

# **House Finance Committee**

## **HB 72 — Operating Budget**

**Written Testimony**

**Through 11 a.m. — March 3, 2015**

**From:** [Joseph Lambert](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Info needed on ADS funding change  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 5:51:49 PM

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To whom it may be concerned:

We were told today that a change has occurred to funding to our local Senior Center.

We are and will be greatly affected by any reduction in funding to ADS. Such reduction in funding will reduces services provided.

What will likely come about by this may lead to many sole providers of in home care of disabled seniors to transfer the sole responsibility to State to provide 24 hour a day care of our charges.

This would far exceed your planned cut to funding here. In our case this is our primary support for respite, activities, and social engagement. This is not run like some wasteful entity. The primary function is personal care {Basic stuff} they do it satisfactory to assure trust of family's with there family member.

In this sunset of my Fathers life we would like to see more discussion here as for my father he can no longer advocate for His needs and welfare. I would appreciate hearing from someone on this matter.

I can spare some time if needed to this as I am a GUARDIAN//PCA for my Father 24 hours a day except the 20 hours or so he gets to attend ADS.

Sincerely, Joseph [Dave] Lambert 745-0113

825 S. Diomedes St.

Palmer, Alaska 99645

**From:** [Debbie](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** \$500,000 cut to adult day programs  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 8:05:04 PM

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House Finance Committee

Deborah Weeks  
11521 Crimsonview Dr.  
Palmer, AK 99645

March 2, 2015

House Finance Committee,

Please don't cut funding to our adult day service programs.

Until recently I was the primary caregiver to my mother who suffered from advanced Alzheimer's. A couple of months ago, on December 6, 2014 my mother passed away. She was a recipient of the adult day program here in Palmer for the past 14 months of her life. With the daily program they offer I was able to fulfill my mother's wishes and allow her to stay at home with family rather than going in an institutionalized setting to care for her declining needs. This adult day program allowed me to continue working a few hours a day that I would have been unable to do otherwise. Had it not been for the excellent care that we received at the Adult Day Services, I most likely would have had to place my mother in a nursing facility in which we could not afford, my mother would have been eligible for medicaid, and the state would have ended up having to foot the bill at several thousand dollars each month. Adult day service programs oftentimes allow family members to keep our loved ones home much longer. Most people would rather stay home if possible and it is obviously much more cost effective. With these adult day programs, an elderly parent is able to remain at home with family caregivers while the state saves money and saves space in our nursing homes. Sounds like a win-win situation! Please don't cut the funding to these adult day programs, that our family, and so many others, depend on.

Deborah Weeks  
(907)355-8202

**From:** [Amy Anderson](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** HB 73  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:18:11 AM

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The service provided by the Forget Me Not Adult Day facility in Kenai Alaska is invaluable to those in our community who attend.

It is a blessing and a privilege for my father Robert William Brennan to attend the adult day program offered by Forget Me Not.

He is a stroke victim, suffers with stroke onset dementia combined with receptive/expressive aphasia, fine motor skills impairment and ambulatory weakness.

Prior to his involvement in the Forget Me Not program Dad was becoming less communicative and more despondent. Our (my husband & I) work and "life"

schedules were approaching unmanageable due to the round the clock care giving. Dad now looks forward to going to Forget Me Not and is improving

as has our family schedule.

The staff at Forget Me Not are knowledgeable, caring and extremely supportive to those in the program and their care givers. They are committed to planning

and executing a healthy, wholesome, fun environment that promotes social interaction, fellowship, camaraderie and physical wellness. Their devotion to the welfare,

happiness and improving the quality of life of the individuals in the program is infinite and unconditional.

To cut funding to this amazing adult day program will be a tremendous injustice to the staff and the folks they serve.

PLEASE reconsider HB73, as cuts to the Adult Day programs will deny services by virtue of affordability to those who need and benefit from them most.

Sincerely,

Amy Anderson

rockinga@gci.net

4804 Strawberry Road

Kenai, Alaska 99611

cell#918-906-8343

**From:** [Janet Beeter](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Adult Day Services Cut HB #73  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 9:28:40 PM

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We are Alaskan seniors, we contribute to our economy. Our community and their families depend on the Adult Day services, My father was a recipient of their services, this was a safe place for him and it also gave our family and his caregivers a break. The first time I brought my father to the ADS, center he cried he thought I was leaving him there. I felt real sad leaving him there, but when I came back to pick him up he was happy, he said , " I met nice friends today and they are just like me we can't take care of ourselves anymore." Adult Day Services is a very valuable support system for our community.

Thank you for your consideration on this very important bill.

Sincerely,

Janet Beeter

Palmer Senior Citizens Inc.

d.b.a. Mat-Su Senior Services  
President and Board Member

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**From:** [Joseph Lambert](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Info needed on ADS funding change  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:18:11 AM

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To whom it may be concerned:

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Sincerely, Joseph [Dave] Lambert 745-0113

825 S. Diomedes St.

Palmer, Alaska 99645

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Licha Kelley-King <rendezvous@kpunet.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 9:34 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** budget cuts to Adult Day Services

Good morning—

I am writing to ask for support to continue the entire funding to the Adult Day Grant program. As the Director of the Rendezvous Senior Day Services, in Ketchikan, I see first hand every day the benefits of this program to our community seniors.

The Rendezvous Adult Day Service is a planned program of activities designed to promote well-being through social and health-related services. The Rendezvous Day Service operates during daytime hours, 8am to 4pm, Monday through Friday, in a safe, supportive, cheerful environment. Nutritious meals that accommodate special diets are included, along with an afternoon snack. Rendezvous is not a “drop in” center. Members come for periods of time, not only for meals.

The Rendezvous Adult Day Center's goals focus on enriching the participants' lives, building upon their skills, knowledge, and unique abilities and strengths.

Candidates for the Rendezvous Adult Day Service are seniors who can benefit from the friendship and functional assistance the day center offers, may be physically or cognitively challenged but do not require 24-hour supervision, are in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, are mobile, with the possible assistance of a cane, walker, or wheelchair. These Seniors are people that cannot or should not be home alone for long periods of time but certainly can maintain an independent household with the help of caregivers.

As the population of Alaska ages, these Adult Day Centers are critically important to keeping our loved ones at home. The cost of a nursing facility is huge—far more than the Adult Day Centers. Ninety (90) percent of our Members income fall below the poverty line and depend on Rendezvous for a warm meal every day. Please, keep funding for this and the other Adult Day programs for the Seniors of Alaska.

Licha Kelley-King, Executive Director, Rendezvous Senior Day Services, Inc. Ketchikan

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Virginia Palmer <bgpalmer@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 9:54 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Adult daycare

I am writing to you in support of adult day care. My husband was W.i. Bob Palmer. He was a Alaska state Senator in the early 60s, worked in the Governors Office with Jay Hammond and in fact manager his first campaign for governor. In 1998 Bob was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. He died in 2004. He was able to stay at home with me until he died because of the adult day care. It saved my life and enriched his until the end. Please don't remove funding from this program. Some day you or someone in your family may need. Sincerely Virginia Palmer 907 957 0227.  
Sent from my iPad



**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** jonathon wyckoff <redhelldragon@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 12:08 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Alaska Construction Academy Funding

Hello, my name is Jonathan Wyckoff. I took a class through the ACA a little while back for electrical training. Shortly thereafter I went and applied for an apprenticeship at the IBEW. I received an interview and was able to impress the members present by showing my determination in the field of work by attending the class before applying. If it had not been for the class, I would not have known some of the basic principles I now know and I would not be #2 on the apprenticeship list waiting to be indentured. When the class was over, the instructor gave everyone information on how to put the classes teachings to use gaining employment, which I had no idea how to start along the road I needed to be on to join the electrical field. I am very grateful for the services they provided and all they have done to help me start down a path towards a job that will be a long time career instead of dead-end jobs with no real advancement. Please, continue funding to this group as I am sure it will help many more as it has helped me.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,  
Jonathan Wyckoff

**From:** [leanne allen](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** budget cuts SE Alaska libraries  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 7:42:26 PM

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I am writing in regards to the proposed budget cuts in small town Craig Alaska. Please we cannot have this happen. This small community relies on these services. These services keep many at risk kids (which are most of the kids here) out of trouble. I have two small children myself and we are accessing services from the library each and every week. I seriously don't know what I would do here without them. Our tiny little library holds so many of us together, including out sanity at times. We cannot have this happen.

Desperately pleading,

Leanne

**From:** [Patricia Abney](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Anchorage youth court  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 2:24:11 PM

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Please fund the youth court it is the most successful tool we have in preventing recidivism of crime and helping youth become productive citizens.

It is money well spent to save lots of money in the future.

Sincerely

Pat Abney

Sent from my iPhone

4 Nickerson, Suite 400, Seattle, WA 98109  
P.O. Box 31179, Seattle, WA 98103-1179  
P (206) 726-9900 F (206) 726-1571  
www.northpacificseafoods.com



3/3/2015

Representative Mark Neuman  
Chairman  
Alaska State House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Neuman,

North Pacific Seafoods operates seafood processing plants in Sitka, Kodiak and Bristol Bay. We buy fish from hundreds of independent fishermen and process virtually every species commercially harvested in Alaska.

We are deeply concerned about proposed cuts to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI). ASMI has played a crucial role in promoting Alaska seafood both domestically and internationally, raising the overall value of Alaska seafood. These higher values in turn have resulted in greater tax revenues for the State of Alaska and local communities.

There is intense competition for the consumers money – not just from seafood but from all protein sources. ASMI's marketing budget is dwarfed by that of virtually all major protein suppliers (chicken, beef and pork for example), and it is also outspent by other seafood producers. Russia for example recently announced a \$100 million subsidy to its fishing industry to be used primarily to compete against US seafood (the majority of which comes from Alaska). This is particularly aggravating because Russia has barred the importation of US seafood (which was an important market for certain Alaska products) yet is allowed to sell Russian production into the US.

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**Alaska Pacific Seafoods**

627 Shelikof Street  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
P (907) 486-3234  
F (907) 486-5164

**Pederson Point**

P.O. Box 99  
Naknek, Alaska 99633  
P (907) 246-4461  
F (907) 246-6657

**Sitka Sound Seafoods**

329 Katlian Street  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
P (907) 747-6662  
F (907) 747-6268

**Togiak Fisheries**

P.O. Box 30  
Togiak, Alaska 99678  
P (907) 493-5331  
F (907) 493-5133

**Red Salmon**

P.O. Box 10  
Naknek, Alaska 99633  
P (907) 246-6809  
F (907) 246-6810

**Ocean Resources Internatio**

P.O. Box 31179  
Seattle, WA 98103-1179  
P (206) 726-9900  
F (206) 726-1667

You should also be aware that the markets for Alaska products are difficult at this time. Exchange rates have had a significant negative effect on the value of Alaska seafood in the export markets, and a generally depressed market for seafood around the world. This is not the time to cut ASMI's budget.

It is understood that the budget crisis is real. We hope that if there are cuts to the ASMI budget that they will be measured and temperate – we need a strong ASMI now more than ever.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Garner".

John Garner  
COO

**From:** [Joe Childers](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** ASMI Funding testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 7:42:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [ASMI Testimony 1.pdf](#)

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Please distribute this testimony to the people listed in the heading. Thank you in advance.

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Joe Childers  
907.723.5257

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

To House Finance: Neuman, Thompson, Saddler, Edgmon, Gattis, Munoz, Pruitt, Wilson, Gara, Guttenberg, Kawasaki

Also cc to Rep. Chenault, Johnson & Olson  
And to Governor, Lt Gov, and DCED.

Re: Possible cuts to ASMI budget

You either do know or should know that Alaska Seafood is the only truly sustainable natural resource based industry in Alaska. After more than 120 years of continuous exploitation all commercial stocks are at or near their all-time high abundance levels. This resource-based industry is the largest single private sector employer in Alaska, and has always been so!

Further, sustainable seafood is an iconic symbol of Alaska. All over the world people know about our clean pristine wilderness environment that is inextricably tied to our sustainable seafood. Everyone knows that here at least man has chosen wisely and followed a path toward sustainability.

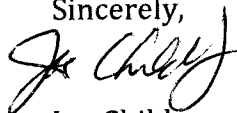
Funding for ASMI provides the engine to promote the beauty of Alaska more than any other thing that we do! ASMI works tirelessly to tell every citizen, in every country on every continent, that we have chosen a path toward an abundant future. We tell the world through ASMI, that we have chosen wisely.

Please don't cut off your noses to spite your collective faces right now! People come from all over the world to experience Alaska. They don't come because there are cruise ships, or giant oil fields, or big open pit mines! They come because the water is pure, the air is clean, and wild things live here.

Don't cut the ASMI budget! Increase it! It's the smart thing to do. It's the right thing to do.

Choose wisely

Sincerely,



Joe Childers

645 G St, Ste 500-101  
Anchorage, Ak 99501

**From:** [Aaron Fields](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Please keep funding akwp  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 5:31:02 PM

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As a registered voter in the state of Alaska and student in akwp I see no reason or benefit to the people of Alaska in cutting any form of funding to free education programs such as akwp and ask they remain funded for the foreseeable future  
Sent from my Windows Phone



**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Anna White <annaw@searhc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2015 3:54 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Best Beginnings, Parents As Teachers, and Pre-K

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

My name is Anna J. White, I am a parent and Nurtiriton Educator for the WIC Program. Please reinstate full funding for Best Beginnings, Parents As Teachers, and Pre-K. These programs are important to our community, our communities young children, and young families. My own children love the books that we receive from the imagination library. Even though my oldest has now graduated from the program he continues to love books! When I first became a parent I don't think I would have thought to run out and buy my new baby a book, but felt more encouraged every time a book showed up in my mail box to open it and read it immediately! As my children grew they became more and more excited every time a book showed up. At the WIC office I keep the registration forms and encourage parents to sign up if they haven't already! Give them the web address to AVEC to find out about all the great programs they offer. I attended several parenting classes as well through AVEC services they offer. You may already know Juneau is full of very young parents and without these programs can only lead to more problems for Juneau's children when they start school.

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Anna White  
WIC Nutrition Educator, CLC  
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium  
3245 Hospital Drive  
Juneau Alaska 99801  
907-463-4099

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**From:** [Eileen Floyd](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Unable to make the rally on Saturday  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 4:17:55 PM

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From a concerned Alaskan.

From: <[kayleebug14@aol.com](mailto:kayleebug14@aol.com)>  
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 10:46 PM  
To: Laura Cisneros <[lcisneros@bestbeginningsalaska.org](mailto:lcisneros@bestbeginningsalaska.org)>  
Subject: Unable to make the rally on Saturday

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kaylee Jenkins. I am a Registered Nurse and mother to an incredible 14 month old boy. I received this email and am saddened upon hearing that Best Beginnings is in danger of losing funding for the Imagination Library. I unfortunately have to work on Saturday all day and am unable to attend this meeting. I wanted to convey via email my opinions on this program in hopes that you can share this with the gathering at the Library on Saturday.

I signed up for the Imagination Library when I was in the hospital after having my son. I kept thinking to myself that there must be some sort of a "catch." There was no way that my child could receive books every month FOR FREE. Shipping, a few dollars a month, hidden fees, I was not sure how this was possible. In doing research I found out more about your wonderful program. My son LOVES reading the books provided by Imagination Library, and we look forward to getting our monthly book in the mail. BY FAR his favorite book to read is Little Loon and Papa from 10-11 months ago. He loves reading this book. We read it every day. He makes some of the Loon sounds with me, and he anticipates upcoming pages. These books provided have captivated my son on so many levels, and we enjoy reading together. Over the past few months, I catch my son in his room, by himself, leafing through books and "cooing" aka reading to himself. I know that it is because of your program. Thank you for giving my son the gift of reading and the convenience to be able to receive a book every month to our own front doorstep. I know that because of your program, he is going to have a head start in school, and that your program will have lifelong rewards. If there is anything I can do to help with getting the funding for Best Beginnings, I would be glad to do!

