

House Finance Committee

Public Testimony

HB 39 – Operating Budget FY20

Packet 3

Emails received to

HouseFinance@akleg.gov

March 26, 2019

The Honorable Representative Neal Foster, Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
The Honorable Representative Tammie Wilson, Co-Chair House Finance Committee
Via emails: Representative.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov housefinance@akleg.gov
Representative.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov Representative.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov
Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov Representative.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov
Representative.Bart.LeBon@akleg.gov Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov
Representative.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov Representative.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov
Representative.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov

Subject: State Budget

2019 March 26, 2019

Dear Representatives Neal Foster, Tammie Wilson, and the House Finance Committee:

I am unable to attend the public meetings so I write today to implore you to carefully consider the right things to do for Alaska in light of Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget. We are depending on you to count as the urgently needed checks and balances provided by the Constitution. I am a homeowner; my husband owns a local business; our sons and daughter-in-law live and work here, and are also home owners, super voters, and tax payers; we have grandchildren who will attend public schools in Anchorage. We are all super voters and love Alaska deeply. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

First, in agreement with a large percentage of citizens debating this disconnect with reality, the current Governor's proposed budget is so far off the mark that it is not even a starting point that could keep Alaska operational. An urgent practical alternative starting point would be to use past Governor Walker's proposed budget, making changes that are practical and make sense for Alaska. Either budget can be changed, but my point is that Walker's budget was designed to keep the state running. Dunleavy's budget does no such thing, and, in fact, would create such a resounding blow to the citizens of Alaska that people would likely be forced to flee the state simply to survive and provide for their families. Businesses will fold with lack of jobs and transportation infrastructure. Once the infrastructure is compromised so severely as the current proposed budget attempts, it could take decades to repair, if it ever could be repaired. Don't let this happen.

Specifically, the cuts to our vital Alaska University system, and future building public schools; the state connecting ferry system; and life saving health care systems; to name but a few important state services, are absolutely not survivable. Alaska has cut and cut and cut, and it is time to focus instead on increased revenues. That can be accomplished in a number of ways, but Alaska needs to move in that direction and quickly. Probably a combination of the below and other methods will help us rise to the challenges Alaska faces. Alaska's University system has become first class, but that was hard won over decades of innovation. To make more drastic cuts now, would create an unendurable blow to our state university system upon which we depend and of which we are proud! Considering our public schools, the children are our future. We must fund them in a reasonable, timely, and consistent manner, to be able to rely on good results for our future population. Already, we are currently resorting to only doing maintenance of existing buildings, some of them long overdue to the point of being unsafe. As a former educator I can tell you that having so many students in a classroom that there is not enough room for all the desks quickly becomes a job of babysitting (not to malign sitters) because it becomes too difficult to manage so many people in such a restricted space. The vastness of our beautiful state presents logistical challenges that we Alaskans have been figuring ways to meet such as providing medical care via creative programs, transportation such as the critical ferry system, and legal enforcement where no local enforcement is available. We cannot afford to take these away because it would devastate the communities that depend upon them. This is our Alaska. We created it and now we must sustain it.

1. The Permanent Fund Dividend debacle is a point in case: Decrease the dividend to what is sustainable, and if it is not sustainable, stop giving it out--and do not follow foolish promises made to increase the

dividend to buy votes. Certainly, do not "pay back" what some people feel they are entitled to in past years. That is a ridiculousness and will run the coffers dry.

2. Taxes are an important and practical source of potential revenue.
 - a. Consider instating an income tax; and,
 - b. Consider instating a state sales tax to help spread out the load, and
 - c. Also fairly tax large corporations and industry. They should share the cost of the infrastructure that they enjoy by making profits in Alaska.

These are but starting points, but practical and obvious ones. It is no longer acceptable for Alaskans to expect increasing handouts (PFD) when that source has diminished. If people want the amenities available to them in Alaska, then citizens and corporations who do business in Alaska must be willing to help pay for them, despite what unscrupulous politicians may have promised the naïve, but Legislators must also be able to help figure out fair ways to distribute that load. To continue to allow big companies like oil development to have tax credits and not pay their fair share, is also no longer acceptable.

I thank you for your careful consideration of finding workable solutions to the budget dilemmas and for your service to Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Barbara Švarný Carlson

Barbara Švarný Carlson

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

-----Original Message-----

From: Red Asselin [REDACTED]@sproutalaska.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 12:35 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Education funding

Hi, my name is Lisa Asselin Martin. I'm a resident of Homer and the proud parent of a 6 year old at Paul Banks Elementary. I am writing today to implore you to keep the promises to education funding made for 2020 and to support forward funding for schools. I came to Homer 15 years ago and after I had my child stayed here because of the family friendly community and the high quality education. I wouldn't have found employment and put down roots if it was just to pay ridiculous prices at the pump, give half my paycheck to the grocery store and to be across the country from my family. I saw incredible academic promise for my child. So far I have not been disappointed. He loves his school family. He's a prolific reader, enjoys math and science and wants to be a zoologist who plays hockey on the side. Up until now I've had no doubt that these dreams could become a reality with the high quality education he is receiving. With these drastic budget cuts- my son will not have access to AP classes. He will not be pushed to achieve more. Without extra curricular activities he will have no where to connect with his peers, be part of a team or get out that energy. He will be lost. My son comes from a very supportive family. He will probably be okay, though he most likely won't live here. What about his friends? What about those kids he met the first day he went to Kindergarten. What will happen to them? Support education funding this year and the years to follow or we will lose what truly makes this state valuable- it's families.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Susie Zimmerman [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 12:32 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

I have voiced my opinion in some detail in my previous email to all of you individually and I won't reiterate it all here. The short summary is, I'm:

- Opposed to reductions based solely on cost analysis with no serious thought about consequences and the effect on communities and actual Alaskans.
- Opposed to the decimation--if not annihilation--of not only core social services but also those programs which lift our communities culturally out of the wasteland.
- Opposed to any bloodletting with regard to education at any level.
- Opposed to shifting pipeline property tax away from municipalities .
- In favor of a State income tax.
- In favor of a State sales tax.
- In favor of capping the PFD and using permanent fund money to supplement the operating budget.

Thank you,

Susie Zimmerman

(My husband concurs with these positions, so you can count two of us on this side of the debate!)

From: Emilie Frisbie [REDACTED]@cvinternet.net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:47 PM
To: LIO Glennallen <Lio.Glennallen@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for HB 39

Hi Seth,

Not sure if we will be back in Glennallen in time to come up to the LIO, so sending you some written testimony for House Finance. Please also send to Rep. Rauscher and Rep. Talerico if you would, as well as Senator Bishop and Senator Shower.

Thank you,
Emilie

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony on HB 39.

The State of Alaska has been pushing this envelope for too long, now is the time to start finding new revenue sources and cutting the pork from the budget. Using the PFD is just pushing the envelope more, please don't do that. There are several areas I would like to make suggestions to.

The Department of Fish and Game receives federal funding from the Pittman-Robertson Act, we should be taking more advantage of these funds and stop cutting the department and returning funds to the federal government. Hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing all benefit from these funds and so do all Alaskans.

The State of Alaska needs to look at tourism as a new source of revenue and start "keeping Alaska open for business" and stop closing down parks and other roadside services. Put the parks into concessions, let the public bid on them and manage them. This is done through most of the Copper River Valley and it seems to be working. There are many state parks that do not have an entry fee and most Alaskans are willing to pay to keep them open – don't take my word, take

a survey. So don't cut parks from the DNR budget, but do look at saving the infrastructure already in place and using concessions.

The State Ferry system is costing the state money – so up the rates don't shut down a popular tourist highway. Not all communities/cities that receive ferry service have airports so we should maintain the service. But this is a business and the rates should be fixed accordingly. There is no reason for the state to run a restaurant or bar, so put those out on concession and allow someone to make a living running them. And this should also be considered with the Capitol café', put it out on concession and you will still have great food just have to pay the going rates.

The increase to the public defenders office is most realistic and needed. Trying to assist a friend who is going through the judicial system has taught me much. So many of the trials are postponed over and over due to the workload of the attorneys. Sure seems that we are heavy on the judges and needing more attorneys in the mix. There is surely a problem and backload here.

Medicaid cuts and education cuts – both departments increase yearly and holding for a year should be survivable and it is time for them to take a hit for Alaska. Save the State!! If Representatives could waste a month of session arguing over who is in charge then I think you have time to work through some of these issues without taking the easy road out.

Thank you for the opportunity to put my comments on the record.

Emilie Frisbie
Gakona, Alaska

From: Judy Bockmon [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:55 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State Budget - Please reject the Governor's disastrous proposals

I was appalled when I read about Governor Dunleavey's proposed budget and I am distressed when the governor says, like he did regarding the university budget, that his administration is "agnostic" on budget priorities and its "primary concern is that the budget does not exceed revenues or use savings."

The governor's budget and his statements reflect an utter lack of any vision of an Alaska that is prosperous and a desirable community. It seemingly reflects misguided views of a non-Alaskan budget director who has no understanding of the history and development of this great state. It "balances" the state budget on the backs of the localities and citizens. The budget is not simply an exercise of making the numbers balance as the governor says. It should be a thoughtful analysis of what type of community the citizens of Alaska want, what are the necessary and historic functions of Alaska's state government and what services and benefits we citizens of Alaska are willing to pay for. Then the governor should promote and the legislature then adopt the required measures, including new revenues, to make it happen. I want this state to have strong K-12 education. I want this state to have a vibrant university. I want this state to ensure that its citizens have access to health care. I want adequate transportation arteries. I want the state to support critical state-wide public broadcasting. I want the state to support the arts and protect our parklands. I want the state to take steps to mitigate the increasing effects of a warming planet. I want the state to ensure that development occurs in a way that protects, not destroys, our natural environment and fisheries. I want the state to invest in the development of renewable energy. I could go on. I want the state to move away from complete reliance on the price of oil. I am willing to help pay for an Alaska that is a wonderful place to live through reduced dividends and broad based taxes, including an income tax.

Thanks you for your service,

Julia Bockmon
35-Year Resident, Retired, Anchorage

From: Fathauer Mary Ann [REDACTED]@mosquionet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:44 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget

Dear Finance committee members,

When my husband, Ted. came to Alaska in 1970 there was no PFD. He came for the beauty, job opportunity, and because it was a University town, offering culture and opportunity for higher education, and exposure to many artistic experiences. When he brought me here in 1981 and he received a PFD, I asked why he got it. He called it a welfare check because he had done absolutely NOTHING to EARN IT except to live here. As we had already planned our budget without it, we used it for donations to the arts in our community. We wanted to help maintain a quality of life here which we had come to enjoy.

The University is a huge center for intellectual advancement in the arts and sciences, and an important research center for the world. To deny or strip down to a skeleton all that was available to our young people is to chase young people out of the state. The arts, the humanities, the study of history, philosophy, and the like are what keep us human and compassionate as a community. We cannot afford to lose those qualities in the name of "budget cuts."

It is not fiscally reasonable to live beyond one's means, nor to think one is entitled to "get something for nothing." When there is no money to be had, then means must be created to generate funds, not cut the things which offer a reasonable quality of life to those who live here.

There are four states other than Alaska which do not have an income tax. They have horrendous sales taxes and personal property taxes instead. Why are the members of the legislature so insistent on cutting so many services without any thought for the consequences down the line? Are you not intending to live here after the damage you have created is done? What about the future of Alaskans that are here now? How many of you were here before there was a permanent fund? What did each of YOU personally do to EARN IT?

The answer does seem very simple: institute a sliding scale income tax for all. This would also hit our seasonal workers who take money out of state and return to their "home state" to spend it. Have a small sales tax, if need be, or charge non-essential services: restaurant meals, and raise the prices on tobacco and liquor. These measures may be unpopular, but they may provide an answer to all the cuts being made. If this were put to a vote of the population, I think most reasonable people would agree to it.

The governor's proposed PFD windfall is irresponsible. It sounds wonderful for this year to many who are not concerned with the future. It would come at a terrible cost to us who are concerned with education for the future, health concerns for the needy, culture which keeps us sane during long winter nights, and who would like to continue living here. It would ultimately force many to join the masses who have already left our state in search of a better life elsewhere. We had a "better life," and it can be created again.

Each of you took an oath of office to serve the people of Alaska with reason, compassion, honesty, and integrity. I ask you to revisit the words of your oath. Search your conscience. Do the honorable thing, Think of ways to generate income and keep a quality of life which will entice people to come here, not drive them away.

Sincerely,

From: David Hayden <[REDACTED]@l64design.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:43 AM
To: Fairbanks.lio@alaskaleg.gov; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: governors budget

I completely oppose the governor's proposed budget. It decimates the infrastructure that is required to run this state. There is no budget crises when the permanent fund is used to fund the government. I do not want my state to end up like Oklahoma where the government is so poorly funded that public schools are not funded for a full week of school. Even if the state fully funds operations we can still have a 600 dollar permanent fund. As an architect I only work for private businesses or individuals and never directly for the federal or state government. But all my clients rely somehow on the state, no one works in a fiscal vacuum. The state has responsibilities that can not be filled by the private sector. I'd reluctantly give up my permanent fund to ensure we don't destroy the fiscal health of our state.

I encourage you to reject the governor's budget.

David Hayden

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Fairbanks Alaska 99701

From: Aardvark LLC <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:24 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget for Alaska

Dear sirs,

I wish to make it clear that, as a lifelong SE Alaska resident, I cannot emphasize too much the importance of a state-run ferry system throughout the archipelago, public education(including the University of Alaska, SE), Medicaid, and the appreciation and care for our elderly. If we cannot make ends meet by repealing the oil tax credits, then let there be a statewide income tax. The present budget will have global and catastrophic consequences on our state, if implemented. It is a losing battle to settle a deficit by taking away the very things that a rural community needs to sustain itself. Without a solid public school system and a ferry, residents will be forced to leave the state *en masse*, creating a much bigger problem than we have today.

There are hard choices to be made this year, but where we cut should be where it will affect our economies the least. The countries that have managed economic problems the best have generally been the ones that did not do so by depriving small communities of basic necessities; cannibalization of rural towns and villages for their resources has backfired in every case, in every country, throughout history. Taking economically stable and successful countries(like Norway, Denmark and Germany) as an example, the answer lies with graduated taxation. In a government that demands a higher example of social responsibility, ie. higher taxes, follows greater civic pride and the positive aspect of entitlement; we only care about the things that we pay for.

We, as Alaskans, are at a crossroads. We cannot turn the clock backward and hope for the best, but the present budget is asking us to do just that. Half a century ago, SE Alaska didn't have a ferry system or much in the way of schools. We didn't have a fishing community half its present size, either. If we were to go back to the way things were then, the political entity of Alaska would break in half. Our coastal economies would enter a downward, irreversible spiral, creating a domino effect that might bankrupt the entire state. The end result would be like nothing Alaska has seen hitherto.

It is my sincere hope that the underwriters for this farse of a state budget can come to their senses and at least pretend it was a joke. Let's put our heads together and find something that works for everyone, not just greedy oil barons.

sincerely,

Joshua Adams

2011 Minko Hwy

Petersburg, Ak 99833

From: John Murray [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:18 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: governors budget comeents.

I'd like to weigh in on the Governors budget.

Firstly I want to thank House Finance members for meeting with many of us through out Alaska recently.

I believe the Governors proposed budget would put us into a prolonged recession ,which will have unknown detrimental effects. As would his insistence of fully funding the Permanent Fund dividend.

I've lived in Alaska since the PF were implemented and realize there value. That said tying the PF to the budget is holding peoples lives hostage.

Alaska needs to produce some income via state taxes, reduction of PF and or doing away with SB 12 (oil tax breaks).

I do not support the Governors proposed cuts. Especially in light of major cuts to the state budget in the last five years.

Sincerely John Murray [REDACTED]

From: jason colette [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:08 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pay the full pfd

I am sending this email to let you know I am in full support of the proposed cuts and I am in full support of a full dividend. No new taxes. The state needs to get its spending under control. As a registered voter I am watching who votes against me and they will be voted out next opportunity. You will listen to the people. You will pay the people the proper pfd. You will do the peoples bidding or you will be out of a job.

Sincerely

A born and raised Alaskan,

Registered voter.

From: Lori Moore <[REDACTED]@nwarctic.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:06 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: proposed budget

To Whom It May Concern,

As a teacher in Noatak, Alaska (Northwest Arctic Borough School District), I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed budget cuts to education. I have taught in Noatak for 11 years. The proposed budget would necessitate a higher teacher-student ratio, reduce the availability of an already limited selection of classes in the upper grades in rural Alaska schools, and complicate curriculum delivery if grades have to be combined. In addition, it will negatively affect teacher recruitment and retention, which is already strained.

Sincerely, Lori Moore

From: Lucas Nelson <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:06 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State Budget

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a lifelong resident of the state of Alaska. I am writing in full support of Dunleavy's budget and full payback of the PFD. I do not support any new taxes.

Thank You,
Lucas Nelson
[REDACTED]

Kenai, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

From: Blue Shabler <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:46 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comments About The Operating Budget

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to you as a Juneau resident about my thoughts on the Governor's proposed budget. To keep it brief; my comments are in bullet form below:

- I have two children in the public school system and volunteer regularly at their schools. I observe their classrooms to be under-resourced and would not like to see any funding removed from the system.
- I own a child care center and value the impact that a robust early education system can have on a society. I would not like to see any cuts to early education in Alaska.
- I am a user of the state ferry system and see it as a valuable part of the Southeast community. I would not like to see any cuts to the AMHS.

- I employ several low income care givers who rely on Medicaid benefits and would not like to see any cuts to that lifeline for them.

I am not a wealthy person but would happily give up my PFD and pay an income tax if it means maintaining a healthy level of state services to support the needs of children and the average Alaskan citizen.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Blue Shabler, Administrator
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Miranda Nelson <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:44 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a lifelong resident of the state of Alaska. I am writing in full support of Dunleavy's budget and full payback of the PFD. I do not support any new taxes.

Thank You,
Miranda Nelson
[REDACTED]

Kenai, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

From: Christine [REDACTED]@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:39 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Ben Carpenter <ben.e.carpenter@gmail.com>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>
Subject: End boom and bust

Please pay attention to making the critical cuts to state spending. You, as elected, are RESPONSIBLE for making these decisions.

A person, family, state or local government cannot live in debt forever and elected representatives have been in error not cutting the spending sooner; costing this state \$29B.

Please do the right thing;

- cut the university (and combine with education generally);
- institute "able to work" legislation in Medicaid;
- restore the PFD, the of which was not constitutional; and
- move three constitution amendments on to a vote of the people.

Please do the right thing!

Christine Hutchison
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[Kenai, Ak 99611](#)
[REDACTED]@gci.net
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@vikingtrvl.net <[REDACTED]@vikingtrvl.net>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:30 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: State Budget

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It's time to be accountable.

I support a small Pfd

I support an income tax

Don't forget people who get money via 1099's that don't have money withheld from their paycheck

Fund the ferries, public radio in small communities and schools.

Thanks

David Berg
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Petersburg AK 99833

From: Michele Foley <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:22 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: state of the budget

Dear Honorable Representatives on the House Finance Committee-

I am writing to let you know that I support/endorse a state income tax (similar to what Governor Walker proposed); an annual school head tax; limited or no PFD. I believe that Governor Hammond should never have abolished the income tax to supplement the very real problem of depending on one revenue source for state government. I also believe that legislators should have been thinking about this before.....this week! An income tax should have been implemented when during the mid-80s when oil revenues started their first decline. We have had many signs over the years that we need an income tax. PLEASE TAKE ACTION AND DO THE RIGHT THING NOW- NOT THE POPULAR THING OR THE ACTION MOST LIKELY TO GET ONE ELECTED BY PEOPLE WHO USE THE SERVICES OF STATE GOVERNMENT BUT DON'T WANT TO PAY FOR THEM.

Sincerely,

Michele Foley, [REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99707, [REDACTED]

To: Alaska House Finance Committee

From: Nicholai Joekay [REDACTED] Bethel, AK 99559

Re: Governor Dunleavy's proposed "Honest Budget"

I am expressing my concern about Governor Dunleavy's proposed elimination of the Power Cost Equalization program, which is outlined in AS 42.45.110. This program helps to ensure the viability of the local utility companies and helps residents with access to reliable, centralized power.

The PCE provides reimbursement to energy providers for public facilities including water and sewer facilities, libraries, and street lights. It also helps reduce the cost of energy for homes, making it affordable for residents to provide power to their life sustaining medical devices, freezers, refrigerators, water and sewer units.

In Bethel alone, from 07/01/2017 until 06/30/2018, the PCE helped with over \$971,000 to 1,879 residential homes and 47 community facilities.

I grew up in Napaskiak, and the PCE helped my home community provide power to 109 residential homes and 8 community facilities, totaling \$154,076. This vital service helps to ensure the safety of the public during the long, dark winter months as children walk to school and back home; as residents walk to their place of employment and back home.

According to the Alaska Energy Authority, the PCE helped 194 communities in 2018. That's approximately 83,400 Alaska residents.

The elimination of the PCE will jeopardize the health and safety of 83,400 Alaskans.

I urge you and all the legislators of our state to make sure that the elimination of this vital program doesn't happen.

Thank you,

Nicholai Joekay
[REDACTED]

From: Jennifer Fonkert <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:03 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Fund Education!

