

From: [Stephen Martin](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 7:34:58 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,
Stephen Martin
53159 Alaskan Way
Kenai, AK 99611

From: [Lisa Hydock](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:19:54 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,
Lisa Hydock
1390 Mendenhall Peninsula Rd
Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Kelly Antill](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:31:26 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,
Kelly Antill
PO Box 138
Sutton, AK 99674

From: [C. McCurry](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 4:04:41 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,
C McCurry
HC 60 Box 227H
Copper Center, AK 99573

From: [Andrew Freed](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: Concern and desire
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 8:27:14 PM

Dear Representative Neuman

My name is Andrew Freed and I am writing to express my desire and concern for this university. The potential cuts that you are proposing will gut the very heart of this University. The student jobs (which I had at one point) provide students the opportunity to earn wages while being able to study providing a wonderful symbiotic relationship. If these opportunities for employment are taken, then students will be forced to work jobs off campus which will not be concerned with their academic success. Academic advisors are an integral role in the higher education experience. They provide guidance and confidence to students in regards to taking courses and decisions inside degree programs. I am asking with a full heart for you to please reconsider the cuts to this university. For years this university has been an affordable option to Alaskans to continue education which is valuable at this period in this country's history.

Sincerely,

Andrew Freed

From: [Sandy Dauenhauer](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Budget
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 9:14:03 PM

SB 114 helps as far as it goes, but we need new revenues! Telling Alaskans that we are entitled to a dividend and yet have no individual obligation to help support our state services is a fairy tale and treats us like children. The governor's plan with a modest income tax, coupled with adjustments to oil taxes, and a small increase in the gasoline tax and others, recognizes that citizens have responsibilities, not just rights.

Elected officials must have the courage to be honest with their constituents: we cannot close this gap and have a productive livable state without each of us contributing according to our means. We cannot continue to pretend that we can live off oil income alone. Time is running out. Don't go down in history as the legislature that ransacked the state's savings accounts in a futile attempt to stave off reality. Re-instate the income tax. Give us the dignity of the truth.

Sandra Dauenhauer PO Box 418 Ester, AK 99725

From: [Todd Sherman](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov; [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#)
Subject: Please restore the University of Alaska budget
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 9:27:50 PM

Todd Sherman

3130 Chinook Drive

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Dear Alaska Representatives on the Finance Committee:

I am a proud alum of the University of Alaska Fairbanks and I have been associated with the university as a student, a firefighter, an instructor, a professor and parent of three UAF students. I was born in Alaska and have lived in Fairbanks since I was an undergrad. I know that UAF is a hugely integral economic and educational part of our community, the Interior and Alaska. The proposed budget for UA with serious reductions from the lean budget the Governor has put forth will very seriously impinge upon our mission to grow student achievement and attainment, and maintain productive partnerships with Alaska's schools, private industry and many communities around the state. It would diminish and greatly reduce research and scholarship that will enhance Alaska's communities and economic growth. Research is so intricately intertwined with our educational mission that it is nearly impossible to separate the two. I urge you to support the university with the level of funding that the Board of Regents requested. UAF provides quality education and research that will benefit all Alaskans. The University of Alaska is a value added institution that will help Alaska recover from the economic hardships and uncertainties we now face.

The decline of oil production and the drop in crude oil prices have adversely impacted Alaska's budget. Your responsibility as our legislators is profound. The choices you make now will impact our state in the years to come. Alaska will not be able to reach sustainable budget levels to maintain our well-being through budget cuts alone. Courageous legislators will consider a variety of revenues sources including taxes (income, oil production, sales) and a restructuring of the permanent fund program. I support a multi-pronged approach to our serious revenue drought. We do have the resources though it will take thoughtful and wise decisions to plan for a sustainable future using them. The University of Alaska and all it provides in educational, research and outreach are all a part of an economic engine and intellectual framework that is crucial to the state's future success.

Thank you,

Todd Sherman

From: [Audrey Jo Foster-Malone](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: the UA budget
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 10:34:49 PM

Representative Neuman,

I spent the past 15 years working at UAA as well as received my B.A. in 2013. I left UAA in December as I could not go through yet another rough budget year as I worked in a general fund department and knew that FY17 would be rough and I could end up without a job. I survived a re-org in 2013 through the College of Arts and Sciences and flat wages due to increases in health care. I am currently working with the MOA and enrolled in the MPA program through UAS. I never had intention of working anywhere other than UAA. It was a place I loved and took great pride in working and being involved in. I am proud of my degree and the degree I am working on through UAS. It was the most difficult decision to make leaving UAA but I have my family to consider and cannot go through yet another reorg or a layoff due to Legislative errors in priorities.

Watching the AK legislature disseminate the University system is tragic. I believe these proposed budget cuts will cause irreversible damage that our University and State will be unable to recover from. I know these are difficult times for our state but it is imperative that the University survive and be allowed to do what universities are suppose to do. We cannot survive the brain drain nor economic loss from the research and innovation that occurs every day within our UA system. Let the Board of Regents and President Johnson do their jobs.

