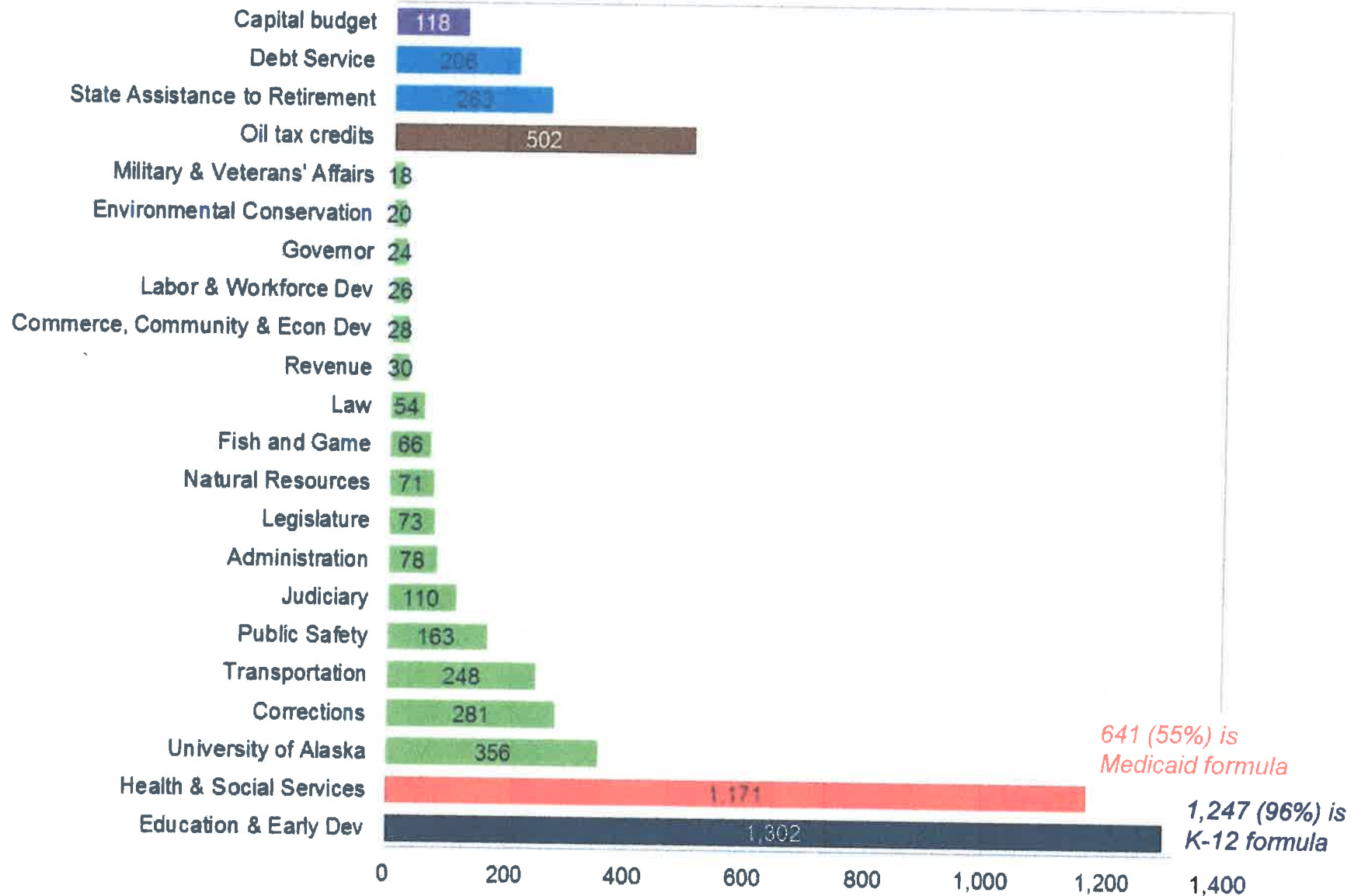


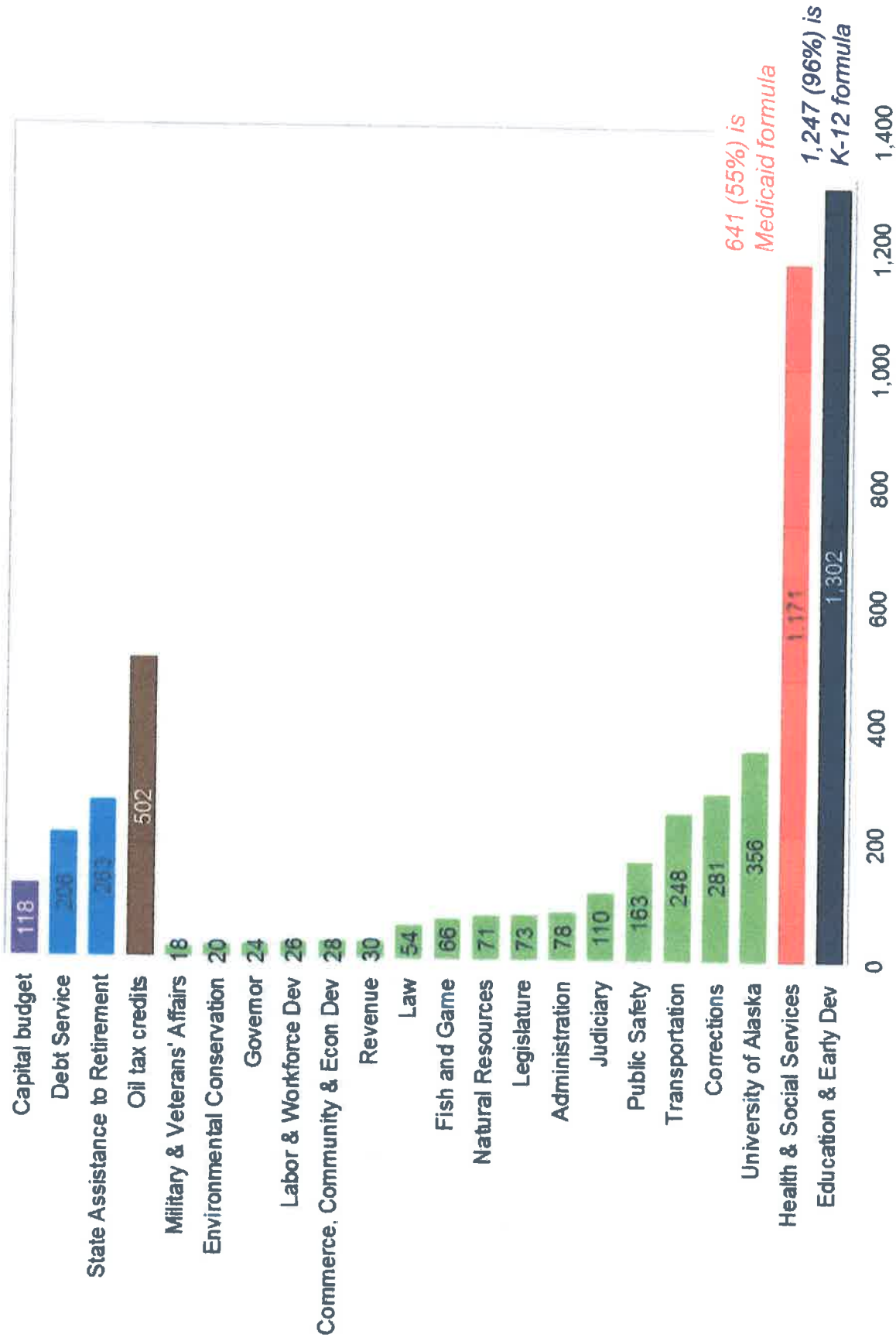
How we are spending \$5.2 billion in FY16

General Fund Budget, FY16 (\$ millions)



How we are spending \$5.2 billion in FY16

General Fund Budget, FY16 (\$ millions)



From: [John](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget State of Alaska (updated)
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 11:32:07 AM

I just finished reading the FY 2017 Solutions from 22 citizens groups and was impressed with all the work they have done on this issue.

Although I don't agree 100% with their suggestions, (I do agree 95%) I thought what they had to say about the University of Alaska, Statewide System

was right on the money they need to start living off their land grants and get away from begging for more money from the tax payers.

Also you have to get away from all the crony capitalism. If the state had all the money back that they have squandered over the last 20 years

there wouldn't be as big of problem. State government is just too big, doing things it has no business doing, that should be done by private sector.

If the State wanted to attract a more diversified business climate for the state I would think money spent on roads to open up the state and selling

of state property to the private sector would be a good start instead of giving money to UAA or cities, infrastructure for the whole state instead of crony capitalism.

Basely there needs to be a new mind set for our state, we've been living off the oil tit to long, expecting them to pay for all the elites idea's.

I would like to see more Alaska residents read this PDF so they can see were all the money goes to fund state government. I will be putting on link on my website

so anyone who wants to read this PDF will be able to find it. ([alaskais.com](#))

After reading all the information I would have to say I would be voting for United for Liberty Plan as it seems the most common sense Plan.

