

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Donna Rae Faulkner
Representing: Self + Oceanside Farms
Bill No./Subject: HB 256
Committee: House Finance
Date of Hearing: 3/1/2016

I respectfully ask you to reconsider the budget you are proposing. The future of Alaska is at stake. What kind of Alaska do we want?

Governor Walker's budget cut proposals would clearly be felt by all Alaskans. But the truly devastating budget that the legislature is now putting forward is shocking + unreasonable at best. It slashes programs entirely — programs + people. Small businesses will be harmed. I support some cuts, I support restructuring of the Alaska pfd + implementing a state income tax. I believe in community, health + maintaining a healthy food supply, helping Alaskans to be happy, healthy + connected. In particular, I especially support reinstating funds (or at least not cutting so deeply)

• Alaska Public Radio / public broadcasting - a crucial lifeline for Alaskans everywhere - our democracy, emergency info center, cultural business advertisement, educational provider, entertainment, inspiration, honoring system for communities.

Farming + Ag cuts { inc. Northern Latitude Plant Materials Center - especially make sure that the AK Certified Seed Potato Program continues. Our small businesses + other farms across AK depend on this program (that we pay \$30/lb. for starting stock + inspections.) (It is not "free" to us, we value it!!) As AK farmers who have invested so much, you will really hurt our businesses with this cut.
• Cooperative Extension - practical, educational opportunities for sustainable Alaskan lifestyles, great staff + resource for citizens, gardeners, farmers + more!

Early Childhood Education +

OWL → especially being sure to not cut off internet access in rural villages which could be catastrophic!! Note that many programs like this one would lose lots more in matching / federal funding opportunities.

Aarrgghh! Thank you for your reconsideration
Donna Rae

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Don McNamara
Representing: Self + Oceanside Farms
Bill No./Subject: HB256
Committee: House Finance
Date of Hearing: 3/1/2016

I understand the need for cutting the state budget and looking for revenue. I understand that making cuts is challenging & everyone ~~will~~ will be impacted by the cuts. Governor Walker, it seems to me, proposed strong cuts that were going to be felt by Alaskans, but the Alaska legislature's dramatic + much deeper cuts are appalling!! A 4% cut is one thing, but the legislature's proposals are truly devastating to Alaskans. It feels like an assault on our communities, way of life + interconnectedness.

I particularly want to ask you to not make your proposed + unreasonable cuts to the

- Plant Materials Center
 - Cooperative Extension Service
- } cuts are one thing, but Do Not take out the entire!

Alaska Certified Seed Potato Program

Our small farm business has invested in growing a healthy food supply using organic methods. We pay \$30/lb. for AK Certified Seed to start our crops. Potatoes are an important crop that is susceptible to many viruses + blights. The Alaskan potato crops are in much better shape than those in the lower 48 and we want to keep it that way. Eliminating the AK certified seed potato program will be bad for our safe food supply + our small businesses. Cooperative Extension provides great education opportunities that are practical for gardeners, farmers + ^{healthy} sustainable lifestyles of ~~many~~ Alaskan Citizens - cut some of the budget, but not that much!! I also support reinstating the Alaskan lifeline of Alaska Public Broadcasting and OWL - especially supporting the internet connectivity of our rural villages.

Thanks Don

Do you indeed support Alaskan communities + small businesses? It is not evident by this budget! (I support a state income tax + restructuring of the AK pfd's) but these cuts are outrageous. Please reconsider. Thank you.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name:

NELSON PALMIA JR.

Representing:

THE ALISI

Bill No./Subject

HB 248 / SB 131 / HB 256

Committee:

FINANCE; LABOR & COMMERCE

Date of Hearing:

3/1/2016

I'M THE OWNER OF A BAR & CAFE HERE IN HOMER.
MY WIFE & I TOOK OVER THE BUSINESS 7 YRS. AGO.
BEFORE PERMANENTLY RESIDING IN ALASKA, I WAS
INVOLVED IN THE LIQUOR INDUSTRY IN NEVADA, CALIFORNIA,
OREGON & WASHINGTON. I WAS SHOCKED TO SEE THE LEVEL
OF TAXATION HERE IN ALASKA. THOUGH I DIDN'T AGREE
WITH ITS PURPOSE, I UNDERSTOOD IT. NOW, AMID A
NEW BUDGET CRISIS, YOU WANT TO DOUBLE TAXES
ON SPIRITS AGAIN !!! ALASKA LIQUOR BUSINESSES
ALREADY FACE THE 2ND HIGHEST RATES ON BEER, WINE
& SPIRITS IN THE NATION. YET YOU FEEL ITS NECESSARY
TO RAISE TO LEVELS WHICH EXCEED 5X ~~THE~~ THE
NATIONAL AVERAGE. "SIN" TAXES MAY WIN YOU
MORALITY VOTES, BUT IT IS UNFAIR! ALCOHOL IS AND
HAS BEEN PAYING ITS FAIR SHARE TO THE STATE.
WE SHOULD NOT BE THE EASY TARGET TO
HELP SOLVE THE STATE'S BUDGET CRISIS.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name:

Penelope Haas

Representing:

Bill No./Subject

HB256 Operating Budget

Committee:

HPIN

Date of Hearing:

3/1/14

Thank you for your time. ~~There are two~~
~~particular areas of concern from the~~
~~workshop and I don't think I can~~
~~bridge the gap until something can be done~~
~~through taxes.~~

~~14 further miles~~ No more ADF & G cuts.

