

Operating Budget Public Testimony:

Community Support Services

Public Health

Public Safety

March 15, 2017

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On Monday, 3/13, the Senate FSC on DPS proposed and passed two amendments that affect victim services funding within the FY 18 CDVSA operating budget proposed by Governor Walker.

S DPS Amendment 13 proposes to transfer \$200.0 of CDVSA UGFs – which include the victims services grant line – to fund a new Alaska State Trooper in rural western Alaska. This Trooper may provide some level of first response to victims of DVSA in the area.

Recruitment to attempt to fill 21 vacancies of ‘blue shirt’ Troopers will be finalized later this year. We are unaware of potential savings from ongoing lack of recruitment and retention.

S DPS Amendment 14 urges the CDVSA to divert \$200.0 from its recidivism reduction budget, to dedicate to batterer intervention programming. Fiscal note 31 from DPS for SB 91 (Omnibus Criminal Law and Procedure) explains that this funding is to go towards expanding victim services for underserved rural communities, and for community-specific and evidence-based primary prevention of violence.

In light of these proposals, which aim to increase public safety, member agencies of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault ask that you consider the following:

- **Senate DPS Amendment 13 takes money away from critical first response victim services.** These services include sexual assault response team, shelter and immediate safety, advocacy services, and 24 hour phone crisis lines.
- **Victims rely on these life-saving services. Cutting \$200K from the grant line that ensures already-strained service provision will mean that we are less capable of providing these life-saving services to victims and families.** We know that the demand for victim services provided by our programs is urgent, because we have seen an increase in the number of victims who access our services. In FY 16 alone, CDVSA-funded victim services programs helped 7,929 people (additional statistics may be provided by ANDVSA, if helpful).
- We recognize that this is a tough fiscal climate, and acknowledge that Troopers and other law enforcement are vital first response partners to us. **We ask that you please not fund one type of first response at the expense of another, i.e. direct victims services and advocacy.**
- Regarding Senate DPS Amendment 14: We also would like to note that we prioritize direct service provision for victims’ safety, above programming for batterer intervention. Further, targeted and evidence-based primary prevention programming is integral in the decrease in violence against Alaskan women (a 30+% decrease from 2010 to 2015, according to the Alaska Victimization Survey). Primary prevention reduces violence in the intermediate and long terms, lowering costs caused by experiences of violence.

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE
Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG
Seward SeaView Community Services Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Utqiagvik AWIC Valdez AVV



ANDVSA

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

Main Office

130 Seward St. #214
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 586-3650
Fax: (907) 463-4493

Sitka Office

PO Box 6631
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone: (907) 747-7545
Fax: (907) 747-7547

Anchorage Office

431 W. 7th Ave. #205
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 297-2860
Fax: (907) 279-2451

Please do not hesitate to contact either myself (akazmi@andvsa.org) or Carmen Lowry, Executive Director (clowry@andvsa.org) if you have any questions or would like clarification on any of these points. As your constituents and as service providers, we are here as a resource for you in your important decision-making. Thank you for your continued commitment to domestic violence and sexual assault victims and advocates.

Respectfully,

Aliza Kazmi
Policy Specialist

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE
Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG
Seward SeaView Community Services Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Utqiagvik AWIC Valdez AVV



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii

March 16, 2017

Thank you, Senators, for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Alyson Currey. I am a Juneau resident and I represent Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawaii.

As a health care provider for more than 7,700 people in Alaska annually, Planned Parenthood is heavily invested in the health and wellness of all Alaskans. We are disappointed to see the decrement that was included again this year regarding the removal of funding for medically necessary abortion services from the Department of Health and Social Services budget. As members of the committee know, in 2001 the Alaska Supreme Court ordered the Department and State of Alaska to pay for these services, citing that blocking funding violates the equal protection clause of the Alaska Constitution. Removing the funding from the budget puts the department in the position of either violating the law by not providing these services or cutting other important health care programs to pay them. Neither of these options is ideal. The first one will result in costly lawsuits for the state and the second will compromise the important work of the department. Also, increasing barriers to safe, legal abortion does not change whether or not women need access to abortion. Instead, it makes it more dangerous, and puts women's health and lives at risk. If members of the committee are truly interested in lowering the chances of needing an abortion, please invest in birth control and preventive care.

