

March 3, 2016

Senate Finance Committee
House Finance Committee
Senator Donny Olson
Representative Neal Foster
Representative Benjamin Nageak

Please reconsider the potential closure of the Nome Youth Facility (NYF). The facility services the Bering Strait Region and the Northwest Arctic Borough.

The Bering Strait Region includes 17 villages; and the NANA Region services 11 communities. Clients at the NYF may fluctuate at times but not having the facility available for the two regions is detrimental to the health and wellbeing of our greatest assets, the youth in need.

The only mode of transportation for both hubs is air transportation; transporting clients to an urban setting for youth services is not only expensive but it is a disservice to their culture and family ties. Transporting them to urban settings will only serve to reinforce their differences and not be productive.

Clients at the NYF are afforded an education while incarcerated; continuing education is an important component to the wellbeing of our future assets, our children. Non client youth are able to attend classes at NYF also. Many have gone on to graduate, earning a high school diploma; without NYF and its school, they never would have been able to achieve this important goal.

The youth of NYF are a visible and a viable part of the Nome community. They are extremely active in community work service – they set up / take down chairs, they clean different facilities around town, they partake in whatever is asked of them without complaint if it is within their scope and plan. They make a good impression to all those they work with and for. They are given a chance to build up their own self-esteem and worthwhileness...in a setting that closely resembles their own communities. All of this would be lost if the NYF were to close.

Please do not eliminate the funding for the Nome Youth Facility. Please show the youth in our regions that they matter and make a difference.

Sincerely,

ASEA Local 52 – Nome Chapter (representing Nome, Kotzebue, and Barrow)

From: [Donna Patrick](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget proposal for UAA
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 11:24:57 AM

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing today to ask for your support for an increased budget proposal for the University of Alaska to, at the very least, the amount Governor Walker has proposed. I understand that there must be cuts made and I can only begin to imagine what a difficult challenge this is for all of you but slashing our university's research and education funding is equivalent to cutting Alaska's future.

I am a proud graduate of the University of Alaska. I earned both my bachelors and masters degree in nursing from UAA and have, for the past 16 years, provided health care to the students at UAF as a nurse practitioner. As part of my masters degree program I had to write a thesis which included a research project. Up until that time research was a dirty word for me and to be honest I didn't think it had much to do with anything that had to do with me! But after actually doing research I learned a great deal about the value of it particularly with regard to state's unique needs.

Research has affected virtually every single Alaskan by providing valuable information which affects all aspects of our lives ranging from prenatal care, to primary care of infants, children, adults and the elderly; from pre school education, to our primary and secondary schools and to our graduate education within the UAA system. , Research outcomes have affected our fire science, our housing environment, our weather measurement system, our transportation system, our psycho social problems and so forth and so on. Research has even provided the Alaska legislature with valuable data to enable you to make informed decisions for the people of our state. My profession is just one of many as is our teaching, engineering, scientists, police officers and fire fighters and many others which have benefitted from the use of UAA research, thereby benefitting all Alaskans. UAA and the research it supports enables all Alaskans to contribute to our economy in many different, integral ways and to lead healthy, meaningful, productive lives.

But in order to continue our research projects, we must begin from a workable budget allowance in order to write the grants that then bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant monies from the federal government and others. Without the money from our state to write the proposals for grant money to fund our research projects we won't be awarded the grant money that we now rely heavily on to conduct our

research.

We need to begin to rely on our people resources to ensure a diverse and secure economy. I feel this would be impossible without a stronger budget allowance that shows respect for our greatest economic potential, our people. We live in a unique geographic and often harsh climate area in the circumpolar north region of this globe and so we need highly trained, talented and educated citizenship, either through the trades or through college education to continue to meet our unique needs.

We need our Alaskan residents to plan, develop and perform using the ongoing high caliber arctic research done by our university system which we have relied on for years to supply us with the knowledge as to how to best achieve this for all.

University research has also added incalculably to Alaska's economic growth. Fairbanks, where I have resided for the past 30 years, in particular, has a research university which attracts the finest professors and scientists of the highest caliber to teach our students and to conduct research. I feel that with a slashed budget, we would be unable to attract these high caliber professionals.

Some of the more recent research at our university includes:

- *Supplying data of those in our state suffering from physical abuse, suicide , drug abuse.
- * Ways to deliver effective physical and mental health care.
- * Working with DOT to figure out a more flood resistant roadway to our Arctic oilfields
- * Working with Alaska's oil industry to come up with more effective Arctic oil spill technologies,
- * Working with the fishing industry to develop better ways to process fish in Alaska
- * Developing technologies that have reduced the high cost of energy in rural Alaska
- * Ways to cut down on air pollution particularly from the ice fog in Fairbanks.

These examples represent just a very small percentage of the research at UA that has helped grow our economy, and enable our people to live a safe, productive, healthy and meaningful life.

Developing our economy in Alaska has challenges: a harsh climate, a population all over the place not easily accessed by roads, very high energy costs, and pollution.

Let's not be foolish by hampering our ability to educate our people with knowledge based on sound principles which come from well designed research projects. If we look to other places around the world who have strong economies we see that they all have a strong investment in their citizens....called human resource development, not solely by relying on natural resources such as oil or coal .

The challenges of Alaska today can be figured out if we can look down the road a bit, enough to see that Alaska's investment in education and research — is an indispensable part of creating a plan for a prosperous economic future for all.

Again I understand that there must be cuts made and I can only begin to imagine what a difficult challenge this is for all of you but slashing our university's research and education funding is equivalent to cutting Alaska's future. Thank you for your very diligent and hard work in trying to achieve this.

Respectfully yours,

Donna M Patrick ANP

From: [Jennifer Curl](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Sen. John Coghill](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#)
Subject: Opposition to the UA budget cuts
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 12:00:14 PM

House finance committee:

As a member of the Alaska community and a graduate student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I strongly oppose the proposed budget cuts to university research activities.

The UA system is uniquely poised to lead in arctic research, and without financial support from the state of Alaska, researchers will have a much more difficult time bringing in federal support, recruiting top graduate students, and competing with other well funded universities. In addition, every \$1 of state research money brings in an additional \$4 from other funding sources - so we will lose four times what you cut from the UA research budget. Our current \$28 million dollar investment in research generates \$116 in additional funds. It is critical that this continue in order to maintain current research staff, facilities and opportunities. Once lost, these resources are nearly impossible to recover.

As a graduate student, I can also tell you that UA teaching is directly reliant on having graduate student teaching assistants, and that I have also directly contributed to the greater Fairbanks community by teaching science linked to my research in 7th grade classrooms as part of the Changing Alaska Science Education (CASE) gK-12 program at UAF.

In addition, given this and the past few winters, Alaska lies on the brink of major environmental changes that demand to be addressed. Local, university-driven research is the primary way that appropriate approaches and solutions can begin to be addressed. 81% of current research expenditures contribute directly to the needs of the state of Alaska.

Beyond that, while I know the state of Alaska is in turmoil of how to address the state budget deficit, I would like to see other ideas put forth than putting education (both local K-12 and university) on the biggest chopping block first. Education is the best way for there to be residents within the state that continue to come up with better ideas to diversify the Alaska economy and help prevent such budget shortfalls in the future.

On a more personal note: If these budget cuts continue, I am inclined to leave Alaska (my favorite place I have ever lived) to seek employment elsewhere in order to raise a family in a better educational system. I fell in love with Alaska on my first field season in the Aleutians, and I purposely sought out graduate education here, at UAF, in order to invest in and contribute to environmental and wildlife management in this state. Don't lose your best and brightest because you assume the university can continue to function without enough state funding.

Best,
Jennifer Curl

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Jennifer Curl
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FEBRUARY 29, 2016

House of Representatives Finance Committee

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Finance Committee,

I am writing to you in regards to a few items of great concern for my community with the proposed FY17 budget. I am a resident of Newhalen in the Lake Iliamna area, the Vice Mayor for the Newhalen City Council, and am on the Board of Directors for Iliamna Newhalen Nondalton Electric Co-Op. Please see my concerns below on Proposed Fuel Increases, Community Revenue Sharing, Power Cost Equalization, Income and Sales Taxes, Iliamna Trooper Station, and K-12 Funding.

Proposed Fuel Increases

HB 249 is about increasing taxes on different forms of fuel in the State of Alaska. Throughout all of rural Alaska, this will impact us the most. Increasing the aviation gas tax from 4.7 cents to 10 cents per gallon is going to hurt rural Alaska. We greatly dependent on air travel and air freight. Any increase on jet or aviation fuel will in turn increase our airfare and freight prices. In speaking with local air charters, they use around 60 gallons of jet fuel for a 55 minute, one-way flight from Anchorage to Iliamna. Rates for this flight are currently \$190.00 for residents and \$240.00 for non-resident. Increasing jet fuel by 6.8 cents to \$0.10 cents per gallon would cost the air taxis an additional \$408.00 per flight. On a 9 passenger plane, this is an additional cost of roughly \$45.00 per person raising the rates to a minimum of \$235.00 for resident and \$285.00 for non-resident for a one-way flight.

For general freight, we currently pay \$0.60 to \$0.95 cents per pound. A 52-pound variety meat pack from Mike's Quality Meats currently costs \$255.00. Freight would be an additional cost of approx. \$50.00. I could not even begin to speculate how the increased fuel prices will impact our freight rates. Some would cry, "well why doesn't rural Alaska subsistence hunt?" We do, but that also requires gasoline (air freight and barged in), oil (air freight), a snow machine or ATV (barged in or air freight), bullets (air freight), a gun (air freight), proper clothing for the elements (air freight), and much more.

The proposed gasoline fuel tax increase from 8 cents to 16 cents per gallon would increase our current rates of fuel from our “low” price of \$4.64 to \$4.72 per gallon at minimum. Increases on fuels will not solve any problems in rural Alaska. It will only generate more.

Increases on the aviation and jet fuels will also increase expenses of our commercial fishermen. Most fishermen fly to their fishing locations each summer. They also have their freight flown in. Increasing taxes on gasoline, jet, and aviation fuels will potentially bankrupt our fisher people and cause the sell of more permits to people Outside. Fish prices are already at super low levels and tacking on more expenses to them is ruthless and irresponsible. Our commercial fishermen and rural Alaskans can only take so much before their backs will break and they will sink.

Community Revenue Sharing

At our last city council meeting, we were advised that our yearly Community Revenue Sharing from the State of Alaska will be decreasing by \$34,085.00 to \$67,170.00. This will GREATLY impact our community and all municipalities throughout Alaska. This was also decreased by approx. \$5000.00 from FY15 to FY16. For FY17, we are basically being asked to eliminate more than 1/3 of our yearly budget.

Community Revenue Sharing has become an integral part of the City of Newhalen. It represents nearly 90% of the yearly budget. We use these monies to provide needed services and jobs for the community. The population of Newhalen is approximately 200 people. Of these, less than 25% have full or part-time employment. Through a recent door-to-door survey, it was documented that 80% of our residents fall below the poverty line.

As a city, we are looking at other sources of income and eliminating expenditures. Options being considered are: closing the community health clinic, looking at new sites to sell gravel, licensing dogs in the community, and more. The selling of gravel brings an additional source of money for the city. However, 50% of the money from the sales must be sent to Bristol Bay Native Corporation, as they own the mineral rights to all the land in the area. We do not have a savings account to fall back on, and there is no “extra money” to start one. Every penny that is received by the city is spent to the fullest possible potential.

Below is data from the State of Alaska’s website that shows the amount of revenue sharing for the past 11 fiscal years for three rural cities in Southwest Alaska: Newhalen, Nondalton, and New Stuyahok. I have also included if the cities lost or gained revenue compared to the year prior.

