

From: [Reiss & Lekness](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Early Childhood Preventive Programs - DO NOT CUT
Date: Saturday, March 05, 2016 4:45:07 PM

I am requesting to not cut funding for preventive programs from the state budget. Such programs give families and children the tools to feel safe and confident and plays a key role in ending domestic violence. Science supports this thesis. If anything, increase funding.

The funds you plan to cut support key programs including: Parents as Teachers and Best Beginnings. Included in the appropriation should be additional fund for early childhood. These programs are integral to combating sexual and drug abuse by instructing in healthy life practices.

I recognize that tough financial decisions must be made. Be aware, such cuts will have a long term negative impact on Alaska families and their communities.

I believe early childhood education matters and is the correct way to spend state funds.

Linda Lekness

Sprout Family Service Board Member

Homer