From: <u>Tiffany Jackson</u>

To: Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Education and Early Development Funding
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 4:46:58 PM

Dear honorable law makers,

I submit this email to you in support of Best Beginnings. It is our understanding funding from Best Beginnings has been cut. The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe understands the financial situation the State of Alaska finds itself in right now, and does not envy the tough work you as legislators have in front you.

We would like to speak in favor of this organization, and the worthy programs they operate. We've had a grant through Best Beginnings to operate an Imagination Library in Sand Point and Cold Bay Alaska. Unlike many communities in the state, we've been able to successfully fundraise to wholly support our imagination library through local donations, and have to date provided 990 books to the youngest residents of Sand Point and Cold Bay. However, we recognize this is not the case for all communities, and we support the funding of Best Beginnings and the Imagination Library program which promotes reading and the love of reading to our youngest residents. We need to teach our children the importance of reading, and to develop a love of reading so they can be successful later on. Best Beginnings helps promote this.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Jackson

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