Fiscal Year	Newhalen	Nondalton	New Stuyahok
Population Est. (2013)	193	166	529
FY17	\$67,170.00	\$65,853.00	\$76,366.00
FY17 Vs. FY16	<i>-\$34,085.00</i>	<i>-\$33,459.00</i>	<i>-\$38,085.00</i>
FY16	\$101,255.00	\$99,312.00	\$114,451.00
FY16 Vs. FY15	<i>-\$5,128.00</i>	<i>-\$5,128.00</i>	<i>-\$5,541.00</i>
FY15	\$106,383.00	\$104,051.00	\$119,992.00
FY15 Vs. FY14	+\$1,803.00	<i>-\$101.00</i>	<i>-\$263.00</i>
FY14	\$104,580.00	\$104,152.00	\$120,255.00
FY14 Vs. FY13	<i>-\$44,484.00</i>	<i>-\$44,152.00</i>	<i>-\$50,406.00</i>
FY13	\$149,064.00	\$148,304.00	\$170,631.00
FY13 Vs. FY12	+\$8,470.00	+\$9,434.00	+\$8,825.00
FY12	\$140,594.00	\$138,870.00	\$161,806.00
FY12 Vs. FY11	+\$36,469.00	+\$33,542.00	+\$39,777.00
FY11	\$104,125.00	\$105,328.00	\$122,029.00
FY11 Vs. FY10	<i>-\$139.00</i>	<i>-\$977.00</i>	+\$981.00
FY10	\$104,264.00	\$106,305.00	\$121,048.00
FY10 Vs. FY09	<i>-\$342.00</i>	+\$204.00	+\$1,960.00
FY09	\$104,606.00	\$106,101.00	\$119,088.00

As shown above, we are not the only community in Alaska that is facing a budget crisis if this revenue continues to be decreased or eliminated. The City of Nondalton is located approximately 18 air miles north of Newhalen. They also rely heavily upon revenue sharing as their ONLY source of non-locally generated income. Both cities provide the core community services to their people such as septic pumping, water and sewer, garbage removal, and managing the dump. The cities also provide a source of employment to four people in Newhalen and six people in Nondalton, who would otherwise be without a job. If revenue sharing continues to drop and even disappears, it would devastate the cities of Newhalen, Nondalton, and many, many more throughout Alaska.

Ms. Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director of the Alaska Municipal League, has said time and time again, “they (the state) can ‘save’ money until some of these municipalities shut down and then all the liability of that municipality goes to the state.” What Ms. Wasserman is referring to an Alaska Statute that states if a municipality has to shut down, the state would incur all of the cities expenses and responsibilities that it has to a community to provide the essential services such as water, sewer, trash disposal, etc. I fear without revenue sharing, this will happen to many communities throughout Alaska.

Power Cost Equalization (PCE)

“PCE was instituted as a program to provide economic assistance to customers in rural areas of Alaska where the kilowatt-hour (kWh) charge for electricity can be three to five times higher than the charge in more urban areas of the state. PCE fundamentally improves Alaska’s standard of living by helping small rural areas maintain the availability of communications and operation of basic infrastructure and systems, including water and sewer, incinerators, heat and light. PCE is a core element underlying the financial viability of centralized power generation in rural communities.” These are not my words but Alaska Energy Authority’s on their fact sheet about PCE. Each one of those words rings true.

Based on the reporting period from 07/01/14 to 06/30/15, Iliamna Newhalen Nondalton Electric Coop (INNEC) provided electric service to a combined community population of 476 people. There were 187 residential and 15 community facility customers that qualified for the PCE credits. In 2015, INNEC, generated 903,259 total PCE eligible kWh. For 2015, the last reported average PCE payment per eligible kWh was \$0.24. This equates to \$216,782.16 savings for the three communities, or roughly \$1,073 per eligible customer. An average family of four pays roughly \$150.00 per month. Without PCE, they would be facing around \$240.00 (roughly \$90 more per month). That is a big added cost for our residents who are already struggling with their day to day expenses.

For our residents to continue to thrive and be able to afford their electrical expenses, PCE must be held intact for its specific use. Without it, rural Alaskans across the state will suffer and it will be detrimental.

Income and Sales Taxes

A broad income tax has been proposed at the state level. For a small community such as Newhalen, it would apply too much pressure to our already too tight belts. I believe this could be a great revenue source generator for the state as a whole, but it should be imposed on people who make more than \$150,000 per year. In Ohio, they currently have a 5.925% on income tax for people whose income is over \$200,000. Hawaii imposes a rate of 11% for income over \$200,000. I believe either of these options to be fair and just. Here are some other examples across the nation:

Connecticut: 6.5% on income over \$500,000

New Jersey: 8.97% on income over \$500,000

North Dakota: 4.86% on income over \$373,650

Rhode Island: 9.9% on income over \$373,650

Maryland: 6.25% on income over \$1 million

New York: 8.97% on income over \$500,000

Oregon: 11% on income over \$250,000

Vermont: 8.95% on income over \$373,650

Tennessee charges a 6% tax on interest and dividend income but wages are not taxed. This is a very interesting idea considering how many different corporations offer their shareholders a dividend.

The idea of a Statewide sales tax has been tossed around as well. For Newhalen, a state or local sales tax would not help to fill anyone’s coffers in a positive way. There are only two local businesses in Newhalen – Newhalen Bingo and INN Electric Co-Op. Imposing any taxes on Bingo would potentially drive

sales to our neighboring village of Iliamna, which is also currently tax free. Instituting taxes on INN Electric Co-Op would only initiate more harm to our residents by potentially driving up rates.

Iliamna Trooper Station

Trooper Joe Minnick is currently stationed at the Iliamna Trooper Station in Newhalen. He is our closest form of law enforcement in the Lake Iliamna, Lake Clark, and Kvichak River area. Currently, there are no Village Public Safety Officers or Village Public Officer in any northern Bristol Bay villages, which includes Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen, Pedro Bay, Pile Bay, Kokhanok, Igiugig, and Levelock. According to Bristol Bay Native Association, due to budget cuts by the State from last year, the open position for a Rover Village Public Safety Officer for the Northern Region has been eliminated. If Trooper Minnick were taken out of the northern Bristol Bay Region, it would be tragic and potentially devastating for our communities. We value him as a true asset to the region and rely on him and his authority.

K-12 Funding

"I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way," – Whitney Houston

I believe in this statement. We owe it to our children to ensure that children in schools with enrollments of 10 (Chignik Bay School) all the way to 2,222 (East High School) deserve a proper and well funded education. With other proposed items in the budget, schools throughout the state will need to figure out how to make the same dollar stretch further, even without even considering more budget cuts for themselves

Conclusion

I guess my main purpose of writing this letter is not to offer solutions. It is to remind you that for every action that is taken during this legislative session, we will be effected. You have been elected by the people to represent the people of your district. We have entrusted you with this great duty. It is your job to weigh all the options presented before you and figure out how to get us out of this mess, and hopefully prevent it from happening again. Rural Alaskans deserve a voice. Remember us. Remember how we live and what it takes to live here.

SINCERELY,

Evelynn Trefon

Vice Mayor, City of Newhalen

Secretary, INN Electric CO-OP

Resident of House District 37 and Senate District S

From: [Rhetta Hosier](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 9:34:28 AM

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,
Rhetta Hosier
PO Box 1333
Delta Junction, AK 99737

From: laurastamm1@gmail.com on behalf of [Laura Stamm](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); saddler@akleg.gov; edgmon@akleg.gov; gattis@akleg.gov; munoz@akleg.gov; pruitt@akleg.gov; Rep. Jess Gara@akleg.gov; guttenberg@akleg.gov; kawasaki@akleg.gov; [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#)
Subject: fund KNBA
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 9:57:03 AM

To all Representatives:
Please do NOT vote to de-fund KNBA.
KNBA is an essential resource in Alaska.

Sincerely,
Laura Stamm
Anchorage AK

From: [Eva Cohnen-Brown](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: University funding
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 10:19:59 AM

Dear Representative Neuman,

In the current climate of budget pressures, it's tempting to slash-and-cut our way to fiscal health, so to speak. It is not coincidental that this sounds like the "slash-and-burn" method of agriculture, with its concomitant devastation on the environment. There is no need to go to such extremes in bringing the state's economic house in order, and we would be well advised to take a more gradual approach in aligning the state's budget with economic reality. In case you've not read it yet, Rick Mystrom's editorial of February 24th in Alaska Dispatch News is helpful: <http://www.adn.com/article/20160224/alaska-history-teaches-us-how-handle-budget-crunch-and-how-not>

Allow me to focus on just one particular aspect of the proposed cuts, that of eliminating all outreach funding to the University of Alaska, including the Cooperative Extension Service (CES). "UA outreach funds are 49% (\$4,273,300) of the Extension budget and, if eliminated, would result in the loss of an additional 22% (\$1,954,436) in Federal funds to Extension. This funding cut of 71% would shut down Extension programming throughout Alaska. Because 75% of the current Extension budget pays for Agents and Assistants, most, if not all, District offices would not survive this cut." (Source: <http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=97c176f0081189b5f8911ea78&id=3698ec432b&e=372b1b0dd9#MG> Class)

CES programs are vital to ensuring food safety and security, using programs such as Master Gardener training, instruction on preparing and preserving food (including training for Certified Food Protection Manager), and teaching how to raise livestock to carry out this goal. An equally important and synchronous component is educating Alaska's youth via 4H and the Future Farmers of America program. The twin geospatial technologies of GIS and GPS are often taught in these youth groups, giving children a distinct advantage in building sound careers. These programs help ensure more security in a state that is highly dependent on importing food, and in developing a sound foundation for generations of Alaska's citizens.

There is one more aspect of UAF's role in this state that cannot be ignored: it is the state's flagship land grant institution. As such, it is mandated by law to carry out the three-fold mission of teaching, research and extension. The Morrill Act of 1862, Hatch Act of 1887, and Smith-Lever Act of 1914 conferred these roles on every land grant institution. It would only be right and just to the spirit of these laws that we continue to support UAF's outreach.

Please help preserve the integrity and hope of present and future generations in this wonderful place we call home by maintaining clear vision during these days. To use a word picture: Don't turn off the heat to save money, only to have the pipes burst! Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Eva Cohnen-Brown
Palmer, Alaska

From: [J A E](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please protect public radio funding in Alaska
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 10:30:05 AM

RE: Cuts of \$100,000.

Please reduce this amount. It is too much, too fast. KHNS has operated on a small budget for many years in spite of increased costs and reduced funding. KHNS operates like a "lean machine" and raises \$50,000 - \$65,000 locally through their annual pledge-drive.

Dear Fellow Alaskans,

Public Radio Station, KHNS located in Haines, Alaska is the "heart" of our community. KHNS broadcasts in Skagway and Klukwan Alaska, as well. I moved to Haines in 1980, the year KHNS went on the air. I lived in a remote cabin, 31 miles from town and was able to hear the broadcasts by using 2 big CAT batteries. For 36 years our business and family have relied on KHNS for the following:

- Homeland Security [Haines and Skagway share borders with Canada].
- Amber Alerts
- National News and Events
- Local News and Events
- State ferry arrivals, departures and cancellations/delays.
- Community Outreach - meetings, closures, alerts, event postings that improve our quality of life.
- Weather Conditions in town and on the highways/passes. Many military families and visitors get off the ferry to drive to Anchorage and these reports provide valuable updated information on road conditions and can save lives.
- Job Postings that are read 3 times a week, year round. Helps locals find jobs and employers to fill jobs.
- Underwriting opportunities for local businesses to advertise while funding the station.
- Award-winning, locally produced shows that inform the listener about issues, events, opportunities.
- Politics: Interviews with local, state, national candidates.
- Informs our growing senior population who do not use the web for news and events. Seniors, on a fixed income can hardly afford internet, TV, cell phone plans. Senior activities and meals are announced on air.
- Thought-provoking programming for all ages that inspire and educate.
- Music: KHNS provides a variety of music for all tastes.
- Volunteers: KHNS provides members of the community a chance to learn about broadcasting and gain skills as DJs. Many retired citizens volunteer their time at

KHNS which enhances their well-being and social involvement.

- Provides quality jobs for the General Manager, Program Director, News Reporters [cover Skagway, Haines, and Klukwan.], Development Director. Also provides a job for a local handicapped individual who has dedicated many years to KHNS on-air programming.
- KHNS on-line presence is a very valuable way to stay informed, communicate needs, and advertise. The LISTEN LIVE ability puts our community out to the world and allows us to stay informed even when traveling.
- KHNS makes us proud, adds to our quality of life, and is often one reason people relocate to Haines and Skagway to live.
- Life in Haines, Skagway, and Klukwan would take a hard blow, if we could not sustain KHNS and Public Radio.

Thanks for the opportunity to express these views.

Jo Anna Egolf

KHNS member since 1980.

P. O. Box 957
Homer, Alaska 99603
March 1, 2016

To: Members of the Alaska State Legislature

Dear Senator or Representative,

In my 49 years in the State of Alaska I have never been so worried or appalled at the legislature's actions! I believe the Governor has proposed a reasonable reduction in state services and decimating our state programs in the name of reducing government (all at once) is destructive to our state. If we no longer have good education, health care availability, marine and regular highway maintenance, public safety and assistance for people with problems no company will consider setting up business here as their employees will not move their families to such a state and many will leave. The reason we have government is to pay for services that we cannot provide individually. Why has that become such a bad idea? I'm willing to pay an income tax and lose some of my dividend to protect public services.

How DARE you still consider remaining in or even buying the Anchorage LIO!!! The legislature needs NO LIO large building in Anchorage! As you so often remind us let's reduce the size of government. You would serve your constituents far better with small LIO offices in your individual districts convenient to constituents and with better parking. It works fine for the rest of us! The legislature has a building for meeting in Juneau, near the Governor. I was furious when the Legislature decided to ignore the Governor's request and met in Anchorage. The capital is in Juneau, which is equally inaccessible to all of us.