I do think if you raise taxes (state income tax or sales tax) you will be only opening the door for more and more taxes and if oil prices come back up to a reasonable

level I don't think you can ever do away with taxes you have put on the Alaska residents. The city and borough taxes are only going to keep rising as they

can't control their spending either.

Here is a Link to United for Liberty Plan if you haven't already read it.

<http://alaskapolicyforum.org/pubs/FY2017.Solutions.pdf>

John Earls

Homer, Alaska

PS: I see after yesterday's republican election that two outsiders (not establishment republicans) won.

Doesn't this show you how people have finally had enough of the elites running the system and are ready for some big changes.

As for the gas line has anybody figured out if it will make any money or just be another pie in the sky idea.

It looks like to me if they was money to be made the oil produces would built it and the state wouldn't have to be involved.

I have owned businesses since 1980 and never asked for a handout from any form of Government, it's just not right, I don't want my neighbor

or grandkids paying for my mistakes or taking any of my profit. I'm retired now and can see that my grandkids will have a very rough time

if our Government continues on the course they are on State and Federal.

From: [Cheryl Seese](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 11:42:31 AM

Dear honored public servants,

Thank you for your great efforts in finding ways to reduce the overall budget and finding ways to increase revenue in order to balance our overall budget and reduce Alaska's debt.

I propose several ways.

Cut spending anywhere and everywhere we can.

Levy a sales tax of 2% to 3% everywhere but maybe the bush; this way EVERYONE PAYS.

Levy income tax ONLY on workers who take their pay outside of Alaska where their residence is.

Do Not fund Governor Walker's Medicaid bill. The middle class is being crushed by the cost of carrying the weight of the lower class. We do not need another, costly program with a bottomless pit to pay for (we pay our Social Security). And as you know the Federal Government will only subsidize the Medicaid program for a few years and then we fund 100% of it.

Work on finding and preventing fraudulent welfare claims and worker's comp claims.

Don't let Walker ruin our Gas Line opportunities; and don't put unfair costs on the oil companies which support our state.

In closing please know that I very much appreciate your efforts on behalf of all Alaskan's.
Thank you.

Most Respectfully,
Cheryl Seese

(907) 351-9138
(907) 224-6826

319 Ballaine Blvd.
Seward, AK 99664

Mailing:
PO Box 1971
Seward, AK 99664

From: [Amy Simpson](#)
To: [Amy Simpson](#)
Subject: Do the right thing-no more cuts to essential programs effecting children and vulnerable Alaskans.
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 11:50:01 AM

I am a concerned citizen of Alaska and a voter. I am concerned about and am advocating for a balanced and responsible budget for the state of Alaska. I believe cuts made to the departs of Education and Early Development and to Health and Social Services are at levels that are at the limit of what can be tolerated without adverse effects to the sustainability of essential services such as educating our children, supporting Alaskans in need, and maintaining a strong foundation throughout the state. Enough is enough! At this point the savings begin to backfire because there will be more people requiring emergency intervention.

I support using some of the earnings of the permanent fund to pay for essential state government. I have lived in Alaska for more than 20 years and I could live with a \$1000 PFD. There have been many years that my PFD was less than \$1000. I still considered it a gift not an expectation.

I support raising revenue by implementing a statewide income tax for individuals that earn more than \$100,000 per year. And YES, I fall into that category. I would even support a sales tax if those taxes would be able to support education.

What I don't support is kicking this can down the road any further! I believe the state will be in a world of hurt if there is not a more diverse and varied revenue stream for the state. People will begin to leave the state in droves if a long term solution is not found. There are many options on the table. Do what is right for the State. Alaska has the lowest tax burden of any state-not by a little but by a huge margin. You can pay now or pay later.

Amy Simpson

19519 N. Montague Loop

Eagle River, AK 99577

907-854-1248

From: [Suzy13](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB256
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 11:50:53 AM

Dear House Finance Committee members,

I am writing as a lifelong Alaskan who is deeply committed to preserving our state in a way that respectfully supports all Alaskans. I have great concerns about the overwhelming discussion regarding cutting state government in order to solve the significant deficit that Alaska is facing. Alaska has the lowest cost paid per citizen in the country for government through taxation and fees. I think it is time to seriously put all the revenue possibilities on the table. I myself am willing to see a cut or cap to my permanent fund dividend. I am willing to pay a state income tax. I am willing to pay for the privilege to live in Alaska and ensure that all Alaskans are supported through education and social services that are needed.

I ask that you put down your knives. Know there are many of us willing to effectively use the permanent dividend, which may not increase our personal wealth as it has in the past. Know there are many of us willing to take on paying a state tax. These are not sacrifices but expectations as citizens to support all Alaska so we can continue to be a great state.

Thank you for your consideration during this difficult time.

Best regards,

Susan Pearson
814 W. 11th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-229-8971

From: [Barb K](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB256 - Funding/Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victims
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:11:10 PM

Date: 3/2/16

Attention: House Finance Committee

From: Barbara Kaleopa'a, Anchorage, Alaska 99504

I am a strong supporter of the mission Abused Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC) has had in Anchorage since 1977. AWAIC provides critical services to our community in Anchorage and surrounding areas. AWAIC provides necessary emergency housing and support services to victims of domestic violence and is the only emergency shelter for victims in the Municipality of Anchorage. I understand that the Department of Public Safety subcommittee is currently recommending 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 the AWAIC to continue to provide critical services for victims to attain safety and support. Thank you for recognizing the need for these services to victims throughout Alaska by making funding for grants to programs a priority in this challenging budget.

From: [Elizabeth Dobson](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#)
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY to FINANCE COMMITTEE BY Elizabeth Dobson
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:13:36 PM

March 2 2016

Hello,

My name is Elizabeth Dobson. I would like to express my concerns and personal experiences, to you to make best decisions for Alaskans. I am 34 years old with three children. I work for Cook Inlet Tribal Council as a Facility Monitor in the recovery center. I am also a part time UAA student. I completed my AA in General Program with Network Certification in 2013. I am actively taking classes for my BA in Human Services. During school years, I was receiving resources and programs for me and my children. My three daughters received services PIC (Programs for Infants and Children), UAA student working program, attended headstart programs, and I have also attended THREAD training and classes when I was a licensed child care provider.

I had my first child in year 2002, programs are limited then or I was not inform about it. My first child is experiencing behavioral problems and speech delays since she was 3 yrs old. Professionals did not recognized my child's mental health problems due to not being informed or trained or short of staff like teachers in headstart programs. She is now 14 yrs old and she receiving full support in her school, counselor, therapist, and local groups. My middle child completed PIC (Program for Infants and Children). They focused on her words, feelings, and motor skills. This year she is 10. She wants to be involved in any school and local events. She is confidents, creative, and happy about her social circle. If she didn't received support while she was a baby, I am afraid that she might be having problems of making friends, expressing her thoughts and feelings to me and her close friends, and writing stories with her "cool" drawings. My youngest is a full of life. She also completed the PIC (Programs for Infants and Children). She is currently attending Cook Inlet Headstart program. They focused in advance curriculum, social behaviors, native cultures, and family support. Headstarts programs are vital for the young minds. The programs in education are very important to students and their families. It is important to give children all the help that they need for them to be successful.

I am well aware about the programs for families in need, treatment centers and programs. I am currently receiving services from DVR (Dept of Vocational Rehabilitation). Due to my sleeping disorders and anxiety, those they are effecting my job performance mostly everyday. Without the help and support of the DVR, I might force myself to go back to apply for cash assistance, foodstamps, and childcare asst. I don't know what my future would be if I don't have support from them. My older child was in a treatment center and helped her to use coping skills and identify feelings. In treatment center where I work, I have seen the positive outcome in short term treatment and the long term treatment. There are bad outcomes and good outcomes. Though, I stay positive for them and focus on being a successful individual.

I can't say for senior services because I don't have personal or professional experience. I would like to say that they should not be cut off of the programs that they have now, because they are the most vulnerable group of people.

Senior programs are there for a good reason. Though, the young generation now, has different settings, but they do experience hardship. For me, when I was attending school, I was qualified to work part time and go to classes. I have little money coming to pay gas, babysitter, and rent. My federal grants covered my textbooks, required gadgets and meetings, etc. I did experience of hardship, even though, fed grants covered my school spending. The part time student working program did help me to pay bills, created circle of professionals, friends, and colleagues. I was receiving general healthcare, counseling, dental care, and gym access through UAA with pay scale and being a full time student. I can't imagine with the young generation now without this programs.

