

Doniece Gott

From: Molly Dobb <molly.dobb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:51 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

YES!!!

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Molly Dobb

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Sarah Wolf <sarah.wolf50@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:13 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Dolly Parton funding

I want to express the need for early education especially with reading. I have 3 children and all have received these wonderful books/gifts. I am also the daughter of a researcher and author for early literacy. The impact is huge. Having a little library of books for the young ones to access at home is invaluable. I hope they will continue to fund this important program. If you would like more info on research I can help or want more feedback from a mom I'm more than willing Thank you for your time and consideration. Our littles need this Sarah kemp
451-1899

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Tiffany Blackburn <spiffytiffany80@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:13 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Dear Finance Committee and Governor Bill Walker's Team,

Please save the the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

We love receiving books for our son William, who is 13 months old; and reading to him every day.

Thank you for all you do for Alaska's children.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Blackburn
Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Candice Robb <crobb@aebsd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:11 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Invest in Alaska's next generation

Greetings,

I am a registered Alaska voter, an elementary school teacher, and a mother. It's come to my attention that Early Childhood programs are possibly being cut from the Alaska state education budget. These programs are critical to prepare our children for the now rigorous kindergarten and first grade expectations in America's schools. Children are expected to read, write, and perform on such a higher level than they did when we were young people. Without early childhood programs to support these young people before they enter the school system, they are in danger of lagging far behind their peers at home and abroad. My son will begin pre-K in a few years, and it is my hope that there will still be wonderful early childhood education in Alaska. As a stakeholder on all levels, a voter, a teacher, and a mother in Alaska, I ask that you would consider not cutting education dollars in any area, but especially not early childhood education. Let's not set our children up for failure before they even begin. Let's invest in their success.

Thank you,
Candice Robb

--

Candice Robb, NBCT
1st and 2nd Grade
Sand Point School
crobb@aebsd.org
(907) 383-2393 ext 6023

Doniece Gott

From: Andria Werning <awerning@bestbeginningsalaska.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:36 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please fund early childhood education in Alaska

Dear Senators,

I'm Andria Werning and I am employed at Best Beginnings as the Program Manager for Anchorage Imagination Library.

I am writing to show my support for Best Beginnings, which works to increase children's literacy through their support of programs such as the Imagination Library. Please restore funding for early childhood education programs. This is a long term, worthwhile and cost effective investment in our state, which can pay off with higher graduation rates and healthier communities.

I understand that the State of Alaska is currently experiencing a difficult financial situation, but I also know we all care about the many children in Alaska who need access to books and the parents who need help and encouragement to read to their children. Please understand that the future of our state is depending on us – we must invest in the education of the next generation, these children will soon be our leaders.

With support from Best Beginnings, dedicated volunteers with Imagination Libraries all over the state are currently providing a new, high-quality, age-appropriate book each month to more than 20,000 children in Alaska. The total cost per book (including purchase of the book and postage for it to be delivered directly to the child's mailbox) is less than \$2.50 per book. That is such a small investment of funds compared to the benefits ~~that it brings to our community! Any Imagination Library family will tell you that when that book arrives in the mail, the child demands to read it "right now". Not only do these books encourage print awareness and brain development, but also encourage a precious time for children to feel safe and loved while being read to by their parent. That time is so important to the emotional development of the child.~~

As Program Manager for the Anchorage Imagination Library, I am constantly hearing from parents, educators, and other community members about what a huge difference this program makes to Alaskan children.

Without the support that Best Beginnings receives from the State, our ability to enroll children in the Imagination Library program would be severely decreased and multiple Imagination Library affiliates within Alaska will have to shut down completely. Alaska children will suffer, and the future of our great state will suffer with them.

Please restore funding for early childhood education including Best Beginnings, Pre-K, and Parents as Teachers. Thousands of children all over the state are counting on you.

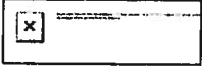
Thank you for this opportunity to share this information with you.

Sincerely,
Andria Werning

Andria Werning, Program Manager
Anchorage Imagination Library
3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 104A
Anchorage, AK 99501

907.297.3305 phone
907.297.3304 fax
awerning@bestbeginningsalaska.org

Anchorage Imagination Library's parent organization, Best Beginnings, is excited to be a part of Pick. Click. Give. this year! We'd be honored if you'd remember us when applying for your PFD!



Doniece Gott

From: Cate Remme <cremme@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:47 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

It is one of the best programs available today for young readers. You already closed the Talking Book Center, the least you can do is fund this successful children's reading program.

Mae Remme

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Farmer <njfarmer8386@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:11 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: save dolly parton's imagination library

as the parent of a child who receives books from dolly parton's imagination library and it's partners, i ask that you please save this program! Please!
Jessica Farmer

Doniece Gott

From: Bill Waite <williamtwaite@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:13 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early childhood education funding

Hello:

I know our state is in the midst of a fiscal crisis. But sacrificckng our children's education is not the solution for that would mean sacrificing the future of a generation.

Bring back an income tax; tax me now and fund education. Our long term future depends on today's youth. We can manage our current challenges and still invest in our future.

I vote for education.

Respectfully,
Bill Waite
13600 November Glenn Highway
PO Box 109
Sutton Alaska 99674

Doniece Gott

From: Melissa Ford <melissa@nomesweethomes.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:14 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Keep head start and PreK grants

Head start and Preschool are extremely important programs for early child education.

I am writing to ask that these are not cut from the operating budget.

Please restore the Early Childhood Education Programs to the Ammended
Budget

Melissa K. Ford

Broker/Owner of Nome Sweet Homes

PO Box 1052, Nome AK 99762

Phone: 907-443-7368

Fax: 866-770-4984

www.nomesweethomes.com

Doniece Gott

From: Ukallaysaaq Tom Okleasik <ukallaysaaq@nwplanning.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:50 PM
To: Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Neal Foster; Sen. Donny Olson; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Pre-K FUNDING

Importance: High

Kia ora Finance Committee & Donny, Neal & Ben,

Budget cuts are a challenge this year. As you help set priorities in the budget, I encourage you to protect early childhood funding. As a parent, I know what a difference the services make -- especially in rural Alaska.

These include programs such as the Parents as Teachers, PreK grants, and Best Beginnings. I ask that you restore funding for Early Childhood Education programs to the amounts in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

Ukallaysaaq Tom Okleasik
PO Box 356
Nome, AK 99762

Doniece Gott

From: Kacy Hillman <kacydale@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:35 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Please restore funding for Early Childhood Education programs to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

As the parent of children who receive books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

This program is vital to raising the future of Alaska, our children.

Thank you,
Kacy Hillman

Doniece Gott

From: dylanne <dylanne.92@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:31 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early Childhood Education funding

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in support to restore Early Childhood Education funding!! This funding is important and crucial to the educational development of OUR FUTURE, OUR CHILDREN!

Thank you!

Doniece Gott

From: Andrea Wilson <andreamkwilson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:29 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding for Early Childhood Education to be restored

Dear members of the Finance committee,
I am writing to ask that funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

My family and I have benefited from these programs over the course of the last 6 years. My children are currently ages 6, 5, and 3. They have enriched our children's capacity for learning, for early literacy, and our family time. These programs help children to succeed at an early age, which is important for their growth and development as well as our community.

Thank you.
Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Wilson

907-529-2567
2930 Rita Circle,
Anchorage, AK 99502

Doniece Gott

From: Tj <tshirriel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:54 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Embracing the Change

Doniece Gott

From: Lea Filippi <leafilippi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding for Early Childhood Education

Dear Finance Committee members,

I am writing to encourage you to restore funding for early childhood education programs to the level in Governor Walker's proposed budget for fiscal year 2017. I am not asking because of any personal benefit that I would receive. My son is already in elementary school. I am asking because it is sound fiscal policy. these investments in early education for the youngest Alaskans will go a long way toward reducing the need for more costly interventions that are more commonly needed when children do not have access to high quality early education. I appreciate your attention to this matter. We cannot afford to be penny wise and pound foolish.

Lea Filippi
4411 Woronzof Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517
(907) 272-1384

Doniece Gott

From: John Bender <bender.john@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:27 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! These books are shared not only among my six children, but with our friends and neighbors. This is a great, and low cost program, that saves money in the long run by improving reading skills outside of the classroom.

Best regards,
John and Sharon Bender
Talkeenta, AK 99676

Doniece Gott

From: Joe Casey <Joe.Casey@erm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:48 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its partners, I ask that you please save this program!

This message contains information which may be confidential, proprietary, privileged, or otherwise protected by law from disclosure or use by a third party. If you have received this message in error, please contact us immediately at (925) 946-0455 and take the steps necessary to delete the message completely from your computer system. Thank you.

Please visit ERM's web site: <http://www.erm.com>

Doniece Gott

From: A Gmail <avanderyost@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

For some families, these books might be the only ones they receive. Reading to our children is healthy for both the parent, the child, and also the child's future teachers. Please keep this program.

Anne Vander Naald

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Mary Stover <maryjo1469@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: jeffom358@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:43 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As an economist I am befuddled and depressed at the completely illogical cuts to childhood development programs. The direct savings on our penal system are enough to make these programs financial gains. Please run the numbers and do the right thing.

Sincerely, Jeffrey S. Cramer

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from the road.

Doniece Gott

From: Chelsea S <cseagars@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:45 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

I want to encourage you to please fund Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. My daughter receives books from the Imagination Library program. She is so excited every time a new book arrives. We read together as a family everyday. This program has helped me as a parent learn new ways of encouraging my daughter to connect with and to think about the books we are reading. I do not think I would have learned these skills elsewhere and without them my high energy daughter would probably not have the patience to sit still for reading time. She is four years old and just starting to learn to read on her own.

The children of Alaska are our future, and funding programs like these is making the choice to invest in our state's future. I understand that we are facing difficult times financially, but this is **not** an appropriate area to cut funding.

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Thank you,
Chelsea Casey

Doniece Gott

From: Jen Cerovski <jencerovski@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

As a elementary teacher and parent, I can't emphasize enough the impact reading to one's child as an infant, toddler, and preschoolers has on later learning success. The books my child receives from the Imagination library are all high quality choices. I suspect that for some struggling households, these might be the only books young children are exposed to before school begins. Early education is monumentally important. Please invest in the children of our future!

Thank you,
Jen Cerovski
Fairbanks, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Lauren Attanas <lauren.attanas@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Written testimony re: Early Childhood Education programs

March 9, 2016

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Everyone knows the saying, "a stitch in time saves nine". Early childhood education programs such as Parents as Teachers, Pre-kindergarten, and Best Beginnings are that "stitch in time". Study after study shows that early intervention is the key to ensuring the success of young children as they enter public schools. As the parent of two children under the age of five, I am keenly aware of this and of my role in ensuring that my kids are able to put their best foot forward in school. Unfortunately, lots of parents don't have the resources to fully realize their role in shaping their kids' success in school, and that's where these programs come in. That's where your responsibility as forward-thinking lawmakers comes in too! The Alaska legislature cannot cut its way to financial solvency for the state, and it would be unwise to slash funding to programs that ensure a bright future for this state as a whole. Please restore the ECE funding to the full amount specified in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 budget!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lauren Attanas

4975 Kathys Lane

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Doniece Gott

From: Johns, Melissa <Melissa.Johns@bannerhealth.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:27 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its partners, I ask that you please save this program!

My daughters love this program please don't take this away from the great state of Alaska. At almost 3 years of age they would rather get a book than toys. My girls will pretend to read to each other and sit while I read to them.

Thank you,

Melissa Johns

Doniece Gott

From: All Alaska Pediatric Partnership <tamar@a2p2.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:48 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony on early childhood programs

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership. Through our work to improve health and wellness outcomes for children in Alaska, we are deeply immersed in the most up to date information and research regarding the health and development of children. The fact that early childhood, meaning the years between 0-3 are THE most important years in a child's development. Long gone are the beliefs that we should wait to invest in children when they reach school age. The first three years of a child's life are extremely critical and will set up a child for either failure or success. The research around this data is overwhelmingly undisputed. The early childhood programs that stand to be cut from the budget are some of the only programs the state of Alaska has for children of that age group. Best Beginnings, Pre-K and parents as teachers don't just provide "fun" activities for kids or free babysitting services. They provide supports, tool and assistance to parents that are crucial to ensuring their children develop to be contributing, tax-paying members of our community.

