

**James Herbert**  
**POB 1461**  
**Seward, AK 99604**  
**907-224-8000**  
**jherbert@seward.net**

March 3, 2014

Dear Representative Austerman:

The Alaska Marine Safety Education Association [AMSEA] is well known and respected all around Alaska for delivering effective, hands-on training to commercial fishermen, youth and the general public. They have helped significantly reduce fatality rates and losses on Alaska waters by training over 200,000 people in over 100 of our communities. As a commercial fisherman and mariner in Alaska since 1971, I have made use of their training many times.

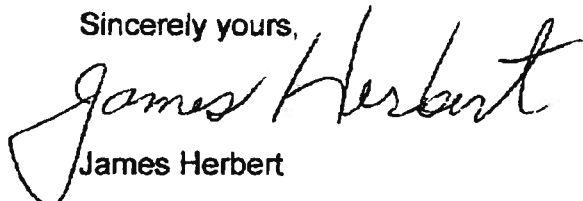
AMSEA economically performs a valuable service not duplicated by any other state program. The fees I pay to register my commercial fishing vessel with the state have contributed to the past funding of AMSEA by the Department of Commerce, Community & Regional Affairs [DCCED]. I assume these fees have kept AMSEA funding revenue neutral. If these fees go elsewhere in the system, where will I get the Coast Guard approved training AMSEA provides?

Base funding of AMSEA is \$196,900. Given the importance and reach of subsistence and commercial fishing across Alaska, this is money well spent. When one considers the expenditures on search and rescue and the grim consequences of fatalities and accidents on the water, this preventative approach is a viable and sensible approach.

I believe AMSEA gives excellent value to the Alaska public for the money it receives. I do not think it is wise to transfer funding to the capital budget. Please preserve the base funding of \$196,900 in your FY2015 operating budget. AMSEA's effective education and hands-on training is the best way to change behavior and prevent accidents and fatalities on Alaska's waters.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of our citizens.

Sincerely yours,



James Herbert

To the House Finance Committee through the chair,

Alaska Youth Advocates offers the chance for a healthier life to young people who have little or no family support, often are no longer in school, may suffer from abuse or addiction, and have no place to go but the streets. Through our POWER Teen Center and health clinic in downtown Anchorage, we reach out to youth, offering a caring environment and information that can help them make safer, more positive decisions in their lives.

The youth served at AYA have experienced extreme levels of trauma and abuse. Many have had interactions with the Office of Children's Services but were unable to get the necessary support from our system. Our legislature recognized this need and since 2006 has increased support to improve OCS. The recent OCS work load study does recommend an additional 54 positions to increase efficiencies and keep social workers working with families to succeed.

Studies have shown that between 1/3 – 2/3rds of child maltreatment cases involve substance abuse. As we all know, substance abuse affects our state at record numbers thus affecting our high levels of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and suicide. Due to the years of trauma our youth experience, sometimes they turn to coping mechanisms they are all too familiar with, drugs and alcohol.

Our substance abuse treatment is already not meeting the needs of our state. Recently I worked with a youth who was ready to access help for her substance abuse. For weeks we worked together to get her into residential treatment. Not everyone is so persistent. We need to be ready to respond with services when a person is ready to treat their disease.

Everyone at AYA wants to equip young people to make decisions that will lead to productive lives. Many of our youth are not able to make these productive life choices without first the support of substance abuse treatment.

Please restore funding to substance abuse treatment and fund the recommendations provided by the OCS Workload Study.

for LIO



## NAMI Anchorage

Anchorage's Voice on Mental Illness

144 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 272-0227 (phone)  
(907) 277-1400 (fax)

[www.namianchorage.org](http://www.namianchorage.org)  
[info@namianchorage.org](mailto:info@namianchorage.org)  
[www.facebook.com/namianchorage](https://www.facebook.com/namianchorage)  
We are a Pick Click Give organization.

### Testimony of Francine Harbour. Behavioral Health Budget, 03-04-14

Good afternoon representatives. Thank you for this opportunity to speak about funding for treatment of substance abuse disorders. My name is Francine Harbour. I am the executive director of NAMI Anchorage, the National Alliance on *Mental Illness*. I am here to talk about *substance abuse disorders* because of the high rate of people who become chemically dependent to self-medicate an underlying mental illness or other brain disorder. Unfortunately mental illness and substance abuse too often go hand-in-hand.