Our programs were created for seniors, UAA students, families with mental health problems, and it showed positive outcome in their lives. I am grateful that we have this programs for Alaskans. I have written mostly my thoughts and concerns to you. Thank you for giving me chance to talk to you about this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Dobson
PO BOX 90687
Anchorage AK 99509
ebdobson@alaska.edu

From: [Tiffany Caukin](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Benefits of Parents as Teachers
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:31:32 PM

I have been a part of RuralCaps Parents as Teachers since we moved here to Alaska in 2014, and was apart of the program in Leavenworth, Kansas when we lived there. We are an Army family and it was wonderful to move to Alaska where they value education as much as Kansas! Being an educator myself, I was looking for a program to put my young girls into to help foster their learning and curiosity of the growing world around them. And I couldn't be happier with the Parents as Teachers Program! Every time my Parent Educator comes she reads a story and brings enriching activities for both my 3 year old and 1 year old; Activities that I may not have thought of that develop early reading and math skills. My oldest is always very excited to see what fun learning she will do each time! My daughter is also involved, which she loves, with the making of her activity and it is then left with us for her to play with again and again! What a wonderful program that I feel lucky to have my girls a part of, and that I hope continues for all children! As a teacher I know that learning starts young, and the more we encourage and foster our young children's learning the better they do in school later!

Thank you!
Tiffany Caukin

From: [Kathleen Menke](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Sen. Dennis Egan](#)
Subject: Budget
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:52:17 PM

Dear Legislators..Joint House and Senate Finance Committee:

Alaskans don't ask for much..a degree of fairness for the people. The people give back to Alaska in so many ways..given an opportunity to do so.

Senior benefits and PFDs circulate throughout the Alaska economy..an economy we now need to support.
Likewise ferries serve all of Alaska. Transportation is an essential government service.
Public radio is essential to our rural communities..for safety, for information.
Education from pre-K to university is essential to a sustainable Alaska.
Health care can be improved. Focus on nutrition and prevention when looking at reforms.

Alaskans are paying attention to your actions. It's time to shift some funds away from corporations and keep those funds in the hands of Alaskans. End the fossil fuel subsidies. Let private industry fund their own roads to resources. Stop the major clear-cuts and keep our watersheds healthy. Support the industries we rely on and can count on..fisheries, tourism, small businesses, arts. Take a pause on the mega-boondoggle projects..Juneau Rd., Susitna Hydro, Knick Arm Bridge, Ambler Road.

Thank you for listening.

Regards, Kathleen Menke, Haines

From: [Laural Jackson](#)
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 Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Subject: K-12 Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:59:41 PM

Greetings Representatives,

You can probably guess that I am writing in support of full funding of the K-12 Education system. I have heard the rhetoric and seen the misleading data that some can present about K-12 being the largest part of the State budget and therefore, the ideal place to make cuts. Have you ever considered how much of the state's employment comes through the K-12 system? This is particularly true in the rural areas. Depleting funding for K12 will have a serious impact on all of our communities that will in turn quickly spiral downhill.

As schools reduce spending, decrease programs, cut staffing, families will want more for their children. They will need to move out of state to achieve a satisfactory education for their children. Current school employees will go elsewhere for jobs, further reducing the school population and in turn, reducing school budgets even more. Soon, there will only be enough money to heat the school...not to educate the children.

I know that this is painting the extreme picture, but I hope that I make the point that if you really think schools can take a cut in funding and you are not concerned about it affecting their education (which is will) then at the very least consider the ramifications your actions will have on the economy of the state and the downward spiral that you will be contributing.

Sincerely,

Laural Jackson, Superintendent
Delta/Greely School District
907-895-4657 ex 24

This message is considered confidential and should not be shared without explicit permission of the sender.

From: [Joe Burch](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: UAA Geomatics Degree
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:34:21 PM

Dear House Finance Members,

I am writing concerning a specific University of Alaska program that is located at UAA. The Geomatics program was started back in 1971 as an Anchorage Community College 2 year survey curriculum program. The Geomatics program is now a 4 year ABET accredited curriculum that offers degrees which private industry, federal, state and municipal agencies support. A four year ABET approved curriculum degree is now a standard to take the Alaska professional land surveyor's state exam (a 4 year ABET approved curriculum is required by other states, also). The number of students that currently are enrolled in geomatics and the number of graduates is considered extremely well by the industry.

The Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors have established a number of scholarships to support the financial needs of many enrolled Geomatics students. Private industry has donated equipment to assist educating students not only about using field equipment, but how to use and understand the latest technology from LIDAR to ESRI software.

I support leaving the current funding for the Geomatics program of the University of Alaska located at the UAA campus.

Thank you,

Joe Burch, PLS #2237-S

From: [Jim Bruton](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:36:55 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,
Jim Bruton
HC 63 Box 1226
Tok, AK 99780

Southcentral Foundation (SCF) is an Alaska Native-owned, nonprofit health care organization serving nearly 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough and 55 rural villages in the Anchorage Service Unit. Incorporated in 1982 under the tribal authority of Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) SCF is the largest of the CIRI nonprofits, employing more than 2,000 people in more than 80 programs.

SCF's vision is a Native Community that enjoys physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness; its mission is to work together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services. The organization has developed and implemented comprehensive health-related services to meet the changing needs of the Native Community, enhance culture and empower individuals and families to take charge of their lives.

Many Alaska Native and American Indian people still do not have access to behavioral health services despite the clear need. The costs of neglecting these needs extends beyond the health system and costs to the General Fund. Neglecting or reducing resources to address behavioral health needs will place a greater burden on public safety, judicial and social systems. Partnering with the Alaska Tribal Health System has the potential for realizing high returns on investment by providing behavioral health services across Alaska.

SCF offers behavioral health services for Alaska Native and American Indian people ages 18 and older at the Anchorage Native Primary Care Center; individuals and families at the *Benteh Nuutah* Valley Native Primary Care Center; and adults, children and adolescents at the Fireweed Clinic in Anchorage. These services include: crisis intervention, case management (clinic and community based), psychiatric evaluation, medication management, psychotherapy (immediate access, group, family, couples, limited individual), and psychoeducational learning circles.

SCF has had an integrated, team-based care for more than 20 years which incorporates case management and same-day access to care. SCF fully integrated behavioral health consultants into the primary care clinics more than 10 years ago. Integrating behavioral health services with primary care services has been one of SCF's most transformative changes. The data shows that providing immediate behavioral health services has resulted in reductions in emergency department and hospital use, dramatic improvements in outcome and quality measures, and high patient and employee satisfaction ratings.

SCF currently employs 34 behavioral health consultants (BHC), working in primary care clinics, pediatrics, women's health, behavioral health, and community health center clinics. All BHC's are master's level trained clinicians (psychologists, master of social work, family therapists, etc.). Medicaid does not pay for the care provided.

SCF has also co-located many psychiatrists in the primary care setting. This allows for management of even the most complex behavioral health supported individuals, like those undergoing Suboxone addictions treatment. As with many of SCF's innovations, this is financially challenging. Payment that rewards collaborative co-management, behavioral and

medical health care, is desirable. This holds SCF accountable for quality and outcome measures. Telemedicine payments would also help drive these teams to do more while providing cost effective virtual treatment.

The State of Alaska Community Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grant (CBHTR) provides funding for SCF to treat some of the most acute customer-owners who are: Chronically mentally Ill (CMI), Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI), Severely Emotionally Disturbed Youth (SED), Residential and Outpatient, Peer Support for Substance use services and Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES). Below you find examples of how services have impacted SCF customer-owners.

Dena A Coy provides oversight in a residential setting for direct clinical mental health and substance use services to women in treatment. Unique to the program is the ability for mothers, who are often pregnant, to bring their children and stay connected during their treatment and recovery. Dena A Coy (DAC) has served 27 customers this quarter and 43 unique women in this grant year. DAC admitted 18 women; 15 remained in treatment beyond seven (7) days giving the program an 83% retention rate for admissions (17% left ATA in the first 7 days). This is a 29% improvement over quarter two data from FY 15. DAC had 6 women leave treatment complete (22% - 6/27 served).

The SCF Fireweed Clinic delivers the Teens Responsibility Accepting Individuals Life Skills (TRAILS), which is a youth program in the Fireweed Clinic for Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) youth ages 13-18 or mental health disorders, and who experience significant problems functioning at home, in school, at work, or in the community. These customer-owners receive case management and coordination of services. In addition, TRAILS provides services to teens that act out or have a hard time maintaining boundaries with friends and using appropriate social skills in group settings.

The Fireweed Clinic also serves Veterans. Most recently, a customer-owner who is also an Iraq War Veteran has been receiving treatment services for a relatively short time, they suffer from severe combat related PTSD. They were very distressed by memories and nightmares about the war atrocities, especially when a friend was killed and nearly vaporized in an IED explosion right in front of them. These memories have stayed with the customer-owner for the past 11 years. After three EMDR sessions, they no longer experience these memories, no longer startles, have nightmares, and although they are not yet completely done with therapy, they report a 90 % improvement.

SCF also provides services to psychiatric emergency institutional discharges within 24-hours, thus creating a safety net for customers until they can receive services with Fireweed Clinic or the Primary Care Center. SCF ensures that a master's level clinician is available all hours of the day to respond to emergencies. Customer-owners discharged from psychiatric hospitalization will receive a follow-up appointment with a clinician within 24 hours. While some interventions will inevitably lead to hospitalization, grantees are encouraged to pursue options for stabilizing customer-owners locally. In many instances there is less disruption to the customer-owner's life if they can be supervised in a safe place close to home, especially, while medications are adjusted by a local psychiatric provider. SCF continues to work closely with referral agencies to ensure there is no lapse in care when discharged from DOC, MHC, and Psychiatric

Hospitalization. During this quarter the program received 82 contacts during this reporting period in which 22 referrals were received. All contacts were offered at least case management services with linkages or referrals to other resources.

