

From: [Frank Rion](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Please consider the TRUE costs of budget cuts to Vital Programs!
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:23:30 AM

My name is Frank Rion, both as a lifelong Alaskan and disabled since my Stroke in 2007, I have been a direct beneficiary of various programs such as those offered through the Department of Vocational Rehab and Access Alaska. As well as nearly a decade volunteering with agencies such as

Alaska Regional Hospital, and Adult Protective Services I've witnessed firsthand the good works these and similar agencies do for Alaska.

As an employee at Access Alaska in the Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet, I witness an operation that saves the citizens of Alaska

A sizeable amount of money annually in medical savings. It is a frequent fact that budget restraints frequently cause cuts from social programs

In greater depth than other programs. Often due either to being undervalued or just not advocated for enough in the legislatures.

Once upon a time preventative measures were valued in America for the savings garnered both in an individual's health, but also in the obvious

Savings in healthcare costs down the road. This analogy is just as prevalent with most preventative social programs, and the State will definitely

Pay in the long run if programs are cut now without due consideration.

Alaska is presently facing some of the tough decisions that many other States have had to deal with in recent decades, and unlike with many States

Alaska still has several options to help overcome its deficits. Reinstating a State income tax, in conjunction with the Permanent Fund or revisiting the recent disastrous tax incentives handed to the oil companies doing business with the State to name but two.

In closing we need realistic solutions to this situation, not just belt tightening measures. Cost cutting measures must seriously be examined lest

They cost us all FAR more in future than they save us today.

Sincerely

Frank John Rion, DME Program Access Alaska, Inc