

Joni Johnson
High School Life Science instructor
P.O. Box 602
Petersburg, AK 99833

4 March, 2010

House Finance Committee Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Chair,

This letter furthers my testimony on HB 3007-- to bring to your attention the large impact that the Marine Advisory Program (MAP) has in the community of Petersburg. The niche that the program fills in this community is a very important one. MAP connects community residents with people and with knowledge and tools. As grant funding for this position comes to a close, I am asking that you please fund this as a permanent position. A void will be left, an invaluable resource will be missing, and the community will lose its main connection to the University of Alaska if MAP's presence here were to be discontinued.

As an educator, my interaction with the MAP has been in the arena of accessing information and resources. Whether I am looking for information on farming seaweeds, how to develop a small business plan for fisheries-based resources, or individuals willing to work with students, the Petersburg MAP agent, Sunny Rice, always managed to come through. Her network, through the MAP, provides me with many useful tools and fantastic information. I know that other educators in the school system use the MAP services as well.

Connectedness is key to the mission of the Marine Advisory Program, and Sunny works this very well in Petersburg. As an instructor of the high school aquaculture program, she has connected me with University of Alaska personnel, AMSEA training, reference materials, and biologists that are an invaluable resource. She has spoken with the aquaculture class on varied topics from careers to financing your own boat (and she has gone clamming with us). Additionally, she has the knowledge of which fishers in town are keen on being involved with adolescents and sharing their knowledge. In providing information for the future fishers of Alaska, she also works to help make the youth aware of the small business side of running your own vessel and the government programs available to help. Without fail, I can walk into the office with my grand idea and come out with creative advice, people connections or materials that can make the idea a reality.

The Marine Advisory Program also helps with the Ocean Science Bowl, bringing the program to my attention at the high school and providing assistance as a co-coach of the team. MAP is involved with community events, such as the Rainforest Festival, bringing biological information to the community. During the high school Exploratory Day, Sunny volunteered to take young women fly-fishing, again involving students with the biological resource in the community. During the summer, tourists frequently stop in to the local office asking about local wildlife or different plants.

While the Board of Fisheries met in Petersburg to discuss shellfish proposals, Sunny saw to it that there was a public speaking seminar in conjunction with Chairman Jensen's introduction...Purely to assist those who were giving testimony with their presentation skills. This exemplifies how Sunny is constantly thinking about what can be done to help fishermen and the other populations that she provides services for. While the MAP has valuable core programs, the individuals at each of the sites make it a robust program that reaches many. Always, always, always, Sunny is looking to connect people with the resources that will help them, and does so successfully.

While the University prioritized this program in its budget request, I understand the Governor did not include it in his version of the University budget. Please add in funding for the MAP extension agents in the six communities to the University of Alaska's operating budget. As said earlier, the help that the MAP program offers is of great value to the community and has been very useful to me.

Thank you for your attention, and listening to why I am concerned for the continued existence of the MAP program in Petersburg and other communities.

Sincerely,



Joni Johnson

Karisse Ackerman

From: skhansen@ak.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 4:43 PM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: To Finance Committee, 2010 Alaska Legislature

To the Finance Committee
2010 Alaska Legislature

March 3, 2010

My name is Kirsten A. McGraw,

I was born in Fairbanks, Alaska and have lived here most of my life. When I was about 10 months old I started wearing hearing aids because my parents discovered I was severe to profoundly deaf. Over the years they have struggled to pay for my hearing aids, ear molds, speech therapy, etc.

As a child and teenager I was never covered by medicaid or Denali Kid Care because my father made approximately \$40,000 per year. His salary disqualified me from those programs. The Alaska Handicapped Childrens Program paid for some of my ear molds and audiograms done by a state pediatric audlogologist located in Fairbanks. That state audiologist position was closed and all of the equipment from that office was sold in about 1997(?)

Thus most of my hearing aids were paid out of pocket by my family. MCP did NOT pay for my hearing aids because the aids they listed or would pay for were not strong enough for my severe to profound hearing loss.

For the past 4 years I have had ACHIA (Alaska Comprehensive Health Insurance Association). That is state health insurance program for Alaska residents with preexisting medical conditions. ACHIA advertises that it covers preexisting conditions after 6 months. However they refuse to pay for hearing aids, ear molds, audiograms, speech therapy.

