in Alaska because if they do want to pursue a nutrition career, they must first leave Alaska to attain a nutrition degree. This often times creates the "brain drain" situation where students leaving Alaska do not return to live here upon attainment of their college degree. I fully support the proposal to create and fully fund the three nutrition programs described because I believe that it will ultimately help

March 5, 2009

Page 2

Alaska to “home grow” their own nutrition professionals who can attend college and internship programs here.

I urge you to consider funding the full \$1.8 million to the University of Alaska Health Academic Programs. If you do so, this investment will pay dividends in the future when we join the rest of the nation in offering approved nutrition degree programs and can reap the benefits of educating and retaining nutrition professionals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Helgesen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

General Counsel
Roald Helgesen, For
President

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Alaska Commission on Aging

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110693
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0693
PHONE: (907) 465-3250
FAX: (907) 465-1398

March 4, 2009

The Honorable Mike Hawker, Co-Chair
The Honorable Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 505 & 515
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Support for Community Senior Grant Increment, CSHB 81 (HSS)

Dear Co-Chair Hawker & Co-Chair Stoltze:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) supports the \$609,917 increment amendment for Senior Community Based Grants appropriated to Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) that was approved by the House HSS Finance Subcommittee for the operating budget in CSHB 81.

On behalf of the senior provider community and older Alaskans who depend on senior grant-funded services, ACoA wholeheartedly thanks the legislature for their support of the \$1 million increment approved last year for FY2009 senior grants, which was the first substantive increase in ten years for these services. Because the Alaska senior population has grown by over 50 percent over the last decade, more seniors are now using senior-grant funded services. According to SDS, approximately 11,865 older Alaskans utilized grant-funded senior services in 2008.

The purpose of senior home- and community-based grants is to prevent or delay the progression of serious medical conditions by enhancing individuals' health. Grants to local senior centers and other nonprofit service providers fund a wide range of core home- and community-based services which maximize independence and support the physical and mental health of older adults. Services provided under the senior grants program include home-delivered meals, congregate meals, senior transportation, chore assistance, care coordination, respite care, and other essential services which make it possible for older Alaskans to remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

The proposed increment funds are needed to help providers address the major increases in the costs of food, gasoline, and heating fuel, most acutely felt in rural communities. They are also requested to prevent a reduction in the current level of funding and services for most regions of the state as the result of phasing in a new funding formula that uses updated population figures under the *Alaska State Plan for Senior Services, FY2008-FY2011* ("the State Plan") (www.alaskaaging.org). The State Plan is required by the U.S. Administration on Aging for the distribution of federal Older Americans Act funds for senior grant-funded programs.

The regional funding formula included in the State Plan was the result of a year-long process which included participation by many agency partners statewide and was presented for public review and comment in a number of venues. The funding formula itself was modified only slightly, however, use of updated population figures in the funding formula resulted in major changes in the amounts available for allocation among the state's nine regions.

Although every region of the state experienced an increase in the senior population, according to data from Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's 2007 population estimates, the Railbelt regions experienced unusually rapid growth in their senior populations since the 2000 census and a subsequent gain in their allotted percentage of available funds at the expense of the other regions. Assuming no increase in State funding, it was understood that a number of regions would suffer a decrease in funding and a phased-in approach of the new funding formula was adopted. While the phased-in approach retained funding distributions for FY2008 and FY2009 according to those amounts prescribed in the earlier state plan, FY2010 would phase in 50 percent of the change calculated by the current plan with 100 percent implementation of the change in FY2011.

The \$609,917 increment would be used to hold those regions harmless which would receive reduced grant amounts as a result of the phased-in implementation to maintain their level of service to Alaska seniors. Without this increment, funding reductions could lead to deterioration of services in the more remote areas.

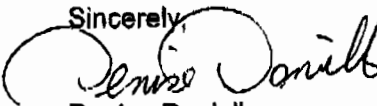
Alaska is one of the foremost states in investing in home- and community-based services. While other states have built nursing homes and other institutional long-term care facilities to care for their elderly, Alaska has prudently invested in a continuum of long-term support services, a strategy that is less costly and desired by older Alaskans and their families.

