

Operating
Budget Public
Testimony
Public
Broadcasting
System

GWANDAK PUBLIC BROADCASTING, INC.

KZPA – 900 AM

P.O. Box 50

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Phone: 907-662-6356

Fax: 907-662-2915

March 20, 2017

State of Alaska
Finance Committee
Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

This is to oppose the state funding cuts proposed to public broadcasting. Our local radio station is vital part to our community and surrounding villages here. Please continue to support on behalf of public broadcasting.

Thank You,

Stephen R. English
Signature

STEPHEN R. English
Printed Name

Box 105
Address

Fort Yukon, AK. 99740
City, State, Zip Code

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This is to oppose the state funding cuts proposed to public broadcasting. Our local radio station is vital part to our community and surrounding villages here. Please continue to support on behalf of public broadcasting.

Thank You,

John L. Alexander
Signature

John L. Alexander
Printed Name

P.O. Box 357
Address

Ft. Yukon, AK. 99740
City, State, Zip Code

Doniece Gott

From: Jim Schwartz <schwartz.jp.lf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:07 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: How our community radio helps our community

Dear Finance Committee--

The citizens of the State of Alaska appreciate all the hard work that goes into making important and difficult decisions during the fiscal budgeting process.

Keeping the funding for the public radio system for Alaska would be extremely important--especially to the rural areas as it provides local, national, statewide, and world news; keeps one updated on community events, and even entertains with music and live feed for local school/community events. It is much more accessible than the Internet for some, and not everyone has a computer to "surf the net." It is part of the glue that holds communities--both small rural communities and large world community--together and feel connected.

There are a lot of tough decisions to make, but I would encourage you to keep public radio funding. I have lived in Petersburg for 36 years, and tune in to public radio numerous times a day for information, entertainment, and "being connected."

Thank you for your consideration,
Leslie Schwartz

Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Alexander McDonald <alexandercgreat@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 4:10 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Broadcast Funding

Hello,

I write to you today to affirm my support of public broadcast funding in the state of Alaska. I have had the pleasure of doing radio shows on and off at KRBD, Ketchikan's community radio station, since I was 16. KRBD provided an outlet to me as a teenager that helped me stay away from drugs and alcohol, which consume far too many of my fellow Alaskans. I know for a fact that KRBD acted as the same thing for many of my friends. KRBD and other public broadcasting stations provide a community which enriches my life, and the lives of my community members, through art, science, education, information, the news, politics, and more. It is a vital and often-overlooked service to our governments and communities. Indeed, for many there are few, if any, comparable alternatives.

Because of these reasons, and many more, I ask that you reconsider cuts to public broadcasting's funding. To slash its funding would be a grave error with negative consequences felt throughout Ketchikan and many more communities in Alaska.

Thank you for your time,

Alexander McDonald

--

Cheers,

Alexander McDonald

Doniece Gott

From: Susan Dickinson <sdickinson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 2:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for Funding for public access media (PBS, APRN, Coast Alaska, etc.)

Dear Legislators:

I read today that the Alaska Legislature is considering cutting funding for public broadcasting in Alaska. I am sure that everyone knows that public broadcasting is the lifeline for many regions in our state. It is also vital for providing information to all Alaskans about important topics and advisories. It is imperative that funding be kept in place for public broadcasting for both radio and television.

Do not cut funding to public radio and television.

Thank you.

~Susan Dickinson~
1421 Millar Street
Ketchikan Alaska 99901
907-225-4780

Doniece Gott

From: Phyllis Kiehl <pkiehlak@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 1:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding for public media

PLEASE preserve funding for public media in the budget.

I do my part, by being a significant donor.

But individual donations, although they help provide a substantial part of the funding, cannot support the quantity and quality of reporting, information, and entertainment in such a vast state for all the population that is served.

We need information like state and local news, fisheries reports, weather, etc.

And we deserve to share some of the national shows from PRI, NPR, and others.

Thank you.

Phyllis Kiehl
99516

Doniece Gott

From: Susan Burch <sburch33@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 7:32 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public media broadcasting

Please do not cut funds for public media broadcasting.

Thank you,
Susan Burch

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Gregory Fries <kickbatkool@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 12:38 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: PBS

Keep funding for public radio and TV!
An informed people need this option in entertainment, information, education.

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: mary helen snider <snidermh@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 9:30 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Rep. Chuck Kopp; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Subject: Funding for public broadcasting

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to let you know I think it is of utmost importance that we keep funding in place for Alaska Public Broadcasting.

I know we face a severe budget crisis. I support revenue increases, such as capping the PFDs. I also support a state-wide sales tax on all but necessity items (food, diapers, feminine hygiene, etc.) to help close the budget gap.

Cutting vital programs, such as Alaska Public Broadcasting, should be a last resort.

Respectfully,
Mary Helen Snider

Doniece Gott

From: Dave Snider <voiceofdave@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:54 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Rep. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Rep. Chuck Kopp; Rep. Jason Grenn
Subject: Support Alaska's Rural Communication System and Pubilc Broadcasting.

To my Honorable Representatives and Senators of Alaska,

I am writing to you to as a private citizen requesting your continued support for funding of the Alaska Rural Communication System and public broadcasting systems in the state of Alaska. This funding is critical for safety, survival, and awareness in all parts of Alaska, especially rural communities.

This broadcasting system brings awareness of statewide issues to the entire state. It helps keep people safe. It alerts people when a tsunami is approaching Alaska's coastline or when a major Bering Sea storm is heading to the Y-K Delta. It provides a vital link to people who live off the grid, yet need the connection to what matters most.

I am a meteorologist by trade. I've worked with the State Emergency Operations Center and understand how imperative communication and awareness is for our Alaska Villages. I have had the pleasure of meeting citizens in our villages who rely on weather information for survival, regional travel and subsistence. We know that Alaska has the highest count of general aviators of any state. And we know that dependence on reliable and timely weather information is critical for our citizens to remain safe at home and when they travel into our hubs, where it's easy to forget how easy it is to connect, link up and download whatever we want.

I humbly request that you consider the least of our Alaska population, those with much less connectivity and ability to cope, as you are making difficult decisions with our State's budget with regard to public television and radio communications.

Before you cut funding, visit a small village and watch what happens on the Alaska Rural Communications System at 5:30 p.m. each night... and watch what happens in that community for the next 30 minutes.

Thank you for serving Alaska.

