



Regional Citizens' Advisory Council / *"Citizens promoting environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers."*

In Anchorage: 3709 Spenard Road / Suite 100 / Anchorage, Alaska 99503 / (907) 277-7222 / FAX (907) 277-4523
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MEMBERS

March 4, 2014

Alaska State
Chamber of
Commerce

Representative Alan Austerman, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Alaska Wilderness
Recreation & Tourism
Association

Chugach Alaska
Corporation

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

City of Cordova

City of Homer

City of Kodiak

Re: Reinstatement of General Fund Appropriation for the Kachemak Bay
National Estuarine Research Reserve within Operating Budget HB 266

City of Seldovia

City of Seward

Gentlemen:

City of Valdez

While the state's fiscal condition requires budget cuts from all agencies, there needs to be a thoughtful distinction between program budget cuts and agency closure. The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC) strongly urges the House and Senate Finance Committees to reinstate the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) funding for FY 2015 within the Department of Fish and Game portion of Operating Budget HB 266.

City of Whittier

Community of
Chenega Bay

Community of
Tatitlek

Cordova District
Fishermen United

Kenai Peninsula
Borough

Kodiak Island
Borough

The PWSRCAC is an independent non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote environmentally safe operation of the Valdez Marine Terminal and associated tankers. Our work is guided by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and our contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. PWSRCAC's 19 member organizations are communities in the region affected by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, as well as commercial fishing, aquaculture, Native, recreation, tourism and environmental groups.

Kodiak Village Mayors
Association

Oil Spill Region
Environmental
Coalition

Port Graham
Corporation

At the House Finance Fish and Game Subcommittee meeting on February 27 the General Funds for the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, a state-federal-local partnership managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Sport Fish Division, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and based at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center in Homer, were completely removed from ADF&G's budget. This cut constitutes the whole of the state funding match required for KBRR to secure larger federal funding awards from NOAA. Elimination of the \$175,000 in General Funds for FY 2015 will in turn eliminate access to more

Prince William Sound
Aquaculture
Corporation

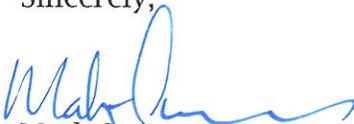
than four times that amount in multiplied matching federal grants, and in consequence close (not just trim) KBRR, which would result in the loss of jobs, research and education programs, and significantly impact operations at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center in Homer.

KBRR provides beneficial research and monitoring programs within Kachemak Bay watersheds and coastal areas, popular education programs such as the Discovery Labs as well as other outdoor programs that focus on coastal and estuarine ecology, and the informative Coastal Training Programs which sponsor workshops and training for resource managers, scientists, and the public. All of this will be lost if ADF&G's request is accepted, and PWSRCAC believes this loss will add to the burden of other agencies that incorporate and benefit from KBRR's science and educational services for the effective management of state natural resources.

The KBRR and the PWSRCAC have partnered on cooperative activities when the missions of both organizations were in alignment. PWSRCAC would lose a valuable partner with the closure of the reserve, but perhaps of much greater importance is the loss of the services and assets that the reserve brings to the local communities and Native interests of the Kachemak Bay region; local, state and federal resource managers and the scientific and educational communities of the state and nation.

We thank you for your careful consideration of reinstatement of General Fund Appropriation for the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve within Operating Budget HB 266.

Sincerely,



Mark Swanson
Executive Director

cc: PWSRCAC Board of Directors
Representative Paul Seaton
Senator Peter Micciche

To: Alaska House of Representatives Finance Committee

From: Stephen K. Lewis, POB 241, Seldovia Ak 99508

Re: Reinstatement of General Fund Appropriation for the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve within Operating Budget HB 266.

Date: March 5, 2014

This letter states my support for reinstatement of this budget item due to the profound importance of the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve to the State of Alaska and the importance of state funding to its ability to continue to exist.

The Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) is a state-federal-local partnership managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and based at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center (IOVC) in Homer, Alaska. For the past twelve years I have served as an appointed member of the reserve Community Council. During this time I have watched the reserve grow into a highly professional organization whose work is of great value to the scientific and educational communities of the state and nation; the local communities and Native interests of the Kachemak Bay region; and local, state and federal resource managers.

The fiscal cornerstone for KBRR is the General Fund (GF) appropriation it receives from the state. Last week ADF&G's Sport Fish Division (SFD), which "manages" KBRR, requested that the House Finance Fish and Game Subcommittee delete \$175,000 in General Funds from KBRR's FY 2015 budget — which the subcommittee agreed to. The disastrous significance of this action is that this funding would provide the match that KBRR requires to secure the much larger amount of funding from NOAA, which if not met will result in closure of the KBRR in July of this year.

What will end if the House and Senate Finance Committees accept ADF&G's requests are highly beneficial research and monitoring programs within Kachemak Bay watersheds and coastal areas, popular education programs such as the Discovery Labs as well as other outdoor programs that focus on coastal and estuarine ecology, and the informative Coastal Training Programs which sponsor workshops and training for both scientists and the public.

The loss of the programs and activities undertaken by the KBRR will add to the burden of other agencies that now incorporate and benefit from KBRR's science and educational services, and destroy an asset of the state of Alaska which has proven its value in facilitating the effective management of state natural resources.

While the state's fiscal condition requires budget cuts from all agencies, there needs to be a thoughtful distinction between program budget cuts and agency closure. The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council strongly urges the House and Senate Finance Committee to reinstate the KBRR funding for FY 2015 within the Department of Fish and Game portion of Operating Budget HB 266. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Stephen K. Lewis





THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of
Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

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

March 3, 2014

The Honorable Alan Austerman, Co-Chair
The Honorable Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 505 & 515
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1182

Subject: Support for Senior Home- and Community-Based Grant Program Funds, Public Assistance/Energy Assistance Program, & the Complex Behavior Collaborative (HB 267 & HB 266, Operating Budget)

Dear Chair Austerman and Chair Stoltze:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) extends our sincere thanks and appreciation for your support of funding for programs serving older Alaskans, specifically the senior grant-funded services administered by the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services. During these times of fiscal constraint, we recognize the difficult budget decisions you are called upon to make. We want to take this opportunity to share with you how important these services are for older Alaskans and their family caregivers.

The National Family Caregiver Support Program and the Nutrition, Transportation and Support Services senior grant programs support family caregivers and help Alaskan seniors enjoy a higher quality of life at home and in their communities. These services reduce the need for higher cost care and promote greater efficiencies in public spending. We thank you for not reducing funding for these programs and appreciate your consideration of increased funding as described in the Mental Health Operating Budget, HB 267.

- **\$200,000 National Family Caregiver Support Program, Division of Senior & Disabilities Services, Senior Community Based Grants.** Family caregivers are the heart and soul of Alaska's long-term care system. They contribute significantly to the cost of care for vulnerable elderly Alaskans, including a growing number of older people with Alzheimer's disease and youth being raised by older caregivers, usually their grandparents. The proposed increment will serve an increased number of caregivers with respite, training, case management, counseling, and other support services. Caregiver support services help seniors remain in their homes and children out of foster care. Research indicates that caregivers of persons with dementia who are supported with respite, training, and counseling stayed home 18 months longer than caregivers receiving no supports (Mittelman 2008). According to the U.S. Administration on Aging (2011), 41% of caregivers surveyed reported that without family caregiver supports, the care recipient would not live in the same residence, with 32% of them stating that the care recipient would be in an assisted living or nursing home.
- **\$345,000 Nutrition, Transportation & Support Services, Division of Senior & Disabilities Services, Senior Community Based Grants.** These services provide a safety net for all older Alaskans age 60 and older, targeting those whose health and welfare are at highest risk including older persons who do not qualify for the Medicaid waiver because they do not meet level of care requirements but still need assistance; those recovering from a hospital stay due to a fall, illness or surgery; and older persons transitioning from

the assisted living home or skilled nursing facility back home. These services provide congregate meals served in senior centers, adult day programs, and other group settings; home-delivered meals and a welfare check; assisted transportation; and homemaker services. These services are low cost (\$436 annually per senior recipient) evidence-based strategies that help seniors sustain their health and independence and save money by delaying the need for higher cost care. Eighty-five percent of older adults surveyed by the U.S. Administration on Aging (2010) who receive these core services reported that this assistance helped them to remain at home. Research conducted by the Health Research and Educational Trust (2013) found that states which invest more in core senior services spend less on higher cost care for their elderly residents. Specifically, for every \$25 states spend on home-delivered meals, there is a 1% reduction in the number of new residents with low-care needs admitted to the nursing home.

ACoA is concerned about the impact of the proposed \$2 million reduction recommended by the House Finance HSS Subcommittee on the **State's Heating Assistance Program** administered by the Division of Public Assistance on the health and welfare of elderly Alaskans on a fixed income. In FY2013, the Alaska Heating Assistance Program served 13,678 households of which 4,179 (or 31%) had an elderly member. The tribal heating assistance programs served an additional 6,775 households, many of which include Native Elders (Division of Public Assistance 2014). During the winter, older people often spend much of their day at home with many living in older, poorly insulated, and drafty homes. In order to save money, some seniors turn down their thermostats way low, use their kitchen stoves for heat, and cut back on food and medication expenditures in order to afford energy to heat their homes. These cost-cutting measures often compromise the health and quality of life for Alaska's elderly citizens. We ask that you maintain funding levels for this program as proposed by the Governor's FY2015 budget.

The Commission recommends annualized funding for the **Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative**, Division of Behavioral Health which serves vulnerable Alaskans with complex behaviors, including those with Alzheimer's disease, mental illness and developmental disabilities by providing intensive consultation, caregiver training, and technical assistance. These services provide community-based services and prevent the need for institutional care outside of the state.

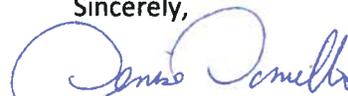
The Alaska Commission on Aging appreciates your thoughtful consideration of these budget items identified in HB 267 to improve services for older Alaskans and their family caregivers. We also thank you for your passage of the Alaska Senior Benefits Payment Program, HB 263. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's Executive Director, by phone (465-4879) or email (denise.daniello@alaska.gov) for further information. Thank you for your commitment and dedication serving Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Shields
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Representative Mark Neuman, Vice Chair
Representative Mia Costello
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Les Gara
Representative David Guttenberg
Representative Lindsey Holmes

Representative Cathy Muñoz
Representative Steve Thompson
Representative Tammie Wilson
Representative Scott Kawasaki (alternate)



House Finance Committee

Letter of Support for the Governor's Budget – Supporting Health Care Access through Loan Repayment and Direct Incentive Program (SHARP)

Dear Representatives Austerman and Stoltze and Neuman:

This letter is written to you on behalf of the Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants.

The SHARP Program provides healthcare provider loan repayment and direct incentives to ensure an adequate supply of healthcare providers will be available to meet the healthcare needs of Alaskans in the areas of highest need. SHARP is designed to improve healthcare access for Alaskans who receive Medicaid, Medicare, or other federal health benefits, are uninsured, or have other substantial barriers to healthcare access (e.g. remote location).

Since 2009, 136 SHARP clinicians have provided healthcare in over 38 communities, spreading across all 6 regions of Alaska. SHARP clinicians work in a broad range of healthcare occupations, including:

- Behavioral Health (44): 9 Psychiatrists, 5 Psychologists, 12 Clinical Social Workers, 13 Professional Counselors, 3 Physician Assistants, Nurses (RN) and 1 Nurse Practitioner; and,
- Dental Health (24): 17 Dentists & 7 Dental Hygienists; and in
- Medical Care (68): 27 Physicians, 13 Nurse Practitioners, 10 Physician Assistants, 9 Pharmacists, 7 Nurses (RN), & 2 Physical Therapists. Participating healthcare agencies are now more than 43 statewide: tribal health, hospitals, Community Health Centers, Community mental health Cs, government & other clinics.

The Council recently recommended another 39 providers to the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner.

The SHARP Program

- Increases access to care for underserved populations
- Supports prevention and early treatment which contributes to better patient health outcomes
- Improves health care provider organizations stability and sustainability by reducing turnover
- Supports communities where hiring and retaining health care providers is a challenge
- Enables health care providers to stay in communities and contribute to local economies directly and by servicing as an anchor position for other health care support staff who also contribute to local economy.

The Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants (AKAPA) asks for your support in fully funding the Governor's budget for both the SHARP I and SHARP II programs as components of an Alaska Health Care System that provide access to health care for the most vulnerable in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Bigelow PA-C".

Sarah Bigelow, PA-C

AKAPA President and Chief Representative for House of Delegates

Thandi Carros

From: Alexis Ross Miller <alexis_miller@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 4:06 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Substance Abuse Treatment

Alexis Ross Miller
3141 Pionner Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801

March 10, 2014

Dear Representative Alan Austerman,

Please maintain existing funding for substance abuse treatment in Alaska!

I just participated in the Success Inside & Out Program that the Juneau Community hosts at the Lemon Creek Correctional Facility on Saturday (March 8) all day.

The majority of the people in the jail have substance abuse problems. Four recently released felons (3 women and 1 man) talked about their own struggles with substance abuse and with maintaining a clean and sober lifestyle and they know firsthand the importance of substance abuse treatment programs in our state.

Please do not cut this important program.

Sincerely,
Alexis Ross Miller

Thandi Carros

From: Hansen, Allen <Allen.Hansen@marsh.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 5:25 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Spending Cuts

Dear Representative Austerman,

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed 2.043 million in cuts to residential substance abuse treatment. As a member of the Board of Directors for Volunteers of America Alaska I have grave concerns about these cuts and the resulting negative impact on the youth of Alaska. Volunteers of America Alaska provides a full continuum of care, outpatient through residential, for adolescents ages 13 – 18 with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders. We are one of the very limited number of youth residential substance treatment centers for youth. We serve youth statewide. VOA provides integrated care that addresses all major life issues and domains the individual presents with. In accordance to evidenced based practices treatment intensity and the level of care is matched to the needs of the individual in order to produce successful outcomes. Some individuals can get clean and sober in outpatient services and some require residential to get the help they need. The majority of the youth we serve in our residential program, ARCH, have been in multiple outpatient programs and have not been able to stay clean and sober. They also have severe mental health issues and may pose a threat to themselves and to others in the community. They often engage in illegal behaviors and show up in local emergency rooms due to their life threatening alcohol and drug use. For these youth outpatient services are not sufficient to meet their needs.

Residential treatment for these youth helps decrease their psychiatric symptoms to include suicidal ideation, eliminates their substance abuse, decreases their involvement in the legal system, and increases their ability to be safe, productive members of our communities. Residential substance abuse treatment helps people develop skills that support them to remain stable, employed, housed and contributing productively in the community. Residential substance abuse treatment such as the ARCH program supports people in developing successful skills for staying clean and sober and avoid costly juvenile justice, adult prison stays and emergency room visits. Substance abuse is a major contributing factor in the state's high rate of DUI, domestic violence and other crimes. Increased access to residential treatment is needed, not less.

Volunteers of America Alaska's residential program gets the privilege of seeing youth and families make positive changes in their lives and become contributing members of our community. Again, these are youth who have not been able to do so on their own or with a lower level of care such as outpatient services. I urge you to maintain the current level of funding for residential substance abuse treatment. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Regards,

[Allen](#) Hansen, Client Executive



O: 907.339.2214 C: 907.223.2757

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ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 120 Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (907) 563-9229 www.alaskaminers.org

February 28, 2014

Representative Alan Austerman, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
State of Alaska House of Representatives, House Finance Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Status of funding to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to pursue primacy of the 404 Wetlands Permitting Program.

Dear Representative Austerman and Representative Stoltze:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the status of funding to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to pursue assumption of the Clean Water Act Section 404 Wetlands Permitting Program.

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,500 individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. Our members look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

AMA was pleased to see the introduction last year of SB27, a bill that allowed for the State to evaluate the primacy over wetlands permitting. At the time, we applauded the Governor for his efforts to streamline permitting and encouraged Legislators to pass the bill, and SB27 was signed into law June 24, 2013.

AMA strongly supports the intent of this legislation, and we must commend DEC on how quickly it has begun its efforts to evaluate 404 Primacy. Immediately, various state agencies began assigning personnel to evaluate a potential State-run 404 program and work with the existing regulators, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to build capacity and observe the program as it is run currently, and to investigate other benefits to wetlands permitting. These benefits are what AMA remains most concerned about losing, should the program and funding be eliminated.

Specifically, the original legislation did not intend to begin assumption of 404 Primacy, nor is AMA urging for such action now. More so, the legislation was intended for the State to evaluate if such a move is even right for Alaska - and in the meantime, explore other options to relieve Alaskan developers of onerous, and often inappropriate, regulation. Currently, wetlands mitigation requirements are crippling the small, family-run placer miners in the state, and as of late, the requirements are burdening the large-scale mines as well. Mitigation requirements are often set by regulators with little knowledge of Alaskan conditions and generally do not reflect the reality of the environment. Securing federal permits is a very lengthy process, costing miners great time and expense. Fees imposed for wetlands impacts are astronomical, to the point they can be project killers. To be clear, wetlands mitigation remains the single largest issue affecting Alaska's miners today.

AMA remains adamantly supportive, and subsequently, hopeful, that the State of Alaska can continue its evaluation of 404 Primacy and the pursuit of programs to improve permitting and wetlands mitigation. Taking the time to research the advantages and disadvantages of primacy is the right move for Alaska, and we urge you to reinstate DEC funding to continue the 404 Primacy evaluation.

Sincerely,

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director



Alaska Marine Safety Education Association

2924 Halibut Point Road, Sitka, Alaska 99835-9668

Voice: 907-747-3287 Fax: 907-747-3259 www.amsea.org

FACT SHEET - SUPPORT FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING SAFETY TRAINING

PROBLEM: The state of Alaska is proposing to cut 25% of its support of AMSEA's work to provide opportunities for safety training for commercial fishermen, school children and other members of the public. They intend to cut another 25% every year until it ceases altogether. Balancing the state budget by eliminating this revenue neutral program would be careless.

CONSEQUENCES: AMSEA has already suffered a 42% (\$360,000) cut from other sources despite a growing demand for the training. Commercial Fishermen depend on AMSEA for port-based access for required and desired safety training. No other organization provides this training in Alaska. AMSEA training is affordable, high quality and has no cost for most. Loss of support will result in Alaskans having to leave the state for training lasting only a day or two. Young people entering fisheries and experienced fishermen will be unable to schedule training at a convenient time and location, as they are now able to do.

HISTORY: AMSEA is an Alaska based non-profit that, since 1985, has trained over 200,000 people in marine safety in over 100 communities throughout Alaska - from Barrow to Ketchikan and from Anchorage to St. Paul. Instructors are based throughout the state.

SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY: AMSEA provides train-the-trainer workshops so that communities have their own locally based marine safety instructors. AMSEA supplies instructors with Alaska-specific marine safety curriculum, training videos, training equipment, resources, course promotion and Coast Guard certification for relevant courses. AMSEA also partners with over 100 agencies and private businesses; which lowers program cost while providing the nation's highest quality training. AMSEA does not duplicate any other state program. AMSEA brings training to regions of the state that are underserved and are at high risk in a highly cost effective manner.

STATE FUNDING HISTORY: AMSEA has received funding from the state since the late 1990's. AMSEA is in the operating budget of the Dept. of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (DCCED) Division of Community & Regional Affairs for \$196,900. This program has been "revenue neutral" since it is drawn from the boating licensing receipts collected under the DMV. *Many commercial fishing vessels pay boating registration fees but will receive no safety training benefit under this proposal.* Many years ago this program was funded by interest from the Alaska Commercial Fisherman's Fund. Our current budget from the state has not increased in two years.

RECOGNITION: This unique, Alaska grown program has been recognized for its quality by over 17 state, regional and national awards. Most recently AMSEA was given the *Lifesaver Award* by National Fisherman magazine.

REQUEST: We are requesting the state preserve our base funding of \$196,900 and increase this by \$48,000 in the FY 2015 budget for a total of \$244,900 to help us partially make up for federal cuts and help meet required and desired training demands by commercial fishermen. In addition we are requesting that we be retained in the operating



Alaska Marine Safety Education Association

2924 Halibut Point Road, Sitka, Alaska 99835-9668

Voice: 907-747-3287 Fax: 907-747-3259 www.amsea.org

budget, and not be transferred to the capital budget as proposed.

Chenega Bay Clinic

January 15, 2014

Honorable Representative Alan Austerman, and
Honorable Representative Bill Stoltze
State of Alaska House Finance Committee
Sent Via E-mail
LegFinance@legis.state.ak.us

Re: Proposed Cuts to the Community Health Aide Training & Supervision (CHATS) Grants
Program Budget

Honorable Representatives Alan Austerman and Representative Bill Stoltze:

I write you on behalf of **Chugachmiut**, for which I serve as the Community Health Practitioner, regarding the proposed cuts to the Community Health Aide Training & Supervision (CHATS) grants program budget. We are acutely aware of the budget shortfalls that we face in Alaska and the current economic climate. Thank you for allowing us to share our comments and concerns on the proposed cuts.

Chugachmiut's CHA program involves five of the seven Chugachmiut Regional Native villages: Chenega Bay, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Seward and Tatitlek, Alaska. All are located within Southcentral Alaska. The Primary Network Spoke site is located at Chugachmiut Health Services in Seward. Each of the other four communities are considered secondary network spoke sites. Chugachmiut supports a standardized clinic model in each community to increase visiting provider quality of care. All medical providers and support staff regularly travel to each community, regardless of their home community.

Our immediate concern is to ask that you protect the funding for the CHATS program. This program is critical to reducing emergency and inpatient workloads while preventing long-term chronic health problems and disruptions to families and communities. Stable funding for this grant is critical to ensuring cost-savings to the Alaska Tribal Health System (a critical component of the Alaska Public Health System) and the State's General Fund.

The Mission of the CHATS program is to provide training and supervision of primary community health aides who provide health care services in rural communities throughout the State. Community health aides and practitioners (CHA/Ps) are critical to the delivery of health care in the state of Alaska. They are the first responders and often the only providers of care in most of rural Alaska. The CHAP program is globally recognized as a model of care in underserved communities. Their value is demonstrated in the improved health and greater capacity in rural communities to address health. The design of the training and utilization of CHA/Ps employed vision and foresight.

Additionally, CHA/Ps are able to generate revenue to support the delivery of care through third party billing; without the CHATS program, the need for these critical, life-saving, and potentially self-funding positions cannot be met.

The CHAP program is already under great pressure in that the training program has long been chronically underfunded. The training centers have sought and implemented innovative methods (including distance and online/virtual training sessions) to maximize resources to increase the number of CHA/Ps receiving training. However, certification requirements (wisely so) require direct oversight with a preceptor and student and supervised direct interaction with patients. Any “cost-savings” realized from these methods, have been directed toward an attempt to increase the number of CHA/Ps trained. At present there are only 198 training slots available annually for an estimated 324 slots needed for CHAs to progress through training. To add to the challenges, CHA training centers already faced difficulties with one training center closing its doors. The proposed cuts puts at-risk the remaining training centers and will translate into more costly expenditures and poorer health outcomes which will adversely impact Alaska’s health.

The Alaska Tribal Health System has developed many innovative methods for providing health care across the state. New and exciting tools, such as telemedicine will not eliminate the need for CHA/Ps. In fact, CHA/Ps are also critical to the use of telemedicine, extending the reach of advanced medical personnel in a sustainable manner through the benefits of third-party billing. CHA/Ps are partners and facilitators of using telemedicine in rural Alaska.

I cannot overstate our deep concern about the current consideration to cut this critical program where other resources are not able to supplement or offset the losses to Alaska’s capacity to meet this critical need. Please consider the long-term impacts and the resulting adverse impacts to the State of Alaska. Please keep the funding levels whole for the CHATS program.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew T McLaughlin-
Rural resident of Chenega Bay Village, CHP, Clinician, EMT, BS, AAS, Community
Health Certified

Thandi Carros

From: Anne Wieland <agpacsu@xyz.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 9:48 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: Sen. Peter Micciche; Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Save Kachemak Bay Research Reserve entire funding

Dear Rep. Stoltze and Rep. Austerman,

KBRR has provided a wide variety of programs including their popular Discovery Labs as well as produced much valuable research. Several members of my family from Outside and Canada have visited the KBRR Discovery Labs and considered KBRR and I and O visits two of the top activities here in Homer. My 14 year of granddaughter who visits yearly from NC has asked me to take her to the labs since they first were offered. Additionally I've attended several of the presentations of research projects in process which have been very interesting, valuable and well presented. The staff at KBRR consists of top notch personnel who are not only excellent scientists but very creative and accessible to the public.

As a grandmother who has sport fished since I was 7 and who continues to fish very successfully into my late 70's, I'd be willing to pay a modest fee to supplement my free Senior Fishing License and think that other seniors might be willing to pay say \$10. per year so that SFD could make up their deficit. Please do what you can to save KBRR's extremely valuable entire program!

Sincerely yours,
Anne Wieland
Fritz Creek, AK



4 March 2014

To: Legislative Finance Committee

RE: Economic and Social Dividends from one Alaska Youth First Program

As the finance committee looks at cutting Alaska Youth First funds for provision of “career guide services,” Access Alaska Youth Transition Program would like to ensure that you have clear and accurate information about the ways that our particular program uses relatively small amounts of money to help our neediest, high-risk youth to enter and retain employment. To cut our AYF program is to effectively cut the wrists of a working investment in our community’s economy.

Our youth transition program braids funding to help youths with disabilities to earn nationally recognized credentials and succeed in employment or postsecondary education/training. We are awarded small AYF amounts, \$20,000.00 in FY 14, but what we manage to do with those funds generates employment outcomes that currently save our community more than \$300,000.00 per year in benefits outlays. Youth who would otherwise be drawing Social Security Disability and Public Assistance are working and paying taxes. The figure of \$300,000.00 represents savings in benefits payments only. That is a significant return, but there are far greater costs we save our community.

We serve high risk youth with disabilities. Without supports into employment, these youth hit the streets and survive in ways that cost our communities millions of dollars over the course of a few years, in emergency responses, court costs, housing in correction systems, unpaid emergency room fees, as well as unpaid medical and substance abuse treatment bills. Those costs are followed by years full of the costs of support and foster care for the children they bear but are not prepared to raise, themselves.

We track our youth outcomes. AYF provides one year of funding to help them initiate career planning. Leveraging WIA funding, we follow our youth and provide supports to them, as needed, for years beyond that. We know when they earn diplomas and GED’s, when they enter and retain employment.

AYF funds allow us to serve an important group of youths with disabilities that our WIA funding does not, those between the ages of 21 and 24, who need credentials, education, training and employment. I will share two classic cases with you, after highlighting some of our strengths that help explain *how* we do it.

(Continued on page 2)

Anchorage
1217 East 10th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-248-4777
fax 907-248-0639
toll free 800-770-4488
TTY 907-248-8799

Fairbanks
526 Gaffney, Suite 100
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
907-479-7940
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TTY 907-474-8619

Mat Su
897 Commercial Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
907-357-2588
fax 907-357-5585
toll free 800-770-0228

Opening Doors to Independence
www.accessalaska.org
info@accessalaska.org

We provide the services of AYF to youth during summer vacations, winter/spring breaks, and during many days that schools are closed for training or holidays that we do not observe. We develop mentoring relationships with the high risk youths we serve, which make the key difference in them successfully navigating systems to enter stable employment. We have on staff nationally certified employment specialists, a certified vocational rehabilitation counselor, a certified addictions counselor, and an English teacher. We developed VISTA projects which recruit then provide safe tutors and mentors for these youth. We work with more than 21 community partners who help us to address whole life needs for our youth and the families some of them create (regardless of how we advise them to wait).

Our schools currently graduate only 43% of students with disabilities. Access Alaska Youth Transition Program works with job centers, schools, shelters, counseling and corrections programs to connect with them, helping them to define and attain goals in education/training/employment.

Two recent cases are standard examples:

Case one: A young couple, both aged 23, have an infant and a toddler. Both of these parents were unemployed. The mother had not graduated high school, and she had a learning disability. We helped her with tutoring and incentives so that she was able to pass the math HSQE and earn her diploma. We're helping her to pursue her goal to become a certified nursing assistant. The father has a mental health disability, but he was highly motivated to work. He needed more encouragement and guidance than traditional job services could provide, yet his disability was not severe enough for DVR eligibility. So he had been applying for jobs endlessly without success. We helped him to develop application and interview skills, develop a resume, and prepare for testing at First Student. He is now working for First Student and keeping regular hours as a devoted employee. He continues to rely on his mentor for emotional support and effective guidance. The family would still be living on public benefits without the help AYF allowed us to provide. They were too old for our WIA program. It is in our community's interest to assist the many youths in that gap so that they can enjoy the employment successes for which they wish, but without AYF funds, training and connection to resources, we would not have means. We do a lot with a little, but we cannot operate on nothing.

