

Operating
Budget Public
Testimony
Public
Education

Doniece Gott

From: Matt & Jeri Trail <mattnjeri@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding for public schools

The news that the Senate Finance Committee has decided to introduce a budget with almost 0 funding for public schools is ridiculous. How is this even allowable, to propose an unfinished budget, potentially harming school funding? Senate leaders need to remember where they got educated.

We cannot afford a \$60 million cut across the state!

This will harm our children, and cannot be allowed to happen.

Jeri Trail

Doniece Gott

From: Sara Burkholder <s37e68b@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 12:23 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School funding

Come on kids. Lets stop this partisan shilly shallying and get the job done. You folks are behaving like the kids you are trying to cut from the budget. You all have arrived where you are at the will of the people and their generous votes, as well as moral and monetary support. Stop the posturing and the bullying and get the budget resolved. Make education a top priority. Without it our prison population will grow astronomically and it will be the future generations that suffer because of your unwillingness to bite the bullet and do it!!!!

Sara Burkholder
Retired Alaska Teacher

Doniece Gott

From: Teresa Duncan <teresaduncan45@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 12:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fully fund education.

I am Teresa Duncan, and educator in Dillingham. Education must be fully funded for students in our state to succeed. Rural areas like Dillingham have needs that must be met by being fully funded. Our students are our future.

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: dan mortenson <mortensondan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 12:17 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Be Honest With Your Budget Proposals

The ONLY reason I can think of, for the Senate to withhold their education funding totals until AFTER public comment is done, is that they wish to avoid putting the reaction of the public on record, to whatever they have (really) proposed (if withholding information from the public can even be called "proposing").

If they really CARED about what the public thinks of their proposal, THEY'D PROPOSE IT, and let the public comment on it, as they expect to.

HIDING the football, is not the same thing as PLAYING football, after all.

ENOUGH of these shenanigans! Avoiding hearing the honest reactions of the public to your "proposal" is NOT consistent with "seeking input" from the public, or even with the role of public representation at core.

END THIS CORRUPT MANIPULATION OF THE PUBLIC PROCESS, AND START DOING THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS!

Your friend and UNFAILING VOTER,

Dan Mortenson.

Doniece Gott

From: Jenny McKee <mckee.jennym@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 12:14 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget for Schools

Dear Finance Committee,

I wanted to explore you to keep a high level of school funding. I teach kindergarten in Anchorage. In our elementary school we have many classes with over 30 students in them. Not only are the rooms overcrowded, but such large class sizes make it extremely difficult to give the students the attention needed for each child to succeed. Special Education services have also been cut to the point of teachers leaving the profession due to chronically overloaded schedules.

Please avoid further cuts in the budget.

Thank you,
Jennifer McKee

Doniece Gott

From: Jon Dykstra <jondykstra907@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 11:24 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School Budget

Ladies and gentleman:

I am writing to support a more robust school budget with no cuts. As a parent and a teacher, I feel we are struggling enough as it is and cannot afford any more cuts without significantly affecting education in a negative way.

Thanks,
Jon Dykstra
Girdwood

Doniece Gott

From: H Peters <hpeters@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 11:10 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: funding

I am asking, as an Alaskan voter that you indeed fund the public schools. It is appalling that you would consider not funding it. We voters are watching and with this train wreck of an Administration in DC, Republicans will indeed need some help.

Sincerely,
A very concerned voter.

Doniece Gott

From: Leigh Cox <lahenrycox@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 11:06 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education budget?

Why is there no opportunity to testify about an education budget today? I oppose this strategy and consider it undemocratic. The Legislature should be considering revenue raising bills

and NOT cuts to the budget. One of the top priorities should be education!!!!!!!!!!!!

Leigh Anne Cox
1760 Marmot Hill Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Doniece Gott

From: Doug Gregg <greggd@protonmail.ch>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:53 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Funding

Senators,

I was disappointed to see the Senate is not committed to funding for education.

You all know that in your districts school budgets are extremely tight, funding has fallen far behind inflation resulting in significantly reduced programs, and schools are a vital part of our communities. Beyond the education of our youth, which represents the future of Alaska, schools have facilities and programs that anchor our communities.

I realize that developing a budget is going to be even more difficult this year and going forward than in the past. Please find other areas for cuts and make education funding a priority.

Thank you,
Douglas Gregg
Ketchikan

Doniece Gott

From: Kelli Creglow <ckcreglow@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:44 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: education funding

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 25 year Alaskan who is an active voter. I am appalled that our legislature is even considering cutting funding for education, let alone the astronomic amount of 5%. Our representatives continue to tell us how important our children are and how important education is, and yet you continue to defund it. How can that be? We expect teachers to do their jobs by teaching our kids but how do you expect them to do that when you continue to cut funding? Ultimately, it's the children who will suffer. I cannot express enough how incredibly wrong it is to make our kids suffer for adult made problems. I understand our budget is in dire need of reworking, but it cannot be at the expense of Alaskan children. I urge you to rethink where you cut expenses when making the budget. Education should be the last place you cut from. Our children are the future. We need to remember that.

Thank you.

Kelli Creglow
Sterling, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: paul harmon <ptharmon@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Funding

It is imperative that you fully fund our schools in next year's budget. We cannot compromise our children's futures in this way. There is no "fat" to cut. We have already reached bone. The FNSBSD is already anticipating a major increase to the student/teacher ratio, which will leave our classes massive. Learning and teaching in such an environment where every class has 34+ students is extremely difficult. It has become such a cliché to say that we must invest in our children's future to give the the best future possible. It has become a cliché because it is true.

Paul Harmon
Fairbanks

Doniece Gott

From: E Alyssia Rozell <earozell@alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:31 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding

To whom it may concern:

It is imperative that Alaska, and all states, maintain funding of their schools. Not simply because it is the right and decent thing to do to make sure that all Alaskans and Americans have access to a decent education, and that educating our children is the basis of creating a better future for us all, but because schools are the foundation of a good economy. Public schools provide many jobs throughout the community and education level of a community is positively correlated to economic growth! I implore you to put the education of our children first! Do not vote for any bill or legislation that would leave us weaker as a community!