Dave Snider
Eagle River, Alaska

e: voiceofdave@gmail.com
#: 907-980-6759

Doniece Gott

From: Cheryl Keepers <cherylkeepers@ak.net>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:27 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB22

Dear Legislators,

I was appalled to hear that Alaska public broadcasting was zeroed out of the budget. Alaska needs non-commercial sources of broadcast information and programming.

This is especially important in crazy times like now, when “facts” are fabricated to support the interests of the persons paying for the media.

Please reinstate funding for public broadcasting. Local communities are contributing tons of support, but state support is needed to keep stations on the air.

Cheryl Keepers

PO Box 74898

Fairbanks AK 99707

907.750.4918

cherylkeepers@ak.net

Doniece Gott

From: Sharon Hunter <akhunters@ak.net>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:02 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: support for public radio

Dear finance committee members,

Thank you for your time and consideration of constituent testimony.

Support for the service provided to rural Alaska by public communications and radio in particular is crucial from the state.

Our station KFSK is our only radio station and our only source for news taking place in our community in real time. We have had multiple situations take place including earthquakes, public safety alerts regarding weather, and school and community lock downs caused by persons and situations safety were reasonably considered at danger.

When our kids are traveling out of town we depend upon our KFSK for being able to follow things like the state basketball championship games where we are very proud to have our teams compete. Our local news, community calendar, live events and ability to provide entertainment for each other as we volunteer at the station are essential to our quality of life.

Your plan to eliminate all state support would also eliminate our federal funding and remove a service woven into the fabric of our community and that cannot be replaced.

Our family has supported our radio station, KFSK, every single year since 1985 with monetary donations but that is not enough we need you to also maintain state support to this essential service in Petersburg and throughout rural Alaska. I am sure when you consider how zeroing out the budget for public radio would negatively impact our lives you will return public broadcasting to the budget and for that I sincerely thank you.

Sharon Hunter

Petersburg, AK 99833



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Doniece Gott

From: Willi Prittie <willi@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 6:29 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Keep funding for Public Broadcasting

Esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I appreciate the hard work you are doing to arrive at a solution to our state's budget crisis. The budget situation has gone on far too long and needs to be resolved. However, I would encourage you to find an appropriate balance between cuts and new income. The budget cannot be balanced only by making cuts. The more severe the cuts, the greater the impact on the quality of life we all enjoy. As residents we need to help pay for the services the State provides, probably through an income tax, a sales tax, or both. But the State needs to step up and do its part to support the services that are important to the people of Alaska.

One of the services that is particularly important to rural Alaska is public radio. The proposal by Senator Mike Dunleavy to cut 100% of State funding for public broadcasting is completely out of line. Cutting funding for public broadcasting will have little or no effect on balancing the budget, but it would have a severe impact on rural Alaska. One of the requirements for a successful democracy is an informed electorate, and our small community radio stations are how rural Alaskans stay informed. These stations are our link to our own communities, to the rest of the state, and to the world outside. They are particularly important for distributing information during times of emergency, such as during the Sockeye Fire or breakup flooding. I should also point out that they are a prime source of information at election time. We "meet" most of the candidates through interviews on the radio.

These stations are supported by community members and run by volunteers, but we can't do it alone. Previous funding cuts have left our community radio stations reeling. Additional cuts are likely to kill them altogether. Is that really a good thing for Alaska? I think not. So I ask you to disregard Senator Dunleavy's proposal and to continue state funding for public broadcasting. As community members we support these stations with our memberships, our pledges, and our time because they are important to us. The State needs to do their part as well.

Thank you,

Ellie Henke
Sunshine, Alaska
733-1591

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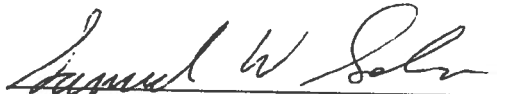
Fax: 907-662-2915

March 20, 2017

State of Alaska
Finance Committee
Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

This is to oppose the state funding cuts proposed to public broadcasting. Our local radio station is vital part to our community and surrounding villages here. Please continue to support on behalf of public broadcasting.

Thank You,


Signature

Samuel W Solomon
Printed Name

Box 93
Address

FT Yukon, AK 99740
City, State, Zip Code

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Finance Committee

Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

This is to oppose the state funding cuts proposed to public broadcasting. Our local radio station is vital part to our community and surrounding villages here. Please continue to support on behalf of public broadcasting.

Thank You,

Randy Thomas
Signature

Randy Thomas
Printed Name

Box 332
Address

Fort Yukon, AK 99740
City, State, Zip Code

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KZPA – 900 AM

P.O. Box 50

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Phone: 907-662-6356

Fax: 907-662-2915

March 20, 2017

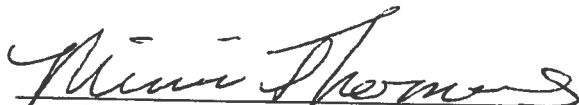
State of Alaska

Finance Committee

Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

This is to oppose the state funding cuts proposed to public broadcasting. Our local radio station is vital part to our community and surrounding villages here. Please continue to support on behalf of public broadcasting.

Thank You,


Signature

Mimi Thomas
Printed Name

P.O. Box 68
Address

Fort Yukon AK 99740
City, State, Zip Code

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KZPA – 900 AM

P.O. Box 50

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Phone: 907-662-6356

Fax: 907-662-2915

March 20, 2017

State of Alaska
Finance Committee
Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

This is to oppose the state funding cuts proposed to public broadcasting. Our local radio station is vital part to our community and surrounding villages here. Please continue to support on behalf of public broadcasting.

Thank You,

Bruce Cosgrove Sr.
Signature

Bruce Cosgrove Sr.
Printed Name

P.O. Box 306
Address

Fort Yukon. AK 99740
City, State, Zip Code

GWANDAK PUBLIC BROADCASTING, INC.

KZPA – 900 AM

P.O. Box 50

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Phone: 907-662-6356

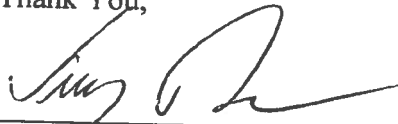
Fax: 907-662-2915

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State of Alaska
Finance Committee
Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

This is to oppose the state funding cuts proposed to public broadcasting. Our local radio station is vital part to our community and surrounding villages here. Please continue to support on behalf of public broadcasting.