It only takes 2 consecutive years of ~~mismanagement~~ ~~to destroy a wild~~ ~~salmon~~ ^{run} ~~population~~. What will this state be without wild salmon? I have worked w/ ADFG on a wild salmon weir for the past four years. The budget for that project has been cut. Knowing what I know about that system and what I know about the power of the commercial boats, I believe there is a very good chance that this ^{run} ~~population~~ will be wiped out. If this is the model, we will have no more wild fish. They will not come back. It took millions of years for them to get here. BE SMART.

~~Secondly, you can't have a state without~~
~~higher education.~~ NEW REVENUE-STATE INCOME TAX.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name:

Nancy Lord

Representing:

self

Bill No./Subject

budget

Committee:

H. Finance

Date of Hearing:

March 1

I will send a separate email - but
came to testify about my concern about
the level of cuts you're contemplating -
particularly ^{for} the University. I urge you
to adopt the governor's proposal (\$5.8
million cut) which is drastic enough.
for the university

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: David G. Lewis

Representing: people of AK.

Bill No./Subject HB256

Committee: House Finance

Date of Hearing: 3-1-16

How will your cuts affect the rest of the state ^{→ budget}
lay offs - business - population loss + bad housing
market. I support using the PFR of those who
aren't low income + an income tax over a
sales tax. Spend time on the budget not
pet social issues of individual legislators
Please don't make the GREAT LAND
THE NOT SO GREAT LAND.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Caroline Venuti
Representing: Self
Bill No./Subject: funding UAA - H.B. 256
Committee: House Finance Committee
Date of Hearing: 1 March 2016

Thank you for serving Alaska.

My story about the U.A.A begins at U.A.F in 1967 where I completed my Bachelor's of Education. Later I attend UAA and received my Masters of Education. I have taught as an adjunct at K.B.C. in Homer. Currently I work at the Learning Resource Center.

I am amazed that the legislators would make larger cuts to the UAA budget than our governor. This deep of a budget cut will affect Homer's College. Kachemak Bay Campus is a key to Homer's prosperity. It's location is in the middle of town. The campus hosts Arts on Friday, Socratic circles, forums, readings by authors and a reception area to celebrate learning.

We offer vocational programs for the fishing industry, GED testing, and an Associated Arts degree classes. Students travel from all over the state to attend K.B.C.

Please consider carefully the UAA budget - respect the Governor's budget and let the UAA continue to educate Alaska's future leaders.

From: [Brad & Sharon Hunter](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB256
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 8:51:19 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently found out that the legislature is considering seriously cutting funding to public radio in the State of Alaska. This is a bad idea. Public radio is critical to the communities of the State, especially the small communities. By cutting the State funding you will effectively be cutting the federal funding too, since we'll no longer have that qualifying matching funds.

Instead you should implement the governor's proposal for dealing with the funding shortfalls.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Brad Hunter

Petersburg, Alaska

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www.avast.com

From: [Johanna Tellman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:34:38 AM

I, Johanna Tellman, am writing in support of restoring the OWL funding that has been cut from the Unalaska Public Library. Without this funding there's a huge chance the library could also loose additional federal funds. Internet on this island is extremely expensive, and by offering our residents this service it enhances our community. I've seen school kids go there and use the internet for reports, fisherman go there to email loved ones, locals do their taxes and apply for PFD's, and just many other people from all walks of life who can't afford the internet here. You would be doing our community a great disservice by taking away the free internet the Unalaska Public Library provides.

Sincerely,

Johanna Tellman
Unalaskan resident of over 32 years

From: [Tracy Mikowski](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please protect public radio funding in Alaska
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 6:13:44 AM

Please do not cut the funding of our community radio. Those of us living remotely rely on the news, weather and emergency updates on our public station. In addition it is our connection to everyone else in our community. It is how we return lost dogs and property, how we get medications to people off the road system, it's how we know to attend a spaghetti dinner to raise money for medical expenses for our neighbor...the radio is at the center of our community. I think that eliminating our public (and only) station would put people's health and welfare at risk and would diminish the overall quality of life here in Southeast Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tracy Mikowski
PO Box 1356
Haines, AK 99827
(907) 303-0235
tracy@talkingcrowpublishing.com

From: [Sandi Koval](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Testimony FY2017
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 7:35:53 AM

Dear Alaska House Finance Committee:

As you prepare to craft FY2017 statewide operations budge I am asking you to please remember that many of our beloved Elders in this state are the very pioneers who have contributed to and have supported our communities for decades. Now, as they enter their final years of life it is our responsibility to help them maintain their dignified independence. Services such as senior nutrition programs and Care-A-Van senior rides are NOT luxury items; rather these are the very necessities which promote continued dignified ageing and independent health-promoting lifestyles. Without such access as senior-rides many of our Elders will honestly become shut-ins; unable to get out from their homes, their lives will have less purpose and they will become sedentary and health will deteriorate in multiple unfortunate and PREVENTABLE ways. Further, many Elders simply no longer have the appetite, energy, and/or money to prepare a daily healthy meal with all of the thoughtfully prepared nutritional value that a senior meals program can offer. Congregate settings also offer a meeting place for our older-ones and there is no monetary value to put on such an important necessity in a social-being's healthy life! Furthermore, home-delivered senior meals bring this life promoting nutrition to our frail Elders who quite obviously need this service. Malnourishment should never be a reason that an Elder can no longer live in his/her home – or what sends her/him to the hospital. This is the truth of it: If our state budget decision-makers choose to cut funding for these types of services, then MANY Elders will suffer. Know this is factual as you make your decisions; and please, please remember that as Alaskans we must honor our Elders and do all that is necessary to promote and support their dignity to the very end. A cradle to grave society never questions or sacrifices the necessities. It is not too far-reaching to hope that as our beloved senior citizens take their final breaths of life in Alaska that they do so knowing that the community they've loved and supported for so long still gives value to their existence.