My understanding is that the budget that has been released cuts over \$2 million from behavioral health services. Of particular concern is the loss of funding for residential beds for people with substance abuse disorders. I also understand that some of the funding has been moved to outpatient treatment. Unfortunately, that order of treatment services is backwards. People need to FIRST spend time in a residential setting learning new coping skills and establishing healthy support networks and THEN receive ongoing support to maintain sobriety and wellness. Actually, it is NOT an EITHER/OR situation. BOTH residential facilities AND outpatient care need to be funded as part of a strong and EFFECTIVE continuum of care.

In closing, I would like to vigorously make the point that substance abuse disorders and their co-occurring brain disorders present COMPLEX medical challenges. The brain is, after all, our most complex organ. Residential beds, outpatient care and the coordination of care that is

supported by the Complex Behavior Collaborative all need the levels of funding originally requested. With this funding, we can continue to develop solutions that are EFFECTIVE and LAST, which is what everyone wants. Thank you for your time and support of the original behavioral health budget.

Presented by Francine Harbour, NAMI Anchorage, 272-0227.



## NAMI Anchorage

Anchorage's Voice on Mental Illness

144 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
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[www.namianchorage.org](http://www.namianchorage.org)  
[info@namianchorage.org](mailto:info@namianchorage.org)  
[www.facebook.com/namianchorage](https://www.facebook.com/namianchorage)  
We are a Pick Click Give organization.

### Testimony of Brandon Williams, Behavioral Health Budget, 03-04-14

- My name is Brandon Williams and I am here representing the Anchorage affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental illness, or NAMI
- I am here to discuss the proposed cuts to the Complex Behavior Collaborative
- At NAMI, a large percentage of the people we serve have dual diagnoses
  - People challenged with both mental illness and substance abuse disorder
  - These are individuals with complex behavioral needs that are served by the Complex Behavior Collaborative
  - NAMI supports funding level originally requested for the Complex Behavior Collaborative
- The American Medical Association conservatively estimates that:
  - Roughly 50% of individuals with severe mental illness are affected by substance abuse
  - 37% of alcohol abusers and 53% of drug abusers also have at least one mental illness
- Consequences of having untreated co-occurring mental health and substance abuse problems can be numerous and harsh
  - There is a greater likelihood of violence, jail, and being homeless
  - Poorer functioning at home and work
  - A greater chance of relapse
    - When compared to those with only substance abuse or mental illness, as opposed to both
- Integrated treatment across multiple providers is the best way to help these individuals become a contributing part of their communities
- The Complex Behavior Collaborative provides the integrated treatment that individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues need

- Please continue full funding for the Complex Behavior Collaborative
- Thank you for your time

Presented by Brandon Williams, NAMI Anchorage, 272-0227.



## 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 Mark Neuman  
House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

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

Dear Representative Neuman:

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](http://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



City of  
White Mountain

P.O. BOX 130  
White Mountain, AK 99784  
(907) 638-3411

March 5, 2014

Representative Alan Austerman  
State Capitol Room 505  
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: HB266 Revenue Sharing

Dear Representative Austerman,

The City of White Mountain is writing to you regarding the State of Alaska's Revenue Sharing program and how vital it is to our community.

The Revenue Sharing funds 68% of our annual City budget. The expenses that the Revenue Sharing covers include: personnel wages & fringe benefits, insurance, vehicle & equipment maintenance, telephone & fax, internet, water/sewer, fuel oil, membership dues & subscriptions, and several other important budgeted line items.

The City would like to request that the State of Alaska keep this essential program funded. Without Revenue Sharing the City cannot generate enough funds to operate the City government. Without the City who would coordinate the State and municipal elections? Submit annual City budgets? Submit and manage grants? Provide infrastructure to the community?

Please continue to support the Revenue Sharing program. It is the most important State funded program to any City in rural Alaska. Please call me if you have any questions regarding this letter. Thank you!