Dear House Finance Committee,

I'm a mother of two children and I'm asking you to please fund education. The education of our children is the MOST important thing!

My oldest child requires extra support in her school in order to successfully function and experience the quality education that her school provides. She receives this support through a variety of ways but to name a few: school aide support, special breaks and pull-outs, resource teachers and social/emotional groups. She is absolutely soaring in her school setting because of these supports and caring/loving adults. Therefore, receiving high quality education and putting her in a place to be a high functioning adult. Without these school supports, her school experience would be greatly decreased and compromised, not to mention she would be an unhappy child. And as a result, most likely struggling later in life.

I plan on raising children that give back to society. Who are high functioning adults who know how to problem solve effectively, advocate, and care for others. Please help me and other families in my community, raise confident, educated and loving children by funding education and making it a TOP priority. We need YOU to advocate for our children. Their societal functioning and happiness depends on it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jen Fonkert

Paul Banks Peanut parent

Homer Alaska

From: James Julien [REDACTED]@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:54 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Medicaid funding

I am one of your constituents in Kenai, I have had my dental practice here for 27 years. I am writing you to express my concern over possible loss/reduction of funding for Medicaid dental services including adult preventative services. I see many patients each month that rely on this program to provide these essential services not only for themselves but for their spouses and children as well. Without this assistance, they simply would have nowhere to turn and suffer the consequences of dental pain and infection. Many could end up at the hospital ER which is ill equipped to handle dental emergencies and certainly is not a cost effective mode of treatment.

I encourage you to stand up for continuing Medicaid dental funding in support of some of the most vulnerable individuals in your district. Keep up the good work down there in Juneau!

Sincerely,

James Julien, DDS

From: dale burke [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:41 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: medicaid dental comments

March 25, 2019

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

RE: Alaska Medicaid Dental Services, Denali Kid Care

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to provide you an alternative perspective to the Alaska Medicaid Dental Program, (and proposed cuts,) other than what you may be hearing from the Alaska Dental Society, (of which I am an active member), as well as other organizations and entities.

As a brief introduction: I have been a practicing dentist since 1985. I have both Public Health and Private practice experience, having served with Indian Health Service for 9 years, until 1994, and maintained private practice here in Alaska since then. I also have extensive experience in delivering dental care in villages in the Bering Straits region of Alaska, and at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (94-95) and Talkeetna Sunshine Clinic. Currently, I maintain a Prosthodontic practice in Anchorage, and provide specialty care 6 weeks a year in Unalakleet.

Since 2008, I have had the contract as the dental professional reviewer of the Dental Medicaid program which is currently administrated by Conduent. Former administrators include ACS/Xerox, and First Health. This year, Conduent added Dr. Owen Mandanas, DDS, of Anchorage, as a second reviewer. As far as I know, we are the only dentists in Alaska who can provide a 'trench level' view of what is occurring, and how this program, especially the Medicaid Adult Dental program has exploded out of control, and is fraught with poor controls, potential fraud and abuse, and, in many situations, care that is detrimental to the recipient's best interest.

In my tenure as the reviewer, I have witnessed the program explode from providing basic dental services to a program that seems to be without limits. A review of the expenditures for Dental Services for Children, and services for Adults over the past 5-7 years will reveal some staggering numbers, especially on the adult side. Several factors contributed to this increase including:

- Poorly written Dental Medicaid policy.
- Former Medicaid personnel who, without apparent reason, added a volume of covered services far beyond basic dental services without language as to when such services would be considered medically necessary.
- Former Medicaid personnel who re-interpreted the Alaska Legislature's intentions for the 'Double Denture' program, thus doubling the intended Enhanced dental benefits provided to the recipients.
- An influx of dentists and clinics who actively market to Medicaid patients, viewing the program as lucrative.
- An influx of recipients who have moved to Alaska to obtain our Medicaid benefits, since the States they came from has lesser coverage. (yes, this really happens, and has been told to me by several individuals through the years)
- The inclusion of IV sedation coverage without controls. This has become a key marketing tool for providers.
- The program's allowance of improper billing of services which go against the standard of practice and definition according to the American Dental Association Guidelines.

I recognize that most dentists providing dental care to Medicaid and DKC recipients are honest, and care for these individuals as they would others in their practices. However, there are 7-10 entities that seem to treat these individuals merely for the unlimited funds they can receive by a combination of excessive treatment and/or creative billing.

The Alaska Medicaid Dental program is segmented into three main programs, each with it's own set of rules; Children (under 21), Adult Enhanced, and Adult Emergent services. I will address each one separately.

First is the children's program, which come's under the CMMS Federal rules for those under the age of 21. Under the CMMS rules, SOA is required to provide preventive and basic dental services and treatment for medically necessary and/or handicapped conditions. There is no annual cap for this group. The primary abuses I see in this age group are over treatment, such as placing full porcelain or gold crowns, when fillings would suffice, and an increase in

IV sedation use to pull out wisdom teeth at younger ages. I have seen many cases where 14-18 year olds have received as many as 20 crowns, all with out prior auth.

Second is the Adult Enhanced program, where-by each adult is allotted \$1150 per year for basic and preventive care. The enhanced program has it's own list of covered services. This program covers annual hygiene, periodontal care, and restorations and dentures. The recipient can obtain services in this category, paid by the program up to the cap. After that, any treatment in this category is the recipients responsibility. They can elect to pay for their care, or delay treatment until they are given a new allotment in July of each year. This is the program that is effected by the 'double denture' rule where the recipient can choose, when needed, to have their upper and lower denture made in same fiscal year, but they relinquish their \$1150 allotment for the following year. However, previous personal at Medicaid opted to change the definition of a denture, thereby allowing the patient to obtain dentures or partial dentures, and keep still have their \$1150 per year available. This is against the intention of the legislation.

The abuses in the Adult Enhanced program include overbilling, or un-bundling procedures to seek higher compensation.

Finally, the Adult Emergent Services. The services covered in this program are meant for the relief of pain and/or infection. There is no annual cap to this program. These services include emergency exams, xrays for the affected area, and extractions, and IV Sedation. In my opinion, the separation of the Adult Enhanced and Emergent programs is the number one reason why the program is facing budgetary problems, while at the same time leading to excessive, and in some cases, abusive dental care. Several providers and entities have figured out that if they provide more services under the Emergent list, there is no dollar limit capped. Thus, recipients that may be seeking care for pain in a tooth, or region, often leave with no teeth, having been told they should have all their teeth removed and dentures placed. Thus, the provider now obtains reimbursement for IV sedations, evaluation, xrays, full mouth extractions, surgical revision of the bone, and the denture. Well in the \$8000-\$10,000 range. Many times, the teeth they are extracting were restorable, and with proper triage, they could be saved over time. I cannot tell you how many under 30 year olds have fallen to this ploy, and are now dental cripples the remainder of their life.

Again, I will reiterate that not all dentists are abusing the program in such a way. It remains limited to several, high volume, entities.

In light of all of this, I would like to propose the following initial action items that could have a positive impact in reduce expenditures:

- Eliminate coverage for IV sedation, except by Oral Surgeons. In my over 30 years as a dentist, I have never used IV sedation, and I have provided every service that providers are performing by

utilizing adequate local anesthetic techniques and oral sedatives. This includes full mouth extractions, removal of third molars, and treatment for the extremely apprehensive patient. The complex, severe services that require IV sedation are usually out of the scope of practice for general dentists. Dropping this is also safer for the recipients. Oral Surgeons, (most of whom are also MD's) have at least six months of anesthetic training during their residencies compared to a 2-4 day course that general dentists take to obtain their certificate.

- Reduce the number of covered procedures, covering only basic dental services. Alaska's list of covered services exceeds many other states, even for children. Covering less procedures, but keeping reimbursement the same for providers, (who have high overhead costs) can help control the budget, and allow fair compensation to the providing entity.
- Require more prior authorizations for services beyond basic dental care.
- Enforce the legislations intentions on the 'double denture benefit' rule.
- Develop a way to merge the Adult enhanced and emergent program, providing an annual cap for both programs, or a newly developed merged one.
- Re-write the Alaska Dental Medicaid Policy, to include specific criteria as to when services are deemed necessary, and covered. Referencing the policies of other States can assist in this.
- Create stricter controls and criteria as to when Orthodontics is deemed necessary.
- When fraud or abuse is discovered, seek compensation or penalties from providers. (Reference the Lookhart case, many providers are doing the same thing he is charged with).

In summary, I am pleased that a serious look at the Dental Medicaid program is being undertaken. I trust that my comments will lend some insight into the current situation.

If I can be of further assistance, or answer questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Dale F. Burke, DDS

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK
[REDACTED]
[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)

From: a parrish <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, Mar 26, 2019 at 8:36 AM

Subject: Invest in Education

To: <housefinance@akleg.org>

Dear Representatives Foster, Seaton, Gara, Grenn, Guttenberg, Kawasaki, Ortiz, Pruitt, Tilton, Thompson, and Wilson,

I urge you to invest in our young people from kindergarten through college. Poor school systems drive young families away from Alaska. And the university is an economic driver for the state.

Please prioritize education with the power of the purse that you have. I'm okay with not getting a dividend or paying a state income tax. Education is worth it!

Thank you,

Anita Parrish

[REDACTED], Juneau, AK 99801
[REDACTED]

From: Bruce Van Dusen <[REDACTED]@alaska.net>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:17 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: From Polaris House

To the Esteemed Members of the House of Representatives to the State of Alaska, Thank you for the hard work you do in these times of fiscal challenge. I am writing concerning the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery (CBHTR) grants that are administered by the Alaska DHSS Division of Behavioral Health.

These grants allow us to provide much needed mental health services to adults in Juneau, AK. With this financial support we can provide services with no out of pocket expense for the persons we serve. The market rates for these types of services is very high. Many of the persons we serve are living in poverty and are not able to afford these supports. These funds ensure no one we serve endures homelessness, or experiences a lack of support to re-enter the work force to achieve paid employment. We also deliver services to assist persons complete educational goals. Another set of services we call Community Supports allow us to provide access to all services a person is eligible for in the community outside of Polaris House.

It is our hope these funds will remain available to us. These funds are vital.

Bruce Van Dusen

Executive Director

Polaris House, Inc.

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

[REDACTED]@alaska.net
[REDACTED]

From: Debby Retherford <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 4:00 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget testimony

I regret I was unable to attend the Saturday listening session in the Mat-Su. Below is my testimony:

I am strongly opposed to the Governor's proposed budget cuts. As a business owner and parent, I am extremely worried about what these cuts would do to our economy and to our schools. My teenager is already in classes that are bigger than optimal. I volunteered one day every week in his elementary classes for 6 years and I saw firsthand the difference between 20 vs 24 1st graders, let alone 28 (as is common now) or 30 (as proposed) in what a teacher is able to accomplish. As a former School Board member, for 6 years, I know that the Mat-Su School District has already made sacrifices due to flat budgets. Class sizes are large and some programs are no longer offered. This, at a time when we should be expanding what we offer in the way of technology. My child is an A student and I had hopes for him receiving a Performance Scholarship and attending UA, but I'm not sure we're going to have a University worth attending. I also have hopes that he will want to make Alaska his home, but I'm not sure there will be enough opportunity here. I can't

understand why you would even consider cutting the WAMI program - an opportunity that brings so many benefits to the State at a bargain. In the Mat-Su, we were shielded from some of the recession as we were busy completing 5 new schools (a \$250 million dollar bond package the voters approved!) and a couple of road bonds. Those projects are complete and with no capital budget, severe cuts to education and state agencies, I fear we will lose so many jobs, so many people will be forced to leave, that it will cause a downward spiral. My business depends on having a stable population of homeowners with good jobs. But my concern goes beyond the Mat-Su. Alaska is a small state, peoplewise, and we are all connected. I am concerned about the Marine Highway, about Rural Villages, about Seniors, and about our disabled too.

It is important to listen to all the residents of Alaska, not just the politically connected, or leaders of your own political party, and to carefully consider the information from experts who speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Sometimes, as leaders, you have to make unpopular decisions. You have a responsibility to look at the big picture, listen to experts and consider the long-term. Rep. Bart LeBon and I were both managers for National Bank of Alaska in the 90s and he knows as well as I do that many, many adults do not have a good understanding of finances. I can't tell you how many adults I had to teach how to balance a checkbook, or to explain how compounded interest worked, or what was causing their credit score to be low, or that it wasn't a good idea to finance a short term asset with long term debt. I'm not saying the patriarchal "I know what's best for you" attitude is an appropriate default position for government, but there are times when you have to do what is in the best interest of the most people. Many people opposed abolishing slavery, the civil rights act, the right of women to vote - but leaders saw that it was the right way for the country to go. Right now too many Alaskans are simply misinformed about how our economy is held together and the important role of public sector jobs and projects. Too many Alaskans don't understand the ripple effect of these cuts. Too many Alaskans have been disconnected from the real cost of the services they enjoy, having benefited from a free ride for all of their lives. I remember paying state income taxes from my first job as a teenager in Palmer in the 70's. YOU have access to the facts and YOU have a responsibility to act on the real data.

We DO have resources to pay for the kind of Alaska we want. Larry Persily's 3/20 ADN article <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2019/03/20/lets-fix-the-budget-with-a-long-term-solution-not-a-stopgap-repair/> offered up some good ideas. We may have to make some cuts, but to the level proposed and NOT to education! I believe we need to start capturing income taxes from thousands of out-of-state workers. It is crazy that we let the State's they live in tax the money they earn in Alaska. Whether it's a flat tax or another option, residents need to have some skin in the game too. I am opposed to a statewide sales tax, as that should be left for local municipalities, given they have fewer options. I also believe we can use more of the Permanent Fund earnings, and still offer a modest PFD.

Have the courage to do what's best for the future for our children and grandchildren. Invest in Alaska, don't tear it apart. Even if those decisions cause you to take some heat. That's the job you signed up for. It's about the next generation, not the next election.

Sincerely,
Debby Retherford
[REDACTED]
Palmer, AK 99645

From: Steve Cleary <[REDACTED]@alaska-trails.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:24 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Reinstate SnowTrac

Dear House Finance Committee:

I had intended to call in to testify at your meeting last night and was unable. I apologize for missing that.

I am writing to express Alaska Trails' support for reinstating the SnowTrac program. It is a cost-effective way for communities across the state to get people active on trails in the winter and also to boost local economies. It is a great example of users paying for the services they use – enabling to groom the trails they love.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and hope that SnowTrac and the Snowmobile Trails Program will be fully reinstated in this years' budget.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Steve Cleary

From: Patrick Vernacchio [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:03 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Alaska Needs A Balanced Budget

I fully support Governor Dunleavy's plan to balance the budget based on incoming revenue. State spending on projects, services, and in the "name of making life better", is out of control. The state and municipalities squandered oil revenues for years, and now they have nothing for a rainy day. Alaska is third in the nation on per student spending, yet our graduation rates and the level of student readiness and qualification, is horrendously alarming.

Sincerely

Ralph Patrick Vernacchio
Chugiak, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Susan Brandt-Ferguson [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:36 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: testimony

- Education
- Public Safety
- Public Health
- Transportation infrastructure

These are the obligations of government.

Alaska is NOT in a fiscal crisis. We have \$65 billion in our permanent fund!

This fund was created to prevent waste; it was created for harder times. It was NOT created solely for the October checks that are a bonus to some and a life-saver to others.

Alaska IS in a time of change. A time when our fiscal situation requires us all to clarify our priorities. My priorities are education, public health, public safety and transportation, which in SE AK means ferries. I value these enough to pay.

I strongly support a three-tiered solution:

- Modest dividend checks so that some of the fund earnings can be used for essential services
- Modest income tax paid by those who can afford it
- Modest budget cuts—NOT the draconian, economy-destroying cuts suggested by Gov. Dunleavy

Please be our voice, and the voice of the children who deserve to be educated, protected and supported by their Alaska state government. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Brandt-Ferguson

[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK 99835

From: Melissa Linton [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:33 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Dunleavy Budget Proposal

My name is Melissa Linton. I am a resident of Soldotna Alaska, 99669. My family and I have lived in Alaska for 14 years. I am writing to you to share my complete displeasure with the budget proposal the governor has introduced. This budget is drastic, inhuman and causing stress and trauma to our most vulnerable Alaskans - low-income, children, the sick and elderly.

Living in Alaska presents challenges and hopes. My husband and I chose to live and work, and most importantly raise our two children here. If these budget cuts happen to the degree the governor suggests, I am afraid my husband and I will need to make serious decisions about whether or not we stay. The quality of our life will decrease substantially, not only for us, but most importantly for our children. Thus - two more "Alaskans" not living or working in Alaska.

Education for our children is important to us. After listening the your LIO meeting last night, it is clear your finance people have no clue what is going on in the State with regards to education - especially in the rural Alaska Native Villages. The governor touts he was a teacher... superintendent... I would like to see the data results from his classroom and school district when he was an acting educator. What were the strategies he used to get his students reading on grade level? To hear your staff thinks outside private companies will go to the bush and teach these students how to read is absurd. To hear that is students go to Code.org training for 12 weeks and they will make \$75,000 in a job - really?

To make this short, here are a few ideas so all of us contribute - not just one group over another.

- 1) PFD - a percent of our PFD is taken - or all if it.
- 2) A state income tax - tax the PFD - we have to income tax on the PFD money to the feds - why not our state tax the PFD?
- 3) Income tax... a 1 or 2% income tax is doable... especially if you are taxing the PFD as well
- 4) Reduce tax credits for the oil companies... Come on... they can pay a little too....

Also, before I finish, I would like to share that I was totally disgusted with the meeting format in Kenai at the Cannery. The lack of respect you give the people - an event that only provides a few seats, you have to register for and sign your life away? Even though I didn't vote for this governor is utterly appalling. Why don't you just call the meeting "Make Alaska Great Again"... what a joke!

Sincerely,
Melissa Linton
Registered Voter in Soldotna Alaska
[REDACTED]

From: o lihou <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:40 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Proposal Response from Concerned Citizen

Hello,
My name is Olivia and I am a life long resident of Alaska. My entire family resides in Alaska, I am fourth generation in southeast. Like many other neighbors, family members, and friends, I do not agree with the budget proposal one bit. As one Alaskan I am telling you, our governing body, that this decision is wrong and is not in the best interest of fellow Alaskans. We work hard to live here and the environment that we live in is more difficult than others. Why is our government making it harder to live here? We put you into office, remember? Alaskans want Alaska to be their home for good. That's how my family has managed to do so for the last 50 years. As a college graduate from the University of Alaska system, I abhor the findings cuts this budget is proposing. Educating Alaskans should be top priority. Prepare us for the workforce. Do you realize that most people who graduate from any college in UA tend to stay and work (and vote!) in Alaska, typically state jobs? Educating the future is what is going to save us and the state, not claiming that "Alaska is open for business". We are not a business, we are a body of people who must rely on one another. That includes you. We need you to make choices with the best interest of Alaskans in mind. Not the oil companies. I am also a teacher in the state, so I have first hand experience with our youth and their academic struggles and successes. I have seen students become so disheartened by this budget because they had their hearts set on exploring Alaska in college and staying here. That is how they want to better improve their communities, they have said. How can they do that, if they are having to take out student loans and move and then come back to a state with no jobs? Little opportunities for work will lead to that. This proposal is a sham, and you know you can do better. And taking away the ferry system? You know that is one of the worst possible things you could do to communities in southeast Alaska. Yes they are fun for a weekend trip get away, but they are vital for communities that do not have immediate access to grocery stores, doctors, dentists, vets, etc. Our ferry system keeps us connected. It keeps us employed. It keeps us connected to our maritime cultures. Again, you know better. As a concerned Alaskan, I need you to do better with this budget proposal.

NO to cutting UA budget.

NO to cutting the ferry system.

NO to cutting educational resources for public education.

Do better.

Olivia Lihou

From: Cindy Bettine <[REDACTED]@abctravelttime.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:52 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: The budget

It is my opinion that the budget needs some cuts, but not as deep as the Gov is proposing. Can't we take a percentage across the board? Has this been considered?

I am opposed to asking the Feds to reduce our Medicaid funding. I am opposed to cutting school debt reimbursement or any other reimbursement where municipalities have bonded and are making local contribution.

I support the Walker's admin use of 1/2 of the PFD to fund government. This puts some money into the economy and helps provide a less reduction to Medicare and education.

I oppose the increase in Pioneer Home fees as, proposed by the Gov, but would support increases for those that can afford it.

I don't think K-12 should be cut to the proposed levels. Maybe something smaller. It's not fair that schools outside of organized boroughs get 100 funding.

I'm not sure about the University's budget, but I do not think tuition should go up for residents.

Require all regions to organize into boroughs for local contribution.

Consider a multi year budget.

Increase gasoline tax. 10 cents a gallon is very low; raise it gradually.

Reduce travel in all departments. Set a travel policy that does not allow extended stays while traveling on state business.

This will reduce the number of trips taken. Provide more teleconferences.

The Alaska Marine Highway is expensive. Restructure it. Allow communities to participate in funding. Charge non resident fees for use.

Sent from my iPad

From: Diane Preston <[REDACTED]@mosquitonet.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:59 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: My e-mail: Dunleavy budget should be DOA

I accidentally sent my e-mail entitled Dunleavy budget should be DOA under another e-mail. Please note that one was from me, Diane Preston at [\[REDACTED\]@mosquitonet.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@mosquitonet.com).

