

**Subject:** SB78 Concerns

I am writing today to express my concern about SB78. This bill could have devastating effects on Alaska based non-profits.

I have two primary concerns, by proposing a lottery with PFD funds there may be further erosion of public support going directly to Alaskan non-profits through the pick.click.give program. The last two years have already seen dramatic declines in funding. As of March 1 the donations for my agency are down 22%, both in number of donors and dollars committed. Currently we are down \$15,950 from 2017-2018. This is on top of a large drop from 2016-2017.

To a small, grass-roots, Alaska based non-profit \$15,950 is a large sum of money and could lead us to difficult decisions about which programs are sustainable. For example, our Children's Lunchbox weekend food program currently distributes weekend food bags to 3,300 elementary school students every Friday during the school year. This program is completely funded by donations, including funds from pick.click.give.

The loss of \$15,950 to our program could mean that we struggle to find funding to pay for 148 food insecure children to continue to receive much needed food every Friday.

The second aspect of the bill that may also have a potentially detrimental impact on non-profits is reduced bingo and pull tab revenues. In 2016 Tudor Bingo was the top donor to Bean's Cafe. We received \$77,000 to feed hungry Alaskans. Every dollar donated stayed here in Alaska.

While I know difficult decisions need to be made regarding Alaska's fiscal situation I want to be sure that you, as a legislator, understand the ripple effect this bill could have on non-profits who are already struggling to maintain basic safety net services to Alaskans.

If you have questions, please contact me at 907-350-3818.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Sauder  
Executive Director  
Bean's Cafe/The Children's Lunchbox  
1020 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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**From:** Jeff Lee <[jefflee48@gmail.com](mailto:jefflee48@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018 12:15 PM

**To:** Rep. Paul Seaton <[Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Neal Foster <[Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov)>;  
Rep. Jason Grenn <[Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Les Gara <[Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov)>; Rep. David  
Guttenberg <[Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <[Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov)>;  
Rep. Daniel Ortiz <[Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <[Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov)>; Rep.  
Cathy Tilton <[Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Steve Thompson <[Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov)>;  
Rep. Tammie Wilson <[Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** SB 78 - PLease vote against the passage of this Bill

**SB 78** "An Act creating the education endowment fund and the dividend raffle fund; authorizing donations from the permanent fund dividend for educational purposes and to enter the permanent fund dividend raffle; relating to transfers from the dividend raffle fund and the education endowment fund; relating to the duties of the Department of Revenue; relating to the definition of 'gambling'; and providing for an effective date."

If passed, this bill will have immediate and devastating effects on all organizations that participate in the PFD's Click, Pick, Give programs. Charitable organizations who rely on charitable proceeds and donations will most likely see an overall decline in funding which will ultimately impact our communities as charitable services to the public are reduced or eliminated.

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2121 Spar Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501  
T| 907.272.3663 • F| 907.277.7368  
[www.foodbankofalaska.org](http://www.foodbankofalaska.org)

FOOD BANK  
of ALASKA



April 28, 2017

House Finance Committee  
Alaska, State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 78 PERM FUND DIVIDEND CONTRIBUTIONS/LOTTERY

Dear Members of House Finance Committee,

My name is Cara Durr and I represent Food Bank of Alaska, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates statewide. Our organization is dedicated to eliminating hunger in Alaska by obtaining and providing food to partner agencies feeding hungry people and through anti-hunger leadership. As a participant of the PFD Charitable Contributions Program (Pick.Click.Give.), Food Bank of Alaska has a vested interest in the outcome of SB78. We believe there needs to be additional information and consideration regarding the implications SB78 may have on the nonprofit sector in Alaska.

In 2016, Food Bank of Alaska received \$85,000 through the Pick.Click.Give program, generating over 300,000 meals to feed hungry children, families and seniors. The Pick.Click.Give program is a vital revenue stream for our organization, our food program partners, and many others in the nonprofit sector. It is also an important way we acquire new donors. As SB78 draws its funding from the Permanent Fund Dividend, we are concerned there may be unintended consequences to nonprofits across the state should SB78 pass without comprehensive research into the economic effects such a bill would have on local charitable organizations who depend on revenues earned from Pick.Click.Give. During these challenging economic times, cuts to government spending on social services puts additional pressure on the nonprofit community to fill those gaps. Funding to feed hungry Alaskans and other vital services remains more critical than ever.

Food Bank of Alaska requests that you fully research SB78's impact on the work of Alaskan charities before taking any further action on the bill. We believe it's reasonable and responsible to fully assess the economic impact on Alaska's nonprofit sector and the communities we serve before moving forward.

Sincerely,

Cara Durr  
Director of Public Engagement



We are commenting on SB-78, PFD Contributions-Raffle.

We listened to the House discussion of the Bill (28 Apr 17). This Bill is a joke and the presentation was poorly developed and insulting at best. The Bill plays on base behaviors of people. Saying that the gamers are different than the conventional Pick-Click-Give participant is unknowable as is the potential of \$10M in game money to the education budget.

The Bill will probably diminish the funds to the Pick-Click-Give non-profits while adding personnel and expense to the PFD program for administration not the "5%" purported.

The Senate will use SB-78 as a trojan-horse to support their position for reducing State funds to education.

The PFD was not established as a mechanism nor source of money to enabling State gambling.

A joke is too strong a condemnation of this Bill and we recommend defeating the Bill.

Thank-you,  
Linda Lekness & Barry Reiss

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Dear Esteemed Representatives of the House Finance Committee,

It is with concern that I write to you regarding SB 78 Education lottery proposal.

Our Homer (& Statewide) non-profits rely heavily on the PFD Pick Click Give program. I am greatly concerned that this further choice of the education lottery will put negative downward pressure on the highly successful Pick Click Give program. Please do not pass this legislation SB 78 that will challenge Pick Click Give.

Thank you for hearing my comments.

Sincerely,  
Tracie Brown  
Homer, AK 99603