Best regards,

Dan Harrelson, Mayor

Cc: Sarah Geary, AML



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (H) Finance  
(committee name)

committee on Budget  
HB 266 / HB 267, dated 3/4/2014  
(bill # / subject)

I am writing to ask for the continued support of the funding of residential treatment programs in our state, both for adult and adolescents. I have long worked in the Justice and treatment fields. Sending a person out of state for treatment is culturally traumatizing for both Native and Non Native Alaskans, incredibly expensive and labor intensive. Family, which is at the core of most issues and healing, isn't attend family centered sessions of the treatment plan. There IS a difference between family present in sessions and telephonic. We have some amazing treatment centers in Alaska, that know how to provide for Alaskan people, the most current and best practice treatment available. Alaska is awash with substance use problems. To cut funding would be shooting Alaskans in the foot, regarding a medical condition we are learning more and more about. We are needing to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Addiction is not a moral dilemma, it is an addiction of the body, a mental obsession and a Spiritual dilemma.

Alaskan since 1956  
Sober since 8-21-1987

Signed:

Testifier

Representing (optional)

Address

Telephone

Box 1707 Valdez AK 99686

907 360-5881

Mr. Al Shelton  
PO Box 118  
Port Lions, AK 99550  
907.454.2609

March 05, 2014

Rep. Alan Austerman  
State Capitol  
120 4th Street, Room 204  
Juneau, AK 998011162

Dear Rep. Austerman;

I saw in the Wall Street Journal that evangelical leaders are pressuring Republicans to pass legislation that gives legal status and work permits to illegal aliens. With this in mind, I thought you should be aware of a new poll that shows most evangelicals oppose Speaker Boehner and President Obama's proposals to give work permits to nearly all illegal immigrants, especially before all workplace, interior and border enforcement are fully implemented. I hope you will support legislation that matches the opinions of evangelical Christians

According to the Washington Examiner, the poll says that:

"Most evangelicals, 73 percent, said that, instead of bringing in more immigrant workers, employers should be 'required to try harder to recruit and train, Americans from those high-unemployment groups. And most evangelicals, 68 percent, said they are willing to pay higher prices if it is necessary for employers to raise wages to fill jobs with Americans instead of adding more foreign workers."

I agree with these sentiments and agree with the immigration views of evangelical Christians. I sincerely hope you will support legislation that matches these views.

Looking for your support,

Al Shelton



Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc.  
3380 C Street, Ste. 100  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
(907) 277-1440 \* Fax (907) 277-1446  
EATribes.Org

March 5, 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](mailto:LegFinance@legis.state.ak.us)

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

Dear Honorable Representatives Alan Austerman and Representative Bill Stoltze,

We are writing you 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 and we know that choices need to be made. Thank you for allowing us to share our comments and concerns on the proposed cuts.

Eastern Aleutian Tribes provides medical, dental, and behavioral health services in federally qualified health centers in the communities of Adak, Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, Sand Point, and Whittier. Our service area comprises over 100,000 square miles of the most beautiful, remote, and challenging locations in the world. Our Community Health Aides are the primary care provider for many of our community members and a vital link to our health delivery system that mid-level providers, dentists, and behavioral health clinicians.

While the people in the Aleutians have been on the forefront of encouraging and developing distance learning due to the extreme weather, great distances, and isolation; we recognize the value of hands-on face-to-face instruction. We are currently utilizing our mid-level providers in conjunction with the distance learning opportunities to train our Community Health Aides and encourage their progression up the career ladder. Continuing this funding is critical to our ability to continue our educational training program.

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.

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"Eastern Aleutian Tribes has the healthiest people in the Nation"  
Adak \* Akutan \* Cold Bay \* False Pass \* King Cove \* Nelson Lagoon \* Sand Point \* Whittier

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. 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.

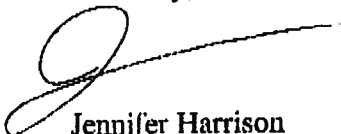
The CHAP program is already under great pressure in that the training program has long been chronically underfunded. The training centers have sought and implemented innovative methods (including distance and online/virtual training sessions) to maximize resources to increase the number of CHA/Ps receiving 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.

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 our Eastern Aleutian villages.

We 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 health impacts and the resulting adverse impacts to the State of Alaska. Please keep the funding levels whole for the CHATS program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 907-277-1440 or [jenniferh@eatribes.net](mailto:jenniferh@eatribes.net). Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Harrison  
Executive Director  
Eastern Aleutian Tribes

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Loretta Brown  
Representing: Self  
Bill No./Subject: HB 266  
Committee: House Finance  
Date of Hearing: 3/5/2014

I, ~~the~~ all of <sup>the</sup> Homer community, Alaska Community, ocean ecosystems, and marine organisms benefit from the work and dedication of the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve in Homer. The Research Reserves (KBRR) provides vital research for assessing baseline biological and physical characteristics in Kachemak Bay.