New data coming out of Alaska is showing that the time frame between zero to one year of age is when children in Alaska experience adverse childhood experiences. Parents who do not have the skills, tools or support to be good, strong parents for their babies are most likely to take their own trauma-related stress out on their infants, causing lifelong damage that will result in higher costs to the state for that person throughout their life whether it be Medicaid, correctional facilities or financial assistance. Taking away these programs is literally a divestment in Alaska's most important infrastructure – it's people.

Please consider returning funding to these programs and showing Alaskans that you understand and support the investment in early childhood and in the future of our state.

Sincerely,

Tamar Ben-Yosef

Executive Director
All Alaska Pediatric Partnership
P: 907.903-6770
E: Tamar@a2p2.org
P.O Box 230567
Anchorage, AK 99523
www.a2p2.org

Join our mailing list to receive our newsletter and notifications of partnership meetings, events and trainings.

<http://tinyurl.com/jlnbrri>

Doniece Gott

From: ukienat <ukienat@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:55 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

I have five children and we could not afford to be buying them new books every month. The program allowed us to get new books in our house every month, made extra special by being a piece of mail just for them. Please don't cut this program. The children of Alaska need it.

~Natalia Collini, mother of 5 under 6.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 5 ACTIVE™, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Doniece Gott

From: Alicia & Justin Clark <ak_clarks@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:46 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUNDING

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

I also am the mother of a special needs child who is in desperate need of the services provided under these programs like Pre-K, Best Beginnings, and other early childhood education and intervention programs. These programs are not extra, they are necessary. The most vulnerable among our population should be the first taken care of. Please restore the funding to these programs at at least Governor Walker's proposed levels. We need these programs. Intervention now saves millions of dollars down the line. Cutting these programs is short sighted, and not in the best interest of the state in any way.

Thank you,

Alicia Clark

Alicia, Justin and Kade Clark
31150 Catch Up St.
Anchor Point AK 99556

Doniece Gott

From: mistie <mistie@awanatravel.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:44 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

It is important that we keep programs like these. Reading is key for Parent and child bonding and early learning.

Sent from my GCI smartphone.

Doniece Gott

From: gloriatolan@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:43 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! Cut some of the perks you all are receiving. Our young children benefit greatly from this program.

Tax the rich folks like you should and you wouldn't have to cut meaningfull programs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Doniece Gott

From: Sara Griffith <sara.a.griffith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:17 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: State Funding for Childhood Education

To Whom it May Concern:

In a changing world full of illiteracy, you have a chance to make a difference and promote literacy by funding the Programs in our great state of Alaska. These programs are dedicated to enriching the lives of our children i.e. Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers and The Northstar Imagination Library. The funding has been cut the last few years and has greatly impacted the programs themselves.

Without the funding to educate our children now will there be a real future? Our children are our future, and the impact we have upon them now will shape who they become tomorrow. Literacy is power. Knowledge is power. Let us not be regressive but progressive!

The Communities are doing their parts - I myself have donated for the programs but it is not enough. The State must stand with us and together as one, with strength and fervor, we shall persevere. If not, we will all fall. Do we want to be remembered as the generation that failed our children when our parents did not fail us? I think not!

Please DO NOT cut the funding for these programs as they are worth every penny...our children are worth every penny!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sara Ann Miller (Griffith)
2243 Mavencamp Circle
North Pole, AK 99705

Doniece Gott

From: kborkovec2@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: christy & chris dailey <brendel13@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Hello,

I would like to request that the funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget. While I understand the need for cuts these programs are not the place to do it.

Thank you,
Christy Dailey

Doniece Gott

From: LIO Glennallen
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:49 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: for Senate Finance Committee

Good Afternoon,

Please accept the email below as written testimony for SB 139 being heard today.

Thank you,
Emilie Frisbie
Glennallen LIO

From: Kim Roeske [mailto:kroeske@crsd.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:44 PM
To: LIO Glennallen <Lio.Glennallen@akleg.gov>
Subject: for Senate Finance Committee

Good afternoon. My name is Kimberly Roeske.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Senate Finance Committee and thank you also for your hard work to solve Alaska's financial challenges.

I am sending this today on behalf of the students in the Copper River School District. I ask for your continued support of K-12 education in Alaska. Thank you for the support you've already given to education, specifically **fully-funding the BSA, including the \$50 increase**. Thank you also for restoring the **Broadband Assistance Grants** that so many districts need.

The Copper River School District does not receive money from a borough or local industry like many other districts do. The effects of deep cuts to the Department of Education and/or to the BSA would hurt our economy. 81% of our budget is spent on staffing and every job lost in the Copper River Valley has a ripple effect.

Thank you for listening to my testimony and for the work you are doing.

Doniece Gott

From: Brandy & Wayne Arrington <brandy_wayne_arrington@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:49 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE PRE-K FUNDING

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!
Please do not take away Pre-K funding. Pre-K programs are an important part of a students success in life.

Thank you,

Brandy and Wayne Arrington
Nome, AK

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Doniece Gott

From: Andi Shaw <compasspointconnection@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:50 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its partners, I ask that you please save this program! I ask that funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget. Please help us out. I have just adopted three children, one of whom is under 5 years of age, and this is a wonderful program! All three children are very engaged in reading through the books we receive in the mail.

Blessings,

Andi Shaw

Doniece Gott

From: Amanda Goins <amandago2882@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:50 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

~ Amanda Goins

Doniece Gott

From: Chelsea Sternicki <chelseasternicki@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:52 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early Childhood Education funding

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to ask that you maintain funding for Early Childhood Education programs. My child receives a book every month through the Imagination Library program. Although we are financially able to purchase books for her, we still really appreciate the program as it expands the content that our daughter is exposed to. More importantly, Best Beginnings provides books to many families who could not otherwise afford books for their children. In these instances, every dollar spent towards early literacy through the Best Beginnings program is invaluable. Research shows that exposure to books during the first five years of life positively affects a child's brain development. Without such exposure children often need remediation upon entering kindergarten, which is costly for elementary schools. It seems that funding Early Childhood Education programs is the most straightforward and effective way to prepare young children for future success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Chelsea Sternicki
chelseasternicki@gmail.com

Doniece Gott

From: Erin <emyakush@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:52 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Dolly Parton

Please don't cut the funding for the Dolly Parton library. My daughter feels so special when she gets something in the mail. The titles that library sends are perfect and we read one nightly. My daughter would be so sad if the program ended.

We were also really hoping to get her a spot in the widening the new preschool at Shaw elementary bc we can not afford the \$350+ preschools that are offered in our area. I know many other parents are in a similar situation. I know how important pre school is for kindergarten readiness, and I don't want to do my daughter a disservice by not trying my hardest to secure her a spot in the fall.

Thank you for your consideration
Erin Adams, Wasilla AK

Doniece Gott

From: Melis Coady <meliscoady@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:53 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early Education Programs

Attn: Finance Committee

I know times are tough and it is time to tighten the belt but supporting early childhood programs is the best way to support Alaskan families. The days of one wage earner in homes is nearly over. Universal Pre-K, grants for daycare, and programs that generally fund early childhood development have enormous spill over effects. With income tax a close eventuality consider supporting young families in this very important way.

Thank you and good luck,
Melis Coady
Talkeetna, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Jennifer Haldeman <jennhaldeman83@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:54 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Thank you,
Jennifer Haldeman
Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Sherine Titus <sherinekt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:55 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early Childhood Funding . Please Open

Hi,

My name is Sherine Titus and am an early childhood educator. I am writing about the funding cuts to the early childhood programs. I know the house and senate have to make some tough decisions on what programs should have funding cut but I urge you not to let early childhood be one of them. The children and families I serve in Fairbanks benefit greatly from the early childhood education and to be able to have childcare while they are at work. If we cut early childhood fundings we are also doing damage to our economy as a great percentage of our workers rely on childcare. Please reconsider and educate yourself on the damaging effects the budget cuts will have on our children, families and economy.

Sincerely,

Sherine Titus
Parent and Early Childhood Educator

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Doniece Gott

From: Lynn Gray <lynn_gray@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:59 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

My son loves reading because having these books that coming monthly so it's something he loves looking forward too. He was also able to read the most books in his school class month because we had so many books to read from.

"The mountains are calling and I must go. ~ John Muir

Doniece Gott

From: tjakwhisnant@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:09 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Imagination library

We absolutely love this program. My 9 month old loves books, not just to chew on, and each month it helps keep the variety. We would be extremely disappointed if this program ended. I think it is beneficial to all families.

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Audrey Buma <audreybuma@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:02 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early Childhood education-Please fund

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in the hopes to help convince you to not cut early education funding out of the budget. Please do not cut Best Beginnings, Parents as Teacher or Imagination Library. As a mother of two small children I can't imagine not having the help these organizations have given. It is important to help children and there families at this stage in life so they have a better future. These early years are so important to having functional hard working adults later.

Please reconsider and think of all the Alaskan children that these cuts will hurt. Please invest in the children of your future.

Sincerely,

Audrey Buma
Juneau AK

Doniece Gott

From: Alaina Kreft <plath_a@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:02 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Dolly Imagination Library

Learning and reading is important to young childrens' minds and future. My daughter is so excited to recieve her book every month, and supports her habit and love of reading. Sad to hear about the program being discontinued. Hopefully this is not the case.

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Bob Wood <bobwoodinalaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:07 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Re fund early childhood education

As a parent of a young Alaskan I am asking you to please maintain funding to early childhood education at the levels proposed by the governor.

In this time of great economic uncertainty we need to be investing in the minds of our children to prepare for a new era in Alaska..

We must accept the reality that the free ride is over.

Please show the leadership necessary to make the hard decisions now, looking past personal political aspirations, and invest in our children.

Bob Wood

Doniece Gott

From: Kathryn Mathews <kathykm46@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Kathryn Mathews

Doniece Gott

From: Elena Ikonnikova <lenaikona@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: JoAnn Quigg <jquigg@wileng.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its partners, I ask that you please save this program! As you know, early introduction to books and reading lead to an appreciation for reading and gives kids a jump on their education. My observations are that kids that have early successes with learning enjoy learning and those that enjoy learning continue to do so throughout life. A lot of kids served by this program may be underprivileged so that their parents can't afford to supply the books that they get through this program. But, for even those that can afford to buy books, the fact that books are delivered to the house and laying around makes it much more likely that they are read and used.

My family is also part of the Parents as Teachers program. We have been "blessed" by twins and with 3 kids under the age of 3, the presence of our Parents as Teacher mentor has brought some calming sanity into our household. We have found the program to be very helpful.

We hope that the State can continue funding these valuable programs as well as others for early childhood development. Starting an education early can only add to success later in life.

Thank you

JoAnn Quigg

16291 Ocean View Dr

Juneau, AK 99801



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast-antivirus software.

www.avast.com

Doniece Gott

From: Lisa <lusa_@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! I ask that funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

My children have benefitted greatly from this. Children that have an amazing start in life do way better as adults!
Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: LIO Glennallen
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:46 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Written Testimony SB 139

Please see the email below which is written testimony for SB 139.
Thank you,
Emilie Frisbie

From: Debbie Lorence [mailto:dlorence@crsd.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:31 AM
To: LIO Glennallen <Lio.Glennallen@akleg.gov>
Subject: Copper River School District

For the record, my name is Debbie Lorence. I am the high school social teacher at Glennallen High School.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Senate Finance Committee.

I also want to thank the members for the hard work they are doing to solve the state's financial challenges.

On behalf of the students in the Copper River School District, I ask for your continued support of K-12 education in Alaska. I encourage you to make the decisions necessary to pass a sustainable fiscal plan for Alaska so that our schools can continue to prepare students for their future.