Thank you for inviting me to testify as a citizen.

Respectfully,

Sandra Koval

Sitka, Alaska, (907) 738-8280

From: [Mark Lindberg](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Comment on State Operating Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 7:52:22 AM

What Makes a Great State?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the operating budget. I was unable to testify in person yesterday so I am providing written comments. My name is Mark Lindberg. I am resident of district 4C and a professor of wildlife ecology at UAF. I appreciate the past support that you have shown for education and I hope you will do so in the future.

My wife and I are both graduates of UAF. Following graduation, we left Alaska for five years moving first to Tennessee and then Montana. Things weren't working out in Montana, although we were living in the state known "as the last best place". We wanted to start a family and we wanted to do so in "the last great place" – Alaska. Until recently, we never really thought hard about why Alaska was labeled the last great place, it seemed obvious. The natural beauty of the state is certainly a reason to characterize the state as great; however, wild places and stunning landscape alone don't define greatness if the citizens of that state aren't served in way that leads to a safe, healthy, and happy life. I won't dispute that those programs that serve the safety and health needs of the citizens are of utmost importance. Close behind those programs and sometimes in collaboration with those programs is education. For us, the educational system of this state is the most defining feature of greatest because it makes a direct investment in the states' most precious, renewable resource, its' children, and therefore the future of the state.

Even though education is already paying some of its own way through school taxes, tuition, and cost recovery and matching from research, and through other returns like an education and associated job opportunities, quality of life, and outreach, it's clear we still need to do more to maintain greatness. It's clear that we have reached the limits of investment and returns from a finite resource such as oil and we need to take responsibility for our greatness and future by paying our way through income taxes and more responsible use of the permanent fund.

However, an income tax and wise use of the permanent fund comes with a responsibility and a trust between the citizens of Alaska and its government officials, who will be charged with deciding how to use that revenue. Show us that you deserve that trust by making responsible decisions that value our future. Making poor decisions about matters such as air quality and budget cuts that would cripple the university don't reflect that you value our health or the future of our state. Making uninformed decisions about the role of research in the educational process and in the state economy, do not suggest that you deserve our trust. Misusing the permanent fund by sending \$10,000,000s of dollars out of state in the form federal taxes each year doesn't demonstrate responsible management. We are prepared to do and pay more to assure the future greatest of our state – are you?

We understand that cuts may need to be part of the short term solution, but please consider reasonable and responsible levels of cuts to the state educational system that reflect how you value the future of our state. Please also admit that we need to seek longer term solutions to our state financial crisis that don't just include cuts. Consider forming an alliance and trust with the citizens of this state through an income tax and more responsible use of the permanent fund. We will not be judged by our ability to balance the budget this year or even next year, but by our ability to provide a great state for future generations and that will require that we support a high quality educational system.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Mark Lindberg

From: [James Alborough](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Cc: [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Subject: OWL Funding Appeal
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 8:11:39 AM

Dear Mark and the rest of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to you again to voice my support for the OWL program and to request that OWL funding be re-instated into the budget. The relatively small expenditure on this program yields exceptionally high value. Cutting the OWL program will not only create great expense and hardship to libraries across the state, but will also jeopardize federal E-rate funding that pays for the 60-90% of Alaska's high broadband costs to rural and remote libraries.

OWL is a critical program that enables us to provide basic internet service to Alaska residents. I don't need to remind you how essential this sort of service is in this day and age.

Sincerely,
James Alborough
Chair, Haines Borough Public Library Advisory Board

James Alborough
907-766-2082

From: [David](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Alaska FY Budget
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 11:44:59 PM
Attachments: [AK budget.pdf](#)

Hello

I was not able to testify on the budget issue today. Please accept the following comments.

Thank you.

David McDowell
2077 Kathleen Road
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: [Stephens, Michael - NRCS, Delta Junction, AK](#)
To: [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. David Talerico](#); [Sen. John Coghill](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Fred Schlutt Jr](#)
Subject: In Full Support of Forestry Extension through UAF-CES
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 8:49:40 AM
Attachments: [Boreal Forest eNewsletter Fall-Winter 2015 FINAL.pdf](#)

To All the Leaders and Decision makers of this Great State-

As a natural resource conservationist myself, I believe in extension.

Especially in a state covered in trees, please don't cut forestry extension. Glen does a great job and we need more like him out there working with and for us all. Glen is a wonderful man, but it's not just about Glen, its about reaching the masses with education and practical experience that can be directly applied to ever day situations that we experience in Alaska. If it weren't for people like Glen and others in the CES, this state would be nowhere near what it is now, nor will we reach our potential as a whole in this Union.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email to you. This is very near and dear to me.

Respectfully,

Mike Stephens, NRCS

1420.5 Alaska Hwy

PO Box 547

Delta Junction, AK 99737

Office: 907.895.4241 ext. 110

Cell: 907.505.0772

Fax: 855.705.9787

From: Glen Holt [mailto:ggholt@alaska.edu]

Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 7:20 PM

To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki ; Rep. Tammie Wilson ; Rep. Neal Foster ; Rep. Paul Seaton ; Rep. Liz Vazquez ; Rep. Jim Colver ; Rep. Adam Wool ; Sen. Pete Kelly ; Sen. Anna MacKinnon ; Sen. Gary Stevens ; Sen. Johnny Ellis ; Representative.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov; Representative.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov; Representative.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov; Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov; Representative.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov; Representative.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov; Representative.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov; Representative.Dave.Talerico@akleg.gov; Senator.John.Coghill@akleg.gov; Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov; Senator.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov;

Senator.Charlie.Huggins@akleg.gov; Senator.Bill.Stoltze@akleg.gov; Fred Schlutt Jr
Subject: Forestry Extension through UAF-CES

Dear Forestry Cooperators and Stakeholders;

As you know, the State legislature is concerned with reducing Alaska's state budget.