Second case: A youth with autism graduated high school, but bouts of depression generated suicide attempts and ran up ER bills. Treatment on the mental health ward helped him, but he could not pay the bills. While we helped him with career guide services, job searches and development of employability skills, we also helped him to develop a personal support system and access counseling. He is managing life positively today, as an employed, insured, and happy worker. He is participating in a powerful workshop on Friendship & Dating which we are sponsoring. With our support, he is walking a sure path into a healthy, happy adulthood. He, too, relies on his mentoring relationship with Access Alaska to help him over rough spots and guide him effectively.

They can't go it alone, nor should they. Please find a way to provide our Youth Transition Program continued financial support in the economic interest of our entire community.

Respectfully,

Ann Oury Lefavor

Ann Oury Lefavor, MS, CRC
Youth Transition Program Coordinator
Access Alaska, Fairbanks

Thandi Carros

From: Barney Norwick <barneynorwick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 8:41 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Juneau Access Road

Representative Austerman:
Please exclude funding for the Juneau access road.

I just can't believe this idiotic project won't die!
The problem with the Juneau road is that it's not a road, it's just a long access road to another ferry terminal. Millions of dollars of construction just to get to another ferry terminal? All this trouble for me when I want to go to Petersburg? Ridiculous.

And maintenance costs? They mention the avalanche chutes, but they don't mention the likely landslides in our heavy fall rains along the road cuts. This is going to be a very expensive road to maintain. I don't see how these costs add up to support a population of 30,000 people. Nothing about this project makes sense.

I hate to be too pessimistic, but the only reason that seems to make sense for building this road is to support cronies that have mining interests around Berner's Bay. I hope I am wrong about that. Berner's Bay is pretty much hallowed ground in Juneau and mining interests are going to spend a lot of time in court before they accomplish anything there.

Please don't fund this project. It will be a financial burden on the state for years to come, continually tie the state in court in lawsuits and will never prove to be financially feasible for such a small community.

And what about the fast ferry? After all this expense for the road and another ferry terminal we will still have a fast ferry terminal here or are we supposed to try 50 miles to get the "fast ferry". Kinda defeats the purpose doesn't it?

Curtis "Barney" Norwick

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Department of Public Safety's Budget and the retrofit of the P/V Woldstad.

We request that you include an additional \$1.3 - \$1.6 million in the Public Safety budget for increased operational and capital expenditures related to completing the retrofit of the P/V Woldstad. With Alaska's expanding role into the Arctic and anticipated pressure on our coastal villages and natural resources it is imperative that Alaska maintains its two high endurance patrol vessels.

Alaska with its more than 31,383 miles of coastline has some of the richest fishing grounds in the world... Patrolling these waters...are 16 Public Safety vessels that range in size from 25 feet to 156 feet along with numerous smaller skiffs....The Bering Sea alone encompasses 886,000 square miles of fishing grounds... Storms with gale and hurricane force winds 50 to 80 mph and seas in excess of 30 feet are not uncommon.¹ Public Safety only has two high endurance vessels over 100 feet: the 156 ft. P/V Stimson (stationed in Dutch Harbor patrolling the Bering Sea, Bristol Bay, and Aleutians), and the 121 ft. P/V Woldstad, (stationed in Kodiak patrolling the Gulf of Alaska, the Alaskan Peninsula, Bering Sea/Bering Straits, and Bristol Bay).

Our fisheries are tied to our very existence as a state. The Alaska statehood movement was first and foremost about attaining control of Alaska's natural resources.² Although ex-vessel prices for Alaska salmon fell in the 1990s they have rebounded dramatically since 2002³. In 2010, harvesting, processing, and retailing of Bristol Bay salmon and the multiplier effects of these activities created \$1.5 billion in output or sales value across the United States. The 2010 Bristol Bay salmon fishery supported 12,000 fishing and processing jobs.⁴ Although not a huge generator of revenues to our State's general fund, "the seafood industry is the largest private sector employer creating 56,600 direct and 22,000 indirect jobs annually, more jobs than oil and gas, and mining combined. If Alaska were an independent country, it would rank in the top 10 of seafood producing nations."⁵

Yes, Alaska's fisheries have been evolving and enforcement has changed but our fisheries will continue to evolve; we must be ready for any future enforcement needs. The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission's preliminary report was very clear on the need for our state to be ready to respond to search and rescue requests and future enforcement needs of new arctic fisheries. To be ready Alaska needs to maintain the 2 high endurance vessels under Public Safety.⁶

Public Safety currently receives approximately \$1 million per year through MOA's with NMFS and under Joint Agreements for patrols.⁷ With the expansion of marine traffic in the Bering Sea the State needs to continue to push for its full share of funding under the Magnuson/Stevens Act and Bering Sea Aleutian Island Ground Fishery BSAI. Public Safety also needs to look into obtaining a fair and equitable portion of the \$20 million in state commercial fisheries taxes to fund enforcement.

We need a clear vision of Alaska's future for the marine section's high endurance vessels. We need to be competitive and ready for Arctic Exploration. We need to be proactive not reactive. A 58 foot limited purse seiner, which has been proposed as a replacement for the P/V Woldstad is not a high endurance

¹ Dept of Public Safety webpage dps.alaska.gov/AWT/Marine.aspx

² Gerald McBeath and Thomas Morehouse, Alaska Politics and Government 1994

³ Trends in Alaska and World Salmon Markets prepared for House Fisheries Special Committee February 7, 2013 Gunnar Knapp

⁴ The Economic Importance of the Bristol Bay Salmon Industry ISER April 2013

⁵ The Seafood Industry in Alaska's Economy prepared by Northern Economics January 2009

⁶ Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Preliminary Report To The Alaska State Legislature Submitted January 30, 2014

⁷ Testimony House Finance Subcommittee Public Safety

vessel. Recognizing the importance of protecting our fisheries state residents in 1978 passed a state bond to build the 121 foot patrol vessel.⁸ The P/V Woldstad was specifically designed and built to provide public safety and fishery patrol to all Alaskan waters. The P/V Woldstad can work inside waters and offshore. Over its life the P/V Woldstad has patrolled in virtually all coastal and inside waters of Alaska including: Southeast, the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea/Bering Straits, Norton Sound, and all the waters around Kodiak. With its two 24 ft. Naiads the P/V Woldstad is also fully capable as serving as a platform for inshore fishery patrols, search and rescue, firefighting and resource user contacts. The P/V Woldstad is the most versatile vessel Public Safety currently has.⁹

The P/V Woldstad has performed admirably over the past 30 years and will continue to do so for another 30 once retrofitted¹⁰. If the P/V Woldstad were sold¹¹, anticipated receipts are estimated to only be \$200,000¹². Current replacement cost for the Woldstad would be \$18 - \$20 million¹³. The Alaska Legislature has already appropriated \$2.4 million to retrofit the P/V Woldstad. Instead of spending \$3 million to purchase and retrofit a 58 ft seiner, we request that the House Finance Committee include the additional \$1.3 to \$1.6 needed to complete the retrofit and fund the captain position for the P/V Woldstad.

Both the P/V Woldstad and P/V Stimson serve as the State's presence in many coastal areas. During the winter months when ferry service is curtailed, these mobile platforms can be utilized for DMV, Health & Social Services, VPSO, and DEC support, and a number of other state functions. Hunter & boating safety courses, presentations from the Council on Domestic Violence regarding Choose Respect could also be conducted in villages during the school/winter months using these vessels as an educational platform. In the event of an emergency these would be the vessels that could respond in all weather conditions providing emergency supplies, power, water, personnel, fire fighting, etc. to the Aleutians, western and coastal areas of Alaska.

The Department of Public Safety I believe said it best:

The Department has expanded its role with the inclusion of the Federal Joint Enforcement Agreement, Homeland Security and Boating Safety enforcement concerns. This responsibility covers the largest coastline in the country. The division has arguably the widest patrol area and most complex responsibility of any single law enforcement agency in the nation. The safety of the troopers, the successful enforcement of the state regulations and wellbeing of the citizens of the state depend on this fleet. The fleet is critical to the State of Alaska and must be maintained in operational condition at all time.¹⁴

Alaska must recognize its fiduciary responsibility to our natural resources. We believe these high endurance vessels are part of the State's responsibility to ensure the protection of our ORIGINAL PERMANENT FUND – Alaska's fish & wildlife and natural resources.

Thank you,
Bonne' & Ken Woldstad

⁸ A Comparable Analysis of Fish & Wildlife Enforcement in Alaska From the Passage of the 1902 Alaska Game Law to 2011, Ken Woldstad

⁹ Memo from Doug Mecum, Director to Jim Clark, Chief of Staff September 15, 2003

¹⁰ Phone Conversation Nichols Brothers Boat Builders to Bonne' Woldstad February 7, 2014

¹¹ Letters to Representative Tammie Wilson & Senator Pete Kelley from Colonel Cockrell January 6, 2014

¹² Testimony during Senate Public Safety Finance Committee meeting February 2014

¹³ Email from Nichols Brothers Boat Builders to Bonne' Woldstad February 6, 2014

¹⁴ Aircraft and Vessel Repair and Maintenance FY 2005 Request pg. 2

Thandi Carros

From: Brenda Bogowith <Brbogo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 12:50 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Community Support Services

Brenda Bogowith
19520 Wingham Circle
Eagle River, AK 99577

March 7, 2014

Dear Representative Alan Austerman,

Dear Representative,

Thank you for taking the time to read my correspondence. I'm asking that you please support and fund Alaskans in need of community support services. These services are cost effective for the state and benefit our communities and our citizens. Alaska has an epidemic of substance abuse, FASD, Traumatic Brain Injury, and behavioral/mental health issues. Without support services, they are left untreated or are institutionalized. The lack of supports lead to an increase in DUIs, assault, homelessness, domestic violence which drains our state's resources. Alaska has no choice but to incarcerate or institutionalize these people who are our neighbors, friends, co-workers or family members. With support services, those in need receive rehabilitation, which then reduces violence, reduces rates of recidivism, engages people to be productive and find jobs, and saves our state money. Lacking people away or sending them away is not a solution. Alaska can do better. Please think about our future, as people are our greatest resource. Thank you,

Sincerely,
Brenda Bogowith

Thandi Carros

From: Brenda Friend <bfriend@alaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:17 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Protect Care Programs for People with CF

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Constituent

As a constituent and someone personally affected by cystic fibrosis (CF), I urge you to support funding in the fiscal year 2015 budget for health care programs that provide the high-quality, specialized care that people with CF need.

Nearly a quarter of people with cystic fibrosis report delaying necessary medical care or skipping prescribed treatments due to cost concerns. Programs that provide assistance to people who would otherwise be unable to afford medical care are vital to those with CF. These programs help ensure that people with cystic fibrosis can afford the treatments they need to live longer, healthier lives.

Access to appropriate health care makes a critical difference in improving health and quality of life for people with CF. Providing coverage for CF care and treatments can help people with CF to better manage their disease, reduce time spent in hospitals and support quality of life.

Once again, I respectfully urge you to support funding for our state health care programs and Medicaid in this budget year.

Brenda Friend
3941 Woodland Drive
Kodiak, AK 99615

Thandi Carros

From: Brie Drummond <badrummond@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 11:52 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Request for funding of Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) in the Operating Budget HB266

Representative Alan Austerman

Room no. 505

State Capital

Juneau, AK 99801

7 March 2014

Dear Representative Austerman,

I implore you to support the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) in the Operating Budget HB266. The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is a vital part of our community here in Homer and the greater Kenai Peninsula. It conducts important research on the unique ecosystem of Kachemak Bay and works hard to educate the public, especially children through their labs and programs at the Islands and Ocean Visitor's Center. As a mother to a preschooler who has participated in the education programs, I can say from personal experience that the staff is engaging and effective in getting both children and adults interested in the science and conservation here in Homer.

Loss of the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve will impact jobs, research and education in our community. Please do not cut it.

Sincerely,

Brie Drummond

PO Box 1268, Homer AK

Thandi Carros

From: bryanzak@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 5:06 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

At the House Finance Fish and Game Subcommittee meeting on February 27 the General Funds (GF) for KBNERR were completely removed from ADF&G's budget.

This cut constitutes the whole of the state funding match required for KBNERR to secure larger federal funding awards from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. The impact will close (not just cut) KBNERR, which would in turn abolish access to more than \$750,000 of grant funds and result in the loss of jobs, research and education programs, and significantly impact operations at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center in Homer.

I hope that you will find a way to reinstate funding for the KBNERR as I personally have witnessed the value added to the global scientific database from research conducted at the KBNERR.

I believe that cutting funding to valuable agencies such as the KBNERR without consideration to matching grant funds is the wrong approach when considering the importance in this case to the world and to the community in which the KBNERR is located.

Thank you,

Bryan Zak
Cell 907-223-6681

Thandi Carros

From: Cathy Bishop <c.bishop@nugensranchak.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 10:19 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; rep.bill.stolze@akleg.gov; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: House Bill

March 5, 2014

Member of the Finance Committee;

I am writing in response to the cut that has been proposed to Behavioral Health, specifically residential treatment services. Residential treatment provides services to the chronic users of alcohol and drugs with or without a co-occurring disorder. This service is currently underfunded in this state when you consider the cost of not providing treatment to these individuals. Untreated chronic users cost the legal system, the health system, and the community they live in as a whole by breaking the law, needing emergency medical care, and by creating havoc in their living environment.

Residential treatment provides a safe environment for those users that are unable to utilize outpatient services for many different reasons (no driver's license, no automobile, homelessness, no insurance, no income, etc.) and for those that have tried outpatient services many times without success.

As the Clinical Supervisor at Nugen's Ranch, I receive a call at least once a week from a loved one of a chronic user that is desperately trying to find a treatment bed. Imagine yourself in this situation, your brother, sister, son, daughter, niece, etc. is addicted to alcohol or drugs. They are living on the streets, have overdosed numerous times, they are under nourished and they call you and ask for help. They want to get clean and sober and change their life. What would you do? Who would you call? I get weekly calls from people crying because they have been unable to get services for their loved one; or they are told the waiting list is long. I hope you are never in this situation, but you could be one day. I would be happy to forward these calls to you.

Chronic alcoholics and drug users come from many different places; they are young, old, Caucasian, Native Alaskans, Black, rich, poor, educated, uneducated, etc. Neither you nor I have the ability to know who will be struck with this devastating disease. No one asks for it. It does not discriminate – it could happen to you or me, at any age, at any time.

Nugen's Ranch provides not only beds for the chronic users; it gives them hope for a new life; as I'm sure the other treatment facilities in the state does. Alcoholism and drug addiction is not going to "go away". Please don't take away the needed funding for these facilities and the hope that we are able to give to not only the chronic user but their loved ones and community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I know that making budget decisions is not an easy task, but think about how this decision could affect the people that you love any day.

Sincerely,

Cathy L. Bishop, MAM, CDCS, ADM, ABHC

Clinical Supervisor

Nugen's Ranch

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Thandi Carros

From: Charlene Wilkinson <cwilkinson83@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 04, 2014 12:42 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Legislative Priorities

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Constituent

Dear Representative Austerman,

I am a voter in your district (I live in Cordova.) I am a retiree from the Alaska Department of Law and therefore my retirement benefit is of great concern to me.

The governor has included in his budget a "cash infusion" to contribute to the unfunded liability of the state retirement trusts. The legislature must pass this funding in order for it to happen, of course. What is your stance on this item? I urge you and your fellow representatives to pass this funding.

Sincerely,

Charlene Wilkinson

P.O. Box 152

Cordova, AK 99574

cwilkinson83@yahoo.com



March 6, 2014

Honorable Representative Alan Austerman, and
Honorable Representative Bill Stoltze
State of Alaska House Finance Committee

Cc: Les Gara, Bryce Edgmon, Charles Chenault, Eric Feige, Alaska House of Representatives

Cc: Johnny Ellis, Gary Stevens, Cathy Giessel, Click Bishop, Alaska State Senate

Sent Via E-mail

LegFinance@legis.state.ak.us

Re: Proposed Cuts to the Community Health Aide Training & Supervision (CHATS) Grants
Program Budget

Honorable Representatives Alan Austerman and Representative Bill Stoltze:

On behalf of Chugachmiut, for which I serve as the Executive Director, I write regarding the proposed cuts to the Community Health Aide Training & Supervision (CHATS) grants program budget. While we are all acutely aware of the budget shortfalls that Alaska faces and the current economic climate, I'm appealing to you to safeguard the health and well-being of rural Alaskans by protecting a key component in the delivery of vital medical and emergency services.

Chugachmiut was organized in 1974 as a regional non-profit human service organization serving the Alaska Native People of the Chugach Region. The region stretches across Prince William Sound to the Kenai Peninsula, encompassing over 15,000 square miles. Included within its boundaries are five villages and three small heterogeneous cities with populations between 60 and 6,000. The four villages of Tatitlek, Chenege Bay, Nanwalek, and Port Graham are only accessible by boat or plane. Cordova, Seward and Valdez have emergency and primary medical care and social services systems, but much of the population has limited access to these resources due to economic constraints. The people who live in the villages rely on paraprofessional health providers since mid-level or higher health care professionals are based in urban areas and are only available by telephone or by infrequent visits to the villages. Chugachmiut supervises the Community Health Aides along with part-time paraprofessional social service workers and village public safety officers in each village. They make up the health and social service system of a typical village.

Our immediate concern is to ask that you protect the funding for the CHATS program. This program is critical to reducing emergency and inpatient workloads while preventing long-term chronic health problems and disruptions to families and communities. Stable funding for this

grant is critical to ensuring cost-savings to the Alaska Tribal Health System (a critical component of the Alaska Public Health System) and the State's General Fund.

The mission of the CHATS program is to provide training and supervision of primary community health aides who provide health care services in rural communities throughout the State. Community Health Aides and Practitioners (CHA/Ps) are critical to the delivery of health care in the state of Alaska. They are the first responders and often the only providers of care in most of rural Alaska. The CHAP program is globally recognized as a model of care in underserved communities. Their value is demonstrated in the improved health and greater capacity in rural communities to address health. The design of the training and utilization of CHA/Ps employed vision and foresight. Additionally, CHA/Ps are able to generate limited revenue to support the delivery of care through third party billing; without the CHATS program, the need for these critical, life-saving, and potentially self-funding positions cannot be met.

The CHAP program is already under great pressure in that the training program has long been chronically underfunded. The training centers have sought and implemented innovative methods (including distance and online/virtual training sessions) to maximize resources to increase the number of CHA/Ps receiving training. However, certification requirements (wisely so) require direct oversight with a preceptor and student and supervised direct interaction with patients. Any "cost-savings" realized from these methods, have been directed toward an attempt to increase the number of CHA/Ps trained. At present there are only 198 training slots available annually for an estimated 324 slots needed for CHAs to progress through training. To add to the challenges, CHA training centers already faced difficulties with one training center closing its doors. The proposed cuts puts at-risk the remaining training centers and will translate into more costly expenditures and poorer health outcomes which will adversely impact Alaska's health.

The Alaska Tribal Health System has developed many innovative methods for providing health care across the state. New and exciting tools, such as telemedicine will not eliminate the need for CHA/Ps. In fact, CHA/Ps are also critical to the use of telemedicine, extending the reach of advanced medical personnel in a sustainable manner through the benefits of third-party billing. CHA/Ps are partners and facilitators of using telemedicine in rural Alaska.

I cannot overstate our deep concern about the current consideration to cut this critical program where other resources are not able to supplement or offset the losses to Alaska's capacity to meet this critical need. Please consider the long-term impacts and the resulting adverse impacts to the State of Alaska. Please keep the funding levels whole for the CHATS program.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Angela J. Vanderpool, Executive Director
Chugachmiut

Thandi Carros

From: Christopher Clement <christopher.jc@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 12:32 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: A Students Testimony regarding the Budgeting Proposal

Dear Representative Alan Austerman,

Hello, my name is Christopher Clement. I am a 3rd year student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and a lifelong Alaskan. My major is Molecular Biology, I am an active member of the UAF Honors Program, and I am also a Resident Assistant for the UAF Department of Residence Life. I am also the co-founder and Vice-President of the UAF Pre-Veterinarian Club, in addition to President and founder of the Humans vs. Zombies club and Vice-President of the Fencing club. My career goal is to become a veterinarian that focuses on rural Alaska and emergency treatment. This e-mail is in response to the recent budget allocations proposed by the legislative board towards UAF and the Veterinary Department.

As you might know, the University of Alaska Fairbanks recently established a Veterinary Department and a 2+2 Program with Colorado State University. I first heard about the proposal of this idea when I was a first-year student, back in 2011. That is when I met with my Resident Assistant and we established the Pre-Veterinarian club and found other students who were also interested in this program. I got excited for this program, because it allowed me two things: 1) A financially acceptable way for me to attend Veterinary school and likelihood of acceptance, and 2) the opportunity to study in Alaska and never have to leave. That winter break, right after hearing about the proposal, I started to gain hope. Hope that it was possible for me to become a Veterinarian, to save the lives of those who love us unconditionally as human beings. At that point, I started volunteering in animal clinics and at rehabilitation centers, as well as started conducting an undergraduate research project that focuses on rabies in foxes in Alaska. Why wouldn't I normally have hope to become a Veterinarian? Let me explain.

Alaska does NOT have a special deal with another state or veterinarian school, and all Alaskan applicants to veterinary school are considered "non-sponsored," which is the equivalent of being out of state. Let me use the Veterinary school of Washington State University as an example using 2011 statistics. They have 99 seats for a class of students. Of those 99 seats, 56 are devoted to Washington residents, 11 to Idaho residents, and 27 to WICHE residents. That leaves 5 seats open for "non-sponsored" students. Washington, Idaho, and WICHE had 384 applicants total, and of those 384, 94 were accepted. That means 24.479% of applicants from those areas were accepted if you group them together. Now, 556 students who applied were "non-sponsored." If only 5 "non-sponsored" students were accepted, that means only 0.9% of "non-sponsored" applicants were accepted. That is less than 1%! Being an Alaskan, I would be put in that pool of applicants. For those 5 students, tuition fees for them are \$47,968.00 a year, vs the \$19,066.00 that "sponsored" students pay.

Now, let me put the % of accepted applicants in "sponsored" vs. "non-sponsored" for the 28 american veterinary schools using 2011 data:

Auburn University: Sponsored (38.9%) vs. Non-Sponsored (2.37%)

Colorado State University: Sponsored (24.38%) vs. Non-Sponsored (2.5%)

Cornell University: Sponsored (24.12%) vs. Non-Sponsored (4.637)

Iowa State University: Sponsored (47.35%) vs. Non-Sponsored (5.26%)

Kansas State University: Sponsored (29.82%) vs. Non-Sponsored (5.93%)

Louisiana State University: Sponsored (45.3%) vs. Non-Sponsored (3.5%)

Michigan State University: Sponsored (31.58%) vs. Non-Sponsored (4.87%)

Mississippi State University: Sponsored (42.27%) vs. Non-Sponsored (5.5%)

North Carolina State University: Sponsored (28.18%) vs. Non-Sponsored (3.62%)

Ohio State University: Sponsored (32.74%) vs. Non-Sponsored (9.21%)

Oklahoma State University: Sponsored (48.3%) vs. Non-Sponsored (6.7%)

Oregon State University: Sponsored (19.9%) vs. Non-Sponsored (5.84%)

Purdue University: Sponsored (40.37%) vs. Non-Sponsored (49.26%)

Texas A & M University: Sponsored (34.76%) vs. Non-Sponsored (11.1%)

Tufts University: Total (14.43%)

Tuskegee University: N/A

University of California, Davis: Sponsored (20.51%) vs. Non-Sponsored (1.129%)

University of Florida: Sponsored (29.9%) vs. Non-Sponsored (2.04%)

University of Georgia: Sponsored (35.44%) vs. Non-Sponsored (0.36%)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Sponsored (41.3%) vs. Non-Sponsored (5.04%)

University of Minnesota: Sponsored (24.67%) vs. Non-Sponsored (5.459%)

University of Missouri: Sponsored (41.67%) vs. Non-Sponsored (9.06%)

University of Pennsylvania: Sponsored (20.17%) vs. Non-Sponsored (7.4%)

University of Tennessee: Sponsored (40.13%) vs. Non-Sponsored (3.395%)

University of Wisconsin-Madison: Sponsored (29.27%) vs. Non-Sponsored (2.375%)

Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine: Sponsored (29.9%) vs. Non-Sponsored (2.5%)

Washington State University: Sponsored (24.479%) vs. Non-Sponsored (0.9%)

Western University of Health Sciences: Sponsored (18.596%) vs. Non-Sponsored (10.04%)

Average: Sponsored (33.02%) vs. Non-Sponsored (6.538%)

These are solely acceptance rates. Another thing to consider is that the costs for non-sponsored students are roughly \$20,000-\$30,000 more than those of sponsored students. Now, let me compare this to all AAVMC (Association of American Veterinary Colleges) affiliated international schools, with the % being from the acceptance rates of in-nation students vs. international students.

University College Dublin: In-Nation (10.57%) vs. International (16.42%)

University of Edinburgh: In-Nation (9.77%) vs. International (22.19%)

University of Glasgow: In-Nation (6.545%) vs. International (14.29%)

University of Guelph: In-Nation (39.326) vs. International (7.14%)

National Autonomous University of Mexico: Total (6.2%)

Massey University: In-Nation(24.83%) vs. International (16.2%)

University of Melbourne: N/A

Murdoch University: N/A

University of Prince Edward Island: In-Nation (39.6%) vs. International (7.8%)

Ross University: International (27.46%)

Royal Veterinary College: In-Nation (13.69%) vs. International (9.97%)

University of Calgary: N/A

University of Saskatchewan-Western: In-Nation (27.6%) vs. International (100%) [Only 2 international students. Not counted in average.]

University of Sydney: N/A

Urecht University: N/A

St. Georges's University: N/A

St. Matthew's University: N/A

University Copenhagen: N/A

Average: In-Nation (21.49%) vs. International (15.18%)

Being an Alaskan, I am put in one of two categories. I am either a non-sponsored students, or an international student. Each have their respective average acceptance rates of 15.18% for international vs. 6.538% for non-sponsored. Being a non-sponsored student is nearly twice that much in costs for tuition alone than sponsored students. Not only is the acceptance rate low, but I am competing against applicants from every other non-sponsored state (which could be 49 other states!) just for that low 6.538%. The lowest tuition cost for international students is \$7,716.82 (Canadian) at University of Saskatchewan, while the highest international tuition cost for students is \$51,980.80 (Canadian) for University of Guelph.

It is better for me to apply internationally than out of state in terms of both acceptance rates and cost. Without a Veterinary program in the state of Alaska, my original option was to either go international, or gain residency out of state and then apply for that respective states veterinary program. The likely-hood of me returning to Alaska after establishing my career roots in another place is unlikely, and I know many other prospective pre-veterinarian students also share this belief with me. This is a very unfortunate position to be in, but this is the reality of it. I, and other Alaskan students, hope to be able to learn and practice veterinary medicine in Alaska. The establishment of a veterinary program at UAF gives us the opportunity to be a part of that average sponsor acceptance rate of 33.02%. Not only would it allow us to study veterinary medicine, but it would allow us to do so in our home state. It allows us to establish our connections and knowledge of northern veterinary medicine. It prevents us from having to traveling elsewhere or pay insane amounts of tuition costs, and gives us the top-rated veterinary experience through Colorado State's amazing veterinary program. Without this programs existence, our hopes of acceptance, of being in our beloved state, will be once again be dull and non-existent. This program is our opportunity to achieve our dreams. The birth of a 2+2 veterinary program in Alaska has rekindled the dreams of those who gave up on them because of these statistics. It will allows those who consider veterinary medicine to see it as an eligible and reasonable option. It gives us a chance to continue to be true Alaskans, while studying and becoming what we hope for.

It gives us hope. It gives us drive. It gives us a chance to succeed. All because it is possible.

Recently, the legislature lowered the expected budget allocations for the veterinary department, which impacts it in a negative way. Applications for the veterinary program open in July, but due to the recent cut in budgeting, there is a chance that this may be delayed, or become non-existent. It will hurt Alaskans like me, who chose to stay in Alaska and not travel out of state. I would hate to have to leave the state to gain residency, or become an international student, because I love Alaska and want to stay and practice medicine here. I want to be a rural veterinarian in Alaska, and nowhere else. Because of this, I encourage and support an increase in the allocation for the UAF Veterinary Program.

