

Operating
Budget Public
Testimony:
Public
Education

Doniece Gott

From: Vero Bunch <bunchvero@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:58 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School cuts

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Thu, Mar 16, 2017 at 10:56 AM, Vero Bunch
<bunchvero@yahoo.com> wrote:

I am speaking on behalf of my kids and everyone else's kids.... school cuts should be the last thing to cut!!! There is no rhyme or reason why our kids should suffer because of the ineptitude of legislators. Our kids already suffer from the lack of extracurricular activities, etc. What happens when kids have absolutely nothing to do? They end up in trouble and in jails!!!!!! Growing up in was lucky for my days to be filled with music, arts, sports etc. It made us better students and happier kids.... how about you guys quit wasting money on stupid things, including giving yourself raises... and put money where it is needed. The dumbing down of our kids is not gonna cut it. I am happy to pay taxes to have every opportunity for our children to flourish. Not for u people to fill ur pockets and waste tax payers money including our dividends on stupid shit.

From a very pissed off patent
Thank you for your time
Veronica bunch

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Doniece Gott

From: Arlot Hall <arlothall@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:36 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 22

We have a Constitutional responsibility to provide an education to all Alaskans. Your proposed cuts to their budget — on top of previous — cuts will cripple the ability of school districts to provide that education. The State of Alaska should increase its revenue sources sufficient to fulfill its obligations to the people by creating an income tax and ensuring that we receive fair value from our oil resources at low market prices by passing HJB133.

Bill Hall
907-748-3216
arlothall@gmail.com

Doniece Gott

From: Jenna Fabian <jenkfabian713@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: STOP cutting our FUTURE!

Please act now to fix the fiscal crisis! We cannot make any more cuts to public education that will hurt our kids. We have constantly been asked to do more with less. How can we help prepare kids for the future if we are constantly cutting education? Many of the careers that our students will excel in haven't even been created yet! Please put a stop to education cuts. Children are our FUTURE.

Best,

Jenna Fabian
Mom & AK Educator

Doniece Gott

From: Larri Spengler <lspengler@ak.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: school funding

Greetings:

Rather than slashing funding for Alaska's schools, the state should be looking at ways to offset some of our budget crisis through things like the Governor proposed, including a state income tax.

Thank you.

Larri Irene Spengler
4545 Thane Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-586-9768 (phone/fax)
lspengler@ak.net

Doniece Gott

From: Michelle Wilson <michelle@ak.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:07 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Senators, keep public education funding in the budget

Members of the Senate Finance Committee.

I know you care about Alaska's children and young people.

I'm seriously concerned about rumors that the GOP intends to keep cutting the public education budget while subsidizing the oil and gas industry ("tax credits"). We need you to direct our state money towards public education of our children, our future, and to continue providing critical jobs in our communities in public education.

Please reconsider giving our public funds to wealthy companies and redirect your public office goals to maintaining civility and integrity in our state by maintaining and funding -not cutting- pre K-12 public education.

Thank You.

Michelle Wilson
8711 Pluto Drive
99507

...

Michelle Wilson
(907) 317-2748

Doniece Gott

From: Michael Backus <mbackus@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:53 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School Funding and State Fiscal Plan

I will be unable to give public testimony at the specified time this Friday.

I am a teacher in the Mat-Su Valley. I have been teaching here for a decade now and love my job. Currently I teach computer science and computer literacy at Teeland Middle School. I am able to make my class engaging and fun and get students to learn many difficult concepts that prepare them for life beyond school when I have reasonable class sizes. But when the number of students gets to be too high, there's only so much I can do. Pretty much every other teacher I know feels the same way. I urge you not to make any cuts to education and to pursue a three pronged approach to balancing our state's budget.

1. First and foremost, I think the time has come for Alaska to have an income tax. Although I have no desire to see my paycheck diminish, I recognize the necessity and am willing to pay for the necessary services that the state provides.
2. It is time to start using a portion of PFD earnings to help balance the budget.
3. We need to make some cuts where we can to the budget and we need to stop giving so many tax credits to oil companies.

Doniece Gott

From: Mary Spalding <mspalding@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:50 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Funding

Please *increase* the funding for public school education. I, like so many citizens, would gladly pay an income tax to supplement the budget.

Thank you.