<http://m.juneauempire.com/opinion/2016-03-06/my-turn-legislators-threaten-viability-ua#.Vt30Vald2xo.facebook&gsc.tab=0>

<http://www.adn.com/article/20160307/job-losses-predicted-new-study-would-rival-alaskas-worst-ever>

V/R,

Audrey Jo Malone
2013 UAA Alumna
Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy

MPA, UAS in progress

From: [Shirley Mike](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:57:23 AM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned about our state deficit. I sincerely suggest that you consider selling the railroad it's not really the State's place to manage a company or corporation even though it's run like one supposedly. Governments never do satisfactory updates and I think a private enterprise would possibly encourage tourism more effectively than the current overseers. For the state to manage real property is pretty much a socialistic or communist concept that doesn't apply to us. It's just another expenditure and encourages bigger government. Since the government of Alaska is unable to manage state money appropriately the sale of the railroad will be one less item to miss manage. Additionally taking over half of our dividend is going to cause a huge hardship on the poor who live in villages primarily in rural areas. The Alaskan people depend on these dividends in order to offset the ever escalating utilities and food prices. This is probably going to be our last really good dividend and I say NO to you Governor Walker hands off our dividends. Additionally I would suggest that you curb travel and entertainment as we can no longer afford those kinds of luxuries. You work for us please try to keep that in mind because you are not doing a good job. Reports have been made that you are conducting private meetings and denying the press access. This is not Obama's jurisdiction and you will not keep information from the Alaskan people that will affect their lives. We want full disclosure and transparency. To keep information from the Alaskan people is criminal. Sell the railroad! Hands off our dividends!

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,
Shirley Mike
1062 E 28th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: [Levi wood](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 6:30:01 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,
Levi wood
3931 Brentwood Cir
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: [Justin Harris](#)
To: [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. John Coghill](#); [Sen. Mia Costello](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Sen. Johnny Ellis](#); [Sen. Berta Gardner](#); [Sen. Cathy Glessel](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Kevin Meyer](#); [Sen. Lesil McGuire](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Mike Hawker](#); [Rep. Bob Herron](#); [Rep. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Craig Johnson](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux](#); [Rep. Bob Lynn](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Benjamin Nageak](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Kurt Olson](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Lora Reinbold](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. David Talerico](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Chris Tuck](#); [Rep. Liz Vazquez](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#)
Subject: Budget Cuts
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 6:46:21 AM

To All Alaskan Legislators,

Keep cutting.

Thank you for doing the job you ran for and were elected to do,
Erica and Justin Harris
Kenai, AK

From: [Chrissie](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: University funding --- or lack of
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:15:07 AM

I am amazed at the shortsightedness regarding funding for the University especially funding for Research and the Museum . Research is a major function of any university most especially at the University of Alaska. This week scholars from around the world are meeting in Fairbanks to share their respective studies and knowledge of the Arctic. This week long meeting contributes to the economy of the local community and the state. The Research facilities attract not only excellent staff but in return attract students (especially graduate students) from around the world. Foreign students often pay full tuition. Regarding the Museum; this is also a teaching facility for students in a diversity of fields from Anthropology/Archaeology to Zoology. Furthermore, the Museum attracts paying visitors. It has been nominated Best attraction in Fairbanks numerous years.

Why has Tammy's committee cut funding for programs that bring in money to the University. Pete Kelly's committee has replace some of the funding for the University but specifics were not included in news reports. I would hope that the all the people's representatives/senators emulate Sen. Ted Steven's philosophy of "To hell with politics, lets do what's right for Alaska"

Sincerely
Christine Storey
Proud 1974 University of Alaska graduate

From: [Jennie Hafele](#)
Subject: AAP Letter
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 4:01:26 PM
Attachments: [AAP letter.pdf](#)

Please enter into the record the attached testimony on HB 256/HB 257 & SB 139/HB 140 dated 3/7/2016

CC: Inter Delegation

Thanks,

Jennie Hafele
Fairbanks Legislative Information Office
1292 Sadler Way Suite 308
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: 907-452-4448
Fax: 907-456-3346
Click [HERE](#) to visit the Alaska State Legislature Website
Click [HERE](#) to watch live streaming of the Alaska State Legislature
Click [HERE](#) to send your legislator a Public Opinion Message during session

From: [Dave Anderson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#); [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public radio support documents - Kenai-Homer
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 3:43:25 PM
Attachments: [03-02-16 KPBOEM Support LTR.pdf](#)
[Homer Volunteer Fire Department RE KBBI Public Radio.pdf](#)
[KBBI-Kenai Peninsula Boro Assembly Resolution.pdf](#)

Dave

David S. Anderson

General Manager

KBBI Homer, Alaska

907-235-7721 x222

www.kbbi.org/

Like us on [Facebook](#)!



Arctic Alliance for People

PO Box 70416, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 aap@fairbanksinfo.com

Dear Legislators,

Arctic Alliance for People is a collective of health and human services organizations in the Fairbanks North Star Borough that has been advocating on behalf of our sector for over three decades. We would like to thank you for your time and energy that has been put into coming up with a sustainable fiscal plan for Alaska. We recognize that it is not an easy job, and appreciate your efforts. Every day, our organizations work to fill the gap between government services and critical community needs, creating a meaningful impact in the local economy as well as in the lives of the people we serve.

Solutions

It is crucial that Alaska find new streams of revenue. Deep cuts alone to the budget will have a lasting negative impact on the Alaska economy. Cutting critical services and jobs from the budget will not benefit our community in the long run.

Impact of the non-profit sector on the economy

Using standard economic indicators, the total employment in the non-profit sector is 63,000 people—or 19% of the Alaska workforce. The total impact from wages and salaries is \$2.5 billion. Our agencies offer economical solutions to our community needs. We are a good investment, with an immediate return by leveraging state dollars, resulting in stronger, healthier communities.