I am appalled that you have the gall to spend money on the Anchorage LIO, suing the governor and your own priorities at the same time you are:

- Reducing the benefit for low income Seniors from \$125 a month to \$47 and now to \$0.
- Considering increasing the number of students required for a school to exist.
- Devastating the budget of Public Radio and Television so it can no longer serve the Bush.
- Cut items in the budget that cause us to lose our federal matching funds (for which I pay taxes).
- Refuse to reduce the tax benefits to oil companies that are costing us approximately \$2300 per person and are the largest cost to our budget.
- Reduce medical benefits for people who cannot pay for them and eliminate preventive services.
- Devastate education budgets and services for our children through college age.

I am a non-partisan voter sick of party politics!!! Every legislator is elected by the people of Alaska. They should all have a voice and their ideas should be considered. The best interests of the State and its citizens are found through the reasonable discussion of ideas and compromise. Re-election campaigns should have no part in the decision making process! You are there for the good of the State and its citizens, not to have a lifetime position. I have been in Alaska since 1967 and I used to be proud of the cooperation and respect shown by our legislators and governors. For the past few years political power has prevailed and the exchange of viewpoints has been repressed. Think of the good of the State and forget party politics!

Sincerely,

Catherine McCarthy

From: [Miller, Jeremy D. \(DOC\)](#)
To: [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Sen. Kevin Meyer](#); [Sen. Lesil McGuire](#); [Rep. Bob Lynn](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Max Gruenberg](#); [Sen. Berta Gardner](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Sen. John Coghill](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mia Costello](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#)
Subject: SB 101
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 10:32:22 AM

Honorable Legislators,

Regardless of ones stance on pro life or pro choice, special interest education does NOT belong in public schools. If they want to offer information to school children then they can do it else ware. To say that not allowing Planed Parenthood in school is a breach of the first amendment would be the same as me saying no weapons in school is a breach of the 2nd amendment. It comes down to what we have funding for and what the public should be taxed to support and outside interest groups are not it.

sb 101 Sec. 14.03.092. Must be passed.

Thank you.

From: [Panu Lucier](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Cc: [Stephanie Berglund](#); [Meghan Johnson](#)
Subject: Data and Information on early childhood programs
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 9:04:59 AM
Attachments: [High Quality PreK Makes a Difference 2016.pdf](#)
[March 2016 Department of Education Early Childhood Program Overview.pdfdocx](#)

Dear Representative Neuman,

I would like to share some information and data regarding Alaska's early childhood programs, including Pre-K, Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers, which may be helpful in your decision-making about the value of investing in quality early childhood programs as a cost-saving measure.

Thank you,

Panu Lucier

Director, System for Early Education Development (SEED)

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High Quality Pre-K Makes a Difference!

2016 Policy Fact Sheet



Decades of research have shown that Pre-K makes a difference. Not just in the short-term to get children ready to start school, but in the long-term as children grow up, become employed and contribute to the strength of the economy.

In Alaska, there are nearly 10,400 4 year-old children but only about 290 are enrolled in Alaska's Pre-K program. What difference does it make? Plenty.

A Strong Economy Depends on a Skilled Workforce

The forces of globalization and technology continue to redefine the knowledge economy: **tomorrow's workers must rely more on brain than on brawn.** Technological improvements have led to escalating skill requirements, and globalization has contributed to the loss of many labor-intensive and digitally transferable jobs in the United States.¹

What is clear is that individuals need to achieve education beyond a high school degree and need to develop advanced technical skills. What we know is that the most formative years of brain development come well before a child starts kindergarten.

The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Quality Pre-K

Early and sustained participation in quality Pre-K and early learning settings leads to:²

- more children graduating high school,
- higher earnings rates for parents and for the children once grown,
- reduced public spending on remedial education and services, and
- lower incarceration rates.

Federal, state, and local budgets will improve significantly when governments can dedicate more of their resources to productive endeavors, rather than to remediation, incarceration, and welfare.

- Improving high school dropout rates could save as much as \$11 billion annu-

ally in welfare, food stamps, and housing assistance.³

- Boosting the high school completion rate of adult men by 1 percent would save up to \$1.4 billion a year in crime related costs.⁴

Workers with a high school diploma earn over \$9,349 more annually than those who have not completed high school. Adding a four year college degree translates to an additional \$19,707 annual increase in earnings.⁵

The Research on "Return on Investment" or ROI

The Chicago Child Parent Centers (CPCs) were similar to current state Pre-K programs in design and cost. The Chicago Longitudinal Study reported a \$7.14 to \$1 benefit-cost ratio.⁶

The High/Scope Perry Preschool Program that operated in the Ypsilanti, Michigan school district has been estimated to have a benefit-cost ratio of \$16 to \$1 (40 years after children attended).⁷

One year of full-day Pre-K at age 4 can raise future earnings by 10 percent. This increases the present value of future earnings for former child participants by about \$50,000, at a cost of about \$10,000, for a benefit of 5 to 1.⁸

A meta-analysis from leading researchers describes the rate of return in two ways:⁹

- Benefits may come from cost savings, such as reduced spending for special education and grade retention, as well as lower involvement in the child protection, welfare, and criminal justice systems; and second,
- Benefits may flow from greater economic productivity, higher earnings as adults.

The evidence is clear: high quality Pre-K programs are among the most cost-effective interventions with a long-term pay-off.

The Connection Between Quality Pre-K and School Success

It is far more expensive to intervene during the K-12 years to help keep a child on track than it is to make an early investment to start children on track.

In Alaska, about 7,000 children repeat a grade between kindergarten and high school. About 21 percent of children do not graduate on time (or drop out).

The 2015 National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) average reading scores for Alaska's 4th grade children were lower than the average scores of 4th graders in 41 other states.¹⁰

- 54 percent of 4th graders eligible for free and reduced priced lunch read below grade level.
- 66 percent of Alaska Native 4th grade students read below grade level.

How children fare on 4th grade reading tests is directly related to their readiness to start school when they first entered.

The research shows that we can do better. We can help children enter school ready to succeed by offering full-day high quality Pre-K.

Mixed Delivery Systems Work Best for Parents

Many states offer Pre-K in mixed delivery settings. For example, North Carolina and New Mexico offer more than half their Pre-K classrooms through child care centers. This works in communities because the 4 year-olds are already engaged in a program. Parents need full-day care (not full "school-day" care but full "working day" care).

By offering Pre-K through child care settings, parents and children benefit. Parents have the work support that they need and children have continuity in care which is important for healthy development.

Pre-K can be school-based, but does not have to be to meet the needs of children and families. Supporting quality Pre-K in community-based child care programs is a sound example of public-private partnership.

High Quality Pre-K Makes a Difference

High Quality Pre-K helps children start school ready to succeed. It reduces the likelihood that children will need remediation, special education, be retained in grade, and increases the likelihood that children will perform at or above grade level, graduate from high school and be college or career ready.



For 2016, thread recommends policies to:

- Expand Pre-K to all 4 year-old children in Alaska as well as invest in quality child care in the earlier years;
- Offer Pre-K in mixed delivery settings so that communities can promote public-private partnerships with child care programs; and
- Strengthen training and professional development for the early care and education workforce to promote quality child care and Pre-K for Alaskan children.

For more information visit threadalaska.org.

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thread connecting
early care & education
to alaska

¹ Committee for Economic Development. "The Economic Promise of Investing in High-Quality Preschool: Using Early Education to Improve Economic Growth and the Fiscal Sustainability of States and the Nation." (2006). <http://bit.ly/1v14gbz>

² Ibid.

³ Marta Tienda. "Public Assistance Programs: How Much Could be Saved with Improved Education?" paper presented at the symposium on "The Social Costs of Inadequate Education" (Columbia University Teachers College, October 2005). <http://bit.ly/1ut5Uuz>

⁴ Enrico Moretti. "Does Education Reduce Participation in Criminal Activities? Paper presented at the symposium on "The Social Costs of Inadequate Education" (Columbia University Teachers College, October 2005). <http://bit.ly/1t1jlfj>

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Earnings in the Past 12 Months, 2010-2014 ACS 5 Year Estimates, Table S2001. http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S2001&prod-Type=table

⁶ The Chicago Longitudinal Study, Reynolds, Temple, Robertson, & Mann, (2002). <http://www.irc.wisc.edu/publications/dps/pdfs/dp124502.pdf>, <http://bit.ly/1Be11pV>

⁷ Getting the Facts Right on Pre-K and the President's Pre-K Proposal, NIEER (2013). <http://bit.ly/1Be11pV>

⁸ From Preschool to Prosperity, Tim Bartik. (2014). <http://investinginkids.net/>

⁹ Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education. (2013). Society for Research in Child Development and Foundation for Child Development. <http://bit.ly/1pfzv3B>

¹⁰ National Assessment for Educational Progress (2015). 4th Grade Test Score Results for Alaska. <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/>

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Early Childhood Programs

Alaska Pre-Kindergarten Program

In Alaska FY 2016, EED was provided with \$2,000,000.00 in General Funds to continue the competitive grants for the Alaska Pre-Kindergarten program (formerly the AP3). The funds to maintain pre-kindergarten services in all program were issued to the Lower Kuskokwim SD, Anchorage SD, Mat-Su SD, Nome SD, Juneau SD, Yukon Koyukuk SD. Reduced set asides went to Lower Yukon SD and Yupiit SD to provide intervention services.

Alaska Pre-Kindergarten Grantee and Site Information

The tables below represent the Alaska Pre-Kindergarten competitive grants. Set aside fund were provided to two districts to improve their coordination with existing early childhood programs in their communities and for parent outreach in communities with no services. The remaining funds went out as grants, contracts and materials supporting required training, assessments and reporting processes.

FY 13	Classrooms	Children	Grant	FY 14	Classrooms	Children	Grant
Anchorage	2	35	\$159,300	Anchorage	2	32	\$113,740
Dillingham	2	33	\$260,000	Dillingham	2	33	\$185,640
Juneau	4	64	\$380,133	Juneau	2	30	\$271,415
Lower	2	33	\$321,387	Lower	2	30	\$229,470
Mat-Su	6	79	\$497,000	Mat-Su	6	79	\$354,858
Nome	3	55	\$268,447	Nome	3	53	\$191,671
North Slope	2	25	\$158,407	North Slope	2	20	\$113,103
				Yukon Koyukuk	5	14	\$184,934
				Lower Yukon	Intervention		\$107,100
				Yupitt	Intervention		\$107,100
Total	21	324	\$2,044,674	Total	24	291	\$1,859,031

FY 15	Classrooms	Children	Grant	FY 16	Classrooms/Teachers	Children	Grant
Anchorage	2	48	\$330,924	Anchorage*	3-(3FTE)	48	\$333,811
Juneau	4	60	\$405,000	Juneau*	4-(2-FTE)	64	\$407,887
Lower Kuskokwim	2	44	\$363,346	LKSD	3-(3-FTE)	44	\$366,233
Mat-Su	6	80	\$450,000	Mat-Su	5-4 FTE 2 .5 FTE	82	\$452,887
Nome	2	60	\$259,534	Nome*	2-2 FTE	60	\$262,421
Yukon Koyukuk	5	6	\$55,000	YKSD	3-3 FTE	6	\$57,887
Lower Yukon	Intervention		\$68,098				
Yupitt	Intervention		\$45,000	Lower Yukon	3-Home Visitor	15	\$70,985
				Yupitt	Coordination		\$47,887
Total	21	298	\$1,976,902	Total	23	319	\$1,999,998

**Districts in partnership with Head Start- Anchorage/Kids Corp, Juneau/Tlingit Haida, Nome/Kawerak*

Alaska Pre-Kindergarten Program

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Early Childhood Programs

Measureable Standards

Alaska Pre-Kindergarten programs report quarterly on four standard areas.

These standard outcome areas are:

Standard 1: Research-Based Programs with Qualified Staff

All programs have a certificated lead teacher with bachelor degree or higher.

Program aides and assistants have received training and support hours in early childhood development.

Standard 2: Class Size and Staff-Child Ratio

Programs maintain a 1/10 teacher child ratio

Standard 3: Child Outcome Measurement

Teaching Strategies Gold

Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) is a scientifically research based early childhood assessment process that is the required child outcome tool for the Alaska Pre-Kindergarten program. It is being utilized by Alaska's Head Start programs as well. TSG is an authentic observational assessment system for children from birth through Kindergarten. It is designed to inform educators and care givers about the children they work with – what they know and can do, as well as their strengths, needs, and interests across all areas of development and learning. TSG has been aligned with both the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines (ELG) and the Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP). An additional TSG alignment has been completed with the state's K-12 language arts and math standards.

Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test

Each fall and spring, program participant's receptive English vocabulary is measured using the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, Fourth Edition (PPVT-4). The PPVT-4 measures the amount of vocabulary words a child can accurately identify.

Standard 4: Program Evaluations

The Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS), and the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). Classrooms and teachers are evaluated in the fall and in the spring of each program year.

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Early Childhood Programs

Teaching Strategies Gold

Pre-Kindergarten grantees use the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment system as the primary method of growth measurement. This assessment links to specific goals found in both the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines and the Alaska Developmental profile. Data has been collected since 2012 when TS Gold became available to the Alaska Pre-Kindergarten program.

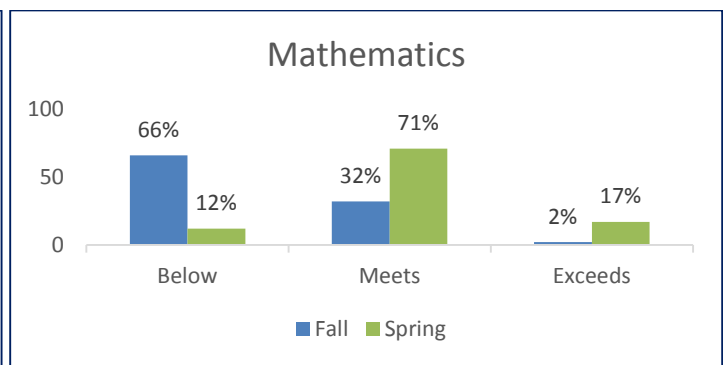
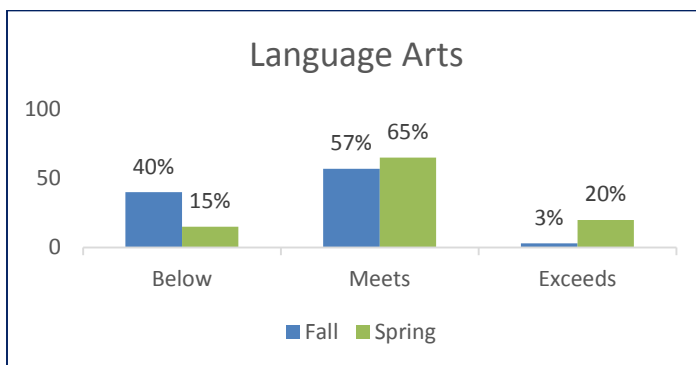
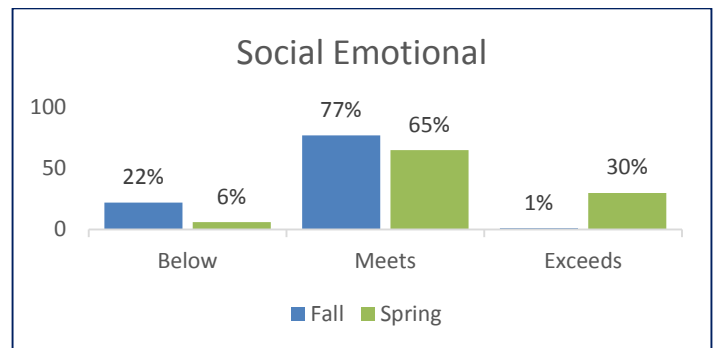
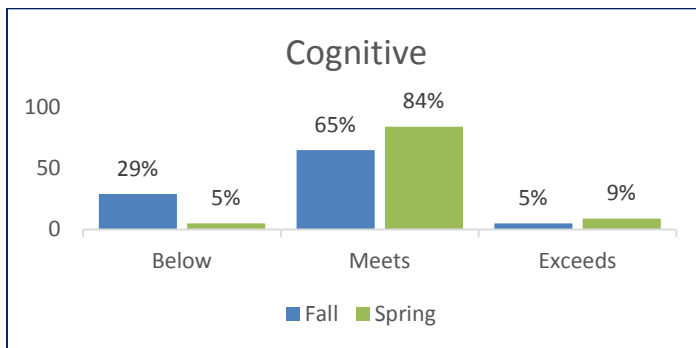
The tables below show the percentages of children who were assessed as below widely held expectations, meeting widely held expectations, or exceeding widely held expectations, for 4 year old children in the fall and in the spring. Expectations are labeled in the data charts as: Below, Meeting or Exceeding. While the state level reporting shows only fall and spring, the main use of this assessment process is on-going through out the year and can be used across years as well to guide classroom activities and interventions that meet individual children's needs and strengths.

TS Gold data was collected in the following Domain Areas:

- **Cognitive:** Attends and engages, uses classification skills, thinks symbolically.
- **Social Emotional:** Follows limits and expectations, balances needs of self and others.
- **Physical:** (Not included in this report)
- **Language Arts:** Discriminates rhyme, identifies and names letters, writes name, comprehends language.
- **Mathematics:** Counts, compares and measures.

Teaching Strategies Gold Statewide Aggregate

FY 12

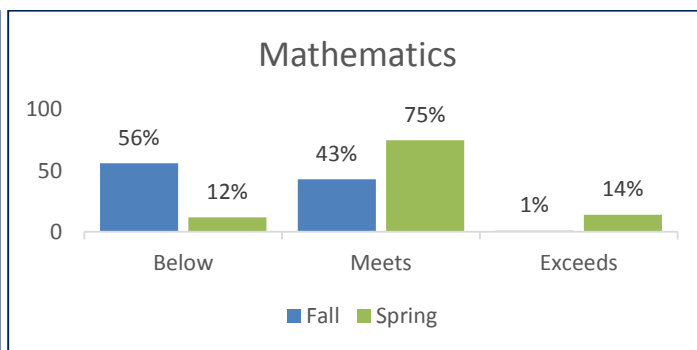
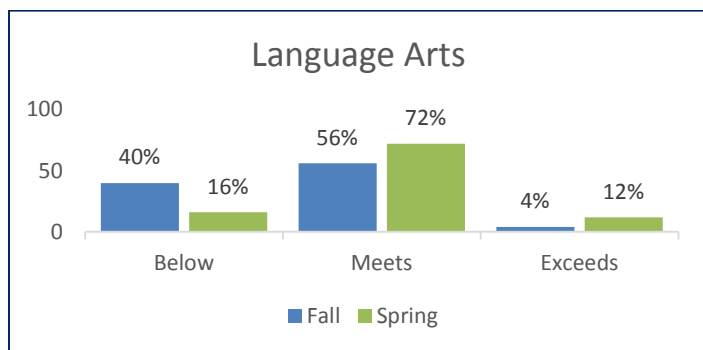
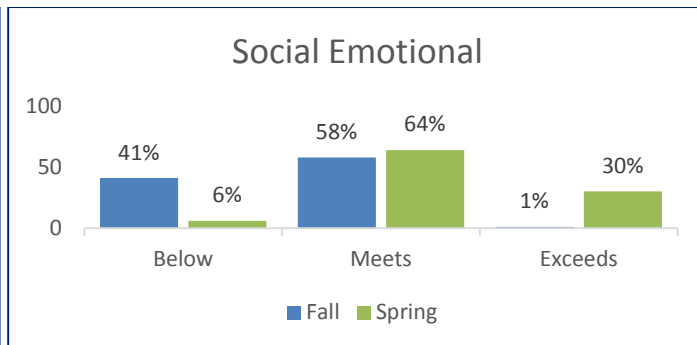
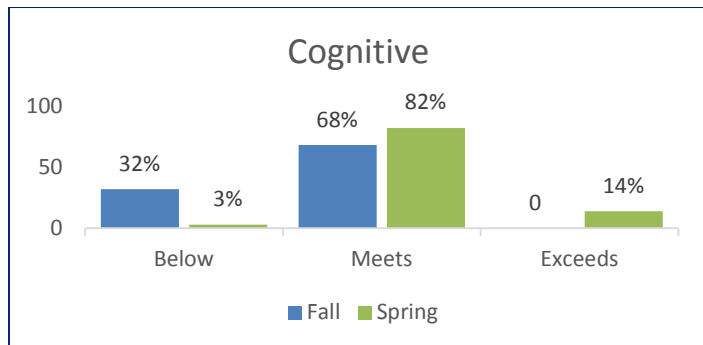


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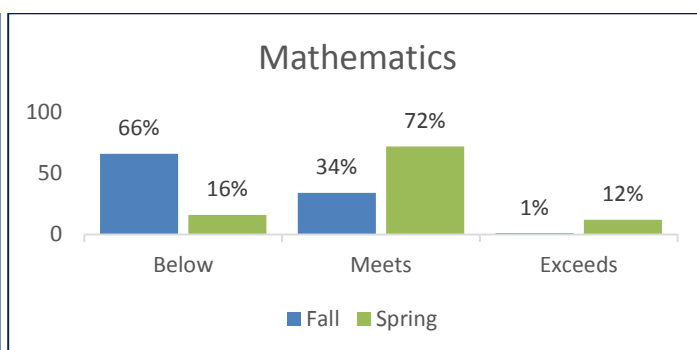
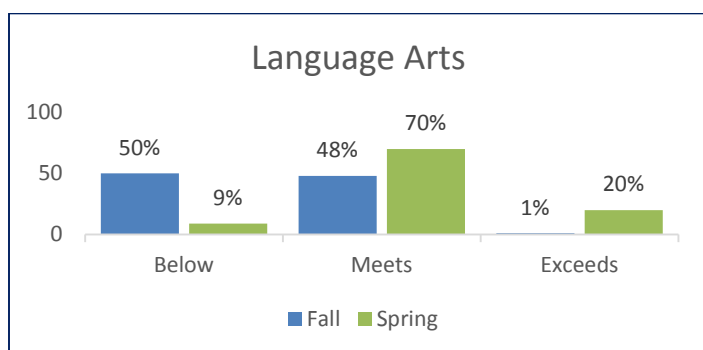
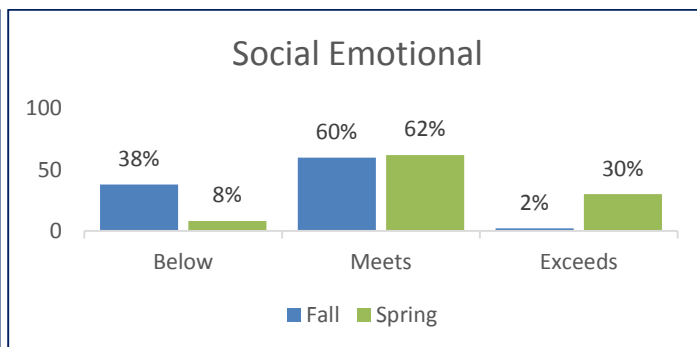
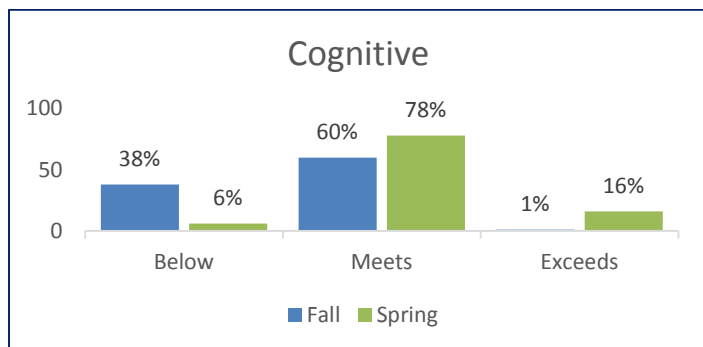
Early Childhood Programs