Kaylee Jenkins

**From:** [Amie Ericksen](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Funding Re: HB 72 & 73  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 4:41:55 PM

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As a member of a small community on Prince of Wales Island, I am writing in to voice my opinion on keeping the funding intact for internet access programs and the funding of broadband in our libraries. This access and the programs it supports has become vital to the success of so many people in our community. Not everyone has the ability to have internet access in their home. Even with internet access, not everyone is able to use this powerful engine to gain educational tools, employability tools, etc., on their own. What the teleconferencing capabilities of our local library actual is for rural Alaskans is a huge window to the rest of the world; one that is closed to many Alaskans unable to travel beyond their isolated community. Keep funding for literacy, keep funding for distance-education courses, keep funding for early-childhood intervention, keep funding for growth, progress and prosperity.

All of this is accomplished by funding our libraries!

Thank you for your careful consideration,

Amie Ericksen

**TANANA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MAUDREY J. SOMMER SCHOOL**

P.O. Box 89  
89 River Street  
Tanana, Alaska 99777  
Telephone: (907) 366-7203 Fax: 7201  
*Therese Ashton, Superintendent*



March 2, 2015

House Finance Committee

I want to take a moment to thank all the people who have worked to get the broadband needed into all our schools. I am sure you are aware that without consistent broadband it is difficult to conduct school business using technology in a variety of ways to get the best education possible. It is an ever-changing landscape of changing devices, multitude of application choices, newer and effective ways to guide and teach students what they need to know for their uncertain futures. What hasn't changed and will only increase is the need for good broadband.

Twice in one month I have chaperoned the basketball team this month to two different districts, one rural and one in a populated borough. I intended for my students to go on their iPads to work online and communicate with their teachers who were not on the trip as well as to continue working on my own tasks as superintendent. We were not able to do so in either district. This meant that though we were prepared to work as usual we were not able to do so. This isn't a story to highlight a particular district's need for broadband but rather to make sure that there are no pockets of haves and have nots in our state when it comes to providing the educational opportunities no matter where are students may be.

I appreciate the Broadband Assistance Grant that makes it possible for us to raise our broadband for the last three months of our school year. I hope we will be getting this grant for the next school year so that we can plan for this opportunity as it does affect what we will be able to do with our students. To compete in the world-wide market we really need to make use of the opportunity to increase our students' knowledge and comfort with not just using technology but judging it and critically determining how best to use it and when. Unless we have appropriate broadband it will be difficult to guide our students now for their future lives in a technology-based world. Please reconsider this very important decision.

Sincerely,

Thérèse Ashton  
Superintendent

From: [Ken Larson](#)  
To: [House Finance](#)  
Subject: Alaska Budget Testimony  
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:15:25 AM  
Importance: High

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Gentlefolk:

My wife and I have raised a family and lived and worked in Alaska since 1984, out of North Pole, Alaska. We currently run a small Halibut and Salmon Charter and Lodge out of Valdez, AK in the summers. Our suggestions for eliminating the budget deficit are prioritized as follows:

1) First and foremost, restore the ACES Oil Taxes that Parnell's elimination of, most assuredly was a major factor in voting him out of office. I've worked on the North Slope and there's no way Big Oil is about to leave the golden egg proven reserves they have up there, nor do they want to even THINK about having to remove and clean up the vast infrastructure they have up there, if they leave. When most of Big Oil's profits in Alaska equal the rest of their world wide profits combined, they want to stay!

2) Get ANWR open for development.

3) Forgo the Annual individual PFD payouts as necessary to balance the budget.

4) Institute a State Sales Tax on Non-residents that could be seasonally adjusted, with targeted goods and services, and even on Residents if required. But in no way go to a State Income Tax!

5) Cut the bloated non-teaching school administration and so-called support staff above the individual school level. We've seen too much of this waste first hand.

6) Cut support of Public Broadcasting until revenues improve.

7) Cut support of sports at college and high school levels until revenues improve.

8) Do the jobs you were elected for and make the tough calls and ignore all the well paid lobbyists, especially those recovering politicians who now work in that so-called profession.

Thanks,

Ken L & Marla J Larson

1074 Eliz Street

North Pole, AK 99705

(907) 488-2960

**From:** [Doris Robbins](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Budget cuts  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 4:00:20 PM

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If UAF is to remain viable any further cuts must be avoided. Particularly cuts to core management and to education must be stopped. If cuts go forward all our kids will need to head outside for a reliable education.

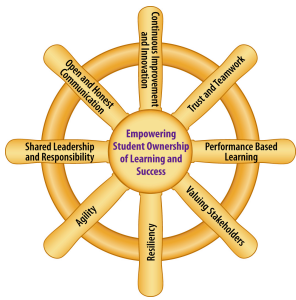
Thanks,

Doris Robbins

1281 Overhill Dr.

Fairbanks AK 99709-6753

Sent from my iPhone



# Chugach School District

9312 Vanguard Drive, Suite 100

Anchorage, AK 99507-5355

(907) 522-7400 Phone

(907) 522-3399 Fax

[chugachschools.com](http://chugachschools.com)

Dear Alaska House Finance Committee:

The Chugach School District encourages you to support the Broadband Assistance Grant for FY16. We received financial assistance for our school broadband services in this current year, without which we would have remained at 2 Mbps at one of our schools, and 1.5 Mbps at our other schools. This low bandwidth not only had a negative impact upon student learning opportunities, but also impacted our capacity to implement the new required online state assessments.

A very important aspect to note regarding the Broadband Assistance Grant is the leveraging of federal E-Rate funding. A state Broadband Assistance grant of \$292,000 allows for \$1,000,000 in overall broadband service with this leveraging. Below includes a brief list of costs and some of the educational services sorely needed in our schools to meet our charge of compulsory learning for all Alaskan students.

Chenega Bay School: 5 Mbps \$126,000 a year

Tatitlek School: 10 Mbps \$133,680 a year

Whittier School: 9 Mbps \$114,792 a year

The increased bandwidth provided by the state Broadband Assistance Grant provides:

- Faster upload and download speeds for teachers and students
- More effective use of instructional time as students don't have to wait 2-3 minutes for a page to load.
- More students to be online at a time without slow-down issues
- Video Conferencing that will actually function for distance education lessons
- Online class opportunities while other people are using the Wi-Fi as well
- Allow multiple classes of students to be involved with online classes and resources
- Creates a better testing environment for state mandated testing. Allows us to test more students at a time. Currently, to test one student we need 3mb, and we only have 1.5mb, so we can't even test students without going through a lot of extra work trying to set up a LCS server.
- Cuts the loading wait time for our schools by 80%.
- Allows students to have access to rich online resources and content; students can watch and download educational videos without problems and having the buffering issues.
- Students can upload their project and videos at a reasonable speed and save time.
- Online tools work a lot more efficient and are considerably more reliable with less freeze ups of the services and school sites.

We thank you for providing this opportunity to provide our testimony on this important topic for our students.

Sincerely,

Bob Crumley  
Superintendent  
Chugach School District



Whittier Community School  
(907) 472-2575

Valdez Extension  
(907) 835-5528

Tatitlek Community School  
(907) 325-2252

Anchorage Extension  
(907) 522-7400

Chenega Bay Community School  
(907) 573-5123

Fairbanks Extension  
(907) 457-2545





**From:** [Ashlen](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska Construction Academy Funding"  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 4:41:38 AM

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Alaska construction academy is an amazing program that gives insight, skills and knowledge to so many men and women in Alaska. This program gave me an incredible opportunity and I have started a fantastic career due to their help. Im so thankful for this program and hope they continue receiving funding to help out other Alaskans!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Atisa Logo](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Anchorage Construction Academy  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 9:37:34 PM

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Hello!! My namez Atisa. Jus wanted U 2 kno tht I greatly support the Anchorage Construction Academy!!! Why? Because it has empowered me in knowledge n skill abt basic electrician. A foundation 4 me I can build n improve upon. I loved also how it was FREE!! Thank You! Many of us R short financially, so receiving ths education Free helps.

PLS continue funding ths program so more of us R empowered 2 not only improve ourselves but also help others.

""Education is the difference between wanting 2 help n being Able 2 help.""

THaNK YoU!!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Brad Buechner](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [alexisc@alaskaworks.org](mailto:alexisc@alaskaworks.org)  
**Subject:** Alaska Construction Academy Funding, Anchorage  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 8:22:11 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to share my experience and views in reference to funding for the Construction Academies and other programs associated with it.

As a transitioning veteran with more than 20 years of active duty service, the training I received at the Construction Academy aided me in broadening my horizons and guided me towards a new career decision. The training I received was second-to-none and, the personal mentorship offered up freely by the instructors was as inspirational as it was valuable.

Without the continued funding to support this program veterans, such as myself, as well as other service members transitioning from military service will miss out on an invaluable opportunity afforded to them by this training. I am certain the Construction Academies have had an indelible role in the decision of many veterans to choose a career in the trades and eased their transition into civilian career opportunities, just as it has mine.

Thank You,  
Bradley L. Buechner  
Master Sergeant, United States Army  
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson  
Sent from Windows Mail

**From:** [Charles Bohrer](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska Construction Academy (Anchorage)  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 9:27:09 PM

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## State of Alaska Legislation

I Charles Bohrer am writing this letter in support of the Alaska Construction Academy and ask that you reconsider cutting this program out of the upcoming budget.

I am currently employed as an electrician apprentice involved in building a housing complex for Cook Inlet Housing for low income people and people with disabilities. Along with two other people employed (laborer/drywall) though training provided by Alaska Construction Academy involved in this project.

I believe that this program offers great opportunities to a diverse group of people from military, minorities, and lower income who could not otherwise afford this opportunity. I also feel that this program offers Alaska a diverse job force and is an important benefit to state and its people who call it home.

Sincerely  
Charles Bohrer

**From:** [jb\\_presto@yahoo.com](mailto:jb_presto@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska Construction Academy Funding  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 5:17:28 PM

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This is an appeal to continuously fund the Construction Academy for the benefit of many Alaskans who are and will join in the construction job to keep Alaska going!

Jaime Presto  
Student, Alaska Construction Academy  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kevin Earl](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska Construction Academy Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 5:33:01 AM

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Good Morning!

I strongly support the funding of the Alaska Construction Academy. I am in the process of retiring from the military and took advantage of a free plumbing course that was outstanding and extremely helpful in my efforts to decide on a second career choice! This is a great program which I hope is continued to be funded.

Kevin Earl

**From:** [Nicole](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Construction academy  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 7:23:47 PM

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Hi

I 100% support this academy. This program was worth taking the long test, it was informative and provided contacts within the various unions. I wish they were longer because they brought me out of my shell and built confidence especially since I'm a woman in a male dominant career. I hope that this program continues and grows for future residents of Alaska. I was fortunate to take three classes, amazing teachers too!

Thank you,

Nicole Wilber

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Patrice Parker](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska Construction Academy Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:56:24 AM

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Please continue funding for the Alaska Construction Academy.

As a former construction academy manager for Alaska Works Partnership, I saw first-hand the success stories the academy classes produced. Men and women were given a chance to discover if they had the interest and the work ethic to pursue a career in the construction trades.

It was so rewarding to work with women who took not only one class but many to gain the experience to compete in traditionally male occupations. I watched men and women apply to and get accepted into rigorous training programs, both non-union and union, complete them and become heavy-equipment operators, plumbers, electricians, laborers and carpenters. I also saw our military men and women use the skills learned during their service to our country and translate it into construction careers.

What is significant about the success stories is that these men and women didn't just find jobs - they found good-paying careers that would allow them to live in Alaska and contribute to the economy.

Successful job creation programs like the Alaska Construction Academy are too valuable to discard when we need it most.

Thank you.

Patrice Parker  
1550 H Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Richard Porter](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Mike Tucker](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska Construction Academy Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:05:08 AM  
**Attachments:** [Alaska Construction Academy Funding.pdf](#)

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To whom it may concern;

Knik Tribal Council (KTC) is a federally recognized tribe, under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA) as amended for Alaska in 1936. Please accept the attached letter of support for the Alaska Construction Academy Funding. Protection of ACA funding is a vital step to the vocational needs of the Alaskan Native Peoples within the Cook Inlet region to develop programs to best meet the growing needs of our people. Knik Tribal Council is committed and will continue to coordinate our efforts with ACA to provide the best outcomes for our people.

Richard J Porter

Executive Director, Knik Tribal Council

**From:** [Ryan](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska Construction Academy Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:10:57 AM

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Hello,

I am writing in support of the Alaska Construction Academy and hoping they do not lose any funding. I have taken two trainings through them, Intro to Electrical and OSHA 10. I feel these trainings are prepping me for the career I want and pushing me in the right direction. My goal is to get into an apprenticeship, and with the training I have received through the Alaska Construction Academy I feel I will be prepared sooner than if I was not able to attend these classes. The people have all been friendly and informational and helpful. Please consider keeping the funding for this great place and I'm sure it will help many needy Alaskans get into careers.

Thank you,  
Ryan Clayton  
907-782-8422

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Steve Reeves](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska Construction Academy Funding-Anchorage, Alaska  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 10:09:37 PM

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I took the welding classes that were offered by Alaska Construction Academy in Anchorage, Alaska. This free training introduced me to multiple trades that I could enter into which I would not have been exposed to without Alaska Construction Academy. The instructors were energetic and seemed eager to help everyone, all the while encouraging us to try out different trades, at no cost to us. I believe that the cost of college discourages many people from entering into a trade and the majority of people believe that to be successful one has to attend college and earn a degree. However, with these classes being free, a major obstacle is overcome which makes the decision to try out something new a lot easier and the transition into the trades significantly smoother. This is especially true when you have never had any experience in any of the fields and are unsure of which one you would like to work in. Offering free training is a great way to start a career without entering into debt and get on the road to success, as it has with me.

From this class, I not only learned how to weld, but learned valuable interview skills that helped me get into an apprenticeship with the 302 Operating Engineers Union. Had I not received this free training, I more than likely would not have gotten into my apprenticeship. The welding and safety classes were vital to my being accepted as I had no other experience in this field. They taught me some crucial interview skills that I used when taking my interview for my current apprenticeship. I also learned what skills I might have needed in order to start in many other apprenticeships in other trades, had I not been successful in getting in with the 302.

I hope this program will still be available for many years to come, for anyone else looking to start a career but not knowing where to start. The staff are great people who genuinely want to help students with entering into a successful career, which in my opinion is somewhat rare these days. Without these classes, I am sure my future would not be heading in the direction it is now. I am grateful I had the opportunity to attend these classes. Please let them remain available to the many others out there that would benefit from having these classes.

Respectfully,

Steve Reeves

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Terri Reynolds-Rogers](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [brittnied@alaskaworks.org](mailto:brittnied@alaskaworks.org)  
**Subject:** Alaska Construction Academy Funding  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 5:52:03 PM

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I participated recently in an ACA program of beginning welding. It was three weeks long, twice a week. I found it invaluable. I learned a great deal I would not otherwise have been able to. The free course was a Godsend as I had previously investigated other courses, costing as much as \$5000 and saw no way to fund them. The free program enabled me to justify the costs of driving out to Houston from my home in Palmer. I received a certificate of participation as proof and successfully completed a small welding project using all of the techniques I have been exposed to in the course. I have applied for an apprenticeship and hope to hear soon whether I made it into that program. ACA gave me the basic skills and the confidence and knowledge base to apply. My classmates were a cross section of Alaska: three other women, two other seniors like myself, an Alaska native young man seeking to improve and broaden his welding skills and two others in their late 20s or 30s hoping to make a career change. I sincerely hope you will be able to continue support for this program. Clearly it has wide application to many Alaskans.

Terri Reynolds-Rogers

**From:** [Tyson Richardson](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** From Tyson Richardson  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:55:12 AM

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I entirely support the funding of the construction academy; for, it helps with refreshing ones skills if they had not used in a while. Case in point. A welder who has not used his trade in a while: has a ability to retrain him or herself without costing them sums of money for a trade school. Two, it allows one to improve ones skill. Two examples, a welder can move from stick to wire fed type welding, or If there problem acquiring a specific job an individual can try out a new trade like plumbing; without, it costing them. Similar to a sampling a dish without paying for the dish and deciding if they like it or not.