E Alyssia Rozell

Doniece Gott

From: Kreston Neal <nealkr@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:29 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Cuts to education

Dear Finance Committee,

I write to you as worried parent, community member of Anchorage, concerned Alaskan citizen, and as a public school teacher. I fear that if any cuts to education funding will lead to a grim future for Alaskans. Our youth are the next generation of Alaskans. They will be the generation who will be making our future political decisions. Education is the best return on investment dollar for dollar that we invest in it. Also, we reap the worst consequences for the future of our youth if we short them on their opportunities to learn and grow.

As a title 1 teacher at one of the poorest schools in Anchorage, many of my students come from families with criminal, social, and disadvantaged backgrounds. Many of them are on the fence between beating adversity or succumbing to a life that furthers the cycle of poverty and crime.

I not only urge you to fully fund public education but also hope for your consideration in expanding public education to fund public early childhood education and public preschool.

Please understand the implications of your claims that education should be underfunded.... I don't want to live in an Alaska that allows this!

Sincerely,

Concerned citizen of many hats!

Kreston Neal

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: barb angaiak <barbangaik@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:26 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding for Schools is a Critical Need

It is almost impossible for our students to be successful without a proper education. Alaska must do everything we can to be sure our children are ready to build and sustain our future. Please make rational decisions. We know everyone must make sacrifices in this budget crisis but it cannot be at the expense of Alaska's kids. I support a balanced approach of permanent fund earnings, scaling back at a reasonable amount, and a state income tax for all who earn wages in our state. Many who come to Alaska for work do not pay anything into our economy. Their employers pay for their transportation to and from work sites, and cover room and board while they are on the job. They spend almost nothing while they are here even though they benefit from infrastructure provided by the state.

Thank you for the work you are doing. I understand it cannot be easy.

Respectfully,

Barb Angaiak

P.O. Box 1233

Bethel AK 99559

(907) 545-6665

Doniece Gott

From: Margi B <margib543@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:21 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education needs funding and support

Please ensure that public education is fully funded by our state budget. Our youth is our most valuable asset. We need to invest in their education. Quality education relies on small class sizes and quality teaching. The monetary investment in education will have huge returns in the quality of life for Alaskans and the health of our communities. Please support education.

Thank you,
Margi Blanding
40585 Dorothy Drive
Homer, Alaska. 99603

Doniece Gott

From: Nancy Little <nancylou@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:20 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fix it please!!

Please do not make the schools and our children pay the bills for items that could be cut without affecting the futures of thousands of people.

These young people will be OUR future. We will want the best as we age and need their care and protection.

Cut the 'fluff' like the chef for three meals a day, which I doubt you have when you are home. Do your work on time, and most of, all be honest about expenses that most likely could be cut.

My daughter, a teacher at Wasilla High, explained the severity of cuts to me last night. She has three kids in school now, all 4.0 and above, one in college who was well prepared by teachers at Palmer High. Please remember, you are considering real people and their one time chance at K-12 education.

Thank you,
Nancy Little

Doniece Gott

From: Luann McVey <luannmcvey@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:26 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget Concerns

Dear Finance Committee members and Juneau delegation,

Thank you for all of the hours you have dedicated to solving our state's budget woes. I'm writing to encourage you to eliminate the tax credits for the oil and gas industry. It is ridiculous that we are paying money to the oil companies to take the oil from our land - especially in a time of financial difficulty.

I am not opposed to capping the Permanent Fund Dividend and I am in favor of an income tax based on the federal tax. No other state pays its citizens to live there without paying income tax. These are fair, reasonable measures to balance our state's budget.

Finally, NO MORE CUTS - especially to education! We have cut enough programs already. Early childhood programs should be preserved at all cost.

I am a retired Alaskan teacher. I spent 20 of my 29 years of teaching as a literacy instructor, working with children who struggled with reading. The first and second graders who came to me for reading help were, for the most part, kids who did not attend preschool. These were wonderful, curious kids whose preschool experiences with books were limited, largely because their parents didn't realize what a big boost it is to explore books with your children. Reading to, writing with, and talking with children makes all the difference in the world to the development of a child's literacy and we need to offer those experiences if our public schools are to offer equal educational opportunities to all. For that reason, DO NOT CUT EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING PROGRAMS! They are critical to the future of all of us who intend to grow old in Alaska.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey
(907) 957-2124
1507 Second Street
Douglas, AK 99824

Doniece Gott

From: Amanda Adams <amsuad@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education funding

Dear Committee Members,

The education funding that is cut from this budget proposal is vital to the ability of educators to provide the services necessary to educate the students of Alaska. Please understand that our resources are already short, so cutting student access even further is unthinkable. Regardless of tough economic times, education is not the appropriate place to cut costs. Our children deserve to have the access they need to education. Please reconsider this course of action.

Sincerely, Amanda Adams
Parent, educator, citizen

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Melissa Linton <mlintondg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:57 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fund Education!

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Melissa Linton and I am the mother of Brody and Shea (7 and 9 years old) who attend a public school in Soldotna, Alaska.

Reducing funding for education is not an option! The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has kept the impact of budget cuts away from the students, but what you propose now would leave the district no choice but to increase class size, reduce programs and educational opportunities in our schools. This cut will ensure negative effects to children. We are already stressed at the national level with deep budgets cuts being proposed. Please do not exacerbate the situation by not funding education at the current level.

I would hope you, the committee - those who represent the people, would look to our future – our children, and not reduce education to the bare minimum.

Please fund education!