Mary Spalding
4306 W Dimond Blvd No 3
Anchorage, AK 99502
mspalding@gci.net
907-830-6443

Doniece Gott

From: jacquelyn sparrow <sparrowjd@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:33 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School funds

Does it make sense, if you want citizens to be interested and involved, to present a budget which includes no school funds? The Dispatch gives an explanation- however not everyone has access to the paper. With this type legislating, the public gets lost and even more troublesome rumors of "hidden agendas" start circulating.

Remember "all politics is local" and local means "individual" so legislate open and clearly! Jacquelyn Sparrow

Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Rebecca Bezdecny <rebecca.bezdecny@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 12:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Testimony: 5% Education Cut = Catastrophe

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this as my public testimony regarding the 5% cut to the education budget currently being proposed by some lawmakers.

I write this to you as a mother of three children currently or soon to be enrolled in the public school system. I am the wife of a soon-to-be laid off (due to alleged enrollment numbers) high school science teacher. My husband and I are both products of the Alaska public school system (I also have a degree from the University of Alaska Southeast-Juneau as well). If this 5% cut to education funding comes to fruition the results will be devastating to our children and to the future of this state.

This would cause massive teacher layoffs and ballooning (unlawful!) class sizes for the teachers who remain. This is completely unacceptable and frankly, frightening.

It's time to make the hard decisions that help BUILD our state's future instead of ruining it like a 5% cut to education would do. It's time to bring back the state income tax. It's time to tap into PFD earnings. Yes, I realize these are wildly unpopular ideas and many constituents will complain--but it is something that needs to be done. The future of the state depends on it. You get what you pay for. We can't keep hoping that the price per barrel of oil will go back up--regardless of new explorations promising great supplies of premium crude. Oil prices will not rebound to what we're using to living off of. Even if the prices do rebound, oil is not a sustaining source of revenue. Oil is a finite resource.

My husband and I spent 15 years out of Alaska and recently returned nearly two years ago. We love this state. We want to raise our kids in this state. We want to retire in this state. However, quite frankly, even the suggestion of cutting 5% from something so vital as education funding makes me ashamed to be an Alaskan.

I urge you to do the right thing.

Thank you for the time in reviewing my testimony.

Rebecca Bezdecny
202 S. Forest Dr. #4
Kenai, AK 99611
862-596-8106

Doniece Gott

From: Chelsea Lindquist <chelserin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Don't cut education funding

Dear Legislators,

As a public school employee and a parent of a school age child I am extremely concerned about the proposed budget cuts to education in the state budget. Education is the very foundation on which our society is built. If we are worried about the rate of high school graduation/drop outs, if we are worried about violence among young people, if we are worried about drug use, if we are worried about growing the economy and having a workforce who are trained and educated than ALL of that starts with giving children an education, a foundation for learning and succeeding. Starting with preschool and going all the way to college. We must support our students if we expect them to grow and contribute and be the future of our state.

I would appreciate an answer to the following questions:

- Why was this budget released without the critical pieces when there have been rumors of large cuts to K-12 public education funding?
- When education funding is added back to the budget, will additional hearings occur to allow for public input?
- Is the Senate's ultimate goal to cut K-12 funding by 5%? That will negatively impact every public student in Alaska – is that the Alaska we want?

I appreciate your time and implore you to stand up for Alaska's schools and students and give them the quality education they deserve.

Thank you,
Chelsea Vukovich
99516

Doniece Gott

From: Mike Bronson <bronsonconsulting@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:49 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Please arrange this session to increase public schools' funding so they will raise the reading and math proficiency of students by a grade-level on average statewide. Ask DEED and the school districts to provide you a plan for raising student academic proficiency from near the bottom of the barrel up to the state standards, and then provide the funding to accomplish that.

Thank you,

Mike Bronson

NAACP Anchorage

Doniece Gott

From: Alyssa Keill <akkeill2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:45 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Concerns on the State Budget

Senate Finance Committee members,

I am a resident of Fairbanks. If it matters, I hold a BS in Exercise Science and a MS in Health Promotion. I got these degrees out of state, but I grew up here and I love it here, so I have come back for my career. I also coach competitive swimming in my free time; working primarily with grade school and middle school kids.

It has been brought to my attention that a budget has been put forward with ALL funding for early childhood programs REMOVED. I would like to express my disapproval of this move by my State Government.