The Alaska Statute that created ACHIA in 1992 states they "may not cover hearing aids, audiological services, etc." This Alaska statute discriminates against hearing impaired adults like myself because we use assistive technology. I use my hearing aids so I can hear my voice. This is the only way I can monitor my voice. If I do not wear hearing aids I am not very intelligible to other hearing people.

It is a fact that hearing impaired people who use hearing aids and cochlear implants make a higher income and have more choices for jobs. They contribute to the states economy more than those who are totally dependent on sign language interpreters and medicaid or use no assistive technology.

I am 24 years old now. My high tech hearing aids are ten years old. They need to be replaced. A new pair costs \$8,000.

How does the Finance committee provide for Alaskan residents who require assistive technology (hearing aids, cochlear implants) in order to work and be productive Alaskan residents?

About 10 percent of the population is hearing impaired. A greater percent of older adults are hearing impaired and do NOT use sign language. How do you propose to help people like me and this older population who use assistive technology?

Thank you.

Kirsten A. McGraw
4051 Iris Lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

hiroko_02@hotmail.com

Stephen Burdick

907.764.6502

Testimony 3/4/10:

Urged funding for psychiatric treatment. He has attempted to get help and been turned away. He is continually told that all beds are full which he worries about. There needs to be a bigger facility than 70-bed hospital at Providence.

In Washington State, which he previously lived, is a place that takes better care of these patients. Providence Medical Hospital unit only takes a few emergency cases. If a person has a history of aggression, they will not be admitted.

Alaska needs a Crisis treatment center. Currently, if a person has a history of self injury, they are refused. There is a huge problem and glitch in the Alaska system.. If anyone is in crisis mode, they should have access to mandatory help at any moment. He added that he has known people who have walked into the emergency, been refused treatment and then left that room, and killed their self. This is Not right and the problem needs to be addressed and there need to be more beds in this State for veterans and disabled persons.

Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee

Jeffrey R. Stephan, Chair

PO Box 2917, Kodiak, AK 99615

tel: 907-486-4568; cell: 907-350-2088; email: jstephan@ptialaska.net

January 28, 2010

Representative Mike Hawker, Co-Chair

Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair

Representative Anna Fairclough; Chair, University of Alaska Subcommittee

Alaska Legislature; House Finance Committee

**Re: Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP) Program; University of Alaska
FY2011 Operating Budget Request for \$614,000.**

Dear Representatives Hawker, Stoltze and Fairclough, and members of the House Finance Committee,

The Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee respectfully requests that the House Finance Committee amend the Governor's University of Alaska (UA) FY2011 Operating Budget to add \$614,000 for the purpose of funding 6 Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP) positions. The \$614,000 funding for these MAP positions was included in the UA FY2011 Program Request that was submitted to the Governor; however, the UA MAP funding request was not included in the Governor's FY2011 Proposed Operating Budget that was submitted to the Legislature.

You may find the \$614,000 UA FY2011 Program Request for these six MAP positions in the UA "Redbook" ("University of Alaska Fiscal Year 2011 Operating & Capital Budget Request"; <<http://www.alaska.edu/swbir/budget/publications/redbook/FY11Redbook.pdf>>). References to the requested \$614,000 MAP funding is found on page 8 ("FY11 Priority Program Requests by Category") under the "Climate" category [i.e., as "UAF to Community Needs in Coastal Alaska (MAP)"], and is more completely described on page 14 ("FY11 Operating Budget Program Descriptions"), also under the "Climate" category; that is:

UAF Economic Sustainability, Application of University Research, and Response to Community Needs in Coastal Alaska: Outreach and Engagement by the Marine Advisory Program (MAP)

(GF: \$614.0, NGF: \$27.0, Total: \$641.0)

The Marine Advisory Program, a unit in the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, has been providing extension and educational services in rural, coastal Alaska for 45 years. The program serves as an extension arm of the Alaska Sea Grant College Program and has university faculty located in 10 coastal communities. The faculty provide information, technical assistance and workforce development opportunities in a variety of subjects, including the impact of climate change on local marine resources.