Alaska Pre-Kindergarten Program

FY 13



FY 14



Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Early Childhood Programs

Alaska Pre-Kindergarten Program

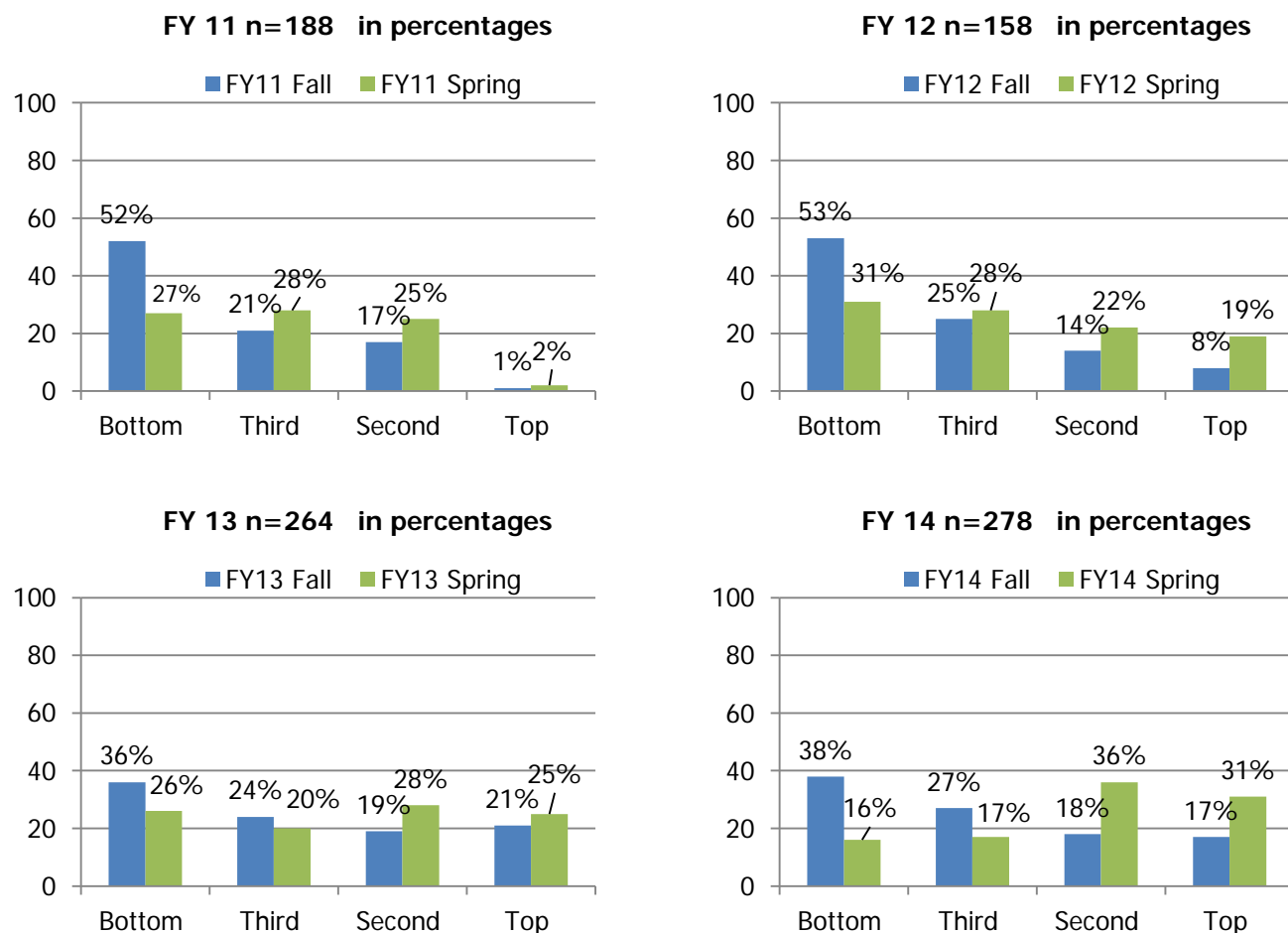
Teaching Strategies Gold Summary

TS Gold is an assessment collected by observing child skills in each of the domain areas. During all of the reporting years, young children consistently showed growth in all domain areas. Some of the strongest growth areas can be seen in the fall/spring differences as children move from below expectation to meets expectations. The greatest gains were made in language arts and mathematics.

Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, Fourth Edition (PPVT-4)

Each fall and spring, students' receptive English vocabulary is measured using the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, Fourth Edition (PPVT-4). The *Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, Fourth Edition (PPVT-4)*, measure, is a test of the receptive (hearing) vocabulary of children and adults. The measure is an individually administered, norm-referenced, wide-range instrument. The results provided are for students who completed both fall and spring assessment data for the FY11, FY12, FY13, and FY14 school years. Results are reported by grouping percentile scores into quartiles. The PPVT data shows larger numbers and percentages of children starting the year in bottom quartile. Growth can be seen by reviewing the decrease in percentage between fall and spring data for the bottom quartile and reviewing the increase in percentages of the third, second and top quartiles. Based on the national percentile rankings of the PPVT, the percentage of students in each quartile was as follows:

State Aggregate PPVT All Program Percentages Fall/Spring



Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Early Childhood Programs

Best Beginnings

Introduction

Best Beginnings supports community-based, volunteer-led work to:

- Further early literacy in children between birth and age 5 through Alaska's Imagination Library, bringing a high quality, age-appropriate book each month to a growing number of children in all parts of the state – at no cost to their families – and holding communitywide events that engage families in reading.
- Address early childhood issues in individual Alaska communities through early childhood partnerships, citizen coalitions that determine what their communities need to do to be better places for young children, and bring together people, agencies, and businesses to do the work

Best Beginnings also conducts statewide research and, with partners, develops and implements public awareness campaigns to increase Alaskans' knowledge of early childhood development. Best Beginnings' investments its partner's impacts Alaska communities in three focus area:

- Early Language & Literacy;
- Strong children, parents and families
- Community awareness and support related to early learning.

Two Year Comparison

FY 15		FY 16	
Program Budget		Program Budget	
Account	Approved Budget	Account	Approved Budget
Personnel	\$290,400	Personnel	\$97,350
Travel	\$35,700	Travel	0
Contractual	\$249,000	Contractual	\$112,650
Supplies	\$355,500 (Imagination Library Grants)	Supplies	\$110,000 (Imagination Library Grants)

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Early Childhood Programs

Alaska Imagination Library Sub Grants Imagination Library

In FY 2015, the number of

- Imagination Libraries in Alaska grew from **32 to 33**. The number of communities Imagination Libraries serve grew from **110 to 113**. The number of children enrolled in Alaska in Imagination Libraries grew from 22,006 at the beginning of the year to **23,687** at year's end for an increase of **1,681** Alaska children receiving a book every month in the mail at no cost to their families.
- Nearly **44%** of all Alaska children under 5 years of age were enrolled in the program at the end of the fiscal year.
- In total, **275,580** books went out to children during FY 2015.

Alaska Imagination Library Sub Grants Imagination Library

Yearend data is not available until June of 2016.

Early Childhood Partnerships

With support from Best Beginnings, **6 communities** in Alaska organized and are built early childhood partnerships in their communities. Community involvement is essential to helping families prepare their children to succeed. Local parents, citizens, and organizations are in the best position to identify what the children in their communities need and how to meet those needs.

- Anchorage Success By 6
- Fairbanks Families
- Homer Early Childhood Coalition
- Juneau Partnership for Families and Children
- Early Childhood Partnership of Mat-Su
- Wrangell Early Childhood Coalition

Program	Grant Amount
Anchorage Success by Six	\$31,500
Fairbanks Families	\$52,500
Homer Early Childhood Coalition	\$45,000
Juneau Partnership for Families and Children	\$50,000
Early Childhood Partnership of Mat-Su	\$45,000
Wrangell Early Childhood Leadership Coalition	\$17,902

In FY 2015 Best Beginnings hosted two conferences for partners from around the state: one for Early Childhood Partnerships and one for Imagination Libraries in Alaska. This resource is provided at no cost to the partners and is

Early Childhood Partnerships

Due to reduced funding, Best Beginnings has been unable to support early childhood partnerships.

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Early Childhood Programs

made available to all partners regardless of whether or not they are currently receiving funds from Best Beginnings.

Best Beginnings worked with partners to identify training topics that will strengthen the work and sustainability of the partners. The conferences held in FY 2015 included sessions on the following topics with the following outcomes:

FY 16 Best Beginnings Imagination Library Grant Amounts

Community	Award Amount FY15	Award Amount FY 16	Community	Award Amount FY15	Award Amount FY 16
Akiachak	\$1,100	\$1500	Metlakatla	\$1,400	\$1000
Anchor Point	\$1,600	\$1100	Ninilchik	\$500	
Anchorage	\$181,000	\$100,000	North Star	\$14,635	\$8000
Brevig Mission	\$750		Old Harbor	\$1,000	\$500
Chevak	\$550		Seward	\$850	
Copper River	\$2,050	\$1350	Southeast	\$29,350	\$25000
Cordova	\$2,250		Togiak	\$1,250	\$900
Delta	\$3,000	\$1125	Upper Tanana	\$2,000	
Dillingham		\$800	Valdez	\$1,611	
Homer	\$4820	\$3850			
Kenai/Soldotna	\$16,800	\$15000			
Kotzebue		\$975			
Mat-Su	\$59,000	\$20000			
			Total State Allocation	\$325,516	\$181,000
			Best Beginnings Contribution	\$355,000	\$110,000
					\$71,000

StoryTRACKS

Best Beginnings' project StoryTRACKS is in its second year of implementation. StoryTRACKS is an interactive family reading activity that can be borrowed, free of charge, by any community organization. Approximately **4,800** people were exposed to one of ten StoryTRACKS books at **22** different events from Willow to Valdez. 100% of those surveyed reported that event attendees enjoyed StoryTRACKS, that they would recommend it to other organizations, and that they planned to use them again in the future.

Strong Children Parents and Families

Each Best Beginnings partner is encouraged to meet their community's needs through their engagement activities. In FY 2015, Best Beginnings partners hosted, partnered in hosting, and/or implemented **752** engagement activities for families

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Early Childhood Programs

in their communities. These included story times, family literacy events, reading/music classes, resource fairs, health fairs, Ready 4 Kindergarten! courses, parent support groups and water safety classes.

Early childhood care providers were given opportunities to access training, children received scholarships to participate in extracurricular activities, transportation vouchers were provided to families in order to access services, along with various efforts to meet each community's needs in this focus area.

Community Awareness and Support Related to Early Learning.

In FY 2015, Best Beginnings partners engaged in 1,119 early childhood-focused advocacy interactions with legislators, policy makers, local leaders, and community members. This included presentations to community groups, businesses, and families in addition to letters, phone calls, visits, and testimony to legislators.

Partners also utilize information shared by Best Beginnings to garner local awareness and support for early childhood throughout the State. This includes *Words Count* products that encourage adults to read, talk, sing, and play with young children every day, and information/relevant messaging shared through our network to bolster awareness and generate action.

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Early Childhood Programs

Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an early childhood parent education and family support program designed to empower parents to give their children the best possible start in life. Home visits and group socializations are offered to families through four grantee organizations. The PAT approach is to support all children so that they will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential. Parents as teachers is a free, voluntary home visiting program for any pregnant family or family with a child up to age 3. A PAT trained home visitor schedules and completes a one hour visits with families and children in either their home or their community.

Alaska Parents as Teachers Grantee and Site Information

FY16 -FY13 PARENTS AS TEACHERS SUMMARY				
Grantee	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13
RURAL CAP	262,114.00	357,000.00	357,000.00	407,792.00
RURAL CAP	-	-	-	97,500.00
Kid's Corp	86,637.00	118,000.00	118,000.00	143,244.00
Assoc. for the Ed. of Young Children	90,675.00	123,500.00	123,500.00	150,000.00
Sprout Family Services	60,572.00	82,500.00	82,500.00	100,000.00
Totals	499,998.00	681,000.00	681,000.00	898,536.00

Measureable Standards

The Alaska PAT program must report on five standard areas and adhere to the Parents as Teachers National model. The PAT program is strongly held accountable by the Parents as Teachers National Center. PAT affiliates must adhere to the established standards for quality implementation based on best practices in the field of early childhood home visitation.

- **Standard 1: Research-Based Programs with Qualified Staff**
 - The PAT program is based on scientific research and is presented by a PAT certified home visitor/parent educator who meets the standards set by the PAT National Center.
- **Standard 2: Staff-Family Ratio**
 - A home visitor should serve 20-24 families with visits 2 times per month.
- **Standard 4: Program Evaluations**
 - Programs will be assessed through the National PAT Center processes for affiliate programs on an annual bases and quality assurance assessment every three years.
- **Standard 5: Program Reports**
 - The following must be submitted with each quarterly report:
 - Fiscal Report and Request for Reimbursement
 - Parents as Teachers Performance Report (submit with 4th Quarter Report only)

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Early Childhood Programs

Parents as Teachers

FY 16 First Quarter Report

Grantee Program	Standard 1: Research-Based Programs with Qualified Staff	Standard 2: Staff-Family Ratio			Standard 3: Child Outcome Measurement ASQE Delivered/Referrals Hearing/Vision		Standard 4: Program Evaluations	Standard 5: Program Reports
		Family/ Child/Waitlist	#of Visits	Monthly Activities Y/N				
AEYC	Yes	38/46/20	248	Y	16	1	Yes	Yes
					2	0		
Sprout – Homer	Yes	5/7/0	Weekly	Y	N	0	Yes	Yes
					N	0		
Kids' Corp- Anchorage	Yes	34/39/16	68	Y	26	1	Yes	Yes
					26	2		
Rural CAP- Anc Kodiak TOk	Yes	39/51/1	205	Y	38	1	Yes	Yes
					37			
Totals: 4 programs/6 sites	100%	123/143/37	521	100%	80	3	100%	100%
					65	2		

FY 16 Quarter One Summary

FY 16 monies for the PAT program were reduced. This resulted in programs releasing staff and alerting families that they would no longer receive services. When money was re-appropriated the programs formed again and began to provide service. Due to this loss several program staff who were trained and qualified to meet the national PAT standards were not able to continue with the program. It took some programs time to hire and re-train staff to meet the national PAT standards. This resulted in a diminished ability to serve families as with the case with Rural CAP and Sprout Family Services.