I have never understood why education is the first thing to be cut when money gets tight. I find myself wondering this over and over, year after year, because this trend keeps happening. Have we no respect for education? Can we not ALL agree that our education is how we have become successful? If not in a direct "book" manner, but in the structure, the challenge, and the life skills along the way. I find it hard to believe that my legislators think they could have gotten where they are now without the amazing educators who took them on and supported their learning along the way.

This brings me to early childhood education. As I mentioned above, education is not about "book" learning. It is much more. As you may know, very few jobs hire because a person has all the hard skills. They hire someone based off of their soft skills; someone who will also fit in with the company, who can problem solve without having their hand held. These are the skills kids begin learning before kindergarten, in early childhood education. The socialization alone is paramount. Even more important to this issue is the access for families. If funding is stopped for programs who provide early childhood education, not only are we as a State neglecting our youngest people, the ones we are supposed to be looking out for the MOST because they cannot do it themselves, we are also neglecting their families. Without funding, many of these places will not be able to offer services, putting their employees out of work, and forcing the families (mothers, fathers, siblings, single parents, etc) to figure out something else while their child is small. They might not be able to work anymore, which means they cannot provide for their families. It could force them to make rash decisions which put their children at risk during the day, or the night. By denying funding for early childhood education, the lives affected are not 60 children in one early learners daycare, the lives affected reach into the multi-hundreds because these kids cannot stay home alone. And when they get to be school aged, the burden on our already burdened grade-school educators will be even greater.

I ask you, as a resident of this State, to reconsider your budget cuts. Education should never be on the chopping block.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Keill

Did you know New Mexico doesn't pay their law makers a salary? Yes they get per diem and mileage, etc, but I wonder if we'd have enough money left over to *buy nice things* for the State...

Doniece Gott

From: Cindy Long <cincinxoxo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 11:19 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: How educational budget cuts affect me

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am an English language arts teacher at a small school on the Yukon. I just wanted you to hear from a teacher who is out of work for no reason except there is no enough money. Instead of spending cultural time with my students and preparing for next year, I am preparing to go to the job fair in Anchorage next week. Last weekend, I did my First Dance with the dancing group here, I was ACCEPTED by the community, and I had to decline to travel to the "sister-city" and yupik dance with them. I just found out that I am not going to be here next year so I can't spend money to do those thing. I have to move on again.

It is an emotional time already; these Kotlik High School students are losing their counselor and it seems all of the new teachers hired are choosing to move on. I thought it would be possible for me to stay. In a high school staff, there are five of us and I have just been here one year. I have to go. I got pink-slipped in an effort to close the budget gap. Yet, I have to pretend for another few weeks that I am going to be here and positive about the future. This is going to make it really difficult to teach anything of substance.

I think the worst thing is that it is happening to my high school students. The water is bad, they struggle to make it to school at all. This year already we did without a special education teacher and the aides filled in for the 2nd grade. We were helping reduce spending so we did our best. It is going to be particularly hard on the junior class. As seniors, they will have no science teacher, no counselor and no ELA teacher. What kind of success are you setting them up for? What message are you sending to these village students? The assistant principal gets to stay, but only as a way to provide counseling services.

It feels like people who don't teacher are always critical when teachers move away. I want to stay here. I did every thing I was supposed to do and still I have to move on. This is NOT my fault and it's NOT my students' fault and yet we are the ones who continually pay.

What do you in the finance committee have to say about this?

Sincerely,

Cynthia R. Long
Kasilof, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Mari Jamieson <marijaminak@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 9:00 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,

I have lived here for nearly 30 years, I own property and do not have any children.

I grew up in a state where we paid taxes because it was the right thing to do to support our community infrastructure. I believe that we all should contribute to the financial well being of our state and one effective way to do this is by an income tax.

We should not suck the life out of the things that improve our city and our state. Our children are our most precious resource. If we do not support their education we are being "penny wise and pound foolish."

Thank you for your time,

Mari Jamieson
520 W 19th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99503

Doniece Gott

From: Lisa Renken <haylisa69@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 1:29 PM
To: House Finance; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education budget concerns

Thank you for taking time and consideration for public statements.