Thank you for the support you've already given to education, specifically fully-funding the BSA, including the \$50 increase. Thank you also for restoring the Broadband Assistance Grants that so many districts need.

Deep cuts to the Department of Education and/or to the BSA would hurt our economy and make it more difficult to provide engaging classroom instruction for our students, particularly in places like the Copper River School District in rural Alaska.

Thank you for listening to my testimony and for the work you are doing.

My name is Mary Howarth-Hernandez. (of Glennallen AK)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Senate Finance Committee.

I also want to thank the members for the hard work they are doing to solve the state's financial challenges.

On behalf of the students in the Copper River School District, I ask for your continued support of K-12 education in Alaska. I encourage you to make the decisions necessary to pass a sustainable fiscal plan for Alaska so that our schools can continue to prepare students for their future.

Thank you for the support you've already given to education, specifically fully-funding the BSA, including the \$50 increase. Thank you also for restoring the Broadband Assistance Grants that so many districts need.

Deep cuts to the Department of Education and/or to the BSA would hurt our economy and make it more difficult to provide engaging classroom instruction for our students, particularly in places like the Copper River School District in rural Alaska.

Thank you for listening to my testimony and for the work you are doing.

Doniece Gott

From: Anna Kohl <ajkohl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:34 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for Early Childhood Education - Best Beginnings

Good afternoon,

I am writing to voice my support and urge you to join me in supporting early childhood education in Alaska. This invaluable service is the best investment in Alaska's future that we can make, and in my mind should be a non-negotiable component of any state plan.

Please restore Early Childhood Education programs to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

As a lifelong Alaskan, I urge you to make this investment in our future.

Sincerely,
Anna Kohl
2001 Sunrise Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

Doniece Gott

From: Ryan Wilfer <rrwilfer@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:33 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Debra Burdick-Hinton <debburdick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:33 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Please restore funding to early Ed. It's the best bang for the buck our state can get. With the horrible early childhood statistics that we are #1 in, I can't even imagine what net gain there could possibly be of eliminating such a small amount of funds that touches our most valuable and vulnerable resource, our youngest residents.

AK DEED should be applying for federal preschool for all funds given our demographics. Why is this not happening? Ak one of just a couple states that has never applied. EED has stated repeatedly during the Parnell admin that the state admin will not allow them to apply. Can that please change?

Early Ed most important of all public Ed. If our state truly can not afford a preK-12 publically funded Ed then stop funding the senior year. Tgevaverage senior takes just enough classes to be eligible for sports. They should start pursuing higher Ed, apprenticeship or work. But I DO believe we can fully fund preK-12 and we save money in the long run with an more educated population that got the best early start.

This is a major reason myself and many long term Alaskans with young families are considering leaving our state. A state that places so little value on early Ed with the highest rates of horrible early Ed and child abuse statistics in the country is not a place I want to live. These precious resources and the professionals that support them do not have a powerful lobby or voice. Please just do the right thing.

Thank you for your time to read this. I write this with great concern for our youngest children :-(

Debra Burdick-Hinton
Seward , AK

Doniece Gott

From: Chilsea Rexford <Chilsea.Rexford@north-slope.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:31 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

I oppose to this cut. I live in a very small city, Barrow, Alaska, & Dolly's Library is essential to our family even if it comes in duplicates. My 3 oldest boys, all age 7 read to their 3 younger siblings. Not to mention the cost of a gallon of milk equals the cost of a children's book here.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Doniece Gott

From: Chelsa J <chelsajane@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:07 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! This program is very important to us reading is a huge part of our lives!

Doniece Gott

From: Heidi Walter <heidi.c.walter23@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:30 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

It would be greatly appreciated. This program is wonderful and it would be really sad to see it disappear.

Thank you kindly,

Heidi Walter

Doniece Gott

From: Laura Cisneros <lcisneros@bestbeginningsalaska.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: I support Early Childhood Education programs in Alaska

Good afternoon,

My organization's mission, and therefor my job, is to mobilize people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed. I do this work not just because I am passionate about it, but because a ton of research confirms how critical it is.

My job as a member of the Alaska community is to speak up for the future I want to see for this state. My son, now in 3rd grade, started school 1 year ahead and is in the gifted program. He directly benefitted from the services and information provided by early childhood programs in Alaska – BEFORE I worked at Best Beginnings. I want families and children in Alaska to have the same services and information my family received so their children can be prepared to SUCCEED when they begin kindergarten. The future I hope to see: prepared kindergarteners, successful students, contributing and caring members of our community. It starts now.

Please reinstate the funds for early childhood education programs to the level in the Governor's Amended FY 2017 Budget. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Laura Cisneros

Laura Cisneros/Partnerships Director/Best Beginnings

3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 104A, Anchorage, AK 99501 / P: 907.297.3309/ F: 907.297.3304

lcisneros@bestbeginningsalaska.org

www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org

Lovalaska
Pick.Click.Give.

Doniece Gott

From: David Popiel <davidpopiel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Our son Max looks forward to the Imagination Library book each month. He has read all of them and more than a few have remained in the rotation for regular reading. This program is an incredibly valuable public service that should be continued. I wholeheartedly support the program and urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

David Popiel
Anchorage, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Vanessa Mattingly <nessa410@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:26 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early Childhood Education Funding

To Whom it may concern:

Please restore funding for Early Childhood Education programs to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

This is such a critical program for our children and our future. Early Childhood programs ensure that our children are able to start school with the knowledge and experiences they need to compete with the rest of the world. To discount the program in anyway is to penalize all of the children, and with them, ourselves and our future. As Linda Creed wrote, "the children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way."

Please restore funding so that we can teach them well and they can lead the way to the future for all of us.

Vanessa Mattingly

Doniece Gott

From: Hanna Eklund <hanna eklund@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:26 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Our children are our future.

Sincerely,

Hanna Eklund
Honorary Consul of Finland in Alaska
President of the Anchorage Suomi Finland Club

Doniece Gott

From: jennifer Smith <jensmith_21@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:25 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please restore early childhood education funding

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for all your hard work in working for our state! I urge you to, however, please consider restoring the funding for early childhood education. Particularly the funding that allows millions of small children (under 5) to receive books each month at no cost to them! The Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Personally, my children have benefited greatly from these books! My daughter especially has absolutely thrived with these books. Many of them are her absolute favorites and we read them multiple times per day, we take them on trips, and she now "reads" them to me. She is only 2 but she can recite many of these books to me word for word now. We truly appreciate this program and what a difference it has made with her speaking and reading ability at such an early age. I know there are many kids out there who wouldn't get books very often if it weren't for this program. Please work to restore funding to help our small children reach and soar far above their potential!

Thank you,

Jennifer Smith
Fairbanks, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Sheena Tanner <sheenackt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:17 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Doniece Gott

From: Susan Stone <susancrippen5@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:24 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early Learning

Please keep finding for early learning programs like the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. These types of programs help to increase learning and parental involvement early on, which translates to more productive citizens later on. Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Keuma
Concerned Parent

Sent by phone.

Doniece Gott

From: Nicki Holmen <nicole.holmen@TNC.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Bright Beginnings and Dolly Parton's Imagination library.

Greetings.

I just want to voice my request that funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget to allow for the continuation of programs such as Imagination Library which I believe is an incredible program for children and education.

Thanks,

Nicki

Nicki Holmen
Financial Analyst
nicole.holmen@tnc.org

(907) 865-5711 Ext.
(Direct)

**The Nature
Conservancy
Alaska Program**
715 L Street

Suite 100

Anchorage AK
99501

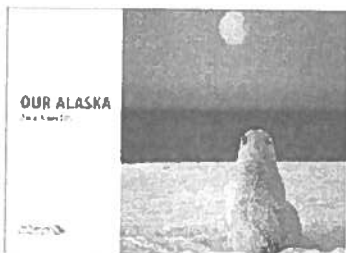


nature.org/alaska

facebook.com/natureconservancyalaska

twitter.com/nature_AK

Check out Alaska's [2015 Annual Report](#)



Doniece Gott

From: heathergithens@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:09 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Please, please save this program!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Cortni Hostetler <h.cortni@ymail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early education budget

Dear finance committee,

It has been brought to my attention that funding for early education programs has been cut from the fiscal budget for 2017. This is of great concern to me, my family and the community, as these programs greatly benefit the youth and our community. Early education is fundamental for educational successes later in life. There is no better place to invest our money than in the education of our youth.

Please reconsider cutting these programs, as for many youth it will mean they no longer receive books and other educational tools that they currently have access to. Thank you for your consideration.

Cortni Rachlin
907-301-8800

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Kristi B Michels <kbhall@uaa.alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and its partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Our children are our future, as clichéd as that may sound. I know balancing a budget is a difficult task, but taking funding from programs that are used to mold our younger generation is a very bad idea. My husband and I both work and are comfortable enough to buy books for our boys; however kid's books are not cheap and I'm sure there are many families that rely on receiving their books from "Dolly".

I hope that you restore funding for Early Childhood Education programs to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY2017 Budget.

Thank you for your time,

Kristi Michels

Doniece Gott

From: cinderbdt@gmail.com on behalf of Bryan D. Thomas <bryan.d.thomas@acm.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early Childhood Education programs are critical

Early Childhood Education programs are critical to our state. This is an example of exactly what I want our government to do. Please restore funding to the level of Governor Walker's request. Thank you.

Doniece Gott

From: Whitney Hann <wlh24@nau.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:12 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Thanks,
Whitney Hann

Doniece Gott

From: Lauren Sill <lauren.sill@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:10 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! Early childhood education and literacy is so important to the future of this state. I understand cuts need to be made, but getting rid of funding for these programs is not the right place and will hurt the state in the long run. Please restore funding to the amounts proposed by Governor Walker.

Thanks for your consideration,
Lauren Sill

Doniece Gott

From: Theresa Norris <norristeresa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:00 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Small Schools

I do not want you to close small schools. I'm from a small community and closing the school would be devastating to our community. We would no longer have the diversity of the old and the young enriching our community. The young would move away no longer having a school to provide an education for their children. And I'm sure this applies to all other small communities.

My children all grew up in Cooper Landing and have told me they would never trade what they received here growing up in this small community. Their knowledge and experience has benefited them throughout their entire adult life. Thank you, I hope you will support small schools.

Theresa Norris

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Lily Skiles <lilyskiles@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:30 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

My daughters absolutely ADORE our monthly books and can't wait to read them over and over again.

I ask you to please place Early Childhood Education at the top of your priority list. The children of Alaska need your support.

Thank you so much,
Lily Bosshart

Doniece Gott

From: Igluguq Okleasik <igluguq@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:33 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: pre-K funding

Hello. My son attends pre-school and is learning an immense amount of things, how to get along with others and getting acclimated into the school system and just having fun. Preschool funding is direly needed especially for rural Alaska. Daycare is scarce and in short supply.

Please restore and fully fund the Early Childhood Education program to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget. Quyaana. -Igluguq Dianne Okleasik, parent and citizen of the State of Alaska

"We must know the white man's language to survive in this world, but we must know our language to survive forever." ~Darryle Babe Wilson, Elder of the Ajumawi-Atsugewi Nation

Doniece Gott

From: Morgan Kincaid <Morgan.Kincaid@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:17 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early Childhood Education Funding

Early Childhood programs such as Parents as Teachers, PreK grants, and Best Beginnings help give Alaskan children the best possible start in life. Supporting community resources that promote school readiness and healthy family development should be our highest priority as a community, and our local government should be setting a good example by generously funding these early childhood education programs- for the sake of our state's future, and in the name of doing what's right by our children. The youth and families who thrive as a direct result of having access to these kinds of early childhood programs are a benefit to all Alaskan citizens. Children who are not school ready and who therefore do not achieve their full potential in life become problem citizens down the line. Fund their success before they become a real financial drain on our community.

Please restore funding for Early Childhood Education programs to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.