**From:** [Sharry Miller](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 3:02:16 PM

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Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations, and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitating criminals. As Alaska moves into a vibrant and robust future, we will need citizens that take an active and educated role in state government and our economy. Youth Court, by giving young people such as my daughter, Rowan, a chance to learn about and participate in our justice system, plays a critical role in creating the citizens Alaska needs. It is vital that Youth Court receive the funding it needs in order to help ensure our young people are able to create and sustain an Alaska we all want to live in.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, as well as about creating a sustainable future for Alaska, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sharry Miller  
Valdez, Alaska

**From:** [Kari Duame](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Construction Academy Funding  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 2:56:45 PM

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Hi, my name is Kari and I work at Aleutian Housing Authority. I have taken two Construction Academy free courses, Women in the Trades, a construction class for women, and a Lead Certified Renovator class.

I took the Women in the Trades course in between jobs with Aleutian Housing Authority and while it was not directly connected with me getting the job I have now, it definitely inspired me to continue working in the construction industry. As a woman it is easy to feel that it is an uphill battle being in a field that is very much gender-stratified. During the class I was able to hear from two women who are successful journeymen in their fields, and I was able to spend time with other women who are interested in working in the trades. It was an experience that I draw on often when I feel discouraged about my career potential in the construction industry.

It was great to take the Lead Renovator class. There have already been tangible benefits to getting that education and I doubt that AHA would have been able to send me to the class if it was not free. I have already been able to effectively manage aspects of the lead renovation projects which I am assisting with (I work in the Weatherization program). On a personal level, I was also able to advise and assist my best friend who is pregnant with assessing her house which is at risk of having lead based paint. Who knows, maybe I prevented a baby from being born with lead-related issues, because of the construction academy!

In summary, please consider continuing funding for this program. I have found it to be helpful and important.

Kari Duame

**Aleutian Housing Authority**

520 E 32 Ave Anchorage AK 99503

907 563 2146 (phone)

907 563 3105 (fax)

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the Aleutian Housing Authority. **Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. AHA accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.** ALEUTIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY DISCLAIMS ANY REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY THAT COMPANY E-MAILS ARE VIRUS FREE AND/OR ERROR FREE.



**From:** [Rob Palmer](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Early childhood education  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 3:33:33 PM

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Dear Finance Committee,

I urge you to reconsider cutting funds for early childhood education in Alaska. While I understand that Alaska is facing a very difficult budget shortfall and that funds must be cut, I would like you consider the future of our state and country before cutting early childhood education.

While we face financial hardships today, we must also be looking towards building a better future. Our children are that future and it is vitally important that they receive a great education. After all, they will be the ones deciding important things about our own future as we age! Numerous studies have shown that the first three years of our lives are crucial for brain development. The major difference between brain development in a child versus learning an adult is a matter of degree: the brain is far more impressionable (neuroscientists use the term plastic) in early life than in maturity. This plasticity has both a positive and a negative side. On the positive side, it means that young children's brains are more open to learning and enriching influences. On the negative side, it also means that young children's brains are more vulnerable to developmental problems should their environment prove especially impoverished or un-nurturing.

Early education programs like Parent As Teachers (PAT) are extremely important in helping families to understand the importance of nurturing and teaching our children. They also help spot problems early, thus getting children the help that they need to become successful adults. My daughter is currently enrolled in the PAT program in Juneau. As a first time dad, this program has been invaluable to my family! We have learned so many valuable skills from this program including better ways to interact with our daughter in order to encourage her curiosity and learning. This is a fantastic community resource that will improve the lives of children. I am a much better parent because of this program. Let us not forget that knowledge is power and that raising children is a community effort. Children do not come with owner's manuals, programs like PAT give parent the tools to help their children thrive.

While I know that you will have to make many difficult decisions while balancing the budget, I urge you consider our future and to not cut educational programs for children. Doing so will have a very negative effect on all of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Rob Palmer, Juneau AK

**From:** [Rob Palmer](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Early childhood education  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 3:33:33 PM

---

Dear Finance Committee,

I urge you to reconsider cutting funds for early childhood education in Alaska. While I understand that Alaska is facing a very difficult budget shortfall and that funds must be cut, I would like you consider the future of our state and country before cutting early childhood education.

While we face financial hardships today, we must also be looking towards building a better future. Our children are that future and it is vitally important that they receive a great education. After all, they will be the ones deciding important things about our own future as we age! Numerous studies have shown that the first three years of our lives are crucial for brain development. The major difference between brain development in a child versus learning an adult is a matter of degree: the brain is far more impressionable (neuroscientists use the term plastic) in early life than in maturity. This plasticity has both a positive and a negative side. On the positive side, it means that young children's brains are more open to learning and enriching influences. On the negative side, it also means that young children's brains are more vulnerable to developmental problems should their environment prove especially impoverished or un-nurturing.

Early education programs like Parent As Teachers (PAT) are extremely important in helping families to understand the importance of nurturing and teaching our children. They also help spot problems early, thus getting children the help that they need to become successful adults. My daughter is currently enrolled in the PAT program in Juneau. As a first time dad, this program has been invaluable to my family! We have learned so many valuable skills from this program including better ways to interact with our daughter in order to encourage her curiosity and learning. This is a fantastic community resource that will improve the lives of children. I am a much better parent because of this program. Let us not forget that knowledge is power and that raising children is a community effort. Children do not come with owner's manuals, programs like PAT give parent the tools to help their children thrive.

While I know that you will have to make many difficult decisions while balancing the budget, I urge you consider our future and to not cut educational programs for children. Doing so will have a very negative effect on all of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Rob Palmer, Juneau AK

**From:** [Amber Miller](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Early education program  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 8:25:22 PM

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Hello,

I would like to express my concern about the Early Education funding cut. I am the mother of a 21 month old and I have really appreciated the monthly Dolly Parton books we have been receiving! My son loves reading and getting new books in the mail. I think cutting this from our community will be devastating. There are many families that may not make time to go check out books at the library for their children and these books are their only opportunity for exposure to reading with their parents.

Please consider keeping this great program in our small community!! I believe the benefits will last a lifetime.

Thank you,

Amber

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Averyl Veliz](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Please fund Early Education programs!  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:04:31 AM

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To whom it may concern;

It was never my intention to be a stay-at-home-mom. I have a master's degree that I still have every intention of making use of. However, when we decided to move here and start a family in Juneau 5 years ago, we were completely unprepared for the extremely tight child care market in both cost and availability. I had our son on a couple wait lists around town so I could get a job, but it took between 14-16 months for any spots to open up for him. And this was *before* the childcare crisis in Juneau which plagues our community today! I had no option but to forgo my career in exchange for staying home with him, a predicament that resulted in no income to pay for child care once it was available. So I gave up all those coveted spots that I had waited over a year to obtain.

The situation was depressing, to say the least. Although I have deep roots in Juneau, neither my husband nor I have any family in town. Nor did we have any established friendships upon moving here. I had 0 support with a new baby in tow. I felt isolated, depressed, and confused; this was not what I had in mind. Then Joy Lyon came to me, offering to enroll us in their pilot program of Parents As Teachers. Instantly, we were plugged into the amazing Emily Coate, an in-home child development specialist who visited us every 3 weeks for 3 years. She helped us understand childhood development; made sure our son was on track, what to expect as "normal" behavior, and what stages to expect in the near future. She came prepared with activities that we could use to help build our son's motor, fine-motor, speech, literacy, and social-emotional skills. She also did health screenings including ear, eye, and autism. Helping parents and caregivers understand child development and supporting them are crucial. From my experience, most parent frustration is rooted in not understanding a child's communication tactics or developmental ability. Chronic misunderstanding and lack of support results in the abuse of a child from overly tired, isolated, and stressed adults. Fortunately, as a direct correlation to being plugged in with Parents As Teachers, none of my children's milestones have been a shock or unmanageable.

Each time she visited, she let our kids choose a book. Along with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, we have a wonderful children's library in our home that gets used at least 2-3 hours every day. I am proud to say that because of this constant emphasis in reading, my 3 ½ year old can spell many words and even read much of his own library. His imagination has exploded through the roof in the past year, resulting in interactive play with friends, his sister, and myself. He's now teaching me many things about outer space and oceanography; two topics I basically knew anything about before I had a 3-year-old.

Parents As Teachers also has group gatherings once a month, and as avid attenders, we instantly grew to know many other families with young kids. These have resulted into true friendships both for the kids and the parents and helped foster co-parenting opportunities. A huge burden of stress is lifted for the parents when you are plugged into a network of other's in a similar situation.

We also deeply rely on the Learning Bulletin to inform us of the on-goings around the community for the 0-5 crowd. Prenatal support, turf-for-tots, Lunch Bunch at the Aquatic Center, parent support groups including emotional/Post-partum depression, child development, playdates of all ages, Library Night and so much more are all outlined in this invaluable monthly publishing. They also include an age-appropriate healthy snack that the kids can make themselves, and parent tips for reading & analyzing the monthly Dolly Parton book.

So Please, I beg you, invest in Alaska's future and continue to support early child development programs. I promise you, it's what's best for both children and adults alike. Thank you.

Averyl Veliz  
c. 310.962.8492  
Juneau, AK

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To view my most recent artwork, please visit my blog at [averylveliz.blogspot.com](http://averylveliz.blogspot.com)

**From:** [emily.harshman](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** funding for early childhood education programs  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 3:19:29 PM

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Dear Finance Committee,

I urge you to reconsider cutting funds for early childhood education in Alaska. While I understand that Alaska is facing a very difficult budget shortfall and that funds must be cut, I would like you consider the future of our state and country before cutting early childhood education.

While we face financial hardships today, we must also be looking towards building a better future. Our children are that future and it is vitally important that they receive a great education. After all, they will be the ones deciding important things about our own future as we age! Numerous studies have shown that the first three years of our lives are crucial for brain development. The major difference between brain development in a child versus learning an adult is a matter of degree: the brain is far more impressionable (neuroscientists use the term plastic) in early life than in maturity. This plasticity has both a positive and a negative side. On the positive side, it means that young children's brains are more open to learning and enriching influences. On the negative side, it also means that young children's brains are more vulnerable to developmental problems should their environment prove especially impoverished or un-nurturing.

Early education programs like Parent As Teachers (PAT) are extremely important in helping families to understand the importance of nurturing and teaching our children. They also help spot problems early, thus getting children the help that they need to become successful adults. My daughter is currently enrolled in the PAT program in Juneau. As a first time mom, this program has been invaluable to my family! We have learned so many valuable skills from this program including better ways to interact with our daughter in order to encourage her curiosity and learning. This is a fantastic community resource that will improve the lives of children. Let us not forget that knowledge is power and that raising children is a community effort. Children do not come with owner's manuals, programs like PAT give parents the tools to help their children thrive.

While I know that you will have to make many difficult decisions while balancing the budget, I urge you consider our future and to not cut educational programs for children. Doing so will have a very negative effect on all of Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Emily Palmer, Juneau AK

**From:** [Gretchen Murphy](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** fund early childhood education  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:45:05 AM

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As a retired educator, I know the importance of solid foundations and getting off on the right foot. I have taught children and coached teachers all over the state, from Ketchikan to Barrow to Bethel. The one consistency in failure is children who are not ready to learn. I taught preschool math concepts to high schoolers because they never had the proper beginnings. Early childhood education is critical to success all through life. Please redeem its funding.

Gretchen Murphy  
Retired  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**From:** [Lauren Sill](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Early childhood education  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 9:35:45 PM

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Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My family is part of the Parents as Teachers program and we have signed up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, funded through Best Beginnings. The Parents as Teachers program has been a great experience for my 3 year old as well as my 6 month old. The program helped my husband and I during the early months and year of our children's life. I know there is not enough funding for all the programs the state supports, however early learning is not a good area to cut. These kids are the future leaders of the state and the importance of early childhood education cannot be overstated. Investing in the future of our state makes the most sense with a limited budget. I urge you not to cut funding to these important programs.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Sill



**From:** [Patty Meritt](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Protect early childhood education programs  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 5:06:53 PM

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I was listening to an administrator from the local hospital talk last week about the serious shortage of mental health services for youth in Fairbanks. He was talking about the need for intervention and remedial services and how much funding is needed to meet the critical shortage of services.

I couldn't help but think how much less would be needed if we would invest in prevention in the early years. It is appalling that the legislature is considering cuts to early education (pre-k services, Best Beginnings & Parents as Teachers) which could prevent some of these remedial services later. Early care is already woefully under funded in AK. It seems to always be one of the first areas proposed for cuts - Very short sighted. Please re-think the importance of these services to young children. How much money is going to support timber? Fish? Mining? Shouldn't our young and vulnerable children be at least as protected and supported as these?

--

Patty Meritt  
620 Eton blvd  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
907 474-0841

**From:** [Nelson, Sabrina M. \(DNR\)](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Please continue funding for the PAT and Best Beginnings programs  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:39:09 AM

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To whom it may concern,

Thank you for taking the time to consider the importance of the Parents As Teacher's program (PAT) and programs like Best Beginnings including the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, these programs have made a huge difference in the life of my family. I am a full-time working mother that is also trying to earn a degree through online attendance with the University of Alaska Southeast. I value education and with the limited amount of time I have to juggle all these priorities, these programs have been a phenomenal asset to our everyday lives. I have two boys, Rylan, 3 1/2 years old, and Osias, 1 year old.

We joined the PAT program within the first two months of Rylan's life and continued until he aged out of the program. When I first joined the program I was an uneducated and unconfident mess. What can I say, I was a new parent. I wondered how the hospital could let me walk out their front door entrusting me with a baby. At almost 30, I didn't know the first thing about infants; it had been too long since I last was a babysitter in high school and even then it wasn't watching a newborn. I was fearful, struggling with the reality of responsibility cradled in my arms. It was beyond comprehension what to do next with this little life I brought into this world. To put it bluntly, I needed guidance and support. Emily, my PAT advisor, was there for us. I had questions, a lot of questions. I wanted to know about my child, I wanted to encourage his development, I wanted to know about what support and resources were available to us, guidance on childcare, information about first foods, potty training, what developmental milestones were next, how to communicate with him before his verbal skills developed, what activities were around town; the list was always growing.

I looked forward to the home visits, sharing precious time with a knowledgeable educator that felt like an extension of my family. The visits were structured and informative; educational white papers, the monthly newsletter, developmental screenings, activities (the part producing the most memorable moments), a new book, and discussion about what I wanted to know about next. Through these regular visits I developed confidence in myself to make decisions about my child's future, if I didn't know the answer who to contact to direct me to how to find the answer, how important reading together is and so much more. The relationship developed thru the support of Emily built confidence and trust in myself as a parent and as an educator of my own children. Emily and I shared several moments with each of my children (developmental milestones) that we explored and celebrated.

Through the monthly parties where other families gathered at various locations, bonds with other families were created and are currently sustained. It was a wonderful way to network with other parents that you can relate to because they are experiencing the same things you are. The snacks were delightful and our favorite

place was always the pool. Emily gave me the tools to be a good parent and encourage the growth as it was happening. Without the PAT program's involvement I would not have become the knowledgeable, supportive, and actively involved parent that I am today.

When I look back at this program I am grateful that it was such a large part of Rylan's life and I am saddened that Osias wasn't able to take full advantage of such a wonderful program. The opportunity to influence the future is here; it starts in the home, it starts with solid foundations, it starts with strong relationships, and it starts with knowledge. The PAT program provides parents with education and the chance to make a better future for their children. I hope this program will be around for a long time and many other families will receive the benefits that I was able to receive.