Thank you,

Diane Preston

From: Jim Cheydleur <[REDACTED]@mosquitonet.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:55 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Dunleavy budget should be DOA

Dear Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for reviewing my comments.

I believe the Dunleavy budget should be "dead on arrival." It decimates the Alaskan way of life, punishes the elderly, the poor, the sick, the children, college students, prisoners, those who chose to live off the road system and everyone else in Alaska as we would all be negatively impacted in some way. It jeopardizes our safety, our health, our future. Now is the time for all of us, with the legislature providing the leadership, to forge a path

forward. It is time for Alaskans to pay for the quality of life we want and need before we are plunged into an even deeper recession.

Please review the experience of Kansas when that legislature slashed the state budget. It is instructive.

Here is how some Alaskan services have affected me, my family and some of my friends.

A family member was on Medicaid for a time when other insurance was not available.

An disabled friend counts on the Senior Bonus to help pay for help around the home.

I substitute teach occasionally and find classrooms of 25-30 students very challenging. I will not teach a classroom of 40 students.

A young friend is concerned about her friends whose families can not afford out of state college tuition.

A young man I know was convicted of a crime. Serving his sentence in Alaska, his family was able to help and encourage him frequently which they could not have done if he had been in Arizona. He is now out of jail, employed and doing well.

A professional person I know works at the University. She and her family are already considering leaving the state.

An elderly friend recently moved into the Pioneer Home and is concerned about what she will do if the rates are raised.

What to do? Here's my suggestions in order of my preference.

1. This year give a \$1000 PFD. (Notice I said "give" and not "pay." This is a gift and not a paycheck. Nobody in Alaska has done anything to earn this and \$1000 is a substantial gift.)
2. Legislate the PFD at a maximum of \$1000/year with a provision for a cost of living increase and refigure the formula for a PFD to reflect the payout of \$1000 for this year.
3. Use the remaining income from the Permanent fund to fund state government.
4. Given that that will not be enough and if there is a recession that for sure will not be enough, Reinstitute the Alaskan Income Tax, preferably to what it was after 1975. This would ensure out of state workers contribute. (My family would probably be towards the top rate—We are willing to pay for maintaining the services we value.)
5. Review and revise the Oil Tax Credits. We should not be paying high profit companies to explore and drill for oil. (We need to diversify our economy more to not be so dependent on fossil fuel extraction.)
6. Raise the fuel oil tax to the average from other states, making sure it does not impact heating oil.
7. Institute an education head tax with every employee paying a flat rate of \$30-50 out of their first paycheck of the year. This ensures that everyone pays something. I would be opposed to a higher one time amount due to the effect on minimum wage employees who might be very adversely affected by the loss of \$100 or more out of one paycheck.

I am not recommending a sales tax as that would take a new bureaucracy and, even with some exemptions, would be regressive.

For many years, the PFD for our family of four has more than paid for the property taxes on our home. Given that Alaskans have not had any statewide broad based taxes like income or sales taxes and have the lowest fuel tax in the country, I have been embarrassed to discuss Alaska finances with my family and friends in other states, most of which have robust economies and substantial taxes.

PLEASE BE BOLD AND COURAGEOUS!! The future of Alaska is in your hands.

Thank you,

Diane Preston

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99708

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Paul Labolle

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:49 PM

To: Jenny Martin <Jenny.Martin@akleg.gov>; Helen Phillips <Helen.Phillips@akleg.gov>

Subject: public testimony on HB39

Albert Ningeulook, Shishmaref

Wants to voice concerns about Dunleavy's proposed operating budget

Keep or increase the funding for VPSOs and Senior Benefits.

Paul LaBolle

Staff to Representative Foster

907-465-3789

From: CHARLES WARD <[REDACTED]@me.com>

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 6:21 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony on Gov. Dunleavy's proposed budget

To the honorable members of the Alaska House of Representatives Finance Committee:

Gov. Dunleavy has fulfilled his legal duty by submitting a budget for the Alaska Legislature's consideration. I ask your committee to fulfill its legal and ethical duty by filing this budget in the waste bin, and crafting a proper budget in its stead.

The Governor's proposed budget is straight from the failed austerity budgets that have been tried elsewhere and have failed, including in California, Michigan and Kansas. At this point, I would ask how many times Lucy — or in this case, Donna — must pull the football away from state legislatures and governors before they — and now, we — attempt a different approach.

In place of Gov. Dunleavy's attempt to live up to his impossible campaign promise of \$6,700 PFDs while allowing resource extraction interests to avoid paying just amounts for our oil and other minerals, I urge this committee to propose a budget that actually funds state government at appropriate levels. This includes considering new revenue sources — including a broad-based income tax — and restructuring our mineral extraction taxes to ensure those companies that are profiting from them pay their fair share to Alaskans for the privilege of doing so. Once this difficult but necessary task is completed, I request this committee develop a budget that truly keeps Alaska "open for business" by funding infrastructure — including ferries — and education for our future business leaders. The budget must also fulfill the government's basic duties of caring for our elders, those who are less fortunate and our sick, and provide for robust protection from criminals and others that would harm Alaskans for their own selfish reasons.

It has become popular to compare state budgets to household ones. While this comparison is inapt for several reasons, I always wonder why those who make it focus on expense reduction while ignoring what all households in financial

distress do — find new sources of income. Alaska has engaged in substantial expense reduction during the previous four years; it is now time to look for new revenue streams.

I ask that this Committee and this Legislature not Kansas my Alaska, reject Gov. Dunleavy's unconscionable budget proposal and develop its own proposal to ensure the continued stability and prosperity of the Great Land.

Sincerely,

Charles Ward

Juneau

Private citizen

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Anne Tate <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:59 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony - Tate / Petersburg 3/25

Your honors;

I am contacting you to express my disapproval of Governor Dunleavy's purposed budget, plans for past and future PFDs and his lack of effort to increase state revenue. The Governor's course of action would not strengthen the future of our state. It would prove devastating to many Alaskan communities. I strongly encourage you to do what's best for Alaska residents. Your consideration and diligent work towards this goal are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Anne Tate

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Lynn <[REDACTED]@gmx.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:36 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Balance Budget Now

Please balance the budget and quit the tax and spend mentality!!

We need to quit subsidizing the Alaska marine highway and the university of Alaska. We need to hold all educational system accountable for the money they are given.

It's time to stop increasing wages and benefits!

Quit listening to the teachers and their unions.

Thank you

Terri

From: Christine Schuette <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:12 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: 2019 Governor Dunleavy's Proposed Budget

House Finance Committee:

As a mother and as a vested member of this community, I want Alaska to grow and prosper for everyone. I am a mother to one, but I am a neighbor to many and it is in my interest, in everyone's interest, that each neighbor, each Alaskan gets access to the resources that are needed to carry his or her personal story to it's fullest potential.

I want all children of Alaska to get the education that allows each of them to make positive and personal choices about the direction that their life will go. I want for my child, the same that I want for every child; hope, health, and a positive path forward.

I say these things to give personal expression to my concerns about the budget proposed by Governor Dunleavy. The negative effects of cutting spending on education will have implications on all aspects of community life. When you strip away the building blocks of opportunity, you are eventually left with more problems to manage. You spend more on management and less on the potential for growth.

Reconsider the allocations that you have set forth; consider proposing an income tax to ensure that funding for education and public social safety nets are not cut. Give Alaskans the tools and skills that they will need to hold themselves up and choose a path that will lead to positive decisions for themselves, and positive growth for Alaska.

Best regards,
Christine Schuette
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: Becky Kurtz & Kevin Apgar <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:07 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

This is one of the many emails you will or have received. Obviously we need an income tax, but I also think we need to reinstate the school tax. We need to cut the governor's salary, his travel budget, and the number of his staff.

Thank you for your time,

Rebecca Kurtz

From: vikki gross <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:34 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Snotrac Program

Hello,

I am writing to ask that you reinstate the Snowtrac program. It is the only user-based, self-funded program in the state. We realize the program costs more to fund each year, but we also know it is too important to lose. That is why we are willing to double the amount we pay for DMV Snowmobile registration to generate additional revenue to continue to administer the program. We are willing to pay for what we need! How many other user groups can say that?

The Snotrac program pays for trail grooming that in turn enhances safe and enjoyable riding in more areas of the state. The groomed trails enable many small, rural businesses along their corridors to survive during the winter months. They also allow access to literally hundreds of recreational cabins.

The money spent by riders on their machines, trucks and trailers to haul them and fuel is significant, and directly helps our economy. Winter tourism snowmobile excursions are becoming more popular each year in the lower 48 and could be a real revenue stream here if we had the trails for it.

Thank You,
Victoria Gross, Wasilla

From: Rachel Lord [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:30 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony: HB39

Dear Co-Chairs Rep. Foster and Rep. Wilson, and members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work, and the work of those in the Finance Subcommittees, to listen to constituents from across the state and put together a budget for FY20. It's your job, certainly. But it has been incredibly challenging and convoluted to try and follow from home. It doesn't seem like it's been much better from your side of the table.

I am an Alaskan, a parent, and a small business owner. I support a STABLE and SUSTAINABLE foundation of public infrastructure and services that I can raise my family and grow our family businesses upon.

For the success of the private sector, and the individual Alaskan citizens, I believe in stable and sustainable funding of:

- * K-12 Education
- * Early childhood education
- * Transportation, including AMHS
- * Medicaid
- * Pioneer Homes
- * Public Safety and VPSOs
- * Predictable and trusted partnerships with local governments
- * Departmental staffing to adequately fulfill mandates

Alaskans require and deserve a hard look at all things in the budget, including revenue. I fully support a comprehensive fiscal plan which includes revenues, including revised oil tax credit structure, an income tax, and a reduced PFD.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lord
Homer, Alaska

From: john sonin <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 3:03 PM

To: Senate Finance Committee <Finance.Committee@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: S.O.S.

Dear House & Senate Finance,

If a pebble splashing on a Carolina beach can undulate the ebb that a shear of wind moistens into the jet stream that inverts the air-pressure for London fog, or rain in Spain, dehumidifying air for a Istanbul mirage before the convectional eddy typhoons Malaysia and drowns the Philippines weighing crustal plates to molten Mona Loa and then tsunami San Diego, what will pressurized liquid shattering the shale bedrock, or gazillions of plastic microbeads tilled through Earth's crust, do, to inflame of OUR verduous Blue Planet Earth? We're sure to find-out when the visceral fear instilled by our Execut(-ive)\(-or) budget plan petrifies!

The economic insanity, mindlessly proposed by the elementary mindset squatting in our Governor's Mansion, is nowhere made more explicit than in the kabuki budget proposals being spewed from his, or maybe his silent-master's (Pete Kelly?), self-serving and derisive use of OUR, Alaska's, state treasury,

To begin, he wants all distributions from that social symbol and qualifier of human progress, this public treasury, to tyrannically, despotically, funnel through his Office of Management and Budget. This way, he's likely more able to 'skim' his own gains, then he acts as though the "added value" of people, OUR democracy, working TOGETHER, is somehow created without this "synergy," which is the economic growth that he and his fellow "investor class" are able to "earn" (if simply juggling numeric symbols is "earning"?) those capital gains!

We MUST NOT allow the abrogation of OUR State Constitution, by this despotic democratic derision – misplaced and found 'squatting' OUR Governor's Mansion! Attempting to testify to this matter in Public Testimony last night, I, being on the phone, may not have been as "cogently" clear in my testimony; especially with and my emotional verve and passion for Alaska's well-being, that seem to have 'boiled' as I was trying to explicate my dismay. Lacking of the time at this moment, my argument to deter exactly what our Governor is trying to do, it has become evident, as I scrutinize his department spokespeople hem, haw and deflect, that instead of have each department of Alaska government allocated funding by the Legislature, he is playing 'kabuki' economics, or maybe still living Reagan's misguided "voodoo economics" (Reaganomics) and trying to have his (mis-)placed department-heads coerce laws that give the funding discretion to his, Dunleavy's, Office Of Management & Budget. By doing so, he has sole discretion of their disbursement. Trump is trying to do the same thing!

The 'fear for our future' Dunleavy is instilling amongst Alaskan's, without regard for the consequences to our State, its perspective on the future (attitude for and about tomorrow accounts for ALL growth), and its contemporary 'peace of mind' is a Homeland Security issue and certainly unpatriotic!

John S. Sonin

[REDACTED]

Douglas, AK 99824

[REDACTED]

From: Win Faulkner <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 2:11 PM

To: LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please add these comments to public testimony - Support for Dunleavy cuts

My name is Win Faulkner. I am a life-long Alaska resident and have lived in and worked in the state my entire life. I have an economics degree from Harvard and an MBA from the Univ. of Washington. I have a real estate company and am a landlord.

I am here to speak in favor of the Governor's Budget Plan. Without exception, everyone I know in Alaska that is not closely related to a public sector labor union is also in favor of this budget and cutting back the government to a sustainable level.

For many years now our government has been super-sized by overinflated budgets, overinflated wages, overinflated state benefits, and a government sector that has not had a culture of frugality. While public sector employees have received yearly raises, most of the private sector business owners I know have experienced dramatic cut backs and less revenue.

I worry that without these cuts, our government will never achieve a healthy, sustainable level that will nourish and sustain the private sector. There seems to be a common belief among progressives that Government in and of itself can create a healthy economy through its own spending. But this is wrong and completely backward economics. An economy needs new dollars flowing into it and that happens through the private sector. And 16 billion in government spending of our reserve account the last 4 years did not stop our recession from happening nor prevent thousands of employees from moving out of Alaska. We need to send the message to the private sector that our government is under control and that we can balance a budget without asking for more taxes or changing the playing field every year.

With regard to my personal assets which consists of a number of real estate holdings, my wife thinks we should sell out now because this progressive mentality of tax and overspend will only lead to a down sloping trend for real estate values in the future.

It is time to bring our government budget under control just as we've had to do in the private sector.

Don't listen to the labor union employees and special interests that have been flooding you with comments and visits. They didn't vote for the Governor. They lost that vote.

Listen to the citizens of Alaska that elected the Governor and voted for his plan.

Please support Dunleavy's plan.

From: Electra Gardinier <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 2:30 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony HB 39 - Appropriation

To Whom it may Concern:

As a lifelong Alaskan, I am extremely disappointed to see this year's proposed budget. I am a teacher and parent living in Juneau, Alaska. I would like to see education funding increase, rather than decrease. I would like to see less of a focus on the value of our PFD. As a non-tenured teacher, I can promise you having a bigger PFD is not more important to me than keeping my job. Last year, we cut one position at our school and the thought of losing more teachers is absolutely devastating. The impact on our classes has already been detrimental - with our largest class sizes being 45 to 1. Our

students are suffering without getting the attention and support they deserve. While I live in an urban setting, I have traveled throughout rural Alaska and can only imagine what decreased funding could mean for our rural schools. We are already a state with high drop -out rates, high instances of racial injustice in schools, and low standardized test scores when ranked nationally. Without proper funding, teachers cannot possibly continue to do their already difficult jobs and students cannot be successful.

Please support teachers and students by fully funding education this year.

Thank you,
Electra Gardinier
Juneau, Alaska

3/24/19

Dear Alaskan Representatives of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you so much for coming to the people to hear our thoughts on the proposed budget. One of the reasons Alaska has meant so much to me these 26 years has been the fact that our elected officials live among us. You are in touch with your neighbors, families, and friends and we share a history together. The relationship of the government to the people of Alaska is now threatened by outside monied interests.

The \$3000 PFD promise made during the election was a bribe to citizens and will soon become a consolation prize if Dunleavy has his way, as the state as we have known it will be eradicated. This proposed budget has triggered a fight for the very soul of Alaska. Do we honor the native peoples, sourdoughs, infirm, homeless and/or addicted, and our children, or do we assume the template of life in Michigan, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Montana and other states where the Koch Brothers and other corporate cronies have bought their way to robbing those citizens of a quality life and the respect they deserve?

Do we employ a foreign budget developed by an outsider devoid of the understanding of our collective history? It is interesting that importing values from Outside is acceptable for Dunleavy as evidenced by the budget, yet he cannot recognize that the PFD, by the virtue of its existence, makes us different and contradicts this importation? That income tax is not an untouchable if he pushes his lower 48 specialized financiers' version of life here? We are the only one of a handful of states without an income tax, right? The State of Alaska has always been different and unique.

The Alaskan people are more than data! The UAA ISER report determined that 13000 jobs would be lost if this budget passes. I have seen a figure of 17,000. What a catastrophic disruption to the lives and livelihoods of so many! How many fractured relationships will occur in a state that has been built on relationships, given our isolation from the rest of the US? It will destroy the ties that bind us.

Teachers who earn no retirement nor social security benefits have no reason to stay when we tell them their jobs will indeed be very much harder next year. Some of our best and brightest have left over the past four years due to flat funding and demoralization, and there is a potential mass migration of the best and brightest on the horizon, not just from our school districts and UAA, but in many fields.

Yes, I agree that some areas of the budget can be tweaked. I support an income tax and a lowered PFD payout. Whoever heard of services without payment? But, I wonder how lower income families will be impacted if they must pay income tax on the PFDs. Can you define this for us? I believe many people, particularly in the Valley, are tired of feeling like they are being ripped off by large families who tap large numbers of PFDs and live off the rest of us through government assistance. Can that be defined, or is that a myth? What happens to rural communities, native communities, when they are taxed for their dividends and PFDs? Can this be defined?

I have an outrageous proposal. Let's cede from the US, rewrite our constitution, and redefine life for ourselves because this budget is attempting a coup by proxy. It is an effort to create a state without the history, cultures, values and legacy we share while turning over 1/3 of the US (AK) to the profiteers- corporate America. The 1% must be chomping on the bit

as they await the passage of this budget. We have a chance to ensure that they don't rape and pillage one of the last pristine environments on earth while rejecting the needs of our peoples. Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden look like Alaska yet they take care of their citizens and retain the things that have made them who they are. The people are valued through education, healthcare, social services, environmental stewardship. They have a high standard of living and people have high quality lives. What if we became more like them instead of casting aside the young, the weak, and the infirm among us instead of embracing disembodied corporate entities that have no allegiance here? The above-mentioned countries preserved their integrity while accessing resources to build their economies. At the very least, take away the oil and gas tax credits!

If so many jobs will be created by the private sector, let's let them come now and negotiate. Let them contractually agree to employ only Alaskans and donate a portion of their profits to our state government to pay for the infrastructure and service they will use. Let's contractually bind them to number of jobs created, and specific corporate citizenship/stewardship of our lands and its peoples. In the meantime, let's honor the elderly, the sick, the impoverished, the addicted, the mentally ill, and our children with good health care, education and social services.

Our state has the highest rate of alcoholism in the country. We also have the highest rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Nationally, 1 in 20 students has an FASD. This means the incidence of Down Syndrome, autism, spina bifida and other disabilities pales in comparison to the number of children experiencing this spectrum of disabilities in our systems. We know the rates are exorbitantly higher here. These children become homeless adults, unemployed adults, mentally ill adults, suicidal adults without supports such as those available through Medicaid. The highest increase in drinking is among white, educated, middle aged employed women of child bearing age (www.cdc.com). I hope this dispels one myth about who gets FASDs. The reading and math scores of our students do not begin to tell the tale of what educators face and the services we provide to the human beings in front of us each day, all day. Testing measures mere drops in the ocean of humanity. Public schools, health care, social services are essential government services. Individuals with disabilities and hidden disabilities like FASDs will be negatively impacted, as well as their families, by cuts in services that will affect all of us. I heard someone say that the state should not be the "parent". If we cut these essential services to those in need, you can be sure we will need to act in other ways to address ("parent") the societal ills that will multiply exponentially in the wake of withdrawal of services.

I was so proud to sit and listen to the articulate testimony of so many Alaskans today. Please do not forget the community of people you come from. Help us retain a state that we can continue to know/recognize, love, and be proud of.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mannix

From: CYNTHIA ANN FRY [REDACTED]@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 2:15 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: School funding and budget proposal

I do not support the current proposed budget. I strongly encourage you to be advocates for the learning of our current students and our future students. At this time we have a strong school system in our community of Petersburg. We have worked hard as parents and educators to produce young adults ready to attend college, vocational schools and/or enter into the world of work in our community, state and world. In order to do this we need to continue to fund education at current levels. The proposed budget cut or any budget cut will have a aversive impact on the future of our students by lack of early intervention, large class sizes and decreased opportunities to explore vocational programs and/or higher learning focuses in science, math, social studies and the arts.

These are all essential components to creating a healthy well rounded citizen for the future of our state.

Another serious impact to our school and community are the cuts to our highway. The Alaska marine highway is just that a highway. It is equally as important for life in Alaska as any other highway or airport.

From: Nathan McKay <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 2:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for house finance committee

My name is Nathan McKay. I live at [REDACTED] Anchorage, Alaska 99507.

I have been an Alaska resident 34 years and personally witnessed my state lose its way over the last several years. I completely back the methods and efforts of Governor Dunleavy in his attempt to reign in spending to a level commensurate with the income of the state.

The state ferry system is simply not feasible. In lieu of a ferry system it would seem plane tickets could be purchased at the states expense and we would still see a reduction in spending. Privatizing, or simply a seasonal schedule is in order. If the communities dry up, while it's unfortunate they will find a way. When the government sought to close out logging in south east everyone involved had to make do. Closing out logging was a mistake, nevertheless the effected communities adapted.