Sincerely,

Melissa Linton

Registered Voter

Soldotna AK

907-252-4512



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
committee name

committee on budget, dated March 16, 2017
bill/subject

Thank you for all of your hard work. I am very concerned about proposed cuts to education. I feel this would be counter to our goals for the future of our state. Education will help us move forward in many areas that benefit the whole state. I am willing to pay more taxes to support our educational system. It is in all of our best interests to do so.

Signed: C. Chatto
Testifier
Kodiak
Representing (optional)
Box 3806
Address
486-5301
Phone number

Doniece Gott

From: Family <thedteam101@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:36 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Our children our future

PLEASE fund education FULLY!

Praying for wisdom & discernment for EACH of you as you SERVE our state as legislators. Thank you!

Respectfully,
Ralph & Cecilia Deatherage
Parents of 4 ADULT children, but still committed to EDUCATION!
37041 Rafie St
Soldotna, AK 99669

Have a blessed day!
Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Jonathan Dillon <jonathandillon@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:12 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget Comments

Dear Finance Committee,

I've lived in Alaska for 25 years—I attended Alaska's public schools as a child, earned my undergraduate degree through the University of Alaska system, and now teach at a public elementary school in Alaska.

First, I'm baffled by the decision to hold public comment on the budget before providing more details on a potential cut to public school funding. According to an ADN article today, "the Senate's proposed [education] reduction will likely emerge Monday. But that's after public testimony is over." I respect your budget process, but I am concerned that this maneuver seems a bit backhanded. All Alaskans have a stake in this discussion and deserve to be included in the conversation.

Second, the Senate's target education reduction of 5% is unrealistic. Alaska's public schools have taken some serious blows over the last few years—many public services have been cut to the bone. We cannot fix the budget with cuts alone—it is time to stop cutting.

Third, we need to start thinking about diversifying our state revenue. We've cut far enough—it is time to start finding ways to ease off our reliance on oil taxes. I support the institution of a new sales tax, a new income tax, or even a restructuring of the Permanent Fund.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Dillon

Doniece Gott

From: Jennifer Jolis <jjolisak@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:11 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Budget

I don't have children. However I have lived my entire adult life in Alaska and intend to do so until I die. It is beyond belief that the legislature--YOU--would consider for even a moment cutting further funds to education--crippling our state for years to come.

Cutting education funding, whether at K-12 level or at the University level, guarantees that the very best we have to offer--outstanding minds, research dollars, and the future of our young people--will all be lost, truly into coming generations.

Many years ago there was an Education Tax--\$25 per year paid by each person (Alaska resident or not) who held a job in Alaska. My understanding was that this was the ONLY tax that did not go to the General Fund, that was designated (and approved in the Constitution) for a specific budget line item.

While the Senate Finance Committee continues to dig in against any taxes, I would bet my next Permanent Fund Dividend that every Alaskan voter would support the re-imposition of this tax. DO IT. DO SOMETHING. DO ANYTHING BUT CUT (AND GUT) EDUCATION FURTHER.

Senator Bishop: I'm counting on you to represent Interior Alaskans on behalf on all Alaskans on this.
Senator VonImhof--I remember meeting you and knowing that the education of our youth was a priority. Make it a priority again.

Jennifer Jolis
PO Box 155
Ester AK 99725

Doniece Gott

From: Tamra Wear <tamra.wear@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 12:51 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: 5% cut to education would be detrimental to our students

Hello,

My name is Tamra Wear and I am the Librarian at Soldotna High School. I'm writing to express my concern at a possible 5% cut to education. A cut of that magnitude would be detrimental to students, teachers, schools, and our communities. As a Librarian I have seen what happens to school libraries in our district with these kinds of cuts. They become unused rooms with no access for students. In the 21st century libraries and librarians are essential to help students succeed in a technology based world. Librarians still curate wonderful book collections but we also provide access to technology and technology education for students. They need this if they are going to succeed in school and out. I have also seen how the PTR in my colleagues' classes grow and how much time they lose with students on a one-on-one basis because of this.

Our schools need to be strong and have the funding to provide a quality education for all students. A 5% cut would be a horrific mistake. Please stand up for schools and quality education and vote no on a 5% cut!

Thank you for your time,

Tamra Wear

42373 National Ave.

Soldotna, AK 99669

Doniece Gott

From: Emily <ozettegirl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Financing education

Hello,

I am an Alaskan and I believe in funding education. If we want our children to be raised to be educated, informed, contributing citizens to our amazing state, they need a solid education. Cutting education funding will increase classroom sizes, reduce supplies and technology expenditures and take away teacher jobs.

Our country is deeply divided and distressed right now. School is a place that can teach children to dialogue about differences, share, make friends and be part of a community that values everyone.

Just because children can't vote doesn't mean that they don't have a voice. I am advocating on their behalf that you do not cut education funding or reduce the BSA. 8.5 million has already been cut from my local district since 2015. No more, please.

thank you
Margaret

Doniece Gott

From: Martha Fleming <MFleming@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:45 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget

Please do not cut the budget for public education. Our children are our future. Please take my PFD.... I have lived here since 1980 and do not deserve \$\$\$ every year.

Thank you,
Martha Fleming
210 Marathon Dr
Seward

Doniece Gott

From: teeka ballas <teekaballas@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: State Operating Budget hearing

Dear Senators,

Every year for the past five years the state has been cutting teachers' and staff members' jobs from our public schools. As it stands, many, if not most of our schools are now underfunded, with teachers and staff overworked and mentally/emotionally overtaxed. We have an enormous and ever-increasing deficit of teachers in this state. The primary cause of this is consistent budget cuts that are causing over-populated classrooms - classrooms that ultimately become unruly and are a detriment to our state's children's learning.

I understand that the initial 96.9% budget cut to education is a spearhead threat so to reach a consensus to instead cut 5%. But we can't afford that 5%. We owe it to our children - to our state - that we will deliver high quality education, transportation, and a healthy, supportive and safe atmosphere for them to learn in. If you take 5% you will be further infringing on the state's constitutional agreement to provide safe, fair and equitable education to our children and college students. There is no way that even a 5% decrease, let alone 96% will not have a negative impact on them.