Through the Monthly Newsletter I am regularly informed about events going on around town that I can participate in with my children. There are several events that we take advantage of attending during the course of the month and are considered very important bonding times together. We attend the first Tuesday family library night at the downtown library and receive a book, the first Saturday Workshop at Home Depot, the breastfeeding café on the third Saturday, the family night at the turf on the second and fourth Friday's, and all of the specially sponsored swim's none of which would I have known about without the Monthly newsletter.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is another program that is a part of our daily life. Friday of every week we, as a family, go to the post office to check the mail. This is another special moment in our regular routine. My son is always asking if there is going to be a new book in the mail. Without this program, there will be nothing to look forward to in the mail anymore. This program is deeply intertwined in our evening routine, before bed we spend almost an hour selecting and reading books from our personal library before bedtime. Since personal finances are limited for our family, our home library is composed of almost exclusively books obtained through the PAT program, the first Tuesday family library night, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Please take a moment and put your feet in my shoes. Beyond the monotonous grind of daily life, when are the moments I, as a parent, look forward to? Yes, the time with my children which hopefully, will be continually enriched by the PAT and Best Beginning programs.

Sabrina Nelson  
907-723-0191

**From:** [Wendy Burke](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Don't cut the PAT funding!  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:30:38 AM

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Hello,

My name is Wendy Lee Burke and I live in Juneau and I have twins who were in the PAT program for almost two years. Please do not cut the funding for the PAT program through AEYC. This is an amazing program and it would be a devastating blow to Juneau's young children if you end the program. It is so popular that we were on the wait list for ONE YEAR just to get into the program! My twins, Aaron and Lucy, are now 3 1/2 years old, so we have aged out of the program. I was so sad when we aged out. It was wonderful to have a PAT teacher come to our house and bring fun activities, lessons and books for my children. We all just loved it and looked forward to it! In addition, the monthly family get-togethers were fantastic and we really miss those.

PLEASE do not cut the PAT funding!

Sincerely,  
Wendy, Channing, Aaron and Lucy Burke  
[907-723-7676](tel:907-723-7676)

**From:** [Courtney Lyons](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Early Learning funding  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 2:40:16 PM

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Hi,

I am writing this letter because I recently learned of the deep cuts proposed to the state budget in the areas of early childhood education. As a parent and an educator, I find this an abhorrent solution to the state budget shortcomings. Early childhood education is critical for the development of our youth. Children's brains develop rapidly between ages 1-8, learning both social and cognitive skills. These skills help them succeed not only in school, but in their lives as adults. Early childhood education efforts can increase academic achievement, which correlates with lower poverty in later life. These programs are much more than babysitting or entertainment, they are tools for families to help bring the next generation up out of poverty. Please do not cut these programs!

Sincerely,  
Courtney Lyons

PhD candidate  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

--

"A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. So is a lot." Albert Einstein

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Jenni Lefing <jlefig@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 2:08 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please reinstate funding for early learning programs- Juneau Resident

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I am a Juneau resident and parent to a 10-month old baby boy. I strongly urge you to reinstate funding for Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers and the Alaska Pre-K program.

As first-time parents and participants in the Juneau Parents as Teachers (PAT) program, my husband and I have benefited greatly from the support and guidance provided to us. Through PAT, we have increased our knowledge of our child's development, improved our parenting practices, become connected to community resources, and are more confident in our parenting skills. I know that this can only positively impact our son and those he will engage with throughout his life.

Research shows that supporting early learning efforts, such as Parents as Teachers, leads to greater student success, and reduced risk behaviors. Investing in families with young children is crucial to ensure the success of Alaska's early learners.

I am deeply concerned about the impacts your cuts will have on my family as well as my Alaska neighbors. Investing in early learning is the smartest thing you can do, especially in these tight budget times.

Please reconsider the drastic cuts and reinstate funding for Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers and the Alaska Pre-K program.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jenni Lefing  
434 7th St.  
Juneau, AK 99801  
cell: 907-957-3587  
[jlefig@gmail.com](mailto:jlefig@gmail.com)

**From:** [Jennifer Walker](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** please support early learning!  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 4:18:45 PM

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Hello,

As a citizen of Juneau, AK I urge you to continue funding early learning in our state and community. We have taken part in the AEYC PAT program and it was unbelievably helpful and gave me such a solid foundation for understanding my son's developmental stages and how best to help him learn and grow. I used the knowledge and ideas they gave me with my son, the kids that attend my tiny daycare, and with children I volunteer to watch at a local shelter. The Imagination Station books have been a well-loved part of our bedtime routine since they've been arriving at our house. The Family Nights at the Library . . .man. All such great stuff in our community that supports our littlest minds and is part of what makes this such a great place to raise kids.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Walker  
500-8929

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Ritter, Kathryn <kathryn.ritter@juneauschools.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 28, 2015 3:35 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please support early learning

My name is Katy Ritter, and I am a 4th grade teacher at Gastineau School, and also a parent of two young children, ages 4 and 2. I urge you reinstate full funding for Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers and Pre-Kindergarten programs. From my experience as an elementary school teacher, I see the HUGE discrepancy between children who grow up in a literate, print-rich environment, and those who do not. Children who may not otherwise have opportunities for preschool and building their home library with a beautiful selection of 60 books, will now start kindergarten (or possibly first grade) without support from these essential early learning programs, and will be at a huge disadvantage academically. The gap between the 'haves' and 'have nots' will widen.

It is your responsibility to support our state's youngest citizens, who cannot advocate for themselves.

Respectfully,

Katy Ritter  
Gastineau School  
#796-5075  
[kathryn.ritter@juneauschools.org](mailto:kathryn.ritter@juneauschools.org)



**From:** [L@ ~ Lauren Allen](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:01:14 AM

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Hello ~

PLEASE fund our schools. Kids are our future. My husband and I are proof of that. Dave was born and raised in Alaska and I moved to Sitka in 1978. We own Allen Marine, Inc., Allen Marine Tours and Alaskan Dream Cruises. We love to employ Alaskans.

Thank you for your time.

Lauren Allen  
907.738.3285

**From:** [lynnette dihle](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Educational Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 6:49:52 PM

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Members of The House Finance Subcommittee,

I understand there is a proposed ammendment to eliminate one time funds for education. It is my understanding that these funds were appropriated by last years legislature.

Despite concerns of less revenue due to oil prices I submit this is not the action to take. Please take the long term view and do what is right for our students and the state of Alaska. Do not eliminate this funding.

I request this as a parent, a grandparent, a retired educator, and an Alaskan who votes.

Thank you,

Nils Dihle

**From:** [Tami Choquette](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Tami Choquette](#)  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of Education  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 9:32:12 PM

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Dear Co-Chairs Neuman and Thompson, Representative Pruitt, House Finance Committee Members and Senator Giessel:

I'm writing to express my support for education in Alaska. As a disclaimer I am an employee of the University of Alaska and my husband is an employee of the Anchorage School District – but I am not writing solely as an employee of a state agency facing serious financial cuts from this administration, but as a concerned Alaskan. I am not from Alaska originally but have lived here the last ten years and hope to be here as many more.

I do not envy the seat you occupy today. Decisions you make this legislative session and the next several will have **significant** impact on the future of Alaska and the lives of those who call Alaska home. Alaska is quite an amazing state with a recent history that you can still “touch” as if it were yesterday. Alaska has been blessed with its fortune in oil. But the state can no longer rely on oil alone. The state must diversify and find new revenue sources in order to not only survive but thrive. **You must look not only on what can and must be cut but what you can invest in and grow.** I implore each of you to look past your terms of office and look down the road to 10, 20, 50 years plus. To look not at what Alaska was or is today but what it will be in the future. In that future you are going to need partners like education.

Growing up in Butte, MT the economy was heavily dependent on the copper, gold and silver mines. The mines were not stable. There were as many good years as there were bad. However, there was always a constant in town no matter what was going on with industry and that constant was and still is Montana Tech of the University of Montana, a world renown engineering school, originally the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology. Montana Tech is routinely ranked one of the highest engineering schools in the country. Engineering is not its only strength. Anyone coming out of Montana Tech has a solid education and has the ability to make meaningful contributions to the city and the state. I mention this because it was and is a place you can always count on, a foundation for not only the city of Butte, but the State of Montana. If the mines shut down you could always go back to school, learn a new trade or get a degree and continue to make a living in Montana without having to leave the state. **Education builds a strong foundation.** The University of Alaska is that foundation for this state. With 3 universities, 12 community campuses and numerous outreach centers I can't think of any other state agency that has such far reaching impact other than K-12.

University leadership is committed to Alaska and its future, so much so that the Board of

Regents have adopted a strategic direction plan called Shaping Alaska's Future. I know you've all seen copies of it. **How fitting a title, because this is what each and every one of you is doing right now; you are shaping Alaska's future with the decisions you make this session and the next several to come.** What will Alaska become and who will your partners be to help shape the Alaska of the future? Who will be here to train the workforce? Who will be here to teach our children? Who and what will be the foundation for the Alaska of the future? Education will be and should be part of that foundation. **I strongly encourage you to continue to support education in Alaska, both higher education and K-12.**

Thank you!

Tami J. Cashell-Choquette

Anchorage, Alaska

House District 27

Senate District N

**From:** [Christina Barlow](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Re cuts to education and library  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 8:00:43 PM

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Dear Legislators and or Committee:

This note is to please ask you not to cut the support to our public libraries and rethink the cuts to the education of our children. Alaska students in the rural schools need the support in both the public schools and in the public libraries. This support needs to come in the form of financial resources from the state. In our rural community, we have no preschool, and the local Head Start program closed its doors about a two months ago. Without the public library serving the needs of our preschoolers and providing hard copy books, ebooks, and Internet to many families, our children will definitely be at a disadvantage.

At Craig High School, we have already cut the teaching staff in the past two years. We have one math teacher trying to meet the needs of our students; students line up after school for a couple hours to get extra help. Our electives have been cut to the point that several of our seniors are asking to be able to leave school at noon or before because there are no electives that interest them, and there are only so many online classes that they can take before getting bored. Several students have already indicated that they will be moving over the summer to schools down south that offer more choices. Although finances are difficult for all of us, perhaps it is time to reconsider other sources of income for the state. Craig currently has sales tax to fund city projects; even the larger cities in Alaska do not all have sales tax. We have been trying to do a lot with too little for too long.

Please fund Alaska education at all levels.

Thank you.

Christina Barlow  
Craig, Alaska

**From:** [lynnette dihle](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen.DennisEgan@akleg.gov](#); [Sen.CathyMunoz@akleg.gov](#); [Rep.SamKito@akleg.gov](#)  
**Subject:** Removal of proposed Educational Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 5:11:29 PM

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Dear House Finance Subcommittee,

I am a longtime Alaskan who has raised children in Alaska and have several Alaskan grandchildren in Alaskan schools.

I have had a long standing commitment and belief in supporting education for the betterment of Alaska. Research throughout the world indicates that present and future improvements in society hinge on priority in education.

**I request the removal of the proposed amendment to eliminate one time educational funds that were appropriated in last year's Legislature.**

Sincerely,

Lynnette Dihle  
2454 Engineers Cutoff  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907)789-0721

**From:** [Raymond Pastorino](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** One-Time Grant Fund - Education  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 2:36:02 PM

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My name is Alex Pastorino, and I have been a resident of the State for 38 years. I am a grandmother with a grand child attending high school in Juneau. First, I want to thank you for passing the one-time funds and the first increase in the BSA in 5 years last year. I'm not here today to tell you why it is critical the one-time grant funds are restored, because I know you all know the many reasons why education needs to be adequately funded. I believe you attempt to hold all of our children in your hearts when making these critical decisions, but sometimes in a crisis we can all lose site of what will really make a difference in our communities and our world. It's easier to invest in something tangible like roads and harder to invest in our children's growth and development, because we can't always see the immediate rewards. But if we don't make our children a priority, the rest eventually becomes meaningless. We can all endure a bumpy road. The easy decision is to cut unilaterally across the board, the idea that everyone should share in the cuts. But I'm not asking you to make the easy or most convenient decision or even the decision that appears the most fair, but, instead, to make the right decision. Please restore the one-time grant funds for our children; and they are all, our precious children, and our future. Thank you.

Alexis Pastorino

4935 Wren Drive

Juneau, AK 99801

907-523-1120

**From:** [Ambre Burrell](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Keep the Ferry System going  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 4:36:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[oledata.mso](#)

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Dear Finance Committee,

On behalf of our small community and the hundreds of children that rely on the ferry system to travel for sports I am begging you to please continue funding the AMHS to the same degree you have been. My daughters have both traveled extensively for sports and the ferry system is the only cost effective and reliable way to get around South East Alaska. If you take that away, or cut funding to the point that we are only getting ferries once or twice a week, our children will suffer greatly.

During the winter months the airlines are unreliable as you never know when a plane may or may not make it into our small communities. The ferry system arrives and departs reliably without the worry of ending up in Anchorage or Seattle while simply traveling to Juneau or Ketchikan.

Our town of Petersburg Alaska would be lost without our ferry system. Between the weather delays and overheads of the airlines in the winter and the canneries taking up space in the summer the AMHS is our only reliable mode of transportation in or out of our town. It is also the only mode of transportation that our schools can afford. The detriment to our community should we lose this essential service will be far reaching.

I understand that it's time to tighten up the budget belt. Please consider looking elsewhere to cut so much. Our children are depending on you.

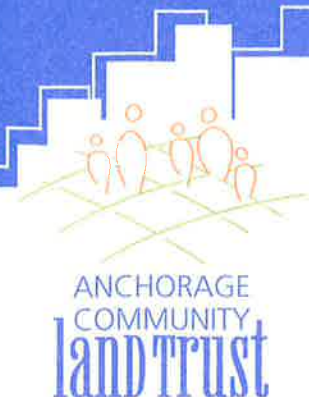
Kind Regards,

Ambre Burrell

**Ambre Burrell**







March 2, 2015

RE: Anchorage Construction Academy

To Whom It May Concern:

Anchorage Construction Academics' training is an integral part of advancing opportunities in the construction trades.

In Mountain View, where the construction academy is headquartered, the unemployment rate is around 16%. For community members and residents city-wide obtaining training in welding, carpentry, plumbing, electrical and weatherization is crucial to getting and keeping jobs that supports families, communities and make a better Alaska. Without funding for training our workforce in the construction trades, the connection between local human resources and the crucial development jobs that Alaska needs to grow is severed.

We support the Anchorage Construction Academy in their training and connecting Alaskans to Alaska construction jobs. ACLT would be greatly disappointed to see the construction academy lose their funding as they are a great asset to the Mountain View Neighborhood as well as to the city of Anchorage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirk Rose", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kirk Rose  
Executive Director

**From:** [Camie Pederson](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Please don't cut the funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:38:04 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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To Whom it May Concern,

The Ferry system has been an essential part of living here in Southeast Alaska. It's one of the only means for transportation between towns in Southeast. The schools use the ferry system for athletic teams to travel to other towns for games and tournaments. It allows music groups for the High School to travel to Music Festivals and Regionals. It allows for elementary school groups to also travel with families between towns. It is the affordable way to travel in Southeast. It's how we bring our cars to Juneau to go shopping, how we move families up here from Washington, how we send animals to new adopting families in other towns, and it's the place where the majority of my childhood memories were made. I remember eating ferry food in the cafeteria playing cards with my friends on basketball trips. I remember watching movies in the recliner lounge, walking laps around the boat to get fresh air, and countless fun times in the observation lounges. The ferry system is a crucial part to living here in Southeast Alaska. Without the ferries, our school systems would suffer. They wouldn't be able to afford to send teams to tournaments and games, families wouldn't be able to afford to travel to other towns for family visits, and our way of life in Alaska would dramatically be affected. It would make the cost of living increase so much that young families and single people (like myself) would not be able to afford to travel, visit, or spend money in other towns in Southeast. It would make it so I would have to fly, and if I'm going to fly, I'm flying out of the State. If the ferry system budget it cut, you are forcing more and more people to spend more money to fly and head to places far away. This means our local economies would suffer. You are encouraging us to leave this beautiful state (not only for vacations, but for good). You are pushing us to spend our money elsewhere, and forcing our schools to cut their extra-curricular programs. The kids would suffer, young adults will suffer, and then our state will suffer. If you cut the ferry budget, you are not only making a financial impact on those of us who still choose to live here in Southeast, but you're discouraging tourism and new families from wanting to visit our beautiful islands. You will be changing the way we live, changing the way our schools are run, and ultimately changing my mind to live here.