Thank You,



Signature

Vicki Thomas

Printed Name

P.O. Box 306

Address

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

City, State, Zip Code

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KZPA – 900 AM

P.O. Box 50

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Phone: 907-662-6356

Fax: 907-662-2915

March 20, 2017

State of Alaska
Finance Committee
Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

This is to oppose the state funding cuts proposed to public broadcasting. Our local radio station is vital part to our community and surrounding villages here. Please continue to support on behalf of public broadcasting.

Thank You,

Bonnie Thomas
Signature

Bonnie Thomas
Printed Name

Box 332
Address

Fort Yukon, AK. 99740
City, State, Zip Code

GWANDAK PUBLIC BROADCASTING, INC.

KZPA – 900 AM

P.O. Box 50

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Phone: 907-662-6356


Fax: 907-662-2915

March 20, 2017

State of Alaska
Finance Committee
Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

This is to oppose the state funding cuts proposed to public broadcasting. Our local radio station is vital part to our community and surrounding villages here. Please continue to support on behalf of public broadcasting.

Thank You,



Signature

April Peter

Printed Name

PO Box 271

Address

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

City, State, Zip Code

GWANDAK PUBLIC BROADCASTING, INC.

KZPA – 900 AM

P.O. Box 50

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Phone: 907-662-6356

Fax: 907-662-2915

March 20, 2017

State of Alaska
Finance Committee
Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

This is to oppose the state funding cuts proposed to public broadcasting. Our local radio station is vital part to our community and surrounding villages here. Please continue to support on behalf of public broadcasting.

Thank You,

Roberta Horace
Signature

Roberta Horace
Printed Name

P.O. Box 204
Address

Fort Yukon AK 99740
City, State, Zip Code

Doniece Gott

From: larry hausmann <larry_hausmann@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 4:08 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Broadcasting Funding

Over thirty five years ago I had a dream that Galena needed a communication system to reach out to it's citizens and the surrounding villages. I procured letters of support from City and village councils and presented a proposal to Public Broadcasting in Anchorage while I was attending UAA and Graduate student. three years later, out of the blue, financial support was provided by the state legislature. What a surprise that was to everyone. Most had forgotten about this idea.

And that was the beginning of KIYU radio.

Being a resident of Galena for over 45 years, I have seen all the positive changes in our community and the surrounding village and many of these have been the product of better communications.

I have voiced my opinion many times and in general you have listened and supported KIYU radio. Thank you for your support.

I am very aware that you have been put in the position to be the "bad guys" and cut our State funding. Therefore, I wished you could just pull some more oil money out of a "hat" and continue supporting our great station that is NOW heard in ten communities up and down the Yukon and the Koyukuk rivers.

I would appreciate you taking a good look at our situation and be as kind as you can. We raise a lot of money and support locally and the budget cuts will be felt, especially in that we do not have any alternative radio stations. The "Big Cities" have numerous alternatives but we need truthful communication and that is what Public Broadcasting stands for.

The front page yesterday had threats of the same thing happening to Federal funding for PBS and the ARTS. To be totally defunded is very hard to comprehend. This really scares me. What is happening in our country to support free thinking and speech?

I am very concerned for all of our rights and freedoms.

Thank you for your time.

Larry Hausmann

Po Box 18

Galena, AK 99741

907-656-7095

Doniece Gott

From: Eric Knudtson <epknudtson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:19 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: support for public broadcasting

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my support for public broadcasting. KBBI provides essential service to Homer and surrounding areas. In times of emergency, it is where I can turn for information. I live in an area at the end of East End Road where there is only very spotty cell service. There have been times, such as during wildfire and severe winter storms, when my home was cut off from both power (so internet was unavailable) and phone service. I was so grateful to be able to turn on KBBI for news updates on my battery- powered radio. Additionally it serves as a forum for local news and community service radio shows like Coffee Table and other community services, such as bush lines, information lines, ride lines, and others. Our community greatly values the volunteer music programming that is part of our local tradition. I also value the type of excellent programming that isn't available through other radio venues, such as Science Friday and BBC World Service.

I strongly believe that public broadcasting is one of the essential services that government needs to support, especially in Alaska. I do not support a state budget that included cuts to public broadcasting!

Sincerely,

Eric Knudtson

PO Box 3528

Homer, AK 99603

Operating
Budget Public
Testimony
Public
Education

Doniece Gott

From: Tommy J. Baxter <tommy.baxter@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 12:33 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Education Funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Jerome Baxter.

I am a first grade teacher at Pearl
Creek Elementary located in
Fairbanks, Alaska. I became a teacher in
2010. Prior to that, I worked as a
diesel mechanic, wildland firefighter,
and an infantry soldier.

I am a graduate of UAF with a Bachelor's
of Science degree in Natural Resources
Management 92-98. I returned to UAF
in the spring of 2008 to acquire a certificate
to teach in the State of Alaska.

I became a teacher in
the primary grades in order to teach students how
to read, and the journey has been a magnificent
one. However, as of lately, with funding being potentially
cut and the threat of layoffs looming, I would
like to request that you think seriously about not

cutting in the area of education. In the primary grades, we need reading tutors. I am not one to complain as I will usually find a way to make things work for the students. But...I have 27 students in my class. It is definitely a tough ordeal to manage that many students at times. I ask that you all really, really consider not letting us down by cutting in the area of education. I am sure there are other areas in the state that can take the cuts better than where our children make their futures.

As far as any other words I may have for encouragement or as a means of motivating you all to leave education alone, I have nothing except what I have stated above.

Make a good choice for the students of our state and leave education alone.

Thank you,

Jerome Baxter

1st Grade

Pearl Creek Elementary

Doniece Gott

From: Skip and Brenda <sofa@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:36 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: the question of funding education

Please do your jobs and support education. The funding of education in our state is paramount for the future of this state. Get busy, do your jobs and fund education like most of your promised you would do.
Clyde and Brenda Davenport
Willow, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Eric Knudtson <epknudtson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:29 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB22

Dear Alaskan leaders,

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. Our schools deserve to be funded such that our students are prepared for a complex world.

Thank you,

Eric Knudtson

PO Box 3528

Homer, AK 99604

Doniece Gott

From: SUSAN DUNHAM <ginseng@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 12:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School Funding

I am a public school teacher with 31 years in the classroom. I am ready to QUIT after the year that I have had. Don't get me wrong, my students are NOT the problem. The problem is YOURS! The continued cuts to education- with the increase in costs to education has severely impacted my classroom and the education I can provide. Due to shortages in funding we have lost out middle school model. I went from teaching 65 kids on a team of 4 teachers, to teaching 184 students a day with NO COLLABORATION! This means that we cannot address the students needs by looking at the whole child. I learned from teaching several subjects to the same kids, that they react differently in every subject. This helps reveal their strengths and their weaknesses. Also, because of the lack of funding to my school, we have changed from a 6 period day to a 7 period day. I have 15 minutes less each day to teach, so my kids are losing over an hour of instruction a week. This has severely impacted how much I teach this year. I have had to cut out whole units in science because the over crowded classroom makes it harder to do hands on experiments, the shortened class periods means they have a lot less time to work on experiments and assignments, and with one more class a day they lose focus by the end of the day.