Prevention

It may be cliché, but the old saying proves true, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Unfortunately, prevention programs are generally the first to go when cutting budgets. If we invested in programs, especially those benefitting ages from birth to 5 while the brain is still developing and hard wire connections are forming, we would alleviate problems that arise later in life.

Behavioral Health

In Fairbanks, there is a behavioral health care crisis. Over the last few years, Fairbanks has seen drastic cuts made to behavior health services. As it is already, people with immediate mental health needs are being turned away from services. If cuts continue to happen, behavioral health care services will be seriously impaired.

Budgeting should be value-based so our families and communities are strengthened. There are additional information and statistics that can be provided by our member agencies to prove the impact we have on the well-being and economy of our community. We would be happy to provide those resources. Again, thank you for your work on behalf of all Alaskans, but particularly our most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely, 

Brenda Riley, 2016 Board President

Arctic Alliance for People



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
Office of Emergency Management

253 Wilson Lane, Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Office: (907) 262-4910

Direct: (907) 262-2095

Fax: (907) 714-2395

bhanson@borough.kenai.ak.us

MIKE NAVARRE
BOROUGH MAYOR

March 2, 2016

Dave Anderson, General Manager
Kachemack Bay Broadcasting
Homer, AK 99635

RE: Support for Continued Funding of KBBI and KDLL Public Radio

I am providing this letter in support of efforts by KBBI and KDLL to obtain continued funding support from the State of Alaska.

The proposed cuts of up to 100% to Alaska public broadcasting will cause irreparable harm to the services these stations and other Alaska stations provide to communities of all sizes.

My support is in recognition of how seriously KBBI considers their service during emergencies and natural disasters. Residents in every corner of the Kenai Peninsula Borough including the Kachemak Bay area, communities on both sides of Cook Inlet and the west side of Kodiak Island benefit from broadcasts of emergency messages and critical information in times of disaster. The stations have assisted in providing vital information during wildfire, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding, and tsunami emergencies, including the January 2016 earthquake, Funny River fire (2014), Caribou Hills fire (2007) Tracy Avenue fire (2004), the St. Augustine volcano (2006) and Redoubt volcano (2009) eruptions, with regular reports on wind direction and ash fall and steps to protect homes and businesses.

KBBI's ability to simulcast broadcasts to KDLL listeners has been an important information avenue for a number of emergency situations.

KBBI is a participant in broadcasting Emergency Alert System information, which is critical to our Coastal communities, often the only way some citizens can get critical disaster or emergency information.

Respectfully,

Scott Walden, Director
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Office of Emergency Management



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Volunteer Fire Department

604 East Pioneer Ave
Homer, Alaska 99603

fire@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3155

(f) 907-235-3157

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Homer Public Radio, KBBI, to ensure the continuation of adequate funding of public broadcasting in the Homer area. As the Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Services for the City of Homer I have worked with KBBI for many years ensuring that our community can access emergency broadcast information 24/7/365. As the only local station with the ability to broadcast during power outages by way of an emergency generator, it is critical to maintain their standing in the community. Yes, there are other commercial radio stations serving the community of Homer, and they assist us as they are able. But no other radio station has dedicated the resources and personnel to ensure their resilience during and after a disaster. Absent a viable means to communicate with the public outside of local radio, our community is at jeopardy.

Throughout my nearly 25 years with the Homer Volunteer Fire Department, I have had the opportunity to work with KBBI on many occasions, from threatening wildfires across the lower Kenai Peninsula, the Icicle Seafoods ammonia leak and explosion in 1998 during peak tourist season and more recently the volcanic eruptions of both Mt. Augustine and Mt. Redoubt volcanos and a 7.1 earthquake. Through all of these emergencies, local public radio has played a vital role in providing factual, up-to-date information to the community, keeping them informed and safe, while minimizing impacts to our 911 call center and offices with phone calls asking questions that were already being answered over the radio.

In addition to providing this valuable public service to the community, as the Emergency Manager for the City of Homer, I have come to rely on personnel from KBBI to serve on various working groups and task forces in the development of local emergency preparedness activities and most recently in our communities All-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Plan updates. In short, the staff of KBBI is committed to providing the best public service they can, including being an active partner in emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery. Though I can't speak to the activities of other public access broadcasters across the state, I can only image that many are as actively engaged in their own community as KBBI. I encourage a thorough review of the potential impacts of cutting necessary funding to public broadcasting beyond the apparent loss of a simple radio station or public television. The impacts of reduced funding, at least in Homer, may contribute to our inability to communicate to our public of matters of life and death during an emergency.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Painter, EFO, CEM

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
COMMENDING RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION COMMENDING KACHEMAK BAY BROADCASTING, INC.
AND PICKLE HILL PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS
OF SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE KENAI PENINSULA
AND WEST SIDE OF COOK INLET**

WHEREAS, Kachemak Bay Broadcasting, Inc. (KBBI) and Pickle Hill Broadcasting, Inc. (KDLL) have provided local, state, national and international news and entertainment program services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to Kenai Peninsula residents from Cooper Landing to Nanwalek, and Tyonek to the west side of Kodiak Island.; and

WHEREAS, Peninsula-wide live broadcasts of Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meetings are possible through this collaboration that includes Seward on meeting nights; and

WHEREAS, KBBI and KDLL have presented local information for many life threatening disaster situations, including the recent January 24, 2016 earthquake; the Funny River fire in 2014, the Caribou Hills fire (2007) and Tracy Avenue (2004); as well as the St. Augustine volcano (2006) and Redoubt volcano (2009) eruptions; and