These are just a few examples of how partnering with the Alaska Tribal Health System promises high returns on investments. This partnership benefits the state on 100 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) for tribal members using the system and reduces costs for non-Natives. Care is provided closer to home, while also providing a opportunity for veterans to gain access to care, earlier screening and interventions. This integrated setting reduces the stigma of getting behavioral health care, increasing the likelihood individuals seeking care.

With great potential to realize savings to the State of Alaska's budget, SCF supports the State of Alaska's budget for behavioral health services without reductions. The time to invest in comprehensive behavioral health services for all people of Alaska is now, as many of these customer-owners are the same people that interact with the Justice System, Department of Corrections, Office of Children's Services, Alaska Psychiatric Institute, the homeless population and those seeking jobs. Without access to the comprehensive behavioral health services and further reductions in funding will only contribute to rising costs in these budget areas.

Lastly, SCF supports the removal of the grantee requirement to bill Medicaid for behavioral health services as part of the Medicaid Reform efforts and supports the legislature in enhancing the behavioral health system. Implementation of a plan for providing a continuum of community-based services and efforts to reduce operational barriers that fragment services can only add long term benefits to the people of Alaska, while contributing to budget savings.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact me if you have any questions or need further clarification.

Katherine Gottlieb, MBA, DPS
President/CEO
Southcentral Foundation
4501 Diplomacy Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 729-5207

Marrulut Eniit Assisted Living

"Gramma's House"

P.O. Box 1405

Dillingham, Alaska 99576

Phone: (907) 842-4600

Fax: (907) 842-4606

March 2, 2016

Dear Representative Neuman and Finance Committee:

My name is Ingrid S. Ramos-Ansaknok, Administrator at Marrulut Eniit Assisted Living in Dillingham. I am sharing my testimony regarding the Senior Budget cuts.

Currently in the past year Marrulut Eniit is remaining in the black in revenue, we ended the year with about \$43,000 in the red. We are currently working on sustainability and hopefully will begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. At this time budget cuts have a huge impact on the way we can provide services to the elders in our Assisted Living facility.

We are having a hard time with a huge deficit in our current budget depending on the budget it can impact our program and possibly lead to closure in the future.

The seniors of Bristol Bay want to stay at home in the region and their families don't want to send them to other options in different parts of the Great State of Alaska. The goal of the Marrulut Eniit Assisted Living was to keep our elders in the region. Elders are a huge part of our culture, they have impact on the community and have contributed to the region in ways too numerous to mention here.

Your consideration and generous review of the Senior Budget is imperative to the Senior Population of the Bristol Bay Region.

Sincerely,



Ingrid S. Ramos-Ansaknok, Administrator
Marrulut Eniit Assisted Living

From: [C. Marunde](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB256 DOT Budget - Northway DOT Closure
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:46:15 PM

My name is Cherie Marunde. I live in Northway Alaska

I am opposed to the proposed closure of the Northway DOT Maintenance Station.

I feel the safety of all Alaska Highway travelers will be at risk. It is unsafe to have delayed road maintenance in a vastly remote area with no cell service. Should an emergency occur it could take Tok DOT one to two hours or longer to respond. Tok is 90 miles from the Alaska/Canada border. I feel that there are cuts that could be made in DOT administration that would keep Northway DOT open and not affect the safety of the traveling public. As Alaskans our safety should be the number one priority.

Offnet (12) - 2 new

Dillingham LIO (9)

Barrow LIO (8)

Fairbanks LIO (55)

Name	Affiliation	Location	Testimony	Time Joined	
Michael West	AK Eartquake Center, UAF	FBX LIO	Yes	3:31 PM	<i>new</i>
Pat Ivey	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	3:32 PM	<i>new</i>
Jeff Benowitz	UAF-Geo	FBX LIO	Yes	3:33 PM	<i>new</i>
Richard Fineberg	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	3:33 PM	<i>new</i>
Richard Seifert	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	3:34 PM	<i>new</i>
Anna Plager	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	3:34 PM	<i>new</i>
Jan Hansom	Coop Ext/4H	FBX LIO	Yes	3:35 PM	<i>new</i>
Dakota Wilcher-small child	Coop Ext/4H	FBX LIO	Yes	3:35 PM	<i>new</i>
Richana Mahle	WCCIH	FBX LIO	Yes	3:36 PM	<i>new</i>
Rebecca Good	WCCIH	FBX LIO	Unavailable	3:36 PM	<i>new</i>
Louise Martin	WCCIH	FBX LIO	Unavailable	3:37 PM	<i>new</i>
Karl Kassel	Mayor/FNSB	FBX LIO	Yes	3:37 PM	<i>new</i>
Andrea Merchant	WCCIH	FBX LIO	Yes	3:38 PM	<i>new</i>
Jessica Hedge	WCCIH	FBX LIO	Unavailable	3:38 PM	<i>new</i>
Michael Ori Miller	UAF	FBX LIO	Yes	3:38 PM	<i>new</i>
Caleb Smith	UAF	FBX LIO	Yes	3:38 PM	<i>new</i>
Bill Schnabel	UAF	FBX LIO	Yes	3:39 PM	<i>new</i>

				Time	
Name	Affiliation	Location	Testimony	Joined	
Samantha Savage	Self	FBX LIO	Unavailable	3:39 PM	<i>new</i>
Sophie Tidler	UAF	FBX LIO	Yes	3:39 PM	<i>new</i>
Michael Cook	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	3:49 PM	<i>new</i>
Doug Toelle	Access Alaska	FBX LIO	Yes	3:50 PM	<i>new</i>
Lance Roberts	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	3:50 PM	<i>new</i>
Jeanette Grasto	NAMI	FBX LIO	Yes	3:51 PM	<i>new</i>
 Molly McDermott and Jessica Herzog	Biology Grad Student/UAF	FBX LIO	Yes	3:53 PM	<i>new</i>
Ryan Burnham	UAF-CEM	FBX LIO	Yes	3:54 PM	<i>new</i>
Nikki Hines	Prisoner Reentry Coal.	FBX LIO	Yes	3:55 PM	<i>new</i>
Corinne Bowell	self/Senior	FBX LIO	Yes	3:55 PM	<i>new</i>
Randy Bowell	Access Alaska	FBX LIO	Yes	3:55 PM	<i>new</i>
Douglas Cost	UAF	FBX LIO	Yes	3:56 PM	<i>new</i>
Kaitlyn Davis	UAF	FBX LIO	Yes	3:57 PM	<i>new</i>
Roger Burggraf	self	FBX LIO	Yes	3:57 PM	<i>new</i>
Amea McHatten	FNA	FBX LIO	Yes	4:00 PM	<i>new</i>
Aurora Marhnka (?)	Access Alaska	FBX LIO	Unavailable	4:03 PM	<i>new</i>
Kris Allen Wilson	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	4:03 PM	<i>new</i>
Simon Matthew	Stevens Village	FBX LIO	Yes	4:04 PM	<i>new</i>
Curtis Watkins	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	4:04 PM	<i>new</i>
Sue Sherif	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	4:05 PM	<i>new</i>
xxx xxx	Self	FBX LIO	Unavailable	4:06 PM	<i>new</i>
Lisa Herbert	FBX Chamber	FBX LIO	Yes	4:07 PM	<i>new</i>
Frank Gold	Self	FBX LIO	Unavailable	4:07 PM	<i>new</i>

Name	Affiliation	Location	Testimony	Time Joined	
Bill Brophy	Self	FBX LIO	Unavailable	4:19 PM	<i>new</i>
Susheila Kherce	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	4:20 PM	<i>new</i>
Heather Koponen	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	4:25 PM	<i>new</i>
Jordan Adams	Self	FBX LIO	Unavailable	4:26 PM	<i>new</i>
Emily Vockeroth	Imagination Library	FBX LIO	Unavailable	4:39 PM	<i>new</i>
Bonnie Woldstad	Self	FBX LIO	Yes	4:52 PM	<i>new</i>
Jomo Stewart	FBX Economic Development Corp	FBX LIO	Yes	4:57 PM	<i>new</i>
Karen Taber	Fairbanks Wellness Coalition	FBX LIO	Yes	5:13 PM	<i>new</i>
Jimmy Fox	AK PTA	FBX LIO	Yes	5:15 PM	<i>new</i>
Sandy Jamieson	self	FBX LIO	Yes	5:29 PM	<i>new</i>
Jon Christensen	self	Fairbanks	Yes	5:32 PM	<i>new</i>
Tonya Brown	self	Fairbanks	Yes	5:42 PM	<i>new</i>
Rebecca Jane Ransdell	self	Fairbanks	Yes	5:45 PM	<i>new</i>
Jessica Hedge	self	Fairbanks	Yes	5:48 PM	<i>new</i>
Sharon Alden	self	Fairbanks	Yes	5:55 PM	<i>new</i>

Juneau LIO (7)

Name	Affiliation	Location	Testimony	Time Joined	
Jessica Cook	National Education Association, Alaska	In Room	Yes	2:32 PM	<i>new</i>
Kathie Wasserman	AML	In Room	Yes	2:33 PM	<i>new</i>
Dr Valerie Brooks	National Education Association	In Room	Yes	2:34 PM	<i>new</i>

Name	Affiliation	Location	Testimony	Time Joined	
Rep Lora Reinbold	self	In Room	Unavailable	2:34 PM	<i>new</i>
Linda Murphy	AML/ City of Soldotna	In Room	Yes	2:35 PM	<i>new</i>
Wendy Demers	Fairbanks Education Association/ National Education Association	In Room	Yes	4:22 PM	<i>new</i>
Tim Parker	National Education Association	In Room	Yes	4:25 PM	<i>new</i>

From: [May Main](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Emergency housing and support services to victims of DV
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:06:45 PM

My name is May Main and I am a strong champion of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis mission and the critical services they provide to our community. AWAIC provides necessary emergency housing and support services to victims of domestic violence and is the only emergency shelter for victims in the Municipality of Anchorage. I understand that the Department of Public Safety subcommittee is currently recommending 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 the AWAIC to continue to provide critical services for victims to attain safety and support. Thank you for recognizing the need for these services to victims throughout Alaska by making funding for grants to programs a priority in this challenging budget.