This information is not only important for management of our fisheries and wildlife resources but also provides important and accessible information the the public, commercial fishermen, and the tourist industry in Homer. ~~Kachemak~~ Cutting funding to KBRR would not only completely cut out ~~a~~ vital monitoring research in Kachemak Bay but also an informational resource between <sup>the</sup> state of Alaska natural resource and fisheries ~~and~~ management agencies and the public who use and rely upon these resources for enjoyment and subsistence use.

- For the record, I am an employee of KBRR (Reserve) through ADFG-SFD (Sport Fish). I am speaking today from the perspective of a concerned citizen.
- The Reserves' mission is not specific Sport Fish, however, it does meet the broad information needs across ADF&G including education, coastal training program, and research capacity.
- Specifically, the Reserve's education program served over 4,000 students, teachers, and visiting public in 2013. It has active education program outreaching information on harvested species and fishing skills.
- The coastal training program reached 400 coastal professionals by providing targeted needs-based trainings. This includes bringing skill-building trainings such as ArcGIS to ADF&G biologists in the lower Kenai Peninsula region.
- The research program is designed to provide information to coastal decision-makers on the physical sciences (such as relative sea-level change, coastal erosion, and ocean circulation patterns) as well as the biological sciences (such as habitat requirements for juvenile salmon, life history data for harvested clam species, ocean acidification on larval crab species, HAB and invasive species monitoring).
- The cutting edge work done on juvenile salmon habitat have been useful for managing habitat and permit regulations by DNR, the Division of Habitat, and to the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- While the Reserve is not providing data on in-stream returns of adult salmon as requested by DSF, we are fulfilling a significant and unaddressed portion of the Division's Strategic Plan for research, monitoring, and education outlined in their 2010-2014 plan.
- I ask that you provide KBRR with one year of matching funding for the NOAA Operations grant in the amount of \$250K. This will provide time for the Reserve to seek a more relevant partnership. It would be ridiculous to close the Reserve at this juncture. The community would lose jobs, valuable long-term data necessary to navigate a changing climate, and the additional revenue the Reserve attracts through partnerships, ~all for the want of match funding to a large, sustaining grant.

Angela D. 04/16  
1200 Carriage  
Court Homer  
AK 99603



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

Name: Karen Shemet  
Representing: Spratt Family Services  
Bill No./Subject: HB 266  
Committee: House Finance  
Date of Hearing: 3/5/14

Please fully fund Parents as Teachers program + all other home visiting + early childhood programs so that our vulnerable young children + their families receive the support they need in order to thrive + create a vibrant society. Funding preschool rather than prisons later really makes fiscal + societal sense. There is a great return actualized when we fund early childhood + it is time to put full funding behind it.

Thank you

Karen Shemet

Page 1



**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.

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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.

Page 2



Kachemak Bay Conservation Society  
3734 Ben Walters Ln, Homer, AK 99603  
907 235.8214  
kbayconservation@gmail.com

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

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www.kbayconservation.org

Pg 1 of 2



South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services, Inc.  
3948 Ben Walters Lane, Homer, AK 99603

Child, Adult &  
Psychiatric  
Treatment  
907-235-7701  
Fax:  
907-235-2290

2/5/14

To whom it may concern;

24 hour  
Emergency  
Services

Rehab  
Services  
The Annex  
907-235-6990

DD Services  
PRIDE Program  
907-235-7805  
Fax:  
907-235-7834

[www.spbhs.org](http://www.spbhs.org)

I want to take a moment to strongly advocate for continued funding for the Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC). My journey as a care coordinator partnering with the CBC began in a way that is far too common for many agencies that serve Alaskans who are at high risk of institutionalization. In working with a young man who has exhibited a range of behaviors related directly to his own safety as well as the safety of those who work with him (assaulting family, school personal and our agency personnel), I received a frantic phone call from his parents begging me to find an institutional placement as they felt they had no options and no place to turn after another assault. The truth is that as a state we lack the resources and expertise to serve such individuals in our smaller, more rural communities. When you look at residential or institutional programs in Alaska you will find limited options with few beds available if any, as a number of beds are reserved for OCS children. When you couple that with the fact that clients such as mine have special needs, due to the particular presentation of their developmental disability, and in this case a client who is both dually diagnosed with mental illness and genetic abnormality, I shared the hopelessness and deep concern these parents were experiencing.

