

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: Alaska Performance Scholarship
Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 9:22:36 AM

From: Michael Kief [mailto:ckiefm@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 5:37 AM

To: Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Senator.Cathy.Giesel@akleg.gov; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lesil McGuire <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Johnny Ellis <Sen.Johnny.Ellis@akleg.gov>

Subject: Alaska Performance Scholarship

Elected Officials,

I realize Alaska is facing significant budget issues due to the plummeting price of oil. So what did our elected officials do with all of the revenue when the state had a grand surplus?

Governor Parnell's Alaska Performance Scholarship was a great gesture by the state to educate Alaskas' youth and limit brain drain from our state. If our elected officials feel the need to take away a program that thousands of young Alaskan High School students have worked so hard to earn away from them with little to no warning, then all of you should schedule meetings with the high schools in your representative areas and explain your decision directly to the students that have strived to earn that scholarship. Education is an essential element needed to help create a new Alaska economy outside of the struggling oil industry. Do not send a personal assistant or press agent, but you need to state your case to the next generation of potential Alaska Voters. I already know who I will not be voting for if this program is cancelled. I will do my best to ensure that any and all legislators that supported this bill do not get re-elected office. Education is our nations most precious resource and you choose to cast the next generation to the curb.

Do you realize that there are current, freshman, sophomore and junior students that have tracked there class selections based on the Alaska Performance Scholarship pre-requisites? If the state needs to save money on educational expenses, then eliminated cosmetic/aesthetic expenses. Architecturally pleasing sculptures, and pretty buildings do not educate our youth. Highly qualified, motivated teachers with access to educational tools educate our youth. This bill initiative does nothing but dampen the educational spirit of Alaska's Youth. Why should they work hard to achieve something if the prize they are striving for is going to be ripped away just as they nearly have it in their grasp?

Disgusted,

Michael Kief

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