*Regards,
May Main*

From: [Kelly Stiles](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: OWL (Online With Libraries) Funding-Unalaska Public Library
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 2:07:50 PM

Good Afternoon,

I would like to take this opportunity to show my support for continued funding for the OWL program. This program is vital to maintain proper services and support to our extremely remote community in the Aleutian Islands.

Internet connectivity has been an ongoing issue in Unalaska and an expensive one at that. Having internet readily available to the public is a service we simply cannot forgo and expecting our library to provide funding for internet on an already tight budget is simply unreasonable.

While I understand the state is facing a significant budget issue, vital services for remote communities should not be the first on the proverbial chopping block. If funding for internet services is cut it will hurt students regarding research for school projects, community members for PFD applications, job applications and activities that while used to involve pen and paper now require an individual to go online, and also our transient and international communities in maintaining communication with their families.

Unalaska prides ourselves by providing services that many remote communities simply cannot and while we are self-sufficient in many, many areas of a city's infrastructure, providing affordable and accessible internet service is just not a possibility without some assistance.

Again, I ask you to strongly consider the negative impact the decision of funding cuts to the OWL program will have on ours and other remote communities in Alaska. We are disconnected from the Lower 48 geographically, eliminating access to cost effective internet services will only cause a greater disconnect, please don't allow that to happen.

Thank You
Kelly Stiles
HR Manager for the City of Unalaska
President, Aleutian Arts Council
Vice Chair, PCR Advisory Committee
Worship Leader, Unalaska United Methodist Church
Volunteer, Unalaska Community Broadcasting

COMMENTS TO THE ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FINANCE COMMITTEE, MARCH 1, 2016
*Patricia M. Ivey, 106 Oak Drive, Fairbanks AK 99709, mailing PO Box 60634 Fairbanks AK 99706,
phone: 907-590-8800, email iveypat@gmail.com*

Hello. I am Pat Ivey, a 40 year resident of Fairbanks, a retiree and an undeclared super voter. I come to you today to speak on behalf of the Alaska's university, its youth and its seniors. I represent no group or entity today. My comments are entirely my own.

REQUESTS

IN SUMMARY:

- Restore the \$35 million cut to the University of Alaska budget. There is no way the university can absorb cuts of this magnitude in so short a time without declaring financial exigency and thus losing all of its federal funding also. Alaska already leads the rush to the bottom in terms of state support for higher education. The University of Alaska is a land, sea and space grant institution established and governed by many laws relating to its status. Cuts of this magnitude prohibit the university from carrying out mandates and its ability to serve Alaskans.
- Restore the \$19 million to the Department of Health and Social Services budget for senior programs. Seniors are the fastest growing population within Alaska, figures not driven by seniors coming in from outside (less than 2%), but by seniors who were born here or came young, have worked, contributed to the economy and aged here and have no intention of leaving in their lifetimes.
- Restore funding to the Department of Health and Social Services budget for youth services. Alaska ranks 42nd in terms of support for youth below the poverty line. Don't further exacerbate K-12 school drop out rates caused by kids not being able to concentrate because they are homeless and/or starving.
- Fund the FY2017 operating budget out of the constitutional budget reserve fund (CBRF) if we don't have enough money in the general fund. That's what the CBRF was created for and right now contains \$8.69 BILLION. It will give us a softer landing rather than certain death at the bottom of the current bust cycle by allowing us time to do intelligently what we should have done after the 1980s recession—diversify our economy, protect our most vulnerable populations, and compete successfully in the state, national and world market.
- Before the end of the regular session, pass the operating and capital budgets and the vote to use the CBRF. Special sessions are costly.

FURTHER DISCUSSION

FUNDING SOURCES

The CBRF is the only way to go in this legislative session. It takes more time than available to reinstate state taxes, put the infrastructure in place and begin receiving the revenue to help us now. Capping the permanent fund dividends and diverting the leftover permanent fund interest to the general fund will probably also be necessary, but my guess is nobody is going to try that in an election year. But we can start now to diversify so we begin to receive general fund revenues from non-oil revenue sources before we run out of the CBRF. And we can reinstate the state income tax to start generating revenue by 2018 to include wages of people who work in Alaska and live elsewhere.

THE UNIVERSITY

Federal funding is the major contributor to university research. A significant component of Fed decisions to fund university research depends on the amount of state support for its university. Very often, federal funds are matched by rapidly disappearing state funds. No state funds, no matching fed funds, a double whammy.

University research produces data vital to the conduct of our lives and our industries—witness climate, housing, agriculture, engineering and marine research. Brings dollars into the state. For every one dollar of research funds, four dollars goes into Alaska's economy.

Cooperative Extension, takes the research data, translates it into ways we can apply to our lives and industries for our own self-sustainability, and works with us to make that happen. We better ourselves and contribute further to our economy as a result. Win-win.

Fire science produces trained personnel to predict, control and fight fires. Given higher than normal temperatures and reduced snow cover this winter, we are going to need all the help we can get. The University of Alaska has never been, and will never be, able to sustain itself without state support. The university is a land grant university but never received the lands necessary to sustain itself.

Former university president Mark Hamilton led the charge for nearly a decade to get us to diversify our economy to offset a crash in oil revenues. If any diversification occurred since then, nothing resulted to significantly add to the state's treasury, despite all university efforts. Former president Patrick Gamble, Hamilton's successor, saw that, looked at the continuing downturn in state funding, and led a massive strategic planning effort to get the university into position to handle budget reductions. President Johnson got here just in time for the hangover and thank heaven, he had worked for President Hamilton before so had previous university experience.

But God himself could not have imagined the cuts proposed by the 2016 legislature.

When cuts of this magnitude were imminent in the 1980s, the university was forced to declare its intention to declare financial exigency. Thankfully, the state pulled back from the edge, and the university was able to proceed to restructure without financial exigency. Financial exigency would lose UA all of its federal funding—ALL OF IT—and most likely most of not all of its corporate and private funding. UA might not be there yet, but my guess is that it might be inevitable given the current path of this legislature.

Regarding the university's ability to teach students, degree programs will be cut according to President Johnson, but it takes time. The university is legally bound to provide the resources for students in declared degree programs to finish their degrees if they choose to stay here. Legally bound. At the least that would take a year or two, four at the max, to chop that program.

The university is like the largest seagoing vessel you can imagine. You cannot hit the brakes and stop it on a dime. It takes time to grind a university to a halt.

Meanwhile, if history repeats itself, UA's now uncertain future is bound to scare away federal, corporate and private sources of funding, marketable faculty are looking for positions elsewhere, and students are going to states where the degree outlook is more stable. Budget cuts of this severity devalue degrees.

Circumpolar shipping routes are about to open if they haven't already. Alaska is the only state IN THE NATION on that route but we have little or no infrastructure except Unalaska to participate and absent the university research to help make that happen in a sustainable manner, the entire nation loses out. Or the nation, not wanting to lose out, funnels billions of dollars to other universities to do the work on Alaska land and waterways and all the economic benefit is reaped elsewhere. Ditto climate change research funds. Our coastlines are eroding daily. Alaska is warming faster than anywhere else. The first large fire occurred in Delta Junction in February and it rained last week in Denali. IN FEBRUARY!

According to the American Council on Education, Alaska is leading the charge to the bottom in terms of state support for higher education, predicting that at the rate the trend is going, Alaska's state support for higher education will reach zero by 2025. The University of Alaska cannot survive without state support.

ALASKA'S YOUTH AND SENIORS

Cuts to the Department of Health and Social Services jeopardizes Alaska's most vulnerable—it's youth and elders. Youth poverty levels are rising. Youth homelessness is rising. Services and facilities are outstripped by need. Churches and nonprofit organizations strive to fill the gap but are running out of resources.