I have served at the UAF-CES as the Extension Field-Forester the last 4-years providing information, outreach and education on forestry topics as requested by the public.

Please take a moment to send an email to the above legislators, depicting in your own words, the value that the Cooperative Extension Service has made in providing you with valuable forestry outreach and information.

I am sure that most of our legislators don't realize there is a forester doing outreach to industry, organizations, Native corporations, agencies and private citizens in the State of Alaska.

Attached is the latest Boreal Forest e-Newsletter that most of you (more than 800) received a couple months ago. The next one will come out in the Spring and will be the 6th edition.

Until then, I would appreciate your comments and support and please let our legislative body know that you support the Cooperative Extension Service and School of Natural Resources and Extension.

Thank you,

Very Sincerely Yours, Glen Holt.

--

***Glen Holt
Eastern Alaska Forester
UAF Cooperative Extension
PO Box 757200***

Fairbanks, AK 99775-7200

Phone [\(907\) 474-5271](tel:(907)474-5271)



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House Finance Committee, FY17 Budget

Alaska doesn't have a budget crisis, it has a temporary revenue issue perpetuated by overzealous spending when times were good. It should be apparent to anyone that understands basic business economics. Treat your employees poorly with out benefits and a low wage and I guarantee that employee will not remain with you for long and will not provide good services to your clients. Is this the manner in which you intend to run the business of Alaska? It seems to me this is your wish. By investing a little in your business (state) you will reap benefits ten-fold or more. Shouldn't this be your primary objective by maintaining a quality of life that we all value so much as Alaskans? Ever deeper budget cuts is not the answer.

Charlie Dexter and Jo Kuchle so eloquently stated in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner recently when they asked if your community has been good to you, and why there are so many people leaving and not giving back? Many have come and taken resources from the state for their own profit and benefit. Problem is, we have grown up in a "give me" and "take away" society. It started when gold was taken away from the Fairbanks creeks 100 years ago. Our resources continue to be taken away. Are we properly compensated for the value of what is taken? I get it; we exist because we are a resource takeaway state that serves to provide for our economic wellbeing. Gold, coal, fish, trees, oil, and perhaps natural gas. What happened to giving back in value for what is taken? If you give someone a gift you are expressing gratitude, but you also would like the compliment returned. Unfortunately our resources have been taken far too long for short-term gains and the full value of these gains has not been returned to our communities. We need to utilize our resources wisely and sustainably and we need to be properly compensated for the use of our wealth. That is part of giving something and getting a lot of value in return. And don't get me started on AOGA's crying bitter tears that the current O&G economy is in a hardship. What about the recent billions in net profits big oil has taken recently?

Unfortunately, too many Representatives just don't get it. One example is the proposal to gut the university system. Dollar for dollar the University of Alaska (all campuses inclusive) give so much more back to our communities for the few dollars of investment. A University exists for problem solving, to bring forth innovation, and provide for a better quality of life. UA President Johnson estimates more than 500 university positions will be eliminated to meet Ms. Wilson's proposed operating budget, and along with it complete programs. Sorry to say Jim, but I don't think you will be able to keep a viable University and meet its mission at this budget level. And what will this do to the local economies? Those of us that sought to live in a university town will stop and think about going somewhere else, where the benefits of a solid University provide the cultural and economic wellbeing in a community.

It is unfortunate that too many people think government is wasteful and its budget too large. These are the people who want their money (PFD) for nothing and tricks (services) for free. Sorry, it but it doesn't work this way, freedom comes at a price and it is time we own up to the fact and give back to our communities that have been

so kind to us. We can't continue to cut the budget, cut the budget, then cut some more. Soon there will be no economic prosperity and no quality of life. We will be left with disgruntled residents that won't care to be good community citizens. Is this what the Legislature wants? Do you really believe the majority of your constituents want no services? We all need to give a little to gain so much. First question: Has this community been good to you? My second question is: do you want it to continue giving to our wellbeing? Please look at revenue options before you destroy what we all love about being Alaskans.

David McDowell
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: [Rhonda Anderson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: OWL (Online With Libraries) funding
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 7:00:13 PM

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

like a raisin in the sun?

... *Or does it explode?*

excerpt from *Harlem*, by Langston Hughes

What happens to OWL (Online With Libraries) without funding?

Does it quietly disappear like a quickened heartbeat after a mild earthquake?

Or does it spew forth like hazardous volcanic ash leaving destruction in its wake?

OWL (Online With Libraries) funding, which was included in the Alaska Governor's budget but was cut entirely by the finance education subcommittee, should be restored. Without this funding, it would cost us \$40,000 to keep our internet connection in Unalaska, which would **increase the library's internet budget by more than 700%**.

Internet is extremely expensive on the island, and many residents do not have home internet. They need this connection to apply for jobs, do their income taxes, apply for the PFD, continue their education, pay their bills, and connect with their families and the outside world. Perhaps, you will think that we exaggerate when we refer to "the outside world." However, if you take into consideration the fact that Unalaska is an island which is approximately 800 miles away from Anchorage - the nearest major city - this term might be considered quite appropriate.

The library is the only source of free internet, open to all, on the island.

If OWL were not available, here are a few programs and services our children would have missed:

Ø Unalaska City School students taking a virtual tour of the UAF campus and asking questions about college life.

Ø Elementary students being able to talk with NASA scientists and take a tour of the space capsule.

Ø Students at UAF, UAA, and UAS being able to take online classes at the library.

Ø A dad reading children's books to his kids via Skype in the library's children's room.