I ask you to not cut the ferry system budget. Please understand that for families, single people, and young adults, the ferry system is our main way to travel. It's how we go and watch our kids play volleyball in Wrangell, it's how we attend festivities such as Little Norway Festival in Petersburg, it's how we attend funerals, weddings, and parties in other towns for fun. It's where I made friends growing up, made memories, and got to see more of this great state than I ever could if I was forced to fly.

You will be taking away more than just money from a budget, you will be damaging the way of life here in Southeast Alaska. I ask you to reconsider your budget for the ferry system.

Thank you for your time,

Camie Pederson

**Camie Pederson**

**Accounts Payable/Sales Tax**

**Finance Department**

**P: (907) 772-4425**

**F: (907) 772-3759**



**From:** [Karla Hart](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Marine Highway System Operating Budget - restore  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:29:18 AM

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Dear House Finance Committee Chairs and Members,

The Alaska Marine Highway System is vital to the economies and lives of Southcoastal Alaska, from Unalaska to Ketchikan, and provides transportation for many military families being deployed in the Rail Belt, as well as Alaskans traveling throughout the state. The proposed cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System go too deep. There are alternatives.

- 1) Take some of the already allocated and unexpended \$45 million or so dollars for the Juneau Access project and apply them to the Alaska Marine Highway System so that transportation benefits of that money can extend far beyond Lynn Canal.
- 2) Look at taking some of the funds from the rental car tax that are presently allocated to Alaska tourism marketing to apply to the ferry system. Without a healthy Alaska Marine Highway System there will be much less independent travel in Southcoastal Alaska. The cruise industry has the resources to market themselves.
- 3) Allow and empower the ferry system to implement variable pricing to increase revenues on the ferries and increase service by selling excess capacity, where it exists, at a reduced rate. Full ferries in the summer bring far more people and revenues. Raising prices reduces ridership which reduces revenues and public benefit as transportation and as economic drivers.

Note that none of the other roads or bridges in Alaska, except the Whittier tunnel, are operated on a toll basis. With rolling toll collection equipment tolls are possible without big staffing requirements. Would your constituencies respond well to paying a \$50 toll every time they drive from Anchorage to the Kenai Peninsula or from Fairbanks to Tok or \$10 to drive from Eagle River to Anchorage? Would your constituencies respond well to having the roads between communities only plowed or sanded every other day in the winters to reduce operational costs? What about encountering a road closed sign and barrier a couple days a week in the summer (sort of like leaving ships tied to the docks)? The cuts you are proposing are unfair to South Coastal residents.

Please reinstate adequate funding to maintain the current schedule for this upcoming summer and give the Marine Transportation Advisory Board and the Marine Highway System and coastal communities and residents an opportunity to rationally and carefully make adjustments commensurate with those made to other surface transportation operations.

Regards,

Karla Hart  
4950 Wren Drive  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

**From:** [Kathleen Menke](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Marc Luiken](#); [Mike Neussl](#); [Governor Walker](#); [Byron Mallott](#); [Rep. Sam Kito III](#); [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Dan Ortiz](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Shelly Wright](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Testimony from Haines  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 5:19:58 PM

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Dear Legislative Budget Committee,

I have lived in Haines for 19 years. Thirty years ago the Alaska Marine Highway brought me here as a tourist (multiple times over the years) and a photographer. The service, scheduling, and fares at that time were excellent. In 1995-96, I moved to Haines and built my home here, where I have lived ever since.

Over the years, I've worked multiple jobs in Haines including Assistant Coach for DDF school teams. I've had to go Outside both for the joys of visiting new grandchildren and the sorrows of putting family members to rest. With my photography and journalism, I promote Alaska to tourists. Occasionally I have needed emergency dental and vision care in Juneau. My own family and friends have arrived on the ferries to visit me in Haines.

Our community relies on the regular, reliable, affordable ferries to transport school teams for competitions in sports, music, and debate. The ferries bring RV traffic, bicycles, freight, kayaks, residents, and tourists through Haines and Skagway and into Interior Alaska. This is good for the economy of Alaska. Whatever the occasion, whether emergency trips on short notice or something requiring long-term planning and/or connections with the airport, it is important that our highway, the Alaska Marine Highway, be managed to handle summer capacity, winter weather, and that schedules are known in advance and can be counted on. This means a reliance for the Upper Lynn Canal and elsewhere in the system on MAINLINERS.

I've ridden the Taku in January from Juneau to Haines with eight wrestling teams from places such as Wrangell and Metlatkatla in 16-foot seas. Believe me, no one on that ferry would have wanted it to be one-foot shorter. As it was, it took six and a half hours with most folks, as the captain directed, on the floor and holding onto something fixed.

Our mainliners are aging and need regular maintenance. We need more mainliners to give the entire AMS the flexibility and reliability it needs to serve Alaskans and Alaskan communities. The ferries are our road. We pay a goodly amount whenever we use the ferries, contributing to their operation and maintenance costs. Many routes pay for themselves and with improved management, that is improved scheduling, improved service, and improved fare structures, the AMH can improve its bottom line overall as well.

Cutting ferries is short-sighted and serves no one. Please restore full-funding to the AMH. Please see to it that more, not less, mainliners are put into service to handle summer capacity, winter weather, and are available for flexibility in the system when there are maintenance issues. Everyone must know the schedules in advance and know that these sailings will actually take place.

Folks do not book small ferries in Upper Lynn Canal in winter because as often as not, they are canceled. Folks choose to book on MAINLINERS. Folks do not book on ferries from Haines to Juneau that go to Skagway and do not return to Haines. Eight hours is too long for transportation from Haines to Juneau on a ferry, particularly if one is traveling with a dog, which many of us do. Sometimes for emergency vet care.

The planes do not always fly. Only mainliner ferry service is what can be counted on for our communities. Also the Alaska Marine Highway is part of a lifestyle that is unique to Alaska, one of our biggest draws for tourists and something that keeps residents choosing to remain here to live.

If it's necessary to cut the DOT budget, please stop all spending on the road north of Juneau. Let private interests build that road if they wish. Residents of Haines, Skagway, Klukwan, and Juneau have all repeatedly testified their reasons for not supporting state money for that road across 42 avalanche zones that would only require another new ferry terminal and who knows what other public transportation to get folks from a far away terminal into Juneau from Haines or Skagway. Auke Bay is an excellent ferry terminal and feeds best into the airport. The Juneau Road was a bad idea when Alaska was flush with funds and it's a worse idea now.

Do not cut funding for Alaska Marine Highway. Please. And thank you for reading and considering these heartfelt comments.

Regards, Kathleen Menke  
PO Box 781  
Haines AK 99827  
906-766-3517  
ci@akmk.com

**From:** [Nelson, Carolyn J \(DNR\)](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Carolyn Nelson](#)  
**Subject:** McGrath Fire Camp  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:19:29 AM

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Testimony for the Finance Committee I have worked in McGrath for 15 years and I am writing you with concerns about the proposed closure of the station. As the Logistics Coordinator this move could put lives and property at risk to say nothing of the economic fallout for the entire southwest area.

There have been incidents where lives could have been lost without this Station providing resources close at hand. The decision to put this in the Budget for DNR was done without any input from the professional Management being consulted as to the consequences of this decision.

Please do what you can to have this looked at more closely before it is too late. The costs may well be greater than the savings.

Carolyn Nelson  
Logistics Coordinator  
McGrath Area Forestry  
Office [\(907\) 524-0053](#)  
Cell [521-7053](#)



**From:** [Christy G](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Currey, Alyson](#)  
**Subject:** Operating Budget Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:12:41 AM

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Dear Chairman Neuman and Thompson,

I grew up in Eagle River, went to university in Fairbanks, and am now a resident of Juneau. I am writing to urge you to reinstate Medicaid Expansion Funding to the operating budget. Medicaid makes good sense for the health and lives of ***all*** Alaskans, the state budget, and the economy,

This is evidenced by the fact that nearly 42,000 Alaskan adults would be eligible for health coverage under the expansion. These are people earning up to \$20,314 a year, which translates to \$9.76 an hour for a regular work week. Today, if you are a childless adult without a disability in Alaska making less than \$20,000, you have no affordable health care coverage available to you. It makes no sense to abandon the most vulnerable in Alaska.

In addition, Medicaid expansion would save the state \$6.1 million in its first year alone and cut the number of uninsured Alaskans by half. By increasing the number of people covered by insurance, we improve access to preventive and primary care, which reduces health care costs for all of us.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Christy Gentemann

**From:** [Judy](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:49:06 AM

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It is in every Alaskan's interest to expand Medicare to cover health insurance for more Alaskans. People should not have to worry about dying or becoming financially destitute because of an unforeseeable medical emergency. It costs all of us when illness goes untreated or our emergency rooms become primary care providers when treatable illnesses can no longer go untreated.

With the fall in oil prices, Alaska may be entering a recession with an increase in unemployment and many people losing their employment-dependent health insurance. Will you be able to explain to your constituents why they can't get help paying for health insurance they must suddenly buy themselves when they no longer have a job?

Judy Crondahl  
Juneau

**From:** [Karl Ashenbrenner](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Medicaid expansion  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:50:35 AM

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I am in support of Medicaid expansion, it is right for Alaska and right for our poor citizens. The Federal dollars available for a minor match are nothing to sneeze at and if in any other venue would be grabbed up quickly. The uptick to our State economy in these trying times is also to be welcomed. Please set aside ideology and embrace Medicaid expansion for Alaska.

**From:** [Lisa Eagan](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#)  
**Subject:** Operating Budget Testimony.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 7:34:29 AM

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Dear Committee Chairs Neuman and Thompson,

Please reinstate Medicaid Expansion funding to the operating budget. Both my husband and I work full time and recently, as I was removing my sons shirt for swim lessons, I noticed about 10 red chicken pox looking bumps on his back. Not having yet met our deductible and trying to stick to our monthly budget I was reluctant to take him to the doctor since he had no other signs of illness. Luckily for me, as the bumps got worse and filled with puss, I did have the means to take him to the doctor and found out he needed antibiotics. This story ends happily for us, but what about the people who don't have \$150 to spare to go the doctor is get a minor rash checked out? What will happen? They wont go and it will get worse and worse. I have since found out it this rash went untreated it could be deadly.

With Medicaid expansion, thousands of people would finally have access to vaccines, cancer screenings and mental health services, and be able to proactively mange their diabetes, high blood pressure and other chronic conditions. With the federal government willing for fund 90% of this is just PLAIN SELFISH to not add this into our budget.

I want to be part of an Alaska, that takes care of all our people in an economically way.

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter, and as you vote, imagine having small red bumps that after a couple of days fill with fluid and after that burst only to crust over with a honey colored sustenance and feeling like you don't have the money to go to a doctor. Vote to add the expansion of Medicaid back into the operating budget.

Sincerely,  
Lisa EaganLagerquist  
1102 5th STreet,  
Douglas, Alaska  
99824

**From:** [Russell Strandtmann](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Medicaid  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 7:39:58 PM

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Please include Medicaid expansion in the budget.

Thank you,

Russell Strandtmann  
Juneau

Sent from Russell's iPhone

**From:** [Ann Robertson](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#)  
**Subject:** Operating Budget Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:00:12 AM

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Dear Committee Chairs Neuman and Thompson,

I am a Juneau resident writing to urge you to reinstate Medicaid expansion funds into the state budget, as well as reinstate funding for STI prevention, testing and treatment.

Like many young Alaskans, my current job does not provide health insurance. I've been able to obtain insurance through Alaska's healthcare marketplace, and I now pay for my own insurance coverage on a monthly basis. I am incredibly fortunate that my income allows me to retain coverage and continue to receive care from my longtime doctor in Juneau. For many Alaskans, this is not the case. When low-income Alaskans are priced out of health coverage, the entire state suffers. In 2011, Alaska non-tribal hospitals provided a staggering \$91 million in uncompensated medical care. I strongly hope that you and your fellow committee members will act to ensure that Medicaid expansion moves forward this legislative session. Doing so will not only improve health outcomes across the state, it will also amount to considerable savings for the state budget--an estimated \$6.1 million in the first year alone.

With your help, I believe we can make better decisions regarding how we allocate funds for healthcare in Alaska. Shifting funds towards smart preventative measures like accessible STI testing and treatment will promote better reproductive outcomes than pregnancy tests in bar bathrooms. If we work together, we can address Alaska's biggest healthcare issues, like our extremely high chlamydia infection rate.

Please join me in supporting Medicaid expansion in Alaska, as well as funding for STI prevention and treatment.

Sincerely,

Ann Robertson  
Juneau, AK

**From:** [Mary Hailey](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Reference HB 72 and HB 73  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 7:03:16 PM

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To the House Finance Committee,

This email is in regards to the upcoming testimony about HB 72 and 73. These bills and their proposed budget cuts to the libraries in rural communities will have a devastating impact. The AlaskaOWL Program is instrumental in bring the world and education to our community and patrons of all ages. In addition, funding internet services also helps so many in our community that would otherwise not have access.

In today's world, having internet capacity is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Things as simple as filing for the Perm Fund, unemployment and a multitude of licensing are all accomplished with internet access. For many in our rural community, the only way to access the internet is at the library. With mail service growing increasingly unreliable, the internet is the most secure and efficient way of communication. Cutting this service from our libraries is equivalent to isolating rural communities

In addition, funding cuts to the libraries will mean less productive, educational activities for young people. For many children these activities may be their only opportunity to experience the pleasure of a book.

Adults too, will lose many of the valuable service the library provides to the community. The library is not just about books. It is the heart of the community providing opportunities for all ages to learn and experience a multitude of activities.

Please do not cut our library funding. The library is a vital center of our community.

Mary Hailey  
Craig, AK

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A good traveler has no fixed plans, and is not intent on arriving." ~Lao Tzu

## Darrell Breese

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**From:** Sylvia <alaskarain@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 1:03 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Keep it in

I heard a lot of campaign speeches this year about supporting us Alaskans were we need it. So now that your in you represent all of us regardless of if we voted for you or not.

These past years we have to have access to Internet for jobs, job searches, and for tax forms. Also for most of us we need Internet for contact with family and friends. We heard stories from Canada that widened my children's world via The OWL program at the libraries. This program supports all Alaskans were there's a library. OWL program added speed that allows access to tax forms, other government forms and contact outside world. Please continue to support The OWL project. In supporting OWL you are supporting those troops on the front line.

Those of us in the bush community also depend on ferry to get to places like Juneau. The simple math of a \$100 flight or a \$40 ferry says how often I can get into Juneau.

Please support our way of life the library OWL program and access to a reasonable ferry schedule to as many locations as you can.

Thank you  
Sylvia

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**From:** [Marlowe Dunker](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Parents as Teachers Program  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 9:08:54 PM

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Respected House Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to convey my deep concern over the possible funding loss for the Parents as Teachers program in Juneau, Ak. I am a parent of a 16 month old who is currently in the program. We have benefited in countless ways from our participation in this program and would like to see it continue for Juneau families in the future. I am a nurse here in Juneau and my husband is a carpenter. We have always understood how early education can impact the long term development of children but by participating in PAT we have gained practical skills and knowledge to put that into practice. We personally know of a number of family and friends who have had PAT be the first to identify that their children had developmental concerns. By identifying this early on, before the child would have even been in preschool, they were able to connect them with community resources as well as the extra support from PAT to assist them in addressing their children's needs. With the additional, EARLY support the two children that we know well have gradually made achievements that I don't think would have happened otherwise.

Please continue to fund this is a priority program.

Marlowe Dunker and Tony Talbot  
907-209-7322

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Angela Fritz <arfritz09@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 2:12 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Fund PAT!