ACoA supports the increment for Senior Community Based Grants. Research has established that providing these home- and community-based services helps to reduce the need for more intensive health care services. These services are also desired by older Alaskans and their families. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director (465-4879), should you have any questions regarding our position. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Sharon Howerton-Clark
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,


Denise Daniello
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Representative Thomas, Vice Chair
Representative Austerman
Representative Fairclough
Representative Foster
Representative Joule

Representative Kelly
Representative Crawford
Representative Gara
Representative Salmon
Representative Chenault



**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**
201 Katlian Street, Suite 200A, Sitka, AK 99835
Phone: 907-747-6276 Fax: 907-747-5807
Email: sitka_lio@legis.state.ak.us

DATE: March 4, 2009

TO: House Finance Committee

RE: addtional testimony for Cornelia Huebscher In Sitka

FROM: Marie Murray, Legislative Information Officer

Ms. Huebscher would like this written testimony added to earlier testimony heard from the Sitka LIO. Some of the other testimony spurred these comments. Thank you for adding this to the record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie".

**Marie Murray,
Sitka Legislative Information Officer**



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

HFIN

committee name

Committee on

HB 81 - HB 83

bill # / subject

, dated

4 March 2009

All too often we tend to forget the mental health impact of victims who have ~~been~~ experienced Domestic Violence, Sexual Assaults & other form of abuse.

The Mental Illnesses that victims of DV are suffering:

PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)
Anxiety Disorders
Depression & low self-esteem.

Many DV & SA victims have no place to go & once they are no longer in shelter → little or NO access to Mental Health Care.

Signed:

[Signature]

CORINNE HUEBSCHER

Testifier

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

Representing (Optional)

232 Lance Dr. Apt. B Sitka, AK 99835

Address

907-747-6248

Phone Number

huebscher@acs.alaska.net

email address



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
committee name
committee on HB 81- Operating Budget, dated 3-4-09
bill/subject

My name is Aksana Mather and I work closely with the Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center as a volunteer. KWRC services are much needed in Kodiak: shelter program is essential for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, KWRC operates only 24-hours crisis line on the Island and their education and prevention services are very important for violence elimination in our community.

Please, keep our shelter and all KWRC programs funded. We really need it.

Signed:

Aksana Mather

Aksana Mather

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

1323 Isuma/2V

Address

481-3133

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 6:01 PM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: bc's Public testimony for House Finance Committee on Operating Budget for 2010
Importance: High
Attachments: image001.jpg; bc's testimony to House Finance Committee 3.Feb.09 p1.pdf

From: carlson1@gci.net [mailto:carlson1@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 2:19 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Representative_William_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us
Cc: Deborah Brevoort; Joe Holbert; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Linda Menard; Sen. Con Bunde; 'Joe Meehan'; president@sandlakecc.org; 'Bernadette Bradley'; 'Bayshore-Klatt Community Council'; 'Mike Adams'; 'Kris Abshire - Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats'; acrunstadler@yahoo.com
Subject: bc's Public testimony for House Finance Committee on Operating Budget for 2010
Importance: High

I cannot make it to the LIO tomorrow so attached is my testimony on behalf of our members for the House Finance Committee on the Operating Budget for 2010. Please see that the addressed Legislators receive our testimony as soon as possible. Thank you.



Barbara Carlson
907/248-2503
Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)
PO Box 220196, Anchorage, AK 99522-0196

3/4/09

Dear Representatives Anna Fairclough and Mike Hawker,

I am writing to urge your consideration of full funding for House Bill 81. House Bill 81 contains a University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) health package that includes funding for a nutrition degree program. Over the past year, I have been an active member of the statewide Nutrition Advisory Committee. The committee has created the curriculum for a first-ever nutrition degree program that will offer three nutrition tracks:

1. A Dietetics Degree that is pending approval by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education that will enable students to be eligible to apply for a Dietetic Internship Program and ultimately be qualified to become a registered dietitian.
2. A Community Nutrition degree that will enable students who are interested in non-registered dietitian careers such as public health, wellness and WIC careers.
3. A Nutrition Science degree for students who wish to continue their graduate nutrition work and work in the nutrition research field or apply for medical school.