Thank you,

Morgan Kincaid

Doniece Gott

From: Aubree Wattenbarger <awattenbarger@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

In a world full of technology, these children with such young minds need physical books to hold, to read, and to enjoy. Between the ages of 0 to 5 is when the most learning takes place in a child's brain. Having literature around them where it may not be accessible otherwise is crucial. As a preschool teacher, a special-education teacher and a mother, I find books play a primary role in the development of young minds. Please keep finding in early childhood education.

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sincerely,
Aubree Wattenbarger

Doniece Gott

From: islandgirls255 <islandgirls255@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:29 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from my GCI Note 4

Doniece Gott

From: Kimberly Ferguson <kimmyroseak@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:53 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Imagination library

I'm writing to make my voice heard. I am a nurse on the biggest labor and delivery unit in Anchorage. I share with everyone the information about the imagination library reading program and activities set up for our young children to encourage reading and imagination. I touch the lives of all demographics, some have only this and the public library as options for books for their children in the early years. Please understand the importance of this program and its ability to bring reading and imagination to them at the earliest of ages.

Thank you,
Kimberly Lunn

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Robert Yerkes <royal74us@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:57 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: State Operation budget

Please cut at least 500 million to 1 billion from the State of Alaska's 2017 operation budget this legislative session. I support no new taxes. Trim the fat. Your reelection depends on it.

Thank-you,

Robert Yerkes
Anchorage Ak

Doniece Gott

From: Brittany <brittany.sofia@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: State Budget

> Dear Legislators:

>

> Please work to develop a budget that is functional this year and into the future. I support a plan that finds new sources of revenue including income taxes, reducing or restructuring the PFD, and other taxes such as tourist and taxing workers coming from out of Alaska. I am willing to pay for state services that will improve my quality of life. Please prioritize education funding.

>

> Thank you for your time,

>

> Brittany Bauman

Doniece Gott

From: Jennie Hafele
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:26 PM
Subject: Testimony/SB 139

Hollis Hall
Resident: HD 1
Fairbanks, AK

Subject: SB 139 Operating Budget

As I hear testimony before this committee on gavel to gavel and here today I get the feeling that some do not think the shortfall of \$3.5 billion is a problem but it is and it will affect us all. I would request of the legislature to make reductions in spending to programs that are nice but not essential, study means by which our PFD can alleviate our fiscal problems, and most importantly, lay the ground work for instituting a personal tax on those who live and work in our great state. Students may have to forgo educational frills, parents will need to shoulder more responsibly for their children, and seniors will have to pay more for their share. It is past time for us to take responsibility for all of the things we have asked our government to fund.

Please enter into the record the testimony above to the Senate Finance Committee on SB 139 dated 3/9/2016.

CC: Interior Delegation members

Comments submitted via phone to:

Jennie Hafele
Fairbanks Legislative Information Office
1292 Sadler Way Suite 308
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: 907-452-4448
Fax: 907-456-3346

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Senate Finance Testimony 3-9-2016

Thanks to Chairman's Kelly & McKinnon and the rest of the committee for hearing the voices of Alaskans. I am going to quickly say a few things about my submitted testimony that you all will find in your e-mail boxes and look forward to hearing from You on. The complexities of the operating budget make any 1-2-3 solutions all but impossible. With the looming economic issues that are sure to arise out of oil industry downsizing, fish market gluts and above inflation government sector growth all play into Alaska's Future. What can the Legislature do about this?

I want to urge you folks to sharpen your pencils and ulus when looking at where the operating budget can be trimmed or restructured to reduce waste and slush spending. Looking to develop revenue through new fees, taxes and PFD formulas does nothing but extend the unsustainable budgeting practices that have been so prevalent in the State of Alaska for much of the past decade. The State Constitution is clear about the role of government in Alaska.

“the pursuit of happiness” for We The People is not defined as having to pay Taxes that reduce “the enjoyments of the rewards of their own industry” so that Our government continues to grow.”

If We don't address this promptly and properly, the slide may become too fast and then We really will have a mess to clean up. So, tune out the big dollar special interest groups and listen to Alaskans when they say that the cuts have to be found and the spending constrained. The path We are on now is not sustainable by any stretch of the definition.

Tomorrow the Senate is going to start committee hearings on Governor Walker's bill that aims to cap and tap the Permanent Fund in order to cover for fiscal shortfalls in his submitted budget plans... Alaskans across the scope of politics and socio-economic standing are speaking out against this and the other bills in the docket because they also realize that the State of Alaska must cut back it's spending just like We as Alaskans have to do. So, when you're considering line-items in this budget, make sure of two things... will this budget lend itself to developing an even leaner version next go

around and is it something that is defined as a necessity for Public Safety and General Welfare? I hope that you all are hearing the voices of Alaskans when they say that You have to Protect The PFD.

Considerations:

Requesting the State to get to \$4.2B for FY2017 then down to \$4.0 in FY2018 and eventually to \$3.8 in FY2019

1. Why is DOT administering police and fire at the airports? Shouldn't all public safety functions fall under the Dept. of Public Safety to reduce duplicate efforts and costs?
2. The VPSO program costs us \$214000 per officer because of added administrative costs that do not go to the actual performance of the duties. A restructuring of the VPSO program can save millions annually.
3. No more funding of vacant positions like the 80 within the Alaska Department of Public Safety that cost over \$6Million annually.
4. Channeling any funds into a gas line project is a waste of time. We will not find a customer who is willing to pay 5 times the cost. We have to know what the market can bear and then adjust accordingly, putting the pipeline before the demand can only work if we can build it for half the price and take the majority interest in the output.
5. The University of Alaska needs to get onboard and start developing their land grants. They have to pull their own weight and they have the resources to do so.

Once again, thanks for the opportunity to share with you folks!

Submitted Respectfully,
Jon Corbett
Dillingham, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Julie Cisco <cisco.julie@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:43 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget, of course

Good afternoon -- I am closely monitoring the budget situation and the decisions being made in Juneau. I will not consider any new or increased taxes or a big raid on the PFD fund earnings until you have all done what you need to: cut to the bone.

You're not making any attempt to do that. You're playing shell games, politics and hiding behind platitudes. Don't talk down to us and don't try to pretend we don't understand because we're not in Juneau.

We understand. We manage our households and our businesses responsibly, but not spending more than we bring in and making careful, informed choices for purchases or improvements. You aren't even trying to do any of that.

Cut all the pork. Cut all the non-starting projects: bridge across Knik Arm, road to Ambler, in-state gas line and LNG plant. We have no business spending money we don't have on projects with no proven return on investment. Cut special assistants, fancy leases, travel expenses and don't tell me you already have.

I work for a public entity and am not speaking for my entity, but in the departments I oversee 'no' has become the word of the day. No travel to Outside conferences. No new vehicles. No fancy new toys. Just no.

I'm doing my part. Are you?

Julie Cisco
Sterling

Doniece Gott

From: narrowrd@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:51 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: State budget

When it comes to education, five of the 10 biggest spending districts in the country are located in Alaska.

"While the Yupiit School District has one of the nation's highest education expenditures, it also has a poverty rate of 36.2%, and more than 55% of households rely on food stamps..."

"Despite spending the fourth most per student of ANY district in the United States, the North Slope Borough had a graduation rate of just 58.3%."

"The Lake And Peninsula School District spends an average of \$42,160 per student in instruction and support services a year, which is about \$31,500 more than the average spending per student in the typical American school district."

While Alaska spends more per student than almost every other state, it consistently ranks at the bottom in results. For that matter, across the country, "In five of the worst-funded districts, graduation rates are in excess of 92%. In five of the best-funded states, less than 80% of a given class graduates high school." Money does not positively correlate to success. That is the only given.

The reason government says it needs more money for education is because of the remote nature of Alaskan towns. Let's put that nonsense away. First- Alaska has a robust homeschool program in place- parents are given some \$1500 or so for education expenses- this should be the baseline number for all negotiations. How \$1500 gets to almost \$40,000 once the state becomes the teacher is beyond me.

Second, this isn't about educating those with special needs. Although special education is a huge part of Alaska's budget, it is not unique to only Alaska. There is a county in Oregon, the Scio School District 95, that spends an average of \$2,195 per student a year, and they have a graduation rate of over 99%.

~~Last, education in the US was founded when everything was remote, before income tax etc. The goal in educating youth was to avoid ignorance which leads to mischief, and to cultivate a productive and selfless generation. That needs to be our aim today.~~

Beyond education, anything not constitutionally mandated should be cut. If local government wants social programs that are bloated, and success is measured only by the amount of money spend, they can have that discussion and levy local taxes. But the state shouldn't levy taxes for all Alaskans, steal from the PFD, or cut programs that are constitutionally mandated in order to fund programs not constitutionally mandated.

-Micah Shields

Soldotna AK

Doniece Gott

From: Dee Longenbaugh <deelong@alaskan.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:48 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Alaska budget

Please adopt Gov. Walker's budget - fair and sensible. Thank you.

Dee

Dee Longenbaugh

The Observatory, ABAA

www.observatorybooks.com

deelong@alaskan.com

299 North Franklin Street

Juneau, Alaska, 99801

907/586-9676

Since 1977

>

>

Doniece Gott

From: Clyde Boyer and Vivian Finlay <vivandclyde@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget testimony

We have written emails, attended a previous hearing, talked to legislators, filled out surveys and always we express the same concerns...please STOP cutting the State's budget and start implementing revenue from income taxes similar to what was previously in effect , capping the PFD and revising the tax and credit structure for the oil companies and other smaller taxes as suggested by the Governor.. The legislature needs to be more forward thinking and not just "re-active" to the current crisis. If you continue cutting the budget and services, this State will go into a depressed economy with many Alaskans leaving the state and those remaining suffering from a lack of services in all areas. Law enforcement, education, road maintenance, every department in the state has already been affected by cuts. Legislators talk about not giving \$ to the poorest Senior citizens, not funding public radio/TV, cutting health, education and welfare further...for WHAT? So that there is nothing left for citizens of Alaska? So we have to start over again when the crisis is finally over? We do NOT want the legislature to assume oil prices will rise, we want all of us to begin paying a portion of our income in taxes, having a set amount for the PFD and working how that dividend is funded and paid, and a change in the way the State does business with the oil companies. Many proposals to increase income are out there, and we have commented on those - positively. Focus on the revenue side...there have been ENOUGH CUTS.

Thank you,

Vivian Finlay and Clyde Boyer (married)

--

455 Elderberry Drive,
Homer, AK. 99603 USA
(907) 435-3903

Doniece Gott

From: Jeff Brown <jbrown@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:48 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: State Budget Testimony

As an Alaskan resident and voter I request the Senate Finance Committee consider the following actions:

- 1) Institute a state income tax based on 10% of the Federal income tax owed. This would apply to non-residents and residents.
- 2) Place a cap of \$500 on the PFD checks to residents until the fiscal crisis is resolved.
- 3) Eliminate the \$500 million in oil subsidies the state is currently funding.
- 4) Do not appropriate any further state money for the natural gas pipeline until this fiscal crisis has passed. The private partners can continue to develop - just not with state money.
- 5) Forgo any further appropriations for procuring, building, or remodeling any buildings for State government (including Legislative Offices) until this fiscal crisis ends.

These remedies should be put in place this session, if at all possible.

Thank You,

Maureen Conerton
214 Dixon
Juneau, AK 99801

Doniece Gott

From: Willy Dunne <wdunne907@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:36 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: KBBi; Rep. Paul Seaton; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Testimony for March 9 committee hearing

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am unable to testify in person but please take into consideration my testimony via email.

I understand the difficulty of developing a budget under the fiscal circumstances we are facing. Before state spending is cut to a level that harms our health and safety, our economy and our opportunities, please develop reasonable sources of revenue to replace the diminishing revenue from oil.

Specifically today, I would like to testify for adequate funding for public broadcasting. I wish I could tell you the following story in person, because it is a powerful example of how local public radio serves our community in a very cost effective manner.