If OWL is not available, here are a few programs and services we might all miss:

Ø Job interviews via Skype.

Ø SAT class through an Anchorage instructor – this will not be possible without high-speed internet and videoconferencing capability.

Ø Skype and FaceTime visits with family, friends, and business associates.

Ø Business opportunities.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and support.

Rhonda L. Anderson

Teacher

From: [Monika Switzer](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 7:42:35 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Monika Switzer
PO Box 874563
Wasilla, AK 99687

From: [juularctic](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:09:40 PM

As the board chair for Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence I am sending this email in support of continued funding at the highest level possible for the CDVSA. As you know Alaska has the highest rates in the nation on sexual assault and domestic violence. The support and education agencies like the CDVSA and USAFV give are tremendous.

Every week USAFV has clients coming in and also finding shelter at our agency. In a rural area like Unalaska there is nowhere else to go. USAFV works with the local clinic and police and school in order to assist victims and/or educate.

I hope and urge you to continue a strong financial support in your allocation of funds to these agencies.

With regards,
Juliette Vries

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Tab®4

From: [Aren Gunderson](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. David Guttentberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Subject: support the University
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:48:05 PM

Hello,

My name is Aren Gunderson, I live in Fairbanks, and work for the University in a research position. I am writing in support of a fully funded University system.

The economic case for research funding is obvious, with a 500% return on investment. In case it hasn't been made clear, those 100s of millions of dollars are spent hiring students and technicians who live and spend their money in Alaska. That money is spent at thousands of local businesses whose products and services support research activities (there is a local electrician currently modifying my workspace who is being paid by a grant from NSF in support of University research, hired by a local contractor, also paid by that grant. After he is done, local plumbers will be here to install new equipment. This money flows through the entire economy of Alaska). But beyond the monetary argument...

What student interested in science would choose to go to a University where no actual science is being conducted, and what would they learn from non-scientists?

What student striving to become an engineer would attend a University where nothing is actually being designed? How do you learn engineering and design without actual engineers to teach you?

Alaskans themselves would be better off leaving the state to receive higher education than to attend their own University where doing real world scientific and engineering research isn't an option.

Ask your state agency scientists if they need the University to support their research into the wildlife, geology, water, oil and gas, mineral resources, and conservation of all the state's natural resources. I suspect many of them were trained in their fields at the University of Alaska to do the research they do in support of the state's interests.

I grew up in Minnesota but I came to Fairbanks because of the opportunities provided by the University. I completed my Master's Degree with the intent of remaining in Alaska. I work for you at the University of Alaska and am involved with numerous research grants right now, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in our community, hiring students, mentoring graduate and undergraduate students, and writing more grant proposals to continue educating future alaskans. I will be updating my resume in the coming weeks so that I am prepared to find another job after I am laid off. We (my wife and 2 kids) will have to leave the state to find work at another research institution or agency.

To be clear I am willing to pay for the costs of maintaining the University. I support an income tax, the use of the PFD, the elimination/reduction of oil tax credits, and increased taxes on oil production to pay for a functioning economy. Alaskans need to take some personal ownership of their state government, an income tax and use of the PFD will do that.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If I can be of any help in this matter please let me

know.

Aren



From: [BHITA COLLEGE](#)
To: [Bismillah Samad](#)
Cc: [Bismillah Samad](#), [Prof. Edmond](#), [Aling goBismillah Samad](#), [Lyn Samad](#), [Aling goBismillah Samad](#), [Theresa](#), [Aling goBismillah Samad](#), [David](#), [Aling goBismillah Samad](#), [Dore](#), [Aling goBismillah Samad](#), [Scott](#), [Aling goBismillah Samad](#), [Lynn](#), [Aling goBismillah Samad](#), [Cathy](#), [Aling goBismillah Samad](#), [Lynn](#), [Aling goBismillah Samad](#), [Representative](#), [Tammie](#), [Aling goBismillah Samad](#), [Mia](#), [Aling goBismillah Samad](#)
Subject: University operating budget
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016, 8:40:07 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express several concerns about the proposed operating budget. I am well aware of the present and upcoming challenges facing all Alaskans due to the financial crisis at all levels of state government and it's many reaches around the State. We all know things will and must change, including cuts to many areas of spending. There are several that I hope will be spared a giant backward step that could undo many years of work, development, and services to Alaskans. Cuts are one thing, but cutting the University and agriculture budget allocations to the point where some programs will cease to exist is short sighted and will be directly harmful to both my family and the whole state.

I am hopeful that my now 10 year old son will go to college in 8 years. My husband and I both own businesses that barely survive the ups and downs of tourism, but every year we put money from our PFDs into the college savings program that guarantees the tuition rate at UA schools. We have always believed that if our son decides to go to school in Alaska, he will have many excellent opportunities for a high quality education. However, dramatic cuts to research, to the Cooperative Extension service which we use many times every year, and to the general funds allocated to the University will not give the school time to seek funding elsewhere. It will simply diminish the school's abilities to be a top notch University which may be irreversible for many years, if ever. We feel that our investment in the future of the University and in our son's education will be significantly lowered in it's value, making us wonder if the past 10 years we have invested money will not have been worth it if the University is not given the chance to continue to advance, to become a better school that attracts people from all over the world. Please give UA a chance to keep up the good work, by cutting less than 5% this year, spreading further cuts over the next 3-5 years.