PLEASE- Do your job by doing what ALASKANS want you to do: Provide an excellent education to EVERY child. Fully fund education- pay for it with an income tax, sales tax and part of the PFD earnings.

OUR KIDS only have one chance to go through school. We cannot continue to interfere with the education funding and short change THEIR only opportunity to have an education.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Susan Dunham
Palmer Junior Middle School

Doniece Gott

From: Carrie Day <akdays@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 6:30 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fix Education Funding Crisis

Dear Alaska State Legislators,

As an educator with over 20 years of experience, I urge you to fully fund education! The instability in education funding from year to year affects the morale of teachers and makes planning within districts impossible. Because of this turmoil, I continue to see qualified transformational teacher leaders leave Alaska.

I am a teacher who is passionate about my profession and helping students become thoughtful knowledgeable citizens of the future. This requires your partnership in finding a sustainable way to fund education. I, like other dedicated educators across our state, believe Alaska's children deserve a quality education. Your actions will influence not just school year 2017-2018, but far into the future. Consider the choices carefully and make a decision that will add the stability our education system deserves.

Carrie Day

Wasilla Middle School

Wasilla, AK 99654

Doniece Gott

From: Rebecca Boone <rboone@kpbsd.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 8:32 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB22

Please do not pass additional revenue cuts to state education funding.

We need to maintain the status quo funding as proposed by Governor Walker.

Our children are our most precious resource. Please do not short change them.

Mary Rebecca Boone
Voter ID: 1459711

Doniece Gott

From: Sophia Armstrong <sophialmarmstrong@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 10:09 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: NO Cuts to Education Funding

Dear Finance Committee,

I am a teacher and a parent. I understand that things are getting a little tight down there in Juneau in terms of the budget, but we cannot take these problems out on our children.

As a teacher I already "donate" at least \$2,000 per year to my classroom and my own professional development.

I "volunteer" at least 15 extra hours per week in my classroom.

I took a \$5,000 pay cut to move to the town I wanted to teach in.

Teachers and school districts are already performing at bare bones status. You can't squeeze any more money out of us, we are just running on fumes at this point. I don't know how you are going to fix this budget crisis, but taking it out on our children should not be an option. Please get more creative and keep working at this problem. You aren't done yet!

-Sophia Armstrong

1st grade teacher

Haines, AK 99827

Doniece Gott

From: Paul Story <pstory911@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 12:12 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: School Funding

Senate Finance Committee,

First of all, thank your for your service.

We are writing to request that you fund education at the same level as last year (which would still be a cut considering annual increases in expenses) and refrain from further cuts to this critical area in the development and progress of our state.

The vast majority of Alaskans live here for the quality of life, one of the most important aspects being the education of our children. When teachers and staff are cut, kids lose out, no matter how valiant the efforts are to improve effeciency and for those that remain to take on even more additional duties.

We believe education funding should be a priority for the legislature, and while we understand the state's current difficult fiscal situation, compromising our children's education will also compromise their ability to contribute to the state as adults. That's obviously not a good solution, and the long term ill effects of such a decision would outweigh its short-term benefit to the state budget.

Please restore K-12 education funding in full.

Thank you,
Paul and Corise Story
Homer/Fritz Creek

Doniece Gott

From: Shonti Elder <elderfrey@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 10:01 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: public school funding

Do not cut funding to our public school system! Already schools throughout Alaska struggle to maintain services as costs for health insurance and energy rise. Formula funding needs to be increased, and transportation is crucial. Schools have been forced to cut teachers for the past five years because the base formula has not increased with inflation. We need to finance healthy public education!

Thank you. Shonti Elder, Music Teacher, Anchorage School District

From: **Don and Carolyn Gray** dcgray@mac.com
Subject: 2017 Alaska Operating Budget- We Citizens can pay part of our own way.
Date: March 17, 2017 at 5:44 PM
To:

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Wednesday the Senate finally addressed the need for Revenue to balance the FY2018 Operating and Capital Budget deficit by proposing to use some of the Permanent Fund's earnings income for this purpose. It now remains for you to consider two other revenue sources. One is an income tax as proposed by the Governor, similar to what Alaskans paid before 1980, based on a small percentage of what they paid, (if anything) in Federal income tax. Secondly, a slight increase in the state highway fuel tax from the lowest in the country, (8 cents a gallon), which all who drive would share, is fair and just TO ALASKANS.

Some have suggested that more cuts are needed. I disagree. The State funds for the K-12 School Foundation to all school districts should not be cut again, as this merely places further burden on Alaskans already paying increasing property taxes for their schools. Shifting the cost to local districts is an unfair illusion. Alaska's education obligation is a state burden which local districts already carry in large measure.

The elimination of state assistance for Public Radio and T.V. Broadcasting in SCS2 is also unwise and unacceptable. Do not do this. The contribution of Public Broadcasting to informing rural and urban Alaskans has been great and should be continued.

Again: Do seek revenue from us Alaskans in the form of a small and reasonable income tax and an increase in the state highway fuel tax.

Do Not cut k-12 aid to school districts for the Foundation Program.

Do Not cut Alaska Public Radio and TV Broadcasting

Thank you.
Don Ian Gray
389 Hillside Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99712

dcgray@mac.com
907-457-5737

Doniece Gott

From: Yolanda Ifflander <YIfflander@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:58 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: KPBSD Budget deficit

Importance: High

To Whom It May Concern:

Our district is facing a 3.45 million budget deficit. Between savings and reductions, hopefully we can deliver a quality education for our kids for 2017-2018 school yr. As an employee, I have a financial stake in having a healthy district. As a parent with a high school daughter, I have an even more urgent stake in making sure my daughter is properly prepared to go to college. Please do not make any more cuts to an already stressed budget!!!!