It was early summer in 1998 and although I live in Fritz Creek, I was commuting to work on a project in Ninilchik. I was listening to KBBi radio when the regular programming was interrupted to air a story about a wildfire in the East End Road area. As I listened, I realized that the fire was close to my house where my 9 year old daughter was home with a teen babysitter for the day. I was immediately alarmed and, without the widespread cellphone service we have today, I quickly started the 45 minute drive home. As I was driving home my concern increased as the KBBi news reporter described the advance of the wildfire and it became clear that it was headed directly toward my home with my daughter and her babysitter inside. I eventually made it to a landline phone and called home to check on them. I learned that there was very heavy smoke at my house and even with poor visibility and difficulty even breathing, the kids were able to make it down the hill to our neighbor's home where they were gathered up and driven to safety. I eventually met them a few miles from our home at a road block set up by firefighters. I am incredibly grateful that no one was hurt and that I was able to be there for my daughter ONLY because our local public radio was able to broadcast the emergency information and they continued to update conditions on the air as the fire progressed.

Public broadcasting benefits all Alaska residents. We support this service with membership dollars, donations and business underwriting, but we need additional support from the legislature, please allow adequate funding to support this vital service.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Willy Dunne

40508 Waterman Rd

Homer, AK 99603

907-299-6226

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Donny Olson
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:57 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Curtis E. Nayokpuk
Subject: FW: ULU News email 3.9.16 Shishmaref Constituent Curtis Nayokpuk Finance testimony - correction to add

Forwarding update to Senate Finance as requested.

From: Curtis E. Nayokpuk [mailto:curtisn@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Subject: RE: ULU News email 3.9.16 Shishmaref Constituent Curtis Nayokpuk Finance testimony

Oops, look like I left out "support for water and sewer funding in rural areas" on erosion and relocation segment if you can add that in? -cn

Curtis E. Nayokpuk since 1992 d/b/a: NAYOKPUK SERVICES P.O Box 72029 Shishmaref, Alaska 99772 Fax: 907-649-2009 Cell: 639-1231

----- Original Message -----

From: "Sen. Donny Olson" <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov> To: "Curtis E. Nayokpuk" <curtisn@gci.net> Cc: Sent: Wed, 9 Mar 2016 20:15:41 +0000 Subject: RE: ULU News email 3.9.16 Shishmaref Constituent Curtis Nayokpuk Finance testimony

Dear Curtis Nayokpuk,

I forwarded your email to Senate Finance in order for it to be added to public testimony. I am also printing your recommendations for Senator Olson. He appreciates constituents being active in the process. Thank you for providing this information.

Sincerely, Sydney Seay Staff to Sen Olson

From: Curtis E. Nayokpuk [mailto:curtisn@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:55 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Cc: William E Booth <evan.booth@alaska.gov>
Subject: Re: ULU Newsletter Report for February 2016 attached ***Note: Senate Public testimony tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8th - details enclosed

Senator Donald Olson, Morning,

Was planning to call in on your Senate Finance testimony but busy during the time schedule, maybe the Mayor called in. Good to see an open public forum from rural areas to hear what is effecting other communities and to voice local concerns.

My comments for Shishmaref: may have been short version via phone on local issues but added a couple points on airport/DOT.

-Rural airports are vital to community health and safety as we are dependent on daily air service for basic needs and medical travel. Summer barge service is mainly for large/heavy cargo and yearly fuel deliveries that lock us in a high fuel price for the rest of the year. This in support for the PCE program for rural areas.

- On erosion and relocation, we have seawall protection projects (to keep us safe till poss. relocation) not completed due to requirement of 35% match to Federal funds that small at risk communities have no access to. If the State of Alaska could be the source of "match" funds a lot of Federal funded projects (not only seawalls) would be built in rural communities. Maybe a

"match' Senate Bill to support Federal funding for rural projects in regards to health and safety? We can do "in kind" local resources but a lot of it needs a funding match.

-With the need for ULSD fuel use in airport equipment this requires shipments by air delivery as it is a limited amount the barge service don't carry. As rural airport maintenance contractor for the State DOT am at times rationing fuel late in the season till more is delivered. Also with weather changes I've seen over the last ten years you would assume with some low snow years we would be running less equipment time but see more work removing mid-winter ice from December thru February rain showers and this will require new eq. needs for airport sanding and mat'l stock pile or supply if local resources are not usable. Support for rural DOT funding.

Thank you and keep up the good work! —cn *Curtis E. Nayokpuk*

since 1992 d/b/a: NAYOKPUK SERVICES PO Box 72029 Shishmaref, Ak 99772 Fax: 907-649-2009 Cell: 639-1231

Doniece Gott

From: jimmy <jimbob@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB139 & 140

Legislators:

I urge you to stop listening to Big Oil, GCI, the Rasmuson Foundation, University of Alaska and all the other special interests who plead with the legislature 24/7 to rob the permanent fund, tax individuals, not tax Big Oil, and not cut the budget. The ordinary working Alaskan understands there is a spending problem and a broken tax system written by Oil company accountants to their advantage.

It appears the Legislature is preparing a budget and will then later decide how the budget should be funded. Only a government would act in such an irresponsible manner. No private company or individual would decide how much to spend without first determining how much revenue was available and then deciding the spending plan. Cut the bloated state budget so we live within our income. Serious across the board cuts, not smoke and mirrors. Cut the budget to about 3.5 billion for this year.

Many of you Legislators are bought and paid for by Big Oil and the corporations and you feel you are beholding to them. Well, Alaskans are catching on and we will not set still for it much longer. We are told about secret tax credits, complicated schemes about "old oil" and "new oil", direct payments to construct facilities, and no production taxes until oil reaches \$73 per barrel. Not one person in 10,000 could understand this secret, complicated, corrupted tax system. I doubt that most Legislators even understand it except for those who are in the pockets of the oil companies. This must change now.

Why would we let 500,000 barrels of oil go down the pipeline daily and not receive any payment for it except our royalty share of oil from some fields?? What fools are we to give away our finite resource? I suggest you repeal SB21, all tax credits, and any other secret schemes. Replace the existing tax/credit, new oil, old oil, scheme with a flat percentage production tax per barrel. No one in state government can outsmart the Oil company lawyers and accountants. Alaska can't even do a decent job of auditing the oil companies. Should we just trust them? No, we can't and that is why a production tax per barrel is the fairest, simplest system. A few state employees can monitor production, calculate the market price for oil and give the oil company a bill on a weekly basis.

I resent the threats and punishment that the oil companies issue. Look at BP this week, cutting down on production at a time when the Legislature is considering raising the production tax and eliminating certain tax credit. This is punitive and extortion. If the companies want our oil for nothing and start arbitrarily shutting down production in agreement with each other as happened this week, I would rather we shut it all down than give the oil away to mega corporations. I suggest a tax on all gas in the ground until a gas line is built. The oil companies have had decades to construct a gas line and bring our gas to market as required under our leases. If the oil companies had built 100 miles of line per year, the gas line would have been done years ago. They must produce or pay.

Keep your hands off the permanent fund. Too many Alaskans count on that money each year. It benefits the economy and the people can determine the best use of the money rather than the bloated state government. I also oppose any state income tax because this hurts the productive individual and rewards the non productive. One of the effects of a state income tax would be to essentially take the PFD away from working

productive individuals and let the non working non productive individuals keep their PFD. This is simply a redistribution of wealth in a most unfair way.

No one will be happy with the outcome but that is the job you were elected to do. Do the right thing and cut the state budget. Leave the Permanent Fund intact and change the tax structure on the oil patch.

Thank you,

Jimmy Rice P.O. Box 4063 Soldotna Ak. 99669

jimbob@gci.net

Doniece Gott

From: Clare Hill <chillydog1990@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Operating Budget

To the committee:

Thank you for taking the time to read my message. I am a 25+ year resident of Fairbanks. I am a retired public school teacher. I have four adult children who currently all live and work in Alaska.

Please take two giant steps back and look at the big picture. This narrow, blinkered view that consists of "don't take my PFD and keep cutting government" will only hurt Alaska in the long run. Anyone who has taken the time to investigate our budget even briefly understands that the way out of our crisis involves a multi-pronged approach--none of which is desirable or fun. We MUST institute an income tax, we MUST cap the dividend and use the fund as it was meant to be used, we MUST revise our oil tax/credit structure to require more out of the producers, and we possibly should institute a sales tax. Alaska is worth paying for! Every other state in the union requires some sort of buy-in from its residents. Alaskans love to brag about their independence--well, it's time to stop holding our hands out for an allowance. It's time for all of us to step up to the plate and invest in our beloved home.

Please don't let Alaska become a third-world country with poor infrastructure, a sorry education system, and no hope for our children's futures. Take the long view and plan for the kind of place we want to live in for the next 100 years!

Thank you,

Clare Hill

(home) 4320 Parks Ridge Rd.

Fairbanks, AK 99709

(mailing) P. O. Box 196

Ester, AK 99725

907-479-4344

Doniece Gott

From: Bill Stevens <casscon@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:56 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Bill Stevens
Subject: SUGGESTED CUTS

03/09/16
1015

Honorable Members Comprising the Finance Committee,

The real solution to the problem is to cut all State expenditures by 10% this year and next year. No "sacred cows".

Further, starting immediately, reduce the number of State employees role by 15% through attrition.

Cap PFD distribution at \$1,000 per person and apply any resulting excess to the principle.

No more free wheeling junkets.

No State income tax or State sales tax.

Thank you.

Bill Stevens
P.O. Box 8596
Nikiski, Alaska 99635

907-394-0544

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Donny Olson
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:59 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Curtis E. Nayokpuk ; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: FW: ULU Newsletter Report for February 2016 attached ***Note: Senate Public testimony tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8th - details enclosed

Forwarding to Senate Finance Committee to be added to Public Testimony.
Thank you,
Sydney Seay
Staff to Senator Olson

From: Curtis E. Nayokpuk [mailto:curtisn@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:55 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Cc: William E Booth <evan.booth@alaska.gov>
Subject: Re: ULU Newsletter Report for February 2016 attached ***Note: Senate Public testimony tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8th - details enclosed

Senator Donald Olson,

Morning,

Was planning to call in on your Senate Finance testimony but busy during the time schedule, maybe the Mayor called in.. Good to see an open public forum from rural areas to hear what is effecting other communities and to voice local concerns.

My comments for Shishmaref: may have been short version via phone on local issues but added a couple points on airport/DOT.

-Rural airports are vital to community health and safety as we are dependent on daily air service for basic needs and medical travel. Summer barge service is mainly for large/heavy cargo and yearly fuel deliveries that lock us in a high fuel price for the rest of the year. This in support for the PCE program for rural areas.

- On erosion and relocation, we have seawall protection projects (to keep us safe till poss. relocation) not completed due to requirement of 35% match to Federal funds that small at risk communities have no access to. If the State of Alaska could be the source of "match" funds a lot of Federal funded projects (not only seawalls) would be built in rural communities. Maybe a "match" Senate Bill to support Federal funding for rural projects in regards to health and safety? We can do "in kind" local resources but a lot of it needs a funding match.

-With the need for ULSD fuel use in airport equipment this requires shipments by air delivery as it is a limited amount the barge service don't carry. As rural airport maintenance contractor for the State DOT am at times rationing fuel late in the season till more is delivered. Also with weather changes I've seen over the last ten years you would assume with some low snow years we would be running less equipment time but see more work removing mid-winter ice from December thru February rain showers and this will require new eq. needs for airport sanding and mat'l stock pile or supply if local resources are not usable. Support for rural DOT funding.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

-cn

Curtis E. Nayokpuk
since 1992 d/b/a:
NAYOKPUK SERVICES
P.O Box 72029
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772
Fax: 907-649-2009
Cell: 639-1231

----- Original Message -----

From:

"Sen. Donny Olson" <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>

To:

"Sen. Donny Olson" <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>

Cc:

Sent:

Tue, 8 Mar 2016 00:20:18 +0000

Subject:

ULU Newsletter Report for February 2016 attached ***Note: Senate Public testimony tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8th - details enclosed

In the event that you are not able to open the attached ULU pdf, following is the information for Senate public testimony tomorrow:

SENATE FINANCE PUBLIC TESTIMONY THIS WEEK

JUNEAU – The Senate Finance Committee will be hearing public testimony on SB 139 (operating budget) and SB 140 (mental health budget) from communities around Alaska on the FY2017 budget March 7- 9. For District T communities, testimony will be taken according to the schedule below:

Tuesday, March 8

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Nome, Kotzebue

11:15 – 12:00 p.m. Barrow

3:45 – 5:30 p.m., Statewide Teleconference – Off-net sites

****Expect long wait times****

Please go to your local Legislative Liaison Office (LIO) to give your testimony. People going to an LIO to testify need to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the ending time; otherwise, testimony could end early. If you are not close or cannot make it to an LIO (off net site), you can call in from 3:45 pm – 5:30 pm the toll free number **1-844-586-9085** (testimony is limited to 2 minutes). Watch the live stream at: <http://akl.tv> .