WHEREAS, KBBI's ability to simulcast broadcasts to KDLL listeners has been an important information avenue for a number of emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, KBBI and KDLL services also include local news and information programs, and local and marine weather; and

WHEREAS, Local volunteer DJs share their love of music throughout the week; over 800 local residents from ages 16 to over 70 have hosted live music shows on KBBI and KDLL; and

WHEREAS, Through the Bush Lines and Information lines, KBBI brings vital personal and practical information to residents on and off the road system; and

WHEREAS, KBBI and KDLL also air international and national news and entertainment programs from National Public Radio, Public Radio International, American Public Media, and the BBC; and

WHEREAS, Alaska news is represented by Alaska News Nightly, Alaska Morning Report, Alaska Economic Report, and Talk of Alaska, provided via satellite from the Alaska Public Radio Network;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF
THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

SECTION 1. The 2016 Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly commends the quality of service and community involvement of KBBI and KDLL, and thanks them for enriching the lives of Kenai Peninsula residents living along the shores, mountains, and bays of Cook Inlet for over 30 years.

SECTION 2. This resolution become effective immediately upon adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
THIS 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016**




Kelly Cooper, Assembly Member, Co-Sponsor


Willy Dunne, Assembly Member, Co-Sponsor


Mike Navarre, Mayor, Co-Sponsor


Blaine Gilman, Assembly President


John Blankenship, Borough Clerk

From: [Peter Macksey](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Cut the State Operating Budget!
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 1:37:42 PM

Dear House Finance Committee General,

I am writing you today because I am concerned why there has been no news of layoffs, no travel, no new vehicles and layoffs. Halve the legislative staff first.

Right now it looks like we will be running a deficit of \$3.5 billion for the second year in a row. If this was a private business it would be closing its doors.

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,
Peter Macksey
1539 W 14th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council
P.O. Box 32249
Mountain Village, Alaska 99632
(907) 591-2814 Telephone
(907) 591-2811 Facsimile**

March 01, 2016

Chair, Pete Kelly (907) 465-4714
Co-chair, Anna MaKinnon (907) 465-2819

Chair, Mark Neuman (907) 465-2679
Co-chair, Steve Thompson (907) 465-2070

Senator Olson (907) 465-4821
Representative Foster (907) 465-3242

The Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council would like to provide their input in the State of Alaska's budget dilemma, since many of our members are residents of our Great State.

Many rural residents depend upon PCE and therefore the tribe does not believe PCE should be affected, unless electricity costs are minimal.

Although, the tribe knows that any type of taxes are never popular, they still think that state income tax is a must, however, they suggest that it be no higher than 3 to 5%, since any higher may cause hardship on many residents.

The tribe also stated that a sales tax might also be necessary as our state's dilemma is causing such action to be necessary. However they suggested that even a higher sales tax could be considered for marijuana, cigarettes and alcohol.

Lastly, permanent fund dividends are a must, although it could be a little lower, if need be.

The tribe could also provide additional comments, please contact us if necessary for any questions. Quyana and good luck.

Sincerely,



Catherine Moses
Tribal Administrator



234 Gold Street · Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 586-9702 · Fax: (907) 586-5879
Website: www.alaskaacsa.org

Alaska Council of School Administrators

March 6, 2016

Representative Mark Neuman, Co-Chair
Representative Steve Thompson, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chairman Neuman and Chairman Thompson:

Our organization represents a broad range of educators across Alaska – superintendents, secondary and elementary principals, school business officials, and others. More significantly, we represent the professional voice for districts/schools and the education we deliver every day to students in every far-flung region of our state. Our members are able to provide you with insight into the reality of operating our state's schools. We would be remiss in our duties if we let pass without comment the current education budget before your committee.

Let me begin with the obvious – we recognize the tremendous difficulties inherent in the current budget crisis, and appreciate you, Representative Gattis as chair of the DEED subcommittee and your other committee members, and their respective staff members work to find a path forward. Nonetheless, I must counter the idea heard round the capital to the effect that education must feel the pain of budget cuts for the citizenry to accept the depth of the shortfall. Students and classrooms do not need to feel pain – they require steadfast support and continuity in the face of these issues, and they require the funding necessary to fulfill both the constitutional duty to education and the dreams all Alaskan's hold for their children and the future.

The budget subcommittees have finished their work on House Bill 256 and the FY17 operating budget, moving them thus to your full committee. Although the Base Student Allocation (BSA) is currently funded at 100% including the \$50 increase over FY16, the subcommittees were instructed to evaluate only the non-formula numbers section of the budget. We are hopeful the BSA will remain as is. A primary concern going forward is the potential for cuts to the foundation formula itself, which is of course the lifeblood of districts, schools, and teaching. Were such a change proposed as it was last session, we ask that it be done in the full light of public comment and an open discussion of ramifications, rather than at the last minute in the close of session chaos. We have already been operating under the 24-hour rule for weeks, which does not lend itself to meaningful deliberation.

