

From: [Massie, Nicole Marie](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Alaska Performance Scholarship
Date: Thursday, March 31, 2016 11:29:24 AM

To whom it may concern,

It was brought to my attention today that there is the potential for the Alaska Performance Scholarship to be eliminated. This would be a huge mistake and disservice to our Alaska Students! I personally have two children, ages 14 and 16 who plan to attend college upon graduation and are planning to apply for this scholarship. My 16 year old has aspirations to attend UAF for Computer Engineering, and before we had knowledge about this scholarship my daughter was anxious about how she was going to be able to afford college. My husband and I both work full-time, but would not be able to afford to pay for her college. I do not want to see my daughter end up with \$111,000 in student loans as I did while completing both an undergraduate degree and a graduate degree. The pursuit of a degree and dream should not result a life long debt. When we learned this scholarship existed this elevated our worries, so if this scholarship is eliminated I know how it will impact us. I feel it is safe to say we are not the only ones with this concern.

I also believe the elimination will have a greater impact on those within the rural Alaskan communities who face greater financial hardships then those of us in the Anchorage and Fairbanks area. Rural Alaskans face high suicide rates, substance abuse issues, and greater financial cost of living expenses. I would assume many rural students view this scholarship as a future they otherwise may view as bleak. This needs to also be taken into consideration.

Then we still need to factor in the loss of trained and educated individuals within Alaska. Without the means to pay for education what will the loss of decent wages amongst Alaskans mean to the local economies in which they live? Less earnings mean less spending. It is simple economics!

You want to fix the budget, I understand this, however doing it on the backs of our youth is NOT the answer. I have a difficult time stomaching this disservice, especially when our superintendent of the ASD is paid in excess of \$200,000, and we have a bloated government. If you want to fix the problems in the state government, fix it from within but do not take away the next generations future to do it!

Lets make the right decision on this!

Nicole Massie