Which brings me to our next concern – the additional cuts to Public Health Nursing. Alaska continues to lead the nation in STD rates and recently experienced an HIV outbreak in the Bristol Bay area last year. Cutting even more funds to health care facilities and providers is not going to help lower or combat these cases. If CHCs, tribal health and other clinics are not able to fill in the gap, and STD testing and treatment needs are not met, this will end up increasing costs to the state in the future, rather than saving money.

The last concern is recent cuts to DVSA victims' services. Victims' services and advocacy, including sexual assault response teams, immediate shelter, 24-hour phone crisis lines, and support accessing behavioral health services, housing and employment are lifesaving and help ensure people get out of the cycle of violence in the short and long term. This is a matter of public health and safety.

We understand the state's tight fiscal situation and that hard decisions must be made. Yet, please reconsider replacing funds to crucial health care and victims' services and prevent costly negative public health and safety outcomes. Thank you.

Doniece Gott

From: Karrin Parker <parkerkarrin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:23 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Cuts to Public health

To the Finance committee:

Please do not make any further cuts to Public Health Nursing- services have already been drastically cut and cutting further will reduce the ability to protect the publics health!

Cuts to public health nursing are cuts to critical community health care, especially in rural Alaska. These public health centers and staff provide TB screening and treatment, immunizations, prenatal and postpartum counseling, which helps promote healthy births and infant development, well-child exams and school health screenings, disease prevention and emergency preparedness, and health education. The Public Health Nursing program budget was decreased by 20% in 2015. Public health centers in Cordova, Ft. Yukon, Galena, Haines, Seward, and Wrangell have been closed and 31 positions were eliminated. **Please do not cut Public Health Nursing further.**

Thank-you,
Karrin Parker

Doniece Gott

From: gromit@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:52 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: testimony

I am writing today to plead with anyone who will listen regarding the proposed reduction in day hab hours.

My developmentally disabled sister relies on a variety of services including these day hab hours.

Imagine, if you will, if your son or daughter, sister or mother, were limited to 8 hours within a week to do anything substantial out in the community...to go to church...to exercise....to go to the library...to get their hair cut.

For people like my sister, this limit of 8 hours, oftentimes locks them into a world of silence and isolation for the remaining 160 hours of that week.

You and I take for granted all the runs we make during the course of a week, whether its a coffee with a friend, or accomplishing basic tasks.

I am begging you not to slash these much needed opportunities to live. The men and women, boys and girls who require these services have already been short changed of a normal life. The proposal to cut these day hab hours punishes each of them for being physically or developmentally disabled. It is cruel on its face.

I implore you to reconsider. If you would not restrict your own son or daughter to eight hours of opportunities in a week, how can you do this to an already challenged population. Thank you for voting against this budget cut.

Janet Freiman

Doniece Gott

From: catherine@peninsulaloveinc.org
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:59 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Re: Community Support Services

At best, the Kenai Peninsula Borough has nearly nothing available for the poor needing behavioral health treatment, unless the need is profound enough to mandate "nursing level of care" per Medicaid. For the past 24 years my organization has worked with a Peninsula resident who has an inch thick "behavioral health diagnosis", i.e. borderline personality disorder, PTSD, probable bipolar/schizophrenic accompanied by lucid moments, reasonably high intellectual capacity and ability to perform basic physical tasks. No less than her physician at PCHS, myself, and numerous other community agencies have tried to obtain services for this self-sabotaging individual. For a decade the client has lived in a 50 year old trailer, with rotting floor, no water, no electricity, no heat, not fit for occupancy just outside organized cities (no building codes). Our organization in conjunction with other community agencies has tried literally everything to get her into safe housing with services with no success. A few months ago, we were finally successful in obtaining awareness of her situation by Adult Protective Services (APS); and, as is typical, an Anchorage-based court guardian was named. The guardian is trying her very best but has 110 clients and is located outside the client geographical location. She is a mother, grandmother and life-time Peninsula resident and deserves to have someone care about her future. Without community services, these clients will simply be at risk for death, a continued downward behavioral health spiral and the community will be diminished by how the poorest of the poor are treated. Catherine Y. DeLacee

