Public Opinion Message

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From: Please PRINT the information below. This form must be signed by the sender.			
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AMHS 30% Budget Cut is Unacceptable! 3/30/2015

My family and I have lived in and moved to and from Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka and now Juneau.

This hurts businesses-visitors cannot get to and from SE Alaska with their vehicles who buy food, fuel, fishing and sightseeing trips and yes even souvenirs.

This hurts businesses that sell groceries, hardware, TVs and new and used cars!

This hurts schools and students who travel for academic and sports events even as school budgets are cut back.

This hurts my landscaping and nursery business that sells goods and services around SE Alaska and my sharecropping of 18 Meadows Farm in Haines where we grow Alaska Certified Seed Potatoes and Garlic. I need to make monthly trips for care and marketing.

This will affect military families moving into or out of state for their deployments.

This will make travel for scheduled non-emergency medical reasons more expensive and less convenient for residents.

This will affect resident's ability to attend Gold Medal Basketball, Alaska Folk Festival, Conferences and Conventions-all of which help the bottom line of the previously mentioned businesses.

These cuts will help Air Flight services who will see more business but will they have special flights like Alaska Airlines does to bring in more out of town visitors?

This will help make travel to Juneau more difficult for Legislature members and staff-perhaps to give another excuse for moving the Legislature and Capitol!

Which Highways and Bridges will be closed on which days in Southcentral and Interior Alaska to save \$\$\$ on wear and tear/maintenance, save \$\$ on fewer miles for Troopers to patrol, effectively provide more use of closed highways for use as runways so that small airports can be closed! We're sorry the road is closed today- maybe next week!

The Alaska Marine Highway is our Highway!!

Ed Buyarski Ed's Edible Landscaping, 17300 Andreanoff Dr., Juneau, AK 99801

edbuyarshi@hotmail. com

895-4175

DELTA JUNCTION LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Delta.Junction.LIO@akleg.gov Phone: 907.895.4236 Fax: 907.895.5017

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: REPRESENTING:

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HEARING DATE: (S) FINANCE, 3/30/15

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VALDEZ LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

PO Box 1969 Valdez, AK 99686 Phone: 907-835-2111 Fax: 907-835-2097 email: valdez lio@akleg.org

To: Senate Finance Committee

Please accept the enclosed written testimony for the Senate Finance Committee for the teleconference hearing on 3/30/2015.

Mollie K Good Head Librarian Valdez Consortium Library

A copy of this testimony was transmitted to your committee via fax on 3/30/2015. (2 pages)

Thank You,

Sharon Lawrence Valdez LIO

March 30, 2015

To the Senate Finance Committee:

Lam writing to you in support of the Alaska Slate Library's Online with Libraries (OWL) project, as it has greatly benefited the community of Valdez. To give just a few examples: the City of Valdez maintenance dept, was certified for insect spraying via OWL video conferencing. Several restaurant owners and workers took a food safety professional class. Both of these classes improved our community and were not possible without OWL.

Valdez High School Library Associate Pamela Verfaillie has this to say about OWL: "OWL significantly benefited my VHS students during the summer of 2014. Partly because of a summer reading partnership with the Valdez Consortium Library, Lieceived a grant award of the 25 Teens' Top Ten book nominees. During the final event, we video conferenced with a nominated author, Natalie Richards and invited other Alaskan libraries to attend. The presentation was recorded and made available on the State Library's website, allowing it to be shown again to our students during the school year. Without OWL, this video conference would not have been possiblo."

We urge you to support continued funding for OWL. Thank you for your consideration.

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Moilie K. Good Head Librarian Valdez Consortium Library

Sincton Kelly, I am Bab Write MD, born + roused in Wign pell, AK, WWAMI graduate 1973 PAMILY Dictor in Junear Such 1934. I have patients to attend to so hope your committee will Accept this note. On behalf on present, part, future WWAMI Students + quadrates + physicans + Chine in Alaski, I wholebeartedly Hospitals Thenk the Soute Sub committee on Educit For fully funding the WW AUNI program, + removing the intent Donguage to etiminate the program. I encourage the Full Finner Committee to accept the subcomittee's becommendation Thick you got Unite mus 3150 Have Huy Juneau, AK 99801 9077234144

My name is Patricia George, from Juneau and I am here representing the Alaska State Literacy Association. The Alaska State Literacy Association is one of the largest professional education associations in Alaska with a membership of over 400. ASLA is affiliated with the International Literacy Association formerly known as the International Reading Association (IRA). ASLA supports literacy for all, lifetime learning and informed decision making.

We want to urge you to fund the following early childhood literacy programs: Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers and Pre-K Programs.

One part of Best Beginnings is the Imagination Library Program. Children who are enrolled at birth, receive an age and gender appropriate book once a month in the mail. The total cost is \$150 for five years of books, the state has been matching funds with communities, so it has cost the state \$75 per child. That provides the child with up to 60 books in his or her home before entering Kindergarten. Many single parents and families where both parents work two or more jobs simply do not have the time or resources to go to the library or funds to buy books. Data that Juneau has gathered on the Kindergarten entry testing shows the improvement in those scores for children who have participated in the Imagination Library program. It shows that from 2009 to 2014, participation in the Imagination Library increased from 12% to 79% and during the same period there was an improvement of 11% in Kindergarten readiness scores.

Juneau started three years before the other Southeast communities, but the other communities are starting to show improvements and need the opportunity to continue early childhood literacy programs.

As a former first grade teacher, I know that many of our children enter school never having had books in their homes or having the experiences of having books read to them. I know how important it is to have books in all children's homes and to have parents who know how to be their child's first teacher. Thank you for this opportunity to speak and to encourage funding for programs that form the foundation Alaska's youngest citizens need to become lifetime, literate learners.

Patricia George 907-789-0172