Turning from the foundation to DEED itself, the chart below reflects the recommendations forwarded from the DEED subcommittee:

| | Amount | % Change |
|---|---------------|----------|
| UGF Total for FY17 | \$ 44,099.3 | |
| Total Funds for FY17 | \$ 379,552.1 | |
| UGF Difference from FY16 Mgt Plan to House Subcommittee | \$ (10,068.0) | -18.6% |
| UGF difference from FY15 Mgt Plan to House Subcom | \$ (25,073.9) | -36.2% |

The specific cuts to reach these numbers were as follows:

- Declined to reinstate Pre-K programs for FY17
- Eliminated the ANSEP grant and the Statewide Mentoring Program
- Reduced Broadband Assistance Grants to \$1.8M
- Eliminated the Online with Libraries (OWL) program (761.0)
- Reduced the State System of Support program by 19% or 379.4
- Reduced travel, services, and commodities by 33% or \$1.32M

ACSA strongly encourages development of comprehensive statewide programs to prepare, attract and retain high quality effective educators and professionals. The Statewide Mentoring program and the State System of Support program are both research supported best practice critical programs that support this ideal.

We believe that the Alaska Broadband Assistance Grant should be recognized as a mission critical, sound investment that is restored and included in this and future years' budgets. BAG is an incredibly efficient use of state education dollars leveraging Federal E-Rate dollars. The majority of BAG recipients are rural and receive nine Federal E-Rate dollars for every one dollar spent by the state.

With regard to early childhood education, ACSA believes early childhood education must be a priority for all Alaskans who desire to increase the long-term success for all children. Research is clear and consistent that the benefits of quality early childhood education are significant. ACSA supports reliable, long-term funding of early childhood education programs that will offer quality early education opportunities to children across Alaska.

In addition, there were reductions in other components to Early Learning Coordination, School Finances & Facilities, and Archives and Museums. It should also be noted that during the 2016

legislative session, DEED's Division of Teaching and Learning Support (TLS) saw a 42.2% reduction and the loss of one position. This reduction stemmed from cuts to programs, such as Alaska Learning Network, WorkKeys, and ANSEP. There also was an additional \$400K unallocated reduction, resulting in 8 vacant positions not being filled throughout the year.

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Reductions proposed by the House Finance Subcommittee and the Senate Finance Subcommittee reflect an approximately 45% reduction to the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) over the past two years. These cuts are amongst the highest, if not the highest, reduction to a state department.

Contrast the proposed cuts with the reality of the needs – Alaska has some of the highest teacher turnover in the United States, some of the most isolated and challenging teaching environments, a sky high rate of superintendent (highest in Alaska's history almost 60% since 2012) and other professional turnover, and in Anchorage (essentially half of our system), some of the most diverse student bodies to be found anywhere in the country. Thus, our schools need the strongest support possible from DEED, rather than indiscriminate reductions. In the coming year DEED has tremendous work in front of them including securing a statewide assessment that reflects Alaska's needs as well as developing the state plan for ESSA. Having said that, we all recognize the need to continue to find ways to modernize our delivery.

In conclusion, we urge you to reconsider these reductions, and to balance necessary reductions with necessary revenues. Our students deserve the best Alaska has to offer, not the least worst compromise. We remain committed to serving your deliberative process with quality information, and are available to provide whatever help you might request.

Best regards,



Elizabeth Skiles Parady, J.D., Ed.D.

Executive Director

From: [Ann Turner Olson](#)
To: representative.anna.mackinnon@akleg.gov
Cc: [representative.anna.mackinnon@akleg.gov](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Cathy Munoz](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. David Guttentberg](#); Rep.less.gara@akleg.gov; [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [House Finance](#)
Subject: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FUNDING
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 11:19:37 AM

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

Ann Turner Olson, LCSW, Counseling Services
9000 Glacier Hwy, Suite 304
Juneau, AK, 99801
907.790.1090
907.723.5219

From: [Betsy Dorn](#) on behalf of [LIO Juneau](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: Primary, Secondary and UA education budget cuts
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 11:31:06 AM

From: Maggie Matheson [mailto:mbmatheson@alaska.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 11:28 AM
To: LIO Juneau <LIO.Juneau@akleg.gov>
Subject: Primary, Secondary and UA education budget cuts

Dear Alaska Legislature,

I recently found out that the state is considering moving the School of Management (SOM) from UAF to UAA and making it a distance college. This news came as a shock to me. UAF SOM is I'd like to know why lawmakers think education is a budget we can destroy.

SOM provides so many clubs and organizations for the students. Associated Students of Business (ASB), Students Offering Leadership Development (SOLD), Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking (SWEET), Native Alaskan Business Leaders (NABL), to name a few. SOM puts together Business Leader of the Year (BLOY) every year. This teaches students about planning, developing and networking relationships. SOM has developed the Arctic Innovation where we bring the community together to bring a concept to life. This teaches students to plan, the steps to conceptualize ideas, bringing the idea to life and seeing it through to enrich American lives and maybe even international lives. These can't be done online.

Through informal polls, I have come to find out that the SOM is an important asset to the UA system. Kids from around the state, around the country and around the world come to UAF in order to have a "real college experience" and the state wants to shut that down? It makes little sense to me. SOM is the college that graduates employable, young adults in Alaska.

I was also told that Economics 100 is being taken out as a prerequisite for the undergraduate program. More people need to understand economics, so we don't make the same mistakes we have in the past. Educating people on economic functions is the only way I can see of not making the same mistakes from our past. This is probably why our lawmakers are trying to slash education budgets.

I wrote to our legislators about the proposed budget cuts for our elementary and secondary schools. I have a big problem with cutting back on education. We don't get that money back when we are out of the red. Instead, we find other ways to waste our money. It's discouraging that our lawmakers and budgeters don't think education is something we should invest in. For those of you that don't know what SOM is, UAF has different colleges. SOM is the college that teaches business: Accounting, Business Administration, Economics, Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Master in Business Administration (MBA), Master of Science (MS) in Resource and Applied Economics, Master of Security and Disaster Management (MSDM), Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Sustainability, etc.