I welcome any questions or comments you may have. I would like to thank you for your time and taking my e-mail into consideration.

Sincerely,

~Christopher James Clement

Christopher.jc@hotmail.com

(907) 738-4616

1 CITY OF HOMER
2 HOMER, ALASKA

Lewis

3
4 RESOLUTION 14-030

5
6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
7 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE KACHEMAK BAY RESEARCH
8 RESERVE AND REQUESTING CONTINUED FINANCIAL AND
9 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA.

10
11 WHEREAS, The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR), also
12 known locally as the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR), or "Reserve" , is a federal-state
13 collaborative partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
14 (NOAA) Coastal Office and the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
15 Division of Sport Fish; and

16
17 WHEREAS, KBRR was established in 1999 with strong support from the community;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The mission of KBRR is to enhance the understanding of the Kachemak Bay
20 estuary and adjacent waters to ensure that these ecosystems remain healthy and productive;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, KBRR has a local advisory council which stimulates a dialogue about local
23 coastal issues of concern and provides a voice for the community on coastal matters; and

24
25 WHEREAS, The "Reserve" has an annual operating budget of approximately \$2 Million,
26 is a significant local employer, and attracts visiting professionals, grants, and related revenues
27 and expenditures which circulate through the local economy; and

28
29 WHEREAS, KBRR "partners" with local NGOs, universities, and state and federal
30 agencies and these partnerships bring highly skilled professionals and cutting edge research to
31 the community; and

32
33 WHEREAS, KBRR has provided relevant research which has applied applications to the
34 City of Homer including studies on coastal bluff erosion, sea level rise, and coastal uplift; and

35
36 WHEREAS, KBRR is well positioned and has the resources to be a leader in climate
37 change research; and

38 WHEREAS, The "Reserve" has an education program which reaches 3,500 people per
39 year through public and K-13 programming and needs based training for decision makers; and
40

41 WHEREAS, ADF&G is experiencing a period of sustained budget constraints associated
42 with General Fund cuts, declining license revenues, and decreased federal grant funding at a
43 time when operating costs continue to rise; and
44

45 WHEREAS, ADF&G contributes 40% of the cost of the "Reserve", a non-federal match
46 is required, and anticipated shortfalls in state funding will necessitate a reduction in the
47 KBNERR budget; and
48

49 WHEREAS, The state rental agreement and associated funding was a key component in
50 securing the funding for construction of the Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center and
51 continued state funding is crucial for continued operation of a facility that hosts 75,000 visitors
52 each year; and
53

54 WHEREAS, The KBRR mission is much broader than the Division of Sport Fish's mission
55 which is to "protect and improve the state's recreational fisheries resources"; and
56

57 WHEREAS, For the reasons stated above, it is ADF&G's intent to seek a new state
58 partner for the "Reserve" with a mission more closely related to coastal and estuarine
59 stewardship.
60

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council finds that the
62 Kachemak Bay Research Reserve is an important component of the local economy and that it
63 provides research and educational programs that are important to the community.
64

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska
66 proceed with its stated intent to find a new state partner for KBRR and further, that it provide
67 adequate and stable funding necessary to sustain the operations of the "Reserve" so that it can
68 continue to carry out its mission.
69

70 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 10th day of February, 2014.
71

72 CITY OF HOMER

73
74 
75 MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

76 ATTEST:

77

78

79

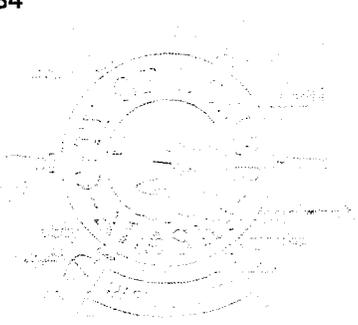
80 
JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

81

82 Fiscal Note: N/A

83

84



Thandi Carros

From: Cliff Pananen <candjpananen@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 4:13 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Substance Abuse Treatment

Cliff Pananen
8379 Richardson Hwy
Salcha, AK 99714

March 9, 2014

Dear Representative Alan Austerman,

Please do not decrease the funding for substance abuse treatment. This treatment is vital in our state to reduce the number of auto accidents, domestic violence incidents, public drunkenness and other incidents that cause injury, death and end up costing the state money housing folks in jail rather than receiving treatment that could benefit the community as well as the individual.

Sincerely,
Cliff & Jackie Pananen

Thandi Carros

From: Daniel Pratschner <dpratschner@starband.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 10:59 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: A.M.H.S.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Mr. Austerman; As an employee of the A.M.H.S. for 15 years I'd like to comment on what appears to be an all out attack on the people that work on the boats. I was actually shocked to see your name on a letter to the Governor promoting that mindset.

Employee passes are NOT a cost issue. We do not get on the boat unless there is room. Expecting us to take almost a five dollar an hour pay cut; 'in light of approaching tough fiscal times' is unbelievable.

How long have people working in the system been saying the Tusty needs to be replaced? Where in the western world can public ferrys this old be found? I would venture to say that unsound upper management decisions have cost more in past years than crew wages.

There are some very dedicated and talented people working these boats. The wages we get are not out of line with industry standards. There are other ways to make this system work better than running off good help.

Respectfully yours, Dan Pratschner

697-2265

Thandi Carros

From: David Nielson <dnielson@akdental.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 4:00 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: SHARP II

Dear Representative Austerman,

I hear your committee is considering cutting \$1.2 million from the SHARP II budget presented by the governor. The Alaska Dental Society feels it would be a mistake to cut this important incentive to get much needed dental professionals to state designated very hard to fill areas. With dental students coming out of school with upwards of \$400K in debt, the SHARP II program is a powerful incentive to come and work in Alaska were distribution of dental professionals is a constant problem. The remoteness of Alaskan communities makes a program like this essential. We already have placed dentists and hygienists in very hard to fill positions that we do not want to lose funding for either.

Thank you for your consideration.

David L Nielson DDS

Alaska Dental Society, Executive Director

Ph: 907-563-3003 fax: 907-563-3009

cell: 907-441-6002

email: dnielson@akdental.org

website: <http://www.akdental.org>

Thandi Carros

From: Deb Lowney <dlowney@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 8:21 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: KBRR Funding

To: House Finance Committee

Senate Finance Committee

From: Ralph Broshes DVM Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Community Council

Re: KBRR General Funding

Dated: March 4, 2014

The Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) based in Homer, Alaska is a state-federal-local partnership managed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sports Fish Division in partnership with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with input from a Community Council made-up of nine community members and state and federal agency partners. KBRR occupies about half of the office space in the Islands and Oceans Visitors Center, a popular tourist destination.

The work done by KBRR provides informed coastal decision-making and stewardship through integrated research, monitoring, education, and professional training. Research staff and visiting scientists conduct research and monitoring within Kachemak Bay watershed which has proved vital to understanding fisheries, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety. The education team hosts well-attended public discovery labs and outdoor programs that focus on coastal and estuarine ecology. The Coastal Training Program provides workshops and trainings targeting coastal management professional and topics of concern to local communities

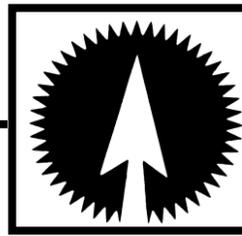
Funding for KBRR is federal money from NOAA, matching state funds coming through ADFGSFD, and grants. The state matching fund are required to receive the federal funds. The amount SFD budgeted for KBRR for 2014 was about \$175,000. The planned budget cut for this amount will prevent KBRR from receiving the federal match and would require closure of KBRR. It would no longer be able to continue any of its programs.

While the state's fiscal condition requires budget cuts from all agencies, there needs to be some distinction between program budget cuts and agency closure. I urge the House and Senate Finance Committee to reconsider the KBRR cut included in the House Fish and Game Subcommittee.

Sincerely

Ralph Broshes DVM

Alaska Forest Association



111 Stedman Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone: 907-225-6114
Fax: 907-225-5920

March 3, 2014

Representative Alan Austerman, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
State of Alaska House of Representatives
House Finance Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representatives Austerman and Stoltze,

We urge you to fund the Department of Environmental Conservation effort to have Alaska manage the Clean Water Act 404 Wetlands Permitting Program (Primacy).

Our timber industry has been crushed by the withholding of timber by an indifferent federal bureaucracy (the USDA Forest Service), but we are working hard to restore a timber supply either through the federal land management process or through the creation of a State Forest in the Southeast Alaska region. Regardless of who manages the future timber sale program, 404 permits will be needed and State management of the program is much preferable to federal management.

State management of the program will minimize the opportunity for frivolous lawsuits, it will ensure that permits are not delayed or held hostage because of national political issues and State management of the program will allow more flexibility than management by a federal bureaucracy.

The DEC has pointed out several other benefits that I agree with, particularly the issue of "mitigation". The federal mitigation program has become a fundraiser for conservation groups that want to lock up land. Enabling federal agencies and/or ENGOs to create non-development conservation units is not a good practice. A legislative process for identifying and setting aside conservation areas is better because we have an opportunity to comment on the merits of the various proposals.

The Pebble Mine issue is an example of the abuse of regulatory authority by unaccountable federal agencies. Working with the State, we can insure responsible resource management of all our public resources with minimal unnecessary costs and delays.

I know the State must reduce its operating budget and I support that effort, but we need to also look to the future and try to insure our development projects are managed by State employees who are working with State policies and procedures, not national mandates and policies.

Sincerely,

Owen Graham
Executive Director
Alaska Forest Association
111 Stedman Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901

cc: Senator Pete Kelly
Senator Kevin Meyer

Thandi Carros

From: Derek Bynagle <dbynagle@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 4:24 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Les Gara
Cc: dbynagle@kpbsd.k12.ak.us
Subject: HB 266 Funding for the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve

To: House Finance Committee

From: Derek Bynagle, Member, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Community Council

Teacher for Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Re: KBRR General Funding

Date: March 4, 2014

The Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) based in Homer, Alaska is a state-federal-local partnership managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division in partnership with the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#).

The science done by KBRR on water chemistry, ocean currents, juvenile salmon habitat supports informed coastal decision-making and stewardship through integrated research, monitoring, education, and professional training.

As a local educator I became involved in the KBRR Community Council after observing how big an impact KBRR has on the education of students and visitors. As a new teacher out in the Aluutiq village of Nanwalek, KBRR helped me personally to understand and teach salmon ecology and management to the students. Moving to Homer several years later, I was able to see the huge impact the education department had; bringing in school groups, supporting educators, educating the local community, and connecting with the many visitors to our area.

These opportunities are not just about absorbing a little bit of knowledge, but encourage further participation, engagement, and collaboration in the sciences and management issues surrounding our marine resources. One example is involving students in water sampling to understand some of the work that ADF&G does and how our decisions in anadromous streams effect fish stocks. I currently work with several students that have been inspired to work with KBRR to a further extent, including a current high school senior who has been inspired by the experiences he has had to pursue a degree in Wildlife Management next year.

None of these amazing opportunities will happen if KBRR receives no GF funding in the FY 2015 budget. The \$175,000 budget cut adopted by the House Fish and Game Subcommittee is not just a budget cut for KBRR, but closure. The fiscal cornerstone for KBRR is its State General Fund appropriation. This serves as a match for a significantly larger amount of NOAA funding, without it all other funding dries up.

I encourage you to reconsider the KBRR cut included in the House Fish and Game Subcommittee. It would have a very negative effect on the educational opportunities ADF&G has to reach students, the broader local population, and visitors.

Thandi Carros

From: Dermot Cole <dermot@alaskadispatch.com>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 2:50 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Pete Kelly; Rep. Alan Austerman; Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: CAPSIS access issues

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Pete, Bill, Kevin and Alan:

I hope you can help me with a column I am writing on the CAPSIS system for the Alaska Dispatch.

It seems to me the obvious thing to do is to create a "view only" approach that allows all Alaskans the ability to see public requests for public dollars.

The assertion that tradition justifies secrecy is not convincing.

Please let me know if you are willing to make that improvement in the system. In addition, please let me know if you are willing to allow lawmakers from one area of the state to see CAPSIS requests from other areas. I was informed today that legislators do not have access to those requests, a policy that strikes me as a bad one.

Regards,
Dermot

Thandi Carros

From: Devon Cioffi <dcioffi1021@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 4:25 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: rep.bill.stolze@akleg.gov; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: OUTPATIENT BUDGET CUTS

Alaska has the highest per capita incident of alcoholism, rape, and suicide in the United States, partially attributable to controlled substance abuse.



“Studies show that those attending extended stays in inpatient treatment programs are much less likely to suffer relapse.”

addiction.utsandiego.com/.../substance-abuse-therapy-inpatient-vs-outpatient-therapy/

STUDY ON ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE IN ALASKA:

dhss.alaska.gov/.../EconomicCostofAlcoholandDrugAbuse2012.pdf

SUMMARY:

Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, contracted with McDowell Group to update prior studies on the economic costs of alcohol and drug abuse in Alaska.

Alcohol and drug abuse impacts Alaska's economy in a variety of ways. It can lead to greater health risks and death, impaired physical and mental abilities, crime, greater reliance on public assistance, and a number of other adverse effects. This study addresses tangible economic costs such as lost earnings or costs of government programs. However, there are mental and emotional costs that result from alcohol and drug abuse that are extremely difficult to measure and are not included in this report.

In 2009, the National Survey on Drug Abuse and Health estimated that 9.5 percent of Alaska's population age 12 and older (55,700 residents) were dependent on or abusing alcohol or drugs. Costs to the economy in 2010 totaled \$1.2 billion.

Costs by category include:

- *\$673.2 million in productivity losses,*
- *\$50.5 million in traffic crash costs,*
- *\$217.7 million in criminal justice and protective services,*
- *\$237.3 million in health care, and*
- *\$13.2 million in public assistance and social services.*

YOU WILL NOT SEE A RETURN ON YOUR SPENDING CUTS FOR INPATIENT TREATMENT IN ALASKA—IT WILL HAVE A CASCADING EFFECT THROUGH THE ENTIRE ECONOMY WHEN PEOPLE CANNOT GET PROPER TREATMENT. MONEY WILL BE LOST IN THE LONG RUN.

In Juneau, you may not understand drug or alcohol addiction until it hits your family and effects you directly, but as an alcoholic and drug addict, I can tell you that the only solution to this epidemic is proper treatment—namely time.

A 2009 study suggests that it takes at least a year for former methamphetamine users to regain impulse control.

psychcentral.com/...recovery...methamphetamine-use/6807.html



“The road to recovery from cocaine addiction is a long one, particularly because a patient must struggle to overcome the odds of relapse: approximately half of recovering patients succumb to relapse within a year of detoxification”

serendip.brynmawr.edu/exchange/node/1704



Addiction is a complex disease that takes **time** to recover from—time and repetition to form new, healthy habits.



LONG-TERM TREATMENT DOES WORK

JAILS WILL CONTINUE TO CROWD WITHOUT YOUR RESOURCES BEING PUT WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED—LONG-TERM, INPATIENT TREATMENT FACILITIES THAT GIVE PEOPLE THE TIME TO RECOVER. OUTPATIENT PROGRAMS DO NOT OFFER THE TIME OR SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND THEY ENCOURAGE MANIPULATION BY PROVIDING LESS ACCOUNTABILITY OR THE TIME TO RECOVER.

ALASKA'S INPATIENT TREATMENT FACILITIES ARE VERY LIMITED, THEREFORE BUDGET CUTS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT THE FACILITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE:

- **AKEELA HOUSE**
- **NUGEN'S RANCH**
- **SARP (SALVATION ARMY)**
- **ERNIE TURNER CENTER**
- **RAINFOREST**
- **CLITHEROE**
- **SERENITY HOUSE**

DO THE MATH.

PLEASE RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION TO CUT THE BUDGET FOR INPATIENT TREATMENT IN ALASKA.

As an alcoholic and addict who has recovered at Nugen's Ranch treatment facility, I can attest to the gift that time, proper resources and structure provide at such a facility for the long-term recovery of individuals like myself. It would be heartbreaking to see such facilities continue to struggle when they have so much to offer. They attack the problem right at its root and give people the ability to correct the problem instead of brushing it under the carpet and giving them little chance of being a productive member of society again—as would be the case with jail and passive outpatient treatment. REAL RECOVERY is happening here and I hope that the facts presented can change your decision with the long-term benefit of Alaska, its economy and its people in mind. I hope that you will do the right thing.

-Devon Cioffi
Proud Alaskan

Thandi Carros

From: Devon Cioffi <dcioffi1021@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 12:47 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: OUTPATIENT BUDGET CUTS

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Devon Cioffi <dcioffi1021@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, 4 Mar 2014 16:24:45 -0900
Subject: OUTPATIENT BUDGET CUTS
To: rep.alan.austerman@akleg.gov
Cc: rep.bill.stolze@akleg.gov, rep.mark.neuman@akleg.gov, rep.mia.costello@akleg.gov, rep.bryce.edgmon@akleg.gov, rep.lindsey.holmes@akleg.gov, rep.cathy.munoz@akleg.gov, rep.steve.thompson@akleg.gov, rep.tammie.wilson@akleg.gov, rep.les.gara@akleg.gov, rep.david.guttenberg@akleg.gov

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[image: Inline image 1]

"Studies show that those attending extended stays in inpatient treatment programs are much less likely to suffer relapse."

*addiction.utsandiego.com/.../substance-abuse-therapy-inpatient-vs-outpatient-therapy/
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*psychcentral.com/...recovery...methamphetamine-use/6807.html

<psychcentral.com/...recovery...methamphetamine-use/6807.html>*

[image: PET images showing damage to Dopamine transporters in a meth abuser after 1 months abstinence, significant reduction in activity compared to normal brain, but after 24 months abstinence, transporters have nearly returned to normal]

*"The road to recovery from cocaine addiction is a long one, particularly because a patient must struggle to overcome the odds of relapse:

approximately half of recovering patients succumb to relapse within a year of detoxification"*

*serendip.brynmawr.edu/exchange/node/1704

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-Devon Cioffi

Proud Alaskan

Thandi Carros

From: Dolma family <dolma@ptialaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 8:17 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Protect KBBR

KBBR is a meaningful resource for the community of Homer. Many educators from around the state use the facility, the relevant research about Kachemak Bay critical habitat is of interest to youth and adults. The agency provides valuable information based on research. Public education based on best science research and good monitoring provides critical information to keep the resources in balance. KBBR is an important resource for Homer's economy.

The benefits of preserving this small amount of funding to support KBBR is far outweighed by the benefits the research has on fisheries, habitat and resource management which can provide millions in future fisheries.

Thandi Carros

From: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 6:38 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Steve Thompson
Subject: FW: HB 267

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Craig Williamson [<mailto:CWilliamson@SEAVIEWSEWARD.ORG>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 6:33 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: HB 267

Honorable Representatives,

I was called away while waiting to testify telephonically, this afternoon, regarding spending cuts to HB267. I am an Alaska Licensed Psychologist (#470), and this is the twentieth year I have been employed in behavioral health in Alaska. I am presently employed by SeaView Community Services in Seward, and have worked here as a director and supervising clinician for five years. Our agency is non-profit and provides mental health services to anyone on the Eastern Kenai Peninsula who requests it. The availability of Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) services are a vital part of our crisis intervention and emergency services. API admissions are often necessary for our clients and community members experiencing serious mental health emergencies. Our rural community usually has no local option than to send our patients and clients to API for acute care. Over the years we have witnessed the variability in service delivery from API due to lack of availability and retention of professional staff, most notably psychiatrists. Small communities like Seward need and rely on the availability of highly trained psychiatrists that are familiar with the problems of psychiatric patients found in these communities. Our agency has been affected in the quality of patient care when API has had staff shortages in the past; and relied on locum tenens staff instead of attracting and retaining permanent professional staff. Programs like SHARP have given API an edge in attracting and retaining these qualified professionals.

In conclusion, I urge you not to consider cuts to HB267 appropriations which are so vital to mental health delivery in our State of Alaska. Thank you for your consideration in this matter for constituents that often have no voice nor anyone to advocate for their interests.

Regards,

Dr. J. Craig Williamson,

Alaska Psychologist

Thandi Carros

From: Duncan Wanamaker <dewanamaker@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 12:03 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: Rep. Paul Seaton; Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: Fund the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve

Rep. Austerman,

I am writing to urge you to support funding for the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve through HB 266. Absent state funding the Reserve will close. This will result in the loss of an extremely valuable research and education institution. While I recognize the need for budget cuts, there is no need to close an agency that returns \$3.00 for every dollar of General Fund support it receives. The Reserve is important to the Kenai Peninsula's and particularly to Homer's economy, tourism, and education programs.

Thank you,

Duncan Wanamaker
38800 Rea Drive
Homer, AK 99603

Thandi Carros

From: Ed Sasser <capt.ed.sasser@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 10:07 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Re: Proposed FY15 Operating Budget

Re: Proposed FY15 Operating Budget

BY EMAIL ONLY

Chairmen Austerman and Stoltze:

You've heard a lot about ASAM and how important the process is for finding correct placements for people experiencing substance use disorders. Residential treatment is a critical option for many people and often prevents the need for incarceration.

I've had the good fortune to work with clients with the disease of addiction for 40 years. The first clients were funded during the Nixon administration. Many of these programs were dismantled during the Reagan administration. I moved from social services to corrections--became a superintendent. Guess what? I was working with the same clients but at a much higher daily rate.

During those years we went from viewing addiction as a choice to a disease. "Just Say No" is not a very good option for dealing with diabetes, cancer or addiction. Also during those years, the RAND corporation published their seminal study regarding how public policy can best handle the disease in a cost effective way.

In brief, the RAND study shows that treatment is 7 times more cost effective than the domestic law enforcement method, 10 times more effective than interdiction, and 23 times more effective than the "source control" method.

Do we really need more prison beds? Maybe we could stop locking up folks who have a disease and add treatment beds instead.

V/R

Sent from my iPhone
Ed Sasser

Thandi Carros

From: sivuguq apatiki <esapatiki@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 4:27 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Cathy Munoz
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara
Subject: Proposed FY15 Operating Budget

Dear my elected representatives:

We desperately are in need of Substance use programs in rural Alaska. The S.U. programs need to continue as it is a crucial program serving our communities. Please consider not cutting our very important Substance use programs. It's essential and answer to our many social problems in rural Alaska.

Sincerely,

Edna S. Apatiki, Advocating
Retired Educator for State of Alaska
P.O. Box 17
Gambell, Ak. 99742

Thandi Carros

From: Edward Berg <edwardberg100@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 10:06 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Funding for Kachemak Bay Research Reserve

To Members of the Finance Committee, Alaska House of Representatives
Dear Representative Austerman,

3/7/2014

I am writing to ask you to restore State funding for the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve in Homer. Since its inception in 1999 KBRR has become a cornerstone of scientific research in Kachemak Bay, as well as the most important vehicle for conveying the results of scientific research to the general public of all ages. It has spearheaded studies of relative sea level change (uplift and sea level rise), coastal erosion and sediment transport, and juvenile salmon habitat, among others. It has initiated ocean water quality monitoring at various sites around the Bay and operates two weather stations. Its citizen science program monitors salt marsh vegetation, invasive green crabs and toxic algal blooms that can infect shellfish. Its public outreach mechanisms include publications, discovery labs at the I&O Visitor Center, and public seminars where scientists present their work to local citizens. It maintains an active website where users can download natural history guides, research papers, and classroom material for local teachers.

KBRR is able to do all this and much more because it partners effectively with many other organizations in addition to its being part of ADF&G and NOAA. It shares the I&O visitor center in Homer with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, and works collaboratively with US Fish & Wildlife Service, Pratt Museum, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies and Kachemak Bay Branch of the Kenai Peninsula College, and more distantly with University of Alaska – Fairbanks.

I am presently mapping the geology of the beaches in Kachemak Bay and lower Cook Inlet. GIS specialist Steve Baird at KBRR provided me with high-resolution coastal aerial photography that will be an excellent photographic base for my mapping. I also monitor the bluff collapse that threatens the Sterling Highway at MP 153.3 north of Anchor Point. Steve provided digitized bluff lines on historical aerial photography that allowed me to estimate the rate of bluff recession since 1952. I have used this information to lobby AK DOT&PF to speed up its remediation effort for this site before the Highway collapses.

The financing of the KBRR is an amazing bargain, with Federal funding providing 70% and State funding 30%; the State's current contribution is \$175,000. The State gets an immediate multiplier of $70/30 = 2.3x$ of its money, plus community-wide multipliers of KBRR-sponsored programs for fisheries, construction and tourism. KBRR also pulls in money from grants and other out-of-state sources, so that the State contribution is effectively only 10% of the KBRR annual budget. Unfortunately the State funding is necessary to trigger the Federal funding through NOAA. Without the State funding, the 70% Federal contribution vanishes.

KBRR is presently administered though ADF&G's Sport Fish Division (SFD), which can rightly argue that much of KBRR's work is not directly aimed at sport fish management. This is an unfortunate mismatch of agency agendas that needs to be corrected but not at the cost of extinguishing KBRR. With some study the Legislature should be able to find a better home for KBRR, outside of SFD, and perhaps within DNR or University of Alaska.

In any case I strongly urge the House Finance Committee to restore this year's funding of \$175,000 in order to buy time to find a new administrative home for KBRR and to retain its professional staff and services.

Ed Berg, PhD

Ecologist, US Fish & Wildlife Service (Ret'd)

Instructor, Kenai Peninsula College

Thandi Carros

From: Ernie Meloche <ernie.meloche@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 6:31 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Support Trauma System Funding (HB168; AS 18.08.085)

Dear Representative Austerman,

Failing to fund the Trauma Care Fund would be a tremendous default of your duty to the people of Alaska. I am a board certified Emergency Physician and have dedicated the last twenty-five years to the caring for the people you represent.

I have seen the results of wise use of the trauma care fund in the training of the health care team, the community and the pre-hospital care teams that take care of you and your families, and those of the people you represent. These trauma care fund are critical in maintaining the excellent system that exists today.

Through use of these funds we do everything possible to make the trauma care in this state better. Any true Alaskan can testify at length how prevalent trauma is in our daily lives and how critical it is for those who represent us in the government to make sure we have the tools needed to maintain our trauma care at the highest levels possible.

Please do whatever you must to ensure that the Trauma Care Fund is fully funded in the coming years. You, your family and the people you represent will be the very ones who will benefit from such efforts, and the ones who are hurt by you if your actions fail in this regard.

Please vote to support the Trauma Care Fund (HB168; AS 18.08.085)

Thank you for your efforts on our behalf. Feel free to contact me if you need any further information to support your fight for these bills.

Sincerely,

Ernest B. Meloche, MD
Board Certified Emergency Physician
Ketchikan Medical Center Emergency Department
EMS sponsor for North Tongass Fire Department
EMS sponsor for the Alaska Marine Highway EMS department
Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901
Cell Phone - [907-617-7704](tel:907-617-7704)
e-mail - ernie.meloche@gmail.com
Mailing Address: PO Box 6058, Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901

To: House Finance Committee
From: George Matz, Chair, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Community Council
Re: KBRR General Funding
Date: March 4, 2014

The Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) based in Homer, Alaska is a state-federal-local partnership managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with input from a Community Council made-up of nine community members and state and federal agency partners. KBRR occupies about half of the office space in the Islands and Oceans Visitor Center, a popular tourist destination.

The work done by KBRR provides informed coastal decision-making and stewardship through integrated research, monitoring, education, and professional training;

- Research staff and visiting scientists conduct research and monitoring within the Kachemak Bay watershed which has proved vital to understanding fisheries, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety.
- The education team hosts well-attended public discovery labs and outdoor programs that focus on coastal and estuarine ecology.
- The Coastal Training Program provides workshops and trainings targeting coastal management professionals and topics of concern to local communities like algal blooms.

The fiscal cornerstone for KBRR is the General Fund (GF) appropriation it receives from the state. This serves as a match for a significantly larger amount of NOAA funding. And, as Figure 1 illustrates, the combination of these two sources of funding has been used to secure additional funding which have expanded KBRR's research and education programs. **KBRR's GF funding has had a multiplier effect with diverse economic benefits locally.**

Figure 1: KBRR Funding Sources

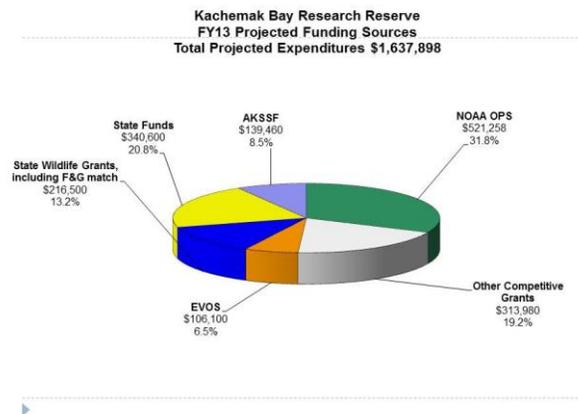


Figure 2 illustrates that in FY 2014, the \$172,300 which KBRR received in GF brought in \$820,000 in federal funding. That's a pretty healthy return for the state. In addition, SFD

applies a 14% overhead charge for administering these funds. In fact, the overhead fees returned to SFD repays a substantial amount of the GF that SFD allocated to KBRR.