Regarding the Department of Agriculture funding: I understand that the Seed Potato program has been completely cut from the budget and that the Plant Materials Center may lose a significant portion of it's needed operating funds. My family owns a producing state agricultural parcel providing vegetables and flowers to hundreds of Alaskans every year. Loss of the Seed Potato program would be devastating to many small farming enterprises. It is unconscionable to place the burden of ordering potatoes from the lower 48 on small farming businesses who will be taking their chances that potato diseases aren't imported at the same time. The Seed Potato program has been very successful and farmers PAY to buy the certified seed! The Plant Materials Center is at the heart of Alaska's agricultural future. To take away the Seed Potato program and cut the whole department so much means the important research that helps Alaskans grow, harvest, sell and consume food originating in the state is in jeopardy. As I'm sure you know MOST of Alaska's food comes from outside the state and is imported long distances reducing quality, freshness, food security and economic independence. It just doesn't make sense to hurt the present and future of hard working farmers when we should be helping them in any way we can. Our farm produces several thousand pounds of potatoes, has tested varieties of currants, thubarb and strawberries, and has identified important plant diseases all with the help of the Plant Materials Center. Please don't cut so much from their ability to provide these important services.

Finally, I feel strongly that senior citizens in Alaska deserve our support. They are mentors, volunteers, buyers of many goods and services, and relatives. Cutting services to these important members of our community is a slap in the face to the Alaskans who built our great state.

Thank you for your time, effort and thought on these important matters. I can't imagine how hard it must be to be the ones with the scissors. I beg you to think beyond short term challenges and make sure that the consequences of severe cuts are considered with great care. Capital projects like the Susitna Watana Dam and the Rocket Launch pad in Kodiak seem to be SO much less important than the future of education and agriculture.

Sincerely,
Anita Golbin
Talkeetna, Alaska

From: [ANITA GOLTON](#)
To: [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Subject: Fwd: testimony on operating budget
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:52:41 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express several concerns about the proposed operating budget. I am well aware of the present and upcoming challenges facing all Alaskans due to the financial crisis at all levels of state government and it's many reaches around the State. We all know things will and must change, including cuts to many areas of spending. There are several that I hope will be spared a giant backward step that could undo many years of work, development, and services to Alaskans. Cuts are one thing, but cutting the University and agriculture budget allocations to the point where some programs will cease to exist is short sighted and will be directly harmful to both my family and the whole state.

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Sincerely,
Anita Golton
Talkeetna, Alaska

From: [Robert Dawson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: cuts
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 9:11:28 PM

Dear Governor::

When you cut money from programs for the farmers in this state, you are hindering food growth in Alaska.. You are taking fresh vegetables from the people that he grows for.. Vegetables that are pesticide and chemical free,, meat that is steroid free.. I personally am not enrolled in the programs you are cutting, but I have 3 ht-tunnels.. I work with soil and water conservation for soil testing.. It is hard enough to grow crops in this state and make ends meet let alone have someone move the ends so they can not.. Bob Dawson 733-4035

From: [Linda Schandelmeier](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: The Budget
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 9:41:45 PM

Honorable Representatives and Senators,

I urge you to consider the welfare of all Alaskans as you prepare the State budget. There have been enough cuts; further cuts will jeopardize the State's economy and ability to thrive. The budget should not be balanced on the backs of seniors and children.

In particular, I believe cutting the University budget is shortsighted. We are going to need the wisdom and talents of faculty, staff and students to see us through the challenges ahead. Really we don't have a budget crisis that we can't solve. Alaskan needs a state income tax, we need to tap the permanent fund earnings reserve, and adjust the Senate Bill 21 Oil Tax structure for starters.

Sincerely,

Linda Schandelmeier
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: [June Takagi](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Regarding Representative Wilson's proposed cuts to UA
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 11:37:13 PM

Dear House Finance Committee members,

Here is the story of my son, who is currently a sophomore at UAF.

He graduated from South Anchorage High School in 2014, Summa Cum Laude, helped his South HS Nordic Ski team win the state championship in his senior year, was a member of Team Alaska at multiple Cross Country Ski Junior National Championships, was a representative of the United States under 18 nordic ski team (6 males from the US) at the Junior Scandinavian Cups, the runner up region champion in cross country running, and a member of the Anchorage Youth Symphony during high school. I am not listing his accomplishments to brag. I am listing them so that you can be cognizant of the fact that he could have chosen to go to college anywhere. But instead, he chose to attend UAF, because the prospects of an athletic scholarship and the opportunity to ski and run for UAF were quite attractive. Then, when he went on a tour of the university prior to applying, he was just as drawn by the facilities, the research opportunities, and the quality of the faculty.

Currently, He is a biology major taking courses which will place him on a pre-med track, and has been on the Dean's list in the Department of Biological Sciences twice so far, while running and skiing competitively, in various meets against other colleges in the lower 48, representing Alaska well. He is able to balance his academics and sports and concentrate on both because he does not have to worry about how to pay for college. He is the recipient of athletic scholarships in cross country skiing and cross country running, the Alaska Performance Scholarship, the Honors Program Scholarship from UAF, and several other private scholarships, with the athletic scholarship being the largest of his financial aid. Now that he is in his fourth semester there as a student, these are the things that confirm that UAF was the right choice for him. Number one: He is getting a quality education without accumulating a debt. Number two: He is skiing and running with and against the top athletes in the nation, supported by competent coaches and funding for travel to the meets, and raising awareness about UAF. He is worried that the proposed budget cuts will eliminate or reduce coaching positions, reduce scholarships and decrease funding for travel to competitions. This is a young man, who intends to pursue further study in the field of health sciences after graduating from UAF and returning to Alaska to give back to the community that has been so supportive of his academic and athletic pursuits.

It is my sincere request that the kind of opportunity that has been given to my son continue to exist for him and other equally talented and dedicated young student athletes in coming years, so that UAF continues to enroll high calibre students, by not making the drastic budget cuts as proposed by Representative Wilson.