Grantee programs continued to provide an effective nationally normed home visiting program using the PAT model. Currently there are 116 children receiving home visiting services. The program continues to provide support to families and children and often times the home visitor is the first contact to provide early childhood screening and assist with the follow up needed for those referrals. In FY 16 Quarter One, 37 screenings had been completed with 1 referral in process.

From: no-reply@plan4alaska.com
To: [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#)
Subject: Plan4Alaska.com Budget Challenge
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 8:06:52 AM

As you make important decisions this year to create a sustainable budget for our state, I share my Budget Challenge solution so you know what's important to me.

[View Mine!](#)

From: [Marjorie Thayer](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB256
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 8:41:44 AM

Hello;

My name is Marjorie M Thayer 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 your time.

Sincerely,

Marjorie M Thayer

From: [Jonas Lamb](#)
To: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Representative.Dan.Sadler@akleg.gov](#); [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](#); [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: Please Support University of Alaska as proposed by Governor's Budget
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 8:52:57 AM

As a graduate student at UAA and a faculty member at UAS (United Academics/AAUP/AFT Local 4996), I am very concerned that the current revised budget as recommended by the House Finance Committee are short sighted and will undermine the efforts of the UA system to meet the higher education needs of Alaskans and compete globally in Arctic research.

While I can support cuts at the administrative level to reduce redundancy across campuses, the contributions of administrators should not be overlooked in consideration of their work to secure funding for their institutions through grants and donors. Here at UAS we have been cutting budgets significantly for 3 years now and I can tell you from the front lines that these cuts are negatively impacting student success. Wait times for financial aid processing have increased, campus technology in support of student learning has been severely impacted by staff shortages in IT areas and I feel strongly that all the uncertainty over the UA budget is leading Alaskans to consider out of state higher education options.

Last year I began a graduate program through UAA and the director of the program made it clear to new students on the first day of our summer residency that the budget outlook was grim and that all programs were subject to severe cuts or even discontinuation and encouraged us to raise our voices, advocate via legislative channels for quality, reliable higher education. This is not the sort of message you want to deliver to new students, however to ignore the plight of the budget would be irresponsible.

If Alaska is going to continue to provide competitive higher education options for our in state populations as well as draw healthy student base from outside AK, a reliable, sustainable means of budgeting for UA needs to be put in place.

I support income taxes, sales taxes and using PF resources to work toward a more diversified income stream for state government. Education in AK in general from pre-K to higher ed needs an innovative new mechanism for provision of state general fund support. Investing in education is a far more dependable investment than oil.

Thank You-

John (Jonas) Lamb
Juneau

From: [Jeanine Brooks](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Mental health funding
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 7:54:08 AM
Attachments: [Letter to Legislator.docx](#)

March 3, 2016

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am a public school social worker in Sitka and I am in my 26th year of working in children's mental health in Alaska. I have worked as a therapist, school social worker, community mental health skills trainer, and Alaska Youth Initiative Coordinator. I am writing to urge you to fully fund Alaska's current community mental health programming and to particularly protect funding for individual rehabilitation services.

As you are aware, Alaska suffers from some of the highest rates of mental illness in our country and high rates of all of its associated disabilities including substance abuse, suicide, child abuse, and domestic violence. Our mental health and substance abuse issues are a public health crisis. I have watched mental health funding receive cuts over my 26 years of mental health work as oil revenue has waned. We no longer provide funding for the Alaska Youth Initiative program that prevented sending severely mental ill children to institutions in other states or to our suicide prevention programs. The ability to provide comprehensive prevention and intervention services to our sick children and families has been diminished. We cannot afford to inflict further cuts on our already bare bones mental health services when we have a population suffering from such a high level of mental health crisis.

Cutting mental health funding will result in suffering within our mental health populations and will also result in much higher costs in our state as funding needs for police, incarceration, and substance abuse treatment responses to mental health inspired problems will increase dramatically. It will not assist our struggling budget to cut mental health funding.

Your current funding of mental health services is money well spent. In our community, Sitka Counseling and Prevention Services receives community mental health funding and provides an absolutely amazing level of support to our students who are involved in their program. Their work has made it possible for 11 children in our school this year to function in their classrooms. They are accessing their academics and building meaningful friendships. The support they receive is preventing them from suffering from secondary disabilities that would have come from their unsupported mental illnesses. In addition, their classmates are able to learn and play to their fullest ability without the distraction of a classmate suffering from mental illness. We have two children in particular this year who, because of mental illness

and exposure to severe trauma, were unable to participate in any part of their school day until they began receiving individual rehabilitation services. Both children are fully integrated into their classroom experiences and are making gains academically and social emotionally.

Thank you for considering my plea to avoid cutting community mental health services funding from your budget.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Brooks, MSW, PPSC

Sitka School District

From: [Lenore](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fwd: Correction: New email address for House Finance comments
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 4:26:39 AM

Dear House Finance Department of Administration:

I am a State Department Foreign Service diplomat and I am also from Haines, Alaska, the community where radio is being threatened by a 100% proposed budget cut to public broadcasting. My parents and my sister and brother still live in Haines, while I am currently posted in Geneva, Switzerland.

I would like to lend my voice to those who seek to educate you about the very real and paramount importance of maintaining a radio station in small Alaskan communities. I know that in Haines, radio is not just used for education and entertainment. The station is an integral part of the lives of the citizens of Haines. My sister was the Program Director at KHNS for several years. There were several times when heavy snowfall had downed power lines and she risked much to make it to the station so that she could broadcast potentially life saving information to town residents regarding safety measures, road conditions, storm warnings, etc. Without KHNS, there would have been no mechanism to disseminate this information. Please take this into consideration when voting on budget issues.

On a somber note, my cousin drowned in a fishing accident several years ago during a major storm. Even though his life was lost, I am 100% certain that KHNS plays a huge roll in the lives of fisherpeople in Alaska. From placing listener personals to locate lost equipment or connect with new deckhands, to potentially life-saving radio transmissions, cutting all the funding to KHNS means cutting a potential life line for a fisherman.

I simply can't imagine my hometown without KHNS. It's not just a radio station, it's the beating heart of Haines, a vital community resource and an essential information line during the often brutal Alaskan conditions.

I urge you to take a few moments to think about the human costs of the decision in your hands.

I would be more than happy to speak to any of your members in person.

All my very best,

Lenore Nash
Foreign Service Diplomat
Geneva, Switzerland

From: [James wagar](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 5:57:38 AM

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,
James wagar
1897 Badger Rd
North Pole, AK 99705

March 3, 2016

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am a public school social worker in Sitka and I am in my 26th year of working in children's mental health in Alaska. I have worked as a therapist, school social worker, community mental health skills trainer, and Alaska Youth Initiative Coordinator. I am writing to urge you to fully fund Alaska's current community mental health programming and to particularly protect funding for individual rehabilitation services.

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Thank you for considering my plea to avoid cutting community mental health services funding from your budget.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Brooks, MSW, PPSC
Sitka School District

From: [Ian Albin-Brooks](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: UAA Budget Cuts
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 8:56:08 PM

Hello, I am a student here in Anchorage, Alaska and am writing to you about the proposed budget cuts to that the University of Alaska is facing. My education is extremely important to me and I hope as a Representative it would be important to you as well. I've worked hard for several years just to be able to afford to go to college and have taken student loans only as a last resort to help supplement my wages. If UAA's budget is substantially cut and my academic program is eliminated or reduced in any way that would delay my personal progress in seeking to better myself, I will be forced to finish my education elsewhere, out of state.

Students are the future of this country, but more specifically this state, and as much as I love it here and wish to stay so I can one day apply my skills to assist future Alaskans, cutting the budget will leave me with no option but to leave. I am a transplanted Ohioan, but I have no desire whatsoever to return. Having lived in Alaska for over 5 years now, I know that Alaska has so much to offer but it goes beyond its beautiful vistas and majestic landscapes. What really appeals to me and, I think, to many others, is its fantastic educational program, but UAA is so much more than just its academic prestige: it's a vibrant community of people, from all walks of life and differing age, brought together with the unifying power of learning. I am a registered voter and take pride in voting in every single election and I will not hesitate to vote out anybody who supports these proposed budget cuts.

I implore you to think not just about the present state of Alaska, but its future, and not punish the thousands of students and faculty who are trying to make this state a better place. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ian Albin-Brooks

From: [Mark Squire](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 9:53:34 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,
Mark Squire
8711 Beachwood Dr
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: [Ron & Marji](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: Budget Proposal Comments
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 11:04:02 PM

Representative Mark Neuman:

The Governor has submitted a budget and a set of proposals as to how to fund the budget. Appropriately, the House and Senate are developing plans and proposals of their own to provide a budget for the State. In that development, it seems appropriate to consider all of the elements which might bear on the state of Alaska's finances: increasing revenues, cutting corporate welfare, and making program cuts.

In that respect, Legislators should consider additional revenue streams as well as cutting expenses. We have already gone through a few years of cuts already, without adding to the revenue streams. I believe that the citizens of Alaska are now unwilling to accept additional cuts unless the legislators take immediate action to find and implement new revenue streams while at the same time cutting corporate welfare.

I have not seen, outside of the Governor's budget, proposals by the legislators to increase the revenue stream. Rather, all I hear are proposals to make substantial cuts to existing programs that will result in the loss of jobs, reduced educational opportunities, and the elimination of essential research and community services.

I urge the Finance Committee to consider all aspects for increasing revenue streams before considering any further program cuts. Cutting the University's budget, for example, will not save the State's budget but it will have a devastating effect on the University's ability to conduct research and student instruction.

What are the specific revenue increasing proposals that the Finance Committee will be recommending? What are the specific corporate welfare cuts that the Finance Committee will be recommending? Until the Committee addresses both increasing the revenue streams and cutting corporate welfare, Alaskans do not want to hear about cuts to programs that create jobs, that pay wages, that allow us to buy our food, educate our children, and provide for the care of our seniors and others.

Ronald Illingworth

Ron & Marji Illingworth
North Pole Peonies
5730 Eielson Farm Road
North Pole, Alaska
907-488-0446 (H)
1-866-535-6459 (fax)
northpolepeonies.com

From: [Stacey Lucason](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please don't deeply cut the University and Alaska's future
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 11:35:14 PM

Dear members of the Legislature,

Please take the time to consider the following items regarding the University of Alaska before you make any final budget decisions this session. I appreciate that your time is valuable and have tried to condense these points as much as possible for you, but am willing to speak or correspond with you (or your staff) anytime if that would be at all helpful.

The University of Alaska is an economic driver for the State of Alaska, one based in the renewable energy of human capital instead of limited natural resources.

- Where do you think the next generation of young people that will build families and become your constituents go to school?
 - Graduates tend to live where go to college, so Alaskans that study here are likely to stay here and contribute to our state's well-being and overall economy. Those who study Outside, stay Outside.
 - If the House (given the approximate \$62 million cut and subcommittee intent language) would like send these young Alaskans away, please ask members that feel that way to be straightforward and just come out and say that- and tell these young people they ought to move away and vote for legislators in the Lower 48.
 - However, I don't think any of you really want that. I believe instead the legislature as a whole wants a strong Alaska with a diverse economy and rich fullness of population.
 - To achieve this future, look to the ways that the University of Alaska not only brings money into the state, but educates our citizens to respond with innovation as the state's economy moves beyond oil.
- The University of Alaska brings up talented young people from Outside, and internationally, who contribute to the diverse learning environment within the University of Alaska (with spillover benefits for the whole community).
 - These individuals pay full tuition, bringing additional money into the University system.
 - Many of these students participate in research, which brings in over \$4 into the Alaska economy for every \$1 of state monies invested (a great return on investment!).
 - Further, many students from Outside bring a friend, or significant other, who may attend the University or may just contribute to our local economy.
- Students eat at local establishments, rent from local landlords, and work in entry-level positions across the state. We even buy houses, build our own businesses, and get involved in the legislative process. It may sounds cliché, but we are the future.

The University of Alaska knows it needs to slim down and is already working on Strategic Pathways.

- We, and here I am also speaking as a member of the Board of Regents, recognize the need to streamline. We are working on a sustainable model for University excellence.
 - I don't remember the late 80's, but many Alaskans do, and asking around about the merger of ACC and UA was painful! That pain still resonates today and has

caused long-standing distrust of the idea of consolidation. It sounds like this distrust is from a rushed process where stakeholders did not feel heard.