Currently, 30% of MAP's positions (located in Unalaska, Petersburg, Cordova and Nome) are funded either by short term grants due to sunset in 2009, are vacant while waiting for funding (Bristol Bay), or there is no MAP agent at all (Kodiak). This request is to solidify funding for MAP faculty in these sites by moving them to regular UAF funded faculty positions.

MAP agents represent the extension component of Alaska Sea Grant College Program. Five of the six requested positions are essential to the success of active MAP offices that currently exist in Nome, Dillingham, Unalaska, Cordova and Petersburg. The federal grants and private donations that fund these five positions are due to sunset by mid 2010. The sixth requested position addresses an important and outstanding need for a coastal MAP Agent in Kodiak, a position that has been vacant for 13 years due to lack of funding. Sixteen MAP Agents currently serve in ten Alaska coastal communities. The five offices served by the five MAP Agents who are the subject of this funding request, that is, 50% of all Alaska Sea Grant MAP coastal offices, will be lost if the requested funds are not provided.

MAP agents work in partnership with local communities, residents and groups. MAP agents provide training in a broad array of subjects that have relevance to Alaska coastal community residents and businesses, including, but not limited to, marketing, quality control (HACCP), refrigeration, financial management, regulatory processes, and marine safety training. They also provide other assistance, guidance and training in areas such as economic efficiency, development and diversification; coastal tourism; shellfish farming; small business development; energy conservation; educational and workforce opportunities for youths and adults; connecting youth with science, and with educational and employment opportunities; linking research and researchers, and providing other relevant information, to coastal communities (e.g., relating to climate change, oil spills, marine mammal strandings, fisheries bycatch, coastal community water quality monitoring, harmful algal blooms, invasive species, etc.).

We are pleased to provide you with any additional information that may more specifically clarify the subject budget request, or that more generally explains the vision, mission and accomplishments of the Marine Advisory Program or the Alaska Sea Grant College Program. Please contact Ms. Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant MAP Leader (907-274-9692; pcullenberg@uaa.alaska.edu; <<http://www.marineadvisory.org>>) or Dr. David Christie, Director, Alaska Sea Grant College Program (907-474-7949; david.christie@alaska.edu; <<http://seagrant.uaf.edu/>>), if you have need for further information.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of our request that you please include \$614,000 to fund six MAP positions in the FY2011 University of Alaska Operating Budget that you pass out of your committee.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey R. Stephan, Chair
Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee

Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee

Members of the Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee represent an array of stakeholder groups from all regions of Alaska. The Advisory Committee provides valuable guidance in identifying priorities for Alaska Sea Grant's research, education, and extension activities, in the development of strategic planning efforts and in the review of research proposals.

COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Jeff Stephan

United Fishermen's Marketing Association

MEMBERS:

James Balsiger, Acting Assistant Administrator

Alternate: Steve Davis, Regional NEPA Coordinator

National Marine Fisheries Service

Steve Borell, Executive Director

Alaska Miners Association

Bruce Bustamante, VP Community and Public Affairs

Princess Tours

Dorothy Childers, Program Director

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Peggy Cowan, Superintendent

North Slope Borough School District

Pete Esquiro, Executive Director

Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association

Mark Fina, Senior Economist

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Terry Gardiner, Fisheries Consultant

Solutions That Endure

John J. Goering, Professor Emeritus

School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Rick Harris, Executive Vice President

Sealaska Corporation

Geoff Haskett, Alaska Regional Director

Alternate: Gary Edwards, Alaska Region Deputy Director

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Dan Hull, Leader

Groundfish Division, Cordova Fishermen United

Denby Lloyd, Commissioner
Alternate: John Hilsinger, Director, Division of Commercial Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Molly McCammon, Executive Director
Alaska Ocean Observing System

Henry Mitchell, Fisheries Consultant
Anchorage

Daniel O'Hara, Mayor
Bristol Bay Borough

Mary Pete, Director
Kuskokwim Campus, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Fred Schlutt, Jr., Vice Provost for Outreach & Engagement, and Director, Alaska Cooperative Extension Service
University of Alaska Fairbanks

