

From: [Ann Turner Olson](#)  
To: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
Subject: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FUNDING  
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 11:36:42 AM

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corrected email addresses, thank you

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----- Forwarded Message -----

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**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2016 11:19 AM  
**Subject:** BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FUNDING

Dear Finance Committee Chairs and Members,

I AM WRITING TO ADD MY ENDORSEMENT OF THE CRITICAL ROLE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS PLAY IN OUR COMMUNITY. **I SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT GRANTS.**

AS A PRIVATE SECTOR MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST, I WORK CLOSELY WITH OUR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS. I HAD OCCASION THE PAST WEEK TO COLLABORATE WITH **JUNEAU ALLIANCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH, Inc (JAMHI)** TO HELP ONE OF MY CLIENTS OBTAIN PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY SERVICES. WITHOUT THESE SERVICES THIS INDIVIDUAL WOULD NOT HAVE OBTAINED THE EMERGENCY CARE NEEDED, MAY WELL HAVE HURT OR EVEN KILLED HIMSELF OR HARMED SOMEONE ELSE AND VERY LIKELY WOULD ENDED UP IN JAIL. JAMHI WORKED WITH ME AND THIS INDIVIDUAL'S FAMILY MEMBER TO GET THE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE NEEDED.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL COMMUNITIES HAVE ACCESS TO THESE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS THE CONTINUUM - FROM GENERAL OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH AND CASE MANAGEMENT TO CRISIS EMERGENCY SERVICES. THE LACK OF THESE SERVICES WILL AFFECT ALL PARTS OF OUR COMMUNITIES, LAW ENFORCEMENT, JAIL/PRISONS, HOSPITALS, FAMILIES, SCHOOLS AND MORE. THE FUNDING THE STATE PROVIDES IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEPING THESE CRITICAL SERVICES INTACT AND PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE PERSONS IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

**Thank you for accepting the Governor's proposed budget for behavioral health treatment grants and for recognizing the absolutely important role behavioral health plays in all of the reform efforts, strategies, and initiatives to reduce healthcare and other costs."**  
**Thank you as well for the difficult jobs you perform for our State.**

Yours sincerely,

Ann Turner Olson  
Juneau resident since 1979

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