Hi!

We understand that funding for PAT is going to end on July 1st. Our family has been with the program for a year and we really love what this program is doing for families. Please reconsider dropping funding. We believe that a good start in childhood in the home is crucial to lifelong well being. Support families and the next generation; this program is doing great things!

Sincerely,

Angela and Alex Fritz  
Juneau, AK

**From:** [Amy Shinsel](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Pat funding  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 2:35:07 PM

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To whom it may concern,

When I moved to Alaska 3 1/2 years ago I had a two-year-old and was pregnant and had no friends. I ran into the parents as teachers coordinator and got signed up for the program. It help me get information about much-needed community resources to find my place in Alaska and help me get through what were very lonely times. When my child was born I developed postpartum depression and my parents as teachers coordinator helped me understand what was going on and gave me the courage to find help. parents as teachers has made a great difference in my life and made me a better parent and I hope that the funding can continue to support other parents as it has for me. My third child is now in parents as teachers and we enjoy every minute of it!

Amy Shinsel  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ashley Crace](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** HB36  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:00:01 AM

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**Mr. Chairman, Members of the committee, for the record my name is Ashley Crace. I am writing regarding HB36 and want to make the following points: It is imperative that we continue with our prek programs in order to better prepare our young children for the increased demands of our public school system. Many students in our bush villages have limited opportunities, and our preschool programs can not only increase their learning, social, and emotional skills, but also provide strategies for their parents. Our post data scores always show an increase in language skills when our students enter Kindergarten in our district. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.**

--

Ashley Crace  
Lower Kuskokwim School District  
Director of Special Education  
and Early Childhood Education  
PO Box 305  
Bethel, AK 99559  
(907) 543-4870

**From:** [Azmindal Alvarado](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Pre-k programs  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 5:51:15 AM

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To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to reconsider your decision of cutting funds for the education programs especially the PreK program, this program has been very helpful for my child because now he knows school is a safe place and has a sense of security, he has learned to take more educational risks, now he is on kindergarten and he knows letters, sounds, writes them and he's starting to read on his own, he also knows basic additions and he is able to count, his scores are very good and he also is motivated to learn another language, all this was possible because he had the opportunity to go to a Pre-school. The PreK program has been very helpful for me as a parent as well, now I have a better understanding on how my child learns and I know how to support his learning at home, probably this doesn't mean anything for you but for us who can't afford a private school means everything because this is the beginning of success for our kids, I do have the belief that the early education starts on kids the more familiar they become with the educational path and it will prevent them from dropping school in the future. We need to keep our kids in school not on streets and cutting funds is not the solution for this problem, it scares me that my baby girl won't have the opportunity in the next years to attend PreK as my son did.

I really hope you consider this letter and try to understand us as parents who want a better future for the generations to come.

Azminda Alvarado

Sent from my iPhone

## Darrell Breese

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**From:** cbookless <carobo@rocketmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 28, 2015 11:37 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** editor@juneauempire.com  
**Subject:** Open letter to the Legislature regarding PreK funding

Honorable Legislators,

I am writing to urge funding for pre-kindergarten programs. What research says is the truth - PreK is the gift that just keeps giving. Long term benefits for students who attended Pre-K programs include higher IQ scores, higher graduation rates, higher percentages of home ownership, and higher income. PreK is not only a gift to the children that attend the programs, but a gift to society in general with a more productive work force and a healthier economy. There is no better win-win proposal than funding pre-K education.

I will paste in a number of websites below that are links to research findings on the benefits of pre-K.

Sincerely,  
Carole Bookless  
Douglas, Alaska  
907-500-9900

### [The Research on Pre-K](#)



[The Research on Pre-K](#)

[View on www.centerforpubli...](#) Preview by Yahoo

### [Why All Children Benefit from Pre-K](#)

#### [Why All Children Benefit from Pre-K](#)

Should publicly supported, high-quality pre-kindergarten be available to all children, or should states “target” pre-k to children at the greatest risk of poor achievement?

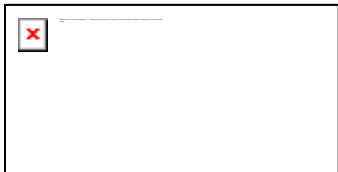
[View on www.pewtrusts.org](#)

Preview by Yahoo

<http://nieer.org/resources/files/Benefits.pdf>

### [Benefits of Pre-K Programs](#)

[Benefits of Pre-K Programs](#)



Stand believes that providing early learning opportunities for pre-k children is vital in closing achievement gaps.

[View on standleadershipcente...](#)

Preview by Yahoo

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Talea Hayes <taleahayes@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 28, 2015 3:57 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Protect Young Children and Families!

House Finance Committee Members,

As a Juneau resident and new parent, I am devastated to see the recent cuts to Best Beginnings, Parents As Teachers, and Pre-K. These programs are essential to our state's efforts to support parents, and help our children approach school and life with the skills they will need to succeed. These cuts are pointed directly at Alaska's most vulnerable young children and their families.

Having an education in Child Development, I am aware of the HUGE VALUE of early learning, and the lasting effect that it has on one's life. The first 5 years of a child's life are the most influential in the development of the brain. Early childhood education programs help to develop the child's cognitive (academic), social and emotional development. It has been proven that the quality of early childhood development heavily influences health, economic, and asocial outcomes for individuals and society at large.

We recently moved back to Alaska after having our son, because we believe it is a wonderful place to be a child. I am disappointed to see that the state is choosing to make cuts, instead of investing in our children, and future.

Whether or not young children and their families in Alaska will reach their potential is largely dependent on support such as these programs, especially in tight budget times. And so, I respectfully ask that you reinstate full funding for these important early learning programs.

Sincerely,

Talea Kellar



**From:** [Adele Person](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [rep.paul.seaton@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:rep.paul.seaton@legis.state.ak.us); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#)  
**Subject:** Public Broadcasting funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:36:12 AM

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Esteemed Legislators,

Please do everything you can to minimize a cut to public broadcasting funding. I understand the state is in a fiscal crisis. However, our community significantly relies on KBBI here in Homer - for coastal and marine weather, for community announcements, for emergency broadcasting. A proposed 59% is not sustainable by an organization. One can tighten belts and survive, one cannot amputate organs.

Thank you,  
Adele Person  
Homer, Alaska

**From:** [Bill - Shirley Palmer](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Public broadcasting budget cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:03:31 AM

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Please reconsider drastic cuts to public broadcasting. PB brings much needed news, Bush line, ride line, the music we WANT to hear and discussion of community events in the Coffee table as well as other services.

Please minimize these cuts.

Thank you,  
Bill Palmer Homer , Ak

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Elizabeth Pepper](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** KBBI Supporters  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:11:51 AM

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To whom this may concern at the State Legislature,

The proposed 59% (\$75,000) cut to the state budget for public broadcasting is too much and will be devastating to the services KBBI provides to our communities. Please consider coming up with a more reasonable ( lower %) cut to public broadcasting funding.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider our view points,

Sincerely,  
Billy & Liz Pepper

**From:** [bryanzak@aol.com](mailto:bryanzak@aol.com)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Public Radio funding (KBBI - Homer, Alaska)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:56:15 AM

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Public Radio is a cornerstone to our culture as Alaskans and before the legislature cuts "Public Radio" I would prefer they cut my PFB or raise my taxes. Funding of public radio stations should be part of our core funding for the State that is always maintained.

Bryan Zak

Cell 907-223-6681

**From:** [Caroline Venuti](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Public radio funding cuts no!  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:56:02 AM

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Hello, I am old enough to recall when Alaska did not have public radio. We did have music from commercial radio with little news and most if it was filtered. Public radio changed that. Suddenly we were part of the news world. Thoughtful discussions and news from around the world could be heard across our state. I fished commercially and public radio, specifically KBBI in Homer, was our link to the weather, tides, fishing reports and local and world news. At one point public radio and tv was one of the criteria for being a good place to live. It would be going backwards to cut funding to public radio. We do need to continue to have Alaska a desirable place to live for all citizens. I have found that the listeners (and supporters) of public radio stations are more well rounded voters and citizens. We cannot cut all funding that will deter people from relocating or staying in our beautiful state. Please reconsider cutting funds to public broadcasting. Thank you for your service to all citizens.

Caroline Venuti  
Box 3652  
Homer, AK  
Fcvenuti@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Donna Martin](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Support for KBBI public radio  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:19:51 AM

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The community of Homer and the outlying rural areas depend on our public radio station for all kinds of news, both local and nationwide. It is a very needed means of communication in this whole area for emergency news as well as bush-line communications.

Please reduce the cuts to KBBI, a very necessary resource in this area.

Sincerely,  
Donna Martin

**From:** [Edward Berg](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing state budget cuts for public broadcasting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:30:40 AM

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Dear State Legislators;

I am writing to oppose the proposed 59% (\$75,000) cut to the state budget for public broadcasting. This cut would severely impact our local public radio station KBBI. I have been a member of KBBI since its inception 40 years ago. It is my primary source for local news, as well as national and international news with such programs as "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered." KBBI also broadcasts the Kenai Peninsula Borough meetings, marine weather reports, and the Community Calendar of local events. This flow of information is the glue which holds the Homer community together. Please so do not undercut our station's capacity to provide this important glue! Thank you.

Ed Berg  
Homer resident since 1977

**From:** [John Anderson](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed cuts to public radio  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:07:24 AM

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Hello,

My name is John Anderson, and I am a dentist in the city of Homer, Alaska. I am writing this letter to express my serious concern with the drastic cuts being proposed to Alaska Public Radio, specifically to my local station, KBBI.

I understand the very difficult job you have with the current budget strains, but I feel compelled to let you know how painful some of the cuts could be, and how important local public radio is in my community.

I was born and raised in Anchorage, and spent most of my adult life (I'm now 54) in large urban areas. Four years ago, when I moved back to Alaska and chose to live in Homer, I had no idea how important local radio was to a small community, nor did I anticipate the impact KBBI would have on me personally. In towns like Homer, and all over the state, local radio stations are so much more than entertainment. They are a vital source of information, and they are an integral part of the cohesion that keeps us living together harmoniously. Whether it is the broadcasts of city meetings, local and state news and events, up to date information of emergencies, or simply locally programmed entertainment; it is all vitally important in keeping us informed and involved. It is my experience that in smaller communities, where the choices are much more limited on the radio (and in other media), the value of local public radio is exponentially increased.

It is my understanding that 59% of the state funding for public radio is proposed to be cut. This would be devastating to our local station (and many others across the State of Alaska). I hope this brief letter helps you see the importance of my local station, and all of Alaska's public radio. I do hope you can find a way to moderate these proposed cuts which seem disproportionate and would harm not just the public radio business, but also communities like Homer.

Thank you for your time,  
John H Anderson, DDS



**From:** [Jourdan Shapiro](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:34:53 AM

---

Hi,

Please don't cut public broadcasting. My family listens to public broadcasting to keep up with our community news.

Thanks,  
Jourdan

**From:** [Ken Landfield](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** 59% reduction to public broadcast funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:59:40 AM

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Senator Ted Stevens understood the special nature of public broadcasting in Alaska, a special and unique place, and fought repeatedly to protect and defend funding at the national level. While there are more communication options available today than there were when we were all younger, public broadcasting in general, public radio in particular, and KBBI/KDLL specifically are indispensable and irreplaceable to me and the rest of my community. We always have and continue to rely on our public radio stations for up to the minute news on weather, including volcanic eruptions and potential tsunamis, as well as any other event that affects the entire community. It is the only way that every citizen, no matter where they are at any given time, can get immediate updates and status reports. While public broadcasting has survived repeated cuts to its funding sources at every level, year after year, a 59% cut is just flat-out unreasonable. What other agency or entity is slated for a cut of practically 2/3 of its funding? Not public safety or education, though they too are slated for cuts. Public broadcasting is not a frill in Alaska, but a basic necessity, as essential as roads, schools and police. Please find another formula to reduce the budget.

Respectfully,  
Ken Landfield  
Homer

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Mary Lou Kelsey](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** KBBI funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:40:33 AM

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I am writing to ask for your support in conserving a vital communication link in our coastal community. I'm aware that there is consideration of possible cuts to public radio. Please save our our access to community, marine, state & national news on KBBI. I am a daily local listener and KBBI member and request your continued state support.

Thank you,

Mary Lou Kelsey

Box 894, Homer, AK, 99603

907-299-1985

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Nicole Szarzi](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Please don't cut public broadcasting so much  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:08:17 AM

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We are avid listeners of KBBI public radio. It is our company during the day, our education, it inspires us and connects us to our community, state and the world. We depend on the news, science reporting, music and commentary.

Thank you,  
Nicky and Jeff Szarzi

**From:** [ninjaginja@gmail.com](mailto:ninjaginja@gmail.com) on behalf of [Robbi M. Mixon](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony advocating for Public Broadcasting/ KBBI  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:19:16 AM

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Hello State Legislature of Alaska,

My name is Robbi Mixon, and I am the manager for the Homer Farmers Market, as well as the Coordinator for the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival and substitute teacher for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. I am writing to you today in support of funding for Public Broadcasting, specifically for KBBI.

Both organizations, as well as myself, depend on KBBI for a plethora of needs: spreading the word about community events and needs, local, national and world news. KBBI has provided up to the minute coverage on a variety of disaster situations too- from fires to tsunami warnings, they are a life line to the community. They also provide the opportunity to listen to state and local assembly meetings to numerous constituents that would otherwise not have the chance. As a school teacher, I depend on KBBI for road condition and closure updates as well.

I understand the difficult financial decisions you must make for the State of Alaska. Cutting funding for Public Broadcasting would be a devastating blow to our local station, KBBI, which is already operating short staffed, but still produces original content. It would also be detrimental to other public broadcasters around the state- each station relays on the other for services and support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robbi Mixon

--

robby marie mixon  
manager, homer farmers market  
[manager@homerfarmersmarket.org](mailto:manager@homerfarmersmarket.org)  
festival coordinator, shorebird festival  
[shorebird@homer.alaska.org](mailto:shorebird@homer.alaska.org)  
478.718.3328

**From:** [Scott Miller](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cuts to public broadcasting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:42:13 AM

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I'm writing today to urge you not to implement the excessive 59% cuts to public broadcasting. Here in Homer, KBBI is my primary source for news and culture from the "outside world". KBBI is also an essential part of our community during times of disaster such as wildfires, flooding, and volcanic eruptions. Our local radio station is already doing so much with so little resources, this cut would be crippling.

Local public radio is so important in our lives, especially here in Alaska.

Please, don't kill our radio station.

Thank you for your time.

Scott Miller  
Homer, AK

**From:** [Susan Alward](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** KBBI Cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:24:14 AM

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Dear Legislator,

My name is Susan Alward and I live in Homer. I am retired and do volunteer work in the community.

I understand that you are facing enormous challenges with coming up with a balanced budget in these times of dwindling oil prices. I am also aware that you are considering a 59% cut to KBBI. I believe this cut is excessive and disproportionate, and will greatly harm and diminish the ability of KBBI to bring the kind of unbiased, educational, national, and local news to the Kenai Peninsula. All Alaska public stations will be damaged by this excessive cut to their budgets.

KBBI has been crucial in giving up-to-the-minute news about emergencies such as the Redoubt Volcano eruptions, Funny River and Shanta Creek fires, tsunami warnings and flood events, and extreme weather events and school/bus closures. In other words any extreme event that affects the residents of Alaska. I very seldom listen to the other stations since they mostly run satellite programs throughout the day with very little mention of local or even state interest.

It would be devastating to all Alaskans if this 59% cut went through the legislature. It is vital that these public radio stations are able to stay on the air and continue to provide the kind of unbiased international, national, and local news that the citizens of this amazing state need and want. If their funding is cut by 59% that will no longer happen. I would very much like to know where the legislator stands on this cut.

Thank you for your time and service. I know your job is difficult and requires a great deal of time away from your families.