Figure 2: FY 2014 Budget-General Overview

TYPE	AMOUNT	SOURCE
Federal	\$ 820,000.00	NOAA Operations, Science Collaborative, NPS and FWS
State	\$ 785,000.00	GF, DJ, SWG, DEC, CIAP, AKSSF
Special Projects	\$ 155,000.00	EVOS, PWSRCAC, Modular Rental
TOTAL	\$ 1,760,000.00	

Because KBRR has been strategic in initiating its research and education programs they have good potential for growth. Besides benefitting those who use these respective programs, growth will;

1. Increase overhead fees to SFD.
2. Increase expenditures for equipment, charters, etc. which will further benefit the local economy.

However, none of this will happen if KBRR receives no GF funding in its FY 2015 budget. As previously stated, this funding is the cornerstone for all other KBRR funding. Without it all other funding dries up.

In essence, the \$175,000 budget cut adopted by the House Fish and Game Subcommittee is not just a budget cut for KBRR, but closure. It will no longer be able to continue any of its programs. Furthermore, the loss of these programs will add to the burden of other agencies that now enjoy KBRR’s science and educational services.

While the state’s fiscal condition requires budget cuts from all agencies, there needs to be some distinction between program budget cuts and agency closure. **The KBRR Community Council strongly urges the House and Senate Finance Committee to reconsider the KBRR cut included in the House Fish and Game Subcommittee.** The closure of KBRR would have consequences which we don’t think were intended when elimination of its GF funding was hastily recommended by ADF&G.

Thandi Carros

From: Ginger Sharrow <ginger.sharrow@maniilaq.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 4:34 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Support for Trauma Care Fund (HB168; AW 18.08.085)

Maniilaq Health Center wants to make sure that you are aware that we support HB 168, to reinstate and add back into the FY 2015 budget, the funding for Trauma Care.

We are 550 flight miles from our nearest Trauma Center. This money allows us the support we need for trauma personnel, equipment, data reporting, and training. We are looking at designation for Trauma Level 4 this year and without that money in the budget, it will be impossible for us to afford to meet the requirements.

Thank you for your time and commitment.

Ginger Sharrow RN

Director of Nursing Services

Maniilaq Health Center

Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

"Ethical behaviour is not the display of one's moral rectitude in times of crisis, it is the day-to-day expression of one's commitment to other persons and the ways in which human beings relate to one another in their daily interactions." - Levine, Myra (1972)

Thandi Carros

From: mossy2@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 6:25 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Hon. Alan Austerman Co-Chair, House Finance Committee re KBNERR

March 7, 2014

Hon. Alan Austerman

Co-Chair, House Finance Committee

Room 505

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Dear Sir,

I have just heard of the impending closing of KBNERR. due to the deletion of their funding from the State Government. I am horrified and saddened that Alaska, which has up until now, a stellar reputation of protecting the environment and the fishing industry though their research agencies is now planning to delete their funding. Not only has the Reserve contributed some outstanding scientific studies of the Bay but the funding from the state funding, brings in more than three times as much in federal grants, most of which stays in-state, and well over \$100,000 goes directly to the state for overhead on Federally funded projects, which means the State's actual outlay is under \$150,000.

When I am in Homer the Museum seems to be a major tourist attraction, adding additional tourist dollars. The educational aspects that the Museum provides include the researchers working there, since it is exciting to the public to see science in action and meet the people who make it happen.

The loss of State funding will, of course, cause many if not all of the researchers and support staff to look for jobs elsewhere and their knowledge of the Bay will probably be lost to the State and will also affect the management of the salmon, since some of their scientific inquiry has been devoted specifically to salmon. Any on-going research will be halted, and such studies can be difficult or impossible to restart, resulting in more dollars lost.

Money is scarce, but it seems to me that by investing in the Reserve Alaska will receive back more than the dollars it will spend, and the result will be a better understanding of Alaskan salmon and the Bay.

As a fan of Alaska please would you and your colleagues review this decision and find a way to restore the General Funds for the KBNERR? I feel it would be of great benefit both to the Reserve and to Alaska.

Graydon H. Moss

Annual Visitor and sometime Volunteer Research Assistant.

Silver Spring MD



Alaska Pharmacists Association

March 5, 2014

To Representative Members of House Finance Committee
RE: HB 266 Operating Budget/Loans/Funds

The Alaska Pharmacists Association respectfully requests that \$1.2 million be reinstated into the SHARP II Loan Repayment and Direct Incentives Program to recruit and retain health care professionals in the State of Alaska. It would be unfortunate to "pull the plug" on the professionals that have in good faith committed to working in remote and hard to fill positions in the state, with the expectation of receiving 3 years of loan repayment and/ or direct incentive from state and employer matched contributions.

Currently, with no Schools of Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy in the state, it is important to continue to recruit graduates from professional health care professions, particularly into the rural and hard to fill areas of the State.

Pharmacists (7) benefiting from SHARP II are located in the following communities across the state:

Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Bethel - 3 Very Hard to Fill (VHTF) positions
SE Alaska Regional Health Corporation, Juneau- 1
South Central Foundation, Anchorage- 1
Norton Sound Health Corporation, Nome- 1
Annette Island Service Unit, Metlakatla- 1 Very Hard to Fill position

Respectfully,

Nancy Davis
Executive Director

E-mail: akphrmy@alaska.net

203 W. 15th Ave., Suite 100 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • (907) 563-8880 • (907) 563-7880

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting this testimony on the State's operating budget, HB 266, in lieu of testifying at today's committee hearing. I urge the Committee to make public education one of the very top priorities in this budget, and to appropriate enough funds for public education to allow for an increase to the base student allocation (BSA) of at least \$400. As a parent of two children – one a public school second grader and one who will be entering kindergarten soon – I believe strongly that our children are our greatest resource. Investing in our children by keeping our public schools strong is the smartest investment we can make in our state's future. They are our future leaders, so let's give them the best education we possibly can.

The BSA is the school districts' principal source of funding for teachers and other day-to-day operating needs. The BSA has not been increased since 2011, so while costs and inflation have risen, school funding has remained flat. The result is that school districts around the state are preparing for a fourth year of budget cuts, and this year the cuts are reaching into the classroom where they will hurt. In Anchorage alone, the school district plans to cut 159 teaching positions and over 200 positions overall.

When teachers are cut, class sizes grow, and teachers are forced to devote more time to classroom management and less time to teaching. With larger classes, teachers cannot give each student as much attention. When our schools are adequately funded, third grade reading levels rise, graduation rates rise, and school dropout rates decline. When we allow public school funding to fall behind inflation and rising costs – as we have done in Alaska for the last three years – all of those trends begin to reverse and go in the wrong direction.

We have a very good public education system in Alaska. Let's keep it that way. Please make public education a top priority and include enough funds in the operating budget for at least a \$400 increase in the BSA.

Thank you for considering my views,

Rebecca Bernard
1210 N St.
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-244-3988
rbernard.ak@gmail.com

Letter of Support for the Governor’s Budget – Supporting Health Care Access through Loan Repayment and Direct Incentive Program (SHARP)

Dear House Finance Co-Chair Austerman, Co-Chair Stoltze and Vice Chair Neuman

This letter is written to you on behalf of the members of the SHARP Advisory Council in support of full funding of the SHARP Programs and specifically to ask that you rescind the \$1.2 million decrement to the SHARP-II Program budget.

SHARP SFY'15	
	State GF
Current SHARP-II Provider Contract Budget	\$2,036,300
Proposed Reduction Amt	\$1,200,000
Proposed Percent Reduction	59%
Amount Remaining after Cut	\$836,300
Current SHARP-II Contracts	\$1,408,800
Proposed Shortfall on Current SHARP-II Contracts	(\$572,500)
Percent Underfunded on Current SHARP-II Contracts	-41%

Impact of Budget Reduction in FY2015

- Vulnerable Alaskans currently receiving health care may lose their provider
- 39 recently selected and recommended provider service agreements by the SHARP Advisory Council cannot be made.
- Some or all of the 62 providers with current service agreements may lose funding on the entire or a portion of the support for their service agreements. This may also impact provider employers and their organizations.

Program Accomplishments

The SHARP Programs provides healthcare provider loan repayment and direct incentives to ensure an adequate supply of healthcare providers will be available to meet the healthcare needs of Alaskans in the areas of highest need. SHARP is designed to improve healthcare access for Alaskans who have other substantial barriers to healthcare access (e.g. remote location in Rural Alaska), receive Medicaid, Medicare, or other federal health benefits or are uninsured.

Since 2010, **136 SHARP clinicians** have provided healthcare to **156,190 Alaskans** and have been provided **305,522 patient visits** in over 38 communities, spread across all 6 regions of Alaska. In the last reported quarter, October-December, 2013, **89 clinicians** served **25,972 patients** with **61,819 visits**.

SHARP clinicians work in a broad range of healthcare occupations, including:

- Behavioral Health (44): 9 Psychiatrists, 5 Psychologists, 12 Clinical Social Workers, 13 Professional Counselors, 3 Physician Assistants, Nurses (RN) & 1 Nurse Practitioner; and,
- Dental Health (24): 17 Dentists, & 7 Dental Hygienists; and in

- Medical Care (68): 27 Physicians, 13 Nurse Practitioners, 10 Physician Assistants, 9 Pharmacists, 7 Nurses (RN), & 2 Physical Therapists.

Participating healthcare agencies are now more than 43 statewide: tribal health, hospitals, Community Health Centers, Community Mental Health Centers, government & other clinics.

The Council recently recommended another 39 providers to the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner.

The SHARP Program

- Increases access to care for underserved populations
- Supports prevention and early treatment which contributes to better patient health outcomes
- Improves health care provider organizations stability and sustainability by reducing turnover
- Supports communities where hiring and retaining health care providers is a challenge – 33 or 53% of SHARP-II Program Providers Very Hard to Fill (VHTF) positions are currently being supported
- Enables health care providers to stay in communities and contribute to local economies directly and by serving as an anchor position for other health care support staff who also contribute to local economy.

Council members support and ask for your full funding support of the Governor's budget for both the SHARP Programs in the amount of **\$2,236,300 for the SHARP provider contracts**, I (SHARP GF \$200,000) and SHARP II (\$2,036,300) programs as components of an Alaska Health Care System that provide access to health care for the most vulnerable in our state.

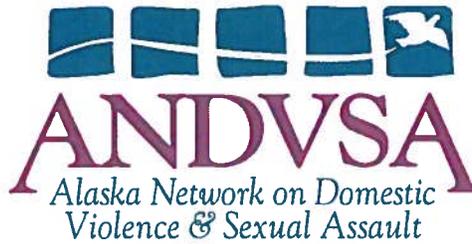
Sincerely

Randi Sweet,
Chair, SHARP Advisory Council

Attachments:

Alaska SHARP Program Clinician Census by Region, Town and Discipline

Main Office
130 Seward St #209
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 586-3650
Fax: (907) 463-4493
www.andvsa.org



Pro Bono Office
PO Box 6631
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone: (907) 747-7545
Fax: (907)747-7547

March 6, 2014

Honorable Alan Austerman, Operating Budget Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 519
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 266 - Operating Budget Testimony

Dear Representative Austerman:

On behalf of our 23 member programs and affiliates that provide emergency transportation, intervention, sexual assault response, safety planning, legal advocacy, rural outreach, education and prevention to victims of crimes involving domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, we are writing to thank you for your support of the Governor's requested increments of \$287,500 for basic operating costs, and \$250,000 to provide services to children exposed to violence. We know that these are tough budget times and difficult decisions had to be made and we are very grateful for your support.

Many of our programs had planned on attending the House Finance public testimony session in person; however, after two days of meeting with their legislators, program representatives had an opportunity to personally thank legislators for their support. Given the hundreds of Alaskans signed up to testify, we wanted to be respectful and mindful of the committee's time. Please allow this letter to serve as our official comments.

Again, I thank the committee for supporting our programs that are an integral part of public safety in communities throughout Alaska.

Sincerely,

Peggy Brown, Executive Director

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE
Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC
Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG Seward SCS Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV



Catholic Social Services

3710 East 20th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508 • (907) 222-7300 • fax (907) 258-1091 • www.cssalaska.org

March 4, 2014

Representative Mark Neuman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 513
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Neuman and members of the House HSS Finance Subcommittee,

Catholic Social Services is gravely concerned about two budget reductions that the subcommittee is recommending. Considering reducing funding to residential substance abuse treatment programs by \$2 million is simply egregious in a state that ranks so high and struggles so desperately with alcoholism and substance abuse. I urge you to maintain the current level of funding for residential substance abuse treatment. For over thirty years we have witnessed the destructive power of substance abuse and alcoholism in people's lives, our community and in this state at Brother Francis Shelter. Residential substance abuse treatment helps struggling people develop skills that support them to remain sober, stable, employed and housed.

Please thoughtfully reconsider your support for the Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC). The CBC has had a strong track record of helping individuals & families maintain stable lives. Ending funding now will reduce the number of people with complex behaviors who receive services and will result in increased rates of homelessness for people who suffer from mental illness. We are currently full beyond capacity at Brother Francis Shelter and are unable to accommodate homeless individuals with such complex behavioral health needs.

Thank you for your giving me this opportunity to share my concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 222-7351/sbomalaski@cssalaska.org to discuss these harmful budget reductions.

Sincerely,

Susan Bomalaski, Ph.D, LPC
Executive Director

CC: Archbishop Roger Schwietz
Commissioner Bill Streur

Thandi Carros

From: FINK JANET <jfink@xyz.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 10:48 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: KBERR

Representative Austerman,

I am writing you out of concern for the cut in funding for the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve. This organization provides incredible educational and research options for the Homer area as well as the state of Alaska. Without ties to a state organization and funding it loses all of its national funding. This would be an incredible loss of the only research reserve in the state.

Sincerely

Janet Fink

Jared Cohen
246 Forest Park Drive
Ketchikan, AK 99901
March 6, 2014

Rep Alan Austerman, Co-Chair
Rep Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair and
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Re: Support for Alaska AHEC's inclusion in University of Alaska budget

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

I am the recipient of direct support from Alaska AHEC for two cycles. The first time was during high school for a special medical seminar. The second time, I needed to travel to clinical rotations to finish my nursing degree. Without the funding provided for me from AHEC, I would not be able to pursue my medical degree as far as I have.

The medical seminar I attended in Anchorage was what furthered my desire to go to medical school. The opportunities provided to me by AHEC have made it so I can be more well rounded in searching for a medical degree and it has made it able for me, someone who is not financially able to do something like this, expand my knowledge base.

Now, I am working at PeaceHealth as an RN until I earn enough money for medical school and have enough experience.

Thank you to AHEC.

I urge you to maintain funding for AHEC within the University of Alaska budget. Because of AHEC providing funding to financially impoverished students, people who are not otherwise able to do school, can do so. I do plan on practicing in Ketchikan.

Sincerely,



Jared Cohen, RN

jrdcohen@yahoo.com
907-617-9517

Thandi Carros

From: Jeanette Grasto <jmgrasto@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 4:14 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Substance Abuse Treatment

Jeanette Grasto
1369 Ballaine Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

March 9, 2014

Dear Representative Alan Austerman,

Substance abuse is the largest single contributor to many social problems that Alaska experiences such as domestic violence, high suicide rates and other crimes. Adequate availability of substance abuse treatment will result in lower costs for agencies such as Corrections, Office of Children's Services, Juvenile Justice and emergency care. NAMI of Fairbanks, Alaska supports adequate funding for mental health and substance abuse treatments. It costs less to support people in their own communities with community based supports than institutional services. Right now Fairbanks has no supported housing for mental health clients. I just met a young lady last week that cannot live safely on her own in our community and requires assisted living. She has to move to Anchorage and cannot remain here in Fairbanks even though this is her home. This is not acceptable to our community.
Jeanette Grasto President NAMI of Fairbanks, Alaska

Sincerely,
Jeanette Grasto

Thandi Carros

From: Jenny Martin <jenny.martin@bbbsak.org>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 10:21 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Please continue funding for KBRR

Dear House Finance Committee members,

I am writing to request that you reinstate funding for our Kachemak Bay Research Reserve in HB266 - to allow them more time to find a new suitable and sustainable partner - and continue the vital education and research programs in our Kachamak Bay Area.

I know very little about science but several of the staff at KBRR are Big Sisters in our Big Brothers Big Sisters program - and through that connection, I have learned about all the wonderful educational opportunities that are provided to our local Homer area children & families as well as school groups and families that visit from outside our area. Discovery Labs, educational displays and tours at the visitor center and outdoor educational hikes down by our beach and slough - have opened the eyes of many young child to the wonders and delights of our beautiful Kachemak Bay. KBRR has also organized many "Kids Fishing Days" and "Family Ice Fishing" adventures - that have created many new enthusiastic fishermen and fisherwomen! One of our 11 yr old Little Sisters went on an ice fishing trip last month - and reported to me "I LOVE ICE FISHING NOW! It is my new favorite thing!!" Because of KBRR, many children now hold a new respect and appreciation for their environment and even more now dream of becoming scientists and biologists themselves.

Please reinstate KBRR's \$175,000 in HB266 to allow them time to continue their important educational and research programs as well as provide them the time they need to find a new partner that will sustain their program into the future. Our children deserve this program.

--

Sincerely,
Jenny

Jenny Martin
Community Director, Homer office

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska
PO Box 1034 • Homer, AK 99603
Tel: 907-235-8391 Fax: 907-235-8392 www.bbbsak.org

Bowling Teams needed now! Start a team or join a team! Have fun and help support our local mentoring program at our Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser! Donate to a team today! www.bbbsak.org/bowl

Start Something Big for a child today. Donate or volunteer at www.bbbsak.org.

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Thandi Carros

From: jeoff lanfear <jlanfear@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 11:37 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Finance Committee

March 5, 2014

Honorable Representative Alan Austerman, and

Honorable Representative Bill Stoltze

State of Alaska House Finance Committee

Re: Proposed Cuts to the Community Health Aide Training & Supervision (CHATS) Grants Program Budget

Honorable Representatives Alan Austerman and Representative Bill Stoltze:

I write you on behalf of myself as an active Family Nurse Practitioner in Alaska, for which I serve as a Primary Care Provider for rural Alaskans, regarding the proposed cuts to the Community Health Aide Training & Supervision (CHATS) grants program budget. I am acutely aware of the budget shortfalls that we face as Alaskans in the current economic climate. Thank you for allowing me to share my comments and concerns on the proposed cuts.

My immediate concern is to ask that you protect the funding for the CHATS program. This program is critical to reducing emergency and inpatient workloads while preventing long-term chronic health problems and

disruptions to families and communities. Stable funding for this grant is critical to ensuring cost-savings to the Alaska Tribal Health System (a critical component of the Alaska Public Health System) and the State's General Fund. However, with protecting this funding the state should also look to make better use of these monies and require more long term commitments from the trainees. To many times I see people who are just looking for a job take on the duties of a CHA and quit within several months, not realizing the dedication this job requires. This high level of attrition and turnover is a waste of public funds.

The Mission of the CHATS program is to provide training and supervision of primary community health aides who provide health care services in rural communities throughout the State. Community health aides (CHA/Ps) are integral to the delivery of health care in the state of Alaska. They can be the first responders and often the only providers of care in small rural Alaskan villages/towns. The CHA/P program is globally recognized as a model of care in underserved communities. Their value is demonstrated in the improved health and greater capacity in rural communities to address health. The design of the training and utilization of CHA/Ps employed vision and foresight. Additionally, CHA/Ps are able to generate revenue to support the delivery of care through third party billing but only when they reach their third training session. This is a major hurdle for most CHA. Each training session is one month away from their families/friends. Making the third trip away from home is a major hurdle and makes most CHA stumble and fail to complete the full training program. In my opinion the CHA should never completely self-fund. I don't understand how someone with 3 months of training can bill 85% of a visit reimbursement. This is similar to Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants who committed to years of schooling and lifelong learning.

CHA/P training centers already faced difficulties with one training center closing its doors. I believe SEARHC has foresight and is changing their current healthcare delivery model to a more stable patient environment. This includes reducing the CHA personnel and implementing more practitioners (Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant).

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeoff Lanfear ANP MSN, FNP-C

Glennallen AK, 99588

Thandi Carros

From: Jeremiah Paskewitz <paskewitz23@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 11:13 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; rep.bill.stolze@akleg.gov; mark.neuman@akleg.gov; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Lesil McGuire

Hello,

My name is Jeremiah Paskewitz I am 32 years old. I lived a criminal lifestyle for ten years. I came from a good upbringing I chose to take the wrong path. I had a drug addiction that had put me in and out of jail numerous times. With the use of meth I had done some stupid things. I was put on felony SIS probation in 2011 within one month I violated my probation and got a dui while on meth. When I got out of jail three days later you are supposed to report to your probation officer within 24 hours I did that but I was high on meth. I admitted to being high he gave me a choice to go to jail or treatment. I chose to go to treatment. Treatment was the best thing that ever happened in my life. I had reached rock bottom. I took full advantage of the State of Alaska funded treatment program I was in. I learned tools how to cope with my addiction and how to live a normal life. If it was not for the State funded program the likely hood of me ending back in my old life style was very high. Today I am a respected person of society I have a great job. I have been off drugs now for over **two half years**. I have also **completed** my probation. I am still involved in treatment program today, I am **Mentor** and help others with their own recovery. I have been to almost all the treatment programs in Anchorage and spoke to them about recovery and how successful it was for me. So I am asking you to not cut funding for our recovery programs.

Thank you for your time

Jeremiah Paskewitz
PO box 190936
Anchorage, AK
(907) 306-3156
Paskewitz23@gmail.com

Thandi Carros

From: Jerrol Friend <jfriend@alaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:37 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Protect Care Programs for People with CF

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Constituent

As a constituent and someone personally affected by cystic fibrosis (CF), I urge you to support funding in the fiscal year 2015 budget for health care programs that provide the high-quality, specialized care that people with CF need.

Nearly a quarter of people with cystic fibrosis report delaying necessary medical care or skipping prescribed treatments due to cost concerns. Programs that provide assistance to people who would otherwise be unable to afford medical care are vital to those with CF. These programs help ensure that people with cystic fibrosis can afford the treatments they need to live longer, healthier lives.

Access to appropriate health care makes a critical difference in improving health and quality of life for people with CF. Providing coverage for CF care and treatments can help people with CF to better manage their disease, reduce time spent in hospitals and support quality of life.

Once again, I respectfully urge you to support funding for our state health care programs and Medicaid in this budget year.

Jerrol Friend
3941 Woodland Drive
Kodiak, AK 99615

Thandi Carros

From: Jenkins, Jerry <JJenkins@acmhs.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 12:59 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Comments on Residential Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Grants

Hello Representative Austerman. I appreciate the ability to communicate my opinion to you. I met several members of the Finance Committee at a presentation I did for them back in October 2013 when they met in Fairbanks. Also, I have heard a rumor that you may be acquainted with one Don Roberts, Jr. of Kodiak. If so, we have something in common knowing that character. Mr. Roberts has a way of expressing himself.

I am writing about funding for treatment of substance use disorders. It is my understanding that reductions are being proposed approximating 8%.

Comments:

First, I am an addictions counselor with over 30-years of experience. Sometimes outpatient does not work particularly for the more chronic substance users including alcohol and narcotics.

Second, substance use treatment is based on something called the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Patient Placement Criteria. (<http://www.asam.org/publications/the-asam-criteria>) This criteria has been adopted by regulation for services funded by the Division of Behavioral Health. (7AAC70.120(d)(1); 7AAC70.910)

The criteria are objective and measurable. Treatment settings, known as level of care, are based on a multi-dimensional assessment. There are four levels of care. They are:

Level I – Outpatient

Level II – Intensive Outpatient/Partial Hospitalization

Level III – Residential/Inpatient Services

Level IV – Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Services

The proposed cuts target Residential/Inpatient Treatment, known as Level III. The defining characteristic of all Level III programs is they serve individuals who need safe and stable living environments in order to develop their recovery skills. Again, persons referred to residential treatment have been formally assessed and the assessment indicates this is the most appropriate level of treatment/care. Further, the State of Alaska adds that “All residential substance use treatment services must be medically necessary, [and] clinically appropriate. . .” 7AAC70.120.(d)

Recommendations:

Knowing that there is limited or no access to substance abuse residential treatment, I recommend and request residential treatment funding not be cut. I have personal knowledge of persons (some who work for me) whose life totally changed as a result of having access to a continuum of treatment that started with detox, followed by residential, outpatient and then to natural supports in the community like AA and church.

Key was the ability to access residential. It is my understanding that there are days in Alaska when a pregnant woman cannot access residential treatment.

This is why I recommend not reducing this funding. One alternative could be Medicaid expansion where there is the potential for offsetting costs which are now almost totally funded by the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your considerations.

Sincerely,

j2

Jerry A. Jenkins, M.Ed., MAC
Chief Executive Officer

Anchorage Community Mental Health Services

Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services

4020 Folker Street

Anchorage, AK 99508

907-261-5310- Office

jjenkins@acmhs.com

Our Vision is "wellness for everyone."

Our Mission is to promote recovery and wellness by providing consumer-driven behavioral healthcare services.

Thandi Carros

From: Jenkins, Jerry <JJenkins@acmhs.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 1:55 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Support Restoring \$1.2m to SHARP II

Dear Representative Austerman.

Please consider restoring \$1.2m to SHARP II.

SHARP II is a valuable resource/tool for recruiting and retaining medical professionals in Alaska. Please consider reinstating the proposed \$1.2m decrement. SHARP II helps Alaska by providing a unique edge to what other states can offer. I have been able to recruit a Licensed Clinical Social Worker from Colorado to work with severely emotionally disturbed children due to SHARP II. We hope to use SHARP II in recruiting psychiatric providers to Fairbanks.

Thank you for your considerations.

Sincerely,

j2

Jerry A. Jenkins, M.Ed., MAC
Chief Executive Officer

Anchorage Community Mental Health Services

Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services

4020 Folker Street

Anchorage, AK 99508

907-261-5310- Office

jjenkins@acmhs.com

Our Vision is "wellness for everyone."

Our Mission is to promote recovery and wellness by providing consumer-driven behavioral healthcare services.

Thandi Carros

From: Jill Lush <jlush@sproutalaska.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 10:14 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Parents as Teachers Testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

March 5, 2013

Re: Legislative Testimony

From: Jillian Lush

To Rep. Austerman,

My name is Jillian Lush and I am the Executive Director of Sprout Family Services in Homer, Alaska. We serve over 300 children living in the Southern Kenai Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands. I am speaking today in part in this role, but also as a life-long Alaskan.

I am asking this Committee to support the governor's budget as written to include fully funding Parents as Teachers. I am one of many Alaskans who support investing in children in order to strengthen our state. Approving the Governor's budget with support for Parents as Teachers means that our state is strengthened with increased partnerships through connecting parents to supports and fostering parent engagement and leadership in schools and community organizations.

Parents as Teachers is a great service delivery model that aligns well with the Governor's recent initiative about education. Parents are a child's FIRST and MOST IMPORTANT teacher. But research tells us that this important teaching doesn't happen when a child goes to school, or even pre-school. It starts from birth.

Additionally, support for Parents as Teachers make financial sense. Parents as Teachers has proven outcomes in supporting a child to be ready for school and ready for life. Investing in our state's youngest citizens will lead to major return on investment. Research from James Heckman out of the University of Chicago claims that doing so can produce a 7-10% return on investment! Please invest now, so we don't have to pay later.

Again, please support the Governor's budget as written to include fully funding Parents as Teachers.

Thank you for your support and time.

Jill Lush

PO Box 108

Homer, AK 99603

907-299-8221

Thandi Carros

From: JJ Harrier <jj_harrier@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Substance Abuse Treatment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

JJ Harrier
7810 Ladasa Place
Anchorage, AK 99507

March 10, 2014

Dear Representative Alan Austerman,

Good morning!