Doniece Gott

From: Helen Gregorio <togiaktribalcourt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Community Support Services

I am writing to ask that the finance committee consider my request to support community based services for programs that serve Alaskans with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, Alzheimers disease and related dementia, traumatic brain injury, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and other disabilities. Without assistance, our people in the villages could not continue to keep our people at home and especially elders out of costly institutions. Community services provides much needed jobs for our community service providers of whom contribute to a healthy workforce and strong Alaskan economy. Please enact a fiscal plan that provides enough revenue to maintain critical services. I work for Tribal Courts and just in the last months, reunited a mother with two disabled children. She successfully completed the requirements for reunification with support from ICWA, Behavioral Health, family, tribal and state all working together. And her support continues in the community because of the services you provide. This service saves the state a cycle of behavioral health treatment and rehabilitative costs for the mother and OCS care for the children! Thank you.

Helen Gregorio
PO Box 250
Togiak, AK 99678

Doniece Gott

From: Rachelle Stockman <rachellem.stockman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:45 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Protect Community-Based Support Services

Hi,

My name is Rachelle Stockman and I am a member of the Alaska Mental Health Board.

I am writing today to ask you to please maintain the funding for community-based support services for vulnerable Alaskans. It is important for all Alaskans that you enact a budget that will protect housing assistance and homeless shelters, benefits for low income seniors, substance abuse and mental health treatment, case management, crisis intervention, education and training for providers and caregivers and the jobs these programs have created.

These programs are not only important to Alaskans who need the community-based services, but also those who earn their living by providing the services. The employees and their families rely on the income from these jobs in order to live here and pay bills. These programs support so many families in so many different ways --Alaska cannot afford to cut funding to these vital programs.

Thank you for supporting jobs and the health and well-being of all Alaska citizens.

Sincerely,
Rachelle Stockman
Anchorage, AK

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Sara Gould

REPRESENTING:

All Individuals with Disabilities

BILL # or SUBJECT:

FY18 ^{DHSS} proposed cuts to Day Habilitation

COMMITTEE:

Any involved SFIN

DATE: 03/13/2017

I read that DHSS is/has proposed a cap on Day Habilitation in all waiver (home-based) recipients to help reduce the fiscal debt. I agree that we need to locate the source of wasted revenues, but that making cuts just for the state without researching how that may impact without research.

and This may be an area where cuts could be made however, I do not see how it is reasonable to cut to ~~not~~ everyone.

As individuals, we all have different needs, so based on that alone, it should be looked at carefully. One person will have more need for day habilitation than another and that is why making cuts that limit everyone is wrong.

Do the research and make cuts where money is truly "wasted", but don't limit people or put them in a category that labels them. indicated that "they are all the same."

We are individuals with specific needs - just like you.

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Shari Tantt, la

REPRESENTING:

Hope Community Resources

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Waiver Services: Day Habilitation

COMMITTEE:

SFINDATE: 3-4-17

Please reconsider your plan for reducing Medicare/Medicaid cost for FY18.

This cap will drastically affect many lives who are currently receiving services and limits an individual's time out in their community.

Do you understand the importance of Day Habilitation and what impact it will have on families, individuals, recreational activities, staff and non profit organizations/agencies.

Who then will be there to support people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and children with complex medical conditions?

You will be taking away community involvement and activities such as therapy appointments, swimming, camping trips and fishing, Special Olympic activities, shopping, church, movies, travel, cultural activities, volunteering in their communities and berry picking.

If you are considering taking hours away from individuals who can not always do for themselves then will you consider sacrifice for yourself also?

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Ginger B. Betz
REPRESENTING: People with disabilities
BILL # or SUBJECT: FY18
COMMITTEE: SFIN DATE: 3/8/17

Please do not reduce services to those who without this assistance would not be able to enjoy their life. Without these services they would be forced to just exist. They are people with hopes and dreams who need help shopping, making their appointments, and to enjoy what Alaska has to offer with safety.