Now, I know some of the state officials are not educated. I understand that for some people,

education is not a priority. I understand that some people don't think education is important. I would like to address state officials who are currently slashing education budgets (for the UA system and for our primary and secondary school systems). There are numerous reasons why education is important. I will list them for your convenience.

Economic growth of the nation; when the people of a nation are educated, they'd definitely carve ways to be self-sufficient. An economically independent society is the stepping stone to combined productivity that leads to an economic growth of the nation on a whole.

Equality; if we want to see the world as a just and fair place where everyone is given equal opportunities, education is where we acquire it. Education is a must if we want to do away with the existing differences between different social classes and genders. It opens a whole world of opportunities for the poor so that they may have an equal shot at being well-paid. Education also plays a major role in women empowerment.

Makes you self-dependent; Education is very important if you want to be an independent person. It helps you become financially independent. Education also makes you astute so that you can make your own decisions.

Saves you from being fooled/cheated; Education saves you from being exploited and fooled. We live in a country where we enjoy a number of rights and freedom. It is easier to take advantage of innocent and illiterate people.

Makes you creative; Education is not only about mugging up facts, learning to read and write. That is literacy. Education goes beyond that as it includes an overall development of an individual. It makes you think out of the box. The creative wheels of your mind are set into motion which surely gives one an edge over the others.

More opportunities; Proper education opens a world of opportunities in every sector. You will have more life chances, more job positions in various companies, greater chances of getting a job and more flexibility when choosing a career.

Innovation; every discovery in the history of mankind, which has made our lives so much easier, would have been impossible without education. Education is simply a requirement for innovation.

Economic prosperity; countries like United States, Japan, Australia and Finland with a high literacy rate, are some of the world's richest countries. These countries have a high per capita income and enjoy high life standards. Education importance is huge because, without proper education, it is not possible for a country to develop or prosper.

Now, I ask those of you in favor of cutting our education budgets if this is something we want to take away from our Alaska youth? Do we want them seeking education outside of Alaska?

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Maggie Matheson, MBA
UAF Alumnus
Concerned Parent and Patriot

Maggie Matheson, MBA
(907) 978-5012

Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected.

~Steve Jobs~

From: [Elizabeth Lange](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: ACSA operating budget public testimony HB256
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 11:50:59 AM



March 6, 2016

Representative Mark Neuman, Co-Chair

Representative Steve Thompson, Co-Chair

House Finance Committee

State Capital

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chairman Neuman and Chairman Thompson:

Our organization represents a broad range of educators across Alaska – superintendents, secondary and elementary principals, school business officials, and others. More significantly, we represent the professional voice for districts/schools and the education we deliver every day to students in every far-flung region of our state. Our members are able to provide you with insight into the reality of operating our state's schools. We would be remiss in our duties if we let pass without comment the current education budget before your committee.

Let me begin with the obvious – we recognize the tremendous difficulties inherent in the current budget crisis, and appreciate you, Representative Gattis as chair of the DEED subcommittee and your other committee members, and their respective staff members work to find a path forward. Nonetheless, I must counter the idea heard round the capital to the effect that education must feel the pain of budget cuts for the citizenry to accept the depth of the shortfall. Students and classrooms do not need to feel pain – they require steadfast support and continuity in the face of these issues, and they require the funding necessary to fulfill both the constitutional duty to education and the dreams all Alaskan's hold for their children and the future.

The budget subcommittees have finished their work on House Bill 256 and the FY17 operating budget, moving them thus to your full committee. Although the Base Student Allocation (BSA) is currently funded at 100% including the \$50 increase over FY16, the subcommittees were instructed to evaluate only the non-formula numbers section of the budget. We are hopeful the BSA will remain as is. A primary concern going forward is the

potential for cuts to the foundation formula itself, which is of course the lifeblood of districts, schools, and teaching. Were such a change proposed as it was last session, we ask that it be done in the full light of public comment and an open discussion of ramifications, rather than at the last minute in the close of session chaos. We have already been operating under the 24-hour rule for weeks, which does not lend itself to meaningful deliberation.

Turning from the foundation to DEED itself, the chart below reflects the recommendations forwarded from the DEED subcommittee:

| | Amount | % Change |
|---|---------------|----------|
| UGF Total for FY17 | \$ 44,099.3 | |
| Total Funds for FY17 | \$ 379,552.1 | |
| UGF Difference from FY16 Mgt Plan to House Subcommittee | \$ (10,068.0) | -18.6% |
| UGF difference from FY15 Mgt Plan to House Subcom | \$ (25,073.9) | -36.2% |

The specific cuts to reach these numbers were as follows:

- Declined to reinstate Pre-K programs for FY17
- Eliminated the ANSEP grant and the Statewide Mentoring Program
- Reduced Broadband Assistance Grants to \$1.8M
- Eliminated the Online with Libraries (OWL) program (761.0)
- Reduced the State System of Support program by 19% or 379.4
- Reduced travel, services, and commodities by 33% or \$1.32M

ACSA strongly encourages development of comprehensive statewide programs to prepare, attract and retain high quality effective educators and professionals. The Statewide Mentoring program and the State System of Support program are both research supported best practice critical programs that support this ideal.