I have worked as a nutrition professional in our health consortium over the past 19 years and as a supervisor I have experienced how difficult it is to recruit and fill registered dietitian positions. The UAA currently does have an approved post-graduate dietetic internship program, but does not have an approved undergraduate nutrition degree program. This creates obstacles for students residing here in Alaska because if they do want to pursue a nutrition career, they must first leave Alaska to attain a nutrition degree. This often creates the "brain drain" situation where students leaving Alaska do not return to live here upon attainment of their college degree. As an adult student who had the goal of becoming a registered dietitian, I had to leave Alaska to attain an approved nutrition degree, then return home to complete the UAA Dietetic Internship Program. During this time my husband Clint was in college full time and we had our son, who was a toddler at that time. The out of state tuition was very expensive for both of us, and as a result of that we are still repaying student loans for our undergraduate degrees. Many students would not even consider doing this because of the expense involved. For these reasons, I fully support the proposal to create and fully fund the three nutrition programs described and included in HB 81.

I strongly urge you to consider fully funding the \$1.8 million to the University of Alaska Health Academic Programs. If you do so, we will join the rest of the nation in offering approved nutrition degree programs and will reap the benefits of educating and retaining nutrition professionals.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Watanabe, MPA, RD, LD

Elizabeth "Libby" Watanabe, MPA, RD, LD

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 3:09 PM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: CDVSA Budget

From: ruraloutreach@nome.net [mailto:ruraloutreach@nome.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 2:03 PM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker
Subject: CDVSA Budget

Representative Mike Hawker:

My name is Janet Ahmasuk and I work for Bering Sea Women's Group in Nome Alaska.

I was of the understanding some time ago that the Governor's DPS budget had an increment of \$1.7 million of which \$1.2 million of that was for 19 existing programs statewide like Bering Sea Women's Group.

While our program appreciates the \$296K increment it is not enough in fact it is devastating blow to the 19 DV/SA programs in the state.

\$1.7 million reflects the bottom line – no frills/direct costs – that we as a Network, in conjunction with CDVSA and the Governor's office came up with.

Different legislators/committees don't seem to know exactly what happened? And we – BSWG - are at the point - way out here in the desolate expanse of tundra/ice/snow of western Alaska of not knowing at the last minute whether we have ADEQUATE funding or not to run our Battered Women's Shelter. What will happen to our battered clients if we have no funding?

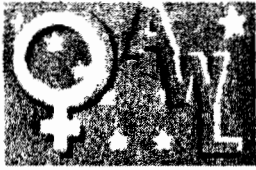
Times are difficult for all of us right now but the choices are even more difficult for abused women and children.

Please do the right thing in setting priorities for DVSA programs.

Sincerely,

Janet Ahmasuk, Rural Victim's Service Coordinator, BSWG

And - Samaria Ross, Executive Director, BSWG



ALASKA WOMEN'S LOBBY

AWL Mission: To defend and advance the rights and needs of Women, Children and Families in Alaska

P.O. Box 20891
Juneau, Alaska 99802-0891
www.akwomenslobby.org

2009 AWL Steering Committee Members

Caren Robinson
Lobbyist

Geran Tarr,
Chair

Jayne Andreen

Nancy Courtney

Grace Danborn

Torie Foote

Cady Lister

Patricia Macklin

Rebecca Madison

Lauree Morton

Jorden Nigro

Taber Rehbaum

Nancy Scheetz-
Freymler

Libby Silberling

Rose Wysocki

Support Full Funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The Alaska Women's Lobby supports full funding for CDVSA. The Governor's requested increment provides much needed funds for research, prevention work and the day-to-day operations of shelters and rape crisis centers. Most of these funds will go directly to community-based programs responding twenty-four hours a day to the ever present threats to victims' safety.