John Shively, Executive Committee Member
Resource Development Council

Orson Smith, Professor
School of Engineering, University of Alaska Anchorage

Stan Stephens, President
Stan Stephens Glacier and Wildlife Cruises

Bill Streever, Environmental Studies Leader
BP Exploration

Arliss Sturgulewski, former state senator
Anchorage

Joe Thomas, State Senator
Alaska Legislature

Bob Winfree, Alaska Regional Science Advisor
National Park Service

University of Alaska's Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP)

UA Requests \$614,000 in the FY11 Operating Budget to Support MAP agents in Nome, Dillingham, Petersburg, Kodiak, Cordova and Unalaska

MAP is Alaska's statewide marine extension program, working in Alaska for 45 years. MAP has 16 extension faculty agents who live and work in 10 coastal communities providing information, technical assistance, and workforce development in seafood harvesting, processing, and marketing; shellfish aquaculture; tourism development; business management; marine safety; marine mammal and fisheries research; and public policy participation. MAP links science with community needs to solve resource questions.

Each agent brings a long-term, professional position into a coastal community. In many communities, MAP is the sole face of the University. For more information and to view letters from over 55 supporters and partners, go to www.marineadvisory.org and click on "Economic Sustainability: Budget Request."

MAP's Work Impacts Alaska's Communities

- **Enhancing Alaska's Seafood Industry:** Training and workforce development for Alaska's billion-dollar seafood industry include: HACCP and business trainings for seafood processors, business and technology training for fishermen. Over the last five years, 3,000 have been trained from over 35 communities in Alaska.
- **Strengthening Coastal Businesses:** MAP is a key partner and coordinator in projects such as the Petersburg Cold Storage (2 million pounds, 1 full-time and 2 part-time jobs); Cordova Shipping Center (\$100K project, supporting 50 direct marketers); Archaeologic/eco-tour project in Quinhagak, Oceans Alaska in Ketchikan, Catcher-sellers to local markets in Bethel
- **Leading Marine Safety Training** – MAP trains hundreds of fishermen, recreational boaters and youth each year, works with boaters on meeting Coast Guard regulations, produces educational videos and publications and supports development of new technology that saves lives.
- **Growing Alaska's Future Leaders** – The Alaska Young Fishermen's Summit, the Alaska Seafood Processing Leadership Institute, National Ocean Science Bowl, Alaska Seas and Rivers all are MAP projects which support our next generation in seafood and marine science careers.
- **Forging Partnerships between Communities and Science to Solve Real Problems** - Collaborative research focuses on gear/marine mammal interactions and MAP coordinates community monitoring for invasive species and harmful blooms such as PSP. More than 1,500 adults and high school students a year interact with researchers through presentations organized by MAP.

What will this budget request accomplish?

- A long-term commitment by the University to a MAP agent in these communities and outlying regions, resulting in more value from and involvement in local resources by Alaskans.
- A unique statewide network of MAP agents with the ability to engage partners from state agencies, NGOs, federal agencies, and individuals together to respond creatively to emerging problems in our communities.
- Expanded business and policy leadership development initiatives that encourage our youth to take advantage of Alaska's future opportunities.
- Trusted, long-term community-based University professionals in Nome, Dillingham, Unalaska, Cordova, Kodiak and Petersburg.





February 4, 2010

Governor Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

To whom it may concern;

The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska would like to submit this letter of support for the establishment of a permanent Marine Advisory Program (MAP) in the community of Unalaska.

The Unalaska MAP office was opened in 2004 through a grant from NOAA related to the Steller sea lion status and its impact on communities. That grant ran out in 2006, and through the help of Alaska Sea Grant and various small grants the MAP office has been able to remain open. Unfortunately this funding will run out in 2010.

Reid Brewer with the Unalaska MAP office has become an important part of our community. Mr. Brewer has been and continues to be a mentor at our Tribes annual cultural camp. Mr. Brewer has also taught the importance of our marine environment to young children through the City of Unalaska Parks Culture and Recreation Program. Additionally, Mr. Brewer was extremely helpful to the Unified Command of the Selendang Ayu spill.

I cannot even begin to list all of the positive impacts Mr. Brewer and MAP have brought to Unalaska. But, I can say that it would be a great loss to our community if the MAP office were to close.

We hope you support the funding needed to make this a permanent part of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Denise Rankin'.