My office has had many phone calls and emails from people all over the state with their perspectives about impending cuts to Pre-K, Best Beginning, school broadband, Public Broadcasting, Behavioral Health programs, Nome Youth Facility, senior benefits, service reductions, and loss of income (especially as it relates to the PFD). That is just to name a few items that will impact our rural areas.

Doniece Gott

From: KReardon <reardonscher@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:13 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Input on Budget

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

I am pleased you are asking for Alaskans to voice their opinions on our current fiscal situation and decisions that must be made to ensure a healthy and stable future for our state. I am retired and want to stay in a vibrant Alaska. My husband is currently working with an engineering firm and our 22 year old son wants to return to Alaska to live and work after finishing college in architecture . My family has a vested interest in keeping the economy strong & our housing market stable. We do believe in some government spending cut-backs – However, this must be balanced with continued services that make Alaska a good place to work and live. We believe we need to develop new revenue sources to keep our economy strong and our state's credit rating at triple AAA. Our big 3 oil companies are cutting back as there is a national over supply of oil right now and very low prices. We will see oil company lay-offs that will have an impact on our economy. We want to encourage these oil engineers and other professionals to stay by keeping other sector jobs strong. Cutting away only at the government and state agencies also creates job losses for many Alaskans and again we need people to stay and find work here.

My family strongly urges a balanced approach & moving this direction this YEAR!

Yes-Use the Permanent Fund earnings in some manner that maintains the fund-Percent of Market value-Or similar strategy

Yes-It is fine to limit or lower the dividend-We have had 30 YEARS of this FREE RIDE & it is time to pay the piper

Yes-Look at a restructuring of the oil company tax & subsidy structure

Yes-Implement a fair income &/or sales tax that make people aware of the costs

Yes-Drop the Medicare Expansion law suit

Yes-Move Anch offices to the Atwood Buidling

Thank-You

Kerry Reardon

907-338-1183 hm

reardonscher@gci.net

Doniece Gott

From: James T Nelson <aktomn@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:12 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fwd: Fiscal Mess

Begin forwarded message:

From: James T Nelson <aktomn@gci.net>
Date: March 9, 2016 at 11:04:25 AM AKST
To: GOV.AllLegislators@alaska.gov
Subject: Fiscal Mess

Thank you all for your efforts. I agree with Clem Tillion's column in today's Alaska Dispatch (March 9, 2016). We do need to bite the bullet and pay our own way, but we should not lay off hundreds of teachers, shut down state services, or force senior citizens to leave the state. The economic damage will be bad enough without the legislature adding to it. Cut the boondoggles first (Susitna Dam, the State's rocket launch in Kodiak, Knik Arm bridge, etc.), and then pass most or all of the Governor's proposals.

I understand many of you have constituents who reject facts, but you do not have to. Do your jobs and take care of the state of Alaska.

Thanks again, Tom Nelson

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Pete Kelly
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:45 PM
To: Doniece Gott
Subject: FW: Testimony/SB139

From: Jennie Hafele
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:42 PM
Cc: timmabery@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony/SB139

Timothy J. Mabery
Resident: HD 2
North, AK
timmabery@gmail.com

Subject: SB 139 Operating Budget

The permanent fund is an established constitutional possession of the Alaska people. Its dividend is calculated by the 5 year average of return on the fund investments made by the permanent fund. The dividend has nothing to do with the price of oil or the amount of money the State of Alaska receives as revenue. I feel that if the state asks us to give up our constitutional rights in perpetuity than we should be getting something back from them (the state).

If I am wrong about this calculation, please inform me.

Please enter into the record the testimony above to the Senate Finance Committee on SB 139 dated 3/9/2016.

CC: Interior Delegation members

Comments submitted via phone to:

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

Doniece Gott

From: Jordan Watson <jordan.t.watson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:20 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: State budget

Dear Finance Committee,

I'm a Juneau resident but am currently unavailable to give in-person testimony so I hope that you'll still accept my written testimony instead.

I wanted to express my support of income-generation proposals as a method by which to help mitigate the State's budget shortfall. We all rely on a number of services provided by the State and even if cutting all of those resources would solve our fiscal problem, it would certainly not leave us with a better State and economy in the long run. But we all know the reality that even cutting State government completely will not solve the problem.

I support an income tax and a restructuring of the PFD (if it can be done so as to not instigate a regressive impact on the lower income demographic that relies on this money). If PFD earnings will be drastically reduced, then perhaps having an income level cutoff that would still facilitate something for lower income earners.

If voters are still adamant about relying on oil revenues, then perhaps a tax (or altered pfd structure) that is reliant on State revenue. When revenues are high (whether from oil tax or from pdf earnings) then the income tax is less. And vice versa.

Nevada does not have an income tax but they have gambling revenue. If the casinos closed tomorrow and the revenue source went away, then certainly the state would have to ask its residents to contribute to the services upon which both sides of the aisle have become accustomed. Well, it seems that our casinos have closed and it's time for us to find alternatives.

I have paid State income tax in California, Oregon, Hawaii, Georgia, and Massachusetts and I am happy to add Alaska to that list in order to continue to make Alaska a great place to live.

Thank you,
Jordan Watson

Doniece Gott

From: Dan Vandermeer <djvandermeer@ak.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:11 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: budget

Cut spending. No taxes.
Lost over a quarter billion? Some finance committee.

Dan Vandermeer,
Anchorage Super-Voter

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Donny Olson
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: reconsideration of OWL funding Haines

Forwarding to Senate Finance as testimony.

From: director@haineslibrary.org [mailto:director@haineslibrary.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:29 PM
To: Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Subject: reconsideration of OWL funding

Dear Senator Olson,

I'm writing to request that you please consider reinstating OWL funding into the budget.

OWL (Online With Libraries) provides broadband subsidies for Alaska's small and remote public libraries, a videoconferencing network for all Alaskans, and leveraged e-rate subsidies.

OWL internet funding leverages federal dollars in E-rate subsidy so is a good investment. **For every \$1 spent by the state on internet services, the federal match is \$4. If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars stay on the table.**

Without OWL, Alaskan libraries will lose:

- Affordable and high speed Internet connections necessary for 21st century tasks and competencies.
- Videoconferencing capabilities which has allowed for student participation in classes not available in their own communities, local Board trainings, personal legal advice, healthcare advocacy, and shared programs and trainings between libraries.
- Access to information and resources and online library catalogs available only through consistent and high speed internet connections.

OWL is a critical program that enables libraries to provide basic internet service to all Alaska residents. Cutting the OWL program will not only create hardship for libraries and communities across the state but will jeopardize federal E-rate funding that pays for 79% of Alaska's high broadband costs to rural and remote libraries. OWL is a critical program that enables libraries to provide basic internet service to all Alaska residents.

Thank you for your thoughtful reconsideration of this important funding for rural libraries.

Sincerely,

Patricia Brown

Director, Haines Borough Public Library

President, Alaska Library Association

Doniece Gott

From: Ruthie Strong <ruthiestrong8@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:24 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: OWL

Please keep OWL up and running it is a useful function for rural communities.
Ruth M Strong
P O Box15
Talkeetna, Ak 99676

Doniece Gott

From: Martha Schoenthal <martha@projdevelopment.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:19 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Chris Kowalczewski; Ann Yadon
Subject: please fund OWL

I was shocked to hear that the Finance Committee has cut the Online With Libraries funding. Please restore it.

My name is Martha Schoenthal; I live in Anchorage, Alaska. As a Project Manager, I have assisted many communities on and off the road system with developing their new libraries. This includes: Ketchikan, Coffman Cove, Thorne Bay, Sitka, and Skagway. ON the road system, I have worked with North Pole, Talkeetna, Willow, Sutton, Wasilla, and Anchor Point.

If the funding cut remains – it will not hurt me directly. I can afford a computer and have high speed internet access here at home. But it will really hurt these smaller communities, on very limited budgets, a lot. The state OWL funding is used to leverage a required match for federal funding for providing free internet usage in libraries. For many of these communities, the library is the only free public access to computers. And one source to stave off the digital divide between the haves and have nots. Many folks in the smaller communities simply do not have access to internet, cannot afford it, or cannot afford computers period.

One thing I really like about working with Librarians is that they keep statistics. On the state library website, for 2013, you will find that there are a total of 904 public use computers in our libraries. And there were 1,077,869 separate sessions on those computers. That's almost 1200 sessions per year for EVERY computer in the state. The finance committee might want to reflect on how many voters that represents.

The public computers and internet access are used to hunt for and apply for jobs. One study estimated that 40% of public library usage was related to employment. They are also used for:

Download City, Borough, State forms

Prepare a resumé

Obtain passport information

File for Permanent Fund Dividend

Prepare quit-claim deeds or make a will

Check and send e-mail

Skype "back home"

Participate in on-line or distance learning classes

File federal taxes

Access medical and health information

Take a proctored on-line test

Home-schooler research

School project research

Print airline boarding passes

Thank-you for your consideration,

Martha

Doniece Gott

From: Deborah Carver <angora@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:03 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: please fund OWL

Please do not cut the OWL funds from the budget. Kodiak Library is one of the only places in our community many people have to get online for job information etc.

Deborah Carver

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Donny Olson
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:01 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: OWL funding

From: MARGARET VOS [mailto:pegone@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 8:11 AM
To: Senator.Click. <Bishop@akleg.gov>
Cc: Senator. <Lynan.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Subject: OWL funding

Dear Senator,

OWL, an important program that funds broadband internet used by 43 public libraries for their patrons and numerous agencies, was included in the Governor's budget, but cut from the House Finance Committee's budget and the Senate Finance Committee. I know you understand the importance of this program to many people statewide, particularly rural Alaskans, but did you know this program brings in a 4-1 match of federal e-rate funding dollars? If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars are left on the table.

OWL funding is small but immense in its range and scope. Please support this portion of the Governor's request and keep OWL available to those 43 public libraries. If cut, these libraries will not be able to absorb the high cost of broadband internet access. Libraries will be in the difficult position of having to raise funds to cover this cost, virtually impossible for all of these libraries. If libraries begin to charge for internet access, those already underserved members of our communities, many of whom are using library resources, will not be able to afford this cost, either. It's hard to believe but there are many folks across Alaska who have no means for this cost, thus rendering them unable to participate in the 21st century except through their public library. No way to apply for jobs, beef up skills, apply for government assistance, etc.

Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference to many people statewide.

Margaret Vos

Talkeetna, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Donny Olson
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:02 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: RE: OWL Funding

-----Original Message-----

From: Tasja Williams [mailto:tasjaalaska@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:16 PM
To: Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Subject: OWL Funding

Mr.Olson,

OWL, an important program that funds broadband internet used by 43 public libraries for their patrons and numerous agencies, was included in the Governor's budget, but cut from the House Finance Committee's budget and the Senate Finance Committee. I know you understand the importance of this program to many people statewide, particularly rural Alaskans, but did you know this program brings in a 4-1 match of federal e-rate funding dollars? If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars are left on the table.

