

From: [Amber Mossholder](#)
To: [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Proposed Budget
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Finance Committee Members-

I want to speak about some services that we currently provide in our state that are currently at risk of being cut in the proposed budget. First of all, thank you for restoring 2.5% of the cut to Senior and Disability grant programs. I have been able to work in this field for the entire 16 years that I have lived in Alaska and I have been fortunate to see what a tremendous impact these grant programs have on families.

At this time, I would like to share with you some of my experience with the Personal Care Assistance (PCA) program. My job is to help our elders and others who experience disabilities find their way through the very complicated state system of getting services provided in their own homes. These are people who experience such a high level of medical need that they would otherwise be living in a nursing home. Services provided in their home include bathing, getting dressed, eating meals, and washing their laundry. I provide support for these processes in the Mat-Su region and also in the South West Bethel-based villages. Without these PCA services, many of the elders in rural communities would be forced to move to facilities in urban areas of our state such as Anchorage. Most of these elders have lived their entire lives in their small rural community and may only speak their native tongue. Moving to a nursing home in the city is devastating to them emotionally. They are not able to eat their traditional foods. They are not surrounded by their family members and cannot watch their grandchildren grow up. Not to mention, the extreme cost of supporting someone living in a nursing home outweighs the cost of supporting them physically and emotionally in their own community. The proposed cut to the PCA program is currently at -\$9million.

I completely understand the problem our state is facing with trying to plan a responsible fiscal budget. I ask that you not plan that budget at the expense of our elders. These are parents and grandparents who have strived to make their families complete and better their communities. They deserve the very best we can offer to them. We should actively strive to keep them in their own homes for as long as possible and contributing to their family and community.

Thank you for your time,

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