

Doniece Gott

From: Steven Cunningham <steven.cunningham99@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 6:48 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

Doniece Gott

From: Kristi Wood <bikemoredriveless@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 8:27 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: We Need All Options Until A Solution Is Found

Hello Senate Finance Committee,

I was disappointed to see that Senator Pete Kelly is opposed to any new revenue measures. The economic data regarding Alaska's fiscal crisis from the Institute of Social and Economic Research clearly shows we cannot cut our way out of this crisis, unless we are willing to trigger a serious recession (and I sincerely hope you are not willing to do that).

Even Republican Senators and Representatives alike have stated that due to the magnitude of the fiscal crisis, all options must remain on the table until a solution is found.

I was also concerned to hear Senator Pete Kelly express interest in a strategy to wait for oil prices to rebound. There is no supporting evidence that oil prices will rebound at any time in the near future, and waiting for something to happen where there is no supporting evidence that it will, is not a strategy, it is avoidance.

Please keep an open mind about the Governor's plan. If you are not willing to support it, I expect you will at least be able to come forward with a solution of your own. Alaskans expect, and deserve, true leadership to get us through this fiscal crisis.

Sincerely,
Kristi Wood
Anchorage Resident

Doniece Gott

From: Tony Johansen <TJohansen@grtnw.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:01 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: University of Alaska

Dear Senators McKinnon and Kelly, and Representatives Thompson and Neuman:

I am writing to request that you restore the University's budget to the level proposed by Governor Walker, and that you fund this increase by eliminating the Permanent Fund Dividend. Please put the excess funds saved by eliminating the PFD against the deficit.

When I voted for the amendment to the State's Constitution that allowed for the creation of the Permanent Fund, I was voting to create fund that, when the oil revenue tapered off, could be used to fund necessary government services, not to create yet another government entitlement program.

Sincerely,
Tony Johansen

Doniece Gott

From: Patricia Studley <Patricia.Studley@kodiakhealthcare.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 10:20 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: information

I believe that this is very important information for you to consider if you are planning on cutting early childhood funding. The long range repercussions are devastating. If we as a state and nation do not begin placing more of a financial investment in our young children we will not be able to support the consequences that occur. We are already losing this battle and it will continue to increase unless we stop it in the beginning. I urge you to reconsider this funding cut. Frankly, Alaska cannot afford it in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter.



Warm Regards,

Patricia (Patti) Studley MAS-IFP

Infant Learning Program Developmental Specialist III

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Kodiak Area Native Association | 3449 Rezanof Drive E| Kodiak, Alaska 99615

www.healthcare.org  

From: Tribal MIECHV List [ACF-TRIBAL-MIECHV@LIST.NIH.GOV] on behalf of Beltangady, Moushumi (ACF) [moushumi.beltangady@ACF.HHS.GOV]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 8:05 AM
To: ACF-TRIBAL-MIECHV@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: FYI: NIDA Report: A child's first eight years critical for substance abuse prevention

FYI – this looks like a great resource!

A child's first eight years critical for substance abuse prevention

NIH releases summary of research on early childhood risk and protective factors.

An online guide about interventions in early childhood that can help prevent drug use and other unhealthy behaviors was launched today by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health. The guide offers research-based principles that affect a child's self-control and overall mental health, starting during pregnancy through the eighth year of life. It recognizes that while substance use generally begins during the teen years, it has known biological, psychological, social, and environmental roots that begin even before birth.

"Thanks to more than three decades of research into what makes a young child able to cope with life's inevitable stresses, we now have unique opportunities to intervene very early in life to prevent substance use disorders," said NIDA Director Nora D. Volkow, M.D. "We now know that early intervention can set the stage for more positive self-regulation as children prepare for their school years."

Principles of Substance Abuse Prevention for Early Childhood addresses the major influences on a child's early development such as lack of school readiness skills, insecure attachment issues, and signs of uncontrolled aggression in childhood behaviors. Special attention is given to a child's most vulnerable periods during sensitive transitions, such as a parents' divorce, moving to a new home, or starting school. There is strong evidence that a stable home environment, adequate nutrition, physical and cognitive stimulation, and supportive parenting can lead to good developmental outcomes.

Two supplemental sections for policymakers and practitioners go into greater detail on how early childhood interventions are designed and how to select the right strategies for a community's specific needs. "This guide is important reading for anyone who has an influence over a child's life, from early development through the transition to elementary school," added Volkow.

Principles of Substance Abuse Prevention for Early Childhood is the fourth in a series of evidence-based principles produced by NIDA, including: Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment; Principles of Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Treatment; and Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations. The guide concludes with a list of selected resources with information on research-based early childhood drug use prevention programs.

Read NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow blog post [here](#).