Denise M. Rankin, President
Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska

P.O. Box 334, Unalaska, Alaska 99685



(907) 581-2920 FAX (907) 581-3644

LEGISLATIVE FUNDING REQUEST
**SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION'S
FAMILY WELLNESS WARRIORS INITIATIVE**

Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (FWWI) is Southcentral Foundation's state-wide program to address the challenges of domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and child neglect faced by Alaskan Native people in rural and isolated communities. While the Alaska Native community is FWWI's targeted population, all individuals, regardless of race, are encouraged to attend. The FWWI Model equips rural communities with education, tools and skills to reverse the escalating levels of domestic violence and child maltreatment using culturally appropriate strategies.

FWWI provides a three-year, comprehensive community and regional development model that includes intensive education and training, leadership development, parent education, and family and community support. The program works with Tribal and community leaders and begins with a dialog that establishes a partnership for determining the next steps to be taken in creating the attitudes and structures for preventing domestic violence, child sex abuse and child neglect in that community. FWWI is founded on "evidenced-based and promising culturally-appropriate practices." Methods employed include eliminating the shame and guilt of people harmed by domestic violence, child sexual abuse and child neglect; re-establishing the roles of parents as protectors of families; making one's own story coherent; and using spiritual beliefs to reestablish moral and ethical direction. While FWWI was developed by Alaska Native people for Alaska Native people, it can be effective with all people who are willing to concede that men are not the problem, but critical to the solution. All evidence suggests that the usual approaches of putting perpetrators in jail and children into the protective custody of the State are both expensive and ineffective. In fact, these approaches may even be accelerating the cycle. Data collected formally through focus groups and questionnaires indicate that FWWI has a major positive impact upon the lives of those participants.

FWWI has gained acceptance and trust in rural areas because it provides training only by invitation from the community. The FWWI training model can be a template for creating similar community change throughout Alaska since it was created for replication and adaptation. Due to the high cost of travel and lodging in Alaska, often it is most cost effective to hold trainings at the FWWI facilities in Anchorage. The FWWI training campus has a conference center and lodging available onsite. However, trainings also occur in participating rural communities. Depending on the logistics associated with each region, the cost to complete the three-year training program averages \$650,000 per region.

Given its vision of wellness in the Alaska Native community, Southcentral Foundation vigorously seeks funds to keep the FWWI program viable. Over the past decade, FWWI funding partners have included the U.S. Department of Justice, Murdock Trust, Rasmuson Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Paul G. Allen, Conoco-Phillips, and the Alaska Children's Trust. Maintaining sufficient funding for FWWI is a continuous challenge because it does not fit into an established program niche with a predictable reimbursement stream.

In view of Governor Parnell's bold initiative to combat domestic violence and sexual abuse, Southcentral Foundation respectfully requests consideration of the following funding requests to the Legislature: (1) **\$200,000** so that FWWI can assist the Bristol Bay region to complete the third and final year of the FWWI community and regional training model and (2) **\$200,000** so that FWWI can provide the first year of its community and regional training model to Alaska Native people in one other rural region besides Bristol Bay. Currently, four regions outside of Bristol Bay have made formal requests to FWWI to begin the community and regional training model. However, Southcentral Foundation does not have the funding available to provide these critical services.

Southcentral Foundation



Fax

To: Representative Mike Handler From: Southcentral Foundation
 Co: _____ Pages: 4 w/cover
 Fax: 907-465-6813 Date: 3/3/10
 Re: FWWI Phone: 907-729-4916

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Southcentral Foundation, 4501 Diplomacy Drive, Anchorage AK 99508

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Southcentral
Foundation



March 3, 2010

Representative Mike Hawker, Chairman
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

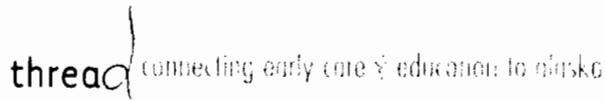
Honorable Chair:

I would like to request consideration of the attached appropriation to continue and expand the work of the Family Wellness Warriors Initiative. We believe that this program can play a critical part in efforts to reduce the devastation family violence has on Alaskan families.

Thank you for your consideration,
SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ileen Sylvester". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with the first letter of each word being significantly larger and more prominent.