The elder population is rising exponentially. Massive attempts are underway to help seniors age safely at home, and yet homeless camps are also filled with seniors. The senior population at or below poverty level is rising. The number of seniors over 85 years old is rising exponentially. Assisted living facilities cannot keep up with demand and many cannot pay the astronomical prices for those facilities anyway. Community senior centers provide meals on wheels to home bound seniors. In the Fairbanks area alone, the Fairbanks Senior Center will serve upwards of 50,000 meals on wheels and meals at the senior center in 2016 alone. This does not include all the educational programs and information distribution to keep seniors healthy, housed at home wherever possible and safe. DHSS funds support to senior centers and youth programs through grants is vital to even begin meeting these demands. General relief, public assistance heating assistance, and the rest of the senior programs keeps us at home and healthy for as long as possible so that our woefully inadequate number of assisted living facilities and nursing homes are not further overwhelmed. Homeless camps are full of seniors and youth now. I can't begin to imagine the economic impact of the DHSS cuts, other than to imagine our streets littered with the frozen bodies of the destitute.

RESTATE SUMMARY:

- Restore the \$35 million proposed cuts to the UA budget proposed by the House Finance Subcommittee
- Restore \$19 million funding to the Department of Health and Social Services for senior services.
- Restore funding to DHSS for youth services.
- Fund the operating budget out of the constitutional budget reserve if we don't have enough money in the general fund.
- Before the end of the regular session, pass the operating and capital budgets and the vote to use the CBRF. Special sessions are costly.

RESOURCES

Land grant university definition- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land-grant_university

Sea grant university definition - <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/whoweare.aspx>

Space grant university definition - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Space_Grant_College_and_Fellowship_Program

State Support for Higher Education - Now <http://www.acenet.edu/the-presidency/columns-and-features/Pages/state-funding-a-race-to-the-bottom.aspx> and in the 1980s <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED311794.pdf>

Role of UA Research - <https://www.alaska.edu/files/state/2016-research-finalreview.pdf>

Arctic Priorities - <http://www.adn.com/article/20160228/interview-lt-gov-mallott-shares-arctic-priorities>

Climate change - <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts/alaska.html> and <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/barrow-alaska-ground-zero-for-climate-change-7553696/?no-ist>

Cooperative Extension Service - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_Cooperative_Extension_Service

Youth statistics - <http://www.ktuu.com/news/news/report-childhood-poverty-rates-increasing-in-alaska/35426050> and http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/report_cards/long/ak_long.pdf

Aging Statistics - http://dhss.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/ACoA_StatePlan_FY16-FY19.pdf and <https://www.caregiverlist.com/Alaska/DepartmentOnAging.aspx>

FY 2017 Budget and the Constitutional Budget Reserve - <http://www.legfin.state.ak.us/Other/SwissArmyKnife10.pdf> page 26, and <http://treasury.dor.alaska.gov/Investments/Constitutional-Budget-Reserve.aspx> and <http://www.legfin.akleg.gov/BudgetReports/LY2016/Operating/HouseSubNumbers/UOA-Narrative.pdf> and http://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska_news/budget-crisis-leads-to-possible-restructure-of-ua-system/article_9d61e928-c538-11e5-ba45-033c110d85f1.html and <http://www.alaska.edu/files/state/FY17-Budget-Data-Summary-FinalReview.pdf> and <http://www.alaska.edu/files/state/FY17-Budget-Data-Summary-FinalReview.pdf>

Budget, House Finance

leon lynch <llynch@acsalaska.net>

Tue 3/1/2016 3:52 PM

To: LIO Fairbanks <Lio.Fairbanks@akleg.gov>;

My name is Leon Lynch and I reside in Fairbanks. I have been watching Gavel to Gavel and have seen the legislatures budget expert, David Teal present his budget analysis to you and other committees multiple times. It is always the same; you can't cut your way out of this budget crisis. The gap is so huge that the only option appears to be using earnings from the Permanent Fund. I strongly encourage you to do this now rather than depleting all of our savings the next few years to fill the gap. I think the Governors plan is the best as it provides fiscal stability something that is critically important. However, Sen. McGuire's plan will help fill the gap and appease the folks that are mostly concerned with getting a substantial dividend. My main concern is that you will do nothing but cut resulting in our bond rating being ruined, our savings lost and no dividend at all in a few years. I also support an income tax and oil tax credit adjustments.

Sincerely,

Leon Lynch
p.o. box 387
Ester, AK. 99725

House Finance Committee Public Testimony

March 1, 2016

I am in support of a state that invests in preventative programs that will strengthen communities and reduce costs down the road. I recognize that in order to do so, Alaskans must invest personally and I would like to see the Permanent Fund restructured to meet these priorities.

I am a stay at home mom of two young girls and a volunteer for Fairbanks Families: Best Beginnings Partnership and the North Star Imagination Library. I understand how important it is to support families during the early years. Parenting is hard work and many families are without a strong social network to support their efforts. While the Alaska Constitution does not explicitly require it, investing in the critical years of brain development before children arrive at school has the potential to reduce costs in the K-12 system by catching delays and intervening right away and establishing strong connections between parents and educators that will carry through the years.

People that say early education begins at home and is the responsibility of parents are right on. However, I believe that those parents need support and education. Programs such as Parents As Teachers and Imagination Library take place in the home and offer parents the opportunity to learn and grow with their child. Even as an early childhood professional, I benefited greatly from my participation in Parents As Teachers. Having a child does not make you an expert and parents with Ph.Ds do not necessarily know much about child development!

Investing in early childhood is a smart choice. Study after study has shown the returns, \$4-9 for every dollar invested, according to research by James Heckman. The State of Alaska is at a turning point. While we face this crisis, we have the opportunity to prioritize and refocus. Let's keep our investments where they matter: early childhood and education.

Thank you for your time and dedication to the state of Alaska.

Emily Vockereth

735 Moosewood Circle

Fairbanks 99712

(Page 1)

3-1-16

Roger C. Burggraf reside at 830 Sheep Creek Rd, Beth AK

I have long been a supporter of Economic Development in Alaska and am heavily invested in Alaska.

We are all concerned about the State Budget and the need to bring it back in balance. We must be careful about what parts of the budget we cut.

The State Legislators and Governor must not destroy any Economic Engines that are generating revenues to the state and are providing jobs to Alaskans.

I have real concerns that if we do not use good judgement we could seriously impact the development of Industries which are essential to the future growth of this state. The primary industries are the Oil Industry, Mining Industry ~~and~~ possibly the Fishing Industry, and the University of Alaska.

In Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau the university system is generating revenues to our economy and jobs to many people. Not only to administrators, Professors, research assistants, Scientists but to those that are in the lower echelons that help keep the facilities operating.

②

There has been an effort cut out the Research arm of the Universities. This would be very destructive to the University system since Alaska is being looked at as a prime area to conduct Arctic Research in the Military, Climate Transportation and the Environment. Failure to provide matching funds of 10% of the grants given could destroy grants being given by the Federal Government.

My efforts to get the facts indicate that Fairbanks could lose over 116 million dollars that would be spent locally in salaries and local support companies. State wide over a Billion Dollars of revenue would be lost if the research arm of the University was not funded.

Our University system trains students are in demand in Industry in Engineering, The Business School of Management, Accounting and other areas of Expertise.

We must not destroy those Economic Engines that are generating revenues for the State and are paying high wages to Alaskans.

③

My advice to you is to be careful what you do to cut Government. I am no Fan of the Bureaucracy, but cutting Government too much could have a worse effect on the Alaskan Economy. There is some Fat in State Government but you will find when you review the statistics the only way you ^{can} do ~~a~~ meaningful cuts is in Education + Health + Welfare, and I am not sure you have the stomach to do cuts there.

Obama Care + Medicare be of Help in the Short Term, but will saddle the State with costs that it does not have the revenues to cover.

We need to encourage new Economic Engines that will generate new revenues + new jobs.

I feel the State has to develop a long Term Plan to survive Alaska's Economic downturn. - That means we must develop

- ① Broad Based Taxes including an Income Tax
- ② ~~Dipping into~~ Permanent Fund fund with idea of preserving the corpus of the fund and still pay out a smaller dividend \$1000 or less
- ③ Be innovative and encourage the development of new Industries

Please do not destroy the Economic Engines that are creating revenues + jobs to Alaska

Our Future is in your Hands and we expect you in Government to come up with a solution to the Problems

REFOCUSING STATE PETROLEUM & BUDGET ISSUES

**Testimony of Richard A. Fineberg
to the House Finance Committee**
Fairbanks Legislative Information Office
March 1, 2016 (3:45 PM)

Instead of blindly cutting the budget, I believe that the Legislature must take specific action to change the present and historical North Slope economic structure, in which only three companies control roughly 90 percent of North Slope production. The documented history of TAPS tariff overcharges constitutes a visible aspect of the unfortunate effects of North Slope consolidation and company conduct.

Although I appreciate your legislative outreach, I am deeply disappointed that questions regarding North Slope consolidation and company conduct never come up. This strikes me as a sad indication that this Legislature is not dealing properly with fundamental issues.