Sincerely,  
Susan Alward

**From:** [Brittany August](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Public Broadcasting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:49:37 AM

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To whom it may concern:

My name is Brittany and I work in our local community mental health center and volunteer as often as possible for our youth. I understand that there is great financial circumstances and decisions facing the legislature. However, the 59% cut is disproportionate and excessive that will cause serious financial harm to our local service and broadcasting system.

Some of the impacts include the weakening of KBBI's ability to provide crucial emergency response. KBBI was a vital source of information for the Funny River and Shanta Creek fires, Redoubt volcano eruptions, Tsunami warnings and flood events, and extreme weather events especially noting school and bus closures. In a community where those on the outskirts do not have access to television or internet, KBBI is our only source to important information. Never before have I lived in a community where people rely so heavily on their local broadcasting system.

My fellow neighbors and I rely on KBBI to learn about community engagement, programs, and information. A 59% cut would also take away from an already too small staff. KBBI staff are incredibly important to our community and truly care about the media they put forth. This would likely take away from national and international stories, including news, which in many ways is my sole access to information.

We need to preserve and care about funding for Alaska's public broadcasting systems. A 59% cut would equal approximately \$2.5 million which would effect all of Alaska's interdependent public stations.

I am in support of a more reasonable budget cut to public broadcasting. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brittany August

Homer, AK



**From:** [Deborah Spencer](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Cutting funding to Alaska Public Radio will be a devastating loss  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:18:21 AM

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Good Morning

My name is Debbie Speakman and I have lived in the State of Alaska since 1999 and I listen to Alaska Public Radio every day. I have worked in tourism, for the Department of Fish and Game, for the local Chamber of Commerce and now own a small business.

The State is facing some major financial difficulties, I realize these same difficulties as my husband works in the oil industry and his income supports our household at 80%. Like the State we must choose what organizations we can support and those we just cannot donate to this year. KBBI, our local public radio station will continue to receive our full yearly donation as well as a portion of my PFD.

I began listening to public radio in Juneau because I couldn't afford cable television and while I read the Juneau Empire and MSNBC news everyday KTOO is where I was able to get the best local and Alaskan news. KBBI in Homer also offers this service to our community. KBBI plays a very vital role in Homer and communities across Kachemak Bay, including the small community in Bear Cove where we spend part of our summer and rely solely on KBBI for the weather, marine forecast and news that could affect us.

I am proud of the changes that our new Governor and the Legislature have made. We are financially conservative and support the State in making the budget cuts now that will help secure the State's financial sustainability in the future. Major decisions have had to be made and a cut in the support of Public Radio is one area that the State can save. I would ask that those cuts be made but that they are made in a way that that does not cripple the already struggling local public radio stations. The stations provide a service to communities that the State cannot.

Thank you for your service and for making the difficult decisions during this year's legislative season.

Debbie Speakman  
Homer, Alaska

**From:** [Carol Comfort](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Help for public broadcasting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:00:02 AM

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Please do not cut the public broadcasting budget by such drastic numbers. The small Alaskan communities with so few communication options for local broadcasting will be severely impacted. Our public radio connects us as community and affords us a platform for fundraising, public service announcements, dialogue, entertainment and news, including emergency responses for disasters.

Certainly we can get a lot of info over the internet and other social media. But our local broadcasting such as KBBI in Homer connects our Homer community like no other media source I have found. It is a constant presence in our lives, day in, day out and is unfailing as a community connector. It simply cannot be replaced.

Please soften the blow and do not cut the funding by the proposed 59% to public broadcasting!

Thank you for listening,

Carol Comfort

**From:** [Deb Rhoades](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Budget cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:01:28 AM

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Please oh please reconsider cutting the budget for public radio. Public radio is so much a part of our lives, but especially here in Homer. KBBI is more like a really good friend than just a radio station. They keep us apprised of local news, weather and marine conditions. But they also keep us informed on what is happening around the state and the world. The program that is broadcast is so important in my daily life... honestly, I can't imagine a day without it. Please reconsider not cutting funding or lessening the cuts for public radio. Alaskans in particular really rely on it.

Thank you,  
Deb Rhoades  
PO Box 86  
Homer AK 99603  
907-299-6175 cell  
907-235-9240 work

*Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.*  
**Will Rogers**

**From:** [Director](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Please reconsider the budget cuts that would impact KBBI  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 8:34:01 PM

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Dear Legislature of Alaska,

I am writing on behalf of the budget cuts to public radio, specifically regarding the impact on the local Homer station, KBBI. I am the Executive Director of Homer Council on the Arts (HCOA). The mission of HCOA is to provide opportunities for everyone in our community to experience and participate in the arts. Which means we need to communicate with every corner of our community.

HCOA uses the services of KBBI regularly: community calendar, Slack Tide session for non profits, underwriting, art related stories that promote upcoming events. There are very few radio stations in Homer to begin with. And the public radio station connects us to our own community as well as the rest of Alaska, the nation and the world with worthwhile programming. The services they offer non-profits support the quality of life we have in Homer.

I understand the challenge of budget cuts. I run an organization where every penny counts. And the question of what to keep offering and what to drop is very difficult. The proposed 59% cut to KBBI seems enormous. If that were to happen to HCOA, the effect would force a restructuring that would impact HCOA programming as well as the role HCOA plays in the community. KBBI is not only an essential source of information, it is a center point in this community, the hub of a wheel.

Please reconsider the enormity of the cuts proposed.  
And good luck in these challenging times.

Sincerely,  
Gail Edgerly

Gail Edgerly  
Executive Director  
Homer Council on the Arts  
355 W. Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, AK 99603  
telephone (907) 235-4288  
fax (907) 235-4308

***WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCOA***

Jonathan Bower singer/songwriter

- March 10, 11 Adult workshop
- March 11,12 Youth workshop
- March 12, Gallery Performance

*details at [www.homerart.org](http://www.homerart.org)*



Remember HCOA!

**From:** [Gary Miller](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** public broadcasting proposed cuts...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:58:36 AM

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Hi,

We support radio station kbbs in Homer with our money, and get back much more, it's a community resource. local news, emergency info, local people as DJ's, no other station in the greater Kenai area does that. Please think it through, they help everyone. And you can assist them with money.

Gary and Susan Miller

**From:** [rchia@horizonsatellite.com](mailto:rchia@horizonsatellite.com)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Reasonable budget cutting for public radio  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:57:54 AM

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Dear Legislators;

Because so many of us have come to Alaska from somewhere else, our communities are our families now. And our local Public Radio stations are the voices of our neighbors. The internet and other 24 hour news outlets can keep us informed about the larger world, but only local broadcasting pulls us together day by day. So, when carrying out your fiscal responsibilities (which we do appreciate), please consider how important local Public Radio is to our many small Alaskan communities, and remember that we are your neighbors, your family too.

Thank you.  
Respectfully,

Richard Chiappone and Lin Hampson  
Homer

**From:** [Susan Houlihan](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** kbbi  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:02:56 AM

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As a business owner on the lower Kenai Peninsula I depend on KBBI for reasonable advertising. I listen to KBBI and feel it is the web connecting the lower peninsula community. Please reduce the budget cut so KBBI can continue to maintain its imperative service to Homer and broad. Thank you.

Sincerely, Susan Houlihan

Alpenglow Skin Care

35895 North Fork Rd.

Anchor Point, AK 99556

907-235-1412

[www.alpenglowskincare.com](http://www.alpenglowskincare.com)



**From:** [cathyt@mtaonline.net](mailto:cathyt@mtaonline.net)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** To Finance Committee  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 6:33:27 PM

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I would like to ask the finance committee not to even consider any of the mega projects that Governor Walker has stopped. To continue to spend money on them when there are so many needs in Alaska, with Alaska's resources being so limited, would be not be wise. The Susitna Dam proposal didn't pan out in the 50's or 80's as being feasible and it doesn't pan out now. Southeast Alaska depends on the ferry system. The cuts in education could be made up from money that AEA has squirreled away for the Susitna Hydro Project. We need to be thinking about what is smart for Alaska. If we really ditch all these other mega projects, we might actually get a gas line.

Sincerely,

Cathy Teich

907-733-2155  
[cathyt@mtaonline.net](mailto:cathyt@mtaonline.net)

**From:** [Peg](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Senate finance  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 4:47:19 PM

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Dear Finance Committee

My name is Peg Foster. I live with my family north of Talkeetna along the Susitna River for the past 30 years. We want to ask you to please revoke the 30 million dollars you have allocated for the Watana Hydro Project and use it to fund something that makes sense.

Thanks for all your hard work and common sense

Peg and Kevin Foster

Talkeetna Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

## Darrell Breese

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**From:** Paul E Dunscomb <pedunscomb@uaa.alaska.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 1:04 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** University of Alaska Budget Deliberations

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Paul Dunscomb, (Anchorage, District 26), Chair of the Department of History at UAA. I hope you will accept this e-mail in lieu of public testimony at your upcoming public deliberations regarding the proposed FY 2016 budget. Specifically I wish to speak about the proposed reduction of approximately \$35 million proposed for the University of Alaska budget. As this represents practically a 10 percent cut (as opposed to the approximately 2.5% proposed by the governor) and does not include the additional \$26 million the university is obligated to pay as a result of fixed cost increases, this represents an especially heavy blow for the university to absorb at the beginning of a fiscal crisis that is likely to be prolonged. I fear having to absorb such a cut at an early stage will severely weaken the university and endanger the long term future of a fine and necessary institution that I and my fellow faculty and staff have helped to build.

In no way am I asking that the university be relieved of the burden of having to contribute its share of savings during the current crisis, but these must be both judicious and measured. Indeed, my department has already made considerable sacrifices, having abandoned an in progress search for a new U.S. historian who would have started next fall. This represents considerable savings, but it will also leave my department dangerously short in a critical area of expertise likely for the remainder of the decade. This already threatens to do real harm to what more than a decade of program reviews have consistently shown to be among the most cost effective and academically effective programs in UAA's College of Arts and Sciences. Should the proposed Draconian cuts go through, whatever efforts might be made to allocate the effects of these cuts internally, the reduction would hit all university programs everywhere, many of which are already staggering from blows currently absorbed.

Quite apart from the long term impact of such severe cuts (with no guarantee that we would be subsequently spared further serious reductions), targeting UA in this way is counter-productive. This crisis has made manifest something that has long been obvious; Alaska's economic paradigm is not sustainable. Our state needs skilled entrepreneurs who can create products and services which not only grow our domestic economy but connect it to the lower 48 and the rest of the world. That requires critical thinking and analysis, effective communication, international and intercultural communication skills and a host of other talents that do not generally get the name "workforce development" but in fact prepare students to undertake careers rather than just jobs. Where else but UA will Alaskans be able to get the kind of education they need to create an employment opportunity for themselves rather than merely qualify for one?

I would be more than happy to discuss these matters in greater detail with you and would welcome inquiries as and if time permits. For now, respecting your own tightly packed schedule, I would merely urge you to give serious consideration to the governor's initial budget proposal and would hope that the budget you adopt would be more in line with his.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted.

Paul Dunscomb  
Chair  
Department of History



**From:** [E.CFigus](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#)  
**Subject:** Operating Budget Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:08:35 AM

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Dear Committee Chairs Neuman and Thompson,

I am a Juneau resident, and a graduate student at UAF. I am 28 and moved to Juneau three years ago. I love living in Alaska, and plan to live here for the rest of my life. As a near a time in my life when I plan to start my own family, I am concerned about the accessibility of high quality health care to all Alaskans. I am writing today to:

- 1) Urge you to reinstate Medicaid Expansion funds into the budget. Expanding Medicaid makes good sense for the health and lives of Alaskans, the state budget, and the economy.
- 2) I would also like to ask you to reinstate funding for STI prevention, testing and treatment. Alaska has ranked #1 or 2 for highest rates of chlamydia (a preventable and easily treatable disease) since year 2000, and we are still holding the #1 spot. Chlamydia is an especially scary STI because it can contribute to infertility. Rather than funding pregnancy tests in bars, the state should be funding evidence-based solutions to improving reproductive health outcomes, like access to free testing and treatment for STIs.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Figus  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

732-749-0319

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Aleatha Roach <alroach@gracechristianalaska.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 12:25 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Anchorage Youth Court

Dear Members of the House and Finance Committee:

Please revisit the funding for the Anchorage Youth Court. My son Joshua Roach has been a member of AYC for several years and we have had the opportunity to witness the money saving juvenile services that this organization performs. These services include probation, prosecution and victim services, and civic education. My son has learned the value of serving his community and he has had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of kids his age. Kids listen to kids. The Youth Court makes a difference and serves a valuable purpose.

Please take another look at funding the Youth Courts.

Sincerely,

Aleatha Martin, School Nurse

**From:** [Blythe Marston](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Restore Alaska State Youth Court Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 5:14:46 AM

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To: [lhscfin@akleg.gov](mailto:lhscfin@akleg.gov)

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

Please fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. Rather than costing the State of Alaska, Alaska Youth Courts save the State of Alaska.

Alaska's Youth Courts perform state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively

Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court. Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

Please, before permanently cutting Youth Court funding, ask for an accounting of how much Alaska Youth Court services will cost the Alaska juvenile justice system if Alaska's Youth Courts are not funded. Further, compare the success rate of Alaska Youth Courts with those of the traditional services of Alaska's juvenile justice system. You will find that funding Alaska Youth Courts is cost effective and one of the best returns the State of Alaska receives in terms of juvenile justice.

For the above reasons, when addressing the current budget crisis and searching for actual and sustainable savings, please give careful consideration to Alaska Youth Court funding and restore it.

Sincerely,  
Blythe Marston

**REINSTATE YOUTH COURT FUNDING AT \$530,900**  
**It's Safer - It's Less Expensive - It Works**

Community Services Provided by Youth Courts:

Lower juvenile re-offense rates—half the rate of similar youth who do not go through youth court—which leads to. . .

- making Alaska safer and more enjoyable for all of us;
- enabling police and troopers to focus on more serious crimes;

- youth who are more likely to engage in positive behaviors because when youth aren't committing crimes, they are more likely to graduate from high school; and better prepared for jobs and college.

Civic education and participation. Youth court volunteers. . .

- learn about our legal system;
- are better able to advocate for themselves and others in the future; and
- are better able to appreciate the invaluable services provided by public service work and volunteering.

Funding for youth courts will save the state money this year:

- Youth Courts save the states money by saving time of Probation officers, District Court Judges, magistrates, and staff.
- Youth courts save the private sector losses associated with juvenile crime such as theft, vandalism, trespass.
- If youth courts divert only four youth each year from ever having a criminal record, this results in an annual benefit of \$580,000. (McDowell Study, 9/14)
- Youth court participants have a reoffense rate less than half that of other youth. (McDowell Study, 9/15, ADN, 10/20/2012, "Criminal Recidivism in Alaska," Judicial Council, 1/07)
- Even without considering Anchorage Youth Court's effects on crime, the cost of AYC compares favorably with that of Anchorage School District activities such as cheerleading, debate, drama, and many team sports. Student participation levels for youth court and many school activities are similar. (McDowell Study, 9/14)
- Anchorage Youth Court alone has an estimated net economic benefit over and above the total cost of the program of over \$400,000 per year. As there are 11 programs in the state, the benefit far exceeds the \$530,000 cost to the state. (McDowell Study, 9/14)

--

**Blythe Marston**

3001 McCollie Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99517  
(907) 244-9163



**From:** [Curt Shuey](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 5:12:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I coordinate the Kenaitze Tribal Circle, a traditional path of juvenile justice for Alaska Natives. From our early efforts some ten years ago Youth Court has been a staunch supporter and collaborator, helping to nurture our Tribal Circle, and together we have formed the Kenai Peninsula Diversion Team which offers varied options to youths and their families who run into trouble with delinquency or status offenses. For many, the Youth Court process is a better fit, while others choose the Tribal Circle or in some cases mediation. Rather than “protecting turf” in an adversarial mindset, Youth Court has kept their focus on what is best for the youth of our community, and been a most helpful partner.