Ileen Sylvester
Vice President Executive & Tribal Services



Nikki Morris
AEYC Family Services Coordinator
Direct 907.789.1231
Main 907.789.1235 or 888.785.1235
Fax 907.789.1238
nmorris@aecy-sea.org
www.aecy-sea.org
www.threadalaska.org

My name is Nikki Morris. I am the Family Services Coordinator at the Association for the Education of Young Children, SE Alaska, part of the statewide Child Care Resource & Referral Network, **thread**. For 5 years I have been working with parents across the region helping them to find quality regulated child care. To provide a sample of our case load, in the past three months we have had parents contacting our office to request child care referrals for 343 children. About 30% of the families seeking child care are using some form of state child care assistance. The family eligibility for child care assistance has not been adjusted since 2002. Recently, families who do not qualify for child care assistance because they are over income yet have a difficult time paying for child care; have asked if there are any other types of monetary assistance available. These families are finding that the average costs for care are often more than they can afford. A family with an infant and a preschooler pay an average of \$1345 a month in child care costs.

Parents need increased financial access to regulated child care. When parents cannot afford child care, they seek any care they can afford. Often the providers they find are not regulated, do not offer a quality program, and are sometimes unsafe. For the safety and healthy development of our state's children I am asking that you support an increase to the family eligibility rate to 85% of the state median income. This increase will allow more children from lower and middle income homes the opportunity to access regulated and higher quality child care programs. This will enable more families to access child care in order to work.

Thank you.



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
January 2010
Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children

What is it and why is it important?

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 3,800 children received child care assistance in 2009.

- 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.
- Thanks to support from the legislature, child care assistance reimbursement rates were raised to the 50th percentile in 2008. In 2010 the rates will increase for infants and toddlers to the 75th percentile. This will increase options for low income families that can not pay the difference between what programs charge and the state reimburses. The recommendation from the U.S. Health and Social Services is the 75th percentile.
- The family eligibility has not been adjusted since 2002. There are 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.
- 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:

- Complete the child care assistance rate adjustment to include preschool and school age children at the 75th percentile. This will allow low income children the opportunity to access higher quality programs that will lead to outcomes such as increased school readiness, and fewer children left home alone after school.
- Increase family eligibility to 85% of the state median income. This will enable more families to access child care in order to work.

Southeast Alaska Conference of Mayors

March 2, 2010

Dear Alaska Legislators;

Southeast Alaska relies on healthy, functional communities for the delivery of vital services and for maintaining social and economic stability at the local and regional levels. The Conference of Mayors of Southeast Alaska urges the legislature to fund three local government specialists' positions in the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (DCCED) to provide the assistance that is so desperately needed in our urban and rural communities.

The Alaska Constitution, Article 10, Section 14 establishes a State agency to advise and assist local governments. Currently there is very little community support offered by DCCED for training and assistance. DCCED requested \$343,900 in their budget to hire three additional government specialists, one would be in Dillingham, one in Kotzebue, and one based in Juneau. Alaska communities face unprecedented challenges underscored by the national economic crisis, and high energy prices. Alaska does not have the "county" or intermediate level of government between State and Local governments, and as a result, those issues not addressed by the State government are the responsibility of local governments. It is more important than ever that our community leaders have adequate training and assistance in local government matters in order to foster strong local self-government.

The Conference of Mayors of Southeast Alaska strongly urges the legislature to fund the \$343,900 in the DCCED budget for three additional government specialists.

Sincerely,

Southeast Alaska Conference of Mayors

Scott McAdams, Sitka

Henrich Kadake, Kake

Jan Hill, Haines

Millie Schoonover, Craig

Windy Skaflestad, Hoonah

Albert Howard, Angoon

Al Dwyer, Petersburg

Patty Phillips, Pelican

Jim Gould, Thorne Bay

Bruce Botelho, Juneau

Art Bloom, Tenakee Springs

Travis Lewis, Elfin Cove



**Covenant
House
Alaska**

Crisis Center • Community Services Center • Transitional Living

Representative Joule
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

March 2, 2010

Dear Representative Joule,

Covenant House Alaska (CHA) strongly supports the amendments supporting Alaska's foster care youth being brought forth in the House Health and Social Services Finance Sub-Committee.

