

From: [Sandy Dauenhauer](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Sen. John Coghill](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#)
Subject: Senate Finance bills
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I am appalled at the new low to which the Senate finance committee has sunk in its cowardice and manipulation of the state budget in an effort to avoid taking any responsibility for raising new revenue. No one is fooled by the recent transparent and cynical dodge of foisting millions of dollars of liabilities onto local governments and pretending that there is great savings to the state and its residents.

Most outrageous is the wrenching of Alaska Performance Scholarship monies out of the hands of statewide high school students in a feeble attempt to plug the abyss of deficits caused by many of these same legislators over the past decades. The recklessness, lack of foresight, and incompetence demonstrated by this bill – as well as the contempt shown for the average constituent – is shocking, even to as jaded an observer as this writer.

The legislature must stop playing games and begin work on raising revenues in addition to cuts. Time is too short and the coming blows to the state's future are too great for inaction to continue until after the election is safely over. The days of an industrial sugar daddy supplying all our needs are gone. A prosperous, educated, and safe state requires that citizens support their government with taxes as well as with slogans. It's time to grow up.

And in the name of decency, restore the high school scholarship money. These students represent the future of the state, not a liability.

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