- The only way to avoid this pain and lost reputation is to allow enough time for the process to work.
- **The [Strategic Pathways](#) timeline requires stable funding for this year (FY17) to enact thoughtful cuts that will lead to a stronger and more efficient university system.**
- The Board of Regents takes the budget very seriously and is actively working on ways to make the system more streamlined. They have been working on this for several years already, and it would be an injustice to the work already accomplished to move for a slash and burn now.

Please consider moving toward the Governor's budget for FY17, even if it is one-time funding, so the Board of Regents are able to make thoughtful, intentional cuts and plan for a streamlined, efficient, excellent university system in Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and your time in service of the State of Alaska. I understand that you have a difficult puzzle in front of you to sort out how to make a budget work this year. I hope that you are able to look beyond the immediate feelings of crisis and make choices that strengthen Alaska in the long run. A strong Alaska, a strong economy especially, depends on creative thinkers that are passionate about this place- just the kind of people you find at the University of Alaska. Please invest in our shared future.

Sincerely,

Stacey R. Lucason

From: [Terri Mach](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: ECE Funding
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 1:10:08 AM

Alaska State Legislature, Finance Committee lhscfin@akleg.gov

As a 47 year resident of Alaska, I have experienced several economic swings that required my family to make fiscal adjustments. I recognize the challenge lawmakers face to balance our State budget and appreciate their diligence as they attempt to meet the needs of all constituents.

I am writing on behalf of your youngest constituents. When we truly assume a child's perspective, we are often able to see more clearly and make more prudent decisions. I urge our lawmakers to do that now. We must ask, "What would a child do?" I believe no hungry child would choose a toy before food.

There is no greater responsibility of a society than providing its children with education. Early education is one of the best investments we can make as it directly impacts the immediate earning potential of families, increasing their ability to meet basic needs of their children. Most importantly, early education impacts the future learning and earning potential of children by providing neural stimulation during the most critical years for brain development. A retired elementary teacher who now teaches adult basic education at a community college said she could identify which third graders had not been read to as young children and she can now identify adults who had similar missed opportunity. I have studied professional literature, but like my colleague, I have mostly learned the value of early education by studying real families and real children in my care and in my classrooms.

Because care and education are inseparable during a child's first 5 years, our dollars invested in programs like Parents as Teachers, Head Start, and Early Head Start provide education not only for children, but also for their families. I urge our lawmakers to fund these programs that target the critical years of early childhood. I urge our lawmakers to make an investment that pays immediate and future dividends by strengthening families and increasing the learning and earning potential of our youngest citizens.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Terri L Mach

4472 East Hill Rd.

Homer, AK 99603

tlmach55@gmail.com

From: [Robin Thompson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 8:06:01 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. Our government is too large for our state. If we let you touch our permanent fund you will waste that too with your trips and waste. If I ran my finances like the government I would be in jail. Cut nonessential state employees to 32 hours a week. Leave the troopers who struggle to safely cover the large areas they have. But that seems to be what government does. Cut where it will hurt the people of the state the most so you can pass an outrageous budget by scaring people. I have had enough of the bull government feeds us. No more taxes and no permanent dud. Put your big boy pants on and do your job.

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,
Robin Thompson
901 W Sands Dr
Wasilla, AK 99654

From: [laura lucas](#)
Subject: adult dental program
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 8:52:09 PM

I am writing to encourage the house finance committee to maintain the budget allowance for the **adult medicaid dental program**. As a staff member at Juneau's federally qualified health center that serves low income and homeless patients, I frequently witness the positive impact this program has made on our patients' lives.

When I first started working at our clinic as a case manager, I was struck by the percentage of our patients with mouths that held only a half a dozen or so teeth. I realized what a barrier this condition was to try to make a new start in life. How often people will confide to me how embarrassed they were to smile lest they reveal their ragged dental remains.

As you are aware, back in 2007 the State of Alaska increased its Medicaid coverage to include fillings, root canals and dentures. This made a significant impact for that segment of our vulnerable Alaskan population who typically have neglected dental needs due to lack of access to affordable care.

Removing this benefit will be a step backward towards the effort of launching people to start new lives. What we stand to lose is the increased presentability for persons becoming part of the work force; increased ability to eat healthy foods; reduction in the use of emergency room visits for dental emergencies and the increase in self esteem with the ability to SMILE again.

Thanks for considering.
Laura Lucas
Juneau, Alaska

From: [Mark squire](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 8:52:10 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,
Mark squire
8711 Beachwood Dr
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: [Marcella Kolberg](#)
To: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Representative.Dan.Sadler@akleg.gov](#); [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: Regarding UA System Budget Cuts
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 5:24:28 PM

To Our UA Finance Committee Members and Associated UA System Representatives,

There is no doubt a serious budget crisis in our state. I understand that cuts must be made and that 'care will be given' to where those cuts will do the least damage. However, my heart breaks for the students of the University of Alaska system who have heavily relied on state funding to support their programs. We feared cuts, but we never knew they would be this drastic.

I am currently pursuing my Master's degree as an 'Interdisciplinary Studies' student through UAA in attempt to gain a competitive edge in my field of Geology. There is no Geology Master's program offered through UAA, nor am I able to relocate my family to Fairbanks to pursue a higher education, so I was fortunate enough to be able to use UAA resources to design my own degree and stay close to home while I continue to work. UAA is well known for its 'commuter college' status, which may seem like a negative description to some, but for folks like me who need a reasonable way to enhance and certify their skills in this economy, a 'commuter school' gives me a home field advantage. I need the UA system to help push me further into the competitive job market so I can continue to contribute to my family and help our state grow.

There are many students who find themselves in a similar position of balancing work, school and a family. Schools like UAA, which happens to be in the highest population center of our state, helps me to achieve my career goals without forcing me to relocate and quit my job, or resort to low-income status and milk our system while I try to pay my way through school.

Commuter schools like UAA demand more attention in this economy. I strongly encourage you to reconsider your proposed budget cuts to UAA and re-designate funds to continue supporting our sciences, math, engineering and technology fields that will truly help grow our economy and keep our students local well beyond the classroom.

Forcing students with families and/or stable jobs in Anchorage to relocate to either UAF or an out-of-state school to pursue marketable degrees in the sciences is just not feasible for the majority of students attending UAA. You will lose a large population of students, and that 20% of student funding for the university will have to stretch to an impossible length.

Please consider re-allocating funds to support STEM fields at UAA. Keep our science alive so Anchorage can thrive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

~Marcy K.

From: [H.D](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: University of Alaska Research/Outreach budget proposal
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 5:36:50 PM

Dear honorable Members of the House Finance committee,

I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed budget reductions to the UA Research/Outreach programs. Such deep and sudden cutbacks in these programs will have a tremendously negative impact on Alaskans throughout the state.

The various research and outreach projects contribute to both our economic growth and our economic diversity. Our state has developed an increasingly respected research community that can only be thought of as an asset that will help ensure a healthy balanced economy.

As the current president of the Anchorage Master Gardeners Association I can attest to the deep concern that the gardening community has for the future of the Cooperative Extension Service. Thousands of people benefit from their educational and outreach efforts. Many other user groups also benefit from them as well. Just as important are the countless volunteer hours given back to our communities. The C.E.S. provides the framework for those of us wish to be actively involved in our communities.

It is my hope that we as a state can agree to approach our budget dilemma in a balanced manner. Making cuts so severe that entire programs are axed can have far reaching and sometimes expensive results. I believe a combination of an income tax, sales tax, or Permanent Fund adjustment combined with responsible, moderate budget cuts is the best solution.

Respectfully,
Harry Deuber Jr
Anchorage

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kristie Smithers](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 6:48:57 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,
Kristie Smithers
PO Box 872868
Wasilla, AK 99687

From: [Dordie Carter](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: OWL Internet budget reinstatement (Hollis Public Library)
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 6:50:59 PM

Hollis Public Library
P.O. Box 764
Craig, AK 99921
hollispubliclibrary@gmail.com

To The Housing Finance Committee,
Hollis Public Library has been using OWL/E-rate/Legislature supported internet since the beginning of the Alaska State Library's OWL Project in 2011. Internet access under this program revolutionized our library and brought what we could offer to our patrons in line with their needs. Our speed increased which improved streaming possibilities, allowed for multiple people to use the internet at one time, and resulted in more use of the library. Many of our patrons use the library for the internet: completing taxes, filing PFDs, researching, checking their emails, accessing educational sites and videos, working online, etc. It is the source for WIFI in our town and many patrons update their phones, computers, iPads, Kindles, etc. at the library.

The unlimited usage aspect of the contract is one of the most beneficial parts for our town. We have to pay dearly for limited access in our homes or on our cell phones if we can get service. Patrons greatly appreciate the non-limitation of using the internet for all of their needs without restriction due to running out of usage or acquiring overage charges.

In this day and age, most everything is done via the internet and people are finding it necessary to use this tool in their everyday lives. This last fiscal year (2014/2015) our library had 1,433 patron usages with 930 internet usages during those visits to the library. Some of our patrons do not have any other way to access the internet and rely on our library's service. Having a location they can go that has a decent speed, unlimited usage, and working/updated computers where they can ask for help is a necessary need in Hollis. We have been very grateful to the Alaska State Library's OWL Program, ERATE, and the Alaska State Legislature for helping us to provide these services to the patrons of the Hollis Public Library. Before the OWL Project, we offered two out-dated computers that had been acquired via grants tens before and internet service via Starband. It was slow, inconsistent, and inconvenient. Starband's service was less than ideal and we had to watch our usage carefully. Due to the OWL project, however, our internet became known as a reliable, up-to-date service that was pleasant to use and free of usage worries.

Due to the OWL Project we updated our computers to 3 new laptops and four desktops all with up-to-date programs. We acquired two new iPads and 4 AWE Stations (designed for toddler to age 10) as well. We have a preschool/school group that uses our library weekly and all of the children consistently use the AWE stations. We also received a 50" TV and VTC system that we have used for educational programs, classes, summer reading programs, writing groups, etc. The support we receive from GCI due to the contract with the Alaska State Library has also been invaluable. When we have an outage they are on the problem right away and communicate consistently working to get us back on line as quickly as possible. If the legislature's portion of our financing is removed from our internet budget, our 30 year old, volunteer library would have to provide somewhere between \$1500 - 1800 in addition to the \$840 that we provide now for the same internet service. If we choose to stay with the GCI Contract, the additional money needed would impact our other services negatively. We already have an average budget of around \$12,000 a year that we provide for via multiple

ways: revenue sharing money, Alaska State Library public library grant, a large fundraiser, 1% receipt program with our local grocery store, and donations. We would have a very hard time raising additional money to cover this added cost to our internet. Our other option is the locally provided service which has usage limitation and overage charges and is more expensive than we pay now as well. It would also affect the E-rate portion of budgetary help that we receive.

I am asking on behalf of the Hollis Public library and as a patron of the library for the legislature to reinstate the \$761,800 OWL (Online with Libraries) budget. Please remember the partnership that was forged between the legislature, local libraries, E-rate, and AKLA when Alaska's libraries and in turn their patrons (Alaskan citizens) were brought forward into 21 century access to the internet.

Thank you,
Hollis Public Library

From: [Terry Dawson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 7:56:40 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,
Terry Dawson
23291 Yukon Rd
Kasilof, AK 99610

From: [Frank Box](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Proposed 5% reduction to SDS community Grant Based Components
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 4:49:14 PM

My Name Is T. Frank Box, I currently work at Access Alaska as a Certified Brain Injury Specialist, and Independent Living Advocate. In my previous career as a North Slope welder fabricator I remember what the price of oil can do to our state budget and the potential difficulties in planning for the future. As a person that survived a disabling medical condition and went on to become employed as a productive contributing member of a nonprofit that helps people in similar situations I can speak to the financial efficiencies that Centers for Independent Living afford. Previously much of Access Alaska's funding came through the SOA Department of Labor- currently that has been moved to Department of Senior & Disability Services. As a former disabled worker that was restored to functional independence through programs that are currently on the chopping block, I am advocating for a closer examination of the cost saving potential before the final draft is signed.

IL Services work well with other existing programs, and pick up the slack when other resources fall short. People do not get turned away because they cannot pay or do not have Medical Insurance. This issue is close to my heart as I fell into the otherwise healthy group until a seizure in the middle of the night, two brain surgeries, 30 Radiation treatments, and 12 months of chemotherapy left me unable to work in my former occupation. Even though I had adequate health insurance while employed, those benefits were quickly depleted. Attempting to advocate for myself after part of my brain had been removed was not a realistic option. IL services advocates assisted me in getting SSDI disability benefits, and helped give me the stability to succeed in completing retraining for workforce reentry to a new profession and transition from disability benefits to self-supporting employment as I became ready.