I personally volunteered to work with the ASD in their attempts to trim the budget 3 separate years under Carol Comeau. Each year it was apparent ASD had no interest in trimming the budget. Education is important, but until an audit of the money spent in previous years, and not an audit of the forward looking budget (where line items can be disguised) occurs, the reckless spending on administration and unnecessary trips for teachers out of state will continue. I am sure the list would be exhaustive.

Relying on such volatile a resource as oil for state revenue is risky enough. Betting on higher prices to get us out of our spending habit is simply bad judgement. A conservative outlook will favor the state for years to come. Unfortunately, a reset is necessary. While it appears draconian, the irresponsibility of past leadership (I'm sorry for using that word) should get the blame and not the man willing to point out the unrealistic expectations of past legislators and governors.

I love this state. I am scared for what you elected are doing to it. Every year the numbers get bigger. Look at the budget of just 10 years ago. Do the math. No entity could sustain this level of increased spending without substantial increases to revenue and diversification. Both of which, a luxury we do not have.

Thank you for taking my testimony. Best of luck to you in your position. I am hopeful for a successful outcome.

From: Branson, Pat <[REDACTED]@city.kodiak.ak.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 2:11 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Operating Budget

On behalf of the City of Kodiak, I would like to express concern and solutions regarding the State Operating Budget. An easy way to balance a budget is to revenue grab, cut without any research or analysis and hire outside "gun" to come in with out any knowledge or history of our state or the costs to do business here (especially in rural communities) and state you have balanced the state's budget. This approach to a budget of any size is just negligence. I would ask the House and Senate to do a better job with our state's budget and do the appropriate timeframe, research and analysis as well as talk to Alaskans (which you have done with your recent Finance Committee road show) before cutting "shared" oil and fish taxes, education, the university and the Alaska Marine Highway System. Certainly there are ways to cut the budget within a reasonable timeframe and make for better efficiencies, but to do this in a very damaged way in less than few months is just not acceptable. Perhaps Governor Dunleavy has presented his budget as away to begin conversations for state cuts, but we need to work together-municipalities, administration, legislature and most importantly the people who live in Alaska to solve these issues.

Mayor Pat Branson
City of Kodiak

Sent from my iPad

PRESENTATION

Public Testimony on the State Operating Budget

Presented by: Samantha Kirstein

Fairbanks Community Food Bank

Tuesday, March 26, 7:30-8:30

The Fairbanks Community Food Bank is grateful that the House Finance Health and Social Services Budget Subcommittee has recommended restoration of the Human Services Community Matching Grant Funds in the Department of Health and Social Services FY 2020 budget. We ask that this recommendation be incorporated into the House version of the state operating budget.

In the recent year, the total state funds allotted through this grant in the Fairbanks North Star Borough has been approximately \$271,000. These funds were then matched by \$118,000 supplied by the local government for a total of \$392,000, increasing the purchasing power of the state dollars to meet basic human needs as defined in Alaska law.

In Fairbanks, 14 agencies have written detailed competitive proposals for these funds that have been scored and ranked for fiscal year 2020. The most that any one of the agencies may receive is \$20,000 from the State and \$10,000 from the Borough. Each of the agencies ultimately approved will then further leverage the funds with other funding, goods and services.

In the case of the Fairbanks Community Food Bank, the current year funds support programs that provide over 325,000 meals to those who need food assistance in the Tanana Valley. To accomplish this outcome the funds leverage 22,000 volunteer hours, and cash contributions and donations of nearly three million pounds of local surplus food which may otherwise go to waste. Most of the salvaged food is perishable and should not be put into our local landfill. The resulting cost to the State and Borough is approximately 9 cents/meal.

In addition to individual family food boxes, the Fairbanks Community Food Bank supplies other entities who in turn serve on-site meals, such as the Senior Meals on Wheels program.

We receive free food and give it away free to meet basic human nutritional needs. Please help us continue to maintain this program which began in 1982, in a Recession, and has successfully survived nearly 37 years of continuous operations.

From: terry schwarz <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:52 PM

To: Senate Finance Committee <Finance.Committee@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Comments on proposed Budget (HB39)

Hello,

I would like to provide testimony on the proposed budget, as I did not get to testify in person.

The budget as proposed by Gov. Dunleavy is short sided and economically unsound. I base this opinion on my own experiences as a resident of Alaska. I am a graduate of the Anchorage School District and the UA system. I have taken advantage of the fine public education I received here to go on to graduate school out of state but returned to become a long term and successful state employee. Now I have two young children that I want to have the similar educational opportunities afforded me. Under this budget that will not be possible. I am firm believer that a strong educational system is always a good investment.

I would also like to comment on the proposed cuts to the ferry system. I am a 20 year resident of Southeast Alaska. The Ferry System is this regions Parks and Glen highways, our connection to rest of the country. Without a subsidized ferry system Southeast Alaska would be economically crippled just as Anchorage and the Mat-Su would be crippled if the Parks and Glen Highways were closed.

Education and the Ferries are two items out of the many cuts that I personally oppose. There are other items that are being cut that I do not support, Medicaid, HSS, and API to name a few. I realize that it takes money to fund a budget and I support a balanced budget. Personally I do not need a "full" PFD and would be OK if I received a smaller or no PFD. I believe that cutting the state budget to provide a "full" PFD is just introducing more middle men into the funding of services in the state, which is inherently inefficient. For example if I want to take the now Private Ferry System I will undoubtedly have to pay more for my travels and that money will come out my newly received "full" PFD. I am also willing to pay a reasonable income or sales tax to fully fund state government and services if necessary. I am fortunate to be able to have a good job to be able to say those statements and I have good job because I had a good education. My good education was supported by well funded UA and K-12 education budget. See how that works....

Respectfully

Terry Schwarz
Juneau Resident

From: Colleen Heaney-Mead <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:44 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State Budget

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident of Anchorage, writing about my concerns regarding the governor's proposed budget. The deep cuts to services in order to justify paying higher PFDs will not help our state.

Please, tax me.

We need a graduated income tax so that everyone is paying their fair share for services. Those of us with a little extra money need to help our neighbors make sure they have food on the table and access to a good education. We need an income tax, as well, to ensure that workers who primarily reside in other states aren't taking money out of our economy without putting anything back in.

Oil is not our future. We need a diverse economy with a strong state university system so that we can educate Alaskans to be part of the world's changing economy. If we keep cutting education to fund oil exploration, we will be left behind.

Sincerely,
Colleen Heaney-Mead

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK
99508

From: Vanessa Stevens <[REDACTED]@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:41 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State budget

Dear Committee members,

I am writing in support of the Alaska Legislature starting fresh with a state budget proposal, instead of following Governor Dunleavy's budget. I urge you to please lessen state cuts to education, essential services, and nonprofits with:

- 1) Not paying back the PFDs that were cut by Governor Walker,
- 2) A reduction in the PFD, following the precedent set by Governor Walker, which will still allow the PFD for our most rural residents but not pay a full PFD in order to fund state government,
- 3) Begin any cuts to the budget with the governor's office and your own legislative branch of government. If the rest of the state is going to feel the effects of budget cuts, I would hope that our state's elected officials can also find a way to tighten their own belts and feel the effects of a balanced budget on their livelihood as well.

Also, I am aware that the governor and legislature have said that taxes are not on the table, but I am one Alaskan who is in favor of a small state income tax to preserve government services such as education and Medicaid. Unlike cutting the PFD, a state income tax would not dis-proportionally hurt our most rural and poor residents.

Thank you.
Vanessa

--
Ness Stevens

From: math <math.trafton@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Oppose the Governor's Proposed Budget

Dear House Finance Committee,

As we know, the increased PFD that the governor ran his campaign on directly correlates to a defunding of so many vital state services. **The proposed cuts are far too extreme and far too fast**—they will kill our state. I am so scared for our future if we reduce or eliminate the resources that support those who need it the most. We cannot threaten K12 or higher education. I know our small town can't afford a rapid spike in unemployment. Pioneer homes, Medicaid, the ferry system, public broadcasting—we Alaskans need these services to thrive. Without support, these vital services will dry up, and with them too will many small towns across Southeast Alaska and likely across the whole state.

If we must reduce our state spending, we need to do so *gradually*.

More importantly, though, this is a manufactured crisis, as our state has so many other opportunities for increasing state revenue. We do not need to choose between PFD payouts and state services. It's time we institute a **progressive state income tax** like most other states in the union. A **state sales tax and education tax** should also be on the table. We need to **repeal the oil tax credits**. We need to fund an **alternative energy infrastructure** and reduce our dependency on oil. And we should **cap the PFD** at a modest payout—or we can convert it to more of a needs-based system.

Please do everything you can to **oppose the governor's proposed budget** to protect our town, to protect Alaska.

Thank you,
Math Trafton

[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK 99835

From: Stephen Kranich <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:38 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: The state operating budget

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of Anchorage, and I am deeply concerned by Gov. Dunleavy's proposed budget. The deep cuts to both education and medicaid will cause significant harm to Alaska residents. The UA system is the only thing that keeps intelligent young people in the state, and forcing it to cut programs and staff while raising tuition will increase the incentive for students to go elsewhere, and likely never come back. Furthermore, the proposed permanent fund dividend will significantly drain the permanent fund, nearly to the point that it cannot recover. We can't keep relying on the permanent fund as a stopgap for our budget, and we need to implement additional revenue for the state budget. We cannot continue to act as an entitlement state where citizens feel they shouldn't pay for services we all benefit from. The reality is that oil revenue is declining, and it will continue to decline. We need to diversify revenue sources for the state, so we need a statewide progressive income tax to cover the shortfall.

Thank you for your attention, and I hope you make the right decision regarding the state's future.

Thanks,

Stephen Kranich

From: Frances Rose <[REDACTED]@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:35 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Funding for The University

The University of Alaska has been part of my life for nearly 40 years as a student (MEd.), as an instructor and administrator and as a member of the Board of Regents. I watched it grow and developed into a unique institution to serve all the people of Alaska. A lot of sweat and treasure went into making it what it is today. A 40% cut to its budget would destroy all we worked for. It would prevent it from being a statewide institution and cut programs that train future Alaskan doctors, teachers, engineers and hundreds of other career fields that contribute to the economy and growth of Alaska. The University is a very important part of our state, I cannot understand why the Governor wants to destroy it.

Frances H Rose
[REDACTED]

From: Riki Lebman <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:32 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor's budget concern

Dear Finance Committee,

I am concerned that the Governor's budget cuts will have negative ripple effects throughout the State. Not only will thousands lose their jobs; including those working in ferry transportation, education and State employment, but a loss in home values and local commerce will occur. Cutting basic State services is a bad plan especially when only some of the public directly pays for local service through property taxes. A wide range of taxes should be introduced to share the fiscal burden. I favor income tax as this captures those who make their living using in-state resources but live out of state. Thank you for this opportunity to comment, Ms. Ricarda Lebman

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK

From: Matthias Volkmann <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony

To this may concern,

My name is Matthias Volkmann, I'm married have 1 child and a Ketchikan resident for over 20 years. I work for the Alaska Marine Highway Systems for almost 18 years.

I'm really concerned about the future of Alaska's residents especially SE Alaska and Ketchikan, but not just because I work for the Ferry system, which of course worries me as a head of a family. But I also worry about, that many people in our beautiful State have been and will be fooled by politicians. Some people are maybe ignorant or just have no interest in politics do too lack of time, disinterest or other legit reasons. Unfortunately right now it's not the time to look away or think "It's gonna be all right".

Now it's time to get involved. We elected a Governor who turned out to be a "Wolf in a sheep skin" and he's ready to tear apart Alaska's Social Services, Senior Citizenship Programs, Department of Corrections, Medicare, University's the list is ongoing. He appointed his cabinet with various controversial candidates and a Budget director with a radical devastating record in the lower 48.

He announced a so called "Alaska Road Show "a "Statewide Discussion for a Permanent Fiscal Plan " Sponsored by the "Americans for Prosperity -Alaska " a branch of a group founded by the Koch brothers.

We all can imagine where this is going .

And he's not even coming to the State Capital or Southeast Communities.

What about that ?

What is he afraid of ?

Any criticism , resists or strong opposition ?

Of course. He would get all of the above and maybe more .

This meeting is so controversial and has two different speakers list one for the Americans for Prosperity and the other one which is on the Governor's office web site with some speakers left out.

There is also a list of controversial conditions in order to attend these meetings like everyone has to sign in with their Alaskan ID , no party affiliated pins or stickers can be worn and selected press . Attendees give the permission to be filmed and photographed.

Sorry , that reminds me of STASI methods done by the East German Secret Police .

To me it looks like we're getting into a big scam here . The Governor already announced , that he will veto if the Legislators will vote against his budget plan .I think, he is on an agenda and he has already made up his mind without listening to his Legislators who represent the people of Alaska .Insted he is listening to his staff members, he put in key positins and sponsors with a big money back up .

And he is trying to sell his plan to the public with foolish proposals and is trying to change the Alaskan Construction and then secure the Permanent Fund and guaranteeing a " No"for a State income tax .

I'm totally aware, that we have to cut government spending in order to minimize the deficit, but the way it is going, if he gets what he wants , I see a lot of hartship for many Alaskan people and families .

His cut proposals will affect everyone sooner or later but I'm afraid people will wake up , when it us to late .

I'm not an economist and have no general solution , how to get out of the deficit. But one of my idea would be to pick up again on the Carbon off set tax incentive program that , I believe the Walker administration started to work on a while back .Or take part of the PFD introduce a fair income tax to balance the budget . Also think about have the oil producing companies paying there fair share of taxes .

I hope this will open some eyes and give people some inspiration for some contructive conversations within the communities and support their local representatives to fight for Alaska's future .

Von Outlook gesendet.

From: Linda Morrison Goss <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:16 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Balance the budget but not by penalizing our poor or middle class

Shame on you for wanting to take the PFD from the poplulation that needs it the most so that you can fund our bloated government.

Its insanity to keep trying to maintain a bloated government when we just don't have the revenue.

How many of you mangage your own finances like this??? Do you spend what you don't have? Do you keep running up your credit cards which will cost you an arm and a leg to pay off? Do you steal your neighbors or families money to maintain your bloated household budgets.

If you take the PFD you are stealing!!! You will all be remembered as thieves. You must put to vote any changes to the PDF. It is not your money to spend.

You were elected to act for the people not as their masters.

Linda Goss

65 year resident

From: [REDACTED]@aol.com [REDACTED]@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 3:15 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Finances PFD

I would like to emphasize that we need our public schools.
I will donate my PFD.

Public schools are essential for all.
PFD's are not essential for all.

We would cause problems for our working parents in the Mat-Su.
We would all like to receive money, but the PFD is not essential.
We are essential.

Please know that giving \$3000 or \$6000 as a PFD amount is not the way to resolve our budget.
We could use this money to fund essential services to our community.
Schools, libraries, police, the fire department, ambulance services, and other municipal services are needed
to keep our community running properly.

Giving people PFDs will make them "happy" for one year, but then, how will you address the deficit, and the budget for the following years?
Taking money from schools will cause teachers and auxiliary personnel to lose their jobs, their homes, their healthcare, and others will also be affected.

We need sound budgets, not PFDs.

People will yell and scream that they have the right to "their" PFD. We have the right to live in a healthy, well run Mat-Su area.

Thank you,
Respectfully submitted,
Marie Pedraza

-----XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-----

From: john sonin [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 3:18 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance Committee <Finance.Committee@akleg.gov>
Subject: S.O.S. more clear I was rushed

Dear House & Senate Finance,

If a pebble splashing on a Carolina beach can undulate the ebb that a shear of wind moistens into the jet stream that inverts the air-pressure for London fog, or rain in Spain, dehumidifying air for a Istanbul mirage before the convectional eddy typhoons Malaysia and drowns the Philippines weighing crustal plates to molten Mona Loa and then tsunami San Diego, what will pressurized liquid shattering the shale bedrock, or gazillions of plastic microbeads tilled through Earth's crust, do, to inflame of OUR verduous Blue Planet Earth? We're sure to find-out when the visceral fear instilled by our Execut(-ive)\(-or)'s budget plan, petrifies!

The economic insanity, mindlessly proposed by the elementary mindset squatting in our Governor's Mansion, is nowhere made more explicit than in the kabuki budget proposals being spewed from his, or maybe his silent-master's (Pete Kelly?), self-serving and derisive use of OUR - Alaska's - state treasury,

To begin, he wants all distributions from that social symbol and qualifier of human progress, this public treasury, to tyrannically, despotically, funnel through his Office of Management and Budget. This way, he's likely more able to 'skim' his own gains, then, he acts as though the "added value" of people - OUR democracy - working TOGETHER, is somehow created without this "synergy," which is the economic growth that he and his fellow "investor class" are able to "earn" (if simply juggling numeric symbols is "earning"?) those capital gains!

We MUST NOT allow the abrogation of OUR State Constitution by this despotic democratic derision - misplaced and found 'squatting' OUR Governor's Mansion! Attempting to testify to this matter in Public Testimony last night, I, being on the phone, may not have been as "cogently" clear in my testimony; especially with and my emotional verve and passion for Alaska's well-being which seemed to have 'boiled' as I was trying to explicate my dismay! Lacking of the time at this moment, my argument to deter exactly what our Governor is trying to do has yet to become evident. As I've been scrutinizing his department spokespeople hem, haw and deflect on Gavel to Gavel, it's clear that instead of have each department of Alaska's government allocated their funds by the Legislature, he is playing 'kabuki' economics, or maybe still living Reagan's misguided "voodoo economics" (Reaganomics) and trying to have his (mis-)placed department-heads coerce laws that give the funding discretion to his, Dunleavy's, Office Of Management & Budget. By doing so, he has sole discretion of their disbursement. Trump is trying to do the same thing!

The 'fear for our future' Dunleavy is instilling amongst Alaskan's, without regard for the consequences to our State, its perspective on the future (attitude for and about tomorrow accounts for ALL growth), and its contemporary 'peace of mind' is a Homeland Security issue and certainly unpatriotic!

John S. Soniin

[REDACTED]

Douglas, AK 99824

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@xyz.net <[REDACTED]@xyz.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 3:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony regarding the proposed budget. I am opposed to the drastic cuts proposed by Governor Dunleavy and after listening to his Kenai roadshow talk, my opposition has become stronger. As a former state employee and educator, I recognize that state government is not perfect. There are definitely ways for government and the legislative process to become more efficient. Surveying current employees would provide insight. That being said, nothing in state government and programs warrants the proposed levels of cuts.

Governor Dunleavy referenced his background as an educator, saying that he has a lot of respect for educators and teachers should be allowed to teach as they know best. His cuts to education are devastating, increasing class sizes, eliminating entire curricular programs and closing schools. How does this support educators? It simply does not. He says that school systems are top heavy with administration. Perhaps, efficiency experts should examine all of the bureaucracy that has been created by both the State and Federal departments of education. Administration has to develop systems for compliance with these regulations. As a special educator, I worked an average of 70 hours a week. An exorbitant amount of time was spent on IEP paperwork. Just the required photocopying of an initial IEP referral took 3 hours for me to complete (I'm not talking about the mandated testing, report writing, collaboration with parents and other team members, the meetings, the design and implementation of the program, data keeping, progress reports, etc.). I retired in 2010 and can only imagine how the mandated burdens upon teachers have increased. How will Governor Dunleavy's cuts allow teachers to teach?

He has proposed eliminating preschool and Head Start programs but yet wants the emphasis to be on K-3 reading. These programs help prepare children for entry into the school system. With his cuts, kindergarten teachers will be teaching preschool skills instead of kindergarten skills.

His Kenai road show talk emphasized building a strong economy and making Alaska a state that companies want to invest in. Part of what makes an area viable and attractive for folks to invest is a strong school system. Why would families want to move here,

without adequate schools? Yes, testing scores are an issue but the standardized tests are filled with cultural bias. Anchorage is the most diverse city in th country; which means a high proportion of young children who are entering school with English as a second language. In rural Alaska, many school districts have instruction for the young learners in grades K-3 with their native language for half the day.

I read in today's ADN that the Dunleavy's budget will cut out the inspector for the only dairy farmer in the State. Shouldn't we be supporting local small businesses? How many more small businesses will be impacted by DEC cuts and/or not even be able to start up due to the lack of inspectors?

He references that only 600 state jobs will be lost. ONLY 600! That is just the tip of the iceberg. The layoffs to educators in the public schools system, preschool and university system have huge ramifications. And that's just education! We all know how layoffs have a ripple effect and can cripple communities.

Meanwhile, the governor has proposed an increase in oil tax credits as opposed to eliminating them. There's a source of revenue if the oil tax credits were eliminated. Another source of revenue is a progressive income tax now. Not one is proposed to be on the ballot and if passed, implemented when? Why should workers who live Outside and use our infrastructure pay no taxes? Why is acceptable for Alaska to subsidize and enable a welfare mentality for the oil companies and out of state workers?

His proposed transference of local tax on gas and oil and fish tax from local boroughs and communities into the general fund is another devastation to our communities. This would cause local communities to increase their property and sales tax which is an increase in taxes when he ran on a a campaign on no new taxes. Local police, fire, road, and harbor maintenance slashed. Slashing the ferry system and airports? Cuts of Public Safety??How can these be justified?

I could continue with each proposed cuts but I trust that you all understand my opposition to the budget. Please make your decisions based on what is best for the people and the communities of Alaska, not for corporations.