I've been an elementary school teacher in the Kenai Peninsula Borough for over 16 years. Please consider keeping class sizes from getting larger. Students in each class are at a wide range of skill levels, and many include special needs. Small group and one-on-one instruction is crucial in meeting the needs of each student. As teachers, we are charged with differentiating instruction for each student, and we are glad to rise to the challenge. I consider it my calling to do everything in my power to see that each student in my class succeeds. This is a reachable goal when my class size is around 20 students. But some years class sizes have been closer to 30. This is frustrating not only for teachers, but also for students. Besides not having sufficient small group instruction (let alone one-on-one), there is also a lack of materials, space, etc.

I've heard of many districts going to 4 day weeks in order to solve budget concerns. Please keep class sizes small in the public schools. Thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Carol Hutto <cmhutto52@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 4:20 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; House Finance
Subject: Budget Deficit Hearings

Hello,

I am a secondary school teacher in Soldotna. I teach science in level 7-12.

I urge your to work toward closing the budget gap in our state budget for school. This a serious and increase problem that needs a solution now.

Our kids are affected every day you do nothing. Less money means quite simply less goods and services available in our classrooms. There are many examples:

(1) Teaching science, for example, requires lab equipment and consumable materials. A hands-on STEM program requires materials and equipment to put you hands on. There are MANY high quality labs that I would love to do that I do not do in my classes simply because the money for materials is too great. Instead I chose labs that take minimal materials or I use online simulations. While they are good, they could be better.

(2) Technology is another big issue. In today's science classroom, using technology and learning how to use technology is essential to a well-educated, scientifically savvy population that can solve the problems of our future. Our kids need the best technology available. While our tech department does a valiant job trying to keep up with repairs and support, they can only do so much. We need more and better tech and tech support.

We are a state with many issues that require well trained, scientific mind to solve. We need ALASKAN minds to work on those problems. Those are OUR kids today.

Please consider any and all possible solutions to this budget crisis and know that supporting education is supporting the future of our state.

Carol Hutto

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Carol Hutto

Doniece Gott

From: Justine Pechuzal <jpechuzal@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 7:52 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee; House Finance
Subject: Education funding

Dear Finance Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear this public testimony about a very important issue.

I am an educator in Seward, Alaska. Last year I was the Fine Arts instructor for Seward Elementary and Middle School. I also substitute teach. I have worked in education, as an art educator, for seven years, doing a combination of short-term and long-term work, including artist residencies through out the state. In this time, I have seen many schools, and worked with many students from a diverse background.

I would like to ask you to support a fiscal plan that will close the state budget deficit and avoid major budget cuts that will hurt our students. In a small community such as Seward, it is easy to see the effects of lack of funding. Personalized attention is key to successful education. I would also love to see more funding to support the arts. These programs connect with kids' hearts. Already our district will only fund one specialized teacher position for the elementary school- which this year is music. The kids do not have an art teacher at all. When I was a kid, at my local public school, we had a full time art teacher, as well as a music program. This showed me that my community valued arts as an integral part of education.

Please invest in our state's future!

Thank you,
Justine Pechuzal

Doniece Gott

From: Ranada Hassemer <ranada@arcticbarnabas.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 9:20 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget deficit

Thank you for your time on this critical issue.

My name is Ranada Hassemer. I have taught in Wisconsin for 23 years and this is my 9th year teaching as an interventionist and also test coordinator at Redoubt Elementary School in the Kenai Peninsula School District. Having taken 10 years off when our children were very young, I have been closely involved with education for over 40 years. Many teaching trends have come and gone, family dynamics have drastically changed, and the future for our youngsters is more unknown than ever before. As we try to prepare our students for their future, educators struggle as the jobs many of our students will be working in have yet to be created. We are preparing for the unknown. A daunting task. However, their need for solid basics of reading, math, and problem solving skills has not changed over the decades. Our school district is again talking of increasing the number of students per class which already has seen steady increase in recent years. Children are crossing the thresholds of our classrooms with greater needs than ever before. Not just educationally, but physically and emotionally as well. When our class sizes are continually increasing due to budget constraints, our students are hurting.

I ask you to support a fiscal plan that will close the state's budget deficit and avoid major cuts that will hurt our students.