OWL funding is small but immense in it's range and scope. Please support this portion of the Governor's request and keep OWL available to those 43 public libraries. If cut, these libraries will not be able to absorb the high cost of broadband internet access. Libraries will be in the difficult position of having to raise funds to cover this cost, virtually impossible for all of these libraries. if libraries begin to charge for internet access, those already underserved members of our communities, many of whom are using library resources, will not be able to afford this cost, either. It's hard to believe but there are many folks across Alaska who have no means for this cost, thus rendering them unable to participate in the 21st century except through their public library. No way to apply for jobs, beef up skills, apply for government assistance, etc.

Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference to many people statewide.

Sincerely

Natasja Williams

Talkeetna Public Library Aid

Doniece Gott

From: Tiffany Brunson <tiphane3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:29 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please Fund OWL

Hello,

I am writing to ask that you please restore funding for the OWL program in the state budget. I realize these are difficult financial times for Alaska, which is exactly the reason to keep the funding for OWL. 95% of Alaskan public libraries receive federal e-rate funding to provide high-speed internet connectivity, firewalls and filters. For every \$1 of local funds spent on the OWL program, the federal e-rate program provides \$4. By cutting OWL, these federal funds will be gone from Alaskan communities which cannot foot the local bill. In eliminating the \$761,800 from the budget, you are also refusing 4 times that in federal funding.

Free internet is absolutely vital in our highly connected world. The internet provided by local libraries in Alaska's communities allows those without the means to pay for their own internet to search and apply for jobs, keep in touch with loved ones, attend long distance classes and training and be part of an informed community. Last year at the Kodiak Public Library, OWL was used approximately 50,000 times. Please do not take this vital service away from those who most need it and refuse those federal dollars.

The \$761,800 you plan to cut will not make much of a dent in our budget deficit, but it will have a huge impact on our public libraries and the communities they serve.

Thank you.

Tiffany Brunson
Kodiak, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: David Klein <dklein7@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:11 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Pete Kelly; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: State funding for University is essential for present and future economy of the Fairbanks community as well as for thstate

I am an alumni of UAF, first attended classes at University of Alaska in 1948, received a Master of Science degree in wildlife management, served in the 4th Infantry in Alaska during the Korean War, worked for the Territorial Alaska Game Commission in SE Alaska for five years prior to statehood and for the ADF&G after statehood. Became Leader of the Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at UAF in 1962 and a faculty member in the Dept. of Biology and Wildlife after completing a PhD at the University of British Columbia. My position was federally funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The thesis research was on ecology of deer in SE Alaska.

I served on the Alaska Growth Policy Committee during Governor Jay Hammond's administration. I am now retired from UAF as a Professor Emeritus and continue to advise students in the sciences, write and publish technical papers, give invited lectures, and assist in teaching field courses in wildlife ecology, habitat management, and related climate change. Virtually all of this work I have done since retirement has been on a volunteer basis. I have seen and participated in the growth of the University of Alaska into an internationally recognized and leading university with focus on the biological and physical sciences of northern regions, but also including the social sciences, rural health and education.

The University of Alaska budget must be maintained at a level sufficient to enable it to provide a level of education and associated research to enable it to serve the educational needs of young Alaskans and to provide them with the mental and physical tools they will need in the world we will be leaving them. I strongly endorse Governor Walker's proposed state budget and its level of funding for the University. And I believe we must include a state income tax as well as equitable taxing of those who would extract our natural resources. Use of interest income from the Permanent Fund is also justified as "rainy day" use for this year's and next years budget to see us through the current economic slow down. This was the intent of Governor Hammond when he proposed establishment of the Permanent Fund and recommended maintaining the state income tax but at a reduced level during oil boom, however the state income tax was totally eliminated by the State Legislature at that time.

Thank you for this opportunity express my views on the current budget negotiations.

David R. Klein
2027 Weston Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709
dklein7@alaska.edu

Doniece Gott

From: E. Thomas Robinson <etrobinson@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:00 AM
Subject: Education & the University of Alaska

I am greatly concerned about the proposed actions, cuts that are being considered in education and in particular, the University of Alaska. I am a 40+ year resident living in Senate District C and House District 5. I am a Professor Emeritus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks where by contract, my work load covered teaching, research, and service. I will not go into a lengthy detail of my interaction while on contract, but simply say many others attested to my significant and favorable impact in my tripartite efforts, when I retired and was awarded Professor Emeritus status. The Board of Regents are there for both the University and the State, I would think that you would value direction of that Board as well as officials of the University to provide insight and direction in this Constitutional based asset. Please use these resources in making decisions, decisions that provide positive impacts on our great State.

In 1917 the University was established. I am extremely proud of the fact that University of Alaska Fairbanks has earned, developed, and is recognized as a Land Grant, Sea Grant, and Space Grant Institution. This recognition with its triple designation is one of very few, I believe 17, in the Nation. The fact that the University has not been provided with sufficient land transfers is a separate contributing issue to current financial position, but only noted here. This is an issue to be pursued separately.

The University's development reflects a leadership role that has been earned since 1917. During this time other units were developed to serve Alaska, many with teaching, instructional, community college type, closer to population centers in Alaska. As time passed the University of Alaska system consolidated and developed into the current three major units, Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Southeast. I totally can relate and appreciate the efforts of our legislators to learn, interact, and understand what it takes to maintain accreditation of the University, the many units within the units that have their own separate accreditation needs and requirements.

The scope of cuts suggest by the House committee will require amputation instead of a transfusion. Although the Senate committee suggests \$10 million less than the Governor proposed, such major cut backs in funding can make impacts that will cause the Schools or separately accredited units to be cut, even though they will cause very negative ripples through the Alaska economy. An example, education cuts causing the loss of accreditation could mean graduating students not being employable in Alaska (and other) schools, exacerbating an already existing headache in finding new entry level teachers in many school districts. I certainly want my grandchildren to attend accredited schools.

A very sad part of this financial approach is that the Board of Regents are being forced to dealing with these major cuts that have been dealt to them by others. The Board has been time and time again, required to direct scarce resources at the direction of the Legislature instead of directing those resources as they deemed

necessary. A significant example is direction from the Legislature to establish a sports complex that wasn't asked for or considered necessary by the Board in lieu of resources they had requested.

Thank you for all your work and effort, and please do not short change education in Alaska, in particular keeping the University of Alaska, and UAF, the quality institution it is. Forcing amputation and cuts that negatively impact accreditation, quality, or loss of accredited units, should not be a viable direction. Education is an asset that needs to help lead us through years to come. Please on behalf of all of Alaska, follow the Governor's proposed level of funding. This level of cuts remains significant but allows for the University President to continue his restructuring plan and should save major amputations.

E. Thomas Robinson, CPA, CMA, Professor Emeritus
School of Management, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Ducks Unlimited Member; Youth & Education National committee
3744 Mitchell Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99709-4635
H:907.479.2110; C:750.3396 F:455.9110 email: etrobinson@alaska.edu



Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Public testimony: Senate Finance

Kristen Pratt

Legislative Aide
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516
(907) 694-8944

From: Rita Campbell [mailto:campbellrita50@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:48 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; sen.mike.dunleavy@ak.leg.gov; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fw: Public testimony: Senate Finance

On Wednesday, March 9, 2016 2:43 PM, Rita Campbell <campbellrita50@yahoo.com> wrote:

I am writing at this time, March 9, 2016, 2:34pm to urge, as strongly as is humanly possible the full funding of the following programs, at the recommendations by Governor Walker of Alaska or better. I urge full funding of the Personal Care Assistance program, Senior Benefits, the Adult Medicaid Dental Program, the Community Developmental Disability (DD) Grants, the Senior Community Based Grants, Pioneer Homes, Senior and Disability Services General Relief Assistance, Public Safety, and Early Childhood Education Programs.

I am an Alaskan, a regular voter, and I fully support and advocate for all of these programs, for full funding, and full support. I do not advocate that one penny be taken from any of the above programs, as it is counter-productive, unkind, unethical, and unconscionable to do so. These are vital and proven programs, and without them innocent Alaskans will almost certainly suffer skin conditions, falls they would not have otherwise had if they had full assistants to help with their care, dignity, and independence, and others also would not develop in positive, healthy ways, to contribute to our society, and in this case, almost certainly many would suffer in silence, die prematurely, or fall into a life of crime, which would otherwise not have been the case, if they had known the full funding, and full benefits of these vital programs, listed above.

If any mythical budget crisis exists in reality, certainly there are far better, more ethical, more socially responsible alternatives to find money for budget purposes and expenses to benefit our society at large than to ride roughshod on the backs of the most vulnerable, the most ill, the most elder, the youngest, the ones already with the most disabilities and challenges in this life, and all of those least able to defend themselves, or speak for themselves in our state.

Also I do not appreciate the lack of accessible, prior public information on this topic, or the lack of public opportunity to testify, or to comment on this matter. Most people work and have families, so such short notice, and apparent secrecy appears to go against democratic and ethical principles of fair play, and equal opportunity. There should have been letters sent to all those potentially affected, and not just to select recipients. This matter should have been posted in our Alaskan newspapers, and on public websites, radio stations, public media outlets, and in any way possible, so that the public would have been fully aware, and given every reasonable opportunity and time to accommodate their schedules, so they could more likely testify on this matter. I highly doubt that sufficient numbers of people even knew about these proposed cuts, nor that more than a virtual handful had even the practical opportunity to comment in any democratic or fair way, and that is not right.

Thank you kindly for what good you may do for all of your constituents, not just the already greatly privileged ones, and for considering my views in this matter. Have a good day, ladies and gentlemen.

Rita Campbell
4009 Beluga Circle
Homer, Alaska 99603
907 235 2033

Doniece Gott

From: Jenna Steffes <jsteffes@accessalaska.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:44 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please Do Not Cut Funding to the Community DD/General Relief Allocations in the House Or PCA Funding

First of all, I would like to thank the House Finance Committee for the recent amendment to restore a portion of the Senior Community Grants. With the drastic decline in oil prices, I realize that the state is in a fiscal situation where cuts must be made, and it was encouraging to hear that the testimony of the public was taken into account when making these difficult decisions. However, I hope the Senate Finance Committee will also observe that these programs that allow Alaskans to remain Independent in their community are indispensable and that the current level of funding to those programs that serve the most vulnerable population of Alaska be restored because they actually do save money for the state.

Personally, I do not have family or friends that require Independent Living Services or Personal Care Attendant Services. However, I work at an Independent Living Center and every day I can see the positive affects these programs provide the people of Fairbanks and the surrounding areas. From programs that aid individuals to find secure and stable housing to programs that provide durable medical equipment to individuals who experience a temporary or permanent disability. This kind of assistance that is produced at Independent Living Centers is invaluable not only to the public but to the state as well. Preventing institutionalization by allowing an individual the opportunity to acquire services such as a personal care attendant actually saves the state money. This service is critical in providing elderly and disabled Alaskans with the support they need to complete daily living activities.

So please I am asking that funding be restored to the Community DD Grants and General Relief Allocations in the House as well as rethink the current budget reduction of \$9 million to PCA funding. These are vital programs that help a very vulnerable population of Alaska take control of their lives and maintain their independence in the community of their choice.

Thank you,

Jenna Steffes

Administrative Assistant

Doniece Gott

From: KATHLEEN FITZGERALD <camolady650@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 12:04 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony for Heath and Social Services/Operating Budget

Please support the Senate figure of 2.5% cut instead of the House 5% cut to DD grants. These dollars are critical to individuals and families. They make a direct difference in the daily lives of people with disabilities- Your support is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Fitzgerald
41285 Goldeneye Ave.
Soldotna
907-260-6329

Doniece Gott

From: magen@alaska.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:32 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: finance.committe@akleg.gov
Subject: Fwd: Mail delivery failed: returning message to sender

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mail Delivery System <Mailer-Daemon@mxjnu03.legis.state.ak.us>
Subject: Mail delivery failed: returning message to sender
Date: March 9, 2016 at 3:21:07 PM AKST
To: magen@alaska.net

This message was created automatically by mail delivery software.