Sincerely,

Yolanda Ifflander RN, BSN

School Nurse

Seward MS, HS, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, and Hope

(907)224-9018 SMS; 224-9088 SHS

Doniece Gott

From: Terry R. Wolf <terry.wolf@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:14 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education cuts

Please consider Sen Bishop's lottery for education and save any cuts to our students education. His \$10 education tax from our first paycheck of the year as well as a state income tax will put some of the impact from our "valued" nonresident workforce in oil and fishing. Thanks from a 40+ resident who pays property taxes, spends our income here and supports our economy in Alaska.

Doniece Gott

From: Deborah Rinio <strawberry.birds@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 10:47 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fully Fund our Public Education System

Senate Finance Committee,

First of all, thank you for your service and your time. I realize balancing the budget, especially in the current fiscal and political climate, is a daunting task.

I am writing today to urge you to include full funding of public education in your budget proposal. Education is essential to a community that is prepared to address the challenges of the future. Educating our children, PK - University, fosters not only reading, writing, and mathematics skills, but helps students develop problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity. Unfortunately, the system can only do this when funding is adequate to the task. Without sufficient funding, class sizes are increased resulting in less individual attention to students, specialists are cut resulting in less expertise in the school building (one teacher cannot know everything), resources are cut resulting in outdated technology. The situation is bad enough in our urban schools, but in our rural sites, it is magnified.

Please fully fund public education today.

Sincerely,
Deborah Rinio
Ester, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Sandra O'Connor <alaskaoconnor@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 10:18 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education budget

Hello,

Please don't cut last year's education budget any more. There are classes in Fairbanks with 31 students in primary (k-3rd) classes.

As an Alaskan since 1952, I've seen boom and bust cycles before. The everyone working "head tax" or annual education tax helped education. Everyone paid the same amount out of their first annual paycheck. We paid income taxes to support a smaller government.

So I ask that you leave the education budget at last year's figure.

Sandra O'Connor
1593 Ivan's Alley
Fairbanks, AK 99709

alaskaoconnor@gmail.com

Doniece Gott

From: j clark <joclark99687@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 5:14 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Budget

Hello Senators - during this difficult time of budgeting, I'd like to express support for public schools and urge that budgets not be cut.

I'm a retired teacher and worked in Alaska in 1980-2005, during many different budgeting approaches. Schools already have been cut as thin as you dare - already class sizes are bigger than recommended, materials are not replaced as frequently as needed, buildings are not maintained as quickly as desired, staffing is not as well supported and salaries and benefits are no longer incentives to come to Alaska, nurses and counselors have been cut, whole programs abolished in the end I believe that expenses saved in education end up being spent in prisons and social programs. I urge you all to come together and figure out a budgeting solution that will not further slash the already minimal education budget.

Thank you,

Jo Clark
5305 E Iroquois Court
Wasilla, Ak. 99654

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: mary dooher <mpdooher@email.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 11:12 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: State Budget for Alaska Schools

Dear Finance Committee,

I urge you to fully fund public education with no additional cuts to this critical component of our state budget. The budget cuts our schools have previously incurred have been a heavy burden on our teachers and students as they have attempted to succeed under a tighter and tighter budget. We do not want to erode the education of our children.

With declining budgets comes increasing classroom size. As the number of students in a classroom increases, a teacher's ability to effectively instruct and individualize academic instruction decreases. Students' long-term academic performance suffers as a result. This is an outcome that no one desires.

Students that are in need of special education programs, particularly those with delays in their developmental milestones in comparison to their peers, require programs that are tailored to their needs. This requires appropriate funding for students with communication delays, fine and/or gross motor delays, visual or auditory deficits, or behavioral/emotional concerns. These programs need specialized staff in order to address their areas of needs. This includes supportive teachers and paraprofessionals that can assist these children in the classroom setting as it relates to their areas of need.

In addition, it is disheartening that public testimony was scheduled during spring break, a time when so many parents and teachers are unavailable to provide their opinion regarding this critical educational decision.

In summary, our children's education is the future of Alaska. Please do not short-change it with additional budgetary cuts. It is vital that the public education system of Alaska remains fully funded.

Thank You for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mary P. Dooher

Doniece Gott

From: Heather Mildon <northernheather@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:29 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB22

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to express my concerns surrounding SB 22 and its roll out.

That there is to be no public testimony on your planned reductions to the base student allocation and school transportation funding demonstrates blatant disregard for Alaskans and the public process. When any cuts are planned to services essential to the lives and well-being of Alaskans, of which education is one, the opportunity for public testimony is required. When the Senate Finance Committee plans to take action regarding school funding, I want the opportunity for public testimony. Offering this opportunity would represent a step toward thoughtful, considerate leadership.

Additionally, Alaska must provide quality education for its children by ensuring adequate and timely funding, thereby supporting all of its residents and enhancing the communities in which we work and live. An educated populace results in an enriched community. We need timely, reliable and predictable school funding. As an Anchorage resident where our local taxpayers fund to the cap and generously support our schools, I would argue the time has come to review the BSA to evaluate the base and ensure full funding is provided for the true cost of education here, as in all regions. Additionally, state and federal initiatives and mandates in education require financial support where additional services are necessary.

When you combine SB 22 with the recent SB 26, I would be remiss if I did not comment that our leaders in the Senate must identify multiple revenue streams that will ensure a long-term fiscal plan for Alaska, and do so immediately. It should have happened last year. It didn't. So do it now. Today. Talk school tax, income tax, adjustments to the oil tax credits, as we are to pay more in credits than we are taking in. This is unsustainable. SB 26 has plenty of other concerning aspects such as the fact that it would be law and has no sunset date or that there is no requirement of an amount being transferred to the PFD account which means you all have not capped the dividend and determined to spend a portion of the earnings, as recommended. I will address these issues with your colleagues in the House, as I understand it is now beyond your control.

I am opposed to the continued cost shifting, wherein the Senate professes to make cuts while simply shifting their obligations and expenses to the municipalities, as the services are *needed and wanted*. Examples cited at a recent community council meeting include snow removal, parks, school bond debt reimbursement. And I am sure the list goes beyond my current knowledge. This is an unacceptable way to govern. Stop and shift direction today. Your current approaches are continuing to send Alaska in the wrong direction.

Heather Mildon
4828 Sundi Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-720-8935

Doniece Gott

From: LISA HUFFMAN <lisahuffman@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 7:24 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget

Finance Committee,

Please fully fund education and the BSA. We must have reliable funding for our schools.

We need a long-term fiscal plan. I support use of the Permanent Fund Earnings, an income tax and looking at other revenue sources to fund our state budget.