I am writing in desperation in hopes that the proposed \$2 million+ reduction to behavioral health grants will not be approved.

I am a board member with Nugen's Ranch, the Mat-Su Valley's sole in-patient long-term treatment facility for drug and alcohol clients. I am also a previous graduate of their program and former client.

In 2006, I checked into Nugen's Ranch after a long battle with alcohol. I had lost my family, home, job and was spending most of my days drinking and sleeping on friends' couches until my options ran out.

My drinking had reached proportions beyond my personal aid and I needed assistance.

I checked into Nugen's Ranch and began a vigorous nine-month treatment program to treat my alcoholism. The staff and counselors at the facility gave me the tools I needed to get back on my feet and back into the world.

What a relief!

As a result, I have my family back, an amazing career and now help other alcoholics get admitted into Nugen's Ranch and get back on their feet to be successful, happy Alaskans once again.

As you may know, in-patient treatment facilities in Alaska are becoming scarce.

The Mat-Su Valley, and most of Alaska, has a growing number of alcoholic and drug afflicted youth looking for help each day. Cutting funding to these valuable assets is sending a message of "You're on your own."

Can we really afford to stop helping our state's young adults and substance dependant citizens?

I urge you to halt this cut in funding and continue to support valuable facilities like Nugen's Ranch.

As a board member, I now get to see more than 30 clients graduate this facility each year. Some have gone on to make their mark in Alaska in a positive light, passing on what was learned to them to others.

It would be a shame to see this service end abruptly and add more alcoholics and drug dependant people to our streets. Please help and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
JJ Harrier

Thandi Carros

From: John Yates <jyates@fairbanksnative.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 2:56 PM
To: Rep. Doug Isaacson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Pete Higgins; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Mark Neuman; 'Representative.Bill.Stolze@akleg.gov'; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Benjamin Nageak
Subject: Testimony on HB 266 and HB 267

John P. Yates, Jr., A.S., CDC II, BHC II

P.O. Box 70632 Fairbanks, AK 99707 (mail)

1170 Rock Jasmine Court North Pole, AK 99705 (home)

(907) 460-9779 jyinak@yahoo.com

I am a substance abuse counselor employed by Fairbanks Native Association at Ralph Perdue Center, and I live in North Pole. I am writing to ask that you reconsider the proposed cut of \$2 million in funding for residential substance abuse treatment programs in Alaska and maintain funding at existing levels.

Many of our consumers are unable to remain abstinent/sober in their current environments and require the stabilization and skills training only available in a residential treatment setting. The decision to place a consumer in residential treatment is a complex and clinical one arrived at by a treatment team using specific criteria. Our consumer placement decisions are guided and bound by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) treatment criteria for addictive, substance-related and co-occurring disorders, a national standard created and compiled by medical professionals. Level of care placement decisions are not random but rather carefully developed to best meet the needs of the consumer and promote the best possible outcome. Adherence to ASAM standards is required by accreditation entities, in our case CARF. Further, accreditation of our facility is required by the state; any cuts in state funding for residential treatment would result in our inability to comply with state mandates in other areas, an irony that was perhaps not foreseen when the funding cuts were proposed.

Alcoholism and addiction are unlike any other illnesses. They are multifaceted health issues that very often require the multifaceted medical and mental health care available only in a residential treatment setting. Many consumers will only achieve wellness and recovery with the aid of residential treatment.

In 2009, the National Survey on Drug Abuse and Health estimated that 9.5 percent of Alaska's population age 12 and older (55,700 residents) were dependent on or abusing alcohol or drugs. Costs to the economy in 2010 totaled \$1.2 billion. Costs by category include:

- \$673.2 million in productivity losses,
- \$50.5 million in traffic crash costs,
- \$217.7 million in criminal justice and protective services,
- \$237.3 million in health care, and
- \$13.2 million in public assistance and social services.

In 2014 it is reasonable to assume these numbers and costs have increased. The cost of placing consumers in residential substance abuse treatment pales in comparison to the overall cost to the state of Alaska and its citizens. If funding is cut for residential treatment services the Legislature should be prepared to increase funding for corrections, public assistance, Office of Children's Services, etc. In this light, the cost of maintaining existing funding for residential treatment seems reasonable and prudent.

A legitimate question for you to ask would be, "Where should I get the money?" There has been much debate and discussion of late about oil tax reform and repeal of that reform, and it seems most of this debate is of a very factional, all or nothing nature. Can we compromise? Can we meet in the middle? Oil ultimately pays for just about everything in Alaska, so can we decrease the amount or percentage of the tax reform without total repeal? Everyone may not walk away completely happy or satisfied, but the result would be increased revenue to fund needed programs such as residential substance abuse treatment.

Finally, let us examine the personal costs of addiction in Alaska. Alcoholism and addiction are deadly illnesses, and people are literally dying to get into residential treatment. To be able to serve these people early, when they present for treatment, would not only save money but also save lives, not to mention the anguish of their families over the needless waste of humanity. What if it was your family, someone you love? Perhaps you could choose to send them to a private, for-profit residential treatment center Outside. Though many of our consumers are indigent and have few resources, shouldn't they also have a choice to seek and participate in residential treatment? While someone would no more choose to suffer from addiction than they would cancer, the fact is that neither one is a choice. The days of viewing addicts as second-class citizens unworthy of the treatment available to those with other illnesses needs to end. What if it was someone you love?

Sincerely,

John P. Yates, Jr., A.S., CDC II, BHC II

Thandi Carros

From: Jon Bolling <jbolling@aptalaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 9:41 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Subject: HB 266

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Rep. Austerman & Rep. Stoltze, and Finance Committee members:

The City of Craig supports efforts by Gov. Parnell to include a \$3 billion transfer from the budget reserve fund to the defined benefit plan accounts for PERS and TERS.

As you are aware, the combined unfunded liability of Alaska's Public Employee's Retirement System (PERS) and the Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) is \$11.8 billion as of June 30, 2012. Sixty-two percent (62%) of the annual State Assistance is directly for the State's own unfunded liability. The State's unfunded pension liability is one of Alaska's biggest budget drivers, as annual State Assistance payments are expected to exceed \$1 billion per year by 2016, if some sort of cash infusion does not occur directly into the retirement trust funds. The transfer proposed in SB 266 caps the annual state assistance payment at \$500 million per year, and in doing so creates predictable, sustainable, and affordable payments for the State of Alaska and its municipalities.

In addition, the proposed transfer strengthens state and local credit ratings by reducing the unfunded liability and demonstrating a responsible and realistic plan for resolving the unfunded liability over a predictable period. The problem posed by the unfunded liability must be addressed now, rather than delaying action to some uncertain point in the future, when the state may or may not have the resources to properly address the matter. Failing to make the cash transfer in the coming fiscal year only increases the cost to the state later on.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Jon Bolling

Craig City Administrator

Thandi Carros

From: Karen Wood <kadu00@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 2:43 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Paying down the debt/shortfall

I strongly support the three billion dollar (\$3b) capital infusion into the retiree trust fund. This action will reduce future operating budgets for the State of Alaska. The obligation to fund the retiree trust funds is similar to the requirement to re-pay bond holders. To help protect the State of Alaska bond rating and demonstrate good fiscal stewardship, please prioritize restoring the three billion dollar funding. This is a prudent move.

Duane T. Moran
Active and concerned citizen - Alaskan resident of over 3 decades

Thandi Carros

From: Karin Schaff <kschaff@voaak.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 2:16 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: behavioral health funding

Representative Austerman,

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed 1.043 million in cuts to residential substance abuse treatment and the 1 million in cuts to the behavioral health grants. I'm concerned about these cuts and the resulting negative impact on Alaskans. I am the Vice President of Treatment Services for Volunteers of America Alaska. Volunteers of America Alaska provides a full continuum of care, outpatient through residential, for adolescents ages 13 – 18 with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders. We are one of the very limited number of youth residential substance treatment centers for youth that would be negatively impacted by these cuts. VOA provides integrated care that addresses all major life issues and domains the individual presents with.

In accordance to evidenced based practices treatment intensity and the level of care is matched to the needs of the individual in order to produce successful outcomes. Decisions regarding which program and level of care whether it be residential or an outpatient program is done by using the industry standard, State mandated American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) placement criteria. This criteria is mandated in regulation. This criteria provides a framework to determine the severity and risk level for each individual and match them to the appropriate level of services in order to ensure positive outcomes. The least restrictive environment without putting the individual in harm's way is part of the criteria framework. Community supports (to include the presence of safe housing) or lack thereof, detox needs etc., are also taken into consideration. Placement into residential care is not a random decision rather a very careful process based on research and evidenced based practice.

The reduction of residential substance abuse treatment services will not increase the amount of individuals who can be successfully treated in an outpatient setting as these residential programs are treated adults and youth that have needs beyond this level of care. The majority of the youth we serve in our residential program, ARCH, have been in multiple outpatient programs and have not been able to stay clean and sober. They also have severe mental health issues and may pose a threat to themselves and to others in the community. They often engage in illegal behaviors and show up in local emergency rooms due to their life threatening alcohol and drug use. For these youth outpatient services are not sufficient to meet their needs.

Residential treatment for these youth helps decrease their psychiatric symptoms to include suicidal ideation, eliminates their substance abuse, decreases their involvement in the legal system, and increases their ability to be safe, productive members of our communities. Residential substance abuse treatment helps people develop skills that support them to remain stable, employed, housed and contributing productively in the community.

Residential substance abuse treatment such as the ARCH program supports people in developing successful skills for staying clean and sober and avoid costly juvenile justice, adult prison stays and emergency room visits.

I urge you to maintain the current level of funding for residential substance abuse treatment and to the behavioral health grants. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Karin Schaff, MS, LMFT, CDC II

Vice President of Treatment Services

Volunteers of America Alaska

(907) 279-9636



Thandi Carros

From: Kate McLaughlin <mclenvironmental@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 1:53 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: KBNERR in the Operating Budget HB266

Dear Representative Austerman, Senator Pete Kelly, and Senator Gary Stevens;

I ask that you support fully funding the Kachemak Bay Reserve in Homer, AK. This area is hugely important, not only for its research and conservation efforts that ensure the continued ecological productivity of this incredible estuary, but also for the hundreds of jobs that directly and indirectly benefit from the Reserve and its associated facilities. \$175,000 is an insignificant amount of savings when compared to the economic losses that would be realized otherwise.

The KBNERR, the only sub-arctic preserve in the United States is world famous. From scientists, educators and researchers who travel from all points of the globe to study and learn here; to the tourists who travel each year to partake in the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, high lighting of one of the largest and most important, shorebird migration resting and feeding areas on the N. Gulf coast; to the people participating in the Homer Halibut Derby, and to all the people who live in Homer and work to support the park and reserve facilities directly; and all the hotels, restaurants, charter boat and plane services, rental car agencies, grocery stores, art galleries, boat yards, fuel services, etc. who all depend upon this area for their economic livelihoods and for an environment that contains and supports a healthy renewable resource.

Please restore a bit of sanity to the House budget proposal and vote to fully fund KBNERR in the Operating Budget HB266.

Thank you,

Kate McLaughlin

McLaughlin Environmental Services
PO Box 8043
Chenega Bay, Alaska 99574
907/573-2006
<http://www.akenvironmentalservices.com/>

Thandi Carros

From: katelynnsortino@gmail.com on behalf of Katelynn Sortino
<katelynn@u.washington.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 9:54 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Appeal to Not Cut Substance Treatment Funding

To Whom It May Concern:

As an Alaskan, I have seen the positive and beneficial impact that outpatient and inpatient substance abuse treatment has on our young people. I've seen young, addicted people turn their lives around with the assistance of these programs. Too many of our youth fall prey to a drug addicted lifestyle, especially in Alaska, and I believe that taking away these necessary resources from our kids will not only negatively impact the children, but also the community at large. It is a known fact that drug use and criminal activity have a close correlation (source: <http://www.ncadd.org/index.php/learn-about-drugs/drugs-and-crime>). It is my strongly-held belief that the whole community suffers when drug and alcohol addicted people are not given the support and resources they desperately need. I'm asking that you maintain the current level of funding, because I wholeheartedly believe this is crucial to the wellbeing of our community, our young people, and our strong future as Alaskans.

Thank you,

Katelynn Sortino



Ocean Tester LLC
381 Gillikin Road
Beaufort, North Carolina
252 728 4537

6 March 2014

State of Alaska House Finance Standing Committee

Dear Co-Chairs Representatives Austerman and Stoltze:

Alaska's vast and largely inhospitable coastal zone is not easily accessible to most residents. Kachemak Bay is an exception and was wisely graced with a splendid resource, Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Reserve. In support of continued and sustained funding for the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Reserve let me tell you of the value of this program.

The Reserve staff provides public access to and acts as stewards for a significant Alaskan coastal resource. The educational, outreach and research activities of the Reserve are well integrated and serve a diverse segment of the Alaskan population. A recent KBay workshop hosted commercial, recreational and subsistence harvesters, including native community representatives, as well as students, educators, resource managers and public health officials from both the State and the Centers for Disease Controls. The Reserve's staff has significant standing in their respective fields and are able to draw national and international collaborators who contribute their expertise to Alaska's resource issues.

The Reserve's extensive education outreach not only educates youngsters and their families but is building the next generation of ecologically conscious citizens who will foster the sustainability of Alaskan fisheries. The educational activities are informed by the Reserve's research projects. These projects are largely funded by highly competitive, external grants bringing resources to KBay for KBay. The success of the research program also speaks to the quality and scientific credentials of the Reserve staff.

Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Reserve needs and deserves your continue and sustained support for its exceptional programs in service to the citizens of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Pat Tester

Patricia A. Tester, PhD
Founder and CEO
Ocean Tester LLC



Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

3734 Ben Walters Ln, Homer, AK 99603

907 235.8214

kbayconservation@gmail.com

House Finance Committee,

Dear Members,

Thank you for your service.

The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) has been a non-profit organization for 35+ years. It has supported many organizations through education and grassroots efforts. KBCS is an all-volunteer organization involving many in the Kachemak Bay area.

KBCS would like to take this opportunity to express our disappointment in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division and the ADF&G, in general, for the lack of support for the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve. (KBRR). We realize there is a general belt tightening within all state agencies, however we feel the KBRR is certainly an entity worth supporting for the following reasons:

1. The Kachemak Bay Research Reserve was organized under the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, which is a state, federal and local partnership. State funding serves as a match for larger funding amounts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other grant organizations. KBRR also seeks other funding for projects, which meets its mission, and these funds have been significant. This type of funding is still available and helps support an entity that employs Alaskans and supports the local economy.
2. KBRR supports a research team that conducts studies, which helps to understand the health of anadromous systems and the watershed of Kachemak Bay, which is beneficial to fisheries, other state agencies, and the general public.
3. KBRR conducts symposiums of national importance, which brings many people to Alaska for better understanding of oceans and oceanic issues.
4. KBRR is a major marine educator for the local community through its Coastal Training Program, Public Discovery Lab, and outdoor programs, which focus on coastal and estuarine ecology. These programs are very important for the youth of the area and have the potential to inspire career choices.
5. KBRR is located in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Islands and Ocean Visitor Center. The NOAA Kasitsna Bay Laboratory is located on the south side of Kachemak Bay. The close proximity of these three organizations makes collaboration much easier and will help to bring research projects to the Homer area.
6. KBRR benefits the youth and general public through education and collaboration. The Reserve is in place and serves the State of Alaska by bringing together leaders in Marine Science.
7. Without this state funding, the NOAA matching funding will end **and KBRR will cease to exist.** KBRR has a staff of approximately 11 personnel. These people and their families are residents of the Homer area and support the local economy. Not only would we be losing an important learning and educational organization, we would experience a brain drain of very well educated people.



Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

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KBCS believes diversification of the states economy is very important. KBRR represents a perfect example. It is our hope that the legislature can find a source of funding that will allow the continued important work of this highly prestigious organization.

Sincerely

Roberta Highland

Roberta Highland

President,

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

3734 Ben Walters Lane

Homer, AK 99603

907 235-8214

kbayconservation@gmail.com

www.kbayconservation.org

The Kachemak Bay Society's mission is to protect the environment of the Kachemak Bay region and encourage sustainable use and stewardship of local natural resources through advocacy, education, information, and collaboration.

To: Alan Austerman,
Room No. 505,
State Capitol,
Juneau, AK 99801.

From: Michael Opheim
Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Community Council Member

Re: KBRR General Funding

Date: March 4, 2014

Dear Representative Austerman:

My name is Michael Opheim and I sit on the Kachemak Bay Research Reserves (KBRR) Community Council. I have been on this council now for several years and this budget deficit has been the biggest hurdle we have had. The possibility of losing something as important as the KBRR here in the Kachemak Bay, Cook Inlet area would be a huge hit to the scientific community as well as the educators who have relied upon the KBRR to bring the marine and estuarine ecosystems to reality for many children and adults who have never experienced them before. The Tribes, schools, and tourism business rely heavily on the reserve for education and help with projects that relate to their back yard of Kachemak Bay.

The funding that is received through the Sport Fish Division is not a little part of the big picture. It is a very vital part of keeping the KBRR running and providing their services. Without this funding here are some of the things we all will be missing out on.

- Research staff and visiting scientists conduct research and monitoring within the Kachemak Bay watershed that has proved vital to understanding fisheries, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety.
- The education team hosts well-attended public discovery labs and outdoor programs that focus on coastal and estuarine ecology. The team also works within the villages around Kachemak Bay to educate kids and get them interested in the marine sciences as a career.
- The Coastal Training Program provides workshops and trainings targeting coastal management professionals and topics of concern to local communities like algal blooms.

The work done by KBRR provides informed coastal decision-making and stewardship through integrated research, monitoring, education, and professional training. Sport Fish gains much information with this collaboration. It would be a shame to lose out on this for all involved not just a financial loss to the staff and the community but to the children and adults who are touched by the work the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve does.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my thought on this issue and I hope you will give the Research Reserve a second look even if only for another year till another funding source is found that will pick up where SFD leaves off.

Sincerely,

Michael Opheim
Community Council Member

Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Facts for letter of support

- The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) based in Homer, Alaska is a state-federal-local partnership managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - National Estuarine Research Reserve System.
- The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of 28 reserves throughout the nation that are designated to study and protect vital coastal and estuarine resources.
- Founded in 1999, KBNERR conducts innovative and collaborative research and monitoring within and around Kachemak Bay. KBNERR was the 22nd reserve designated and, at 370,000 acres, is the largest and only sub-arctic reserve in the nation.
- KBNERR is an economic driver in the community and results in a significant number of local jobs, visiting professionals, and related expenditures within the community. KBNERR has diverse partnerships bridging local NGOs, universities, and state and federal agencies who contribute to research and education programs. These partnerships bring highly-skilled professionals to Homer, who contribute to our understanding of Kachemak Bay and the surrounding landscape and waters by sharing cutting-edge research methods.
- Research staff and visiting scientists conduct research and monitoring within the Kachemak Bay watershed which has proved vital to understanding fisheries, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety.
- The education program at KBNERR is important to our youth and school systems, and reaches 3,500 people per year through highly successful public and K-12 programming. The Coastal Training Program provides targeted, needs-based trainings on topics of concern to hundreds of coastal management professionals annually.
- KBNERR's partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge was critical when constructing the Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center. The shared responsibility for this the facility, which is a great asset to the community and hosts 75,000 visitors each year, is crucial for its continued operation.
- The fiscal cornerstone for KBNERR is the General Fund (GF) appropriation it receives from the State of Alaska. The proposed \$175,000 budget cut adopted by the House Fish and Game Subcommittee serves as a match for a significantly larger amount of NOAA funding. These funds have a multiplier effect for additional program funding with diverse economic benefits served locally.
- Without these State funds, KBRR will be facing closure and associated loss of jobs, research and education programs, and impact to the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center.
- The House and Senate Finance Committee is strongly urged to reconsider the KBRR cut included in the House Fish and Game Subcommittee, and to maintain these services for the sustained benefit of our community and its coastal resources.

- More information about the National Estuarine Research Reserve System can be found here: <http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/> More information about the KBNERR Community Council can be found here: <http://kbaycouncil.wordpress.com/> If you are discussing this issue, please feel free to utilize the hashtag #savekbr. For questions and additional communications please contact the KBNERR Community Council chair, George Matz, at kbaycouncil@gmail.com.

To: House Finance Committee
Senate Finance Committee
Re: KBRR General Funding
March 5th, 2014

I am writing to encourage you to include KBRR's essential GF match in HBB 266. The community of Homer has benefited greatly from KBRR's research and educational programs. Although there is a need for budget cuts, there is no need to cut the budget on an agency that has continually shown their professionally acclaimed research, for the health of Kachemak Bay. Further more KBRR returns about three dollars for every dollar of GF support it receives. The trickle down effect on not only the community of Homer but that of Alaska and other Coastal waters and communities could prove devastating. Some programs that will be cut are the education programs, and the Coastal Training Program's and training for scientists and the public.

Continuation of KBRR's GF match will not only allow KBRR to keep its doors open, but will allow the time needed to arrange a more understanding partnership.

Sincerely
Sharon Baur
Homer, AK 99603

Thandi Carros

From: Keith Morrison <kmorrison@alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 5:14 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; re.cathy.munoz@akleg.gov; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: Proposed FY15 Operating Budget

Dear Legislative Representatives,

My name is Keith Morrison. I am currently a student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and am also a social worker in the Bering Straits Region. I am writing to you today in response to the proposed cuts for the FY15 operating budget. Although I do understand the importance of fiscal responsibility, I also know that being responsible means; having an obligation to do something, or having control over or care for someone, as part of one's job or role.

I imagine under the current legislative climate that it would seem to make good financial sense when deciding to make cuts to prevention and intervention dollars that don't seem to be showing statistically significant returns. However I must say that from my perspective, truly being in the trenches and operating with my boots on the ground, I do recognize a shift and growing consolidation and collaboration of resources that are currently funded. It is for this reason that I would request you representatives to maintain current funding levels for all behavioral health services through this transition period.

As a student I have an opportunity to hear from many other rural social workers throughout the state and the message is consistent. We require more substance abuse treatment facilities and substance use disorder treatment services.

It is our responsibility as representatives, decision makers and service providers to those least represented and least served in this state to do better and to create and support a model of hope and prosperity, not to further grow the institutionalized system of despair and confinement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Keith Morrison
PO Box 1264
Nome, AK 99762
907-434-1305

Thandi Carros

From: keni carey <kenicarey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 3:05 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: in house long term treatment

I am wrighting a statement for long term treatment centers. My name is Keni Carey & have been in short term treatments & the day I got out was feeling better & a drink was in my hand the same day. I had no solid foundation to stand on, all I knew was I felt better. I've been in long term treatment now for almost 9 months & finally have a better understanding of my disease & feel like this was the only way for myself being a chronic alcoholic & almost dead chose this to save my life & to learn how to go about life in a healthy manor, without any reservations... I put myself here, I'm not mandated by the courts, my job or family, it was my last hope, I was dying. I feel like long term is the only solution for long term recovery. anything less is not enough for any alcoholic or addict to change thier thinking, behaviours or way of life & I firmly believe this.. I'm at nugens ranch & would be dead without them & thier staff. I am truely greatful for a real chance for a life. sincerely yours,,,, Keni
Carey

Thandi Carros

From: Kevin Walker <homerkev@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 10:54 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Les Gara
Cc: Sen. Peter Micciche; Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) funding

Please continue to fund the KBRR. This relatively small investment of 0.17 million dollars grows to 1.6 million dollars, mostly federal funding. That is a return of almost 10 times, or 1000%. Without the \$172,300 in matching funds, the entire program will dissolve.

The KBRR provides many services for the local population, including valuable data collection for understanding and managing Kachemak Bay. The \$1,600,000 put into the Homer economy will be sorely missed. About a dozen families of highly trained and skilled scientists may leave the community.

There aren't many opportunities in today's world to get 1000% return on investment.

--

Kevin
Walker 907-235-5304

Thandi Carros

From: Kim Knudsen <kknudsen@NSHCORP.ORG>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 2:43 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; re.cathy.munoz@akleg.gov; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: Proposed FY15 Operating Budget

Dear Chairmen Austerman and Stoltze;

I was recently informed that the House Finance Committee is considering over 3 million in cuts to the FY15 operating budget

--\$1.043 million cut to residential substance abuse treatment services
--\$1.0 million cut to behavioral health grants
--\$1.2 million cut to the SHARP loan repayment program

I am a resident of Nome, Alaska and was born and raised here. We have an outpatient Behavioral health Services program but do not have a residential substance abuse program. Since there is not a residential substance abuse treatment facility in Nome a lot of people are sent out to other areas in Alaska for treatment. What concerns me is that if funding is cut for residential substance abuse services, behavioral health grants, and loan repayment then staffing and services will be cut as well. These cuts will be detrimental to the overall health of our people.

Please do not cut funding! Our people need these services!

Thank you for your consideration and you are welcome to contact me if you have further questions.

Kim Knudsen

PO Box 696

Nome, Alaska 99762

Thandi Carros

From: Lance E. Johnson <lejohnson@NSHCORP.ORG>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 3:22 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; re.cathy.munoz@akleg.gov; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Donny Olson; Rep. Neal Foster
Subject: Proposed FY15 Operating Budget Cuts

Good afternoon, Rep. Austerman and Rep. Stoltze.

As Director of Behavioral Health Services at Norton Sound Health Corporation, I am concerned to learn of proposed cuts to both Residential Treatment and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services. These proposed cuts of over \$2,000,000.00 will further hinder a system already stressed by the alarmingly high rates of substance use and alcoholism in Alaska.

Nome does not have Residential Treatment, but because of this, it greatly depends on helping people get into residential programs with a higher level of care need than what Outpatient Services can offer. There is an already paucity of treatment beds available in the state and of those currently operating, waiting lists can be lengthy. While we wish everyone's substance use needs could be handled locally through Outpatient Services, the fact is many people are very sick. The level of care Outpatient can offer is a minimal treatment program that cannot always meet the needs of those with severely-chronic substance issues. By cutting funding to residential services, people in this region, as with many other areas throughout rural Alaska, will continue to deteriorate contributing to potential loss of life. And while it proves very difficult to enroll someone in a non-Alaska treatment facility, I do not believe we want to be in the routine of having our residents leaving the state far from any familial supports, traditional programming, and localized rehabilitative resources.

As difficult as it would be for our people to have reduced services in Residential Treatment, it would be just as detrimental to support reductions to Outpatient Services. By cutting substance use disorder services from the Behavioral Health grants line item, rural Alaska community health centers would have to scale-back personnel, resources, and programs in areas where Outpatient Services are vital to keeping many people sober, employed, and out of expensive correctional facilities. In Nome, 95% of the arrests leading to placement in the local Anvil Mountain Correctional Center are alcohol- and substance-related offenses. This is not anecdotal; this is fact. If greater emphasis and funding were put into or remained in Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services, the revolving door that is the prison would spin a lot slower.

I would like to offer a few numbers for your consideration:

\$136.44

\$49,800.60

\$17,464.32

In Nome, Anvil Mountain Correctional Center houses up to 128 inmates per day; however, it is often over-capacity despite its approved census. One inmate costs the State of Alaska \$136.44 per day. Annualized, that is \$49,800.60 per inmate. At 128 inmates, the daily cost is \$17,464.32. Over the course of a year, the state spends \$6,374,476.80. At Anvil Mountain Correctional Center alone.

\$6,374,476.80.

Incarceration in place of treatment is a costly choice. Bottom line, Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services are an economical, rehabilitative, restorative, and life-affirming investment.

In closing, I understand the call for sustainability in the increasing world of shrinking grant funds, but I would impress upon you the need to help agencies remain effective until other sources of funding and billing mechanisms are approved. Allowing Behavioral Health Aides at the III and Practitioner levels through a Special Amendment to bill for clinical services, and passing the expansion of Medicaid coverage in the state would be two great steps to making that happen; until then, however, for the sake of our residents, we must continue to see the relationship between rural Behavioral Health providers and the State of Alaska as a necessary and collaborative partnership.

I appreciate your consideration of my correspondence, and I wish you the best in the important decisions you are charged with making.



Lance E. Johnson, Administrative Director

Norton Sound Health Corporation

Behavioral Health Services

P.O. Box 966

Nome, Alaska 99762

(907)443-3344 (Reception)

(907)443-3339 (Direct)

(907)443-5915 (Fax)

www.nortonsoundhealth.org

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Thandi Carros

From: Lani Raymond <lani67@alaska.net>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 11:18 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Funding for the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve

Representative Alan Austerman:

I would like to encourage you to continue funding for the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve. I would ask that you continue this funding for another year so that other sources of funding could be found ensuring that KBRR can continue its important work. It is a wonderful state-federal-local partnership and is very important for several reasons, among them: research, education, and economics. With an additional year of funding, other sources for funding will be found.