It was at this point that I discovered the CBC as a resource to work with Alaskans who are at immanent risk of institutionalization. As we began the process of developing a team which would implement the ABA plan, a new hope that we might prevent this young man from losing his home and community arose. We were able to work intensively with mental health services as well as with the school and family. In particular, as the school was seeing a large percentage of daily aggressive and non-compliant behaviors, the CBC was able to work in the school setting and train the para-professionals to implement behavior strategies specifically designed for this young man. As you can imagine, where there was a sense of failure and desperation, this new team felt empowerment and hope.

We are still meeting bi-weekly as a comprehensive team to help this young man. I can say with certainty that if the CBC was not in existence, our client would be institutionalized in a setting far from home, which might not provide the level of support he requires to find success and some day return to his community and family.

Page 2 of 2

Today we have reached out to the CBC and found support to keep five of our participants in our community. The strategies that we learn working with the CBC help us better serve many of our most challenged individuals.

As a care coordinator having been involved in social services in Alaska over the past thirteen years, I want you to know that the CBC plays a pivotal and vital role in reducing both present and future expenses related to institutional and residential treatment for behaviorally challenged Alaskans. There is no other such program or resource which exists to meet this need in our rural communities.

Sincerely,



Sean Jones  
Care Coordinator



South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services, Inc.  
3948 Ben Walters Lane, Homer, AK 99603

Child, Adult &  
Psychiatric  
Treatment  
907-235-7701  
Fax:  
907-235-2290

2/5/14

To Whom It May Concern;

24 hour  
Emergency  
Services

Rehab  
Services  
The Annex  
907-235-6990

DD Services  
PRIDE Program  
907-235-7805  
Fax:  
907-235-7834

[www.spbhs.org](http://www.spbhs.org)

The PRIDE Program was successful in having a youth we serve accepted by the Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC) and we are currently working with them to craft and implement a behavior management program specifically tailored for this youth. We are in the process of completing a second referral to the CBC and are hopeful that it will be accepted as well. Along with improving the quality of life for the individual served and reducing the likelihood of an institutional placement, this program works to increase the knowledge base and capacity of local providers/community, enabling even more individuals to benefit from the process.

In July of 2012, we made our first referral for a teenage boy who experiences significant Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness. This young man is impulsive and finds it difficult to anticipate the consequences of his behavior. He is frequently assaultive of his parents, direct service providers, and peers. He has a history of sexually inappropriate behaviors and requires continual, close supervision in all environments for his safety and that of others. This youth has an intense need for constant attention causing teachers, parents, direct service providers alike find him extremely challenging and exhausting to supervise, mentor, and teach. He is at high risk for institutionalization.

Our agency has served this youth for several years with both waiver services and mental health treatment yet his challenging behaviors appeared to be beyond our capacity. We were unable to effect significant, sustained improvement in his behavior. His parents were at the point of sending him to an institutional placement at the time we requested the assistance of the CBC.

The CBC sent us an expert in Applied Behavioral Analysis, Phillip Tafts, MSW, BCBA of the CHD, who has been able to work closely with the treatment team, family, and school. He has been a tremendous source of knowledge and support. He has been able to evaluate this situation and design a plan for this youth. He has taught new skills to the team enabling them to regain confidence, perspective, and increase their ability to manage this youth's behaviors, which will hopefully improve his quality of life and increase his independence.

I urge you to continue funding this extremely valuable resource. It seems to be the most effective way to prevent institutional placements and increase agency/community capacity. This program is also cost effective and requires a fraction of the funding need to support Alaskans in placements in other states.

Thank you for your continued support of this critical project.

Susan Drathman  
PRIDE Program Director

3/5/14

To Whom It May Concern at Alaska State Legislature:

I have been involved with providing services for Alaskans with disabilities for 23 years. I support funding to continue the Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC). The Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC) has been the most practical and useful training program the State has ever offered to disabilities programs in my opinion. With consultation and training for caregivers and community providers, people with disabilities with truly challenging behaviors are given a chance to remain in their communities. CBC offers constructive solutions for the teams that serve Alaskans with disabilities and a way to develop management plans designed specifically for individuals with challenging behaviors to avoid crisis and remain in their communities and homes.