Many people who have and will benefit from Day Habilitation services do not have the ability to drive, and need help to remember what proper social cues are. Keeping access to services like Day Habilitation will help help them grow and increase their social skills to get jobs and more.

There IS GREAT Frustration lately that our government officials keep cutting services and benefits, but don't look at their own income and overstaffing...

Please Remember That You Are PUBLIC SERVANTS!

Doniece Gott

From: Beverly Rivard <beverly@beverlyccs.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 5:51 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Community Support Services

To the Honorable Senate Finance Community:

I am a voter living in Wrangell, AK, an island community that relies on community support services to keep our chronically ill and elder residents living in their community with the people who love them, rather than an institution far from home. I am also a behavioral health clinician who has practiced in Alaska for more than 10 years. I can attest that having local behavioral health services and in-home providers keeps children with their families, adults in their homes instead of in a psychiatric facility, and people who have been incarcerated in their community as working citizens instead of becoming repeat offenders. In addition, local people who might not otherwise have jobs are trained to provide needed health services to help their neighbors. Time and time again, I have seen this community pull together to make sure that a friend or neighbor gets access to the services that keep them here on the island.

Therefore I am asking your committee:

- Don't cut funding for community-based support services. Protect housing assistance and homeless shelters, benefits for low income seniors, Pioneer homes, assisted living, substance abuse and mental health treatment, job supports, community health programs, family caregiver and natural supports, case management, crisis intervention, education and training for providers and caregivers, peer support, and transportation services.

- Please enact a fiscal plan that provides enough revenues to maintain critical services because:

- Community-based services keep people stable and out of expensive institutional care-such as hospital emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, and prison.

- Without community supports, a family can lose their ability to care for aging or disabled family members at home.

- Community services provide jobs for health care professionals and paraprofessionals, all of whom contribute to a healthy workforce and strong Alaskan economy.

- The state will pay either way-on the back-end for expensive institutional care, or on the front-end for less expensive community supports.

Thank you for listening.

Beverly Rivard, LCSW

Doniece Gott

From: Karen Nugen-Logan <k.nugen-logan@nugensranchak.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:44 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 532

March 15, 2017

RE: SB532

Dear Senate Finance Committee

I understand that the State has a fiscal problem and that reductions are needed, however, it is very apparent that programs offering services to Alaskan's are being reduce to a level that will close resources available to assist Alaskan's in overcoming Substance Abuse. The Division of Behavioral Health has shifted the funding for Behavioral Health (substance abuse) programs to Medicaid, however, not all substance abuse programs are able to access Medicaid funding, due to the federal IMD exclusion. The Division of Behavioral Health is aware that certain critical substance abuse programs fell under the IMD exclusion, these programs services help Alaskan's overcome substance abuse and become productive citizens. When reducing Behavioral Health grants, the substance abuse programs that provide vital services to Alaska and have no access to Medicaid funding are greatly impacted. I would request that Behavioral Health Grants be held at the same level as last year, Alaska substance abuse program is increasing.

I would hope that the Senate would look at a fiscal plan that stabilizes the State income, which may include using the Permanent Fund and returning to a state income tax, which may not be popular with Alaskan's. I have lived in Alaska for over 50 years, and remember paying a state income tax, long before the Permanent Fund.

Karen Nugen-Logan

P. O. Box 875273

Wasilla, AK

Aknugen@yahoo.co

Doniece Gott

From: Bruce <brcvndsn@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: CBHTR

To the Honorable Senators,

I am a resident of Juneau Alaska. I moved here in August of 2013 to work to provide support for persons living with a mental illness diagnosis. We are having success in securing housing, education, employment and referral services at our agency, Polaris House.

We have reinvigorated efforts to ensure our vulnerable adult populations have the supports and services that are so important to their efforts toward independence. We are succeeding. In every area of our work we see success stories. The Community Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery grants have provided Juneau residents who are living in poverty to have the needed resources to recover from mental illness and substance use disorders as well.