Thank you again for your time,

Ranada Hassemer
960 Keystone Drive
Soldotna, AK. 99669
907-394-8466

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Paul Greci <paulgreci@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 6:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: do not cut public education

Dear Senators,

I am a long time Alaskan teacher and children's book author. Please do not cut public education. Please keep investing in our students. Today's children are tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Paul Greci
Fairbanks, Alaska
Author of *Surviving Bear Island*
paulgreci.com
Surviving Bear Island

Doniece Gott

From: Donald Hennessey <corcel1951notas@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 5:07 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education

Dear Legislative Committee:

Class sizes have doubled. Funds are extremely limited. Positions are not being filled. It is a burden on the students. Please reconsider any cuts to education. Thank yo.

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Jennifer Olson <JOlson@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 9:34 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Say No to the 5% Cuts to Public Schools - A Teacher Testimony

To the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Jennifer Olson and I am a second grade teacher at Paul Banks Elementary in Homer, Alaska. I would like to ask that you please support a fiscal plan that will close the state's budget deficit and avoid major budget cuts that will hurt our students. I have been a teacher in Alaska for seven years and I am very concerned about the state of our public education system. Since I first started teaching in Homer, I have seen our student to teacher ratio rise from 17:1 to 27:1 due to budget cuts. These cuts have also hurt our intervention programs (fewer intervention teachers, materials, and time), which are an absolutely essential part of ensuring our struggling students receive proper acquisition of early literacy skills. Because there are now fewer opportunities for intervention and our class sizes keep growing, the amount of time I get to work with students one-on-one and in small groups (which is key to meeting our students' individual needs, both academically and behaviorally) has dramatically decreased. We as teachers are doing everything we can with what very little we are given, but this is not how it should be. Public education is crucial to the success of every single one of the citizens of our state and it should be treated as a priority, not an inferiority.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Olson

Doniece Gott

From: Linda Horstman <Linda.Horstman@k21schools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 4:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Education

Hello,

As you deliberate and make difficult budgetary decisions, I urge you to refrain from making any cuts to public education in Alaska. As an Alaskan educator with 34 years experience, I know that local school districts (particularly rural and off the road system schools) cannot withstand any other cuts.

Students in Alaska deserve the best education we can possibly give them. Districts are making do with less to the point that there is no more making do.

Support the children of Alaska. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Linda Horstman
Ketchikan

--

Linda Horstman
Title 1 Teacher
Fawn Mountain Elementary

Doniece Gott

From: walkeralaska@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 4:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please don't cut education!

Please don't cut 5%! I am a parent and teacher at Seward Middle School. There is so much we go without: a librarian, a school counselor, a full-time principal. Please don't cut anything from our already minimal budget.

Sincerely,
Shelly Walker

Doniece Gott

From: jacquelyn sparrow <sparrowjd@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:19 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School funds

Why has the budget been released without

Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Sarah Fineman <sarahbbbb@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:17 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School funding

I am shocked and appalled to hear that you are considering cutting funding to schools in you new budget. This is unacceptable. Students and teachers have faced cuts and shouldered this lack of funding responsibility in their education for several years.

Fund our schools.

Support our teachers.

Our future leaders deserve the resources. Do not short education!

I vote and I am watching.

Find our schools well.

Sarah Fineman
Anchorage Alaska
99508

Doniece Gott

From: Brittany Sofia <brittany.sofia@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:14 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Cuts

Finance Committee Members:

In response to the proposed further cuts to education I want to pose a question. What kind of education do you want for the children of Alaska?

I'm a K-1 elementary school teacher in Anchorage. My personal K-12 education was in rural Minnesota. Every school bond passed. The community supported education leading to small class sizes, extra curricular activities, high quality teachers, and opportunity. When a student walks into a school they feel how much they matter. The state of the building, the amount of time adults are able to spend with them, and the feeling of safety and respect. I was told I mattered in my education in Minnesota. The buildings were top of the line and I had many choices in classes. Teachers were able to meet with me, listen to me, and support my growth.

Throughout my 12 years of teaching in Anchorage I've seen the cuts on education lead to unsafe school - students with behavioral and mental health needs are not getting the support they need and are in the general ed schools. I've seen the supports to the classroom plummet. How can we infuse technology if it is too old to work and no one is there to manage it?

I worked within the Portland Public School system and saw first hand the effect of high class size and the lack of PE or Library. Cutting education budgets doesn't work. They only dismiss children's opportunities and limit their growth potential.

The question I pose to you again is: What kind of education do you want for the children of Alaska?