On a less personal note, but just as equally held dear to my heart is a passion about maintaining the integrity of UAF as a research institution. Without its research, a university will be no different than a career preparation school. Surely, our legislators understand that "student instruction" is but one aspect of a university. Institutions of higher education have a responsibility to the current and next generation of the population to make the world a better place through knowledge, problem solving, and innovation, and to preserve the knowledge of past generations accurately and critically. "Student instruction" at the university level goes beyond feeding students a set of prescribed information, and faculty researchers play a vital role in engaging students in research. House Finance Committee members, as you look at the proposed budget cuts, I ardently ask that you preserve the unrestricted general funds so that

the university faculty, researchers, scientists, economists, professionals of the various fields are the ones who have the voice in how the funds are to be spent.

Thank you for your time,
Go Nanooks!!

June Takagi, M.A., CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
(907) 727-8224 voice/text
(907) 333-2428 fax

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From: [PSCC](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [House Finance](#)
Subject: Written testimony
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 6:51:56 PM
Attachments: [House Finance Committee 3-1-16 testimony.docx](#)

Good Afternoon Chair Neuman and House Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Attached please find my written testimony from todays call-in.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rachel

-----Original Message-----

From: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Date: 3/1/2016 10:48:25 AM
To: 'PSCC'
Subject: RE: Off-net testimony

Rachel,

Thank you for your email. Yes if you cannot make it to the Mat-Su LIO between 1-330 today you may call in the off-net number tonight from 615-730. That call in number is 1-844-586-9085.

You may also submit written testimony for the public record to: lhscfin@akleg.gov

Please call my office at 465-2679 if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Mark

From: PSCC [mailto:pscc@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 10:18 AM
To: House Finance <lhscfin@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>
Subject: Off-net testimony

Good Afternoon Co-Chair and Representative Neuman:

Thank you for allowing us to testify on the FY2017 Operating Budget.

Unfortunately, I had another meeting previously scheduled during the time of the scheduled Mat-Su testimony. I hope to try to leave my meeting early so I could testify today at the scheduled Mat-Su time. If I am unable to testify today, would it be possible to testify on one of the "Off Net" times?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel E. Greenberg

Executive Director

Palmer Senior Citizens Center, Inc. d.b.a.

MAT-SU SENIOR SERVICES

1132 S. Chugach Street

Palmer, Alaska 99645

(907) 745-5454

(907) 746-5173 fax

pscc@mtaonline.net

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House Finance Committee Public Testimony
March 1, 2016

Good Evening Chair Neuman, Chair Thompson, and members of the House Finance Committee. For the record, my name is Rachel Greenberg, Executive Director, Mat-Su Senior Services; and for full disclosure I am also a Member of the Coalition of Mat-Su Senior Services; Vice-Chair of the Mat-Su Council on Aging; and member of the Alaska Commission on Aging. Today I am speaking on behalf of the Mat-Su Senior Services.

We appreciate that it has been a long day for you and do not envy your position making the difficult decisions you need to make to ensure Alaska is a great place to live, work, play and retire, now and into the future.

The Mat-Su Senior Services has experienced significant costs associated to unrelated issues, such as the Affordable Health Care Act and minimum wage increase to the tune of over \$150,000. To add to this number; MSSS received a \$12,000 decrease in grant funds this year. The proposed budget of a 2.85% to 5% reduction (I've heard differing stories) in senior grant funds will result in an additional \$31,000 to \$56,000. If the proposed decrease in senior benefits, and heating assistance is approved; seniors will likely rely on programs and services offered at senior centers and senior service organizations in order to remain independent and out of the more expensive assisted living and skilled nursing facilities as well as minimize hospitalizations. Due to the increase in senior population, keeping the senior grant programs fully funded at the FY16 level essentially cuts our ability to provide services at the current levels.

The senior grant programs include congregate and home delivered meals; transportation, exercise programs, adult day services, care coordination, chore services, respite services, and more. These programs cost \$574 per senior per year. It costs over \$153,000 per person per year in a skilled nursing facility. About 33% of Alaska Seniors utilize these programs and services

In the Mat-Su, we pride ourselves on working together to minimize or eliminate duplication of administration, grants administration, and more. We are truly doing what we can to maximize the funds to deliver services to the people who need it the most. Collectively, through partnerships, services are currently provided all over the Mat-Su Borough.

It is likely the people who live on a fixed income can't leave the state; spend their money locally; and will need to supplement their income by receiving food from senior centers, food pantries, food stamps and more. In addition to the funds that seniors bring to the state with their retirement income, they are more likely to volunteer, donate, participate on boards, and more. If seniors were to leave the state, this leaves a hole in our communities and families.

We are concerned that some of the proposed budget reductions will result in unintended consequences that may lead to increased utilization of more expensive health and long-term care services thus straining the State's budget and, most importantly, compromise the health and safety of Alaska's older people. I suspect that many residents of Alaska would support restructuring the way government is funded in order to keep seniors living as independently as possible in our state. This may include funding the budget out of the permanent fund earnings; capping the permanent fund dividend; an income tax; or other options.

Thank you for your time and commitment to attempt to cut the budget. I urge you not to reduce programs and services to the people who have made this state the great state it is; or at least work with us to come up with alternatives to ensure Alaskans elders can remain safe, secure, healthy, and independent. I know this isn't easy.

Thank you.

From: [Kent Steele](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 6:33:19 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row.

But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Kent Steele
PO Box 891
Delta Junction, AK 99737

From: [Alice Murr](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: GLAD YOU TOLD IT LIKE IT IS
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 6:41:53 PM

I comment you on telling it like it is for seniors.

Many fail to realize that a lot of these seniors moved to AK as friend and family told them how great the benefits are.