I am aware that while you are taking public testimony there is currently no school budget to take testimony on. When education funding is added back to the budget, will another round of public hearings be held?

I pray you use ethically sound judgement during this era of economic hardship, and do what is right by the majority and not just a few.

-teeka ballas

Anchorage, AK 99508

Doniece Gott

From: Karen Parr <karenparr31@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:24 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: education funding

According to ADN, we are asked to comment on a budget with most education funding removed. Of course, I don't think the Legislature intends to close down the public school system (imagine the economic collapse!), so when will we get to comment on that portion?

For all its faults, the public school system has been the principal mechanism for preserving our culture, increasing our literacy, and giving our children the tools to succeed in life. It could be much more effective and somewhat more efficient, but (continuing cuts year after year won't do it. The system needs a drastic reorganization, which is a topic for another time. When I was a was a teacher, I campaigned for that, with little success.

Teachers and administrators are doing the best they can to teach everyone from the precocious star pupils to the dyslexic and those from unsupportive homes. When you have resolved the budget crisis, let's talk how we can really configure our system to do the job better.

School funding has been effectively cut, year after year, because it has not kept pace with inflation. Each year we have had to cut teachers -- how is that going to rebuild a system that used to be one of America's best? Please -- no more cuts this year!

Karen Parr
veteran of the public schools

Doniece Gott

From: Mike Illg <Ignipar@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:19 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding for Alaska K-12

Honorable Senators,

As I young father and an uncle to many nieces and nephews in Alaska, I strongly urge that you do not cut funding from the BSA formula. I am aware that our school district (KPBSD) has already cut over \$8 in the last few years. Even with flat funding we will have a \$2.4 million deficit that will require even more cuts... I am not sure where will cut but I know it will compromise the quality education my daughter deserves. I remember seeing a poll from the senate and the results: many Alaskans have responded stating they were in favor of income taxes and using permanent dividend fund... please consider implementing taxes before we attempt to cut public education. The results will be disastrous and we simply do not get a second chance with educating our kids so we need to get it right the first time. Again, please keep the current BSA as we can barely operate with that... anything more will result in the state of a long term degradation of our great state. Please do the right thing and remember: someone paid for your education as a child and you are now in a position to ensure Alaskan children education is adequately paid for as well.

Thank your time and service,

Mike Illg
934 Larkspur Ct.
Homer, AK
99603

Doniece Gott

From: Kristin Romberg <KRomberg@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:11 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Unacceptable Cuts

Hi,

My name is Kristin Romberg and I am a 1st-3rd grade teacher at Soldotna Montessori Charter School. I have been teaching for 16 years. It is unacceptable to continue to make cuts to Education. If you care about the future, you will not make cuts to Education at all. Already, we have faced too many cutbacks that directly impact our students. \$8,550,530 has already been reduced in KPBSD since FY15. This year I am teaching the gifted and talented students while my classroom students are at gym/music, leaving me with extra work, no prep time, and no additional compensation. It is not fair to teachers or students (and their families). NO MORE CUTS!!! It is harming the future of our country: our youth. Sincerely,

Ms. Kris Romberg
Lower Elementary Teacher (1-3)
Gifted and Talented Teacher
Soldotna Montessori Charter School
162 E. Park Ave.
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-260-9221

[KP]<<http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/>>

"Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment." -Maria Montessori

Doniece Gott

From: Gary Riddle <griddle_griddle_1965@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:05 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: no more cuts to education!!

Doniece Gott

From: Emily <ozettegirl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Financing education

Hello,

I am an Alaskan and I believe in funding education. If we want our children to be raised to be educated, informed, contributing citizens to our amazing state, they need a solid education. Cutting education funding will increase classroom sizes, reduce supplies and technology expenditures and take away teacher jobs.

Our country is deeply divided and distressed right now. School is a place that can teach children to dialogue about differences, share, make friends and be part of a community that values everyone.

Just because children can't vote doesn't mean that they don't have a voice. I am advocating on their behalf that you do not cut education funding or reduce the BSA. 8.5 million has already been cut from my local district since 2015. No more, please.

thank you
Margaret

Doniece Gott

From: Maryjane Hadaway <janeybug67@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fund public education

It's cliché, but our children REALLY ARE our future. They deserve the best we can provide. Cutting funds for public education will be detrimental in so many ways. Overcrowded classrooms, outdated buildings and teaching materials, and fewer opportunities for students are a few. Education is important!

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Manette Stanley <manettestanley7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 4:23 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB22

Sir/Ma'am;

Alaska schools, in particular the amazing schools in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD), are the best schools that my children have attended. Being retired military, we have been gifted with numerous schools, districts, and philosophies. And while we can boast about our current standards, a cut in funding will have a dramatic effect on the quality of education that our children are receiving. Such a cut would lead to less educated students, thus lowering the standards by which we live. These students represent the future of our great state and any educational loss would mean a reduction of well-educated employees available to choose from in the future. Thus I am asking, née begging you to consider the future of our state... please fully fund our schools!

Kindly,

Manette Stanley

Seward, Alaska

Mother of 5 KPBSD students ranging from Kindergarten to 8th Grade.

Doniece Gott

From: Alix McKee <alix@alaskan.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 5:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Mia Costello; Rep. Jason Grenn
Subject: SB22 Testimony FY18 Operating Budget

My name is Elizabeth McKee, from Anchorage, Alaska. I live in Senator Costello's district and I would like to provide testimony on Senate Bill 22, the FY 18 Operating Budget.