I hope you consider this question. Please reflect upon it within your hearts and minds.

Sincerely,

Brittany Bauman
K-1 Teacher Anchorage

Feel free to contact me with questions or a response.

3704 Arkansas Dr., Anchorage, AK 99517
907-230-0847

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Brittany Sofia <brittany.sofia@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:14 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Cuts

Finance Committee Members:

In response to the proposed further cuts to education I want to pose a question. What kind of education do you want for the children of Alaska?

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I worked within the Portland Public School system and saw first hand the effect of high class size and the lack of PE or Library. Cutting education budgets doesn't work. They only dismiss children's opportunities and limit their growth potential.

The question I pose to you again is: What kind of education do you want for the children of Alaska?

I hope you consider this question. Please reflect upon it within your hearts and minds.

Sincerely,

Brittany Bauman
K-1 Teacher Anchorage

Feel free to contact me with questions or a response.

3704 Arkansas Dr., Anchorage, AK 99517
907-230-0847

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Sallie Rediske <sallierediske@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 8:22 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public school funding, etc.

To the Finance Committee:

Rapid cutting to our social fabric including public schools, public media, the university system, public transportation and DOT will not save this state. We cannot cut our way out of this mess we find ourselves in. We will have nothing left to support a robust citizenry that provides us with the necessities of a quality life: healthcare, education, roads, access to law enforcement, and an educated pool of employees. Continuing to cut these programs and services will result in an exodus out of Alaska by those seeking a better quality of life for their families and a reduction in those choosing to come to Alaska - either for permanent residence or for travel because of the limitations imposed by such cuts. Continuing forward with such cuts is dragging Alaska backward instead of to the future of a healthy, sound, well-diversified economy that is more resilient to fluctuations in the global oil market.

The funding needs to be found by restructuring the tax on oil companies and a fair and equitable taxation, both income and sales tax.

Sincerely,

Sallie W. Rediske
Homer

Doniece Gott

From: Rachael Hannah <rachaelmhannah@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 10:29 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please do not Reduce Education Budgets

Dear Senators,

My name is Rachael Hannah, and my family and I moved to Anchorage (2015) to raise our children near extended family. I am writing this email regarding two budget reduction issues; Early Childhood education resources and UA budget.

Early Education Resources; As a mom of a son who had hearing issues in infancy and speech delays; the ability for us to take our son to Lake Otis Elementary Pre-K program has been transformative. In the past year while in Ms. Kline's Pre-K room our son has blossomed. This wonderful play-based education setting has encouraged him to speak more and "tell" us stories of his day. Prior to this Pre-K opportunity he was not engaging others by speaking and was at risk for a difficult kindergarten experience. Lake Otis has a wonderfully diverse student body and has given my son the opportunity to have many friends now that will help him continue to engage with others as he continues with his education. He is exploring reading and trying new words, because of the wonderful opportunity of the Pre-K program. I know we are not alone as parents that are extremely thankful that Alaskan resources have been devoted to Early Education Resources for the future leaders of our state.

UA Budget: As a Professor of Biology at UAA I love working with the amazing minds of the students that I work with everyday. I was hired to implement our introductory biology course for majors using current best educational practices. Our students have prospered with the teaching methods that we employ in this course. For example from 2012 to Spring 2015 the student success rate was ~46% (C or better); since Fall 2015 (when I was hired) our student success rate is now 90%. We didn't make the course easier, we made it available for all students to explore the material and provided means for success. We are now at a critical juncture with these students. Our Biology department has lost many strong faculty (17) that could have provided upper-level hands on research opportunities to these students. Now many students are faced with the question "now what" in regards to continuing their training as biological scientists. We need the funds to create these courses, and to provide resources for student education that allows their minds to explore the challenges that face our environment and humanity. I am thankful that I am able to work with such a diverse population at UAA as the only way we can tackle the challenges that lie ahead for Alaskans is through their ingenuity. As an educator and scientist I cannot help them create mental tools for this if I do not have the resources for their education.

If necessary, to support these budgets, I would be willing to pay an income tax or reduce my permanent dividend funds.

Thank you for reading this email and for your thoughtful consideration of these budget cuts. I ask for your continued support for educational resources in Alaska. As through education we can build an amazing sustainable future for our children's children.

Sincerely,
Rachael Hannah