The CBC program serves Alaskans of all ages who have mental illness, a head injury, dementia, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, substance abuse use or trauma disorders. Since the CBC has just recently been started in FY 13 & 14 and has proven to be very successful throughout communities it has served in Alaska, annualized funding in FY 15 needs to be continued.

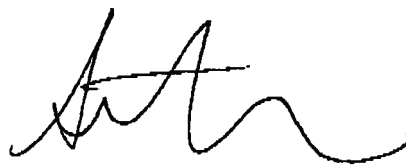
The communities in Alaska already served by this successful training program will be seriously lacking without CBC continuing (and potentially expanding), due to all of the solution based positive results it has helped disability programs develop. The state is better serving complex behaviorally challenged individuals with disabilities because of CBC and I know the program I work for is greatly improved and offers caregivers and providers more skills to improve the lives of Alaskans with developmental disabilities. Please continue funding for this unique and important behavior management consultation and training program.

Sincerely,



Meg Mitchell, Case Manager PRIDE Program

- For the record, I am an employee of KBRR (henceforth referred to as Reserve) through ADFG-SPORTFISH (henceforth SportFish). I am speaking today from the perspective of a concerned citizen.
- In the interest of time, I am going to defer testimony already provided about the value RESERVE serves not only to the Homer community but the entire state of Alaska.
- 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 AIOVC, the modular facility on Kachemak Drive (houses Kasitsna Bay Lab personnel, NPS, DNR, other), and Bay Av lab storage facility- to name a few. An amount that may be in the hundreds of thousands to millions of \$.
- Further, using federal funds RESERVE contributes \$133k annually to the operation of AIOVC, 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.

  
Stacey Buckelew  
03-05-14



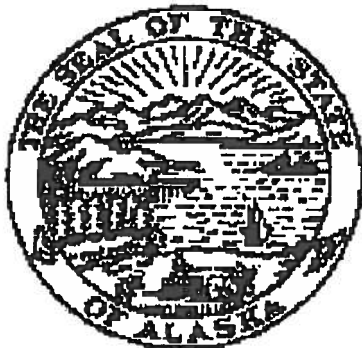
## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Dr. Martin Renner  
Representing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill No./Subject: House bill 266  
Committee: House Finance Committee  
Date of Hearing: 5 March 2014

I am deeply concerned about the funding cut of the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve from the ADFG budget. All of us living here in Homer and around the bay are closely connected to the sea - whether we realize this or not. The research reserve serves a vital role, providing applied ecological research serving our community. Without this research, informed management decisions are impossible.

The research reserve also provides a great service to local schools, offering field trips, discovery-tables, and education during the extremely popular shorebird festival. My two children have frequently participated in the programs, which has enriched their lives in a permanent way.

Needless to say, ~~deleting~~ <sup>closing</sup> the research reserve would cause economical hardship to the entire community in Homer. I urge you to fight for reinstating funding to KBRR. Thank you for your consideration. Martin Renner

**State of Alaska  
Ketchikan Legislative  
Information Office**1900 First Ave, Suite 310, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
Phone: (907) 225-9875 Fax (907) 225-8546**Fax**

To: <u>HFIN</u>	From: _____
Fax: <u>465-4956</u>	Pages: <u>5 w/cover</u>
Phone: _____	Date: <u>3-6-14</u>
Re: _____	CC: _____

☐ Urgent    ☐ For Review    ☐ Please Comment    ☐ Please Reply    ☐ Please Recycle

## • Comments:

Written testimony for HB266 / HB267

March 5, 2014

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

My name is Carlen Williams, Director of the Southeast Area Health Education Center (SE AHEC) of legislative district 33. SE AHEC is a regional center that has been located in Ketchikan and hosted by Peacehealth Ketchikan Medical Center for the last year. SE AHEC is one of five regional AHEC centers that are all hosted by a community organization. This not only ensures community buy in but allows equal access to AHEC programing that fits the needs of our diverse regions.

The overall Alaska AHEC programing uses a pipeline approach to health careers. We engage high school students to the possibilities of health focused careers as a future path of employment. We coordinate and support clinical rotations to post-secondary students enrolled in health career educational programs. We provide continuing education (CE) opportunities to our current health care providers. It is the regional centers job to make sure these activities fit the needs of their region.

We are not only trying to grow our own health care providers but keep them here in Alaska.

The Alaska AHEC is not an extravagant program. Each center across the state is minimally staffed with very tight budgets to achieve long lasting programing. Collaboration and partnerships is our top priority in any project we are involved in.

