

**From:** [pstark@mosquitonet.com](mailto:pstark@mosquitonet.com)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Budget  
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Please restore funding for Best Beginnings and early childhood education. Research shows that participating in quality early childhood programs has long term gains for children. High risk youth who don't participate in early education programs are 70% more likely to be arrested for violent crime. They are 25% more likely to drop out of school, 40% more likely to become a pregnant teen, and 60% more likely not to go to college. If Alaska implemented universal pre-K, it would cost about \$6,700 per student per year. The average cost of housing an inmate in prison in Alaska is \$57,670 per year. Eliminating early education investments increases prison populations by 39%. Paying for a person in prison costs nearly 3 times more per year than providing quality early learning. Let us spend our limited funds in the best place possible.

I am in favor of a sales tax, school tax, income tax, and using part of the permanent fund ( as describe in Gov. Walker's bill) in order to decrease our deficit. We have been paid to live in Alaska too long. We have had a free ride for many years. Please don't decimate the good things we have—the university, early childhood education etc.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Stark  
Fairbanks