During FY 08, the Troopers investigated 13 homicides. Nine of them were domestic violence related and one further involved sexual assault. Alaska shelter programs participated in a national one day census count. Last year on September 17th, 550 victims sought and received services from Council funded programs. 269 received shelter and 281 adults and children received non-residential assistance including legal advocacy, counseling and children's support groups. Also on that day, funded programs responded to 73 crisis calls and provided 14 training sessions attended by 215 individuals.

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims. Unfortunately, 47 people (24 of whom needed emergency shelter or transitional housing) who sought services on September 17th were not able to get their needs met. While this is only a snapshot of services on one particular day, it is enough to see that services in Alaska are necessary.

We've all heard the statistic that Alaska ranks number one in the nation for reported per capita sexual assault. We have approximately 2X the national average of reported sexual assault, so if one in four women will be sexually assaulted during her lifetime, look around the room--for every four Alaskan women two have or will be raped. It is past time to say enough is enough.

Previous legislatures have dealt with the aftermath of sexual assault, enacting tough crime legislation with stiff penalties, but more work needs to be done to prevent these crimes from ever happening. Part of the Governor's increment would support prevention activities across the state. As someone once said, "It is not enough to pull drowning people out of the river, at some point someone has to wade upstream and keep them from falling in."

The Women's Lobby urges the full House Finance Committee to restore all the GF taken from the CDVSA budget to fully realize the requested increment. Give community-based programs the funds they need so that people are not turned away from the services that can lead them to a life free from the violence they now suffer.

My name is Andrea Story and I am a parent of a middle school student in the Juneau public schools. I also am a member of the Juneau School Board. My husband is co-owner of an engineering firm with 18 employees. To recruit and retain high caliber engineers, schools are part of the equation. He has found that prospective employees look at the quality of local schools.

I am here to thank you and testify in support of the increase to the foundation formula that you agreed upon last year in the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force; the area cost differential, increases to special education and increases to the Base Student Allocation. However, the Finance Committee needs to realize that even with increases it still translates into cuts in services to most students in Alaska. Increased funding for education is not keeping pace with education costs.

Why is this?

The number one way to increase student achievement is a skilled teacher. Having salaries and benefits that keep skilled teachers in Alaska, that help districts recruit the best teachers in the nation and interest teachers in coming to Alaska, can not be underestimated. It is important to pay competitive wages and offer desired benefits. Districts try and offer contracts that are attractive to staff even though it means probably cutting programs, or raising classroom teacher pupil ratio.

Another reason costs for education do not keep pace with funding is that schools need to provide students with tools and skills for job needs in today's work place. Career Tech opportunities, Computers, smartboards, and document cameras are expensive and cost more than traditional classroom book learning and pens and paper. For years our district has not had a technology coordinator and adequate infrastructure. I see Fairbanks is proposing cutting from their technology budget to balance their budget.

In addition, fixed costs do not stay the same, typically they increase, as we have seen with energy costs and insurance costs. The increased money goes to that cost, so money is still needed for education supplies, programs for students, and staff salary and benefit increases.

I urge you to talk to your local school board and look at what cuts they are proposing for the students in your schools in your district.

What does this mean for students? In my district it means proposed supply budgets are cut and less hands on assignments are given which helps kids experience, besides listen to a science or math concept, music and art instruction are cut which I hear from parents is often the favorite instruction that keeps students engaged in school, and class size is increased. Raising class size, does erode quality. It makes for less attention for students and longer wait times to get your questions answered.

I urge the Finance Committee to invest in students and increase the BSA over the 100 increase and accelerate to full implementation the area cost factors and special education increments. As back up material, I have handouts of Juneau's proposed budget, and letters from our Budget review teams. The Juneau District has 4 Budget Review and Analysis teams, it helps be transparent with our budget and accountable with the money we receive from the legislature, again thank you. Budget review teams are made up of staff and community members that look at current budgets and school needs and make recommendations for additions or eliminations in the budget. There are elementary, middle and high school and district wide budget teams. Please look at them, you will see what community members feel is needed, full time music, physical education, library, requests for additional help for English language learners, technology needs and much more.

Thank you.