I have lived here for over 60 yrs, still work, saved my money (so I can afford to stay here). I am not happy that I am now

paying \$450. per month for Medicaid (bad part is I can not find a doctor to take it) plus another \$250. per month for my

retiree insurance. I am 68 and don't ever plan on looking to the state to take care of me, since I can not find medical care

under Medicare, I hope that the State will pass the right to die act to relieve family of the burden of self induced death.

Someone needs to inform the public that we are paying Medicare insurance for everyone on Medicaid, plus they get

vision, dental and pharmacy benefits (that people on Medicare do not get). Many are receiving In home care by PCA - some

I know get 50 hrs per week(even with a spouse in the house) paid at a rate of \$23. per hour by the Medicaid, this equals almost

\$60,000 per year. Some of these live with their children so they are charging the \$60,000 per year for care if they are providing care or not.

One case the PCA has to care for and clean up after the clients four (4) dogs as well as the spouse (who receives no

PCA hours, but is on Medicaid). I feel all three levels of the longevity bonus should have been cut this year and stopped next

year, it will at least help with the fact the State has to pay for the Medicare insurance.

We can not afford to house criminals at \$50,000 who continue to steal and terrorize the working and elder people. I expect

to pay in income tax and prefer you take the Perm Fund (and make Alaska safe) but tough cuts have to be made and

the fraud in the Medicaid program has to be stopped. Most of these people are able to do for themselves, but the

State of Alaska is enabling them and their families to continue to commit fraud. AS long as you are giving someone is

taking. Taxes are only going to hurt the working people, but I agree it has to be done, but I feel you need to cut out

all of these give me programs and funding to non profits.

The State also need to discontinue the performance scholarship programs, this is another program that should never

have been started and needs to be stopped now.

Respectfully.

From: [Michael Gallegos](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 6:44:46 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit.

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But please do not raise my taxes in order to fix this problem. Instead, we should cut our state operating budget by at least \$500 million.

I am asking you today to please cut the state operating budget!

Thank you,
Michael Gallegos
PO Box 72482
Fairbanks, AK 99707

From: [PSCC](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [House Finance](#)
Subject: Written testimony
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 6:51:56 PM
Attachments: [House Finance Committee 3-1-16 testimony.docx](#)

Good Afternoon Chair Neuman and House Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Attached please find my written testimony from today's call-in.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rachel

-----Original Message-----

From: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)

Date: 3/1/2016 10:48:25 AM

To: 'PSCC'

Subject: RE: Off-net testimony

Rachel,

Thank you for your email. Yes if you cannot make it to the Mat-Su LIO between 1-330 today you may call in the off-net number tonight from 615-730. That call in number is 1-844-586-9085.

You may also submit written testimony for the public record to: lhscfin@akleg.gov

Please call my office at 465-2679 if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Mark

From: PSCC [mailto:pscc@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 10:18 AM

To: House Finance ; Rep. Mark Neuman

Subject: Off-net testimony

Good Afternoon Co-Chair and Representative Neuman:

Thank you for allowing us to testify on the FY2017 Operating Budget.

Unfortunately, I had another meeting previously scheduled during the time of the scheduled Mat-Su testimony. I hope to try to leave my meeting early so I could testify today at the scheduled Mat-Su time. If I am unable to testify today, would it be possible to testify on one of the "Off Net" times?

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Executive Director

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House Finance Committee Public Testimony
March 1, 2016

Good Evening Chair Neuman, Chair Thompson, and members of the House Finance Committee. For the record, my name is Rachel Greenberg, Executive Director, Mat-Su Senior Services; and for full disclosure I am also a Member of the Coalition of Mat-Su Senior Services; Vice-Chair of the Mat-Su Council on Aging; and member of the Alaska Commission on Aging. Today I am speaking on behalf of the Mat-Su Senior Services.

We appreciate that it has been a long day for you and do not envy your position making the difficult decisions you need to make to ensure Alaska is a great place to live, work, play and retire, now and into the future.

The Mat-Su Senior Services has experienced significant costs associated to unrelated issues, such as the Affordable Health Care Act and minimum wage increase to the tune of over \$150,000. To add to this number; MSSS received a \$12,000 decrease in grant funds this year. The proposed budget of a 2.85% to 5% reduction (I've heard differing stories) in senior grant funds will result in an additional \$31,000 to \$56,000. If the proposed decrease in senior benefits, and heating assistance is approved; seniors will likely rely on programs and services offered at senior centers and senior service organizations in order to remain independent and out of the more expensive assisted living and skilled nursing facilities as well as minimize hospitalizations. Due to the increase in senior population, keeping the senior grant programs fully funded at the FY16 level essentially cuts our ability to provide services at the current levels.

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Thank you for your time and commitment to attempt to cut the budget. I urge you not to reduce programs and services to the people who have made this state the great state it is; or at least work with us to come up with alternatives to ensure Alaskans elders can remain safe, secure, healthy, and independent. I know this isn't easy.

Thank you.

From: [Christina Chamberlain](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Victim Services Funding
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 6:45:23 PM

My name is Christina Chamberlain, and I am a strong supporter of the services offered by Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV). USAFV provides vital and unduplicated emergency shelter, advocacy, and support services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor.

It is my understanding that the Department of Public Safety subcommittee has recommended to the House Finance Committee that the grants line within the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault be funded at \$12,652,700. While this represents a decrease from FY16, it will allow USAFV and other CDVSA funded agencies to continue to provide the vital, necessary services that enable victims to find safety and support. We thank you for recognizing the need for these services to victims throughout Alaska by making funding for grants to programs like USAFV a priority in this challenging budget environment.

Thank you,

Christina Chamberlain

PO Box 223

Unalaska, AK 99685

907-581-3162