As a diversion program ourselves, we have a unique perspective on the value of Youth Court to the people of Alaska. In addition to the many social benefits, these programs save the state money by decreasing the need for state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. On top of this financial efficiency, Youth Court is also effective; recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court. Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

I hate to speak of these young people in financial terms, but money is what your committee is focusing on. Hopefully, you are able to see past the dollars and cents to the purpose this money serves, and will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Curt Shuey

Tribal Circle Coordinator  
Kenaitze Indian Tribe

P.O. Box 988

150 N. Willow St.

Kenai, AK 99611

Direct: (907) 335-7232

Cell: (907) 252-5660

Fax: (907) 335-7236

For Curt: [cshuey@kenaitze.org](mailto:cshuey@kenaitze.org)

For Program: [circle@kenaitze.org](mailto:circle@kenaitze.org)



**"As one people, with the various chiefs, they agreed on what was best.**

**...they taught one another whatever they needed to learn.**

**They visited among all the different villages, and told one another ancient stories. What they learned from the old stories that they heard, they passed on to others for them to make use of it.**

**...and they trusted one another...."**

Peter Kalifornsky, Dena'ina Elder

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Ian Wheelles <ian@wheelleslaw.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 12:18 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Youth Court funding

**Importance:** High

Hi,

I wanted to give some brief input to your budget review and consideration of funding state youth courts.

I was a member of Anchorage Youth Court more than 15 years ago when I was at Dimond High. In the years since, I have volunteered as a youth court instructor and in other ways. Simply put the effectiveness of youth courts in deterring juvenile delinquency is incredibly efficient, especially in terms of cost. The recidivism rate for offenders going through a youth court program, prosecuted, defended, judged, and sentenced by their peers, is incredibly low. There is simply no better bang for the buck in this arena than youth courts. The programs are largely staffed by volunteers, certainly in the case of the student attorneys and judges. And this is a much more efficient and effective value for our tax dollar.

Please reconsider cutting this funding. It is not just some club or extra-curricular activity for students to pad their college resumes. It is a legitimate and EFFECTIVE alternative diversion program to the traditional juvenile justice system. And it works. And as a by-product, it gives our volunteering student youth an excellent training program for public speaking and community service. So it helps them too.

But if for no other reason than the impact it has in reducing youth crime, please keep it funded.



***Ian Wheelles***

***Alaskan Attorney***

**Law Office of Ian Wheelles**

**601 E. 57<sup>th</sup> Place Suite 101**

**Anchorage, Alaska 99518**

**[www.wheelleslaw.com](http://www.wheelleslaw.com)**

**(907) 375-5561**

**(907) 375-5562 FAX**

**From:** [Irene Tresser](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Please do not cut Anchorage Youth Court Funding!  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 6:00:12 PM

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Good afternoon!

I have been involved with Anchorage Youth Court since 1994. I used to volunteer as a legal advisor in the courtroom, and then I was a part-time employee as a staff attorney. Last summer, my son became an Anchorage Youth Court member. I have seen hundreds of kids pass through the Youth Court doors, and it has provided a wonderful opportunity for the defendants as well as the student judges, attorneys, bailiffs and clerks. Please consider funding this incredible organization.

Irene Tresser

Sent from my iPad

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Beplat, Klaus <kbeplat@cpgh.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 12:26 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding

RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

Youth Court is also a very valuable teaching tool for those students who chose to be a part of the youth court system. By volunteering their time they get the chance to learn firsthand how our justice system works, what it is like to represent a client or the prosecutor, and what roles the judge performs. All of which cannot be taught or experienced in the public schools.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Klaus Beplat

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**From:** [LeRoy Heinrich](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** ["Ginny"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: HB 72 Yputh Court Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:33:57 AM

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RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

My name is LeRoy J. Heinrich and I am on the Board of Directors of the Kenai Peninsula Youth Court. This program saves the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) For the past 10 years the Kenai Peninsula Youth Court has adjudicated an average of 110 cases each year all of which were diverted from the Alaska Judicial System. Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



LeRoy J. Heinrich

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Mackenzie Lindeman <alaskakenziegirl@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 01, 2015 2:25 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Youth Court Budget

As a teen actively participating in Youth Court cases as a lawyer within Kenai and Soldotna, I have been informed recently that the portion of our funding that comes from the state has been removed entirely from the House version of the state budget. Youth courts are of great value to the state and communities. Youth courts save the state money. It saves time of probation, law enforcement, and court system involvement. It saves the private sector the costs caused by juvenile crime and are effective as shown by our recidivism rate being considerable lower than other systems.

Thank you for your time regarding my request to restore the Youth Court funding. We can't do what we do, without it.

Sincerely,  
Mackenzie Lindeman

## **Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Maegan Weltzin <maeganweltzin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 8:29 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Support for Youth Court

Good morning House Finance Committee,

I am respectfully submitting my written testimony in support of funding Fairbanks North Star Youth Court (FNSYC). When I was growing up, I was a member of the FNSYC for several years (1998-2002). During this time I learned a lot about how the court system worked ranging from being a court clerk to a lawyer. I also was in the first class for the mediation training, a skill set that I still use when dealing with individuals in all aspect of my life. While I did not pursue a career in law (although my sister who was also involved did), the skills that I learned through FNSYC have helped me understand the US justice and legal systems and has helped me relate to people in both professional and personal aspects of life.

FNSYC is an excellent program that helps educate all the youth involved. It teaches young adults about the US justice and legal systems and it helps mentor troubled youth of Fairbanks. It relieves petty juvenile crime from the traditional court system, allowing for those finite resources to be used for worse crimes. At the same time, young adults being tried by FNSYC may feel the impact of their crime more because they are being supported and tried by their peers and are usually given a verdict that will help the convicted youth to get on a better path. By not supporting FNSYC, Fairbanks and the greater AK will be losing a under appreciated program. Please continue to support FNSYC.

Best Regards,

Maegan Weltzin

FNSYC member: Mediator, Youth Lawyer and Clerk for North Star Fairbanks Youth Court, 1998-2002

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Postdoctoral Fellow  
Division of Neurochemistry  
The Barrow Neurological Institute  
300 W. Thomas Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85013  
Lab: (602) 406-3398  
Fax: (602) 406-4172

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Patricia S Moores <psmoores@uaa.alaska.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 12:34 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Restoring Youth Court Funding HB 72

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. This is a GREAT program. It is Safer – It is Less Expensive and It WORKS. My son was an attorney in the Anchorage Youth Court for 4 years. In this program he learned about our legal system; became an advocate for other. This experience made him a better man.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for consideration.

**Pat Moores**

786-4127 jpmoores@gci.net

## Darrell Breese

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**From:** Shaun Reynolds <shaunreynolds@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 12:45 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Tina Seaton  
**Subject:** Re: Youth Court support

Thanks for bringing this to my attention Tina. Please use my name any way you like in support of youth court. I apologize but I've only got a few minutes to dash off an email. I wish I had more time to write you something a little better written, but here's something you can use.

Thanks!  
-Shaun

-----

I am saddened to hear that youth court may be defunded. I'd like to add my name to the list of people that coming out in support of Youth Court. I want to see this program continue.

Simply put, youth court is one of the best things I did in high school. I learned a ton about the court system, got public speaking experience, and had a lot of fun doing it. I would love to send my kids through such a program, and sincerely hope that I get a chance. I still remember the kids who's cases we heard, and I sincerely believe they were helped by the program as well. Youth court still comes up in job interviews even in my 30s. This program is something that I still tell people about, and that I think all schools should have.

Thanks for your time.  
-Shaun

On Sat, Feb 28, 2015 at 12:05 PM, Tina Seaton <[tinaseaton@gmail.com](mailto:tinaseaton@gmail.com)> wrote:

I know you are busy this weekend Shaun, but if you had a few minutes to dash off a quick email in support of Youth Court, it would be helpful.

Just a few sentences about what difference it made in your life??

[Ginny Espenshade](#)

To my Youth Court graduates and other supporters of our program: The Alaska House Health and Social Services Finance Subcommittee has zeroed out the Youth Court line item in the budget which funds, through grants, 11 active youth courts in the state. Please consider supporting reinstatement of our funding by providing public comment at the House Finance Committee meeting Tuesday March 3 at 3:30. Message me if you want more information. [Ginny Espenshade](#) written comments can be sent to [lhscfin@akleg.gov](mailto:lhscfin@akleg.gov) The committee starts looking at it Monday and public testimony runs tues-thurs, depending on the area, so if you get your written comments in early next week it would be great.

This was NOT Paul's committee and it has more committee's to go through, but the more they hear how important the program is the more likely it will get funding reinstated.

Good luck with the move!!

Tina



**From:** [Sue June](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Youth Court Funding  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 5:04:35 PM

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Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

My children were involved with the Anchorage Youth Court throughout their high school years, serving as attorneys, judges, chief presiding judge and board members. Through their involvement over 7 years, I became very familiar with the youth court program and it's many successes and strong low recidivism rate. It seems very shortsighted to cut funding to programs such as this - which may be a short term savings, but has a greater cost to the judicial system over the long term. I believe the opportunity for first time, minor offenders to go through a program such as this is an important benefit to our community.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Susan E. June

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Michelle Blackwell <mblackwell@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 9:12 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE YOUTH COURT BUDGET

Greetings,

I am writing today to strongly urge you to reconsider cutting funding for the Alaska Youth Court program. The \$530,000 that has been removed from the DJJ budget funds eleven active Youth Court groups across Alaska.

While we certainly realize the budget situation for the State of Alaska is dire and cuts need to be made, it seems counter-intuitive that you would cut a program that ultimately saves the state money through a reduction in probation enforcement, law enforcement and through the court system. Further, the savings to the private sector caused by juvenile crime is significant. And, finally, the recidivism rate is considerably lower than other systems.

Please strongly review whether this is an area where cuts should be made. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Michelle and Jack Blackwell

PO Box 2126, Soldotna, AK 99669

907-252-9886



**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Mike Utley <utley.m@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 1:14 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

Not only does it provide a unique way of deterring crime, but it also provides experience for those young people interested in the legal system. I know of several students who obtained valuable experience, through legal counsel, judging, and the other activities of the court system. There is no other way for these students to gain this experience.

Instead of taking away from the programs for our young people, please consider the benefits. This is the last sector you should be considering for cuts - programs for our young people represent the future of our state. We recognize that all must tighten our belts; however, do we do so at the expense of our young people? To do so risks our future and the future of our children. I urge you to reconsider this valuable program.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Utley

**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Angela Lindeman <alinde22@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 01, 2015 11:10 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Written support for Youth Courts in Alaska

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

My daughter, Mackenzie Lindeman, is a sophomore in highschool and participates as a lawyer, clerk, and maybe even a judge in the near future. She is interested in pursuing a law degree someday in her future. I'm not so much concerned about her and other students losing this amazing real-life job opportunity to work directly with youth in making their community a better place (although that's a great side note!) but I am VERY concerned about why the statistics are so clearly in favor of Youth Courts for lower rates of recidivism and yet this program is at risk of being cut. This is basic economics and common sense to restore funding to Youth Courts in Alaska.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Beplat, Occupational Therapist, Business Owner, Mother of a Youth Court Participant  
alinde22@yahoo.com

**From:** [Caleb Craig](#)  
**To:** [House Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Youth Courts  
**Date:** Monday, March 02, 2015 3:07:43 PM

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RE: Written comment in support of restoring Youth Court Funding, for inclusion as public testimony on HB 72 before House Finance Committee

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

I ask you to fully restore the funding for Youth Courts. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, they have done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

I have been a member of Valdez Youth Courts for three years and have been actively involved in this Diversionary Justice program, sentencing my peers on the basis of restoration, not as a punishment; but with the understanding that we all make mistakes. I have seen firsthand that this makes a positive change in our community. If you take it away, what will fill it? Youth will be fined and incarcerated and put on probation like adults, growing calloused to the blows that this government's system of justice has given them. I would ask you to rethink your decision, not based on economics, but on the state of our people, most importantly, our youth.

For the above reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget crisis with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Caleb Craig

**From:** [Chelsea Schleifer](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [House Finance](#)  
**Cc:** [Darlene Turner \(darlene@kodiakteencourt.org\)](mailto:darlene@kodiakteencourt.org)  
**Subject:** RE: Keep Youth Courts funded  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:16:57 AM

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Hello,

This email concerns the Finance Committee meeting occurring today at 3:30pm regarding funding for Youth Courts in Alaska. I am the Case Manager for a grant-funded program called Parenting with Love & Limits (PLL). PLL helps at-risk teens and we have recently partnered with Kodiak Teen Court to provide a new, creative sentencing option for teens and their families. I have been incredibly impressed by the Kodiak Teen Court members, both the teens and adults, and by their passion for restorative justice rather than punitive justice.

I believe the funding for Teen Courts should be reinstated for the following reasons:

- 1) Teen Courts save the state money! When teens choose to go through the Teen Court process rather than the regular court system, they are saving time and money for probation officers, judges, magistrates, staff, and law enforcement personnel.
- 2) Teen Courts reduce losses in the private sector associated with juvenile crimes and often work at encouraging juvenile offenders to help restore any damage done to the community by doing community service, etc.
- 3) Teen Courts have a low recidivism rate – this means the program is working!

Teen Court, PLL, and other programs that help restore the community are vitally important to the health and wellness of the city and of the state as a whole. Cutting funding for Teen Courts will only increase the drain on state resources and hurt the community. By reinstating the Youth Courts' funding, you will save money and reduce juvenile crime, and in doing so, create a better future for us all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Chelsea Schleifer**

Parenting with Love and Limits Case Manager

Kodiak Area Native Association

Phone: 907-486-9811

Fax: 907-486-3498

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**Darrell Breese**

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**From:** Katie Aspen Gavenus <katie.aspen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 01, 2015 4:35 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Restore Funding to Youth Courts: Housebill 72

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing you today because I was shocked to hear that you have cut all funding for Youth Courts in the state of Alaska. As a former youth court volunteer, and community member actively involved youth activities in Homer, I have seen the huge impact youth court has.

On a very practical level, youth court saves the state money every year. Youth court directors, staff, and their dedicated middle school and high school volunteers perform a number of tasks that would become the responsibility of the state. Special state statutes have been written to allow cases to be diverted to the youth courts. In the absence of youth courts, though, the state will have to re-absorb those cases, significantly increasing the workload for the Division of Juvenile Justice. In response, the state would have to provide for additional employees such as probation officers, judges, law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, and public defenders and the included benefits and travel expenses, especially since many of these youth courts serve small, remote communities.

Looking beyond this year's budget, youth courts save the state even more money by reducing the number of repeat offenders and chance that these individuals will become embroiled in the adult justice system. Research has repeatedly shown that youth that go through the youth court system are approximately half as likely to re-offend compared to similarly situated youth that go through the traditional justice system. Each re-offense that is prevented saves the state more and more money, keeping youth out of probation, juvenile detention, and even more expensive adult prison. At the same time, it improves our communities by preventing future crimes and rehabilitating these youth to be more positive members of the community.

Finally, it should be noted that youth courts play important roles in the community, providing meaningful volunteer and community-engagement opportunities for young adults, educating them about the justice system, and promoting civic engagement.

Cutting funding to youth courts is truly a lose-lose-lose-lose proposition. This decision would actually cost the state money, both this year and in the future. It would hurt young adults in the juvenile system, increasing the chances they will re-offend and get stuck in a cycle of crime. And it would take away an important community-building resource and instead perpetuate a culture of crime that negatively impacts the social, economic, and cultural fabric of communities. It would deprive K-12 students and volunteers of important civic education and opportunities to actually engage in the justice and civic system.

I hope you re-evaluate your decision. It really makes absolutely no sense to cut funding for a cost-saving program.

Sincerely,  
Katie

Katie Gavenus  
P.O. Box 1752

Homer, AK 99603  
(907) 299-0983  
[katie.aspen@gmail.com](mailto:katie.aspen@gmail.com)  
<http://childrenofthespills.org>