Now I get to see it every day at my job, people that would otherwise fall through the cracks that may be waitlisted for Medicaid services come in to get DME (durable medical equipment) crutches, walkers, miscellaneous braces & supports, in addition to incontinence supplies, hospital beds, etc.... Access Alaska's DME/reuse program saves the state of Alaska Medicaid & other insurances between 400 and \$600,000 a year. So cuts to these type of programs seems penny wise and dollar foolish. As do cutting services that may keep people out of costly state-funded institutions were actually working and contributing to the financial prosperity of the state.

I would suggest a broad based state income tax, and looking at restructuring the recently modified oil tax rate along with discontinuing the unneeded expense of the lawsuit against Gov. Walker over Medicaid expansion before looking at the permanent fund dividends.

On Tuesday, March 1 at the head injury support group meeting the 20 members present were polled on their opinions and the agreement among us was unanimous about waiting until other options are exhausted before going into the permanent fund which many of them depended on for co-pays and school supplies for their children.

We empathize with the difficulty in dealing with a budget shortfall as most of the group members exist on a modest budget and choose between heat & food utilizing the food bank to stretch their income month to month.

Frank Box

Access Alaska Inc.

Independent Living Advocate

(907) 263-1914

Access Alaska

1217 East 10th Avenue

Anchorage AK 99501

(The former Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center)

www.accessalaska.org

"Life holds no greater prize, than the opportunity to work hard at work worth doing."

Theodore Roosevelt

P Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: [Lister T](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 4:49:47 PM

My name is Lister N. Tapulgo, and I am 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 of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault be funded at \$ 12,652,700. While it 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: [Lea Klingert](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: UAA & UAF MAP Program
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 4:54:15 PM

Committee Members:

I am writing to you to offer some insight and support for the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP) School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences within the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

I have had the good fortune to have been involved with, and a supporter of this program for over twenty years. While their contribution to the Alaska Seafood industry is considerably varied in nature one area of current focus and concern is that of local ownership of our fisheries and the economic impact that that ownership (or lack thereof) has on the shoreline communities as well as the rest of the state.

In my experience the MAP has been instrumental in not only promoting new resident participation and ownership of our fisheries but has been critical in sustaining what ownership there already is, this program is essential to the state, the industry, and the communities. I respectfully ask for your continued financial support, without their existence and involvement over the years the economic and social impact to the state of Alaska would be significant.

Sincerely,

Lela F. Klingert, President.

Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank

From: [Don Fritz](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [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](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#)
Subject: HB 256 Budget Testimony
Date: Thursday, March 03, 2016 5:03:52 PM

Thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 256.

I am supportive of your efforts so far to further cut the budget. From what I see being produced by the various finance subcommittees, significant additional cuts are necessary if you desire to come close to a half billion dollar reduction in the deficit. I am supportive of unallocated across the board cuts in addition to those allocated reductions that have been already identified. Even if you are successful in reducing the budget by \$500 million, it is evident that the generation of additional revenue is needed. I encourage you to seek to also address this portion of the fiscal health equation this year. My belief is that the Permanent Fund earnings are available to the legislature for addressing the budget deficits, they need to be put into play beginning this year, and the PFD should be totally eliminated before any consideration is given to an income tax or sales tax.

Reducing or eliminating the Permanent Fund Dividend is not a tax, it is modifying a gift. It is unfortunate that so many people claim to have become reliant on that gift. That does not change the fact that it is a gift from a State that had excess wealth, but that now needs that wealth to pay for the government Alaskans want. Perhaps it is fair to slowly cut the PFD back, perhaps a guaranteed dividend of \$1,000 for a couple of years (or less if the existing PFD formula calls for less), reduce the PFD to \$500 for a couple of more years, reduce it to \$250 for a couple of more, then eliminate it for a couple of decades until we can again become a society who does not confuse a gift with a right. If in the future the Permanent Fund can pay both for the government services that Alaskans collectively desire and a PFD, perhaps bring the PFD back twenty years from now, with a cap so that nobody can claim to be dependent upon it for continuing to live a lifestyle that they cannot otherwise afford.

I believe that an income tax on the earned income of gainfully employed citizens, or on Alaskans who have retired from gainful employment, sends a bad signal both to all Alaskans as well as to those who in the future may consider relocating to Alaska due to our lack of an income tax. Taxing those who are gainfully employed does nothing to discourage those who wish to continue to receive a free ride, or to discourage them from demanding more government services. What better way to have everyone "have skin in the game" than to reduce or take away the PFD gift and instead use that revenue for funding State Government? Being a bit facetious- If you do consider implementing an income tax, perhaps instead of paying for the needs of the State you could direct the revenue generated from the productive Alaskans to pay for the desires of those that continue to demand the free ride the Permanent Fund Dividend provides. I am certain that those who continue to "need" the PFD will be more than happy to have the income taxes increased on those paying the tax so that their PFD can double or triple.

Just a few decades ago our leaders instituted the Permanent Fund for just the situation that we find ourselves in, where our oil generated revenue is inadequate to pay for state government. While we can argue that many mistakes have been made along the way and that our budgets have been and currently are too large, we do have a tool at our disposal to address our deficit. It is time to start using the Permanent Fund for its intended purpose. I encourage you to identify additional cuts that you feel will adequately reduce State Government to your vision of "right sized government". While doing so I encourage you to concurrently work on addressing the revenue gap by utilizing the Permanent Fund earnings for their intended purpose.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment!

Don Fritz

From: [Don Fritz](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [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](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#)
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Thank you for this opportunity to comment!

Don Fritz

Dear Alaska Legislator,

Alaska faces difficult fiscal choices this year, but investing in early care and learning doesn't have to be one of them. Investing in early care and learning is critical to Alaska's economic infrastructure and to reduce future costs.

A Nobel Laureate in Economics, James Heckman's work indicates that every dollar invested in early childhood education between birth and age five provides a return on investment of between seven and ten percent *per annum compounding* for every year that child is in school. These returns mean real savings for school districts and for society-at-large. Research on brain science confirms how critical a child's first five years are to health, well-being, and school success. This is when a child's brain is growing at the fastest rate and in extraordinary ways. This critical period of brain development sets the stage for subsequent learning and successful adult outcomes. Investing in early care and learning may be the single greatest step towards reducing downstream costs in our education, social, and corrections systems.

Alaska's early care and learning sector plays an important role in Alaska's economy both in generating economic activity and in allowing Alaskans to more fully participate in the labor force, earn income, and improve their standard of living. High-quality early care and learning programs are critical to help children, families, and our communities be healthy and strong. As noted in the 2015 *Economic Impact of Early Care and Learning in Alaska* report, the early care and learning sector has a half-billion dollar "footprint" in the Alaska economy and directly employs more than 7,000 Alaskans. Further, a growing body of research shows that children exposed to quality early care and learning programs have lower likelihood of engaging in the criminal justice system, have greater educational success, lower health care costs, and ultimately become more productive citizen who earn more income over their lifetimes.

In short, high-quality early care and learning is a great investment with diverse, important, short-term and long-term economic benefits for Alaska.

Included with this letter is the brochure summarizing the 2015 report on the Economic Impacts of Early Care and Learning in Alaska. The brochure summarizes the important role early care and learning plays in Alaska's economy, in supporting Alaska families, and in improving the future of Alaska's children. We hope that you will consider this work as you make fiscal choices for Alaska.

With warm regards,



Jim Calvin, Principal
McDowell Group, Inc.



Jonathan King, Principal
Northern Economics, Inc.





Native Village of Saint Michael

PO Box 59050, Saint Michael, Alaska 99659
Phone # (907)923-2304/2405 FAX # (907)923-2406

February 19, 2016

Representative Lynn Gattis, Chair
House Education & Early Development Finance Subcommittee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support of the WWAMI Program

Representative Gattis:

On behalf of the Native Village of Saint Michael. I write in strong support and continue funding of the collaborative program between Alaska and Washington, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, known as the WWAMI program. Operating for over 45 years, the WWAMI program services as Alaska's medical school and physician recruitment program, while also bringing non-Alaska graduates to communities across the state.

Alaska has a significant shortage of physician especially among health providers operating in rural areas. Due to this shortage, providers often require temporary locum coverage by physicians at a cost approximately 150% above direct hires, eroding the already limited resources needed to deliver care in these communities.

The ability of health providers to recruit and retain dedicated physicians remains critical to ensuring Alaskans across the state have access to stable and appropriate care. In addressing this need, WWAMI enables access for medical education and training, while creating an incentive for physicians to return home and serve their communities.

To protect the health of all Alaskans, the WWAMI program must be funded at a level to sustain a class size of at least twenty to ensure the sustainability of the program.

WWAMI represents one of the most efficient cost-effective tools Alaska has available to invest in our health delivery system and the long-term health of all Alaskans. Thank you for your support of the essential program.

Sincerely,

Theresa Kobuk, President

Cc. Rep. Mark Neuman ✓
Rep. Wes Keller
Rep. David Talerico
Rep. Mike Hawker

Native Village of Brevig Mission

P.O. Box 85039

Brevig Mission, Alaska 99785

February 22, 2016

Rep. Lynn Gattis, Chair
House Education & Early Development Finance Subcommittee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support of the WWAMI Program

Rep. Gattis :

On behalf of the Native Village of Brevig Mission, Ak, I write in strong support and continued funding of the collaborative program between Alaska and Washington, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, known as the WWAMI program. Operating for over 45 years, the WWAMI program serves as Alaska's medical school and physician recruitment program, while also bringing non-Alaskan graduates to communities across the state.

Alaska has a significant shortage of physicians, especially among health providers operating in rural areas. Due to this shortage, providers often require temporary locum coverage by physicians at a cost approximately 150% above direct hires, eroding the already limited resources needed to deliver care in these communities.

Without this program, traveling doctors may be the only option in the future to meet our health care needs. Native Village of Brevig Mission fully support the WWAMI program, and urged the State Legislatures fully fund the WWAMI program at a level to sustain a class size of at least twenty to ensure the sustainability of the program.

The ability of health providers to recruit and retain dedicated physicians remains critical to ensuring Alaskans across the State have access to stable and appropriate care. In addressing this need, WWAMI enables access for medical education & training, while creating an incentive for physicians to return home and serve their communities.

WWAMI represents one of the most efficient and cost-effective tools Alaska has available to invest in our health delivery system and the long-term health of all Alaskans. Thank you for support of this essential program.

Sincerely'

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stewart R. Tocktoo".

Stewart R. Tocktoo – President
NATIVE VILLAGE OF BREVIG MISSION

Cc : Rep.Mark Neuman
Rep.Wes Keller



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

Physical Address: 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801

Phone: (907)586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545

Email: ufa@ufa-fish.org **Website:** www.ufa-fish.org

Feb 26, 2016

Representative Mark Neuman, Co-Chair
Representative Steve Thompson, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street, State Capitol, Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Co-Chairmen Neuman and Thompson, and committee members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 35 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the State and its offshore federal waters. We wish to take this opportunity to express our extreme concern with the Subcommittee proposal to cut State funding for University of Alaska (UA) research and outreach services.

In addition to teaching, research and outreach are critical to the UA mission. In fulfillment of this mission, UA faculty plays a significant role in the continued success and sustainability of all fisheries off the coast of Alaska. UA faculty serve as Plan Team and Science & Statistical Committee members conducting stock assessment and peer reviews that serve as the foundation for all commercial, recreational, and subsistence harvests throughout the State. Further, these individuals conduct valuable research that serves to enhance and improve not only the biological knowledge base, but the economic knowledge base as well. And the Sea Grant program provides that critical outreach link between the work these researchers do and the coastal communities who benefit from their efforts.

If the proposed Subcommittee recommendation is adopted, it will seriously jeopardize UA's continued ability to support fisheries in Alaska. Everyone in the State will suffer as a result. Commercial, recreational, and subsistence users will have fewer harvest opportunities. The processing sector will have fewer fish to process, resulting in job loss in fishery-dependent communities. Coastal communities will experience a reduction in landing taxes and municipal revenue as fewer fish pass across the docks. The State will lose revenue from fishing and business tax, permit fees, and the like. And most importantly the resources will suffer if not properly managed according to the best available science. Given the proposed reductions to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) budget, this will, in effect, be a "one-two punch" that neither the resources nor those dependent upon them can afford.

House Finance Committee

Feb 15 16

I'd like to thank the Committee's for its thoughtful and informative meetings on the differing plans that deal with our budget. There is much going on but I'm happy to see your focus on these issues.

I've lived in Sitka for 38 years and plan to retire here. Alaska has been good to me.

I support a mix of cuts, use of permanent fund (while leaving a dividend in place), income tax, extraction tax and giving a hard look at mega projects and oil tax breaks.

I'm willing to support the state that has supported my livelihood, my family and my community.

I don't have any neat slogan except Do what's right for the state

Sincerely John Murray
224 OBSERVATORY ST
SITKA 99835
907 738 6212

g.S.
I watch
gavel to
gavel