Sincerely,
Lisa Huffman
11101 Hideaway Lake Circle
Anchorage, AK 99507

Doniece Gott

From: Lisa Chambers <LChambers@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 3:08 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Education Funding

Please consider fully-funding education in our state.

As an elementary school teacher, I've had class sizes ranging up to 32 students. Smaller class sizes (around 20) make it possible to reach each student, which means individualizing and differentiating instruction on a daily basis. For example, as a 3rd grade teacher this year, I have students who range in reading levels from pre-school to 6th grade. This is not uncommon to see each year. The larger the class size, the more impossible the task of differentiating for each student.

Both the students and I will appreciate fully-funding education in Alaska. Thank you for your time!

Lisa Chambers, 3rd Grade

K-Beach Elementary

Room 20

Operating
Budget Public
Testimony
Early Childhood
Education

Doniece Gott

From: Carrie Beeman <kcbeeman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 11:57 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Restore Early Childhood Education Funding

As a resident of Alaska and I am writing to ask for your support of Early Childhood Education and help return state funding for these programs.

Through Best Beginnings, Parents As Teachers (PAT) and Head Start, children have access to activities and materials to help them grow and develop to their fullest potential. Parents are offered the latest information and tips on parenting to be the best teacher of their children. Families also have opportunities to be involved in supporting the growth and development of the whole family.

Every child deserves a solid foundation for school success and so I urge you to support early childhood education and help restore state funding to these very important programs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

and help return state funding for these programs.

Through Parents As Teachers (PAT), Best Beginnings and Head Start, children have access to activities and materials to help them grow and develop to their fullest potential. Parents are offered the latest information and tips on parenting to be the best teacher of their children. Families also have opportunities to be involved in supporting the growth and development of the whole family.

Every child deserves a solid foundation for school success and so I urge you to support early childhood education and help restore state funding to these very important programs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carrie Beeman

PO Box 808

Doniece Gott

From: Emily <emilyvockeroth@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 9:14 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Early childhood funding

Dear Finance Committee members,

Please include funding for early childhood programs like Best Beginnings, Parents As Teachers, and Head Start in your budget. These programs are vital to the future of our state, we must invest in our children and families.

Thank you,

Emily Vockeroth
735 Moosewood Circle
Fairbanks 99712

Doniece Gott

From: agnes kunnuk <a_kunnuk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 1:19 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Nome Base Early HeadStart

Hello, my name is Agnes Kunnuk. I work Monday - Friday 8am to 4:30. My daughter Alesa Weyiouanna is in Early Head Start, she is 17 months. She started going when she was about 7 months. She has learned a lot from going Monday- Friday. She likes to be around the other babies/kids that go there. I think that her education from going to Early Head Start has improved a lot.

Agnes Kunnuk

Doniece Gott

From: Lisa Sookiayak <hsta.blueberry@kawerak.org>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 1:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lisa Sookiayak and I am a teacher for Kawerak Head Start in Nome, Alaska. I have been teaching for Kawerak Head Start for approximately 6 years and I see a lot of growth in the young children I work with. They learn a lot from our program and it is very beneficial for our children. Not only to be Kindergarten ready but for many other reasons. My daughter is 5 years old and she has been in Early Head Start from birth to age 5 and is getting ready to go to Kindergarten. I have seen a lot of growth in her from this program. She learns a lot and loves school just as much as the other children who attend Head Start. My daughter goes home singing and very motivated to learn a variety of topics. She shows so much curiosity in learning from her alphabet to her numbers to wanting to help me cook. I believe a lot of children and families benefit from this program. I see parents being so proud of their young children and enjoy watching them learn. If the funding is being cut, I believe there will be a lot of disappointed families and children. So please, reconsider our funding and keep the program going for our young children and families who need us to help them with raising their children!!

Lisa Sookiayak

Senate Finance: Education and Early Development, Parents as Teachers Testimony
March 16, 2017
Drew Hansen, RurAL CAP Parents as Teachers Manager
dhansen@ruralcap.com 907-865-7331

Good afternoon Mr. Chair. My name is Drew Hansen and I represent the RurAL CAP Parents as Teachers Program. With the current amendment to remove the Parents as Teachers program from the operating budget I would like to share with you and your colleagues some information on the program. This fall, in my search to find accurate rate of returns for home visiting programs I was introduced to a detailed analysis used to determine the cost-benefits of early childhood programs. According to the analysis titled "Return on Investment: Evidence-based Options to Improve Statewide Outcomes", for every dollar invested in Parents as Teachers, a \$3.29 monetary benefit is realized for participants and taxpayers. This analysis was commissioned by the Washington State Legislature to provide policymakers and budget writers with a list of well-researched public policies that can, with a high degree of certainty, lead to better statewide outcomes coupled with a more efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Based on the analysis of the Parents as Teachers program the savings come from the low cost of the model coupled with early identification and intervention, less grade retention, the prevention of child abuse and crime, as well as better long term outcomes in life.

There are immediate results from this program as well. RurAL CAP as a community action program across the state has the ability to screen and assess children in our Head Starts who have transitioned from our Parents as Teachers programs within the same communities. Through the use of both the DIAL, which is a developmental screening tool and the GOLD assessment, which is the statewide Head Start assessment for identifying school readiness skills, the data has revealed that Parents as Teachers children entering their next educational setting are more on target developmentally and have more skillsets related to school readiness than their peers who were not enrolled in the Parents as Teachers program. There are few investments that have the rate of return that early childhood programs like Parents as Teachers provides. Our children are Alaska's future. I understand you have tough decisions to make. At some point I feel additional revenue streams will be required to sustain needed programs within our state. We can only cut so deep. I appreciate your efforts to find the most cost effective methods to help strengthen our economy in the long term. Thank you for your time.

Operating Budget Public Testimony

Community Support Services

Public Health

Public Safety

he has received was less effective and substantially more expensive than the cost of the community supports he utilizes.

- My grandson has a significant speech language delay and receives TEFRA services to help pay for his speech language therapy. This child was born with a webbed tongue-tie that made his speech virtually impossible to understand, even for those of us in his family. He has participated in speech therapy 2 - 3 times per week for more than 3 years (since he was 2 years old). Currently, my daughter's private health insurance pays for the bulk of his speech therapy and TEFRA assists with co-pays. Without speech therapy, this little boy would literally not have a voice. His future is bright now because of the help he receives and will one day outgrow.