I hope you can see a clear path to eliminate cuts to funds to providers. You are needed to help keep these much needed services in place and moving forward.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to all of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Bruce Van Dusen

Polaris House- Executive Director

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Judi and John Morack <jmorack@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:44 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Community services

As a resident of Alaska for over 50 years and a parent of a mentally ill and disabled child please, please do NOT cut any more social services. I retired a few years ago and now spend my time helping at food banks, community mental health and NAMI and hospice. Volunteers are getting older and can not do it all. Community services are badly needed here in Alaska where so many people have no family to help them when they fall on hard times for one reason or another. Drugs, homelessness, mental illness and poverty are huge problems as everyone knows. Crime, suicides, and alcoholism, are everywhere. We can't keep a lid on these social problems with less funding. We need more funding, not less. Please consider these thoughts from a registered nurse who has worked in the trenches her entire adult life.

Judi Morack R.N.
1621 Wolverine Ln
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

Doniece Gott

From: Tom Kluberton <tomk@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:37 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Cutting Community Disability Support Will Cost More Money Than Save.

- Protect housing assistance and homeless shelters, benefits for low income seniors, Pioneer homes, assisted living, substance abuse and mental health treatment, job supports, community health programs, family caregiver and natural supports, case management, crisis intervention, education and training for providers and caregivers, peer support, and transportation services. **Please do not cut funding for community-based support services.**
- Cutting the Medicaid budget affects thousands of Alaskans and their families. Reduced access to medication, dental services, and other health care services means people will have trouble managing their chronic health care conditions and will end up in emergency rooms and hospitals more frequently. This is the most expensive kind of care. If we want to save money, we need to ensure people have access to preventative and ongoing health care services so they avoid costly acute care. **Please do not cut the Medicaid prescription drug program or the Adult Preventative Dental Program.**
- Cuts to public health nursing are cuts to critical community health care, especially in rural Alaska. These public health centers and staff provide TB screening and treatment, immunizations, prenatal and postpartum counseling, which helps promote healthy births and infant development, well-child exams and school health screenings, disease prevention and emergency preparedness, and health education. The Public Health Nursing program budget was decreased by 20% in 2015. Public health centers in Cordova, Ft. Yukon, Galena, Haines, Seward, and Wrangell have been closed and 31 positions were eliminated. **Please do not cut Public Health Nursing further.**
- Cuts to safety net services for families living in poverty will only make it harder for people to become self-sufficient. Reducing resources for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families risks not only the federal match for these essential programs, but also risks the health and well-being of Alaskan children growing up in poverty. **Please do not cut the general funds for the Adult Temporary Assistance Program.**
- Reductions to the Department of Health and Social Services are reductions to critical public program. The \$7 million proposed cut will get passed on to the programs that serve children, people with disabilities, and older Alaskans. **Please maintain the current level of funding for DHSS.**
- We have already cut the general fund spending by 43% since 2015. **We need a fiscal plan that provides enough revenues to maintain critical services.**

Facts and Figures

- Community behavioral health treatment and rehabilitative services cost 20-50% less than a psychiatric hospital for people with severe mental illness.[1][1]
- Community support services for seniors can cost half to one-fourth less than nursing home care.[2][2]

- For a person not on Medicaid, the cost of nursing home care can be over three times the cost of being served at home and in the community.[3][3]

[1][1] *Comparing outpatient mental health services (average 2010 annual cost of \$8,712/person) to inpatient psychiatric treatment (average 2010 annual cost of \$21,674/person) and residential psychiatric/behavioral rehabilitation services (average 2010 annual cost of \$48,766/person). Source: Long-Term Forecast for Medicaid Enrollment and Spending, Supplements 2008, 2009, and 2010, Department of Health and Social Services*

[2][2] *Comparing home and community-based costs like personal care attendants (average 2016 annual cost \$18,183 /person) and Alaska Living Independently Waiver services (average 2016 annual cost ranging from \$32,868/person) to skilled nursing home costs (average 2016 annual cost \$153,009/person). Source: Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, 2016*

[3][3] *According to the Genworth 2016 Cost of Care Survey, the median annual cost of a semi-private room in a nursing home in Alaska is \$292,000.*

Doniece Gott

From: Daniella DeLozier <danielladelozier@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:36 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Berta Gardner; Rep. Andy Josephson
Subject: please support DHSS community based support services