KBRR does a wide range of cutting-edge research on estuarine and coastal areas, and this has ramifications and applications for the whole state and country. It is one of 28 reserves in the nation but is the only sub arctic one and, in addition, is the largest. We all want our environment to be healthy and protected to ensure the fisheries and tourist industries will thrive in the future. We also want our children and grandchildren to have a clean, healthy productive “home” also. Research is necessary for that all to happen.

KBRR is important for education on several levels. The school programs, which include bringing students to the facility for classes as well as staff going out to the schools, is a significant component in the local science education for children as well as children from other school districts. Nearly all visitors to Homer go to the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center which provides an exceptional educational experience. Programs and classes/workshops on many aspects of science and research are provided every month there.

KBRR is important economically to our area where nearly everyone in our area has some connection. They provide jobs, encourage visitors to the area, encourage research scientists to visit and work for periods of time, provide opportunities for volunteering for projects, encourage wildlife projects and appreciation. It is also important for accurate information in order to make decisions about the fishing industries. We feel it is important that our area stay clean and healthy-- for those of us who live here and for those who choose to come to visit. (And these visitors add economically because of housing, food, shopping, fuel, charters, etc.) We feel it is important to have good decisions made for new development and to continue developing the resources we have now.

Please continue funding for the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve for another year.

Lani Raymond
41640 Gladys Ct.
Homer, AK 99603

Thandi Carros

From: lklaar@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 12:36 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Kachemak Bay Research Reserve

We are writing to request that HB 266 include KBRR's essential GF match to keep this important organization funded to continue to support marine education and research in our community.

Thank you,
Leslie and Jens Klaar
High Tide Arts
Homer, Alaska

Sent from Windows Mail



Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

March 5, 2014

Hon. Alan Austerman
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Room 505, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve funding in HB266

Dear Sir,

I was recently informed that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has recommended the removal of all funding for the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) and that the action would signal the closure of the organization in July. I was shocked by this news and encourage you and your fellow committee members to recommend restoration of KBNERR funding.

I am a Senior Botanist at the Smithsonian Institution's Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) and have been involved in research and education with KBNERR for more than a decade. Other colleagues of mine at SERC have been and are currently involved in KBNERR programs; especially citizen-scientist programs related to monitoring for invasive species in Kachemak Bay. The research that we are current doing on juvenile salmon in headwater streams of the Lower Kenai Peninsula is only one of the many activities based at KBNERR that are essential to the citizens of the State of Alaska.

I have worked in several of the NOAA estuarine research reserves around the county and have found KBNERR to be effectively organized and positioned to provide services to citizens and the local community through its committees and outreach programs. As an example, KBNERR provides most of the educational programs at the Islands and Oceans facility in Homer. As the northernmost estuarine reserve facility in the NOAA national network, the loss of KBNERR would a significant blow to the citizens of your state, including my family members who live and work in Homer.

I encourage you to support funding for KBNERR to assure that it will continue to be a valuable resource for the citizens of Alaska and the U.S. through its diverse and productive programs. I offer these comments as a concerned citizen and they do not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution.

Sincerely,

Dennis F. Whigham

PO Box 28, 647 Contees Wharf Road
Edgewater, MD 21037-0028
443.482.2226 Telephone
443.482.2380 Fax



Petersburg Mental Health Services, Inc.

**P. O. Box 1309
Petersburg, Alaska 99833**

**(907) 772-3332 main
1-888-858-8850 fax**

LETTER TO SUPPORT HEALTH CARE ACCESS THROUGH THE LOAN REPAYMENT AND DIRECT INCENTIVE PROGRAM (SHARP)

Dear House Finance Co-Chair Austerman, Co-Chair Stoltze, and Vice Chair Neuman,

This letter is written to you in support of full funding of the SHARP Programs and specifically to ask that you rescind \$1.2 million cut to the SHARP-II Program budget. A reduction of 59% will cripple the program. I have been the director of Petersburg Mental Help Services for over 20 years. I know well how difficult it is to recruit and keep good clinical social workers. It is a steady stressor for those of us trying to maintain services to vulnerable Alaskans.

In this year alone I have lost one clinician and two more are actively seeking employment in the Lower 48 where the environment is less isolated and the pay is better. Since I employ only four clinical social workers, this is a significant issue. Loan repayment is one of the few benefits with any significant impact we can offer our clinicians. Please help us continue with this valuable program.

Rural behavioral health is a tough sell for many. We are responsible for supporting our most vulnerable and the most ill members of our community with fewer resources than are necessary. The SHARP Program increases stability and sustainability of healthcare treatment organizations and increases access to care for our underserved populations.

I urge you to support full funding of the Sharp Program.

Sincerely,

Susan Ohmer, LCSW
Director
PMHS, Inc.

Dear Senators Kevin Meyer and Pete Kelly and Representative Alan Austerman and Bill Stoltze,

I just finished reading your letter dated 26 February 2014 to Governor Parnell, requesting the governor to “hold the line” as you continue talks with representatives from the Marine Highway system.

It is not surprising to me that you “steadily hear from constituents on the high cost of operation for the Alaska Marine Highway System, costs which need considerable effort to control.” Most of your constituents are outside the area of the marine highway systems areas of operation, and do not live in areas not connected by roads. Nor do most of your constituents understand how federal highway miles are calculated and how states receive federal highway funding. I would be surprised if many of your constituents knew the AMHS provides 50% of the states federal highway miles, and is therefore 50% of the federal funding source. A little information could go a long way in explaining to these constituents the necessity of a strong AMHS.

It is surprising that the legislators hear frequently about costs, but continue to underfund a shipping company that they and their former colleagues either funded or created. It is surprising legislators in this state continue to allow the operation of 50 year old vessels that are long past any efficient life. It is surprising that the State of Alaska Marine Highway System runs a fleet of 11 ships, many over fifty years old, and is only provided a budget for 6 or 7 ships. As a constituent I am shocked that my

elected representatives are attacking labor when so much of the costs of the system are generated by the ancient craft they provide to the public for transportation. As a constituent I am surprised the State of Alaska can not afford to run a system they set up and receive hundreds of millions in federal funds for over the years.

As far as comparing Commissioners appointed by the Governor, and federally licensed mariners, there is no comparison.

Commissioners have no federal oversight, have no required licenses (other than what the State may request), don't have the same level of training or skills, and don't have anywhere near the legal exposure that licensed mariners have. Trying to decide on how much someone should be paid relative to another employee is absurd. The market usually dictates pay, and in the case of the US Merchant Marine, the market is paying higher wages than the State of Alaska is currently.

When you "encourage" the governor "to consider fiscally prudent monetary terms such as closing extravagant benefits like ferry passes and readdressing cost of living differentials", it speaks volumes to a complete and utter misunderstanding of both passes and the origin of both passes and COLD.

Passes are space available. This means a AMHS employee can only get a pass when all possible tickets have been sold, including reserved, stand by, walk on, etc. Everyone else comes first. Only if a space is left over can an employee get a vehicle and himself on the vessel. The cost of rooms and meals is still paid for by the employee. The AMHS claims there is a processing cost involved for the tickets, but this tiny cost is more than made up for by the amount spent by an employee and their

spouse traveling on pass.

As far as origin of the pass it was negotiated. This means something was given up in order to obtain it. Passes were not just some benevolent gesture of an over funded legislature. The passes were offered in the 60's by the state in lieu of a raise in pay/cost of living adjustment. These were "earned" by the AMHS employees just as much as any merit increase was "earned" by other state employees. There is absolutely nothing extravagant about it, in fact the State made out like bandits. Not everyone uses a pass, and it is no cost to the State. The 6% raise they gave up to accept the pass system would have cost the State of Alaska real money, money they never paid out.

As far as the history of COLD, there seems to be a great lack of understanding here as well. Again, COLD was not a benevolent gesture of an overfunded legislature. In fact, when the State of Alaska decreed there shall be a COLD, the MM&P union took them to court. This was due to the simple fact the legislature refused to fund COLD. Their plan was to have the cost of living adjustments that were negotiated by the state and the unions to be redirected to the "COLD" payment. During this period, those living out of state received no adjustments to wages, their wages were frozen for a decade. Only the in state members received the redirected cost of living wages as COLD. This was a way for the State to appear to favor Alaska residents, but in fact was a simple system to pay out of state employees less, while in state employees only received what they would have negotiated anyway. Again, COLD is not an extra payment the State of Alaska is benevolently paying to it's in state AMHS employees, it is the culmination of a decade of negotiated benefits. Any

discussion of taking back COLD needs be done with the knowledge that it isn't "yours" to take back, anymore than you would try to take back a decade of merit or step increases from another state employee.

Although I am an AMHS marine employee I am addressing this letter, as a constituent, to the elected officials who wrote this letter. It is my hope that the elected representatives of my state of residence, once hearing the facts, might actually rethink their line of attack on the working people of the state, specifically the Alaska Marine Highway employees addressed in your letter to Governor Parnell.

Matthew G Wilkens
PO Box 3229
Homer, AK, 99603

Thandi Carros

From: Lita Lubitsh-White <beautysmistress@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 5:41 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Substance Abuse Treatment

Lita Lubitsh-White
1011 Hollywood dr#447
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 9, 2014

Dear Representative Alan Austerman,

Alaska has one of the highest rates of substance abuse and related mental health issues. Why would any sane person cut funding?. Instead More funding should be made available to start using newer methods that are showing higher records of success than methods currently being used in Alaska. Lets get some of the brilliant minds in Alaska the resouces to make us a cutting edge state in tratment. Lets cure our people. Not just bandage them.

Sincerely,
Lita Lubitsh-White

Thandi Carros

From: Lori DeStefano <loridestefano19@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 4:21 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello
Subject: Funding for residential substance abuse treatment

I send this message asking that you vote to maintain the budget for residential substance abuse treatment rather than make cuts. I have had opportunity to come in contact with numerous young people who say they owe their lives to the fact that they went to residential treatment. I've watched these young people struggle to gain sobriety in outpatient treatment. It was clear their addiction was progressed to a point that they could not get clean unless they were removed from their community and homes and placed in residential treatment. They would've continued to abuse substances, break the law, be involved in high risk relationships and situations without the safety of a residential treatment. In treatment these kids learned to respect themselves, learned the harm of their use in their lives and learned skills to support long term life changes. Most of these kids didn't have the family support to make these changes from home, but through their treatment experience they motivated their families to make life changes as well. For some of them treatment was the first place they recognized they could have a different way of life. Across our state we recognize the effects of untreated substance abuse issues, with increased domestic violence, rape, suicide and higher risk of young people being taken in by sex trafficking groups as a result. Many of the young people I know are confronted not just with their own use issues but that of the adults in their family as well. The treatment service system is already lacking in resources; cuts to the system could be devastating and potentially close down needed services. I've seen numerous incidents of young people who did not receive the treatment they needed going on to be further burden to society through incarceration, ongoing criminal activity or being a drain on more costly social welfare systems rather than living a productive life. Please do not pass through the proposed cuts to residential substance abuse treatment.

Lori De Stefano

Sent from my iPhone

Thandi Carros

From: Maggie Nevin <mnevin@kodiakchc.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 12:31 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: JC Rathje
Subject: Letter of Support for the Governor's Budget - Supporting Health Care Access through Loan Repayment & Direct Incentive Program (SHARP)



**KODIAK COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER**

1911 East Rezanof Dr
Kodiak, AK 99615
Phone: (907) 481-5000
Fax: (907) 481-5030

March 6, 2014

Representative Alan Austerman
State Capitol Room 505
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Austerman:

RE: Letter of Support for the Governor's Budget – Supporting Health Care Access through Loan Repayment and Direct Incentive Program (SHARP)

This letter is written to you on behalf of the members of the SHARP Advisory Council in support of full funding of the SHARP Programs and specifically to ask that you rescind the \$1.2 million decrement to the SHARP – II Program Budget.

Impact of Budget Reduction in FY2015

- Vulnerable Alaskans currently receiving health care may lose their provider/s
- 39 recently selected and recommended provider service agreements by the SHARP Advisory Council cannot be made.
- Some or all of the 62 providers with current service agreements may lose funding on the entire or a portion of the support for their service agreements. This may also impact provider employers and their organizations.

Program Accomplishments

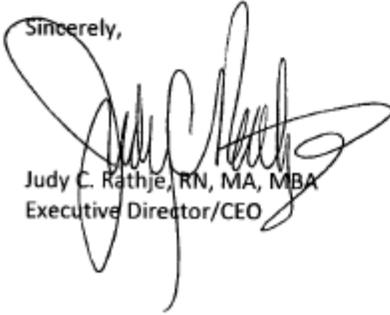
The SHARP Program provides healthcare provider loan repayment and direct incentives to ensure an adequate supply of healthcare providers will be available to meet the healthcare needs of Alaskans who have other substantial barriers to healthcare access (e.g. remote location in Rural Alaska), receive Medicaid, Medicare, or other federal health benefits or are uninsured.

Since 2010, 136 SHARP clinicians have provided healthcare to 156,190 Alaskans and have been provided 305,522 patient visits in over 38 communities, spread across all 6 regions of Alaska. In the last reported quarter, October-December 2013, 89 clinicians served 25,972 patients with 61,819 visits.

We respectfully ask that you support the SHARP II program, and that you **do not** cut the funding of this vitally important program!

Thank you for your time and attention to this key component of safe guarding the health of Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Judy C. Rathje, RN, MA, MBA
Executive Director/CEO

Judy Christine (JC) Rathje, RN, MA, MBA

Executive Director

Kodiak Community Health Center

1911 East Rezanof Drive

Kodiak, Alaska

99615

Ph: (907) 481-5005

irathje@kodiakchc.org

Maniilaq Association

P.O. Box 256

Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

(907) 442-3311

January 15, 2014

Honorable Representative Alan Austerman, and
Honorable Representative Bill Stoltze
State of Alaska House Finance Committee
Sent Via E-mail
LegFinance@legis.state.ak.us

Re: Proposed Cuts to the Community Health Aide Training & Supervision (CHATS) Grants Program Budget

Honorable Representatives Alan Austerman and Representative Bill Stoltze:

I am writing to you on behalf of Maniilaq Association for which I serve as the President/CEO, regarding the proposed cuts to the Community Health Aide Training & Supervision (CHATS) grants program budget. We are acutely aware of the budget shortfalls that we face in Alaska and the current economic climate. Thank you for allowing us to share our comments and concerns on the proposed cuts.

The area that is served by the Maniilaq CHAP program will cover the Northwest Arctic Borough which includes the villages of Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noorvik, Noatak, Selawik, Shungnak, and Point Hope. There is a need for Primary Health Care in Alaska's Rural Villages and the Community Health Aide Program is the most appropriate and relevant program to provide that service. The Community Health Aide Program is funded by the Indian Health Services primarily for salaries, supplies and equipment in the Kotzebue Service Area Unit and the State of Alaska provides funding for the delivery of training for the CHAP Program. Without the two entities, it would not be possible to provide the services to the rural village residents who rely heavily on the program for most of their health care needs. Furthermore, without this vital community based program, the State of Alaska and I.H.S. would expend much of its resources on creating and maintaining another way to provide adequate health care to those in rural Alaska or spend even more funding on traveling people to out of region medical providers.

Maniilaq CHAP Program currently serves 8,197 residents in the Northwest Arctic Borough Region, including Point Hope, and in calendar year had 34,042 patient encounters. The Community Health Aide Training Program (CHAT) is a very necessary element in improving the outcome for the delivery of rural health services. Through the supervision, training, and evaluation of the Community Health Aide Trainees and Practitioners as well as coordination of all village health care delivery systems we will provide quality service to our customers and major health problems and disparities will be decreased.

Our immediate concern is to ask that you protect the funding for the CHATS program. This program is critical to reducing emergency and inpatient workloads while preventing long-term chronic health problems and disruptions to families and communities. Stable funding for this

Member Villages

Ivisaappaat, Nunatchiaq, Ipnatchiaq, Katyaak, Kivaliniq, Laugviik, Qikiqtaruk, Nautaaq, Nuurvik, Akuligaaq, Isinnaq, Tikigaaq, Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, Shungnak, Pt. Hope

grant is critical to ensuring cost-savings to the Alaska Tribal Health System (a critical component of the Alaska Public Health System) and the State's General Fund.

The Mission of the CHATS program is to provide training and supervision of primary community health aides who provide health care services in rural communities throughout the State. Community health aides and practioners (CHA/Ps) are critical to the delivery of health care in the state of Alaska. They are the first responders and often the only providers of care in most of rural Alaska. The CHA/P program is globally recognized as a model of care in underserved communities. Their value is demonstrated in the improved health and greater capacity in rural communities to address health. The design of the training and utilization of CHA/Ps employed vision and foresight. Additionally, CHA/Ps are able to generate revenue to support the delivery of care through third party billing; without the CHATS program, the need for these critical, life-saving, and potentially self-funding positions cannot be met.

The CHA/P program is already under great pressure in that the training program has long been chronically underfunded. The training centers have sought and implemented innovative methods (including distance and online/virtual training sessions) to maximize resources to increase the number of CHA/Ps receiving training. However, certification requirements (wisely so) require direct oversight with a preceptor and student and supervised direct interaction with patients. Any "cost-savings" realized from these methods, have been directed toward an attempt to increase the number of CHA/Ps trained.

To add to the challenges, CHA/P training centers already faced difficulties with one training center closing its doors. The proposed cuts puts at-risk the remaining training centers and will translate into more costly expenditures and poorer health outcomes which will adversely impact Alaska's health.

The Alaska Tribal Health System has developed many innovative methods for providing health care across the state. New and exciting tools, such as telemedicine will not eliminate the need for CHA/Ps. In fact, CHA/Ps are also critical to the use of telemedicine, extending the reach of advanced medical personnel in a sustainable manner through the benefits of third-party billing. CHA/Ps are partners and facilitators of using telemedicine in rural Alaska.

I cannot overstate our deep concern about the current consideration to cut this critical program where other resources are not able to supplement or offset the losses to Alaska's capacity to meet this critical need. Please consider the long-term impacts and the resulting adverse impacts to the State of Alaska. Please keep the funding levels whole for the CHATS program.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barbara Janitscheck
Interim President/CEO
Maniilaq Association



citizen review panel

State of Alaska

Panel Members

Diwakar Vadapalli, Chair
Dana Hallett
Susie Heuer
Kristin Hull
Margaret McWilliams
Ben Creasy

Coordinator:
Sylvan Robb

MEMORANDUM

March 03, 2014

The Honorable Alan Austerman
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Request to consider the recommendations of the 2012 *OCS Statewide Workload Study*

Dear Representative Austerman:

On February 19, 2013, the House Finance sub-committee on Health and Social Services discussed the recommendations from the 2012 *Office of Children Services (OCS) Statewide Workload Study*. The sub-committee agreed with the spirit of the report's recommendations. However, members of the sub-committee did not commit any additional resources that can enable OCS to implement these recommendations.

The Citizen Review Panel requests that the sub-committee reconsider the recommendations and enable OCS to implement them.

The Citizen Review Panel:

The Citizen Review Panel (CRP) is a federally mandated body constituted to examine and evaluate the policies and practices of the Office of Children Services. Similar panels exist in every state in the Country.

Alaska's CRP conducts its work through the year and releases an annual report in June every year. Recommendations from that report are presented to the House and Senate Committees on Health and Social Services during the following legislative session. Following are the recommendations from the Panel's most recent annual report released in June 2013:

- That OCS take aggressive action to reduce staff turn-over.
- That OCS establish deadlines that require non-emergency petitions to be filed allowing for supervision of the family by the continuum of legal parties without necessitating the removal of the child.

- OCS should provide Western Region with a full complement of supportive (e.g., adoption specialist, intake supervisor, etc.) positions identical to those offered in all other regions.
- We encourage OCS to enhance data compilation efforts to facilitate better understanding of child welfare issues in the state and promote evidence-based practice.

2006 and 2012 OCS Statewide Workload Study Reports

While each of the recommendations listed above is equally important in enhancing OCS' performance, lack of adequate staff is most crippling. During a presentation of the Panel's 2013 recommendations to the House Committee on Health and Social Services on February 11, 2014, we discussed the severe workload that many OCS frontline social workers carry, and the debilitating impact such workloads have on the quality of services they deliver and on their own quality of life. The Panel is concerned that many children and families in crises may not be receiving the type or level of service they need and the workers could provide, directly impacting the safety of some of the most vulnerable children in Alaska.

The 2006 *OCS Statewide Workload Study* conducted by Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc. documented the problem at that time and recommended increased staff on the frontlines. In response, the Legislature provided additional funding over several fiscal years to increase the number of frontline and supervisory positions. According to OCS, and from our own observations during site visits over the years since that study, this increased funding was very helpful in decreasing the work load of frontline workers and improved their working conditions. However, the agency is still faced with extreme caseloads in some of their field offices, and workers find it impossible to adequately serve the needs of children and families in crises.

OCS commissioned another workload study in 2012 that identified a need for 44 additional positions. While the 2006 study focused on increasing the number of frontline workers and supervisors, the 2012 study focused on identifying tasks currently performed by frontline social workers that can be transferred to support positions, allowing social workers more face-time with children and families. The study identified all the tasks that could be transferred and suggested 44 additional positions. Thirty one (31) of these suggested positions are support positions – social service assistants (SSAs) and office assistants (OAs). Thirteen (13) are community care licensing specialists (CCLS).

The Office of Children Services, in an executive summary of the 2012 *OCS Statewide Workload Study* published on its website, expressed concerns with some of the methodology and findings. However, the agency agrees with the need for additional positions and notes that this need is more acute in some parts of the state than others.

The Citizen Review Panel agrees that adding positions, as recommended in the 2012 *OCS Statewide Workload Study* can potentially help frontline workers to focus more on service provision that can shorten the length of foster care stay for children in out of home care, and increase safety of children in crisis situations. The additional specialized and dedicated positions, if added, will free frontline workers from spending inordinate amounts of time on case management, data input, or driving children between appointments. These additional positions

will potentially have a direct positive impact on safety of children and families in Alaska, and therefore, lead to improved outcomes for these children and families in the long run. Thus, the Panel requests that the study recommendations be considered for implementation.

However, the study's recommendations may need to be clarified, and we strongly urge the Office of Children Services to do so in time for this legislature to consider the recommendations.

Specifically,

- The study identified additional positions based on a geographic classification of rural, medium rural, and urban. This classification needs to be translated to fit the OCS regional administrative boundaries.
- OCS disagreed with the number of suggested additional CCLS positions. OCS noted that this number appears inflated and may differ by region. This needs to be clarified and accurate numbers identified by region.

Despite the confusion in methodology, the Panel agrees with the study's recommendation of additional support positions. We hope the House Finance sub-committee on Health and Social Services reconsiders the recommendations of the 2012 *OCS Statewide Workload Study* and enables the Office to implement those recommendations.

Thank you for your time and interest in ensuring the safety of Alaska's children and families. For more information on the Panel and its activities, please visit www.crpalaska.org.

Sincerely,



Diwakar Vadapalli, Ph.D.

Chair, Citizen Review Panel

CC:

Alaska House Committee on Health and Social Services
Alaska Senate Committee on Health and Social Services
Governor Sean Parnell
Commissioner William Streur, Department of Health and Social Services
Director Christy Lawton, Office of Children Services

Thandi Carros

From: Michelle Turinsky <michellet@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 3:35 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: Testimony: Please support funding for public education

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to you today because I will not be able to testify this afternoon. I'm the parent of a freshman at West Anchorage High School and a school volunteer. (I have never been a teacher of a member of the NEA.)

I would like to ask you to support increased funding to the BSA. The BSA needs to be increased this year by at least \$400, just to get us on par with 2011 funding levels. We all understand that energy costs, health care costs, basically everything has increased over the past three years, and we all understand that the state is in a time of declining revenues. But we must not shortchange education. I would ask that education funding be prioritized—particularly classroom spending. I know that funding wise it might be easier to grant money for capital projects but as parents we would like to see investment in the classroom. Yes, there has been ongoing funding to education—but what we really need is classroom funding—money for teachers, counselors, books! I'm really not going to care in the end if my child's school has the latest and greatest technology and gadgets if her classes are overly large, class periods shorter, and teacher contact is limited. Did you know for example that to save money at West Anchorage High School that many textbooks are no longer issued to students—there is only a classroom set that remains in the classroom. Students are unable to take these books home to do homework and study. It's a cost savings to the Anchorage School District but it impacts a teacher's ability to teach and a student's ability to study.

It is a time of economic uncertainty for everyone but I am hopeful that whatever comes out of the current oil tax debate that production will be increasing. And it doesn't, all the more reason to invest in education so that we have the ability to diversify and attract other industries. Funding education is economic development—we need an educated work force to remain competitive in this ever changing world.

Finally, please keep public funds out of private schools. I find it amazing that we are even discussing a voucher system—and yes, let's call it what it is—a voucher system—that would potentially take even one dollar away from our public schools, the very foundation of our democracy.

Thank you for your service to our state—

Sincerely,
Michelle Turinsky
2301 Saint Elias Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517
(907)276-6299

Thandi Carros

From: Myra Murphy <mmurphy@NSHCORP.ORG>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 12:35 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; re.cathy.munoz@akleg.gov; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: Proposed FY15 Operating Budget

Dear Chairmen Austerman and Stoltze;

It is my understanding that the House Finance Committee is considering the following cuts to the FY15 operating budget:

- \$1.043 million cut to residential substance abuse treatment services
- \$1.0 million cut to behavioral health grants
- \$1.2 million cut to the SHARP loan repayment program

I am requesting that you remove the proposed cuts to the FY15 budget due to the unmet behavioral health and substance abuse treatment needs of rural Alaska. Your proposed cuts further limit the existing minimal behavioral health services for remote areas in the state.

At this time in the Nome region (Bering Straits Region) only outpatient behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services exist. Subsequently, as clients are assessed for services at behavioral health clinics, only outpatient substance abuse treatment can be accessed in the region. For clients who require a more intense level of treatment (per the standardized ASAM screening criteria), referrals must be made to the limited treatment programs in the urban areas and the few rural sites in the state. These clients must consider leaving their homes in the villages/Nome for treatment, wait for a treatment bed opening (which could be a lengthy wait), provide the funding for the treatment services (if there is no Medicaid eligibility) and then prepare to travel significant distances at a moment's notice. As you may suspect, clients fall by the wayside in this complex waiting process and treatment is not accessed.

This referral scenario has been in place for several decades in the Nome region. Subsequently (left untreated), substance abuse has dramatically grown in the region and the symptoms are significantly and negatively impacting the health of the region. The costs of not treating substance abuse will continue to require major funding by the State of Alaska in law enforcement, public assistance, medical costs, the court system, child welfare programs, domestic violence shelters/services, correction services (prisons and adult probation services), and public health. However, most importantly, untreated substance abuse continues to support the loss of life, livelihood and family for rural Alaskans as their young men and women commit suicide, cycle in and out of prison, are barred from employment from their criminal histories (95% of which involved substance use) and lose their children. Clearly, the costs of running the State of Alaska are substantial and require careful review of existing programs and functions. From my position, the state's fiscal responsibility must always maintain a prevention priority, a mandated understanding that prevention dollars provides a greater impact than after-the-fact responses. It falls to the House Finance Committee now to determine the cost of prevention; does prevention require funding at the initial FY15 level or must it be decreased. Moreover, to decrease the limited funding that exists currently today will only serve to further limit prevention efforts and increase the more expensive interventions/responses.

In Nome we are working diligently to build cost-effective and traditionally-based prevention efforts and services with a watchful eye on sustainability. In this agency we are taking the state's Behavioral Health funding and spreading it as far as possible, thereby extending both prevention efforts and service efforts on all fronts. By making these proposed cuts to the FY15 budget, you stagger an already-minimally funded resource.

Rather than make these cuts, please consider maintaining the FY15 budget and allow the agencies in the state to use the next 12 months to promote change in this scenario. In Nome, we are poised on the edge of improved and more comprehensive integrated services in the region/state with the existing budget. While it may be true that too much time has passed and funding provided, I request that you allow an additional year for readiness and change.

I appreciate your consideration and welcome any further questions or comments.