Thank you,
Karen Murdock

[REDACTED]
Homer, AK 99603
[REDACTED]

From: Jason Tauriainen [REDACTED]@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 3:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Operating Budget FY20 education forward funding

Representatives of House Finance,

Thank you for your hard work and service for our great state. As a community member, parent, board member and Alaskan I strongly support the forward funding for education that was approved last season for FY20. Please allow the forward funding for education to stand as your work on the remainder of the budget for FY20. Fiscal stability is a must for school districts across the state and I am thankful that the legislature took care of us with forward funding last year. As you know the Governors proposed budget has caused quite a stir since it was announced so school districts are uncertain about funding for next year and many staffing decisions are on hold until they are certain of funding levels. Please take a stand for the students of Alaska and allow the forward funding to stand for FY20. As a board member I am also hopeful that the 30 million in one time additional funds will remain in the budget as it will allow us to balance our budget without fund balance use or raising PTR in or district. I thank you again for your hard work and your commitment to Alaskan students.

Jason Tauriainen
[REDACTED]

Nikiski, AK 99635
[REDACTED]

From: Jason Tauriainen [REDACTED]@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 3:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Operating Budget FY20 education forward funding

Representatives of House Finance,

Thank you for your hard work and service for our great state. As a community member, parent, board member and Alaskan I strongly support the forward funding for education that was approved last season for FY20. Please allow the forward funding for education to stand as your work on the remainder of the budget for FY20. Fiscal stability is a must for school districts across the state and I am thankful that the legislature took care of us with forward funding last year. As you know the Governors proposed budget has caused quite a stir since it was announced so school districts are uncertain about funding for next year and many staffing decisions are on hold until they are certain of funding levels. Please take a stand for the students of Alaska and allow the forward funding to stand for FY20. As a board member I am also hopeful that the 30 million in one time additional funds will remain in the budget as it will allow us to balance our budget without fund balance use or raising PTR in or district. I thank you again for your hard work and your commitment to Alaskan students.

Jason Tauriainen
[REDACTED]

Nikiski, AK 99635
[REDACTED]

From: David Norton <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 3:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: University of Alaska funding

To: Members of Alaska House Finance Committee

From: David W. Norton

Date: 26th March 2019

Subject: University of Alaska Support

In the 52 years since I enrolled in 1967 at UA as a Master's Degree student, there have been few interruptions in my or my family's many associations with Alaska's State University. What has kept me devoted to this institution is the wide range of its unique qualities, such as the high caliber of students it attracts, the dedicated faculty it retains, and the many challenging Alaska-based sets of problems that researchers address. Two of our three children have earned degrees here and stayed in or returned to Alaska, one as a practicing M.D. after her graduation from WAMI.

I retired from a non-traditional faculty career that consisted of Faculty Research Associateships at three senior Institutes on the UAF campus (IAB, IMS, Geophysical Institute) and at the University of Alaska Museum of the North. I also taught Natural Sciences for the Community/Tribal College (Ilisaġvik) at Utqiagvik (Barrow) in the 1990s while it was affiliated with UAF. Now, as a retiree, I've been glad to acknowledge and to repay the University for the educational experiences it has shared with me and the next generation of Alaskans. For the Alaska Chapter of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (UAF-OLLI) I have been a volunteer instructor for the past 10 years, and served on OLLI's and the University of Alaska Museum of the North's Advisory Boards.

It appears now to be largely up to the Legislature to safeguard this sort of long-term continuity, of heritage, and healthy traditions of University outreach to the Alaska community. Short-sighted fiscal raids on resources that provide Alaska with a fully functional UA system seem guaranteed to be terribly costly in the future.

=DWN

From: Alisha Phillips <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 3:46 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget

Legislators,

I voted for Governor Dunleavy because he was campaigning to bring Alaska back to a sustainable future. Not just the PFD's, but getting spending under control as well as utilizing all of our resources to bring back jobs. I also agree with him on putting in a spending cap and letting the people decide if we want an income tax.

I am appalled at the way our House of Representatives is handling the suggested budget of the Governor. The people spoke (not the unions), we want government brought back to a sustainable form. Make the cuts that are sorely needed and get spending under control.

Thank you,

Alisha Greenup

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ketchikan, AK 99901
[REDACTED]

From: Nora Eller <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Education

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to state the importance of education in our children lives. The representing of the people in Government all had education in their lives. Why is funding towards education even in question?

My vote is for a small percentage to be taken from PFD since everyone can equally contribute towards public education. The question then becomes what percentage 1% or 10%, I don't know the answer, but I am okay with a percentage taken from the PFD.

Respectfully,
Nora Eller

From: Matthew Faris <[REDACTED]@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:04 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

We cannot absorb the cuts the governor is proposing, especially to education. Without solid public education and a good university system, we will lose people, jobs, and the opportunity of a better future for our citizens. We should have tackled this problem 5 years ago! We need a balanced approach to revenue. Give Alaskans a modest dividend, and use a set portion of earnings for the state budget. Make small cuts to extra services, and none to essential services (education, transportation, public safety). Implement a state income tax, with a higher rate for people who reside out of state (they don't pay ANYTHING to our state but use our services!) Discontinue the tax breaks to big oil- they make plenty of money. Begin investing in alternative energy sources, especially for rural villages. Kodiak is a success story for this process! Diversify our economy- our wealth lies in our wild lands, fish and game.

Thank you

Matthew Faris resident for 36 years

[REDACTED]
Soldotna, Alaska

From: Cyrus Read <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:09 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budgetary priorities

Hello,

As an Anchorage resident and homeowner I'm worried about the direction the state is heading if it accepts the governors budget proposal.

Cutting school funding will assure a "brain drain" will occur as people who value education leave the state. This will not only set our kids back, but will reduce state population and decrease property values, which in turn will reduce state revenue over a long term.

Cutting Ferry service or making it private will hasten the death of rural coastal Alaska already struggling from high fuel costs and poor salmon returns. And it will decrease independent tourism which brings the highest value tourists to the state.

Why we would cut services while giving large oil tax credits, large PFD's and not consider new revenue generation options baffles most who have half a brain. Don't fall for Dunleavy's bad ideas. They don't make sense.

Cyrus Read

Cyrus Read
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska's Budget

Dear House Finance Committee,

Thank you for holding hearings around the state and for extending the time to allow all participants time to speak. I listened last night to the Juneau hearing and was pleased to hear that today's hearings were being made available through the LIO's for those people who could not come to a hearing over the weekend.

I strongly opposed Governor Dunleavy's proposed operating budget. I do not believe cutting government services is a sound approach to balancing Alaska's budget. For the last 10 years, we've been ignoring the warnings that this day would come. We need to come up with new revenue sources that are not focused on the oil and gas industry.

I strongly support a progressive statewide personal income tax and a seasonal sales tax. These new taxes are just part of the solution. It is unreasonable to think that a new tax will fill the funding gap.

I strongly support using the Permanent Fund interest earnings to pay for necessary government services. Had a percent of market value approach been implemented 10 or even 5 years ago, we would not be facing the funding gap we have today. The Permanent Fund was established for our future – Alaska's children and their education are our future – a strong, vibrant and diverse economy should be our future!

I strongly support limiting the PFD checks to a maximum of \$1,000 (or even lower). It makes no sense to give every Alaska upwards of \$2,000 while at the same time, cutting essential services for our children, seniors, and low income families.

I support leveraging matching funds to receive federal grant funding. Alaska was built with federal grants and in most cases, the percentage the state puts in to receive the matching federal funds is small.

I support repealing the oil and gas tax credits. This program provided an incentive to do questionable projects because the state was going to pay the bill, regardless of whether new production resulted. This program has got to stop. Let normal economics drive whether a project is feasible.

I support restoring government funding to the FY2019 levels. In particular, these are government services that I feel are essential for a state to thrive, and that I believe are the state's responsibility to fund (in no particular order).

- Fully funding K-12 education statewide.
- Public safety – Alaska State Troopers and Village Safety Officers
- Medicaid
- University of Alaska
- Alaska Marine Highway System
- Maintaining public roads and highways
- Health and safety inspections (food, air and water quality, etc.)
- Municipal revenue sharing (supporting our local communities)

Trying to find ways to cut the budget is difficult; every program has supporters and beneficiaries. At a minimum, I urge you to define what are essential services for Alaska and adequately fund those services. Work with the government agencies to understand the services that are provided and who benefits. There are probably services that can be reduced, but after 5 years of reductions, we need to look long and hard before cutting services.


I believe we actually need to **invest more money in Alaska to diversify our economy.** Alaska is a wonderful place to live and we need to attract new businesses and entrepreneurs. Alaska needs to invest in real high speed internet for all our communities (at a minimum along the road system). With more and more of our young people telecommuting, if we invest in the electronic infrastructure, we will become an inviting place to work and live. There is no reason Alaska, and perhaps Anchorage in particular, cannot be a tech center. We just don't have the infrastructure to support it. To grow Alaska, we need to think outside the box and not depend on oil and gas to grow our economy.

We all have opinions, and mine is just one. I urge you to listen to all Alaskans and to consider the majority of Alaskan's who would be adversely affected by the drastic budget cuts proposed by Governor Dunleavy. Please consider all ideas, but **base your decisions on what Alaska needs to move forward in the 21st century.** The time to act is now.

Thank you and I appreciate your service in the legislature.

Sincerely,
Wendy Woolf (concerned citizen)
Indian, Alaska

@gmail.com

From: Jacki Makinen @gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:28 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Testimony

Dear Legislators,

I am writing this letter in lieu of being able to attend the LIO gatherings concerning the Governor's proposed budget. I am implore you to pass the budget! Alaska has a spending problem. Much like an addiction, in order to reform the addict, one must take away the source of the addiction. Many have come forth to bemoan Dunleavy's plan for fiscal sustainability and living within our means. Yet, every day, every Alaskan must do the exact same thing within their personal lives. The state is not a charitable organization! The more charity the state has offered, the less the genuine charitable organizations are able to make an impact. Lions Clubs are folding all over the state because of lack of interest – why be a part of an organization that is helping others when the state has a program? Much of the "needs" that many decry as being cut aren't truly needs, rather they are wants.

There is much corruption, waste, fraud, and abuse within each state department. Let's look at education for a moment. Districts are against the budget cuts and instantly claim that schools may have to close. They automatically look to cutting teachers and classroom support, but they refuse to look at the waste among District administration. Alaskans have been asking for more local control of education for years. If Alaska and DEED would eliminate the outrageous costs of AdvancEd and the annual, Common Core testing, the state would save a chunk that would offset the budget cuts. Tests exist that are much less expensive and more comprehensive to gauge the success of classroom learning.

Holding the correspondence programs and charter schools to more rigid standards would benefit those programs and districts. Too many materials are purchased and thrown away (or sold by individuals who profit from the state's purchase) when those materials could be reused by others within the same district. As an example, a parent asks the homeschool program to purchase a camera for a photography class. At the end of the semester class, the parent turns around and sells the camera on Craigslist or a Facebook group, instead of returning the camera to their program for another student to use. This is a waste! Also, many parents stretch the regulations to get their programs to purchase curriculum that you would not find in any of that district's traditional schools. This, also, needs to end. It is an unfair advantage and, again, these families will often sell it and retain the earnings. All at the expense of the state. If one cannot find Sonlight workbooks within a traditional, brick and mortar public school, the state should not be allowing that purchase and use outside of the traditional schools. All of the correspondence and charter "homeschool" programs should have a return policy of all non-consumable purchases made via the allotments – this would allow for the reuse of these non-consumable materials which results in less expenditures for these programs. This is also one way the state can truly get on the "recycling" bandwagon.

Since we are still speaking of education, why do we not hold these programs to the same standards as

the traditional public schools? Many traditional schools require 5 classes to be considered full time students – many of the programs only require 4 for full funding: 2 core, 2 elective. There is a discrepancy. Many districts have a “No Shots, No School” policy, yet a correspondence student does not have to be up to date on vaccinations. These are the students that will most likely be mingling with the rest of the public during all hours of the day, not just before or after school times. Shouldn’t these students be held to the same requirements as their traditional peers? They are BOTH public schools! I digress.

These are just some of the ways that the budget cuts can absolutely be offset. If these can be found among just one small section of one department, then many more can be identified among each department looking at cuts. There is no reason to take anyone’s PFD payment. The PFD is not a universal basic income like so many of the Lower 48 like to see it as. The PFD is each resident’s payment for the mineral rights that they don’t have. Perhaps it is time to restrict the PFD payments and require not just residency? While I love and respect our US Military, if one lives on a federal installation, one has no property in Alaska or investment within an Alaskan community so should not be approved for a PFD payment, regardless of status of residency. All those people that say they would donate their PFD to the state government? If given that option, you would see much less in donations than those who claimed it. If you want to use the PFD for services, then let each applicant pick which services each applicant uses and set a percentage of that PFD payment to go toward those services. A woman utilizing Denali Kid Care would have a percentage of her PFD payment go to Medicaid. A child enrolled in a public school district would have a portion of his/her PFD check go to DEED. This would see a two-fold development: those not using state services would essentially be rewarded for not being a burden on the people and those that do use state services would be inspired to better their financial stations. Another option would be to just return the mineral rights to the people and do away with the PFD program altogether.

Governor Dunleavy was elected on campaign promises that he has held to. Can you say that about yourselves? Governor Dunleavy has presented the Legislature with a BALANCED budget – state spending in line with state revenues – AND has included both a full PFD payment to all eligible Alaskans WITH a proposal to repay what Governor Walker had stolen. Machiavelli wrote in “The Prince” that the end always justifies the means. Since that time, we as a people have grown and matured and now realize fundamental truths as outlined in the Magna Carta and Declaration of Independence. We know beyond the shadow of a doubt that the end DOES NOT justify the means. As a state, we can no longer afford to spend more than we bring in. It will be the end of the state. I implore you, again, to take Governor Dunleavy’s budget at it’s intent, to get us as a state back on the road to fiscal sustainability, and PASS the budget – with the full PFD.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Makinen

From: Carl Jr Jacobs <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:33 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on the Proposed Budget

Greetings,

My name is Carl Jacobs, and I am a concerned Alaskan and citizen of Anchorage. I am also a proud government employee, and foster parent to four teenage youth.

I would first like to thank the House Finance Committee for permitting me the opportunity to testify on our current fiscal situation. Thank you for your commitment to listening to residents of Alaska before making important decisions on our next operating budget.

My specific views are as follows:

- I would like to testify against a budget that cuts medicaid and prioritizes a larger PFD. Vulnerable Alaskans will be affected by these cuts, including some of my former 20+ foster youth who have since emancipated and joined society as adults.
- I would like to testify against a budget that prioritizes a PFD and uses cost savings obtained by privatizing essential State services to accomplish this. The employees of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, Alaska Marine Highway System and Department of Corrections do wonderful, important and difficult work. Outsourcing these responsibilities to a private company isnt right for Alaska.
- I would like to testify against a budget that prioritizes a PFD and uses cost savings obtained by cutting funds to Alaskan schools. Our children are our future. While Alaska needs to do better in providing our children an education, cutting funding will not assist in this goal.
- I would like to testify in favor of a reasonably responsibly and responsibility reduced PFD in order to fund Alaska's government, and strong, thorough consideration of other revenue generating measures. Reducing oil tax credits seems reasonable, but instituting a tax should also be an option on the table.

I thank each of you for your service to Alaska, and for your time.

Carl Jacobs

From: Russ Newell <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:41 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Alaska's Constitution requires funding public education including UAF - stated as the "state college"

I would like to see the legislators fully fund public education for this State's future. Should Dunleavy push back, I would suggest mounting a legal challenge as Kansas did with their Governor Brownback's ideological experiment that failed.

It sure looks like Dunleavy is repeating the same failed ideological experiment that Sam Brownback sprang on Kansas in 2012. Dunleavy even used the same "budget to gut the State" person to introduce the state to chaos.

<https://www.ktoo.org/2019/02/26/as-dunleavy-defends-budget-nonpartisan-analyst-questions-whether-it-was-designed-to-create-chaos/>

Kansas crashed and burned. Finally, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that Kansas had inadequate public education funding and forced the State to pony up millions. Please see the links below.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/beltway/2017/06/07/the-great-kansas-tax-cut-experiment-crashes-and-burns/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/02/us/kansas-supreme-court-school-spending.html>

<https://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article135967648.html>

Of note, refer to p 123 and 126 of the following on the Alaskan Constitution.

http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/docs/pdf/citizens_guide.pdf

You'll see that funding for public education is required as a public good.

I would suggest you push back hard to maintain our funding for education.

However, I would think that we also need to mount a legal challenge. We could argue that public education, both K-12 and college, has been cut year after year after Parnell's oil tax bill SB 21. At this point, knowing the Constitution and knowing what happened to Kansas with the same ideology, going ahead with this budget shows criminal intents to damage education in the State in violation of our Constitution.

This State needs public education. It does not need to give every man, woman, and child a check. Obviously, the dividend has strayed from its 1980 creation as a gift from the legislators as to something that somehow was "everybody's due" which is false. If the dividend is to remain, education can be funded right now from the Permanent Fund and later by new sales and income taxes. If that means that we have a 40% sales tax and a dividend, then that is what it means.

From: Robert DeKay <[REDACTED]@erortho.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Medicaid changes

Hello! I am an orthodontist in Eagle River, Alaska. I am concerned about the reduction of reimbursement rates to Medicaid providers. I feel that this is shorting those individuals that do give up part of their income to see those on public assistance. I only take Medicaid at my main office because of the economies of scale I have developed there. I do not take Medicaid at my remote satellite location because of the cost and expense of me traveling there. I would rather see travel benefits for Medicaid beneficiaries reduced and pay providers more to go to rural areas. This allows for a smaller increase in state spending overall. I feel that the travel benefits are very much abused. I had a young man who the state would fly to Anchorage from Soldotna with his guardian every 6 weeks for almost 2 years. The money that the state paid in airfare for 2 round trip tickets every 6 weeks would have more than

covered the difference in cost in what Medicaid pays and what the non participating provider in Soldotna charged. To add insult to injury, the mother paid for her own orthodontic treatment at the fee for service office in Soldotna. I truly believe that Medicaid can help individuals and providers are rewarded when they accept it. Unlike being a preferred provider for an insurance company, there is much more paperwork, there is the guarantee of getting paid the least, there is no negotiation for reimbursement rates, and there is always the looming threat of a complete shutdown if inspectors come to look at patient records. Please do not decrease reimbursement rates.

Dr. Robert DeKay, DMD
Eagle River Orthodontics

From: Rachel Cooper <[REDACTED]@akchild.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:51 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for House Bill 39

I am emailing to provide written testimony in response to the Governor's proposed budget. I request legislators support adequate funding for Alaska's Medicaid program that provides health coverage to eligible low-income, disabled, and senior Alaskans. Also, to support funding for Medicaid Adult Preventative Dental services.

Medicaid provides health coverage to eligible Alaskans, including children, pregnant mothers, elderly, or people with a disabling condition. Medicaid reimburses local community providers and supports the work of hospitals, behavioral health clinics, assisted living, and other direct care service agencies in providing physical and mental health care to Alaskans in need. Any reductions to Medicaid funding can restrict beneficiary access to necessary primary and behavioral healthcare.

Please reverse reductions to Medicaid (DHSS) (HB 39/SB 20) so agencies like AK Child & Family can continue to provide service to youth and families in need. Reductions in Medicaid now will increase costs in the future as families and youth will not receive early, timely treatment to address needs.

Also, please maintain support funding for behavioral health programs that serve Alaskans with mental illness, substance use disorders, intellectual/developmental, and cognitive impairments. Specific items include Behavioral Health Grants for Treatment and Recovery, Prevention and Early Intervention, Public Guardians, and Court Appointed Special Advocates for children and youth affected by opioid addiction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel Cooper, CCO

Rachel Cooper
Chief Clinical Officer
AK Child & Family
[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK • 99507

Call [REDACTED] • Fax [REDACTED]

From: Ashia Lane <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:02 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Proposed Budget concerns

Hello,
I'd like to take a quick minute to express my opinion on just two items from the governor's proposed budget.

As both a UAS alumni and a current adjunct professor, I do not support this budget, which so clearly angles against education.

As an island resident who uses our ferry system, I do not support this budget, which eliminates an affordable travel option for SE residents.

Thank you,
Ashia Lane

--
Ashia H. Lane, MFA
[REDACTED]@gmail.com
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Don Rearden <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:03 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support The University of Alaska, Support Alaska's Future

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am a faculty member of UAA, and an alumni from both UAF and UAA, and graduate from Bethel Regional High School. This makes me a proud product of our Alaskan education system, the very system that Dunleavy's proposed budget aims to decimate.

I join Alaska's rejection of this current budget and the drastic cuts to education in our state. I recently surveyed a class of my students and 3/4 of them were considering leaving Alaska because of this debacle. The uncertainty our youth face right now is unprecedented, and frankly unwarranted.

Please reject this wholesale slaughter of our university and public school system. Our system does not fit the cookie-cutter model from the states, and we don't need some non-Alaskan budget hack to tell us what is "right sized" for Alaska. We're bigger and better than that.

Thank you,

Don Rearden

--
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Malena Marvin <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:10 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 39 - Comments on the operational budget

Hello,

I submitted oral testimony but would like to clarify my comments via written testimony. I would like to note that for the 1.5 hrs I listened to testimony on March 26th I did not hear a single citizen support this budget. That gives the legislature the mandate to act with courage and conviction to act as a check and balance to what can only be interpreted as the governor's ideological extremism.