A message that you sent could not be delivered to one or more of its recipients. This is a permanent error. The following address(es) failed:

finance.committe@akleg.gov
Unrouteable address

----- This is a copy of the message, including all the headers. -----

Return-path: <magen@alaska.net>
Received: from mxl145v246.mxlogic.net ([208.65.145.246] helo=s12p02m091.mxlogic.net)
by mxjnu03.legis.state.ak.us with esmtps (TLSv1.2:DHE-RSA-AES256-GCM-SHA384:256)
(Exim 4.84)
(envelope-from <magen@alaska.net>)
id 1adoLi-0006VR-Bm
for finance.committe@akleg.gov; Wed, 09 Mar 2016 15:21:06 -0900
Authentication-Results: s12p02m091.mxlogic.net; spf=pass
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by s12p02m091.mxlogic.net(mxl_mta-8.5.0-8)
with ESMTP id 8edb0e65.0.116276.00-2393.233207.s12p02m091.mxlogic.net (envelope-from
<magen@alaska.net>);
Wed, 09 Mar 2016 17:20:57 -0700 (MST)
X-POP-User: magen@alaska.net
Received: from [192.168.1.21] (63-140-87-5-radius.dynamic.acsalaska.net [63.140.87.5])
by mail42c28.carrierzone.com (8.14.9/8.13.1) with ESMTP id u2A0KsZ7014165
for <finance.committe@akleg.gov>; Thu, 10 Mar 2016 00:20:56 +0000
From: "magen@alaska.net" <magen@alaska.net>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=utf-8
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
Subject: Funding

Message-Id: <8D7DD7A5-966F-42C8-893A-D792E4E63C2C@alaska.net>
Date: Wed, 9 Mar 2016 15:20:53 -0900
To: finance.committee@akleg.gov
Mime-Version: 1.0 (Mac OS X Mail 9.2 \ (3112\))
X-Mailer: Apple Mail (2.3112)
X-CTCH-RefID:
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X-CTCH-Rules:
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X-CTCH-ScoreCust: 0.000
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Received-SPF: Pass (s12p02m091.mxlogic.net: domain of alaska.net designates 66.175.52.148 as permitted sender)
X-MX-SPF: validation succeeded
X-Spam: [F=0.1428571429; B=0.500(0); STSI=0.500(-8); STSM=0.400(-8); CM=0.500; CY=0.50; MH=0.500(2016030911); S=0.200(2015072901); spf=0.500; SC=]
X-MAIL-FROM: <magen@alaska.net>
X-SOURCE-IP: [66.175.52.148]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of Darryl K. Magen, who is a young adult with Mental =
retardation. Our son is a productive member of our community and well =
liked. He would not be so if it were not for the assistance he =
receives due the necessary funds provided by State resources. He =
currently needs job shadowing, personal hygiene assistance, emergency =
implementation assistance and several home care needs assistance. He =
has been the victim of many =E2=80=9Cbudget=E2=80=9D cuts and decreases =
and each year becomes much more difficult for him to acquire the =
services which allow him as much independence as possible and keep him =
out of an institutional setting. We implore you to support the Senate =
figure for DD grants!

Thank you,
Mrs. Charliissa R. Magen

Doniece Gott

From: Maureen Knutsen <maureen.knutsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Radio funding

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed 100% cut to state funding for public broadcasting. I have been listening to KDLG in Dillingham since 1975 and am a current member of the Friends of KDLG advisory board. I depend on KDLG for local news, weather, and fishing information that I can't get anywhere else and state and national news, too! I am proud of the quality staff we have, the programs we broadcast and the services our station provides to a large area of southwest Alaska. Our federal funding is tied to our state support and will be lost with a total cut of state funding. Please reconsider the total cut and restore some state money for public broadcasting.

Thank you,
Maureen Knutsen
PO Box 134
Naknek, AK 99633
9072466675

Sent from my GCI smartphone.

Doniece Gott

From: Sara Russell <sereed78@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:37 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

As a member of the Alaska Food Policy Council, I believe that food security is key to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. I want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. I am writing today to talk to you about some cuts in the current budget draft (SB 139) that are so deep, I believe they weaken Alaska's food security.

Point 1: Restore funding to the Department of Environmental Conservation, Food Safety & Sanitation program: We know that the Senate has already restored a portion of the funding for this incredibly important program, and we thank you for your efforts to keep our food supply safe.

Point 2: Restore research and outreach funding to the University of Alaska system: While the proposed budget makes no specific cuts to the Cooperative Extension Service, Future Farmers of America, or the 4-H Program, non-specific cuts to the UA budget could force the universities to make tough choices that could reduce funding for those programs by up to 71%.

Point 3: Provide funding for Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center (PMC): The PMC provides a wide variety of fundamental services to the agriculture industry including: certified seed production, horticultural recommendations, conducting variety trials, disease testing and production of the State's only native plant directory. These services help many individual Alaska farmers every year and are an invaluable data source for future growers.

Point 4: Provide funding to the Division of Agriculture Potato Program: Alaska's disease free seed potatoes – which are propagated at the PMC – support a \$3 million dollar industry that feeds Alaskans.

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As we work towards altering our reliance on natural resource extraction, let's not forget that this is also an opportunity to support natural resource production and strengthen our food system.

Sara Russell
Po box 940205
Houston, AK 99694

Doniece Gott

From: Amy Pettit <knappa7@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:02 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

As a member of the Alaska Food Policy Council, I believe that food security is key to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. I want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. I am writing today to talk to you about some cuts in the current budget draft (SB 139) that are so deep, I believe they weaken Alaska's food security.

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Amy Pettit
7537 N Wolverine Rd
Palmer, AK 99645

Doniece Gott

From: Charles Stillman <geopolitical@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

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Also, brint back the damn income tax. This free ride nonsense has got to end.

Charles Stillman
7250 W Silver Drive
Meadow Lakes, AK 99623



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State of Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

It is an unfortunate reality of the financial times of this great state that we are facing the formidable task of increasing revenue, while balancing this out with practical and responsible cuts to services provided. These kind of decisions and restructuring are never easy. We trust in our administration, our elected officials, and the public voice to ensure that all services provided are of value to the people of Alaska, its industries, and its future.

We understand that all state departments have been requested to make cuts to staffing and programs in a manner that provides the greatest savings while minimizing the loss of valuable services to our citizens. It is in this light that we would like to address the *Invasive Species and Agricultural Pest* services provided by the **Plant Materials Center**. This service is one that is of regular benefit to our office and our many cooperators, so we would like to provide some reflective expression on the value this state service provides to many citizens, as well as the agricultural industry.

The impact of invasive species on agricultural production and forest health has been well documented across the globe. In Alaska, we are in a unique position to be defending a front line that long ago advanced across other states. The economic impact of invasive species across the US is well over \$10 billion a year, and that does not include the indirect impacts to local food webs, forest health, tourism, and other victims of decreased biodiversity. The potential for invasives and agricultural pests to significantly impact the agricultural industry in Alaska is a real threat that increases every year as the climate changes and potential vectors increase in frequency and volume. As our statewide economic model watches oil & gas revenue decline sharply, diversification of our economic engines will be a fundamental aspect of our future stability. In Alaska, fisheries, tourism, real estate, and agriculture rank very close behind oil & gas as economic engines, and all four of these have the demonstrated potential to be severely impacted by neglectful management of invasive species. As a cumulative biological factor, this area of resource management is not the kind that can be put on hold. Every season of neglect allows increased spread and establishment of opportunistic species that become exponentially more difficult to manage.

The program brings in enough federal dollars to operate on a \$300,000 budget, while the state pays only the salary of one individual. It is our sincere opinion that the position of Invasive Plants and Agricultural Pest Coordinator is of a value far greater than the potential immediate savings in payroll for the state. In actuality, it is the promotion of this type of service that could help to stabilize the economic downturn in our state and diversify our financial resources.

Homer Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

"To provide education and leadership in the conservation and sustainable use of soil- and water- related resources through cooperative programs that protect, restore and improve our environment."

Doniece Gott

From: Jennifer Haldeman <jennhaldeman83@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:26 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

As a member of the Alaska Food Policy Council, I believe that food security is key to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. I want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. I am writing today to talk to you about some cuts in the current budget draft (SB 139) that are so deep, I believe they weaken Alaska's food security.

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Jennifer Haldeman
PO BOX 298936
WASILLA, AK 99629

Doniece Gott

From: Whitney Lowell <whitneylowell29@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:50 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

As a member of the Alaska Food Policy Council, I believe that food security is key to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. I want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. I am writing today to talk to you about some cuts in the current budget draft (SB 139) that are so deep, I believe they weaken Alaska's food security.

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This point is personally critical. I am in my last year of undergraduate studies and will graduate next Spring with a BS in Environmental Science and a minor in Nutrition. I have a vested interest in Arctic food security and developing sustainable food systems in Arctic regions, namely Alaska. By eliminating research funding to the UA system, this directly effects my ability to continue my education in my desired masters and doctoral programs I want to apply to with in SNRE at UAF.

Eliminating funding to research will bottle neck students. Students graduating from the UA system who are wanting to pursue research and higher education within the state will have diminishing options forcing students to seek their educations out of state. This is a HUGE disservice to Alaskan's and the economy.

Please reconsider the drastic proposed UA cuts, this only hurts students and our future as a state.

Point 3: Provide funding for Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center (PMC): The PMC provides a wide variety of fundamental services to the agriculture industry including: certified seed production, horticultural recommendations, conducting variety trials, disease testing and production of the State's only native plant directory. These services help many individual Alaska farmers every year and are an invaluable data source for future growers.

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Whitney Lowell
1912 Toklat Street
Anchorage, AK 99508



Alaska Food Policy Council

3601 C Street, Ste. 722
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

907-269-8072

akfoodpolicycouncil@gmail.com

AFPC Governing Board

March 9, 2016

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Samantha Ford, *Anchorage*

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Alaska Food Policy Council is a group of Alaskans who believe that food security is vital to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. We want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. We are writing today to share our thoughts about cuts in the current budget draft makes so deep that they will weaken Alaska's food security.

We understand that the state faces fiscal challenges and we recognize and value your expertise in addressing the budget cuts that must be made. We think these necessary changes also provide opportunities: to support farmers, fisherman, and other local businesses; to reduce the number of food dollars that flow out of our state every year; and to strengthen our food system so that when our food chain is disrupted by a late barge or natural disaster, we have safe, healthy, Alaska Grown and produced products to stock our shelves. Much of this can be accomplished in the private sector, but if we cut the budget for building block programs that support these fledgling industries, it will be difficult to recover. With that in mind, here are five suggestions we urge you to consider in the coming days:

- **Restore funding to the Department of Environmental Conservation, Food Safety & Sanitation program:** We know that the Senate has already restored a portion of the funding for this incredibly important program, and we thank you for your efforts to keep our food supply safe.
- **Restore research and outreach funding to the University of Alaska system:** While the proposed budget makes no specific cuts to the Cooperative Extension Service, Future Farmers of America, or the 4-H Program, non-specific cuts to the UA budget could force the universities to make tough choices that could reduce funding for those programs by up to 71%.
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As we work towards altering our reliance on natural resource extraction, let's not forget the opportunity to support natural resource *production* and the strengthening of our food system.

Sincerely,



Victoria Briggs, Co-Chair



Elizabeth Hodges Snyder, Co-Chair

cc:

Governor Bill Walker

Members of the Alaska Senate

Members of the Alaska House of Representatives

Doniece Gott

From: Summer Capet <Sumadore@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:17 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

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Summer Capet
3920 Gardner St.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Doniece Gott

From: Darlene Galido <darlido@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:05 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

Availability of "real" food (that our grandparents would recognize as food) is crucial for a healthy and self-reliant Alaska. I applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of budget cuts that will affect our precious food system. I am writing today to talk to you about some cuts in the current budget draft (SB 139) that are so deep, I believe they weaken Alaska's food security.

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Darlene Galido
1925 Arctic Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99503

Doniece Gott

From: Samantha Russell <Russell.rabbits@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

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Samantha Russell
2650 Snowshoe Lane
Wasilla, AK 99654

Doniece Gott

From: laura cole <laura@229parks.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:01 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

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laura cole
po box 41
denali national park, AK 99755