I'd like to comment first about specific areas of the budget:

- 1) I am confused by the missing funding for schools. This bill contains almost \$40 million for education funding, but has no mention of the \$1.3 billion provided for student transportation and the base-student-allocation. Are we to assume that the State of Alaska will simply not fund K-12 education in our state? How can citizens testify on a budget that is missing this enormous and integral piece? What is your plan for funding K-12 education? I not only support funding at the levels promised last year, but would strongly encourage an increase. School districts around our state have been cutting teachers and staff for the past five years. Our children deserve better. Our economy needs prepared graduates. I strongly encourage you to put this funding into the operating budget and allow citizens to clearly understand what you are planning and give us the opportunity to testify.
- 2) In the Department of Corrections, Health and Rehabilitation Services shows only \$3 million for Substance Abuse Treatment. Given what we know about the current opioid epidemic, I feel certain that many of the people who end up in the care of the Department of Corrections would benefit from increased levels of substance abuse treatment. We all benefit from healthier individuals being released back into the community.
- 3) I'd ask for more information about the \$6 million in Performance Bonuses listed for Departmental Support Services for the Department of Health and Social Services. I did not see performance bonuses listed for any other department and I am puzzled about this in light of the current budget situation.
- 4) I support increased funding for the Office of Public Defender, as well as increasing the number of prosecutors available to prosecute cases around the state. I believe the cut to the number of prosecutors has negatively and directly impacted the safety of our communities.
- 5) I support an increase in the number of case workers for the Office of Children's Services. The case loads for these workers are too high, putting our most vulnerable children at risk.
- 6) I support continued funding for Alaska Public Media. I am a long time supporter and believe that it provides local and statewide news that is not available through other outlets.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of our state and this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth McKee
Anchorage, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Lara McGinnis <laramcginnis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 5:03 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding education

I'm reaching out to you as a concerned parent from Ninilchik School. My son has attended Ninilchik since kindergarten and next year will be his senior year. We have been advised that due to funding cuts two of our core teachers are in jeopardy. I know the teacher pupil ratio rhetoric - our formula is broken. As the manager of a nonprofit myself I understand lack of funding, I understand looking at programs that financially don't make sense, but I also understand that sometimes, even though financially it doesn't make sense to do something, you do it anyway, because it's part of your mission. I feel educating our youth is our most important mission.

Based on the current budget, the Kenai Peninsula School District will be forced to cut one and half teachers from our 7-12 grade at Ninilchik. That leaves us with three and a half teachers to teach 22 classes to our high school and junior high students. They are cutting our Science program as that teacher is not tenured.

We understand budget cuts, we have gone to a block schedule to maximize the teaching time we have and to save the school district money. We have suggested a four day school week, so that we could save money on transportation costs and spend that money on qualified teachers. We have started later to accommodate sharing busses. Other schools are looking at losing a French teacher, we are looking at losing the option of 4 years of math or 4 years of science for our students. This will disqualify them for many scholarships and make them look less favorable on college applications. I worry about the message this is sending our youth. We are telling them that their education is not as important as making sure people have a PFD, that their going to college isn't as important as giving seniors a tax exemption, that their education isn't as important as Alaskan's not paying sales or income tax.

Funding will not always equal out, sometimes we fund programs because it is the right thing to do. Funding our rural schools and ensuring all of our youth in Alaska receive the education they have a right to is imperative. We must keep our teachers in our rural schools and look at other ways to cut the budget. I'll gladly give up my PFD, my property tax exemption and vote to implement a state wide sales tax to fund education. My son wants to be a marine biologist, he's looking at attending a 4 year university and without Chemistry next year, he will not qualify for many of the scholarships that will make this possible for him. So while I am advocating for all of our students, this is personal and I will not let this go quietly. I realize that you have not cut funding, and assume you do not intend to do so this year, I am hoping that you can help us by putting pressure on the school district to review their funding formulas, equal is not equitable in this case.

I also encourage you to set the student base rate for two to three years at a time. Allowing our school districts to proactively budget and not reactively budget. If you set a two year guarantee this year and in 2018 set the rate for 2019 you will create a forward looking budgeting process that will allow school boards and teachers to plan ahead.

Thank you for your time and assistance, I look forward to working with you on finding a solution for our students.

Lara McGinnis
Ninilchik Alaska

Sent from Lara's iPhone
www.kenaipeninsulafair.com



Anchorage School District

Education Center

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. • Anchorage, AK 99504 • 907-742-4000 • www.asdk12.org

Testimony to Senate Finance, March 16, 2017

Tam Agosti-Gisler

The Anchorage School Board continues to advocate for funding the 3 B's - **BSA, Bond Debt Reimbursement and Busing**. Due to talk circulating about a 5% cut to BSA funding, I have been questioned on the financial impact to ASD, and how such a reduction would impact class sizes. The Administration shared that a 5% reduction can mean different things, depending on where the money comes from. A 5% reduction to the BSA would hit the ASD with approximately \$27M in cuts from both the State and the local tax cap. If the Legislature underfunds the foundation program without actually changing the BSA, the impact to the ASD would be approximately \$16M. Both numbers are frightening.

90% of the District's budget is comprised of people – salary and benefits, with the bulk of staff being teachers. Any further reduction in State education funding would most likely result in class size increases. Generally speaking, the average cost per fulltime equivalent employee (or FTE) for salary and benefits is \$100K, so a \$16M reduction is the equivalent of 160 FTE. A \$27M reduction is the equivalent of 270 FTE. In this event, the ASD would need to analyze any potential decreases, taking a holistic view of the District and its programs.

There are those who don't understand the types of reductions we have made in our budget since 2013 and question why we would consider cutting teachers and raising class sizes in the event of any future funding shortfalls. Here are some facts:

- We have cut **100 non-school based personnel**. This includes positions at the Education Center, IT, Purchasing, Warehouse,

Educating All Students for Success in Life

Anchorage School Board Tam Agosti-Gisler, President

Elisa Snelling, Vice President

Starr Marsett, Clerk

Kathleen Plunkett, Treasurer

Bettye Davis

Pat Higgins

Kameron Perez-Verdia

Superintendent Dr. Deena Bishop

Maintenance, custodians and auditorium technicians. This accounts for **25%** of all the reductions we have made in 5 years and **11.4%** of non-school based positions total. When school personnel ask me why it takes so long to receive service for certain functions performed outside of the schools, I point out this reality of what happens when you have 1 person doing what 3 people used to do.