I live full time in Petersburg. My husband is a troller and together we operate a growing direct market fishing business with sales around the United States and Alaska.

I oppose the governor's proposed budget and his cuts to schools, the ferry, healthcare, and public radio.

I support restoring full funding to our educational system and schools, the Alaska Marine Highway, our vital public radio stations, and the Medicaid system. We ride the ferry many times each year and would do so more if the state invested more fully in AMHS success. As a cancer survivor I have relied on medical services from our Petersburg Medical Center and am concerned that an ideological swipe at Medicaid could have deleterious impacts to that facility as well as the health of my community members. As many testimonials to you have outlined, without adequate funding for our schools and radio and other programs we would see job loss and concomitant departures of families from Petersburg. This could very easily create the sort of economic downturn that would make it hard to live and do business here.

The good news is that solutions to this political crisis are very simple. In the short term, I support using a portion of the Permanent Fund to meet budget shortfalls this year. There is no way that receiving individual PFD payouts will replace the layoffs and program closures outlined in this budget in terms of economic activity, and that is why so many of us have testified in favor of another partial PFD.

In the longterm I would like to see the governor and legislature work together to undo the damage wrought by SB 21 and roll back subsidies to Big Oil in the form of tax credits.

Additionally, I support the implementation of a statewide progressive income tax. The research I have done suggests states with higher income tax rates have substantively stronger economies than states with no income taxes. Here is the link to this research: <https://itep.org/states-with-highest-income-tax-rates-economically-outperform-states-with-no-income-tax/>. Here are some of this study's key findings:

- States levying the highest top personal income tax rates are experiencing faster economic growth than states without such taxes, measured both in terms of aggregate GDP and per capita GDP growth.
- Average incomes are growing more quickly in the states with the highest top tax rates.
- Residents of states with the highest top income tax rates are more likely to have a job than people living in states lacking income taxes.

I have significant concerns that Governor Dunleavy is prioritizing the narrow ideology of his corporate sponsors over the general wellbeing of rural communities like ours. Please take our comments into account and act boldly. The future of our towns rests in your hands.

Thanks for your time,
Malena Marvin

[REDACTED]
Petersburg, AK 99833

From: Brad Ramsay <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget priorities

To whom it may concern-

I am writing today to voice my concern about the governor's budget proposal. The proposed budget is a slap in the face to all Alaskans regardless of race, religion, or political affiliation. I support the need to balance the state budget, but that cannot happen entirely on the backs of all citizens that rely on the government's services. We all drive on roads paid for in the state budget that are plowed by snowplows paid for in the state budget. We all benefit from educated students and citizens to become our leaders, doctors, entrepreneurs, and even teachers. As we look to gut our education system by firing hundreds of teachers and decimating our university system, dock our transportation system by shuttering the AMHS, and shelve healthcare benefits that so many people rely on for their well being, I can't help but notice the governor's proposal leaves oil subsidies untouched. A barrel of oil costs less to produce in Alaska than anywhere else in the world. Article VIII of Alaska's state constitution mandates that the state's natural resources be managed to the maximum benefit of Alaska's people. Nowhere does the constitution provide for the maximum benefit of Conoco Phillips or BP. However, this budget proposal does just that, ignoring entirely the benefit of the people of Alaska. In case the link is unclear, the credits and subsidies on the books for production and exploration MUST be revised. Revocation of only a few dollars per barrel of credits and/or incentives would balance the budget. The legislature and the governor work for Alaska and Alaskans, and not Conoco Phillips, PB, or the Pebble Partnership.

Thank you for your time and consideration-
Brad Ramsay

[REDACTED]
ANC, AK 99502
[REDACTED]@gmail.com
[REDACTED]

From: Melanie Lindholm <[REDACTED]@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:15 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please save our education

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to ask you to please consider other alternatives to cutting funding to our state's educational programs and institutions. We need fully funded early education programs, K-12, and university institutions. I'm shocked that any education funding is being considered during budget cuts. Educated citizens are imperative to our state's success. Cutting education funding should never be on the table. Please do whatever it takes to keep education fully funded.

Sincerely,

Melanie Lindholm

Melanie M. Lindholm, MA
Arctic and Northern Studies, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Thesis: "Alaska Native perceptions of food, health, and community well-being"

From: Valerie Prendergast Edwards <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:15 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Testimony

Dear members of the house finance committee,

I was not in town when representatives were in Sitka on Sunday to listen to testimony. Had I been in town, I would have spoken. Please accept this written testimony. Thank you for taking the time to listen.

Sincerely,

Valerie Edwards MD

My name is Valerie Edwards. I am a family physician and mother living and practicing in Sitka. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the budget process.

Quite simply, the proposed budget cuts would be devastating. The proposed cuts to education, infrastructure, the ferry system, and to public media would be damaging to our communities. Given the constraints on time, I'll draw your attention specifically to the WWAMI program, which the governor proposes eliminating. This program educates Alaskan students at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Training Alaskans to become physicians and to practice medicine locally builds a well trained

and committed physician workforce in the state. The Alaska WWAMI program has one of the best return rates of medical schools in the country. Our financial investment is minimal compared to other low population states who have their own medical school. If we were to back out of the WWAMI program, Alaska would be the only state in the country without a medical school for its residents. It has been shown over and over again that the place where medical students do their training is the most likely place they will stay to practice.

The WWAMI program also enhances the practice of medicine and health outcomes all across the State by connecting teaching doctors, and providing us access to UW's incredible resources.

The benefits Alaskans receive from the WWAMI program exceed the costs of this program. This is especially true given that Alaska's population is too small to support its own medical school. I urge you to fully fund WWAMI, and other core governmental services like pre-K and primary education. Without a doubt core governmental services like these should get funding priority.

From: Matt Carlson <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:22 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support University of Alaska

I am writing to urge you to support and fully fund the University of Alaska. The university system plays a critical role in not only providing in state educational opportunities for its citizens, but also in supporting wise management of the state's natural resources, and promoting economic growth.

The governor's proposed budget for the university would be catastrophic and foolish if implemented.

Please be considerate of the future of the state we love.

Sincerely,

Matthew Carlson

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

From: LeeAnn Munk <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: last chance to save AK way of life

Dear Members of the House, we are now faced with a tipping point in Alaska's history. We either preserve the high quality of life offered to Alaskans that make Alaskans want to remain as residents of this great unique state or we give it up for a short term gain to the PFD pay out. Education, health care, and infrastructure are what connects us as a state, so much progress has been made in the last decades. Do we want to go back to a weak, unstable and volatile economy that cannot support resource development and business or do we want to be progressive and put high value in the educational system and basic services of Alaska?

I do not think any Alaskan would support a double sized pfd if they knew they would soon be out of a job because of a mass exodus of the population.

Education = desirable jobs = higher paying jobs = spending money to support the economy for all jobs.

If we don't support this equation for success all Alaskans loose. Just because we have a short sighted governor does not mean we should just give in to his ignorance. Many people before him have worked hard to preserve our way of life, let's honor our history and those who have dedicated their lives to improving opportunities for all Alaskans.

Please vote against Dunleavy's proposed budget cuts to education, health care and infrastructure and do not support any veto power he may try to employ.

Sincerely,

--

Lee Ann Munk, Ph.D.

From: Amy Ryder [redacted]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Bryan Ryder [redacted]@gmail.com>
Subject: Rejection of Gov. budget

Good evening,

I am going to hopefully keep this short and sweet because I am strapped for time, but I am against the Governor's proposed budget. I do not agree with the cuts that have been proposed to Medicaid, Education, the Pioneer Home, and the Alaska Marine Hwy. All of these areas deserve full funding and support because of the benefits to our entire community. Cutting funds to any one of these services will cause a devastating ripple effect that would take years or decades to recover from.

I think the first thing we need to revisit is the credits we have given the big oil companies. We should not be giving our money and resources to these corporations. It should be going towards our community members and services that benefit our state, not to the companies that do not need any more of our State's money.

I also would be willing to forgo my PFD if it meant funding to these areas. My family benefits greatly from the PFD, but if it is at the expensive of the poor, the elderly, and our youth, I cannot support that or continue to file for our dividend.

And while I do not want an income tax, if this meant I could keep all of the services our community so desperately needs, I would consider this as well.

Thank you,

Amy Ryder

Wife, Mother, Community member, Treasurer of Healthcare unit 2201 - Local 200 of the ILWU, State Parks Citizen Advisory Board member, and Business Office System Support Coordinator at Bartlett Regional Hospital

From: Clay Bezenek <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:31 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 39

Dear House Finance committee members,

It is my families wish that you cut %5 off all departments except com fish and public safety.

Sorry, let me be clear.

%5/yr x 4 yrs.

This will not shock out real estate markets as bad as the governors proposed budget.

We are NOT cutting spending near enough now, and additional taxes aren't appropriate until some fat is trimmed.

Com fish has been trimmed already %20.7 in the last 5 yrs.

Also, leaving the Bellingham ferry link is very unwise, as its cost prohibitive to the common folk, instead please leave the Prince Rupert port call working.

We all can drive down south in two driving days for far less money.

We have so much unfunded liability at the moment between pers/ters and oil and gas credits, that to NOT cut government now is unwise.

Thanks,

Clay and Lisa Bezenek

[REDACTED]
Ketchikan, Ak 99901
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:37 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Written Testimony for House Finance Committee

Thank you for providing this opportunity to send in this written testimony. I "testified" with Representatives Wilson, LeBon, and Wool on Sunday in Fairbanks, but I understand that was not the same as providing "testimony," so here goes:

Thank you for what you do for the State of Alaska. I appreciate the sacrifices you make to serve the State of Alaska - in Juneau - away from your families, churches, and communities.

I am providing this written testimony because I have a strong passion for the University of Alaska. The University has made me who I am today. I have a B.A. in Communication, and have worked as a legal assistant, an administrative assistant, a fundraiser (\$10M over ten years) and I currently work as an executive assistant.

I support a FULLY FUNDED University of Alaska budget. When I first moved to Alaska, got a job at a law firm, and got settled into life in Fairbanks, I had a two-year degree, so I signed up to take a class at UAF and got my degree several years later. I loved the atmosphere on campus. There were a lot of people just like me, who wanted to learn more, so they could contribute more. Faculty members were supportive, willing to go the extra mile to ensure students were getting value for their hard-earned money, and they were friendly.

I will never forget the day our house burned in University West. Two days before Christmas, we lost a lot. At the time, my husband and I were taking a course at UAF called Life History. We both wrote Life Histories of the person in our lives who had had the most influence on us. Todd wrote about his father, I wrote about my grandmother. We will have those life histories to cherish forever. But what really struck me was when our house burned that year, our professor, Jerry Mohatt, I'm sure many of you knew him, an AMAZING man, called Todd and I and invited us over to his and his wife Robby's home to share what knowledge they had about losing a home to a fire. Insurance advice, how to go through what remained, and other such things we knew nothing about. Because they went through the same thing years before!

You see, the University isn't this ivory tower on top of a hill pontificating on theories, as I'm sure many people think, it's a place of higher learning through difficult life lessons, learning what makes you tick so you can be a productive member of society, and most of all, it's a community of people wanting to make a positive impact on the lives of others. Faculty, Staff, Students, and Administrators. Think of the ripple effect! PLEASE FULLY FUND THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA. We cannot have a strong state without a strong University.

Thank you for your service to our amazing state and for taking the time to read this.

Teresa Thompson
[REDACTED]

From: Max Leyf [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:44 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support UA

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to support our university. Any republic or democracy or representative democracy depends on an educated populace. For this reason, we all have the responsibility to ensure the health of those institutions which provide for this. It goes without saying, I think, that few issues are more vital and foundational for a society than to ensure that its citizens have access to institutions of higher learning. One can be persuaded to see both sides of the Alaska Marine Highway issue, for instance, but it is hard to understand the benefits to cutting support for the university system (for the reasons above).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Max Leyf Treinen

From: Annie Ellis La Rue <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public comment on Budget cuts

My name is Annie La Rue, I am a fourth generation Alaskan born in Fairbanks, Alaska, and a third generation foundation alumni of the UA system. I testify on my own behalf.

It troubles me greatly to see the proposed budget cuts to the University of Alaska system. Education is, and must remain, the foundation of any free society. Without education and educators, I could not write this letter; nor could you read it.

The University gives back to the communities it serves in many ways. Not only is it nationally recognized for excellence in teaching topics vital to Alaska, such as business, petroleum engineering, geology, economics, wildlife management, and forestry, it also remains a highly valued local asset to rural communities that may have disproportionately inadequate access to libraries, parks, or other tools that connect communities across geographic distances that seem almost endless. I am concerned that these budget cuts will cause rural communities to lose one of the few positive facilities they have to educate their students, train their workers, and prepare themselves for their own futures.

Aside from these concerns, I worry that these budget cuts will increasingly force only the most financially prepared to choose to stay in state for higher education. If it is too expensive, young people will be forced to leave the state to pursue the world of other options that await them. That brain drain will hurt Alaska for the next 40-60 years.

I worked hard to pay for my education, though the time it felt expensive. However, if I had known then how valuable my degree was when I graduated, I would have gladly paid 10 times more than I did for it.

I can only hope my future children will have the same great opportunities that I had to attend UAF, where my grandmother, mother and father also attended. I plead with you to consider how valuable the UA system is to all Alaskans by rejecting the proposed budgets cuts.

Thank you,

Annie La Rue
UAF Class of 2001

From: Kate Graber <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:00 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on budget

House Finance Committee Members,

When I first moved to Alaska in 1971, I paid an Alaska state income tax and a school tax on the money I made that summer working as a chambermaid at the Wyatt House in Valdez. I was 15 years old and I knew that the privilege for working in Alaska required me to pay state income taxes and a school tax even though I was still in high school. I didn't mind one bit. Alaska was beautiful and the experiences were beyond my wildest dreams. When the state of Alaska decided that they were going to pay out a PFD to all residents and that there would no longer be a state income tax or a school tax I knew it was going to be trouble. Folks just don't pay as much attention to what the government is doing when they don't have to contribute out of their own pockets and here we are, not even 40 years later, cutting services that were funded by taxes long before the oil started flowing down the pipeline and long before many Alaskans and even some of you were even here.

Most folks in Alaska don't have memories of where we were before the oil started flowing and so they don't know how far we've come. They have no idea how independent and self-sufficient we were while at the same time how much we depended on each other if we needed help because there was less than half as many here compared to now. Most folks in Alaska have never traveled off of the road system and so they have no idea how the other half lives. Even the ones who have traveled the roads are clueless about what its like to actually live in the smaller communities outside of Anchorage and the Palmer-Wasilla area.

I'm living in Palmer for the second time in my life. Its where we chose to retire. Besides Valdez and Palmer, I've lived in Anchorage, Clam Gulch, Peters Creek, Wasilla, Soldotna and Kenai. I've traveled everywhere on the main road systems more than once. I've been to Skagway, Sitka, Gustavus, Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Wrangell, Yakutat, Kodiak, Cordova, Seldovia, Port Graham, Sand Point, King Salmon, Dutch Harbor, Nome, Kotzebue, Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk which either required a plane or a ferry. I know that there are 2 very different Alaskas.

Living here has been a great lesson in sociology. Its always been a transient state. I know more folks who use to live in Alaska than I know who live here now. Now there are more folks living in Anchorage than there were in the whole state when I moved to Alaska 1971. I have no problem with the swelling of the population but I do have a problem with the cutting of services and state budgets which seems asinine considering that we have more folks here.

I'm afraid that the budget cuts are going to kill the other Alaska, the part of Alaska that makes us unique. The rural part of Alaska that doesn't have as loud of a voice as the major population center could become extinct without the year round ferry service or enough money for their education programs or the Medicaid program. The rural folks have been relocating to Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley because of previous budget cuts and a lack of opportunity and a insufficient law enforcement.

I'd rather see folks paying a state income tax than loose their PFD because taking money from their PFD is a regressive tax that taxes every man, woman and child who qualifies and can't even be deducted off of their Federal taxes. My husband and I are willing to pay a state income tax and school tax. We aren't going to leave the state. Our grandchildren are here. We want them to have a great education here from Pre-K through college. We want sufficient law enforcement. We want our neighbors' healthy. We want decent roads and a year round ferry system. We want our seniors cared for in a decent way.

And why the hell are we paying these oil companies tax credits?!?! Its nothing but corporate welfare! They aren't going to leave and drill elsewhere. Although if they did, it would be a great opportunity for Alaskans to develop more earth-friendly industries.

I'm tired of seeing folks deciding to deconstruct this state who had no part in building this state into what it is today. Stop the cuts and do what is right for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Winn Graber
Palmer, Alaska 99645

From: Abigail S. Paul <[REDACTED]@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:04 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Abigail Paul <abigail.paul@icloud.com>
Subject: Please Read My Testimony...Thanks

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

My husband, Oran Paul, and I were both born and raised in Fairbanks. We plan to continue to make this our home and are encouraging our children, Carter (15) and Gus Paul (17) to do the same. As of right now, both boys plan to attend UAF and wish to build their lives in Fairbanks. Most of our parents were educated at UAF. My husband's father, Augustus John Paul, also worked for UAF as an ocean scientist. My father and mother, Melody and Sandy Jamieson, have lived and worked here their entire lives. I consider Alaska (and more specifically Fairbanks) my flesh and blood. I care deeply for the land I was born and raised on. That is what inspired me to dream up the The Watershed School, a public K-8 charter school with a "Place-Based" philosophy here in Fairbanks. I am co-founder of that school and have played many roles there over the past ten years from cleaning restrooms to serving as their special education teacher, the position I currently hold. The foundation of our democracy is education. The earlier children are exposed to the basics of academic learning, the better equipped they are to be contributing members of our communities and informed voters. Head Start, Parents As Teachers, K-12 public schools and the UA system all play a crucial role in the continuation of our free nation, full of opportunities for our people. Please consider an education tax as a short-term solution to ensuring that future generations can enjoy freedom and prosperity. Also, please bring a natural gas line to Fairbanks as a way to offset the cost of taxes and provide clean energy. Our state can keep natural gas as a bank account for the future, not give it away to large corporations. Please also responsibly (sustainably) develop the vast natural resources of this state, including tourism, as a way to fund our endeavors (no more giving away too much of our money to outside) so that we can avoid taxes for full-time residents. Thank you for listening.

Respectfully,

Abigail Paul

[REDACTED]
[Fairbanks, Alaska 99709](#)

From: Melinda Myers <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:06 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Early Education and K-12 Funding

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Melinda Myers and my husband Chris Myers and I are life long Alaskans with two children ages 13 and 11. I am writing you in support of increasing funding for early education and K-12 education. Alaska's economic future and our ability to encourage our children to continue to live in Alaska depends on it. Through my work and friends, I hear everyday the struggles families are facing to raise their children here. Access to quality child care and support for families is a tough challenge many families face today in our communities. Then when we think it will be easier when the kids are in school, we now have high class sizes and teachers who are trying to keep learning fun even when their school's budget keeps getting smaller. For example, my son is an eighth grader at Hanshew Middle School. Three of his core classes (math, science, language arts) have 35, 36 and 38 kids in his classroom. The teachers say they are struggling to ensure kids get the support they need in order to be successful and this is without the cuts that are being proposed for FY20. I am worried for my children, my neighbor's children, and children in all of our communities that they will not get a good education here in Alaska and that will also drive people to not want to live her. I appreciate your time to listen to my concerns, I know there is a lot to consider and I hope the legislative body as a whole will invest in early education and K-12 education significantly.

And on another note regarding revenue, I am in favor of a reduced or no PFD, I would like to see a sales and/or tourism tax, and taxes on those who work in Alaska but then live in another state.

Sincerely,
Melinda Myers
[REDACTED]

From: Colby Shibler <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:07 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: comments on the budget

Good afternoon House Finance Committee members,
As a parent of two children in the Juneau School District I highly value our public education system. I disagree with the cuts the governor is proposing. I would gladly give up my PFD AND pay an income tax if it means our schools can have the funding they need. I also believe other state services like ferries and public health and safety must be funded at levels that benefit the average Alaskan. I don't want to pay for the first ladies executive assistant.

Thank you,
Colby Shibler

From: Paul Schuette <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:10 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Education funding increases!

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge you all to oppose the budget proposed by Governor Dunleavy and stand for funding education! I am a term faculty member at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). I teach courses in ecology, wildlife ecology, and conservation biology to students in the Biological Sciences department

and Geography and Environmental Studies department. I also conduct research at the Alaska Center for Conservation Science at UAA on species of high socio-cultural, economic, and ecological value such as moose, caribou, and their predators, as well as species and ecosystems of conservation concern. I have worked extensively in sub-Saharan Africa and I am eager to develop circumpolar / Arctic research based out of UAA as well. I believe we all can learn so much through a global exchange of ideas, particularly with regards to wildlife management and conservation, sustainable natural resource development, and the resilience of subsistence-based communities. We have so much to share with the rest of the world here in Alaska!