We believe that the Alaska Broadband Assistance Grant should be recognized as a mission critical, sound investment that is restored and included in this and future years' budgets. BAG is an incredibly efficient use of state education dollars leveraging Federal E-Rate dollars. The majority of BAG recipients are rural and receive nine Federal E-Rate dollars for every one dollar spent by the state.

With regard to early childhood education, ACSA believes early childhood education must be a priority for all Alaskans who desire to increase the long-term success for all children. Research is clear and consistent that the benefits of quality early childhood education are significant. ACSA supports reliable, long-term funding of early childhood education programs that will offer quality early education opportunities to children across Alaska.

In addition, there were reductions in other components to Early Learning Coordination, School Finances & Facilities, and Archives and Museums. It should also be noted that during the 2016 legislative session, DEED's Division of Teaching and Learning Support (TLS) saw a 42.2% reduction and the loss of one position. This reduction stemmed from cuts to programs, such as Alaska Learning Network, WorkKeys, and ANSEP. There also was an additional \$400K unallocated reduction, resulting in 8 vacant positions not being filled throughout the year.

In the proposed amended Governors 2017 budget, TLS deleted 3 more positions, which was then further reduced by the subcommittee during their closeout. To determine reduction amounts component-by-component, the House Finance DEED Subcommittee used a methodology that focused on reductions to travel and information services. However, travel in TLS is often funded with federal funds, rather than with state general funds. Therefore, TLS cannot meet the reduction amounts by reducing travel, which effectively means the reduction will occur in personnel. TLS is projecting laying off 9 current staff and leaving 8 current vacancies unfilled.

Reductions proposed by the House Finance Subcommittee and the Senate Finance Subcommittee reflect an approximately 45% reduction to the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) over the past two years. These cuts are amongst the highest, if not the highest, reduction to a state department.

Contrast the proposed cuts with the reality of the needs – Alaska has some of the highest teacher turnover in the United States, some of the most isolated and challenging teaching environments, a sky high rate of superintendent (highest in Alaska's history almost 60% since 2012) and other professional turnover, and in Anchorage (essentially half of our system), some of the most diverse student bodies to be found anywhere in the country. Thus, our schools need the strongest support possible from DEED, rather than indiscriminate reductions. In the coming year DEED has tremendous work in front of them including securing a statewide assessment that reflects Alaska's needs as well as developing the state plan for ESSA. Having said that, we all recognize the need to continue to find ways to modernize our delivery.

In conclusion, we urge you to reconsider these reductions, and to balance necessary reductions with necessary revenues. Our students deserve the best Alaska has to offer, not the least worst compromise. We remain committed to serving your deliberative process with quality information, and are available to provide whatever help you might request.

Best regards,

Elizabeth Skiles Parady, J.D., Ed.D.

Executive Director

From: [ACSA](#)
To: [Rep. Mark Neuman](#)
Subject: ACSA operating budget public testimony HB256
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 11:51:10 AM



March 6, 2016

Dear Chairman Neuman and Chairman Thompson:

Our organization represents a broad range of educators across Alaska – superintendents, secondary and elementary principals, school business officials, and others. More significantly, we represent the professional voice for districts/schools and the education we deliver every day to students in every far-flung region of our state. Our members are able to provide you with insight into the reality of operating our state's schools. We would be remiss in our duties if we let pass without comment the current education budget before your committee.

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Best regards,

Elizabeth Skiles Parady, J.D., Ed.D.

Executive Director

[Unsubscribe](#)

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature:

The Department of Public Safety gives the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault a mere \$200,000 to fund Batterer's Intervention Programs. This funding has not increased in over 20 years. This money is spread thinly between multiple programs. These programs are the only best practice treatment for male and female domestic violence offenders. If this funding is cut, these programs will shut down. Alaska has the highest rate of domestic violence in the United States. These programs work to help these offenders become non-violent. To lose these programs would be a serious loss for our state, for the victims – including the children of the offenders, and our communities. Please keep that small amount of funding intact. It is crucial to the efforts to reduce the amount of domestic violence and child abuse in Alaska.

Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Mitz".

City:

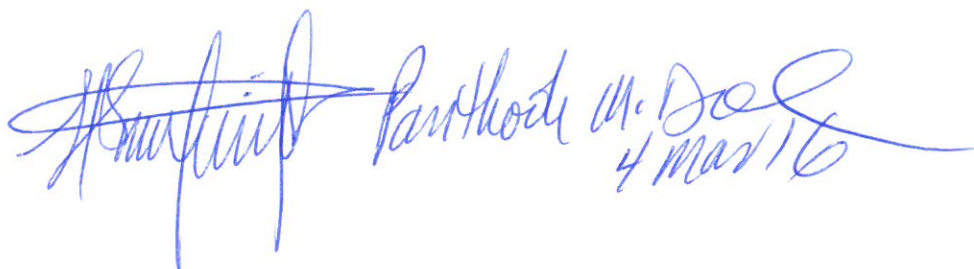
FAIRBANKS

3/1/16

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Sincerely-

 Parthody M. Doe
4 Mar 16

City:

Fairbanks, AK

3/1/16

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Sincerely-

John Akuehea

City:

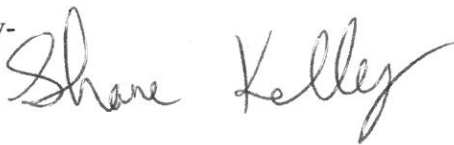
Fairbanks, AK

3/1/16

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Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shane Kelley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely-".