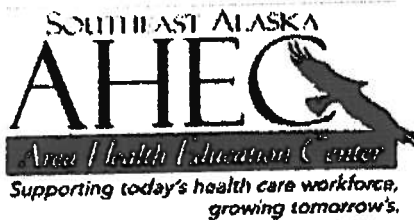
I am respectfully requesting that the Alaska AHEC budget line item in the University of Alaska budget be reinstated to the full amount of \$652,900.

Without the reinstated Alaska AHEC budget line item into the UA budget the statewide program will be drastically affected including the closure of the Southeast AHEC regional center.

Thank you for your time,



Director



3100 Tongass, Ketchikan, AK 99901

907 228 8455 office

907 228 8324 fax

cwilliams@peacehealth.org

Miranda Robles  
5324 N Tongass Highway  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
March 5, 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. I came here from California where I was working at a minimum wage job and could only pay my rent and gas. My family discouraged me from moving but I could not envision that life for me.

I learned about AHEC and worked two jobs while going to school for my CNA license. I am a hard worker and was lucky enough to be offered three jobs within two days of graduating. Though it was nerve-wracking to wait for my testing before I could actually accept a job, that encouragement from AHEC helped me realize that there was a better path for me. AHEC gave me courage and confidence in myself. AHEC helped navigate the paperwork at the university. AHEC gave me guidance about budgeting and filling out loan forms.

Now, I work at the Pioneer Home and am on my way to becoming a full-time nurse. My CNA credential gave me a hope and a great start. It would not have happened without AHEC's help. Now two of my friends are also at the University of Alaska campus in Ketchikan because of me, one in the sciences and another in nursing.

I urge you to maintain funding for AHEC.

Sincerely,



Miranda Robles  
Nursing Student supported by AHEC



# Klawock City School District

P.O. Box 9 Klawock, Alaska 99925 907-755-2220 Fax: 907-755-2913

Jim Holien  
Superintendent

Kelli Larson  
K-12 Principal

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

To: Alaska State Legislators  
From: Jim Holien – Superintendent

Dear Legislators,

This is a letter of support for Alaska AHEC and the programs they operate. Klawock School has just formed a relationship with AHEC and our students are benefitting from their programs. Currently, we are offering an Intro To Health Careers class to our students, which is supported by AHEC. Without their support, we could not offer this class to our students.

Like many schools across the state, our student population is declining and our budget is shrinking. Klawock does not have the resources to offer new classes to our students and AHEC has been invaluable to our school by providing this opportunity.

I request that the Alaska AHEC budget line item in the UA budget be reinstated. This has a direct impact on our students and it allows them access to classes and programs Klawock School cannot offer alone.

Thank you for your time, efforts, and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Holien", written over a vertical line.

Jim Holien  
Superintendent

Christa Bruce  
5129 N Tongass  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
March 5, 2014

To: Members of the House Finance Committee

Re: Alaska's AHEC

Southeast AHEC is one of five regional AHEC centers in Alaska. Alaska AHEC is dedicated to recruiting and training our own health care professionals and strengthening rural practice. To that end, our center has vigorously pursued students interested in health-related careers. We know that workforce development--investing in our own population--will significantly strengthen our ability to fill the gap in numbers of rural providers--doctors, nurses, CNAs, dentists, imaging specialists, to name a few.

In the last year and a half, Southeast AHEC in Ketchikan has facilitated and/or supported financially more than 40 student caregivers. We have become the go-to place for people in our region who want to train or re-train in health careers. AHEC's scope is bringing new hope for employment to people who recognize the tremendous needs in health care in Alaska. The future for skilled people is bright here.

The University of Alaska is key to program support as we work to support students doing their clinical rotations in Alaska. We have shown through longitudinal data (made possible by UAA) that students doing clinical work in Alaska do return as providers. That is good news for us.

Our curricular outreach is also strong in the public schools and interest is growing. We have partnered with several schools to implement "Intro to Health Careers" and begin a strong Career and Technical Ed (CTE) pathway. The university has made it possible to offer a dual-credit option which is particularly appealing to parents.

AHEC is gaining a reputation for helping students navigate a health career pathway. We need program guidance and support from the university to help overcome the obstacles students face.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,



Christa Bruce  
Education Coordinator  
Southeast AHEC  
3100 Tongass Avenue  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
907.228.8456