Hi,
I live at 5003 Sillary Circle in the College Gate neighborhood. I'm writing you to please advocate for NOT CUTTING any more funds to the DHSS budget! We need those services and programs that DHSS provides that serve children, people with disabilities, and older Alaskans. We have already made major cuts to the DHSS budget in 2015, please NO MORE!
Thank you,
Daniella DeLozier

Doniece Gott

From: Catherine Mannix <mannixalaska@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 2:49 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Community based support services

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

You know what kind of social and problems exist in this state and, in particular, Anchorage. **Please do not cut funding for community-based support services. Please do not cut the Medicaid prescription drug program or the Adult Preventative Dental Program. Please do not cut the general funds for the Adult Temporary Assistance Program.**

The savings in the short term will pale in comparison to the long-term financial benefits. Please maintain the current level of funding for DHSS.

Our state's behavioral and mental health services, Medicaid and Medicare support programs serve our neediest citizens. Our economy means nothing without the health of the citizenry.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mannix

Doniece Gott

From: sjfleischman@ymail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 8:39 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Community Support Services

Importance: High

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you NOT to make cuts to community-based support services. Programs like crisis intervention, family caregiver supports, homeless shelters, assisted living, and others keep disabled citizens stable and productive and keep them from needing far more expensive services like psychiatric hospitals. My daughter Courtney, with Down Syndrome, is a thriving, productive member of society largely because of community support services, whereas just a few decades ago she would have been in an institution. It is false economy to cut these services. Please enact a fiscal plan that provides enough revenue flow to maintain critical programs like these.

Steve Fleischman
1133 M Court
Anchorage AK 99501

I am Lisa Petersen. My daughter, Amanda Lambert, is 15 years old and has William's syndrome. This is a genetic condition caused by a microdeletion of a group of genes on Chromosome 7. This syndrome is commonly described as "the cocktail personality". This is because people with this syndrome are generally very friendly and sociable. Amanda is cognitively impaired and receives special education from the Juneau school district. She is a freshman at Juneau Douglas High School. She also receives dayhab services from REACH. Amanda is a vulnerable person because she is overly friendly with strangers. She does not have a filter and will go up to complete strangers for hugs and conversation.

Amanda loves to be in the community and attend movies, sporting events, and other activities. She needs support to participate in activities. If not for REACH, Amanda would only be able to attend activities with her family. She cannot go out alone or even stay home alone unsupervised.

Dayhab services have been a lifesaver for our family and for Amanda. She receives ten hours of services per week during the school year and more hours during the summer and school breaks. Capping services would have a big impact on Amanda and our family. This allows Amanda to be in the community working on skills and being with people. REACH providers are supportive, allowing Amanda to be in the community. This allows her to build communication and social skills. It gets her involved in the community and allows the community to interact with her, too. She loves the theater, the movies, the arts, and mingling with people throughout our community. Dayhab enriches her life. As a disabled person, it is vital that she be a visible part of our community. Dayhab ensures that she is.

Please continue to fund dayhab services for our disabled adults and children. It is so difficult for them to participate in our communities without such services. Defunding dayhab would restrict our disabled citizens to their homes resulting in isolation and loneliness. Our disabled adults and children need to be visible and present in our communities. Thank you for listening.

Doniece Gott

From: Kathy Proulx-Hendrickson <kproulx-hendrickson@hopealaska.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 8:47 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please listen and assist

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am requesting you support community services for those in need. Please do not cut community based dollars since it impacts the lives of so many. Families depend on this and because of supports to date have been able to keep their child or loved one at home.

- Don't cut funding for community-based support services. Protect housing assistance and homeless shelters, benefits for low income seniors, Pioneer homes, assisted living, substance abuse and mental health treatment, job supports, community health programs, family caregiver and natural supports, case management, crisis intervention, education and training for providers and caregivers, peer support, and transportation services.
- Please enact a fiscal plan that provides enough revenues to maintain critical services.
- Community-based services keep people stable and out of expensive institutional care-such as hospital emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, and prison.
- Without community supports, a family can lose their ability to care for aging or disabled family members at home.
- Community services provide jobs for health care professionals and paraprofessionals, all of whom contribute to a healthy workforce and strong Alaskan economy.
- The state will pay either way-on the back-end for expensive institutional care, or on the front-end for less expensive community supports.