Myra Murphy, MSW
P.O. Box 1062
Nome, Alaska 99762
907-304-1272

Thandi Carros

From: Myra Murphy <mmurphy@NSHCORP.ORG>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 4:07 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: Proposed FY15 Operating Budget

My name is Sherry Kulukhon

I am from this region. Nome Alaska. I suffered from disease called Alcoholism for years before I stopped drinking. My sisters died as a result of waiting lists and lack of proper level of services to our people. They too had this disease. There are far too many suicides (my relatives and friends) completed involving alcohol and other drugs. Rape, domestic violence, unplanned pregnancies, STD's, TB, HIV/AIDS, FASD, among other painful and preventable abuses. I have worked in this program for 16+ years and have seen my people suffer including myself, had there been money for services would have been prevented and most likely alive. I know that there are cuts everywhere and know that there is a high cost of travel to send people out for services where we here are properly trained for this service but there is nowhere to serve them if we had our own place for our people. There are facilities out there but they will work for them with their own healing value system. Ours is unique to us and is working on an outpatient level but there is a greater need for higher level of care.

Thank you.

Thandi Carros

From: Nancy J Shelby <njshelby@uaa.alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 3:22 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: AHEC funding

Dear Budget Committee members:

Re: Alaska Center for Rural Health and Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Support

As you know the Alaska WWAMI program through its partnership with the University of Washington School of Medicine serves as the medical school for Alaska. Next year our 20 Alaskan first year medical students will be able to spend all four years in Alaska or if they choice the last two years in any of the WWAMI States (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho). This consortium has lasted for over 40 years and since the late 70's, we have been in partnership with our Statewide AHEC

They assist us in placing medical students in clinical experiences throughout our State- from Barrow to Ketchikan.

Clinical training is an essential part of medical education. Finding appropriate clinical training sites and placing students is a time consuming, logistical effort that our AHEC has provided to our students.

In addition we have intense interest is to having a pipeline for Alaska students to enter medical careers and even more broadly the healthcare industry.

The AHEC has developed various pipeline programs that reach down to the secondary school level and in some cases even to the primary grades.

This is essential! Alaska has very talented students who if they follow an appropriate pathway, are very competitive candidates for medical school here and elsewhere in the United States.

In addition, as you know, we have shortages for nursing, laboratory technicians, x-ray technicians, and physical therapy. All fall under the pathway umbrella of the efforts that our AHEC is making.

We fully support their continued funding. They work behind the scenes but are an integral part of the clinical training infrastructure of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jane Shelby PhD, Director

UAA Alaska WWAMI School of Medical Education

njshelby@uaa.alaska.edu

Thomas S Nighswander MD MPH

Assistant Clinical Dean, Alaska WWAMI Program

University of Washington School of Medicine

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Jane Shelby, Ph.D.

Director, Kralick Professor

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njshelby@uaa.alaska.edu

Thandi Carros

From: Nancy Merriman <Nancy@alaskapca.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 9:38 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: SHARP Letter of Support from Alaska Primary Care Association
Attachments: SHARP Ltr of Spt_ltrhd.pdf

Nancy Merriman
Executive Director
Alaska Primary Care Association
903 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 200
Anchorage AK 99503
907 / 929-2725 | desk
907 / 360-0270 | cell
nancy@alaskapca.org



Alaska Primary Care
ASSOCIATION

Thandi Carros

From: Nina Faust <aknina51@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 01, 2014 7:27 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: Senator_Peter_Micciche@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Paul Seaton; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Funding for Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

P.O. Box 2994
Homer AK 99603

March 1, 2014

House Finance Committee
Juneau AK

Dear Committee Members:

As one of the original Homer community members who worked to have Kachemak Bay selected as the first National Estuarine Research Reserve in the state of Alaska, I strongly urge the Legislature to reinstate the \$175,000 in funding that was deleted from the budget for the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). The rigorous selection and approval process to create this preserve is a feather in Alaska's cap. This Reserve is the largest in the national system of reserves, a designation that is given only to very special places. Beyond that, the state of Alaska, ADF&G entered a partnership to support this NERR financially because of its importance as a significant estuary system and the valuable research that would be done to help understand how to best manage this important area and its connection to the larger Cook Inlet system.

The Kachemak Bay NERR has become an important part of Homer's economy, tourism infrastructure, and educational system. Research grants are a big part of the NERR budget. These grants bring in money to the Homer community which is spent locally. The research being done is contributing to a greater understanding of how the currents work in the Bay, provides incredibly detailed coastal photographs that provide a way to visually understand erosion problems, helpful to residents and planners in making better land use decisions near coastal bluffs. New research is mapping the upper Bay's salmon nurseries in the system of very small streams and wetlands where salmon fry grow to maturity. This new knowledge comes with NERR research and would not be available without the work of the Research Reserve.

The Research Reserve's Discovery Labs provide local school children with hands on science learning not available in the schools. These labs have allowed kids to explore science by doing--learning about tidal creatures, birds, invasive plants, and much more. The Labs rely on partnerships with other local non-profits, like the Pratt Museum and Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. These labs are exactly the type of collaboration the community envisioned when the committee set up guidelines for the NERR.

The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is not a superfluous government agency. It is a working Research Reserve, contributing to our knowledge base for scientific management of our resources, providing information for governmental agencies to make better management decisions, and teaching children, the community, and visitors about this important ecological system upon which we all depend for our fisheries, our recreation, and subsistence. This valuable partnership within the National Research Reserve system should be fully funded.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

Thandi Carros

From: nolan bunting <nolanbunting@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 10:01 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Kachemak Bay Reserve Research

Dear Honorable Austerman:

My brother and I are writing this to ask your support for continuing the funding to the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve.

We are students at the Homer Middle School and the Homer High School. Throughout our school years we have been going to the Islands and Oceans Visitor Center to learn about marine biology; fisheries, tides, climate and our natural resources. This has been a valuable learning experience for both of us and has really made us both interested in pursuing science majors in college. So many of our friends are now more interested in science and marine biology because of their time at the discovery labs and interaction with the scientists who take their time to come to our classes and encourage science. We need these scientists to help us continue our learning and encourage us to pursue these studies in college. The more youth we can encourage now, the more help we will have in Alaska in the future.

My brother and I have started a youth birding group in Homer and we use the resources at the Reserve to help our group do shorebird monitoring, citizen science projects and learn more about our local environment. Students need to have this help to make good choices on how they want to spend their free time. The staff at the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve really is vital for our learning. The Islands and Ocean visitor center gives students a place to go to learn from scientists that are making a difference in our local area and the world.

I was just at the Ocean Science Bowl in Seward, Alaska for the second year. Our team came in fifth in the state and all of us were proud that we could go to Seward and have knowledge of ocean ecology. It was such a wonderful experience to be with all the scientists who helped our team write a research paper and present our results. All of this could not happen without the help of the staff at the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve. They encourage so many students to pursue research and they were so helpful in sharing their ideas and research with the science classes and teams so that we could write quality research papers.

Please don't cut the funding to this program. At least give them time to find additional funding so they don't lose their matching money from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Kachemak Bay Research Reserve and all the programs associated with their research, including the education they give to the community are vital to all of us future scientists.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Nolan Bunting, Homer High School Student
Landon Bunting, Homer Middle School Student.

Alaska's SHARP Program

Clinician Census: Total To-Date (as of: 2/28/14)

Data sorted on: (a) Region, (b) then Town, & (c.) then Discipline

Site Characteristics					Occupation	Position	Service Dates		Record Identifiers	
1	2				3					
Region (last)	Site Town (Last)	Site Name (current)	Rural-Urban	Tribal	Category	Discipline	Fill-Type	Start-Date	End-Initial	Component
Alaska-Itinerant	Alaska-Itinerant	Department of Corrections	Rural	Non-Tribal	Medical	Nurse (RN)	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Anchorage Community Mental Health Services	Urban	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Nurse Practitioner	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Anchorage Community Mental Health Services	Urban	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Social Worker (LCSW)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Anchorage Community Mental Health Srv	Urban	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Clinical Social Worker	n/a	9/15/11	9/14/13	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Anchorage Community Mental Health Srv	Urban	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Physician	n/a	1/5/11	1/4/13	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Anchorage Community Mental Health Srv	Urban	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Physician	n/a	9/1/10	8/31/13	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center	Urban	Non-tribal	Dental	Dentist	n/a	9/15/11	9/14/13	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center	Urban	Non-tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center	Urban	Non-tribal	Medical	Physician Assistant	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Wasilla	Mat-Su Health Services	Rural	Non-tribal	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	n/a	9/15/11	9/14/13	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation	Urban	Tribal	Dental	Dental Hygienist (RDH)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation	Urban	Tribal	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation	Urban	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation	Urban	Non-tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation	Urban	Tribal	Medical	Physician Assistant	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation, Fireweed Clinic	Urban	Tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	6/15/10	4/30/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation, Fireweed Clinic	Urban	Tribal	Behavioral	Psychologist (HSP)	n/a	6/15/10	2/28/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation, OB-GYN	Urban	Tribal	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	n/a	1/5/11	3/31/14	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation, OB-GYN	Urban	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	9/15/11	9/14/13	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation, Primary Care	Urban	Tribal	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	n/a	6/15/10	12/31/13	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation, Primary Care	Urban	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	8/4/10	11/10/12	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation, Primary Care	Urban	Tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	1/5/11	1/4/13	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Talkeetna	Sunshine Community Health Center	Rural	Non-tribal	Dental	Dentist	n/a	8/6/10	8/31/13	SHARP-1
Anch/Matsu	Talkeetna	Sunshine Community Health Center	Rural	Non-tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	12/1/12	1/31/15	SHARP-1
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Alaska Center for Pediatrics	Urban	Non-Tribal	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	Regular	7/1/13	9/30/16	SHARP-2

Site Characteristics					Occupation		Position	Service Dates		Record Identifiers
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	Urban	Tribal Hth	Medical	Physician	VHTF	2/1/14	1/31/17	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	Urban	Tribal Hth	Medical	Physician	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Alaska Psychiatric Institute	Urban	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Nurse (RN)	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Alaska Psychiatric Institute	Urban	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Physician	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Alaska Psychiatric Institute	Urban	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Physician	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Alaska Psychiatric Institute	Urban	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Physician	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Alaska Psychiatric Institute	Urban	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Physician	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Alaska Psychiatric Institute	Urban	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Physician Assistant	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Anchorage Community Mental Health Services	Urban	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Social Worker	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center	Urban	Non-Tribal	Dental	Dentist	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center	Urban	Non-Tribal	Medical	Physician Assistant	Regular	7/1/13	9/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Wasilla	Mat-Su Health Services	Rural	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Physician	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Providence Physicians Service Organization	Urban	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Psychologist	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation	Urban	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dental Hygienist (RDH)	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation	Urban	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dentist	Regular	7/22/13	7/21/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anchorage	Southcentral Foundation	Urban	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dentist	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Wasilla, McGrath, Ili.	Southcentral Foundation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anch & Wasilla	Southcentral Foundation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Pharmacist	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Anch-Mat-Su	Anch & McGrath	Southcentral Foundation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Behavioral	Physician Assistant	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Gulf Coast	Soldotna & Kenai	Central Peninsula Hospital, Behavioral Health	Rural	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Psychologist	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Gulf Coast	Cordova	Cordova Community Medical Center	Rural	Non-tribal	Medical	Nurse (RN)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Gulf Coast	Kodiak	Kodiak Community Health Center	Rural	Non-Tribal	Medical	Physician	Regular	8/1/13	7/30/16	SHARP-2
Gulf Coast	Kenai	Peninsula Community Health Services	Rural	Non-tribal	Dental	Dentist	n/a	7/19/10	7/18/12	SHARP-1
Gulf Coast	Soldotna	Peninsula Community Health Services	Rural	Non-tribal	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Gulf Coast	Soldotna	Peninsula Community Health Services	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	9/15/11	12/14/13	SHARP-1
Gulf Coast	Soldotna	Peninsula Community Health Services	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Gulf Coast	Valdez	Providence Valdez Medical Center, City of Val	Rural	Non-Tribal	Medical	Physical Therapist	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Gulf Coast	Homer	Seldovia Village Tribe	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	6/15/10	10/31/13	SHARP-1
Gulf Coast	Soldotna & Kenai	South Peninsula Hosp: Niniichik Comm. Clinic	Rural	Non-Tribal	Medical	Physician	VHTF	2/1/14	1/31/17	SHARP-2
Gulf Coast	Soldotna & Kenai	South Peninsula Hospital	Rural	Non-Tribal	Medical	Physical Therapist	VHTF	2/1/14	1/31/17	SHARP-2
Gulf Coast	Soldotna & Kenai	South Peninsula Hospital	Rural	Non-Tribal	Medical	Physician	VHTF	2/1/14	4/30/17	SHARP-2
Interior	Glennallen	Cross Road Medical Center	Rural	Non-tribal	Medical	Physician Assistant	n/a	9/15/11	9/14/13	SHARP-1
Interior	Fairbanks	Interior Community Health Center	Urban	Non-tribal	Dental	Dental Hygienist (RDH)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1

Site Characteristics					Occupation		Position	Service Dates		Record Identifiers
Interior	Healy	Railbelt Mental Health & Addictions	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Clinical Social Worker	n/a	1/5/11	1/4/13	SHARP-1
Interior	Fairbanks	Tanana Chiefs Conference	Urban	Tribal	Dental	Dentist	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Interior	Fairbanks	Tanana Chiefs Conference	Urban	Tribal Hth	Medical	Physician Assistant	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Interior	Fairbanks	Tanana Chiefs Conference, CAIHC	Urban	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	1/5/11	1/4/14	SHARP-1
Interior	Fairbanks	Tanana Chiefs Conference, CPJT	Urban	Tribal	Dental	Dentist	n/a	1/5/11	1/4/13	SHARP-1
Interior	Tok	Tok Area Counseling Center	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	6/15/10	11/23/10	SHARP-1
Interior	Tok	Tok Area Counseling Center	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	12/1/12	12/31/14	SHARP-1
Northern	Barrow	Arctic Slope Native Corp - SSMH	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Pharmacist	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Northern	Kotzebue	Maniilaq Association (<i>now departed</i>)	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	9/15/11	9/14/13	SHARP-1
Northern	Kotzebue	Maniilaq Association (<i>then left; states SEARH</i>)	Rural	Tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Northern	Barrow	North Slope Borough, Health Dept, IBH	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	9/15/11	9/14/13	SHARP-1
Northern	Nome	Norton Sound Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Pharmacist	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Northern	Nome	Norton Sound Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Physician	VHTF	2/1/14	1/31/17	SHARP-2
Northern	Nome	Norton Sound Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Physician Assistant	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southeast	Wrangell	Alaska Island Community Services	Rural	Non-Tribal	Dental	Dentist	VHTF	7/8/13	7/7/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Wrangell	Alaska Island Community Services, Tideline	Rural	Non-tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	6/15/10	6/14/12	SHARP-1
Southeast	Metlakatla	Annette Island Service Unit - Metlakatla	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Pharmacist	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Juneau	Bartlett Regional Hospital	Rural	Non-Tribal	Medical	Physician	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Juneau	Catholic Community Services	Rural	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Social Worker	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Juneau	Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc.	Rural	Non-Tribal	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	REGULAR	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Juneau	Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc.	Rural	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Psychologist	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Juneau	Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc.	Rural	Non-Tribal	Behavioral	Social Worker	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Ketchikan	Ketchikan Indian Clinic	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Nurse (RN)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southeast	Skagway	Lynn Canal Counseling Services	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Clinical Social Worker	n/a	1/5/11	1/4/13	SHARP-1
Southeast	Haines	Lynn Canal Counseling Services	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southeast	Haines	Lynn Canal Counseling Services	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Social Worker (LCSW)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southeast	POW & Ketchikan	PeaceHealth, Ketchikan Med Ctr, & POW/Klav	Rural	Non-Tribal	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Ketchikan	PeaceHealth, Ketchikan Medical Center	Rural	Non-Tribal	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Ketchikan	PeaceHealth, Ketchikan Medical Center	Rural	Non-Tribal	Medical	Pharmacist	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Ketchikan	PeaceHealth, Ketchikan Medical Center	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Physician	n/a	9/15/11	9/14/13	SHARP-1
Southeast	Craig	PeaceHealth, Prince of Wales Clinic	Rural	Non-tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	9/15/11	2/28/14	SHARP-1
Southeast	Petersburg	Petersburg Mental Health Services	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Clinical Social Worker	n/a	6/15/10	6/14/12	SHARP-1
Southeast	Juneau	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiur	Rural	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dental Hygienist (RDH)	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2

Site Characteristics					Occupation		Position	Service Dates		Record Identifiers
Southeast	Klawock	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dental Hygienist (RDH)	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Klawock	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dentist	Regular	8/19/13	8/18/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Juneau	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Nurse (RN)	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Angoon	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Juneau	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Pharmacist	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Klawock	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Physician	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Juneau	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southeast	Sitka	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southeast	Sitka	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southeast	Kake	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Physician Assistant	n/a	12/1/12	6/30/15	SHARP-1
Southeast	Sitka	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Physician Assistant	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southeast	Juneau	South East Alaska Regional Health Consortiun	Rural	Tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southeast	Sitka	Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consort.	Rural	Tribal	Dental	Dentist	n/a	9/15/11	9/14/13	SHARP-1
Southeast	Juneau	Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consort.	Rural	Tribal	Behavioral	Physician	n/a	9/28/11	9/27/13	SHARP-1
Southeast	Sitka	Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consort.	Rural	Tribal	Behavioral	Physician Assistant (Psy)	n/a	9/15/11	12/31/13	SHARP-1
Southwest	Bethel	Bethel Family Services	Rural	Non-tribal	Medical	Physician Assistant	n/a	9/15/11	9/14/13	SHARP-1
Southwest	Bethel	Bethel Family Services	Rural	Non-tribal	Medical	Physician Assistant	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southwest	Dillingham	Bristol Bay Area Health Corp	Rural	Tribal	Dental	Dentist	n/a	9/15/11	9/14/13	SHARP-1
Southwest	Dillingham	Bristol Bay Area Health Corp	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	n/a	9/15/11	11/4/13	SHARP-1
Southwest	Dillingham	Bristol Bay Area Health Corp	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	8/2/10	8/1/12	SHARP-1
Southwest	Dillingham	Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Physician	Regular	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Dillingham	Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal	Behavioral	Social Worker (LCSW)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southwest	Bethel	Div of Juvenile Justice - Bethel Youth Facility	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southwest	King Cove	Eastern Aleutian Tribes	Rural	Tribal	Dental	Dentist	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southwest	Dutch Harbor	Iliuliuk Family & Health Services (<i>then TBA</i>)	Rural	Non-tribal	Behavioral	Social Worker (LCSW)	n/a	12/1/12	11/30/14	SHARP-1
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	6/15/10	6/14/12	SHARP-1
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Physician	n/a	6/15/10	8/3/14	SHARP-1
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp	Rural	Tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	1/5/11	1/4/13	SHARP-1
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp	Rural	Tribal	Behavioral	Prof Counselor (LPC)	n/a	1/5/11	1/4/13	SHARP-1
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp	Rural	Tribal	Behavioral	Psychologist (HSP)	n/a	1/5/11	1/4/14	SHARP-1
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dental Hygienist (RDH)	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dental Hygienist (RDH)	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dentist	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2

Site Characteristics					Occupation		Position	Service Dates		Record Identifiers
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dentist	VHTF	9/1/13	8/31/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dentist	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Dental	Dentist	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Nurse (RN)	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Nurse (RN)	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Nurse (RN)	VHTF	2/1/14	1/31/17	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Pharmacist	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Pharmacist	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Pharmacist	VHTF	1/1/14	12/31/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Medical	Physician	VHTF	10/1/13	9/30/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation	Rural	Tribal Hth	Behavioral	Social Worker	VHTF	7/1/13	6/30/16	SHARP-2
Southwest	Bethel	Yukon-Kustokwim Health Corporation (then left)	Rural	Tribal	Medical	Nurse Practitioner	n/a	12/1/12	9/17/2015	SHARP-1

Hello, I am Pat Raeber, I am a Senior Ambassador at Wasilla Area Seniors.

I am acquainted with several people who are on the Heating Assistance Program and know how beneficial it is to them. It gives them assurance they will be able to stay warm and comfortable in their own homes.

Restoring funding on this program will be a true blessing.

Yours Truly

Pat Raeber

March 6, 2014

Thandi Carros

From: Paula Easley <peasley@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 5:42 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Reduction to behavioral health grants

Dear Representative Austerman,

As the Mental Health Trust's planning committee chair, I can attest that the debate over choosing alcohol and substance abuse as a Trust focus area was not without controversy, to put it mildly. Research, meetings and discussions over a year finally brought agreement that, if we were to tackle the problem at all, it had to be comprehensively. Jeff Jessee has told you this means addressing it from prevention through treatment to recovery, at intervention points beginning even before a child is born.

An urgent need is improving the state's ability to provide both residential and outpatient treatment services; few would dispute this. A statewide assessment the Trust is spearheading should identify where the needs are greatest and where efficiencies can be gained over the longer term. In the meantime I urge you to do all you can to maintain existing dedicated funding levels.

Thank you,

Paula Easley, Chair

AMHTA Planning Committee

Thandi Carros

From: Reeg, Robert A. <Robert.Reeg@providence.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 10:22 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Seward Physician letter Re: HB 266/State Trauma Fund

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman,

I am writing to request your consideration to reinstate the Trauma Care Fund to the State Budget for Fiscal Year 2015. I am a physician and the Trauma Medical Director at Providence Seward Medical Center, a Level IV Trauma Center. I have been practicing in Seward, Alaska for ten years and during that time I have seen lives saved and vast improvements in patient care as a direct result of the State Trauma Fund.

It is well documented that a small percentage of people live in rural areas, but approximately half of all traumatic injuries occur in small communities like Seward. Examples of life threatening injuries we encounter include car, motorcycle, and snow machine accidents, gunshot wounds, stabbings, and severe life threatening injuries from falls off Mount Marathon. We encounter the same types of injuries that are often seen in big cities, but we have multiple disadvantages. We do not have Trauma Surgeons or the equipment and other capabilities of larger hospitals. Severely injured patients are first cared for in our small hospital staffed mostly with Family Physicians and Nurses when they sustain a life threatening injury. The State Trauma Fund has allowed us to develop the infrastructure, training, and continuous program improvement that makes us prepared to care for seriously injured patients.

Despite these disadvantages, we strive to provide the highest level of care to our patients. We struggle financially like other rural hospitals. The State Trauma Fund has been vital to our successes and without this funding; I question whether or not our hospital would be able to afford the infrastructure to continue to provide this level of care. We currently use monies from the State Trauma Fund to finance advanced trauma education for physicians and nurses. We have also been able to purchase life saving medical equipment including a video intubating device which has already saved multiple lives. We have also significantly benefitted from the expertise, guidance, training, and outreach provided by Julie Rabeau, the State Trauma Program Manager.

Please consider continued funding of the State Trauma Fund. I can say with certainty that this program has and would continue to save lives in Seward and other Alaskan communities. Next time you are in Seward, please call me and I will give you a personal tour of our hospital and show you how we have used the resources provided by the State Trauma Fund.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Robert Reeg, MD

Trauma Medical Director, Providence Seward Medical Center

907-224-5205

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Thandi Carros

From: Robert Blair <cblair@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 1:28 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: AMSEA funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman,

We learned this weekend that the legislature is cutting funding to the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA), the marine safety training organization based here in Sitka, but which serves all of Alaska.

We strongly urge the legislature to reconsider this action. This organization has figured strongly in the lives of my family and friends here in Sitka. Both of our two children received the hands-on safety training taught by AMSEA throughout their school years. They learned about PFDs, survival suits, cold water survival skills, how to rescue a man overboard, control flooding on a boat and make a mayday call, etc., all of which is critical training for kids growing up in a coastal community in Alaska! Our family has been boating for 30 years here using our skiff, kayaks and a cabin power boat. AMSEA's message of safety has been part of our experience as boaters for at least the past 20 years. We have learned skills for cold water safety and survival and have outfitted our boats appropriately, based on the safety culture here that stems from AMSEA's presence.

Now our 23-year old son fishes commercially as a crewman. This will be his 5th year aboard a fishing boat. He has trolled in the past and currently long-lines for halibut and black cod and seines for salmon. Additionally he has his own recreational boat for hunting and camping. He has taken the AMSEA Drill Conductor course twice and the AMSEA fishing vessel stability course. The drill conductor course is required by the US Coast Guard for fishing vessels. The crews of the boat must practice emergency drills once a month and that is what helps us, the parents of a boy at sea, to sleep better at night!

Our son had a friend who took this course and credits it with helping him know what to do when the seiner, on which he was a new crewmember, hit a rock in Chatham Strait last year. Everyone else on board panicked and froze up. He, the new guy on the boat and the only one with the drills training, became the leader, making the mayday call, getting the seine skiff ready for abandoning ship, gathered the survival equipment. The crew saved themselves, due to the young man's confidence in knowing what to do, which he learned from the AMSEA drill class.

We know there are many more stories like this. We have helped out with the training that happens in the schools and seen how it affects the children. How can the state not support something so essential for Alaskan communities? We understand the loss of this funding, at 25% next year and 25% each year after until there is none, will severely cripple AMSEA and will affect their ability to offer training to fishermen, children and potential marine safety instructors throughout the state of Alaska. We ask that you please take another look at this and decide instead to continue AMSEA's state funding next year and into the future to maintain the valuable programs the organization provides to Alaska's population.

Sincerely,

Amy and Chip Blair

PO Box 584

Sitka, AK 99835

907-747-3133

cblair@gci.net

Thandi Carros

From: Sallie Rediske <sallierediske@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 8:19 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: Restore Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Funding

Dear House Finance Committee Member:

I am writing to advocate for the reinstatement of the \$175,000 toward Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) located here in Homer.

I believe this is a misguided attempt at financial savings as the state's contribution to this very important program is the bedrock on which the federal government provides financial support of over \$1,000,000. Loss of this money not only directly affects the economy here in Homer, but also eliminates one of the most geographically important research organizations in Alaska and the only organization like it in the nation.

The impact financially on Homer will be first and foremost the loss of jobs. The jobs at KBNERR are good, steady employment for ten scientists and support staff. I know. I am a healthcare provider in Homer and benefit from the incomes that are provided through KBNERR by their ability to do business in my facility. This contributes to my staff of ten being able to earn good wages that enable them to own homes, pay for utilities, purchase food, spend discretionary money locally and throughout Alaska. Good jobs are hard to come by in this town, as in many small towns in Alaska. Creating a financial environment where these jobs will be eliminated is not sound governance.

KBNERR is important for the research that is performed there, often in collaboration with many other organizations, providing commercial and recreational fishermen and shellfish harvesters with information on the health and long-term trends of these important components of Alaskan life and economics. They continue to learn about the uniqueness of Kachemak Bay and provide information for sound governance of the area. It is very important to me to note that this is the only sub-arctic estuary reserve the nation. Information garnered here can be information that is utilized elsewhere to understand the relationship between open water and river drainages and our impact on the health of our waters, an increasingly important concern throughout Alaska (think Fukushima) and the nation.

KBNERR has a huge role in education here in Homer and on the Peninsula. They are largely responsible for the "Discovery Labs" that are conducted once a month during the school year and twice weekly during the summer months. These labs are open to the public and draw a wide range of participants from school kids of all ages who are prompted by their teachers to attend independently for extra credit to entire school grades that come and work their way through the labs. The community is also welcome and these labs often have a wonderful mix of parents holding small children as young as two or three up to a microscope to older participants up in their 80's and 90's. The labs teach what the KBNERR staff are working on, the foundations of research science, and provide a "look under the water" for participants promoting awareness, environmental stewardship and exposure to professional science careers. Teachers rely on the expertise of the staff both in their classes as visiting guests, support for curriculum development and for professional development classes.

Finally, although I don't know a great deal about the financial intimacies of KBNERR and Islands and Oceans (Headquarters of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge), I am concerned based on reports from both agencies that loss of KBNERR monies may jeopardize aspects of Islands and Oceans Visitor Center (I&OVC).

I&OVC is the building that has become the center of tourism in Homer and on the lower Kenai Peninsula. It serves as a draw for tourism companies that bring their participants via bus and via cruise ship. I&OVC has also become a central meeting facility in Homer for educational events. Loss of public access to this focal point in Homer would be financially and logistically disabling for our community.

Please reinstate the full funding for Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Sincerely,
Sallie W. Rediske
Homer Resident

907-235-7921

907-235-3410 (w)



Alaska Primary Care ASSOCIATION

March 9, 2014

Dear House Finance Co-Chair Austerman, Co-Chair Stoltze and Vice Chair Neuman,

Via email: Rep.Alan.Austerman@akleg.gov; Rep.Bill.Stoltze@akleg.gov; Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov

Re: Letter of Support for the Governor's Budget – Supporting Health Care Access through Loan Repayment and Direct Incentive Program (SHARP)

The Alaska Primary Care Association (APCA) represents Alaska's Community Health Center (CHC) system of 27 organizations and more than 160 clinic locations across the state which serve more than 98,000 patients every year. Nearly 1,000 Alaskans are employed in CHCs across the state.