The proposed amendments provide access to educational, housing and life skills support that is vital for foster care youth to successfully transition to adulthood. Nearly 40% of CHA youth have been involved with the foster care system at some point in their lives. Many of these youth survive for a few months after being released from care, but find at the young age of 18 they don't have the resources and life skills required to live completely independently on their own. After living traumatized lives, they are faced with a new trauma and a new set of dangers that homelessness presents.

These amendments are fundamentally about providing our foster care youth with the resources we would naturally provide to our own children. Youth still require assistance with educational, occupational and housing needs past the age of 18. The amendments ensure that while we cannot erase the trauma endured by foster care children, we can lessen it. We can actively take steps to help them in a responsible, reasonable fashion.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and the proposed amendments. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Deirdre A. Cronin
Executive Director



Nikki Morris
AEYC Family Services Coordinator
Direct 907.789.1231
Main 907.789.1235 or 888.785.1235
Fax 907.789.1238
nmorris@aeyc-sea.org
www.aeyc-sea.org
www.threadalaska.org

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Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children

What is it and why is it important?

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 3,800 children received child care assistance in 2009.

- 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.
- Thanks to support from the legislature, child care assistance reimbursement rates were raised to the 50th percentile in 2008. In 2010 the rates will increase for infants and toddlers to the 75th percentile. This will increase options for low income families that can not pay the difference between what programs charge and the state reimburses. The recommendation from the U.S. Health and Social Services is the 75th percentile.
- The family eligibility has not been adjusted since 2002. There are 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.
- 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:

- Complete the child care assistance rate adjustment to include preschool and school age children at 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, and fewer children left home alone after school.
- Increase family eligibility to 85% of the state median income. This will enable more families to access child care in order to work.

03/02/2010

To: House Finance Committee

Chairs: Rep Stoltze and Hawker

At Gastineau Guiding Company our mission is to provide a “Sense of Wonder” to visiting travelers. Historically, we have relied solely on our guides to achieve this - through specialized training, local hire preference, and excursions that focus on smaller groups with personal connections. Yet over the course of the past year, we have found another avenue by which to inspire visitors - through a very special For-Profit / Non-Profit partnership.

I am here to give you just one local example that shows the merits of the work accomplished by the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program. As a Juneau tour operator it’s great to be able to share some of the achievements and successes born out of the unique partnership Gastineau Guiding Company has with ASGMAP.

Last year the GGC started a groundbreaking new tour that gave cruise ship visitors the opportunity to give something back to the environs of SE Alaska via direct participation in a *Citizen Science* tour. Through our partnership with ASGMAP, we have been able to structure a tour that provides each guest a hands-on educational experience collecting marine data through scientifically viable observation and recordkeeping methods.

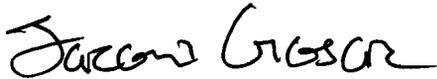
For instance, guests on the tour take plankton ocean water samples and test for salinity levels and temperature while identifying potential harmful algae blooms. Plankton are viewed on a screen through a microscope to give folks a sense of these tiny creatures and their significance to some of the areas largest mammals. This data is then compiled by date, GPS and labeled as a “hot or cold spot” (in relationship to where humpback whales may/or may not be feeding). The data is then sent off monthly to research specialists within ASGMAP. The data collected through the joint efforts of ASGMAP and Gastineau Guiding Company has even made its way into the NOAA Phytoplankton Monitoring Network. This is just one of many such examples of the successes born out of our partnership with ASGMAP.

In summary, our partnership with MAP provides the following:

- 1) Validation – collecting data based upon MAP guidelines so that it is useful
- 2) Increased Awareness – for tour participants as well as our employees, by which we are able to raise the level of science in our everyday lives
- 3) A Feedback Loop between Science and Everyday folks – from which to foster new relationships and connections making science more palatable for citizens and encouraging the scientific community to find avenues to better communicate the relevance of scientific discovery in our everyday lives

I know that this example is but one small way that the ASGMAP is successful in its mission. However, it shows the creativity, ability and influence the organization has to be forward thinking and relevant, not only on a personal level, but on a scalable level too. For example, through ASGMAP's partnership with GGC, not only we have been able to give cruise passengers perspective on the science of SE Alaska's marine environments, but also at the same time we have been able to assist Holland America Line with the creation of their new "*Cruise With Purpose*" program - by which the cruise line is able to develop, brand and market shore excursion programs, like ours, that give something back to the community or environment that people come to visit. It's a ripple effect that this kind of special partnership creates. Through this testimony, I hope you can see the value in contributing to the fruits of their many localized programs.