About the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA): The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDA supports most of the world's research on the health aspects of drug use and addiction. The Institute carries out a large variety of programs to inform policy, improve practice, and advance addiction science. Fact sheets on the health effects of drugs and information on NIDA research and other activities can be found at www.drugabuse.gov, which is now compatible with your smartphone, iPad or tablet. To order publications in English or Spanish, call NIDA's DrugPubs research dissemination center at 1-877-NIDA-NIH or 240-645-0228 (TDD) or email requests to drugpubs@nida.nih.gov (link sends e-mail). Online ordering is available at drugpubs.drugabuse.gov. NIDA's media guide can be found at www.drugabuse.gov/publications/media-guide/dear-journalist, and its easy-to-read website can be found at www.easyread.drugabuse.gov. You can follow NIDA on [Twitter \(link is external\)](#) and [Facebook \(link is external\)](#).

About the National Institutes of Health (NIH): NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is

investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.

NIH...Turning Discovery Into Health®

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Doniece Gott

From: LIO Mat-Su
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 11:58 AM
Subject: Budget written testimony

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

From: Donald Witzel [mailto:witzdp@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 10:13 AM
To: LIO Mat-Su <LIO.Mat-Su@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

We fear that the legislature is going to "right size" the state right into a huge recession. We find it unacceptable to just cut the State Budget and simply use savings to make up the remainder of the deficit. EVERY expert has said that the State must bring in new revenue, yet the leaders of the legislature choose to ignore this advice and proceed to bankrupt the state. Mr. Kelly had been quoted on several occasions that he doesn't see how this can take place in an election year. Mr. Kelly seems to be harboring the hope that oil prices will rebound and save the day. In our opinion every legislator who takes this point of view should not be reelected. We need people who want to look at the health of the state for the long term, not just through the election cycle. My representative has pointed out in her newsletter that adding an income tax will cost money and impact people negatively. What does she and you other legislators think cutting the budget will do?

* We support using earnings from the Permanent Fund along with some kind of tax to provide stability to the state's revenue. We support capping the PFD. We do not support draining the budget reserves in order to delay the inevitable. We do support a legislature that is working to bring stability to the state budget and look at the long term health for Alaska.

Don and Phyllis Witzel

Doniece Gott

From: maryann dyke <akspruceitup@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 9:20 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: OWL funding

Please do not cut any more funding for OWL. Too many of us do not have Internet access and have to rely on our Libraries. The phone companies aren't interested in upgrading their equipment and satellite internet is too costly. OWL is very important.

Thank you, MaryAnn Dyke

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: julie robinson <alaskajulie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 10:25 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: a request

To the members of the Finance Committee,
I would respectfully request that you consider NOT dipping so deeply into the State's savings.
This could be your legacy. To come up with a solution that maintains savings in Alaska long-term.
Isn't that really the Republican way? To be smart about money??

You would have my vote next election if you could find a solution. I know you don't want to "get into the taxing business".... but essentially that means you are choosing "Dipping Deeply into the Savings Business."

I think we should have smaller government but also get smaller PFD checks and have a sales tax in the summer only.

Sincerely,
Julie L Robinson, MD
Anchorage

Doniece Gott

From: JW Musgrove <jwmusgrove@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 10:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: AK Budget and Revenue Sharing

Good Evening

A. Personally I agree with a balanced approach of trimming spending, limiting PF dividends, and upping the ante on taxes (small income tax, highway fuel tax increase, maybe a state-wide sales tax). Not in favor of state-wide property taxes. Don't think that would fly.

I believe as crude income was rising, state departments just automatically increased their budgets. Doesn't seem like it worked out all that well. We now have a gihugic bureaucracy that is unsustainable. Not just individual state worker wages, but whole departments are now dead weight.

Two examples.

1. That group of revenue officials that predict crude oil prices. They are still courting the 50\$ barrel. Ludicrous. That whole department needs to go. They want 50\$ so other departments can justify their inflated budgets. Send them packing.

2. Last week I took a picture of the truck cops on the Richardson by Ft. Greely. TWO cops in TWO SUVs. This is the second time this year I saw this. I have NEVER seen two cops on this mission before. Their department seems to be trying to pump up their workforce justification during this time of budget stress. This is an obvious featherbedding job. Two cops, two vehicles, two hundred miles round trip each. Send one of these guys packing.

B. I believe state revenue sharing gets the money right where the rubber meets the road. Cities (and boroughs, too) get out there and do plenty of things for the people that the State just does not have the resources to accomplish. Roads, airports, public safety, garbage, cemetery's, libraries...the list is endless. Please do not look at it money wasted. Cities take care of plenty of the peoples business.

thanx

jw musgrove

City Council member Delta Junction

Doniece Gott

From: Luke Marquardt <cosmikcow@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 4:04 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAIL is an economic return

SAIL is a good investment, it improves the economy and lives.