- We have made **125 FTE** reductions in school based personnel, not including teachers. This does include assistant principals, teacher assistants, clerical, counselors, security, CTE resource guides and noon duty attendants. We have also cut **109 FTE** for teachers.

For the record, nearly 80 of the 109 teacher positions would have been eliminated, if PTR had remained steady, due to the declining student enrollment from 2013-2018. In the past 5 years, our student membership has reduced by 4.06% of the 17-18 projected enrollment or 1,964 students.

This reduction of teacher FTE accounts for 28% of all the reductions we have made in the past five years. The total **60%** or almost **7%** of school based positions total.

- We have also made reductions of **59 FTE** in special education, **both** school-based and non-school based. This represents **15%** of all reductions and **4.9%** of all SPED positions.

In addition to these 393 FTE cuts in personnel, we have increased efficiency and made cost reductions in maintenance, custodial and transportation. We have succeeded in setting up shared service agreements with the Municipality of Anchorage for audits, risk management, vehicle maintenance and facility maintenance support to Solid Waste Services (SWS) on a fee-for-services-provided basis. We are charting the way in terms of lowering health care benefit costs for our employees with the ASD Health Care Clinic to open this fall.

I feel like we've been a frog in a pot of boiling water for five years. Each time we think we have figured out how to jump out of the pot, the heat increases and we are back to treading water. Please allow us to escape the pot before you have a dead frog and the dissection of public education happens.

Doniece Gott

From: Jane Beck <JBeck@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 4:53 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: K-12 education funding

Please consider the consequences to our children, our families, our villages, towns, and cities, our state, our businesses, our country, and indeed, our world when education funding suffers drastic cuts. The teachers and educators in Alaska work hard, often in very difficult circumstances (think: isolation, remote locations, access to opportunities, multi-grade classrooms, socio-economic issues...) to provide quality education and learning environments for our children. Our statistics are dismal in comparison to the rest of the country, suggesting that MORE attention on education, not less, is needed in order to prepare our students and youth for the future. Please, remember that cuts to education have very real costs to our state. An uneducated or undereducated citizenry is a recipe for economic disaster.

Thank you for reconsidering,

Jane Beck

Project GRAD Kenai Peninsula

Executive Director

Phone: (907) 226-1876

Fax: (907) 235-5536

"Human. Kind. Be both."

-Dan Pallotta

Doniece Gott

From: Ilona Leider <imbarber@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 5:43 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: I grew up here and have kids

ASD is resilient despite cuts that increase class size, reduce student-teacher contact time, special services for our many kids in need who do not have the support of a stable home life.

Teachers, admin, principals, most parents, have chipped in to pick up the pieces that have dropped due to state cutting.

It is our most vulnerable- those from broken families, violent homes that will slip threw an enormous budget crack. School is the only place we can save these lost children. STOPTHECUTS. Truly they will only end up on other welfare/jail state expenses.

I teach these lost, angry, too wise for their age, 12 year-old souls every day.

Please help the ones with no voice, let alone no support, please,

Ilona Leider 99501

ASD alumni, ASD parent, ASD teacher, 4th generation lifelong alaskan

Sent from my LG G4, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Doniece Gott

From: terry schwarz <terry.schwarz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 9:58 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB22 and the Education

Hi

I am just writing a quick note to voice my concern about the Senate budget bill SB22 and the Education and University budget. Please keep as much funding in these line items as possible. Providing a robust Pre-K to 12th grade education to all the kids of this state is one of the highest priorities for Alaska. And if these kids choose to go to college we should also provide a great university system for them to attend and make the workforce in this state competitive with the rest of the world. Even increase it these lines! The education budget has not kept up with inflation. To be clear I am parent of Kindergartner and 2 yo boy, but I would be asking for this anyhow. I am graduate of both the Anchorage school District and the University system. They have provided me with opportunity to raise my family in Juneau and provide my service back to the state as a state employee. For me it was a great investment on behalf of the State. So in short the Alaska education and university system served me well and I want it to continue to serve all the children of Alaska well, including my kids.

Thank you
Terry Schwarz

586-8254

Doniece Gott

From: Lexie Razor <lexierazor@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 9:50 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding for Schools

Dear Committee Members,

I am a single mother of two and public education teacher. I am concerned with your current views and thoughts of cutting funding for schools. We have experienced such bad cuts in the past and we should not continue to see cuts. Our children are worth the investment. Putting money into schools will help all Alaskans. Please reconsider your cuts to education.

Thank you for your time,

Lexie Razor
Juneau, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Sean Campbell <clearprose@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 9:39 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: education funding

I am writing this morning with deep concern about potential budget cuts that include a 5% reduction to education funding. As a father of two Alaskan children who will soon enter public education, as an Alaskan high school teacher, and as an Alaskan, I feel that it is flawed to make such drastic cuts, which are piled on previous cuts, to an institution that directly influences Alaska's future. Rather than continue to gut what has been a point of pride for our state, institute an income tax to address our budget shortfall.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sean Campbell
Homer, AK

Doniece Gott

From: George Reising <gbsreising@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 9:33 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding Not Cutting

Dear Senators,

I've been following the budget proposals from the House, Senate, and Governor and am quite concerned about the two components: revenue and budget reductions - specifically education.

I am fully in favor of a state income or sales tax as a means support medical services, education, infrastructure, and other services that improve Alaskans safety and quality of life. It is only reasonable that Alaskans share in these costs out of their own pockets and not strictly rely on corporate taxes or royalties. As the federal government plans to reduce spending in departments that specifically enhance Alaska, without state funding or support, our recession will only worsen.