City: Fairbanks, AK

3/1/16

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Sincerely- Benjamin Valles

City: Fairbanks, AK

3/1/16

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Sincerely-

Juice Bukut

City:

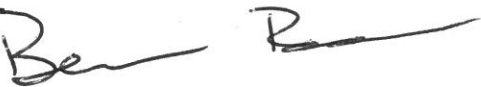
Fairbanks

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben R.", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

City: Fairbanks

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature

Please do not remove the custody presumption in AS.25.20.061. The current wording is fine the way it is. Most domestic violence offenses never come to the attention of the police, for many reasons. When they do they often don't result in a conviction due to the understaffing of our district attorney's office. DV offenders rarely have safe parenting skills and often use custody exchanges etc to further abuse their victim(s). Requiring treatment before an offender can get custody has shown to be a safer option. Alaska has the highest rates of domestic violence in the country. We need to be proactive in working with these families especially with the offenders so the violence can stop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Rasmussen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ben" being more prominent than the last name "Rasmussen".

Fairbanks.

3/1/16

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. Anderson", written in a cursive style.

3/1/16

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Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "By [unclear]".

City:

Fairbanks, AK 99740

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature:

The Department of Public Safety gives the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault a mere \$200,000 to fund Batterer's Intervention Programs. This funding has not increased in over 20 years. This money is spread thinly between multiple programs. These programs are the only best practice treatment for male and female domestic violence offenders. If this funding is cut, these programs will shut down. Alaska has the highest rate of domestic violence in the United States. These programs work to help these offenders become non-violent. To lose these programs would be a serious loss for our state, for the victims – including the children of the offenders, and our communities. Please keep that small amount of funding intact. It is crucial to the efforts to reduce the amount of domestic violence and child abuse in Alaska.

Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fairbanks", written over a light blue horizontal line.

City:

Fairbanks

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature

Please do not remove the custody presumption in AS.25.20.061. The current wording is fine the way it is. Most domestic violence offenses never come to the attention of the police, for many reasons. When they do they often don't result in a conviction due to the understaffing of our district attorney's office. DV offenders rarely have safe parenting skills and often use custody exchanges etc to further abuse their victim(s). Requiring treatment before an offender can get custody has shown to be a safer option. Alaska has the highest rates of domestic violence in the country. We need to be proactive in working with these families especially with the offenders so the violence can stop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fairbanks', written in a cursive style.

Fairbanks

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature

Please do not remove the custody presumption in AS.25.20.061. The current wording is fine the way it is. Most domestic violence offenses never come to the attention of the police, for many reasons. When they do they often don't result in a conviction due to the understaffing of our district attorney's office. DV offenders rarely have safe parenting skills and often use custody exchanges etc to further abuse their victim(s). Requiring treatment before an offender can get custody has shown to be a safer option. Alaska has the highest rates of domestic violence in the country. We need to be proactive in working with these families especially with the offenders so the violence can stop.

Sincerely,



Lorne Carls

3-4-16

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature:

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Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Dennis Cook", written over the word "Sincerely-".

3-4-16

City:

Fairbanks AK

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature

Please do not remove the custody presumption in AS.25.20.061. The current wording is fine the way it is. Most domestic violence offenses never come to the attention of the police, for many reasons. When they do they often don't result in a conviction due to the understaffing of our district attorney's office. DV offenders rarely have safe parenting skills and often use custody exchanges etc to further abuse their victim(s). Requiring treatment before an offender can get custody has shown to be a safer option. Alaska has the highest rates of domestic violence in the country. We need to be proactive in working with these families especially with the offenders so the violence can stop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized first name followed by a last name, written in a cursive-like style.

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature:

The Department of Public Safety gives the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault a mere \$200,000 to fund Batterer's Intervention Programs. This funding has not increased in over 20 years. This money is spread thinly between multiple programs. These programs are the only best practice treatment for male and female domestic violence offenders. If this funding is cut, these programs will shut down. Alaska has the highest rate of domestic violence in the United States. These programs work to help these offenders become non-violent. To lose these programs would be a serious loss for our state, for the victims – including the children of the offenders, and our communities. Please keep that small amount of funding intact. It is crucial to the efforts to reduce the amount of domestic violence and child abuse in Alaska.

Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'V. K. ...', written over a horizontal line.

City:

N P AK

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature:

The Department of Public Safety gives the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault a mere \$200,000 to fund Batterer's Intervention Programs. This funding has not increased in over 20 years. This money is spread thinly between multiple programs. These programs are the only best practice treatment for male and female domestic violence offenders. If this funding is cut, these programs will shut down. Alaska has the highest rate of domestic violence in the United States. These programs work to help these offenders become non-violent. To lose these programs would be a serious loss for our state, for the victims – including the children of the offenders, and our communities. Please keep that small amount of funding intact. It is crucial to the efforts to reduce the amount of domestic violence and child abuse in Alaska.

Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "H" and a clear "Cook" at the end.

City:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gar Banks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "G" and a clear "Banks" at the end.

3/1/16

To the Alaska State Legislature

Please do not remove the custody presumption in AS.25.20.061. The current wording is fine the way it is. Most domestic violence offenses never come to the attention of the police, for many reasons. When they do they often don't result in a conviction due to the understaffing of our district attorney's office. DV offenders rarely have safe parenting skills and often use custody exchanges etc to further abuse their victim(s). Requiring treatment before an offender can get custody has shown to be a safer option. Alaska has the highest rates of domestic violence in the country. We need to be proactive in working with these families especially with the offenders so the violence can stop.

Sincerely,