Cutting the safety nets for families living in poverty, living with mental health needs, living with disabilities, or otherwise vulnerable will make it harder, if not impossible for these people to become self sufficient and contributing members of our communities. Please:

- Do not cut funding for community-based support services
- Do not cut the Medicaid prescription drug program
- Do not cut Medicaid adult preventative dental program
- Do not cut Public Health Nursing any further
- Maintain the current funding level for DHSS
- Find a Fiscal plan that provides enough revenue to maintain critical services.

Thank you for considering my input.



Kathy Karella
PO Box 70782
Fairbanks, AK 99707
907-488-2174

**To: Members of the Alaska State Senate Finance Committee
Representative Tammy Wilson
Senator John Coghill**

**From: Kathleen Karella, voter
North Pole, AK**

Date: March 17, 2016

Re: State of Alaska Funding for Community Support Services

I am writing to request that funding for community based support services NOT be cut. In addition I support creating a fiscal plan that provides enough revenue to maintain these critical services for our vulnerable citizens.

I recognize that our State is facing difficult choices with revenue shortfalls and many needs. The place to balance our budget is not on the backs of those least able to help or speak for themselves. Our citizens who experience disabilities, mental illness, developmental issues, and/or temporary financial hardships need community-based support to function as independently as individually possible. Without this support these needs will be met in more expensive institutional settings such as prisons, emergency rooms, in-patient mental health facilities, and hospitals. Our national Surgeon General noted that for every dollar spent on mental health services, twelve dollars were saved in prison costs.

Perhaps, instead of just seeking to balance out budget with cuts, we need additional revenue sources. Developing/increasing the State tax system is necessary. Personal, corporate, resource development, and/or sales taxes are all possibilities.

We need to find a way to protect housing assistance, homeless shelters, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, job supports, community health programs, assisted living programs, Pioneer Homes, benefits for low income seniors, crisis intervention, case management, transportation services, training for providers and caregivers, and other services that allow us to cost effectively meet safety net needs for the vulnerable. Please do not make any additional cuts to Public Health Nursing and Medicaid.

Our family has needed and benefitted from of these community-based services.

- My brother has a chronic mental illness. He utilizes Medicaid, community health services, transportation services, heating assistance, and family supports/education. Previously he has utilized supported housing and community mental health treatment. Without these services he has been homeless, incarcerated, and has been treated at API. The institutional care

Doniece Gott

From: Angela Larson <alarson120@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 9:10 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Keep funding for CDVSA

Dear Finance Committee Members-please do not move funds from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) for victim services to fund one trooper position. These victim services are an essential part of the justice system! While I support additional troopers I strongly believe additional positions should be paid for with additional taxes not at the expense of emergency shelter, advocacy, assistance in the legal system, emergency travel, and response by an advocate to a sexual assault victim with the SART team!

Sincerely,

Angela Larson
PO Box 80222
Fairbanks Alaska 99708
907-479-5764

Doniece Gott

From: Brooke Heppinstall <brooke@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 9:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: March hearing Finance Committee - Protect Community Support Services
Importance: High

Legislative Finance Committee

March 17, 2017

Dear Chairpersons MacKinnon and Hoffman,

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting many of your colleagues in the capitol with my fellow AARP volunteers for our annual Fly-In. We left you all with excellent packets of information on the state of Community Support programs in Alaska. As you are all too aware, our current Congress is looking at a budget that will greatly impact these programs and the state's ability to support our diverse and unique needs that affect the elderly, the disabled, and family caregivers. Our situation here in Alaska cannot be compared to that in the lower 48.

The state depends on families to care for their own. Nursing home care is out of reach for most Alaskans and we depend heavily on home and community-based care. The cost difference is astonishing: Home/community-based care with minimal institutional care in 2015 dollars = \$370,706,638. For Institutional placement without HCB waivers you are looking at \$870,542,699 in those same year dollars [from your AARP packet delivered to you 3/2/17]. It is far more sustainable to support those Home/Community based waivers now, given the Federal situation, an unknown for the foreseeable future. Alaska has the fastest aging population in the nation with 148,000 in the 50 to 65 year old range. 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. We need to be prepared now.

Mental health care and public health systems are essential to provide support for a large percentage of our population in Alaska. Cutbacks have already resulted in closures of public health facilities across the state. For our

rural neighbors these are often the only option for health care, which is something those of us nearer to the urban centers tend to forget. Rural populations have greater needs: for disease prevention for hepatitis and tuberculosis, pre-natal care, and other critical health needs. These programs have already been cut by 20% since 2015. Community behavioral health treatment and rehabilitative services cost 20-50% less than a psychiatric hospital for people with severe mental illness.

Doniece Gott

From: Stacy Koster <stacy.koster@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 6:53 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Re: Plans to Cut Community-Based Support Services

Dear Legislators,

I realize the state is in a tough financial situation, but cutting community-based support services is not going to solve the problem. The only way to solve the State's fiscal problems is to enact a plan that will provide revenue to maintain these and other critical services.

Community-based support services do many things, like provide housing assistance, homeless shelters, benefits for low income seniors, the Pioneer homes, assisted living, substance abuse and mental health treatment, job support, community health programs, family caregiver and natural supports, case management, crisis intervention, education and training for providers and caregivers, peer support, and transportation services. If these services go away, where are people who need them going to get them? These are services that, at some point in all our lives, we are going to need. They need to be here for everyone now, and in the future. These services give people stable support, and keep them out of expensive institutional care like emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, and prison. Without community-based support, many families would not be able to care for an elderly parent or disabled child at home.

If you cut these services, it is going to cost the state more than if you had kept them. Community supports are less expensive to fund than institutions. Behavioral health treatment and rehabilitative services that are community based 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 a nursing home. For a person not on Medicaid, the cost of nursing home care can be over three times the cost of being taken care of at home by their family.

Please don't cut community-based support services. These services allow people, and families, to get the help they need in their community. At some point in all our lives, we will need this help. Do the right thing. Create a budget that is actually fiscally sound, and doesn't just cut the things Alaskans need.

Thank you,
Stacy Koster

4296 East Larch Dr.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Operating
Budget Public
Testimony
General Budget
Comments and
Suggestions

Wrangell Legislative Information Office

Wrangell.lio@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-874-3013 Fax: 907-874-3955

Name: Charles Gadd

Address: Box 421 Wrangell, AK 99929

Representing: Myself

Bill #/Subject: SB22

Committee: Senate Finance

Hearing Date: Friday, March 17, 2017

Written Testimony

Please balance the budget. You can't spend
more than you make.