Maintaining a balanced budget is a fundamental responsibility, but the cuts have gone far enough. Education has already taken a large hit. Cutting more does not help our students nor does putting the burden on the boroughs that struggle financially. The future of our state relies on educating our children so they will have the opportunities that we did. Give them a chance.

Enough cuts. Find revenue.

Sincerely,

George Reising
PO Box 3575
Seward, AK 99664

Doniece Gott

From: Tamra Wear <tamra.wear@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 9:33 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Our fiscal crisis

Dear Finance Committee,

As a teacher on the Kenai I am writing to let you know that I am for using the PFD and having an income tax to help with our fiscal budget. I think responsible citizens should be willing to take care of this beautiful state and be willing to pitch in. Please fund education fully, no more cuts to education. Our children cannot afford it! We need to do right by Alaskan children.

Thank you for your time,

Tamra Wear

Soldotna, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Hannibal Grubis <hannibal.grubis@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 9:29 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Don't cut education funding

Don't cut education funding. Children are our most valuable resource. Education is the highest priority in the AK constitution. My highest priority for voting is money for education. I always vote.

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Susan Luckow <s.luckow1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 9:29 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding Public Education

Dear Finance Committee,

Thank you all very much for your service and loyalty to Alaska's future. Education funding plays a vital role to securing the future we want for our state.

Flat funding is a reasonable option for this year but no funding just jeopardizes our future and only means that we will be funding more prisons. Please let every Superintendent know that cutting teachers isn't an options. It's about streamlining daily operations and administrative positions. Not the classroom.

Thanks you for your time-

Susan Luckow

PO Box 84741

Fairbanks, Alaska

99708

Doniece Gott

From: Bill Vedders <billvedders@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:59 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Funding?

Our kids and grandkids can't afford any more cuts to public education. How can I testify on the budget when there is no funding for education included?

This is very strange and has me concerned.

Bill Vedders
504 Ash Ave
Kenai, AK 99611

<'')''''''><{

Doniece Gott

From: Darwin Feakes <d2darwin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:51 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Budget

Please do not cut the education budget. In our little school in Haines we have cut 4 certified personnel for the upcoming year without a cut from the state. We cannot afford any more cuts.

Darwin Feakes
Haines, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Winston Davies <wdavies@wpsd.us>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:38 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Funding

Please, with students and teachers being held to higher standards then ever, why would you cut funding to education? Please fix the financial situation and fund our future. It imperative that education money is not slashed and that it is forward funded.

--

Thanks,

Winston J. Davies

SMS Math & Science Teacher
International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) Instructor
907-305-0112 (Call or Text)
wdavies@wpsd.us

Doniece Gott

From: Heather White <heather_angel_bebe@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:23 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fund education

Stop using education funding as a way to get people fired up. Education should be one of the first things you fund, not one of the last. You were elected to represent the people, so do that instead of playing your political games. Fix the fiscal crisis and DO NOT make any more cuts that will hurt our kids!

-Disappointed Voter

Doniece Gott

From: Nancy Norman <norman.nancy@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:22 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Funding

I am writing to request that your committee put full funding for education into your budget. Appreciate your hard work during these difficult budget years, but education isn't an area we can afford to cut.

Thanks.
Nancy Norman
Juneau, AK

Sent from my iPhone
Nancy Norman
Email: Norman.Nancy@gmail.com

Doniece Gott

From: Stefani Borrego <stefaniborrego@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:21 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: fund public education

Hi -

I am writing to encourage you to fund public education. We cannot expect our schools to adequately educate our children without funding. Please support education. Thank you.

Stefani Borrego
Fairbanks, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Matthew Faris <mattjfaris@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:12 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget

Funding public education is at the heart of our strong country. To cut funding and place the burden on boroughs and municipalities is ludicrous. You have already cut into the PFD- DO NOT CUT EDUCATION

Doniece Gott

From: Julia Saenz <hummbirdy@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:05 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School funding

I am a kindergarten teacher in a title one school in Anchorage. I have a class of 24, which is huge for kindergarten. It is large for any class size, but when you are trying to set the foundation for a student's academic success, it is too much! Budget cuts have left us short of teachers, supplies, and programs to help these students thrive. The support staff lost has put so much more on teacher's plates that we don't really have time to think, or to analyze our students. We have time off when we sleep and that's about it! Cutting budgets more will hurt our students and our future. Alaskan students will not be able to compete in our world because the quality of education will fall. You can't expect the best without finding. You will also lose teachers, because, as it is the load it too much!

Do not cut funds for public schools. It is in no one's best interest!

Julia Saenz

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Callie Martin <callieamartin14@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:02 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I would like to sincerely thank you for taking this time to receive public testimonies. Education has been a prominent component in my life and it is the subject of my written testimony to you.

My name is Callie Giordano and I am a first grade teacher on the Kenai Peninsula. I've always loved learning and spending time in school. My love of learning is what inspired me to become a teacher, because I knew that while on this path, I'd never stop learning and challenging myself. I fear that by decreasing education funding in our great state, it will also decrease the number of teachers that are here to inspire and motivate their students. Teachers become teachers because they care about the future generations. We want to challenge and inspire our youth to believe in themselves and achieve their goals and dreams through hardwork and perseverance, just as my past teachers instilled in me.

I have been a teacher at the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District since August of 2014 and it has been the most rewarding years of my life. However, every year during March and April there is a looming feeling of uncertainty that plagues many teachers in our district. The feeling of "Will there be enough money in the budget this year to keep me?" Every year I dread this time. This time that will decide who will get to keep pursuing their passion, who will get to keep food on the table for their families, who will get to keep paying the mortgage on their houses. It is a very sad and stressful time for many teachers, including myself. I love my students and my family and I want nothing more than to be able to give my very best to both of them each day.