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 12:28 PM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: Community Behavioral Health Services Funding

From: MARTIWG@aol.com [mailto:MARTIWG@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 12:19 PM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Representative_Allen_Austerman@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Les Gara; Sen. Donny Olson
Cc: johnross82@hotmail.com
Subject: Community Behavioral Health Services Funding

As the Executive Director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving in Anchorage for nearly ten years, and as the Alaska State Director, I have had the opportunity to work with members of the Alaska House and Senate on the impact of substance abuse on our State, Communities and families throughout Alaska. I have also worked closely with law enforcement, the courts and the Department of Corrections where substance abuse has consistently impacted increasing criminal activity, criminal court proceedings, and cost to both Institutions through incarceration and demands on probation/parole .

I have worked closely with treatment providers, faith-based organizations, injury prevention, and a coalition of committed organizations, workers and volunteers, all recognizing the harm done and the costs resulting from inappropriate, hurtful and criminal behaviors while under the influence of substance abuse, and the unending community efforts in attempting to find ways to identify, prevent and respond to the overwhelming problems and costs associated with substance abuse.

Additionally, I have met and spoken with numerous families who have been separated - broken apart - because Alaska does not have the needed mental health care and their family members have had to be sent 'outside' to find that care. We do not have the resources to take care of "our own."

I urge you to consider the intensely negative impact and the tremendous costs for not putting substance abuse and behavioral health at the top of priorities for the physical and mental health, and life itself for all Alaskans when you reconsider fully funding FY10 behavioral health services.

Sincerely,

Marti Greeson
Anchorage

Need a job? [Find employment help in your area.](#)

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 6:42 AM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: Please support Senior Community Based Grants

From: rsfaith@gci.net [mailto:rsfaith@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 3:26 PM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker
Cc: Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Hollis French; Representative_Lindsay_Holmes@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Please support Senior Community Based Grants

Dear Rep. Hawker:

I urge that you support the \$609,917 increment that will maintain current funding levels for community based senior programs in Regions I, III, IV, VI, VII and VIII. My own area is Anchorage, where I managed nutrition and chore services for seniors for several years and am still active as a volunteer for senior social programs. The community based services are critical to helping seniors maintain a healthy, independent lifestyle in their own homes. With the senior population increasing as it has continued to do over the years, even level funding has created the need for services to be at least temporarily delayed and wait lists implemented. Actual reduction in funding will seriously weaken the safety net that keeps Alaska seniors well.

Please give this important funding your support during upcoming budget considerations.

Thank you very much.

Susan S. Faith

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Mike Hawker
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 6:15 AM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: Funding of the UAA health package

From: Ek, Lauri M. [mailto:Lauri.Ek@providence.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 5:37 PM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker
Subject: Funding of the UAA health package

Representative Mike Hawker,

As a member of the UAA Dietetics and Nutrition Advisory Committee, I encourage you to fund the FULL \$1.8 million University of Alaska health package. Part of the health package includes a new nutrition degree which can lead to nutrition professionals obtaining their education IN THE STATE of Alaska and not having to go outside of the state for education. We have been working hard in Alaska to start a local nutrition program through UAA so that dietitians can receive their training in state and stay to benefit the community.

As the Clinical Nutrition Manager at Providence Alaska Medical Center it is very difficult to find registered dietitians in the state of Alaska. In the three years I have in this position I have almost always had 1 or more open positions, and most dietitians are recruited from out of state. The students interested in becoming dietitians must leave the state for education and often never return.

Dietitians are only one part of the healthcare shortage in Alaska. The health package at UAA involves training of physical therapists, dietitians, physician assistants, radiology technicians, etc. These careers are all in high demand and hard to recruit in Alaska. Why should we cut funds and have interested students go out of state to earn their degrees and diminish the chance of their returning to Alaska?

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Lauri M. Ek, RD, CDE, LD
Clinical Nutrition Manager
Providence Alaska Medical Center
3200 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Lauri.Ek@providence.org
(907) 212-3046

Fax: (907) 212-4886

Pager: (907) 212-5800, #3046

DISCLAIMER:

This message is intended for the sole use of the addressee, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee you are hereby notified that you may not use, copy, disclose, or distribute to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received this message in error, please immediately advise the sender by reply email and delete this message.