Thank you for time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Gieser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeremy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gieser".

Jeremy Gieser

1122 Timberline Ct
Juneau, AK

Southeast Alaska Conference of Mayors

March 2, 2010

Dear Alaska Legislators;

Southeast Alaska relies on healthy, functional communities for the delivery of vital services and for maintaining social and economic stability at the local and regional levels. The Conference of Mayors of Southeast Alaska urges the legislature to fund three local government specialists' positions in the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (DCCED) to provide the assistance that is so desperately needed in our urban and rural communities.

The Alaska Constitution, Article 10, Section 14 establishes a State agency to advise and assist local governments. Currently there is very little community support offered by DCCED for training and assistance. DCCED requested \$343,900 in their budget to hire three additional government specialists, one would be in Dillingham, one in Kotzebue, and one based in Juneau. Alaska communities face unprecedented challenges underscored by the national economic crisis, and high energy prices. Alaska does not have the "county" or intermediate level of government between State and Local governments, and as a result, those issues not addressed by the State government are the responsibility of local governments. It is more important than ever that our community leaders have adequate training and assistance in local government matters in order to foster strong local self-government.

The Conference of Mayors of Southeast Alaska strongly urges the legislature to fund the \$343,900 in the DCCED budget for three additional government specialists.

Sincerely,

Southeast Alaska Conference of Mayors

Scott McAdams, Sitka

Henrich Kadake, Kake

Jan Hill, Haines

Millie Schoonover, Craig

Windy Skaflestad, Hoonah

Albert Howard, Angoon

Al Dwyer, Petersburg

Patty Phillips, Pelican

Jim Gould, Thorne Bay

Bruce Botelho, Juneau

Art Bloom, Tenakee Springs

Travis Lewis, Elfin Cove



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
committee name
committee on HB 300 , dated 3-2-2010
bill/subject

To whom it may concern;

My name is Joseph Dingman Sr. I live in Barrow. I am a Firefighter/EMT and a training officer for the Fire Department here. I have a son who was diagnosed with schizophrenia about seven years ago, he is now 26. My son cannot hold down a steady job because he cannot understand simple instructions, he sleeps during the day and is up all night and we cannot get him on a normal schedule. We can watch him regress day by day. He now slurs when he talks and has trouble remembering things that was told to him minutes before. He needs to be in a group home where he can get the proper attention he deserves. He needs someone to teach him a work ethic, handling money, how to live independently, speech therapy, etc.

The only drawback in getting him into a group home is to send him away. In this case is would be out of State because there is no place for him here. Although I am advocating and actively fighting for a group home in Barrow, but I know it will be a few years down the road. He needs a place in the State where he belongs. My son is an Inupiaq Eskimo and being near his culture with other Alaskan native's his age is an important part of his future independence. It will be much easier for us to visit him if he was in Alaska, if we had to go out of State it would be a financial burden. I know other family's who could never afford to fly out of State to visit.

If I could keep him home and teach him these things myself I would. But my job involves travel to all of the North Slope villages. Even if I were home every day, I am not trained to teach him the things he needs to gain his independence. I want to see him as independent as he can be; happy and self reliant long after I am gone. He needs to stay here in the State, I am proud to live here as I have been for the past 45 years, I want my son to be just as proud that his State, where he was born, took care of him when he needed it the most and was not "handed off" to another state.

A quote I have here from Maya Angelou says it best, ***"The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned"***

We went from an amount for the BTKH initiative from a million dollars to around \$600,000, how can this be?

I urge you, not only for myself but for all the other families who have loved ones who are out of State to Please Bring Our Kids Home and Keep Them Here!

I thank you for your time...

Joseph D. Dingman Sr.

Alliance for Mental Illness Issues (AMII)

Barrow, Alaska