Decreasing funding for schools could lead to fewer teachers and bigger class sizes. Smaller class sizes produce better learning environments for students, which results in students who grow in to life long learners. The children in our school system now are the people who help our communities thrive and who will grow to make the world a better place. Funding our schools is one of the best investments for our communities.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking time to hear our testimonies.

Sincerely,
Callie Giordano
First Grade Teacher
KPBSD

"Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work." - C.S. Lewis

Doniece Gott

From: Pamela Rowell <pamy@ak.net>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 7:59 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education budget

Dear Committee,

I am opposed and strongly urge you to reconsider your current budget plan for public education. Funding must be a priority to maintain a robust public education system in Alaska!!!!

I oppose the current plan and hope you can see funding public education as a #1 priority for the future of our state!

No more cuts for public education!

Kindly,
Pam Rowell
13265 Badger Lane
Anchorage, AK 99516

Doniece Gott

From: beth bowe <bethbowe@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 7:59 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education funding

Please do not cut the budget for our schools and children, they are our future.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Janna & Anatoly <pxalaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 7:57 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: cuts

NO to education budget cuts!
Think of YOUR children!

Janna Lelchuk & Anatoly Khmelev
Juneau, AK

Doniece Gott

From: John Sanborn <jws38stu@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 7:47 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public education

To whom this concerns,
Dear sir and madams,

Thank you for taking the time to truly read this note. I have watched over many years as an employee in public education see both cuts and failure to keep up with inflation. I have witnessed first hand the negative impact this has had on the children in their ability to be successful students. Today's students have incredible pressure to learn to think, to be educated in the basics, and to become productive members in our communities. When you look at these facts along with budget cuts it becomes obvious that the system is coming apart at the very seams. Overwhelmed students and staff doing nearly the impossible with less and less. Not only is this unfair, it is unrealistic. These numbers that you are charged with are actually people, not numbers. Education is not a business it is about people not profits. We are talking about significant impact on future generations, our way of life, and democracy. Please fully fund education despite the financial struggles you may have, it will pay off in so many ways that makes it worthwhile. In closing I leave you with an ancient Chinese proverb: if you are thinking a year ahead sow a seed. If you are thinking ten years ahead plant a tree, and if you are thinking 100 years ahead educate the people.

Sincerely,

John Sanborn
380 W Arlington Avenue
Soldotna, AK 99669
907 399-0426

"Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, and as vital to our lives as water and good bread." Edward Abbey

Doniece Gott

From: Todd Boynton <tboynton4@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 7:31 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Budget Cuts

I've only been teaching for 6 years, but in that time I've seen my school get paired down to bare bones. When I began, the school had 5 teachers, and two aides. Since that year an aide and a teacher have been let go. That's almost 30% of the teaching staff! We're now trying to juggle core subject areas for all 7-12th grade students plus electives all taught by 4 teachers. This doesn't compute mathematically. We can't give students enough focused instruction to meet their needs. Please stop making budget cuts that cut the students' futures.

Todd Boynton

Doniece Gott

From: Carla Jenness <cjenness@kpbsd.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 7:09 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Don't cut schools

Cutting an already lean education budget would be disastrous for schools in Alaska. Fix this broken system which disrupts families and school districts every spring as we struggle to read the tea leaves of the legislature and guess at what level of funding schools will receive each year.

Don't cut schools 5%, don't cut schools at all. Institute and income tax, cut the PFD, but leave schools alone.

Thank you,

Carla Jenness

Nikiski

Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Sandra Havard <jha3775@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 6:42 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: No more public education cuts

I am a parent that needs you to fix the fiscal crisis and not to make any more cuts that will hurt our kids.

Respectfully,
Sandra KS Havard
Palmer, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Cathy Zorbas <CZorbas@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 6:42 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fund education!!

You need to fully fund education! This is critical to the future of our state. Use the permanent fund for your budget.

Thank you!!

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Elayne Hunter <ech2123@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Educational funding

Our educational system is strong because of dedicated teachers and employees despite many years of funding cuts. Weakening our public education looks like it saves when in fact it costs us as we increase drop out /substance abuse rates, families look for better places to raise their children and law enforcement/ incarcerations rise. I am in favor of an income to support our schools and services to educate and keep Alaskans healthy and productive.

Elayne Hunter

Doniece Gott

From: bhree@ompainc.com on behalf of Bhree Roumagoux <bhree@hensch.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: No Ed in Budget?!

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Would you please address these 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 you want?! It is NOT the Alaska I want.

Some quick facts:

- Education funding (Base Student Allocation, or BSA) has increased only 10% over 10 years
- Health insurance costs escalated 265% the past 10 years, on top of inflationary pressure.
- School districts in Alaska have been cutting teachers and staff every year for the past 5 year.

This is not acceptable. We are in a budget crisis and a recession, but cutting education is NOT the way forward. We need well educated children in order to build a strong community and economy for the long term.

Thank you for your time and attention.

--

- Bhree

Bhree Roumagoux
7350 Kidron St.
Anchorage, AK 99502
(907) 240-6463

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Doniece Gott

From: Veronica Padula <vmpadula@alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 6:01 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding for Alaska Education

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Veronica Padula, I'm a graduate student in the UA system and also a science educator. I have worked very closely with public school teachers across the state to bring science into the classroom. I have seen first hand the hard work public school educators put in to helping their students succeed, often with limited resources and time. Funding for public education is essential for Alaska's children, particularly those in rural Alaska, where the public school is the only choice for education. Please consider fully funding the education budget, as the success of our children relies so heavily on access to quality education.

Sincerely,
Veronica Padula

--

Veronica Padula
University of Alaska Fairbanks/Anchorage
College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
Website: <http://causeylab.uaa.alaska.edu/indexveronica.html>
Experiment project page: <https://experiment.com/projects/iipkbvfcyxedxfjskahd>