

From: [Raymond Pastorino](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Restore one-time educational K-12 Grant Funds
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 11:20:21 AM

My name is Alexis Pastorino, and I have been a resident of this beautiful State for 38 years. I am a grandmother with a grand child attending high school in Juneau.

First, I want to thank you for your commitment and, especially, for last year passing the one-time grant funds and the first increase in the BSA in 5 years. I am humbled by the enormity of the budget cuts and the decisions you must make. It is not my intent to explain why it is critical the one-time educational 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; they are our future.

Thank you so much for taking your time to listen to and read testimonies on this very critical issue.