I am Pam Goode from Rural Deltana.

March 17, 2017

1) We are only to make comments on the Governor's Bill SB22 and you have already decided what cuts or additions you wish to make. This process clearly states that you do not want to hear from "all" the people of Alaska unless they support the efforts of what you have already done or not done in the CS.

2) I was hung up on by the Senator from Fairbanks who represents Tok and used to represent me in Delta. In fact he was my Senator when elected to office. That was rude and his behavior is unacceptable.

3) Therefore I will submit my written testimony, see below:

I could speak for 20 minutes but I'll be brief....

I oppose SB22

This very Topic is what lead to the fiscal challenges we face today. Over spending.

4) Here are my suggestions and a plan you should take.

1 – Admit the error of your ways of the massive over spending over the past 10-years. Take the blame you have earned and stopping putting this off on low oil prices.

One senator who voted for SB26 (PFD Raid) from the Kenai area admitted he was glad to see oil prices drop as it might be the only thing that would stop the Legislative over spending.

2 - The only thing low oil prices did was magnify the true problem, spending.

3 - Admit the passing SB26 was a mistake.

3 - Pass SB84 so when SB26 comes back from the House it does not need to be heard.

4 – Meet or exceed spending cut targets stated in Senator Dunleavy's over all plan

5 – Use the ER for the difference when the spending targets are met.

5) What will this do? (SB84 and Senator Dunleay's fiscal plan)

1 – Help the overall economy of Alaska by keeping money in the private sector.

2 – Allow Alaskans to spend their PFD the way it best fits their needs and their families needs instead of the government doing it for them.

3 – Continue to cut the waste in government spending.

4 – Encourages Alaskan's to become more self-reliant.

3 – Solves Alaska's Fiscal Crisis. Retains the highest level of personal liberties found in the world.

That concludes my testimony. Thank you.

I think you get the picture here. We have a White House that is taking an ax to support services for the elderly, children, the disabled, and those unfortunate to still be stuck in poverty. If not for Medicaid expansion a significant percentage of Alaskans would not have any access to general and mental health care. Often many of these are people, who with a support net, would be able to participate in their communities and their local economies. With luck the younger ones will transition out of this into the broader economy.

I am a Payee for an individual with mental health care needs and a former educator in our state's correctional system. I am familiar with the difficulty, if not impossibility, of access to care, to a decent job opportunity, to just being able to afford a pair of glasses so they can see. I am fortunate, as are those of our legislators, to be able to afford access. If life seems complex and overwhelming for us, imagine what it is like for the uneducated, the unskilled, those with mental health care issues, the isolated elderly, and for their harried and exhausted caregivers. They are our neighbors, family, and friends. We give generous support to resource industries, to those unwilling to pay a graduated income tax, to those already thriving in our communities. Please do not cut into those programs that support those of our fellow Alaskans in need.

- 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 Public Health Nursing further.

- Please maintain the current level of funding for DHSS.

We've already cut the budget by 43% since 2015. At some point we lose the state. Let's grow the state by supporting these programs. It does have 'results' that prove these programs are successful.

Thank you for letting us visit in the Capitol,

Brooke G Heppinstall Kroenung

AARP Volunteer

2963 N Kroenung Rd.

Palmer, AK 99645

Lawful Money is Equitable Title to Labor-Credit Asset

This explanation is proposing a much needed paradigm shift in our mind regarding the bills we receive in the mail from corporations, including the United States Corporation, and what lawful money is. *8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22) d.*

If everything commercial is a **Trust** since 1933 because lawful money was taken out of circulation, then a "Bill" cannot be a Bill. They cannot be charging anyone for anything since they know we have no money to pay for anything. Checks and all liability currency are promises to pay, and essentially are a dishonor because **payment is delayed**. However, in commerce, this **MIS-TAKE** can be forgiven.

So, then what is a "**Bill**"? Logically, it must be a request for us to authorize the release of assets held in trust by the Trustee as the payment (asset/credit – liability/debit = 0). This "payment by **EQUITABLE TITLE TRANSFER**" results in the extinguishment of debit. Notice that the amount on the bill is a positive number - a **CREDIT**. It does not have parentheses around it, or a minus sign in front of it, which commonly indicates a negative number.

This **positive number** represents an asset that will offset a liability held by the corporation for a commercial transaction. They just need our authorization (indorsement on the back of the bill) to get ownership of that asset amount so that they can then apply it to discharge the liability on their books for that same amount. We have the equitable title to that amount. When we write "**lawful money is demanded for all transactions 12 USC 411**" on the FRONT of a Bill, and then indorse the back of a Bill, then the legal and equitable titles to the asset (credit) are now vested in that one piece of paper, and when that indorsed instrument is returned to the party that sent it, then that party is now the Holder in due course of the legal and equitable titles to both the asset and liability amounts for that account and must then **EXTINGUISH** the debt by operation of law.

The Corporation is already holding both **legal** and **equitable** titles to the **Liability**. They are also holding the **legal** title to the **Asset** as implied by them sending you the Bill (the US Corp and all their sub-corps hold legal title to all assets since 1933 and are trustees, or agents thereof, per the purpose and intent of the HJR 192, June 5, 1933 **TRUST**, codified in 31 USC 5118). The only thing they are missing is the Equitable title to the Asset so that they can finally do the discharge to balance the books and extinguish the debt. They have the charge (DEBIT/DEBT) amount – they just need the discharge (CREDIT/ASSET) amount to balance books to zero. Having both of the titles for the asset/credit amount now allows them to use that asset/credit amount to perform **their duty as Trustee** to extinguish (discharge) the Liability/Debit (debt) amount by operation of law – the trust laws that are involved when the legal and equitable titles are merged. *CA 5, 95-77-0320*

So **The Bill is NOT a BILL** – it is an **asset credit voucher** containing the **labor/asset/credit amount** (that is as good as gold and silver as real Substance as lawful money) that we must release to the Trustee (or agent thereof) by **indorsing the Back of the Bill** and writing "**lawful money is demanded for all transactions 12 USC 411**" on the Front of the Bill, and returning it. This is the duty that We, the Beneficiaries (or agents thereof), have been failing to perform. *8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22) d.*

In this scenario, **Lawful Money is Equitable Title** to the people's Labor-Credit asset value held in trust by the United States Treasury since April 5, 1933. And **PAYMENT is EQUITABLE TITLE TRANSFER**. *your Cestui Que estate/trust is being held at 31 USC. 1321*