I believe this Legislature should also take action on two other fronts: (1) improving the state petroleum audit system to assure appropriate receipt of oil revenue; and (2) fixing the petroleum revenue reporting system to reduce the clouds of confusion that blur the need for proposed systemic improvements.

Based on my past experience, historical information regarding problems dealing with major North Slope producers is readily available in articles and documents previously posted on my web site home page (URL below). For example, see the April 8, 2015 lead article (which includes eight relevant web site hyperlinks). Information on three other 2015 developments can also be found inside red boxes near the home page top right-hand corner.

Thank you.

Richard A. Fineberg
PO Box 416
Ester, Alaska 99725

Phone: (907) 479-7778
Email: fineberg@alaska.net
Web: <http://www.finebergresearch.com>

House Finance and cuts to Senior and Disability Services

Jean Trainor <jtrainor@accessalaska.org>

Tue 3/1/2016 1:48 PM

To: LIO Fairbanks <Lio.Fairbanks@akleg.gov>;

Dear House Finance Committee,

Please do not cut Senior and Disability Services. It's an understandably daunting task to create a budget as Alaska faces dire finances. Cutting the budget for Senior and Disability Services, however, will only result in disproportionately affecting our most vulnerable citizens. It will also have the unintended consequence of costing more money long term as relatively low cost programs that help our disabled Alaskans remain independent are cut, creating the need for costly alternatives like institutionalization.

In my job, I regularly meet people who have been able to live independently with the hand up that centers for independent living provide. Personal Care Attendants bring a level of care suited to individuals, allowing them to remain in their homes, and living with dignity.

With the help of Senior Day Care services, my own mom lived to a beautiful 91 years, out of the nursing home, cared for by loved ones. She had dementia, but she also had a smile for everyone she met. The cost for my mom's years of community support through FRA and Access Alaska was pennies compared to the thousands of dollars monthly that nursing home care would have cost.

The supports in place through Senior and Disability Services create a network of community for our honored elders, and those of us who experience disability. Cutting the programs of Senior and Disability Services crumbles the solid infrastructure on which our most vulnerable citizens depend.

I appreciate your consideration to fully fund the programs provided by Senior and Disability Services.

Jean Trainor

Information and Referral Specialist

Certified Medicare Counselor

Access Alaska

526 Gaffney Road, Suite 100

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Ph: 907 479-7940

Toll free instate: 800 770-7940

jtrainor@accessalaska.net



2420 Locksley Ct.

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I encourage you to support funding for the University of Alaska (UA) ***at least*** at the level proposed by the Governor. We all recognize the magnitude of the budget crisis and the need to cut spending. But we must cut in a responsible manner that does not jeopardize the basic functioning of the University, nor the related economic and strategic benefit to Alaska. Specifically, cutting research jeopardizes the favorable 4:1 return on state investment (e.g., leveraged federal grants). In addition, the high quality of UA's undergraduate programs is due, in part, to excellence in research. ***Research attracts some of the best faculty.*** The magnitude of the proposed cuts could have devastating and irreversible consequences.

Sincerely,

Peter Delamere

Slippery slope

Pamela Lynn <aksunshine123@gmail.com>

Mon 2/29/2016 10:27 PM

To: Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bob Lynn <Rep.Bob.Lynn@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Charlie Huggins <Sen.Charlie.Huggins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millet@akleg.gov>;

2 attachments

image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt;

Dear leaders

Today it's the young lives of the 1st trimester unborn children, tomorrow it's what?

All lives are precious and made in the image of God.

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/pulse/groningen-u-slogan-should-be-we-kill-babies>

Please vote prolife. Thank you.

Pamela Samash

Nenana

322-2201

Budget

Gerald Timmons <timmons.jerry@gmail.com>

Tue 3/1/2016 10:40 AM

To: LIO Fairbanks <Lio.Fairbanks@akleg.gov>;

Continue to cut as much from our huge bureaucracy as possible to right-size govt and then use the Earnings of the Permanent Fund. I personally prefer capping the PFD at about \$800 with the balance to fund govt. Forget Inflation Proofing until oil is above \$120. An income tax is the last alternative and avoid if possible.

Gerald Timmons

185 Dome Road

Fairbanks, Ak 99709

timmons.jerry@gmail.com

Testimony on the Alaskan Budget

By Carl S. Benson

~~Flb~~ X

Have you ever tried to explain how we operate in Alaska to people in other states? I have; it is not easy. Other states use their tax base, but Alaska does not. The situation is so absurd, that one has to ask, why? I explained that Alaskans don't like to pay taxes and our legislature has been trying something new. Instead of raising revenues, we mail money out to everyone who spends a year here. Honest, I am not making it up. Our present situation is scary.

Our new oil tax law called SB21 was written by the oil industry. If oil prices went up to \$100 per barrel we would still have a big deficit. We must reassess taxes on the oil industry so that we make more money on our resources than we pay the industry to extract them.

Currently, we have a shortfall of more than 3 billion (3,000 million) dollars in our proposed State budget. Some legislators use this as an excuse to cut things they don't like or understand, others push ideas like arming students on campus in spite of opposition by the Board of Regents, students, and faculty. These diversionary efforts not only waste time, they don't contribute to solving the problem. At best they can cause severe damage to the state but only deal with about 1% of the real problem.

Clearly more revenue is needed. Governor Bill Walker's plan of using earnings of the Permanent Fund for their intended purpose and raising tax revenues is the best way to proceed.

Reinstating our graduated personal income tax as a percentage of an individual's federal tax must be an essential component of a long-range fiscal plan.

Our income tax served us well from 1948 to 1980. It was easy to calculate, just a simple percentage of what is actually paid on the Federal income tax form. It was 14% when the income tax was witlessly repealed.

The Alaska state income tax when combined with the revised Dividend program means that people for whom the dividend means the most pay the least, and

people for whom the dividend means the least pay the most. Also, the income tax paid to the state would be deductible from the federal tax, as before, so more Alaskan money would stay in Alaska than does now.

Furthermore, our state income tax would again tax the income of non-residents. Currently, about 10% (nearly \$1 billion) of all the wages and salaries paid in Alaska go to non-residents. Those people feel left out now because they contribute nothing to pay for state services.

A statewide sales tax is inadvisable because it regressively taxes poor people disproportionately, it disproportionately taxes rural Alaska where costs are already higher. Furthermore, a complex statewide system would be required to administer it, and decisions on sales should be left to local governments, especially because some communities already have sales tax.

We can easily double the state gasoline tax. Here are three things to remember about our motor vehicle fuel tax: (1) our gasoline tax is the lowest in the nation. (2) It has not been adjusted in more than fifty years, in spite of inflation. (3) If it is doubled it will still be 5 cents less than the national average.

I ask legislators to exercise their responsibility. Stop doing cuts that do more harm than good. Revise SB21 so it becomes a net asset to Alaska. Use earnings from the Permanent Fund for their intended purpose. Reinstate our

income tax at 14% of the federal tax, as it was before 1980. Continue using federal funds, which for Alaska are immense, and use our tax base like other states do. Remember Governor Wally Hickel said "Alaska is a 'can do' state!" We did it before 1980 and we can do it again.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance

Committee on Budget
Bill / Subject

Committee Name
Dated 3/1/16

No VAT

No sales tax

U of Alaska - fully fund

Yes on income tax

Yes on simple school tax

SIGNED:

[Signature]
Testifier

Self
Representing

4 mile Old Nenana Hwy
Address / Phone Number

Box 130 Ester, AK

907 479 3608

99725

The State of Alaska only has 2 high endurance patrol vessels—we are about to lose one of them. If we lose this high endurance vessel now, we will never be able to financially replace it later.

I would like to testify on HB 255 specifically page 19; the re-appropriation of the \$3,600,000 which had been appropriated for the repairs and engine repower for the Patrol Vessel Woldstad.

Two years ago when Public Safety determined that the \$2.4 million which had already been appropriated would not be enough to complete the needed repairs--they proposed replacing this 121 foot vessel with at 58 foot limited purse seiner. I talked with Col. Jim Cockrell and asked him what additional funds Public Safety needed in order to complete the repairs, he noted \$1.3 million. After receiving comments from a number of coastal communities, fishing industry participants, and other interested parties, the Legislature appropriated the additional \$1.3 million.

However due to budget cuts and reduction in staffing, Public Safety did not complete the repairs and is now requesting that the fund be re-appropriated and used for other items. I have had several meetings with Colonel Steve Bear and the Governor's office regarding the continued need for both high endurance patrol vessels (PV Stimson & PV Woldstad). On suggestion from Colonel Bear, I am working with staff from Senators Dan Sullivan's and Lisa Murkowski's offices on reviewing Alaska's share of NOAA funding which is used for fisheries patrols and enforcement. Presently, the only information I have received shows Alaska ranking 10th or 11th on funding allocation. In recognition of its lack of infrastructure for patrols in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering and Chukchi Seas, and along the Aleutian Chain the State of Alaska currently receives between \$1 to \$2 million from NOAA yearly. Some of these funds are used by Public Safety for dock side sampling and some for fisheries and wildlife patrols.