The UAA system has experienced substantial budget reductions in the 3 years I have lived and worked in Alaska. These declines have led to faculty leaving and positions not getting refilled, low morale among faculty and staff (a high percentage are looking for different jobs), and as a result, we are letting our students down. As a term faculty member (non-tenure track), I am extremely vulnerable to budget decreases. A budget decrease will likely mean that I am no longer able to teach courses in a scientific field that is of utmost importance given our vast wilderness areas and abundant wildlife which Alaskans depend on for recreational use and for subsistence needs, let alone the high volume of tourists that come to Alaska each year. If I am not around next year to teach, the wildlife ecology course will not be taught at UAA. A major university in Alaska, the state known for its rich wildlife heritage and vast wilderness, may not offer a wildlife ecology class despite a high demand for this class. This would be a true shame. There is just as much need for wildlife and conservation courses at UAA as any other campus. All wildlife agencies have offices based here and are looking to collaborate on research, have their personnel attend courses, and help develop the next generation of wildlife biologists in this state, rather than try to import and retain them from the lower 48. Some agencies are lacking the skilled (hold a M.S. or Ph.D. degree) personnel they need because our state is not producing and retaining enough high quality scientists. We need to increase our funding for scientific research and teaching in the UA system! Additionally, a lot of research dollars will be lost if the UA system continues to lose high - caliber faculty, which will further deepen the blow of budget decreases.

My wife and I also chose to move to Alaska for its vast beauty that we can enjoy with our young son. He is now 3 years old and we anxiously watch as we see proposed cuts to pre-K thru grade 12 education at our public schools. We want to invest in our community and our son's future here. Cuts to public education is unfathomable given the state's current low rankings in just about every education category.

Invest in education from pre - kindergarten thru college graduation and beyond! If we seek to improve our social, economic, and ecological problems, we must fund our state government. If this requires additional revenue, such as an income tax, please tax us! This budget debacle has truly revealed how dependent we are on oil, and this dependence is unsustainable. I have never lived in a place where I repeatedly hear people asking to be taxed. Truly, this is a sign that people are desperate! We must diversify Alaska's revenue to take care of all Alaskans now and in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Paul Schuette, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor &
Lead Wildlife Ecologist
Alaska Center for Conservation Science

University of Alaska Anchorage
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

From: [REDACTED]@acsalaska.net <[REDACTED]@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:13 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Give us our full Dividends back--

In regard to HB39 and SB20. I am writing in support of Governor Dunleavy's budget and full payment and back payment of the PFD. No new taxes! Thank you!

From: Jackie DiGennaro <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:18 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor's budget

I'd like to add my voice to the thousands of Alaskans protesting the governor's proposed budget cuts. I'd rather have no PFD than the overcrowded classrooms, slashed programs, and the elimination of the ferry system (our highway in SE Alaska). I can't even imagine selling our beloved Sheldon Jackson Museum. What is Dunleavy thinking?

Please go back to the table and come up with a better plan than this for our great state. The people deserve better.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline DiGennaro
Sitka, Alaska

From: Jake Sloan <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I strongly support the governors budget and I encourage you to do the same

I am writing to you today to let you know that as an Alaskan I strongly support the Governors budget proposal. Yes I realize it makes deep cuts and I know you have been hearing from everyone who has a deep and vested interest in avoiding those cuts.

The reality is we have vastly outspent our earnings. We spend more per person in this state than most states in the union and I ask what are we getting? Cuts must be made. Stripping more money out of the private sector via taxes or pfd grabs will only make our problems worse.

They say necessity is the mother of invention. I believe once the initial shock is gone the reality of our budget that must be (aka smaller than it was) will spur innovation to figure out how to do things differently and better. This will help root out waste and fraud. It will also set our state up for greater success in the future.

If it's true that the majority of Alaskans want a tax and want to give up the PFD to fund government there is a simple solution. Put those things on the ballot. Let Alaskans vote and let their voices be heard. I strongly suspect that neither would pass but I could be wrong. Also make it possible for those who want to give the pfd back to the state able to do so through click pick give.

Bottom line is our private sector is hurting. Pulling more money out will make it worse. We will continue to loose jobs and hardworking families unless we bring state spending under control.

I don't envy you in the choices ahead but I encourage you to do what is right for the long term for our state!

Jake Sloan

[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK 99504

[REDACTED]



PO Box 37
King Cove, Alaska 99612
(907)-497-2340

Testimony on HB39
to the
House Finance Committee
March 26, 2019

Good Afternoon, House Finance Committee Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

My name is Gary Hennigh. I am the City Administrator for King Cove and in my 29th year in this position. On behalf of the city's elected officials and residents, we take pride in being part of a financial partnership with the State to maintain an annual, affordable budget that addresses many of our local government needs.

We know that having a sustainable local government budget requires a working partnership with the State of Alaska. In particular, State community assistance funds (currently about \$90,000 annually) and State shared fisheries taxes (currently more than \$600,000 in FY19) are key components (about 27%) of our General Fund revenues of approximately \$2.6 million.

First, a little background. King Cove organized as a city in 1949 when Alaska was still a US Territory. In the mid-70's, King Cove became a first-class city, and in part, became dependent on a financial partnership with the State's shared fish taxes and revenue assistance. More than 27% of our 1975

general fund budget, 38% in our 1992 budget, 20% in 2005 (no revenue assistance for a number of years during Gov. Murkowski era) and currently about 27% of our FY19 general fund budget (\$616,000 of \$2.65 million) have been a very significant part of this long-term financial partnership with the State.

This partnership has also meant that we need to do our part, which indeed we have done. Starting in the 1980's the city has had a 2% local fish tax (with another 2% going to the Aleutians East Borough) and has increased our local sales/use tax from 2% to 4% about ten years ago, and then to 6% in 2015 (now, one of the highest local government sales/use tax in rural Alaska). The city also implemented a one-of-a-kind fisheries business impact tax about 15 years ago that requires our local processor to pay \$100,000.

King Cove has always been a responsible and forward-thinking community. We were the 2nd municipality in Alaska to accept an ownership transfer of the State built boat harbor in King Cove. This occurred in the mid 90's. Later, we agreed to accept an ownership transfer of the State road connecting our airport to the harbor, a distance of about 5 miles. These ownership transfers have obligated the city to be financially responsible for maintaining these facilities.

Over the last two decades, the City has taken on significant debt (about \$8 million) for a number of community projects, including our two hydro facilities, a new water system, rebuilding the "old" State harbor transferred to the city, and in 2019 for a new landfill/incineration project and a sewer lift station replacement. These projects have/are essential in responding to the residential, commercial, and industrial growth in King Cove over the last few decades.

Some of these projects have required a significant subsidy from our General Fund, where our state and local fish taxes are the primary source of revenue. We have also been increasing user fees in our enterprise funds, 70% for water over the last 4 years, 50% increase in our solid waste fees fund earlier this year, and 10% for all harbor/port fees a few years ago. We remain persistent, and generally successful, in increasing user fees when necessary.

King Cove's future clearly depends on maintaining this financial partnership with the State. It would not be fair to the residents and local government of King Cove to abruptly discontinue our historically-dependent state revenue partnership. Consequently, we request the House Finance Committee approve a FY20 operating budget with a status quo for continuing the sharing of fish tax revenues and community assistance for all eligible local governments in Alaska.

Thank you.

Glh

From: Cody Rogers <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

Hello,

I am strongly against the budget that is proposed by the Governor. These cuts will impact the state in ways that can't even be quantified. We need to be investing in things like education and health services, not cutting them. Not educating our young folks will only create larger wealth disparities, and not having a trained workforce for our state.

I would support both the elimination of the PDF, and adding a sales or income tax.

Thank you,

Cody Rogers

[REDACTED]
Fairbaks, AK 99709

From: Liz Cabrera <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:29 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Operating Budget

Dear House Finance members,

Thank you for providing opportunities for public input on the Governor's Budget.

While most can agree that it is past time for Alaska to implement a fiscal plan to match declining oil revenue, Gov Dunleavy's proposal is a great example of how NOT to do it. Making irresponsible campaign promises, entrusting the budget to a consultant who has no intention of living in Alaska to experience the repercussions of her proposals, and shifting the burden of government cost to local municipalities are not the answer.

A \$3000 pfd is great, but not at the expense of a \$1.4 million cut to our school district. In fact, our family will now pay more for less. Our federal taxes will increase as a result of the higher dividend (the federal cut made little difference) and our local taxes will likely increase in an attempt to cover the shortfall in state funding. The school district will be forced to cut programs and teachers to make up the remaining difference. So, how is this touted by the Governor as no new or increase in taxes?

I encourage you to end the Governor's "fiscal shell game" and work toward implementing sound policies, including consideration of a state income tax. These are mechanisms that can both provide for some level of PFD and fund the basic public services, especially education and transportation, our state needs to attract new investment and new residents.

Sincerely,
Liz Cabrera
Petersburg, AK

From: [REDACTED]@aol.com <[REDACTED]@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Education vs PFD

To Whom It May Concern,

As an educator, parent, citizen, and living in Alaska, I was under the impression the our PFD came from the sale of the oil by companies allowed to drill in our wonderful state. These monies are then disbursed to the citizens equally. This only seems fair. Using the money for other uses, is not what I thought the money was designed for.

Education needs to be a priority for everyone. Everything we do in life is a reflection on our level of education from the jobs we hold to the homes we live in to our lives we live. Educational should always be the top concern for any and all government employees. You personally would not be where you are today, if it wasn't for your education. It is my belief that the money for supporting education should come from the monies the Alaska government earns through their various resources and investments.

So many families rely on the PFD funds to purchase items their family needs including warm clothes for school and school supplies.

Thank you for reading my comments.
Sincerely,

Cathy O'Neil
Tok, AK 99780

From: Malissa Fine <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

I am sending this email to express my disappointment with the proposed cuts to our education system and the cuts to the elderly. I believe that is is our responsibility to provide for our future and also take care of our seniors who have built this state. We can do that by not paying out a full pfd. By implementing a smart and fair income tax and by eliminating the massive about of oil credits that we are paying to the oil industry.

We cannot continue to not pay our way and cutting education is not the solution

Regards

Malissa Bergan

From: David Bowie <[REDACTED]@pmpkn.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:46 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please reject the proposed education budget cuts

Dear Members of the Alaska House Finance Committee (and copied to my legislative representatives),

I wish to voice my concern at the proposed cuts to Alaska's education system, both K-12 and university-level. At a point in time that there is widespread agreement that an educated workforce is one of the state's and the nation's greatest needs, it is utterly shortsighted to cut education funding, and particularly wrongheaded to do so without a concrete, evidence-based plan for improving our system of education.

To those who would argue that we don't have the revenue to justify continuing to fund our education system appropriately, I would suggest that we do. Yes, Alaska has a systemic deficit, but only if we continue to award an extraordinarily high level of industry tax credits, and only if we assume that it is better to offer the short-term stimulus of large Permanent Fund Dividend checks than to invest that revenue in the long-term health of the state. Correct those issues, and not only do we have enough revenue to avoid the draconian cuts that have been proposed, but we also have enough to make an investment in education by increasing spending in targeted areas.

So in brief, I would strongly urge you to reject the governor's proposed cuts to all levels of education, and instead to work to find ways to at least eventually increase education funding.

Very truly yours,

David Bowie

[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK 99504-3344
(House District 27, Senate District N)

From: [REDACTED]@protonmail.com <[REDACTED]@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:51 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Against Dunleavy Budget!

Hello ~

I would like to add my voice to the thousands of Alaskans who are appalled by the budget proposed by Governor Dunleavy.

To be clear, I support

- revising the tax structure for the oil industry to include eliminating tax credits and instituting appropriate taxation
- implementing income tax
- implementing sales tax and/or a fuel tax, especially during the summer months
- reducing or eliminating the PFD

I am against

- cuts to education at all levels, from pre-K through public schools and UA
- cuts to the ferry system
- cuts to Medicare
- cuts that increase the burden on those who are poor, ill, or mentally ill
- cuts to state government (too much has been cut already)

I attended the House Finance meeting in Fairbanks on Sunday, and I appreciate the many efforts this year from the legislative branch to hear from Alaskans about the budget. Thank you.

Julie Smith
Ester, Alaska

From: Linda Morrison Goss <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pick Click Give-Great Idea for PFD donation

I think the PICK CLICK GIVE for PFD donation is a great idea for all the union members, teachers and UAF employees.

The rest of the middle class and low income Alaskan Residents that want their PFD should by right receive the full amount and not be forced to give it up.

Why steal it from those Alaskans who don't want to support a bloated government.

Let the union members, teachers and UAF employees put their money where their mouth is. DONATE it BACK or DON'T APPLY for it.

Problem solved then everyone gets what they want.

Linda Goss

65 year resident.

From: Richard Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re Dunleavy budget

I write in strong opposition to this proposed budget as it will cause immediate and significant harm to the residents and institutions of our state.

House finance should propose a new formula for resident dividends which significantly restricts individual distribution of permanent fund income.

Oil production taxes and tax subsidies for oil companies need to be reviewed and re-structured to provide the state with our fair share of the profits from the harvest of this resource.

The Alaska Marine Hwy., the state Pioneer Homes, public health and education funding and the state's university system are all valued institutions that are worthy of support. While efficiencies in administration needs to be a priority and budget cuts should be made where practical these public institutions need to be supported.

Richard D Smith
State resident and voter since 1982

From: Chris Hayes <[REDACTED]@alaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:24 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB39 & HB40

House Finance Committee,

I support the Governors budget reduction bills.

Please cut all non-profits. Please fund only services that are essential to the State.

I was in the Capital building three years ago and noticed the custom monogrammed disposable paper coffee cups. The next year I thought, with the State out of money, they certainly are not spending money on these again this year. Of course they were still paying for them, and more than likely still are. Probably someone's relative with a printing company in Juneau benefiting from this. That's the typical perception of Alaskans. Go to Costco and buy plain paper cups like the rest of us. This may seem silly, however this is how budgets are balanced. Stealing from others is not acceptable. Pay out the PFD by the 35 year old law, and traditional formula.

Respectfully,

Chris Hayes
Kenai Alaska

From: Elizabeth Haus <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:29 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Proposal, NO!

"A bad manager can take a good staff and destroy it, causing the best workers to flee and the remainder to lose all motivation." -Anonymous

A bad government can take a good state and destroy it, causing the best citizens to flee and the remainder to lose all motivation.

What makes a state a desirable place to live? Jobs. Education. Safety. Health. The proposed budget put forth by this Governor Dunleavy would be a huge MISTAKE. This state doesn't need cuts to public assistance, Medicaid, the ferry system, PFD's, or anything else.

People are already leaving the state over this. How is the state going to attract quality people to live and work here if there is an uptick in desperation over lack of health care, food, education, and opportunity? It won't. It'll be deserted; populated only by those who are too poor to leave, and the most well-to-do, huddled within their gated communities.

Tax the oil companies again. Bring back ACES. We cannot afford to pay the oil tax credits we already owe!

Governor Dunleavy's legacy will be that of Kansas, poor in spirit and poor in human resources, having experienced

an exodus of good people escaping while they can for a better quality life elsewhere. It'll take years for the state of Alaska to recover from him and his misguided policies, if it ever does, turning this great and beautiful state into the likeness of a third-world country.

Elizabeth Haus

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99504

From: Kim Hays <[REDACTED]@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:29 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on HB 39

Members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for taking public testimony tonight on the operating budget. I strongly oppose the current version of the operating budget proposed by the Dunleavy administration. The draconian cuts it details leave me to wonder what kind of state do they want to leave for my children and their children?

Skyrocketing rates for seniors in our pioneer and veteran homes, profitizing our mental health facilities and therefore vulnerable Alaskans, and crippling our education system is not the way to keep Alaska open for business.

Please instead use Governor Walker's last proposed budget and work together to get a budget that communicates the true values we share: strong public education, stewardship of our people and our resources, and vibrant urban AND rural communities.

Thank you,

Kimberly Hays
[Anchorage, Alaska](#)

Kimberly Hays

From: Rich Sewell <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget comment

I'm a former president of the UAA Alumni Association. With the severe cuts to the University of Alaska budget more people will go out of state to college. Of kids that go out of state to college, 80% DO NOT RETURN to live in Alaska. There goes our best and brightest forever. Is that the future you want? I don't.

Regards
Rich Sewell
[REDACTED]

From: Peter Dolan <[REDACTED]@morris.umn.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: In support of Alaska's education system

I'm no longer a resident of the state of Alaska, but many of family and friends continue to live in what I still, humbly, feel is the best state in the union.

I'm writing to talk, just a little bit, about my experiences with Alaskan education because such a large part of my current success is due to the hard-work, dedication, and quality of my teachers, the staff, and the infrastructure that supported them.

I grew up in Nikiski and went to school in Kenai and Nikiski and then went to college at UAF where I earned a BS in mathematics and a BS in computer science.

Later, I went to graduate school at the university of Oregon and earned a PhD in mathematics. Afterwards I worked in a biology lab doing bioinformatics and did some freelance work as a bioinformatics consultant before becoming a professor at the University of Minnesota, Morris where I teach Statistics and Computer Science (I'm probably considered more of a Data Scientist than anything else these days)

After close to 20 years of interacting with students entering college from high schools around the country I think I'm in a pretty good position to comment on both the quality of the excellent education I received as well as the advantages it has provided me.

And I wish to be clear. My education was top-notch. Grade school was fantastic. Junior High and my first two years at Kenai Central High School were extraordinary and my final two years at Nikiski High School (second graduating class) were amazing. It's hard for me to express the sense of pride I felt as my community came together and Nikiski Junior/Senior High School became a real place. I was introduced to computers early and it paid off. I learned foreign languages, I took part in plays and learned drama (experiences which continue to serve me exceptionally well in the classroom I might add). I learned mathematics. I was exposed to literature. I received a solid introduction to the Constitution. It was fantastic. Later, as a senior in high school, I took classes at Kenai community college. I'd put the education I received against that of any other state and it would not be lacking (my only complaint would be that I couldn't go beyond calculus because of limited resources... I could have saved a year of college)

Afterwards I went to UAF. I studied computer science, mathematics, even philosophy. I can't think of a

class I took that hasn't proven useful to me on multiple occasions-- the computer science program, in particular, really shined.

At this point you've probably received the impression that I'm a STEM person (which is correct), but UAF also allowed me to explore the humanities and those experiences enhanced my enjoyment of life, sharpened my critical thinking skills, and broadened my ability to appreciate different experiences. That alone would have made the experience worthwhile, but it also has made me much more employable: After all people who make hiring decisions like to be able to relate with potential employees-- I truly feel that my broad education base has made that possible more than once. (I'll also say, as a brief aside, that one of the fastest growing segments in the tech economy is data science and, at least at the conferences that I attend-- there is a huge demand for technically savvy people with a BROAD base.)

In any event, it seems to me that cutting funding to education is a good way to pursue a short term gain at the expense of a long-term return on investment. Put another way: good, stable market economies need professionals and developing a professional takes a great deal of investment. This issue will be increasingly problematic: Blue collar jobs are being replaced by automation and white collar jobs are beginning to find themselves in the cross hairs as well. The cognitive and technical demands of the typical job in the US have been steadily increasing and will continue to do so. It's only a matter of time before the oil industry, the fishing industry, even the tourism industry feel the influence of these trends. What will the state do then?

Thanks for taking the time to consider what I've said.

Dr. Peter Dolan

From: Mike Husa <[REDACTED]@ak.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska Budget

Representatives,

What would I like to see in the Alaska Budget is opportunity. The opportunity for students to continue their education in their home communities. The opportunity for people to access healthcare both financially and through the ability to travel to care centers via airports, roads and the marine highway system. I want a robust mental health care system in Alaska. Public safety to be well funded to make the citizens safe, safety shelters for domestic violence victims, and a corrections department that can help reform criminals. The opportunity for people to advance their lives through education at trade schools and universities. Mainly for citizens to have the opportunity to live a prosperous and happy life in Alaska.

How should it be financed through a reduced PFD, and a flat percentage income tax, no deductions and not based on the federal tax structure. I want to see a restructured oil tax system that is fair to the owners (Alaska citizens) of the resource. A tax on the minerals and resources that are extracted and harvested in Alaska that is fair to the owners (Alaska citizens).

I want to see a budget that invests in the citizens of Alaska, not in corporations. Privatization of government services does not save money, but only cuts services.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for taking on a monumental task.

Michael Husa

[REDACTED]
Bethel, AK 99559

From: Solveig Pedersen <[REDACTED]@solandheart.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support UA

Dear House Finance Committee:

I am writing this email in SUPPORT of funding for the UA System.

As a lifelong Alaskan, a UAF graduate with a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree from the institution, and a business owner - I urge you to continue to fund the university as much as possible.

I have benefited greatly from the presence of a strong university in our state, and I want that opportunity for upcoming generations. This is one of the most important investments in our state's future.

I realize that there are challenging times ahead, and as an active citizen of this state I am open to state taxes, using the PFD, or other options so that the university can stay strong and intact.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Best regards,
Solveig Pedersen

From: Andrea <[REDACTED]@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:41 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Dunleavy budget

You must scrap the Governors budget. Ferry service is essential. The only DOT cut should be for maintaining the Dalton Hwy and Deadhorse airport. Big news story and millions of dollars when Dalton floods. Dot can't move fast enuf and they are proud to show lots of pics of their efforts.

Then implement a reasonable oil production taxes again. Don't you dare sell bonds to finance oil credits, when you're making the State unlivable. Don't make me hear AOGA testify one more time. We've heard the same BS for years.

Stand up to oil companies and your fellow Alaskans will be proud.