Community behavioral health treatment and rehabilitative services cost 20-50% less than a psychiatric hospital for people with severe mental illness.

Community support services for seniors can cost half to one-fourth less than nursing home care.

For a person not on Medicaid, the cost of nursing home care can be over three times the cost of being served at home and in the community.

Alaskans transitioning from corrections, juvenile justice, or therapeutic court programs are more likely to remain crime-free when community supports are available for them.

Thank you for your time.

Kathy Proulx-Hendrickson, M.Ed., PHR, SHRM-CP

3421 Korovin Bay Circle

Anchorage AK 99515

Doniece Gott

From: alisonbrehmer@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 8:17 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony for SB 22

Good morning,

My name is Alison Brehmer. I am a Registered Nurse and am writing as a private citizen.

I'm writing today to tell you that I am strongly opposed to the proposed budget cuts to Public Health Nursing. Safety net health services, prevention, and solid public health infrastructure (such as the capacity to respond to a large outbreak or bioterrorism event) are critical components of the stability and health of Alaska. This budget proposal puts them in jeopardy. Please protect the health of Alaskans and do not cut Public Health Nursing further.

Thank you,
Alison Brehmer
8892 Duran St
Juneau, AK 99801
907-209-4974

Doniece Gott

From: cheri yoesting <cheriyoesting@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 8:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Protect Community Support Services!

Where's the respect for humane treatment of human beings. People should not have to make choices between cutting therapies/services that help individuals develop life skills or family members quitting their jobs and going on welfare. Family caregivers, education and training for providers and caregivers, and peer support allow Alaskan families to stay together and still afford to work and take care of family members who experience mental illness, intellectual and developmental challenges, and other disabilities.

History and data prove that institutions are expensive and not always the best option...do the research! It is less expensive, and usually better for individuals and families, to support one another. Community-based services keep people stable and out of expensive institutional care such as hospital emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, and prison. Community services also provide jobs for health care professionals and paraprofessionals and contribute to a strong Alaskan economy. We...YOU!...need to protect funding for community-based support services! Please enact a fiscal plan that provides enough revenues to maintain these critical services.

Doniece Gott

From: Wendy Leseman <wendyleseman@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 7:00 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Rep. Chuck Kopp
Subject: Please don't reduce community based services

Check out this photo (it's the second photo in the set).

<https://www.adn.com/slideshow/visual/photos/2017/03/08/photos-best-of-march-2017-2/>

This is my daughter Courtney - a super well adjusted adult who has benefitted greatly from quality community based services. Courtney lives in an assisted living home in Anchorage with supports, uses Anchor rides, has a small job, participates in special O activities and is well know in the Anchorage for her participation in events such as the Gild Nugget Triathlon and Ski for Women.

Imagine how different her life would be if she lived in an institution? Not only would the costs be higher for the state, the cost in the quality of life would be severe. I can't even imagine.

I recognize the state is struggling financially now, but cutting programs that support Courtney and a whole list of others who receive community based services in not the answer. If you want to find out more about Courtney and her successful life, just google her. And she is not unusual. There are lots more successful individuals benefiting from community based services.

Please reconsider these cuts. If you cut now, we'll all end up paying for more expensive services somewhere down the road.

Thank you,
Wendy Leseman
Courtney's mom

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: sonda juliussen <jackattackjuliussen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:17 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please don't cut community based services

My daughter is 23 and adopted. She has disability because her mother drank heavily while pregnant. I am her legal guardian and she still lives at home and gets SSI. She is working with Hope Community Services to find employment. She needs help finding a job and learning the job once she finds one. It means the world to us, to her. She needs a job for all the same reasons that everyone needs a job - to feel a sense of accomplishment, to be around people and out in the community instead of sitting at home.

I sincerely believe that ignoring the needs of people who have disability is much more expensive than paying for the services they need. I've seen it time and again. It's in everyone's best interest to see disabled folks healthy, safe and living good lives.

Sonda Juliussen
1324 Garden Street
Anchorage, AK 99508