From: <u>John Schoen</u>

To: <u>Senate Finance Committee</u>

Subject: Best Beginnings

Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 2:30:14 PM

Senate Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to express my concern that funding for Best Beginnings is being cut. All the research on early childhood education indicates that early interventions and reading lead to success in school. Here in Alaska we are very concerned about graduation rates and preparing our students for successful careers. The social costs of high school dropouts are much more severe than the small amount funded to Best Beginnings. Let's not be short sighted.

Thank you,

Mary Beth Schoen