It is not just financial support by way of grants, that SAIL and DVR provides support for people wanting to be a productive member of society. I owe being self employed in my own diving business to the emotional and moral support of the truly nurturing wonderful people who worked with me in this endeavor. I never had the advantage of people who supported me in following out a dream and who had the expertise to show me how to do it, until I began working with SAIL.

Luke Marquardt
owner
Siver Sine Scuba

Doniece Gott

From: Heather Richardson <heatherrichardson.alaska@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 4:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Childhood Investment

Hello-

I am writing to beg of you that the funding for the Imagination library is not cut. Now is not the time to cut funds for programs such as Parents as Teachers, PreK grants, and Best Beginnings all have been cut. I am hoping it is not too late for you to relies we are punishing our children and the future of America by heading down this path. We need to put all of our energy into educating and giving our children the skills they will need to be leaders someday soon. They will be in charge of our great Nation someday and we need to prepare them. Cutting these programs is counter intuitive. Please rethink this.

Loving Ak Mom

(Heather Richardson)

Doniece Gott

From: Jennie Hafele
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 4:14 PM
Subject: Testimony

Topic:
Budget
PFD
Income Tax

Please enter into the record the emailed testimony below to the bills in your committee dated 3/16/2016

PFD: HB 245/SB 128

PFD: SB 114/HB 303

Income Tax: HB 250/SB134

Cc: Interior Delegation members

Thanks,
Jennie
FBX LIO

From: Don Pendergrast
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:37 AM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: My budget expectations

Alaska Legislators,

Alaska's budget crisis cannot be solved the way our state revenue stream is structured but it can be soothed by thoughtful actions from our elected officials and it's citizens.

The state needs to increase revenue, reallocate resources, spend frugally and wisely, and foster long term economic growth so we are not so dependent on oil and gas revenues. I want to express my views on the subjects above.

Increase revenues by raising taxes.

- Alaska needs an income tax. This is easily implemented with minimum administrative costs since it would be a percentage of the federal income tax that most Alaskans pay.
- A state sales tax is another fair tax. A sales tax is more cumbersome to collect and administer, but everyone pays something. It may be wise to exempt some things (e.g. prescription medicines, or certain costs for seniors), but these should be judiciously applied.

Reallocation of existing resources: the Permanent Fund.

- Our annual dividend must be repurposed to help pay for our expenses. It is foolish to pay a dividend and not collect taxes. The expressed purpose of the Permanent Fund was to be a “rainy day” account and that “rainy day” is here.
- We also need to cut contributions to the principle of the Permanent Fund. We need to use some of these funds for the near future. However the Permanent Fund must continue to grow and we must add what we can to the principle. I suggest decreasing the individual dividend by two dollars for every one dollar withheld from the principal. I think this two to one ratio is important because we cannot give up on saving even during these tough times.

Long-term growth for economies is positively correlated to a well-educated and trained population. The surest way to “grow the pie” in Alaska is to support education and training.

- We do not need to cut funding for our university system, in fact that should be increased, but increases spent wisely to train our future work force. Restructuring our university system may make it more efficient.
- Public schools are the backbone of education, they continue to need adequate funding. Pay increases should be based on merit not length of service. A good teacher is priceless, a poor teacher is, well poor. Schools are often the center of social life in communities, if we want to foster community and our future work force we need to fund not fetter our schools.

We need to transform our resource extraction economy to a value added economy.

- Resource based industries must pay more for the resources they use. Our state needs to increase its taxes on our timber, fishing, and mining industries as well as capturing more from the oil and gas industry by increasing taxes and eliminating subsidies.
- Our tourism industry grows steadily, but also needs a transformation to provide much more than “industrial scale” tourism driven by the large cruise operators to smaller locally owned operations which keep the dollars closer to home, and provide more local employment.
- We can provide economic boosts to local economies by refunding weatherization projects. Energy conservation, particularly here in Alaska, pays immediate returns that last for many years. The least expensive energy is what you don’t use. Most energy conservation work is local, benefits to the community are substantial and long lived. It’s the smartest place to stimulate our economy.

In our current budget crisis I cannot support and you should not fund dubious mega-projects of questionable financial return. Halt them, defund them and utilize those funds for more immediate needs. Gone are the days when “the costs are the benefits”.

A lot rides on your decisions in the next several months; all industries and constituencies will try to influence you to favor them. This is the time to be a statesman not a politician. Your decisions and actions need to be focused on what is best for our state, not your re-election. It is the time to put Alaska's future first and foremost. I am certain you will.

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Don Pendergrast
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