Given Alaska's total coastline, gross value of fisheries, number of daily active fisheries and interest in the Arctic, I believe now is the time for the NOAA funding matrix to be changed to reflect Alaska's resources' true worth. I simply asked that you do not re-appropriate the full \$3.6 million at this time and allow us time to work with our congressional staff. I currently have meetings scheduled in DC the first week of April. One option would be to only re-appropriate \$1.8 million at this time. The remaining \$1.8 million could be used for state matching funds. If Alaska can show that it can provide a funding match it may be possible to receive additional federal funding which would allow for the repair and staffing of the patrol vessel. If this is determined to not be possible using additional federal funds then the remaining \$1.8 million can be re-appropriated next year.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify

Bonne' Woldstad

From: [Brenda M](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. less.gara@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#)
Subject: FY17 Operating Budget Comments
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:08:41 PM
Attachments: [House operating budget FY 2017.docx](#)

Dear House Finance Committee Member,

My comments on the proposed FY17 budget are attached. Thank you for taking time to seek input from Alaskans regarding the important decisions of crafting a budget.

Brenda Moore
12750 Brandon Street
Anchorage, AK 99515
907-244-5810



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

Senior and Disabilities Services
Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education
Patrick J. Reinhart, Executive Director

3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Main: 907.269.8990
Fax: 907.269.8995

March 2, 2016

Rep Mark Neuman, Co-Chair
Rep Steve Thompson, Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Comments on House Finance Recommendations—Community Developmental Disability Grants (CDDG)

Dear Representatives:

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the "Council") fills a variety of federal and state roles, including serving as the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. As the state DD Council, the Council works with Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) and other state agencies to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports that they need, as well as participate in the planning and design of those services. One of the duties of the state DD Council is providing comments on proposed recommendations that may have an impact on individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families.

We appreciate the daunting task the Legislature has in balancing the budget in FY 17, and the opportunity to provide you with our comments today. We would like to specifically ask that you level fund in 2017 the Community Developmental Disabilities Grant program, slated for a 5% cut, or \$640,000, as part of DHHS/SDS budget:

- The Community Developmental Disabilities Grant Program funds services for individuals with developmental disabilities; services vary depending on the person's age and unique needs. Services may include supported employment, respite care, day habilitation, case management and specialized equipment.
- Community DD Grants are used to serve individuals on the Development Disabilities (DD) Registry who are waiting for Medicaid home and community-based services – they are also used to serve individuals with DD who don't meet the level of care for the Medicaid home and community-based waiver program or who are not Medicaid eligible.
- In FY15, 4,057 individuals received services through this program at an average cost of \$3,556. These low-cost services, if provided at the right time, prevent crises that result in higher costs to the State.
- A 5% cut to the program means that approximately 203 individuals will no longer receive services.
- However, this cut is magnified by Senior & Disabilities decision to reduce the number of annual draws from the DD Registry from 200 to 50, which will result in an even greater significant increase in the number of people on the Registry, decrease family income, diminish caregiver health, decrease employment and productivity and in the long run, increase costs to the State. As a general rule, the longer people wait, the more services they need.

- We do anticipate that as the state explores Medicaid reforms through the 1915 I and K options, that some CDDG funding could be replaced by Medicaid dollars, thus reducing the need for UGF. However, any such reforms would not be implemented until 2018 and it is too early in the process to cut the program even further at this point in time. We ask that you wait one more year to determine how much further to cut the CDDG funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patrick Reinhart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patrick Reinhart

Executive Director

From: [Kristi Wood](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please Support HB224
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:15:40 PM

Hello Alaska House Finance Committee,

I am writing to urge your support of HB224. I believe it is time to restructure Alaska's Permanent Fund to better future proof it from swings in the oil industry, and I also believe it's time to utilize our Permanent Fund to help balance the budget. While I personally am willing to give up my PFD check if it gets us out of this fiscal crisis, I appreciate how HB224 seeks to preserve PFD checks and stabilize the amounts. I'm very concerned about cuts to public safety and public education, so I fully support using the Permanent Fund to help pay for public services. I am especially concerned that if we do not restructure the Permanent Fund to better future proof it, it will be vulnerable and may someday disappear.

Thank You,
Kristi Wood, Anchorage Resident

From: [Rebecca P](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: AWAIC
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:16:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Rebecca Piersch and I am a strong champion of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis mission and the critical services they provide to our community. AWAIC provides necessary emergency housing and support services to victims of domestic violence and is the only emergency shelter for victims in the Municipality of Anchorage. I understand that the Department of Public Safety subcommittee is currently recommending 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 the AWAIC to continue to provide critical services for victims to attain safety and support.

Thank you for recognizing the need for these services to victims throughout Alaska by making funding for grants to programs a priority in this challenging budget. I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Piersch

(907) 903- 7867

10245 Goodnews Circle

Anchorage, AK 99515



#greendotANC

greendotalaska.com

facebook.com/greendotanchorage



From: [Virginia M](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support for CDVSA Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:29:12 PM

My name is Virginia McCaslin and I am a longtime Anchorage resident. I am a strong champion of the mission of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis and the critical services they provide to our community.

AWAIC provides necessary emergency housing and supportive services to victims of domestic violence. It is the only emergency shelter for victims in the Municipality of Anchorage. I understand that the Department of Public Safety subcommittee is currently recommending 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 the AWAIC to continue to provide critical services for victims to attain safety and support.

Thank you for recognizing the need for these services to victims throughout Alaska by making funding for grants to programs a priority in this challenging budget.

Best,

Virginia McCaslin

From: [Caitlin Sawicki](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: In Regards to HB256
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:31:00 PM

My name is Caitlin Sawicki and I am a strong champion of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis mission and the critical services they provide to our community. AWAIC provides necessary emergency housing and support services to victims of domestic violence and is the only emergency shelter for victims in the Municipality of Anchorage. I understand that the Department of Public Safety subcommittee is currently recommending 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 the AWAIC to continue to provide critical services for victims to attain safety and support. Thank you for recognizing the need for these services to victims throughout Alaska by making funding for grants to programs a priority in this challenging budget.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

- Caitlin Sawicki

From: [Suzi P](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB256
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:33:54 PM

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

Today you will be hearing a great deal of testimony about ways that the subcommittees and you have attempted to address the fiscal chasm that Alaska is facing today. You have a very hard job and listening to hours of testimony and reading all the comments takes time. I value and appreciate you for doing this difficult job.

The DPS subcommittee has made their recommendations to the Finance committee and I wanted to ask your support regarding their recommendations to the grants line item in the CDVSA budget. *The current funding amounts contained in the close out of the Department of Public Safety subcommittee is \$12,652,700. While this reflects a decrease of \$340,000 from the FY16 budget, this amount allows the core emergency services we provide to our communities to continue.*

AWAIC is the ONLY emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in Anchorage with a population of nearly 300,000. The 52 bed shelter has been at or over capacity 50% of each year for the last six years. The demand is high and with the economy slipping the demand will only increase. Maintaining funding for our services is critical.

In FY15 AWAIC –

- Provided 19,492 safe bed nights to 431 adults and children
- Answered 5,889 *crisis and community support calls*
- *Provided critical support to 891 petitioners at the Boney Courthouse*
- *Reach 9,267 youth and community members through 276 presentations*

Thank you for your consideration and all the hard work you do. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,

suzi



100 W. 13th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501

For help domestic violence call
24-hour toll-free line in Anchorage
1-800-252-2525

Suzi Pearson
Executive Director

907.743.5726	Office
907.279.7244	Fax
907.279.9581	AWAIC
907.272-0100	Crisis

suzi_p@awaic.org
www.awaic.org

From: pamela.jackson31@gci.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB256
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:41:23 PM

Dear Governor Walker,

My name is Pamela Jackson and I am a strong supporter of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis mission and the critical services they provide to our community.

AWAIC provides necessary emergency housing and support services to victims of domestic violence and is the only emergency shelter for victims in the Municipality of Anchorage.

AWAIC is the main place in the Municipality of Anchorage for domestic violence victims and their children to find safety when it is most desperately needed.

I understand that the Department of Public Safety subcommittee is currently recommending 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 the AWAIC to continue to provide critical services for victims to attain safety and support.

Thank you for recognizing the need for these services to victims throughout Alaska by making funding for grants to programs a priority in this challenging budget.

Please remember every person deserves to be safe and AWAIC helps those in need - providing safety, counseling, advocacy and ways for each person to get back on their feet and away from their abuser.

Pamela Jackson
3311 Greenland Dr #B
Anchorage AK 99517
907-677-0322

From: [Heidi Hill](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB256
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:44:48 PM

My name is Heidi Hill and I am a strong champion of the Abused Women's Aid In Crisis mission and the critical services they provide to our community. AWAIC provides necessary emergency housing and support services to victims of domestic violence and is the only emergency shelter for victims in the Municipality of Anchorage. I understand that the Department of Public Safety subcommittee is currently recommending 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 the AWAIC to continue to provide critical services for victims to attain safety and support. Thank you for recognizing the need for these services to victims throughout Alaska by making funding for grants to programs a priority in this challenging budget.

Heidi Hill