And the hard facts are that health centers have difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified, competent health professionals.

The good news is that SHARP Program has really made a difference for our CHC system in Alaska by providing healthcare provider loan repayment and direct incentives. Health professionals from a variety of disciplines (physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, behavioral health providers, physical therapists, dental professionals) have all been supported by SHARP II in Community Health Centers across the state. It has made a difference in the continuity of health care delivery in clinics in both our rural and urban settings.

But the future of the program and these hard to fill health professional positions are at risk. APCA strongly encourages the rescission of the \$1.2 Million decrement proposed in the Department of Health and Social Services budget.

SHARP SFY'15	
	State GF
Current SHARP-II Provider Contract Budget	\$2,036,300
Proposed Reduction Amt	\$1,200,000
Proposed Percent Reduction	59%
Amount Remaining after Cut	\$836,300
Current SHARP-II Contracts	\$1,408,800
Proposed Shortfall on Current SHARP-II Contracts	(\$572,500)
Percent Underfunded on Current SHARP-II Contracts	-41%

Impact of Budget Reduction in FY2015

- Vulnerable Alaskans currently receiving health care may lose their provider
- 39 recently selected and recommended provider service agreements by the SHARP Advisory Council cannot be made.

Some or all of the 62 providers with current service agreements may lose funding on the entire or a portion of the support for their service agreements. This may also impact provider employers and their organizations.

The Council recently recommended another 39 providers to the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner.

The SHARP Program

- Increases access to care for underserved populations
- Supports prevention and early treatment which contributes to better patient health outcomes
- Improves health care provider organizations stability and sustainability by reducing turnover
- Supports communities where hiring and retaining health care providers is a challenge – 33 or 53% of SHARP-II Program Providers Very Hard to Fill (VHTF) positions are currently being supported
- Enables health care providers to stay in communities and contribute to local economies directly and by serving as an anchor position for other health care support staff who also contribute to local economy.

APCA asks for your full funding support of the Governor's budget for both the SHARP Programs in the amount of **\$2,236,300 for the SHARP provider contracts, I** (SHARP GF \$200,000) and SHARP II (\$2,036,300) programs as components of an Alaska Health Care System that provide access to health care for the most vulnerable in our state.

Sincerely

Nancy Merriman
Executive Director

March 7, 2014

Reps. Austerman and Stoltze, Chair, and Committee Members, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your support in the reinstatement of \$1.2 million dollars to Alaska's SHARP II Loan Repayment Program for Health Professionals (Chapter 25 SLA 12) in the Department of Health and Social Services budget.

I am a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner working at Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc (JAMHI). It is highly doubtful that I would have been able to accept this position if SHARP II was not a possibility at this agency. Through my current position, I am grateful to have the opportunity to play a role in serving the vulnerable Alaska population of severely mentally ill adults. This is accomplished at a cost far less than the locum tenens who previously filled this role, requiring salaries far beyond Medicaid reimbursement rates. Mid-level practitioners, such as myself, support a more efficient use of tax dollars.

I am currently a recipient of the SHARP II Loan Repayment Program. For me, receiving this loan repayment award has truly been a life changing event. For the first time, I am finally able to save for my 12 year old son's college fund, as well as my retirement. As a one income family, the college debt was so paralyzing, that it was impossible for me to be able to contribute to those critical areas, until I was blessed with the SHARP II award.

SHARP II is essential to allow for the recruitment and retention of medical providers who are willing to provide care of those underserved Alaskans, as well as those Alaskans in rural areas. I respectfully request that you advocate for the continued funding regarding the SHARP II Loan Repayment Program.

Appreciatively,



Jill Dowell

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc.

Dear To Whomever this
may concern

The Youth in Transition
Program at Access Alaska
has helped me and my husband
with career guidance, job
searches, building resumes
and improving skills. So I
won't freeze up at my
interviews. This program has
helped me build confidence.

They also helped me
pass the High School
Graduation Qualifying Exams
in the fall of 2012 by
providing continuous hours of
tutoring and helping
me with transportation so
I could get my kids
to day care, myself to work,
all of us to our appointments.

They also ~~us~~ helped with other
agencies ~~better~~ so I
could understand them better

like housing and public assistance.

Thanks to them I have been working as a PCA (personal care attendant) since 2010 and now ~~as~~ ^I am also working as Bus Attendant with First Student. If it weren't for them I would not be able to move up to get my CDL and have the ~~support~~ support I need ~~today~~ at times.

I have met so many new friends and have built good relationships with them.

The Youth Transition Program gave me a safe place to come to and when I needed someone to talk to there was someone there to talk to.

I hope that this program stays here in the community for others like me and future generations. I hope that ~~it~~ they will be around in case others or myself need them.

I have made so much progress since I joined the program in 2010. I am an working, functional adult with a disability who as found and ~~stayed~~ ^{kept} employment, finished school and able to live independently ^{and} raise my two children.

This program matters

THANKS

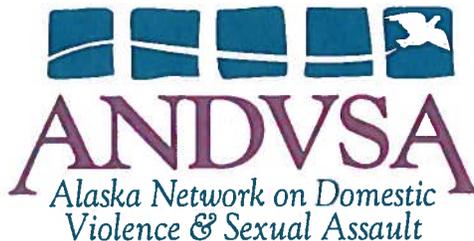
Shawn Pettit

Shawn Pettit

3-4-14

North Pole

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130 Seward St #209
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Fax: (907) 463-4493
www.andvsa.org



Pro Bono Office
PO Box 6631
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Phone: (907) 747-7545
Fax: (907)747-7547

March 7, 2014

Attorney General Michael C. Geraghty
Department of Law
1031 W. 4th Ave, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Geraghty,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of all 18 victim service agencies in Alaska, who are members of ANDVSA. In the House Finance Committee on February 21, 2014 you presented on the Governor's "Choose Respect" initiative. When Representative Neuman asked you questions as to how the Department of Law's low conviction rates on sexual predators could be represented as a success on the "Dashboard", we were incredibly offended by your response.

As the head of the Department of Law within the Parnell Administration, you should be leading the cultural shift that you asked the committee and other Alaskans to join in and create a climate in which victims have the confidence to step forward and report these crimes; rather than one in which your department dismissively screens out charges, calls victims a "part of the problem", shames victims and calls them vindictive. More disturbing than your dismissive attitude towards the low conviction rates brought to your attention by Representative Neuman, you revealed the true policy within your department that even with "physical evidence and the like" the department screens out victims who fail to participate or recant. Our programs have seen evidence of this locally with their DAs and your comment tells us this attitude may in fact be status quo.

There are many reasons why victims do not come forward and testify against their perpetrators or recant. Recantation can occur when children who report sexual abuse subsequently state that their earlier report was a lie. Having lived in the secrecy of the abuse, they may become frightened after revealing it, and seek to return to that place of secrecy because it is unfortunately familiar. As a form of emotional protection, children may deny that the abuse occurred at all. They may also recant after failing to receive support for telling the truth or being subjected to pressure by the perpetrator or other adults to recant the statement. Finally, we know that the longer time has passed between the original disclosure and the trial, there is an increased risk of an intervening event that will encourage recantation.

In domestic violence cases, witness tampering, through coercion, is a far too common problem and victims often recant or refuse to participate in prosecution due, in part, to a perpetrator's threats of retaliation. Even the Supreme Court in *Davis v. Washington*, 547 U.S. 813, 833 (2006) recognized that "[t]his particular

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE
Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC
Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG Seward SCS Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV

type of crime is notoriously susceptible to intimidation or coercion of the victim to ensure she does not testify at trial.” There is a correlation between victim non-participation in the prosecution process and financial dependence on the abuser.

Every day, sexual predators in Alaska are getting away with perpetrating on our children and batterers are getting away with abusing their intimate partners. For every sexual predator that isn’t prosecuted, more and more children’s lives are ruined. For every woman who fails to get justice, the batterers words that the system can’t help them ring true.

With the devastating effect that results from dismissals and screening out of these cases, we strongly suggest that you receive guidance from other states which have moved to using evidence based prosecution to secure convictions rather than dismissing charges; and utilizing expert testimony which is increasingly being used to explain to juries the dynamics of these crimes and why victims recant. Finally, when a victim works with a victim advocate, receives support and can receive help with navigating the criminal and civil justice systems, there is a reduced likelihood of recantation. When prosecutors regularly attend multi-disciplinary meetings and participate in SART community meetings, they begin to understand the complex dynamics embedded in these crimes. However, your prosecutors need to follow a leader that believes in these preventative measures.

From the beginning of his initiative, Governor Parnell has reached out to victims saying “If you or someone you know is a survivor or is acting violently, we want you to know that help is available. You are not alone and *there is no shame and no guilt in stepping forward*, only the potential to be free of fear.” However, the insensitive and derogatory comments you used to defend low prosecutions rates and calling victims “vindictive” belies the Governor’s message that Alaskans will no longer tolerate these crimes, that help is available, and that victims will not be shamed. Rather, victims are sent the message that the system will not believe you, your actions will be questioned, your case may be screened out, and the abuse will never end. And that sir is truly disheartening.

Mr. Geraghty, I would ask you to choose respect for the brave women, men and children who find the incredible courage to come forward, report their crimes and rely on you and your department to obtain justice and hold their perpetrators accountable.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brown, Executive Director

cc: Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor
House Finance Committee Members

Southcentral Foundation



March 5, 2014

Honorable Alan Austerman, Co-Chair
Honorable Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
Alaska House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Proposed FY15 Operating Budget

Dear Chairmen Austerman and Stoltze:

Southcentral Foundation is an Alaska Native-owned, nonprofit health care organization serving nearly 60,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, and 60 rural villages in the Anchorage Service Unit. This letter is in response to the proposed reduction in funding of \$1,043,000 for residential substance abuse treatment and \$1,000,000 for the Behavioral Health Grants budget. Southcentral Foundation requests that no cuts be made to residential substance abuse treatment or the Behavioral Health Grants funding in Alaska.

Considering that Alaskans surveyed in 2012 named the number one health issue for the state as alcohol use or abuse, it is alarming that the State of Alaska would consider decreasing funding for residential treatment or behavioral health services, which have distinct roles in our service delivery system. Alcohol abuse is the leading cause of serious injuries requiring hospitalization as well as violent, suicidal, and accidental deaths in our state. Alcohol and drug use also dramatically drive up our rates of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault, homicides, and suicide attempts/completions. Alaska has the highest rate of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in the nation. The lifetime cost of health care for a child with FAS is estimated to be between \$3 and \$4 million. Increased access to residential treatment is needed, not less.

The benefits of residential treatment include addressing chronic alcohol use and drug addictions as the complex health issue that they are, and providing the appropriate level of service for those in need of a higher level of care. Timely access allows those needing treatment to make a firm commitment to starting their journey of recovery. The cost of residential substance abuse treatment pales in comparison to the dramatic savings for the State on days in correctional facilities, Juvenile Justice, Office of Children's Services, Medicaid-funded emergency room care and the costs of intensive care for babies born to addicted mothers.

Alaskans like "Nikki" benefit from these services funded by the State. Nikki came into residential treatment with a history of extensive legal problems stemming from substance abuse, mental health and relationship issues. While in treatment, Nikki was able to develop a sober support network and a

Chairmen Austerman and Stoltze

March 5, 2014

recovery plan that enabled her to manage her emotions, tolerate distress, set boundaries, practice good problem-solving skills and become a better parent to her children. Upon successful completion of treatment, she received a voucher for housing through Alaska housing and was accepted at the Career Academy. "I didn't know myself when I first came [to treatment]. I found myself here."

In partnership with the State of Alaska, Southcentral Foundation and other providers are able to help Alaskans like "Nikki" succeed and sustain their recovery and increase their contributions to their communities.

Long waiting periods for a residential bed can be a deterrent to getting treatment when someone is ready. It is unfortunate that Alaska residential beds are so limited in number. Already, there are waitlists for both residential and outpatient services. People who are court-ordered to enter residential treatment are less able to fulfill their probation/parole requirements when facing these long wait periods. This applies to other non-residential substance abuse services as well, which hinders Alaskans' ability to meet any mandated behavioral health or outpatient services. Already, the State of Alaska spends more money dealing with the consequences of untreated addiction than on helping people conquer their addiction. Further cuts will simply exacerbate these issues.

As demand for residential treatment and behavioral health services continues to escalate beyond the available fiscal resources, more people will wind up in the correctional system. The Office of Children's Services' caseloads will increase, keeping families apart and children in limbo longer than necessary. More babies will be born with addictions and FAS and FASD. Hospital emergency departments will become more crowded. Employers and teachers will see more absenteeism in the workplace and classroom.

We urge the Finance Committee to recognize the importance of residential substance abuse treatment and community behavioral health services as part of the continuum of care for Alaskans and to embrace its partnership with community providers to create more success stories like "Nikki's;" that was only made possible through State funding and support. Cutting funding for the addiction treatment and behavioral health system will cost the chance for thousands of Alaskans to overcome their mental health conditions and become healthier, productive and contributing members of society. We support full funding and restoration of residential substance abuse and behavioral health grant budgets.

Sincerely,

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION



Katherine Gottlieb, MBA, DPS (h.c.)
President/CEO

Cc: Representative Mark Neuman, Representative Mia Costello, Representative Bryce Edgmon, Representative Lindsey Holmes, Representative Cathy Munoz, Representative Steve Thompson, Representative Tammie Wilson, Representative Les Gara, Representative David Guttenberg



March 5, 2014

Ms. Nicole Borromeo
General Counsel
Alaska Federation of Natives
1577 C Street, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Proposed Changes to Alaska Senate Bill 64, Omnibus Crime/Corrections Bill

Dear Ms. Borromeo:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the language in the proposed Alaska Senate Bill 64, Omnibus Crime/Corrections Bill. We are concerned with some of the provisions in AK SB 64 as currently written, and elaborate below on a section-by-section basis.

1. Proposed Sec. 33.30.045. Recidivism reduction grant program and fund.

At present, there is no mention of culture or culturally appropriate strategies for healing, mentoring and bringing people back into a way of living that affirms cultural norms (rehabilitation).

We recommend this subsection be revised to recognize cultural engagement as a protective factor against recidivism along with employment, vocational training, and community volunteer work.

We propose the following revision: "To qualify for a grant under this section, a program shall ... (4) require employment, vocational training, cultural engagement, or community volunteer work as approved by the director of the treatment program".

**2. Proposed Article 6. Alaska Criminal Justice Commission
Sec. 44.19.642. Membership; staff.**

We recommend this subsection be amended to add "a member of the Alaska Native community designated by the Alaska Native Health Board for a three-year term."

The Alaska Native Health Board is recognized as the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues. Its purpose is to promote the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people.

Ms. Borromeo
March 5, 2014

As written, the Commission consists of 12 members, with only one designated member of the Alaska Native community. This underrepresentation (just 8 percent of the membership) is glaring when Alaska Native people represent nearly 40 percent of those in the correctional system and 20 percent of the general population. Alaska Native people also make up more than 50 percent of the sex offenders in custody. This has a substantial effect on the health of Alaska Native families and communities, and we need a stronger voice on the Commission, people from within our culture who are invested in prevention and treatment, to provide perspective while the Commission is considering “*alternatives to traditional forms of incarceration*” and the “*adequacy, availability, and effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitative programs.*” CSSB 64 (JUD), § 31 at p. 20 (proposed sec. 44.19.645(a)(4), (6)).

**3. Proposed Article 6. Alaska Criminal Justice Commission.
Sec. 44.19.646. Methodology.**

In the subsection that reads “In making recommendations, the commission shall ... base recommendations on the following factors ...,” we recommend changing “(G) the effect of sentencing as a community condemnation of criminal acts and as a reaffirmation of societal norms” to “(G) the effect of sentencing as a reaffirmation of societal and cultural norms.”

“Community condemnation,” the way it is written, appears to support shaming. Shaming is a trigger for generations of Alaska Native people and recalls the effects of historical trauma. Research recently published in *Psychological Science*, the highest ranked empirical journal in psychology, suggests that feelings of shame lead to a defensive response, and even aggression, and that inmates inclined to feel shame are more likely to re-offend¹. Strengths-based language, focusing on the reaffirmation of norms, conveys a community sharing responsibility and returning to values and traditions that protect people from harm.

Thank you for your review and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION



Katherine Gottlieb, MBA, DPA (h.c.)
President/CEO

¹ Tangney, J.P., Stuewig, J., & Martinez, A.G. (2014). Two faces of shame: The roles of shame and guilt in predicting recidivism. *Psychological Science*.

Thandi Carros

From: Buckelew, Stacey L (DFG) <stacey.buckelew@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 10:04 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: testimony for HB266

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Representative Austerman
Room 505, State Capitol,
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I would like to submit the following written testimony regarding House Bill 266 to encourage the continuation of General Fund support for the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve.

- For the record, I am an employee of the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (henceforth referred to as Reserve) through ADFG-SPORTFISH (henceforth SportFish). I am speaking today from the perspective of a concerned citizen.
- I want to assert that the proposed budget cut is, in my opinion, a narrow sighted decision made by SPORTFISH.
- The \$175k proposed cut from the GF is the entirety of state match required to receive larger federal grants from NOAA and other sources.
- The multiplier effect on this match brings in over \$1m in federal funding through SPORTFISH, for which a 14% administration charge is applied for all incoming funding that offsets the GF applied to RESERVE.
- I want to stress that the proposed cut does not just slash a budget- it will result in complete closure of the Reserve.
- Given RESERVE's national affiliation, this budget cut would have significant financial strings attached for the state of Alaska.
- SPORTFISH would default on their agreement terms with NOAA and could be responsible for reimbursing the current market value of RESERVE property investments, including a portion of Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center, the modular facility on Kachemak Drive (houses Kasitsna Bay Lab personnel, National Park Service, Dept of Natural Resources), and Bay Av lab storage facility- to name a few. An amount that may be in the hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars.
- Further, using federal funds RESERVE contributes \$133k annually to the operation of Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center, which serves 75,000 visitors per year. There is currently no alternative building partner that could fulfill that obligation.
- In closing, I encourage you to consider providing GF support to RESERVE for one additional year to allow an alternative state agency partner to be identified—a process which has already been initiated. The transfer of partnership would not only ensure the continuation of valuable research and education services, but would prevent further significant debt by the State of Alaska by alleviating the potential responsibility for property investment payback.

Thank you,



Stacey Buckelew
Coastal Training Program Coordinator
Kachemak Bay Research Reserve
95 Sterling Highway, Suite 2
Homer, AK 99603
(907) 226-4653

March 6, 2014

House Finance Committee
Room no. 505, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Please support the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) in the Operating Budget HB266.

Dear Representative Austerman,

My name is Raphaelle Descoteaux, I am a graduate student in marine biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and I have been working in close partnership with the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) throughout the course of my program. My research took place in Kachemak Bay and was in large part funded and supported by the KBNERR.

I studied the effects of changes in ocean chemistry on development of commercially valuable crab species in Kachemak Bay. My research was funded by the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) system under the condition that my study would take place inside the boundaries of the research reserve. Staff at the KBNERR also supported and were a key asset to my research in Kachemak Bay.

KBNERR also facilitated education and outreach activities so that I could share my research results with Homer residents as well as visitors from Alaska and tourists. The reserve's outreach activities have had a phenomenal success with residents and visitors of all ages.

Kachemak Bay is a unique environment, harboring sea life that supports both fisheries and tourism. The KBNERR offers vital research and outreach opportunities that support this thriving but fragile ecosystem.

As one who has greatly benefited, and has seen many others benefit from its presence in the state, I would strongly urge you to support funding to the KBNERR in the Operating Budget HB266.

Sincerely,



Raphaelle Descoteaux
3603 Rosie Creek Road
Fairbanks, AK, 99709

Thandi Carros

From: Susan Risse <susanrisse@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 8:34 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Substance Abuse Treatment

Susan Risse
970 Risse Road
Fairbanks, AK 99712

March 10, 2014

Dear Representative Alan Austerman,

PLEASE work as hard as you can to maintain existing funding for substance abuse treatment in Alaska.

Sincerely,
Susan Risse

Thandi Carros

From: Williams, Teresa <twilliams@acmhs.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 11:13 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; rep.bill.stolze@akleg.gov; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Subject: proposed cuts to funding

Dear Representatives and Senators,

I am writing to urge you not to cut services for substance abuse programs in our state. I have been working in the field of behavioral medicine for the past 30 years and I can tell you from experience that treatment works. Every dollar spent on treatment saves countless dollars in healthcare, law enforcement, corrections and dealing with domestic violence and child abuse. Alaska has a higher percentage of the population that suffers from substance use disorders and funding cuts would be very damaging. It already takes 1-2 months or more to link a person to needed treatment. There simply is not enough capacity for the population in need. Cutting funding would only increase crime and other social costs. As a voter in this state and a provider of mental health care, I ask you to please restore the funding.

Teresa Williams, MS, LPC, CDCII

Clinician - Folker Team

Anchorage Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS)
4020 Folker Street
Anchorage, AK 99508
Front Desk: (907) 563-1000

Direct Line: (907) 261-5557
FAX: (907) 563-2045

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I encourage you to continue your support for early education by funding Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers, Head Start, and other programs that enrich experience for children during their first five years. Research shows that early exposure to quality education matters. My daughter recently wrote in her college capstone how early experiences with books led to her path of success as a reader and writer. She had that chance because we lived in a village with public funded pre-school; and because of that program, I found the door into early childhood education. I was hired as the preschool teacher, although I had only a high school diploma. I soon realized the importance of my role, how critical the first years of a child's life are for acquiring language and developing dispositions for lifelong learning. So I began taking distance classes, eventually leading to a masters in ECE. Finding my career path, completing my college education, and watching both of my daughters graduate from college happened because public funded pre-school was available for my family. Early education created change, not just for a child, but for a family.

Now, because of funding for ECE, I have worked with families at Homer Head for 10 years. I have watched single mothers or fathers supporting families of 5 go back to school to earn GEDs, AAs, and some even graduate degrees. Families, not born into privilege, but with support that many born with privilege take for granted, are able to move their families out of poverty. I have worked with children who came to me at age 3 or 4 with virtually no language and watched them blossom when immersed in a language & literacy-rich environment. Early education for children and their families is the best investment we can make for a strong, healthy, and financially stable society. I encourage you to continue steps already taken toward the goal of providing every child and her family with opportunity for education during the first 5 years of life.

Testimony to House Finance Committee on HB266 Operating Budget and HB267 Mental Health Budget

I am a retired pharmacist and Past President of the Alaska Pharmacists Association and would like to bring your attention to cuts being made in the Operating Budget to programs important to pharmacists.

1. Planned cuts to the SHARP (Supporting Health Care Access through Loan Repayment) Program will impact pharmacists who are working in rural areas such as Bethel, Nome, Barrow and various locations in SE Alaska. There are also other healthcare professionals working all around Alaska, particularly in the behavioral health field, who will not be able to receive help with the huge loan costs they incurred obtaining their education. This is a very important program.
2. A proposed cut of over \$52 million that matches the receipt of Federal funds to support healthcare and Medicaid services will also impact all sorts of services offered to Alaskans across the state. Part of that money could be used to support the Prescription Drug Database that is operated by the Alaska Board of Pharmacy. This database program is up and running and now provides pharmacists, physicians, dentists, and other healthcare providers, as well as law enforcement, with information to control the practice of “doctor shopping” whereby people get multiple prescriptions for controlled substances from multiple providers. The program has public safety as well as healthcare benefits.

Margaret Soden, RPh
PO Box 61328
(residential address: 3222 Anella Avenue)
Fairbanks AK 99706-1328
(907) 479-6793
margaretdsoden@gmail.com

March 5, 2014

The Honorable Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
The Honorable Alan Austerman, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 519
Juneau, AK 99801

Respected Members of the House Finance Committee & Interior Delegation,

We, the Board of Directors at Tanana Valley Clinic, are writing to support reinstatement of funding for the statewide AHEC system of 5 centers, including the Interior AHEC Center located at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. The AHEC program has a number of substantial influences in our community which include the engagement, training, recruitment and retention of medical personal in all medical fields including nursing, medical assistant, EMT, physician assistant, laboratory, nurse practitioner, physician and phlebotomist who are entering the workforce in Interior Alaska. Cutting funding to this program will have a detrimental impact on TVC's ability to recruit skilled medical staff to our clinic, as well as impacting the impending health care workforce shortage we face statewide.

AHEC is an extremely significant resource for TVC's recruitment of primary care physicians. Being in a remote location such as Alaska, we face substantially higher recruiting costs to attract skilled providers to our remote geographic location. Students who rotate with us through the AHEC program are more likely to return to Fairbanks to begin their practice than a resident completing their training outside the state.

Please consider our recommendation to reinstate the AHEC budget line item to the UA budget at the full amount of \$652,900. Alaska is facing an impending shortage of skilled medical staff and cutting funding to this program will squeeze the already tight availability of access to primary care that many Alaskans already feel.

Sincerely,



Mishelle Nace, MD
Pediatrics
Medical Director



Clay Triplehorn, DO
Sleep Medicine
Board Chairman



Todd Capistrant, DO
Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
Chief Medical Officer



Mike Swenson, MD
Internal Medicine
Board Member



James Shill, MBA
Chief Executive Officer



Nicole M. Soto, MD
Dermatology
Board Member



Grayson Westfall, MD
1st Care
Medical Director



Corrine Leistikow, MD
Family Practice
Medical Director

Thandi Carros

From: Tyroan Rediske <tyroanjrediske@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 10:01 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman

Dear House Finance Committee Member:

My name is Roan Rediske and I am 13 years old and live in Homer, Alaska. The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is very important to me as I have been going there to learn about the rivers and oceans around me since I was two years old. I have been volunteering there since I was six. I also have many friends who would lose their jobs if funding is cut. Many of these people have kids that are my age. Loss of these good jobs will greatly affect their families. The KBNERR is one of the most important organizations in our town. It helps educate and nurse a love for science in our community, as it has for me.

Because of the KBNERR I want to become a biologist and hopefully stay in Homer. Without the KBNERR my options for learning about our local environment will be greatly diminished. I would hope that you recognize the importance of funding this agency and realize that this funding will help our community for generations to come.

I have included two photos of my time at "Discovery Lab" which is run by the KBNERR. In one photo, one of the researchers is patiently explaining things to me about the Bay so even as a little kid, I could understand it. In the other photo, I am volunteering at one of the lab tables talking with attendees about sponges and tunicates. - Roan Rediske





Thandi Carros

From: Walter Majoros <walterm@jys.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 11:37 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Substance Abuse Treatment

Walter Majoros
PO Box 32839
Juneau, AK 99803

March 8, 2014

Dear Representative Alan Austerman,

Please restore the \$2.043 million that has been cut for substance abuse treatment services. Both community-based and residential services are critical. We have one of the highest rates of alcoholism in the country. Alcoholism and drug abuse are linked to suicide (we are twice the national average), domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and other violent crimes. Treating youth and adults with substance abuse problems saves lives and saves money. If untreated, these problems lead to more emergency room visits, chronic health care costs, lack of economic productivity and increased youth and adult incarceration costs. Please do the right thing and restore the funding for these critical services. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Walter Majoros



Whale Tail Pharmacy
P.O. Box 709
Craig, AK 99921
(907)826-5750

February, 13, 2014

Ms. Carlen Williams, Director
Southeast Area Health Education Center
3100 Tongass Avenue
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Dear Ms. Williams,

Our community of Craig has reaped many benefits as Whale Tail Pharmacy has hosted 5th year pharmacy students. The experience has consistently left students with a favorable opinion of a rural pharmacy practice. These supervised clinical rotations have provided an opportunity for both the student and our local independent pharmacy. The students have received valuable hands-on learning and mentorship while bringing vitality, enthusiasm and fresh insights to Whale Tail Pharmacy.

Funding for these students is an investment in Alaska, both for our communities and for our healthcare system. It has been a proven way to expose students to life in rural Alaska and it is helping to address our rural healthcare manpower gap.

It has been an honor to work with capable pharmacy student who have worked with us. We look forward to continuing the relationship with the Area Health Education Centers that help make it possible for students to come to rural Alaska.

Sincerely,

Sarah Altland
Owner, Whale Tail Pharmacy

Bill Altland
Owner, Whale Tail Pharmacy