I won't stand by and watch this happen to my State. Thank you

Andrea Stalder

From: Tracy Goldsmith [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 39 Public Comments

Hello Representatives,

First of all, thank you for all of your hard work at the Capitol. I know it isn't easy. I'm writing to ask you to not cut any funding to public education, both k-12 and at the UAA level. We should not have to choose between the PFD and education. We cannot afford to continue to take resources away from schools. It has a terrible cumulative effect. In the past few years, there have been teacher cuts at our local middle school, Dzantik' Heeni Middle School. Kids need positive adults in their lives such as teachers, mentors, aides, counselors, and nurses. With the continuing funding cuts, we disrespect our children and our future. We all know that smaller classroom sizes equate to more attention for our kids, which leads to a better-educated public. More wraparound resources means that we can help those kids who need it most. Please do not make us decide between full PFDs and education. There is a compromise and there is a logical solution. Cap the PFD and consider a state income tax. We would not be in this stressful situation if we capped the PFD. It is an entitlement that should not hold public schools hostage.

Respectfully,
Tracy Goldsmith
Juneau, Alaska

From: Owen Guthrie [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: UAF is Important - Online Learning

Hi Folks,

Thank you for all your work! Please support a reasonable budget for UAF. After years of cuts, the institution is very lean. Further cuts, especially ridiculously deep ones, will destroy the Fairbanks economy in the short term, and devastate our economic future.

If Alaska is to transition to being more of a knowledge economy, we need a strong university.

Kind regards and than you for all you do!

Owen Guthrie
99709th

From: Andrea <[REDACTED]@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:49 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Dunleavy Budget part 2

I currently reside in Anchorage but have lived 35+ years in Fairbanks. Natural gas is necessary there. I cannot afford pipeline property taxes, shifted to me.

Andrea Stalder
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK. 99507
[REDACTED]

From: Kayti Coonjohn <[REDACTED]@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:55 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF UA #UAStrong #supportUA

Good Evening,

My name is Kayti, and I am writing to you tonight to illustrate the importance that the UA System has to both my family and my future.

As a both a full-time employee and full-time student at the University of Alaska Southeast, I am heavily invested in not only the success of the UA System, but also in higher education opportunities for Alaskans.

This isn't just the welfare of my family, my livelihood and master's education on the line--reducing funding by the proposed amount is an estimated elimination of 1700 employees' jobs, 2 campuses, and thousands of students that attend courses both online and in-person. Consider as well, the limited degree options that would be left after slicing away our general funds... limiting the future of Alaska.

The University system has taken cuts 4 YEARS IN A ROW, relying on YOU to invest in the future of Alaska, which provides a true path to the diversification of the Alaskan economy. Education gives people the knowledge and skills they require to not simply succeed--but to THRIVE! It is a field that is open to all--children and adults--with no limits.

I sincerely urge you, from the bottom of my heart, to consider this statement as you look upon Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget. We NEED education in Alaska if we are to survive in a world where we cannot rely upon a singular funding source from a limited natural resource. Alaskans will require a solid education to innovate and grow our state in ways that reach beyond the extraction and exploitation of our natural resources.

Do the right thing and #SUPPORTUA.

Thank you,

Kathrine Coonjohn
Assistant to the Executive Dean
Alaska College of Education
University of Alaska Southeast
Aak'w Kwáan Aaní káx'
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@alaska.edu

From: Elizabeth Fontenot <[REDACTED]@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: AK PFD
Importance: High

GIVE ALASKANS BACK THEIR MONEY, NOW!!!!!!!

From: Tamra Wear <tamra.wear@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Protect Education

Dear Fellow Alaskans,

I'm writing to ask you to protect education and keep whole the BSA and transportation formulas. Please protect our communities and our children.

Thank you for all you do,

Tamra Wear
Soldotna

From: K Scanlon <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:08 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Education Budget

Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to share my views on the Governor's proposed budget regarding education. I feel his budget takes a very short-sighted view of what is good for Alaska.

A fully funded education system in Alaska is positive in so many aspects. A good education delivers an informed citizenry promoting strong and healthy communities. As we know, strong and healthy communities translate into strong and healthy economies.

As a parent, community member (in Fairbanks), and educator, I've witnessed the impacts of cuts firsthand. However, I've also witnessed the pride and hopefulness of the young adults (my former students) that I encounter throughout our borough on a daily basis. The personal relationships I have with my students will not be possible with bigger class sizes and less resources. I am concerned for the future education of my own children as well.

I appreciate your work on this issue, and count on you to do the right thing for all of Alaska.

Thank you,
Kelly Hill Scanlon
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99712
[REDACTED]

From: Jennifer McKay <[REDACTED]@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:13 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: UA isn't just a number

I strongly oppose the cuts proposed to the FY 19-20 UA budget. Not only do I oppose these cuts because UAA is a dynamic employer; but this proposed cut would be detrimental to AK's future.

The University of AK is a thriving part of AK's economy. Cuts of this magnitude would decimate the communities and families for generations.

UA isn't just a number.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer McKay

From: Deborah Bennett <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:23 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

To Whom It May Concern:

I don't agree with Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget. If there is no money why is every person getting a huge PFD. Education funding should not be sacrificed so everyone can have a bigger PFD.

Sincerely,
Deborah Bennett
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks Alaska

From: Heather Hooper <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget testimony

Please include this with the public testimony on the budget.

I am writing to you today to express my deep concern for the governor's proposed budget. I adamantly do NOT support his cuts, especially to education. I moved to Alaska 16 years ago and have been a teacher here for 14 years. I earned my teaching license and masters at the University of Alaska Fairbanks through a post-baccalaureate program. I am proud that I was educated through the UA college system and had classes that were specific to Alaska students and rural needs. I urge you to support education so that my children can have a quality education K-12 and I can encourage them to continue with their education post high school in Alaska. Additionally, I want to continue to raise my family here and cannot imagine living and working anywhere else. I am quite disheartened to see what these proposed budget cuts are going to do, and quite frankly, are already doing to teachers at my school and educators across the state. Just this past week I have written a letter of recommendation for a colleague leaving due to the uncertainty of the current climate. Over the last five years I have witnessed first hand efforts to reduce spending in our school and district. It is my hope that this budget can be quickly resolved and that we can continue to provide a great education. I am in support of using my PFD and instating an income tax. Thank you for your hard work on these tough issues. I truly hope Alaska can remain my home and a place others will be able to live in.

Heather Hooper

Nikiski, AK

From: Jonas Lamb <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: UA Budget Testimony

I urge members of the House Finance Committee to reject the Governor's proposed UA budget and vote to approve an amended budget that will not scrap Alaska's education and innovation engine, UA.

I'm a proud alumni of UAA and have been employed by UAS for 6 years. The UA system has benefited both my professional life and in my work as a writer, contributing to Alaska's creative capital.

Every week I see UAS graduates employed throughout the Juneau community engaged in meaningful and necessary work in our schools, our state agencies and in their own small business ventures.

I know that you have heard similar stories through public testimony in support of the University of Alaska and I expect you have seen the impact of UA educated Alaskans in your communities and offices and I ask that you support full funding as requested by the Board of Regents and President Johnson.

Thank You,

John "Jonas" Lamb
Juneau, AK

From: none none <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Cut government spending!

Representatives,

I am adamantly opposed to continuing to expand the size and cost of the Alaskan government. Likewise I'm adamantly opposed to you representatives dipping into the traditional perm fund or instituting a state income tax.

Our government has proven year after year, spending billions of dollars with chronic deficit spending. With the house and senate

proven track record of spending beyond our means year after year how in the world can you justify additional revenue on the backs of Alaskans before you cut the budget to a sustainable level that is within our means?

This state has one of the most expensive governments in the union, bloated for years on oil taxes as royalties. As a state we've been allowed to act immaturely with our money, like an immature adult starting out in life, running up debt, buying emotionally with little thought of want versus need, sustainability or what will happen when the cash on hand runs out and the credit cards are full.

I find it hard to imagine how you all can continue to do this to our state. It's dying and you are part of the problem. I wonder if you act similarly in your personal life. Do you chronically spend more than you bring in? Are you dipping into your 401K or ROTH, before 60 and your social security at 62. Buying flashy expensive items that are truly not needed. Dining out instead of eating in? Taking a trip to Hawaii every winter but not able to pay off your credit cards every month? Are you leaving all of your responsibility and debt for others to pay for? Do you have family members, children, parents and siblings paying while you continue to spend beyond your means? That's precisely what you're doing to our state.

I hear a lot of talk about new sources of revenue but with all the litigation against any business that brings significant numbers of long term year round jobs I don't see it happening. I really doubt we're going to be able to fund the current budget deficit with kelp relish.

We need to be living within our means by designing a budget which is balanced with the income we currently have. Many of

you held office last year and in my opinion did little to cut. It was more of the same kicking the can down the road paying out money to special interest groups. Year after year you fail to represent the interests of the entire state of Alaska and continue to represent the special interests of a few groups. This practice is failing the people of Alaska and is not sustainable. You're on a terrible path. A path that's been followed by many other states and municipalities throughout history. It always ends the same and it always ends badly.

I've watched towns in Alaska after they lose quality jobs. Those who can do, leave for better opportunity for themselves and their family. You're left with the dregs and a small percentage of hanger ons that slowly get diluted out to the lowest common denominator.

I've lived my life in small communities from as far north as Hoonah to as far south as Ketchikan. I've watched it Alaska slide backwards for the last 30 years. Slowly at first now faster and faster. I'm afraid all of you in power have been on the dole so long that you don't even realize that you're a bunch of dump bears.

People are leaving because of our poor government. The fish and game are declining rapidly. The cost of living is climbing rapidly. The performance of our education system both K-12 and post secondary is substandard lagging near the bottom of all our peers yet the cost is near the top. Business are leaving. Quality individuals are leaving while the ranks of people on welfare and committing crimes swells year after year.

If you can't get our state to live within our means with a right sized government and crime continues to rise unchecked while

at the same time you feed all the dump bears with my hard earned money I'll take my income and leave. Do you think a community as small as Ketchikan will benefit or be harmed when 10-20 people annually take there income elsewhere?

I voted for Mike specifically for what he has proposed in his budget. Trying to sell a spruced up version of Walkers plan is not what the state voted on. Walker lost! It's time for hope and change. Cut the government!

Perry Klein
Ketchikan AK

From: Christine <[REDACTED]@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:36 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Another Dunleavy supporter

With the carpet replacement story.

Miss berry. She was great. With all the details on how to Support Dunleavy.

Christine Hutchison
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[Kenai, Ak 99611](#)
[\[REDACTED\]@gci.net](#)
[REDACTED]

From: John <[REDACTED]@alaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:36 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB39 HB40..Governor's budget bills

My name is John McDowell. I live in Anchorage and am a forty five year resident of Alaska.
I do not support any part of this incompetent governor's irresponsible budget. It is not a budget it is an effort to take this state away from the people, dismantle it, remake it into a colony for the resource extraction industry. Reduce or overly generous per-barrel oil tax credits.

I support a modest income tax on out of state workers cuts and Alaskans.

I support cutting dividends to more modest levels certainly until we have a truly balanced and healthy budget looking forward that includes forward-funding education. Please make the right decisions. They are before your eyes and equitable if you have the vision to use them all. Thank you for your service to us all. -John McDowell

From: Sara Beaber-Fujioka <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.org
Subject: operating budget testimony from Sitka resident

Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am Sara Beaber-Fujioka from Sitka. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed state operating budget.

I support raising revenue with a personal income tax, reducing oil tax credits, and a moderate PFD. The Permanent Fund was put in place to provide funds for state government when oil revenues decreased; now is the time to use the earnings in a sustainable way.

I oppose the proposed cuts to Head Start, K-12 education, the University, Medicaid, the Pioneer Homes, and the Alaska Marine Highway System. We need strong public schools and the University to educate our next generation of engineers, teachers, doctors, fishermen, business owners, and legislators. We need to maintain Medicaid funding and eligibility so our friends and neighbors can access needed medical care and our rural hospitals do not go bankrupt. We need to maintain funding for the Pioneer Homes to fulfill our duty to care for our precious elders. We need to maintain the ferry system as a critical transportation link for coastal Alaskans to access medical care, commerce, and each other.

The purpose of government is to address public needs by providing public services that we can not organize or pay for as individuals. Article VII of the Alaska Constitution says that the legislature shall "maintain a system of public schools open to all children", "provide for the promotion and protection of public health", and "provide for the public welfare." Please maintain funding for these critical public services.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Sincerely,

Sara Beaber-Fujioka

From: Paul & Sarah Thiel <[REDACTED]@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:40 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Proposed Budget

Sir/Ma'am—

I am Paul Thiel, an Anchorage resident.

I read the recent ADN article about the Town Hall meeting concerning the Governor's proposed budget with great disappointment. It seemed almost "anti-Alaskan" reading that an individual was begging to be taxed so government could "provide" some "necessary" service. Since when do Alaskans look to government to provide what we need? Can you imagine if people waited for government to provide after the November earthquake, some folks would still be waiting. And others calling for new revenue. Do they realize "revenue" is another word for TAX? Do they know the Boston Tea Party came about because the British imposed a 3% tax on tea and the colonists wouldn't stand for it? And now, to stand up in a public forum and begging to be taxed. Unbelievable.

Let's face it, our State government has not been fiscally responsible and we're now at the crossroads. Cuts will have to be made. You can PFD and tax all you want but without fiscal restraint, the problem will continue.

Please relook at the Governor's proposed budget. If you don't like it, then offer solutions that are viable and responsible. But do not tax us.

Thank you for your time.

Paul Thiel
Anchorage

From: Zoe Trafton <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: No Budget Cuts. Please Save the Schools.

My name is Zoe Trafton, and I'm in 7th grade at Blatchley Middle School in Sitka.

I am fully against the governor's proposed budget cuts. I'm worried for my teachers, especially the elective teachers. Band is an important elective, and our teacher isn't tenured.

Schools need the 5-day school weeks and 20-kid classrooms, as opposed to 4-days of school and the extreme stress of 40+ students per classroom, both of which may happen if these budget cuts come into play.

I want to study engineering at UAF, but that program may go away if Governor Dunleavy's budget cuts go through, and I may be forced to go to college somewhere besides our lovely state.

I'm excited for the rest of my education, and I'd like it to be fully budgeted.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.
-Zoe

From: Roy Strandberg <[REDACTED]@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:47 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: 2019 state budget

I am writing to express my disdain for the Governor's budget proposal.

I do not support the massive, indiscriminate cuts proposed by the Governor. The plan represents a nearly complete and total betrayal of the Governor's campaign promises to provide a full PFD without significant cuts to the State expenditures. It was fairly obvious at the time to me that candidate Dunleavy was making ridiculous promises in bad faith, knowing full well that the revenues were not there to support anything resembling a reasonable level of services in the State without drawing upon other sources than non-existent oil tax revenue and the meager stream of royalty oil the State collects.

Unfortunately, there is no apparent organized effort by anyone or any group in the Legislature to raise revenues to a level that will allow funding of basic services, the Ferry system, Medicaid, higher education and other services that Alaskan's have come to depend on. It floors me that Alaska and our esteemed representatives in government continues to pretend that perpetuating the State's utter dependency upon our heavily socialized Oil industry is sustainable and will lead to future prosperity. If the last 35+ years have shown anything, it is that our current economic model with no State-levied personal taxes and a generous dividend has led to an economy that is backwards and dependent upon Federal dollars and the largess of oil companies.

All that being said, I absolutely support a broad based State tax and use of the dividend to fund Government. In Fairbanks, my home, the University is an anchor for the community, even though it has been steadily disemboweled over the past five years as the State has struggled with declining revenues. UAF is a source of human capital that the economy needs to grow. The latest proposal is obviously meant to decapitate the institution for good, although I cannot see how that benefits anyone. It is utterly self defeating, and depressing to watch.

I write this out of a sense of duty to my community, but it is with deep skepticism that anyone in a position of influence has the vision and conviction to do anything. This people of this state seem to be angling to demote us to a 3rd world petrostate, so they can keep their PFD, and we have a Governor that is only too happy to oblige.

Best Regards,
Roy Strandberg
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks AK

From: Christine Pate <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:51 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman

<Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a 26 year resident of Alaska and have raised my two children here. I am writing to express my concern about the Governor's budget. I am in favor of a reduced PFD and a progressive income tax to support funding for schools, the Alaska Marine Highway, the University of Alaska, Medicaid, health and human services, seniors and other critical services.

A society that doesn't fund education for its youth is a dying society. If the governor's budget passes, the achievement gap that the Sitka School Board continues to work hard to close will be impossible to narrow. If faced with less electives, larger classroom sizes, less extra-curricular activities, parents with means will provide privately for their children through tutors, enrichment, and summer programs or will leave your communities seeking better schools. Our communities will suffer with lower enrollment. And without a well-educated workforce committed to our state, the economic forecast for Alaska in 5-10 years, if not sooner, will be very bleak.

Additionally, in my professional life I have provided civil legal assistance and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault 25 years. I am heartened by the number of bills aimed at reducing our rates of domestic violence and sexual assault. However my years of experience have taught me that you cannot end the insidious problems of domestic violence and sexual assault without funding many of the services that survivors need to end the violence in their lives - programs that are currently at risk in the Governor's budget. The criminal justice system is just one part of the solution. Survivors need mental health counseling and medical services to rebuild their lives, they may need costly special ed services for their children who have witnessed the abuse and may be experiencing a number of emotional, educational, and medical issues. Providing criminal justice remedies, without the umbrella of supportive services that survivors need, is merely a band aid approach.

Please support a budget that funds needed services so that we can keep "great" in the state of Alaska.

Thank you for your time and work.
Christine Pate
Sitka

From: J. Pollard <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:55 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony

My name is Jenni Pollard from Anchorage, and I am representing thread, Alaska's Child Care Resource & Referral Network. I support prioritizing young children and families in the FY20 budget. Sixty eight percent of our young children are not prepared to start school. With access to programs like preK, Head Start, Best Beginnings, and Parents as Teachers we can ensure our young children are ready for school. Through programs like Head Start young children in some communities also receive access to health care and other critical supports.

On a personal level, I support full funding for education—from early education to university level. Our children and young people are Alaska's future and we need to continue investing in them and their families. Thank you.

From: David Newman <[REDACTED]@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written Budget Testimony (education related)

Dear Finance Committee Members,

My name is David Newman, I am a resident of Fairbanks with a child in the Fairbanks/Northstar Borough School district and am a Faculty member at UAF in the Physics Department. Below is my strong statement of support for increased funding for the University and Education in general. I realize that it is a bit long, for that I apologize, but the issue is critical to our state's future.

I'm writing to you to urge you not just to reject the proposed cuts to the University budget but to restore some of the cuts which have already been implemented.

We need to ask "What kind of future do we want for our state? Do we want to move forward or backward?" Our kids, Kindergarten through Graduate School age, are our future. They are critical to our economic future as well as the health and safety of the people of our great state. Education is critical to their future and we have been doing great damage to our educational infrastructure and by extension to our children and therefore our states future.

I will focus on the University since it is currently a significant focus of the budget discussion because of the magnitude of the proposed budget cuts, but the rest of the education infrastructure should not be forgotten.

First it's important to recognize the UAF is a very good university, not just "a good University for Alaska", but a good university compared to other state universities around the United States. Some of our programs are world class while many others are very good, nationally competitive, programs. Most importantly UAF has a full range of academic and non-academic programs, allowing our students to get the broad multi-disciplinary education demanded of a world class University. We do ourselves and our state a great dis-service when we don't recognize our own strengths.

There are a number of misconceptions about the University that I think need to be corrected as they are helping to fuel the current fiscal plans which have been so harmful and will if continued do serious, perhaps irreparable harm.

1. **Misconception:** We can find programs or parts of the University which are not obviously in line with immediate needs or are less productive.

A university is more than the sum of its parts. In order to foster the best programs and to provide high quality overall education opportunities it needs all of its pieces. Without these pieces, the quality of the University will degrade, we will not be able to maintain a high standard of education for our students, the best research programs will wilt and die and the state will suffer for this long into the future since programs are easy to kill but very difficult to restore. Though it may not be obvious, a strong science and engineering program require arts and humanities to thrive. A university without a literature or philosophy program is not really a university and will have difficulty attracting and retaining the best faculty and students. The ongoing cuts are already

being felt and more cuts threaten the very existence of the university as a true higher education institution.

2. Misconception: There is great waste in the education system overall and the University in particular.

This is simply incorrect. Over the past decade of cuts, a system that was already lean has been cut far past the point of even perceived improvement. Degradation of the services the university provides to our students and to the state are already visible as the ongoing cuts mean fewer people are asked to do more and more with less and less. This makes the system less efficient not more. Many people are already working 60 hours or more a week and expecting even more is both unreasonable and counterproductive. For example, there are many departments who share administrative assistants leading to reduced service for the students and faculty members who are spending their time on additional jobs, leaving less time for the students and research that they are hired to do.

3. Misconception: Research is either self supporting or not relevant to the state.

In fact, much research performed at the University is directly relevant to the state, from climate and climate impacts to health and education research and on to resource identification and extraction. But equally important is the synergy between the directly state related research and the research of broader national and international interest. Each strengthens the other in a way that amplifies the quality and importance of both. It has often been correctly stated that for every research dollar the state spends on research at UAF there is a multiplier of 4-7 in terms of the additional research dollars brought in to the state from other sources. This is, in and of itself an economic driver for the state but must not be misunderstood as a free lunch. If the state funding for research is cut, the external funding too will dwindle. To use a business analogy (though a business model is a terrible model for a university), no sensible business person would say, "I'm making money so I will not invest in my inventory". They would realize that without the restocking of the inventory (or hiring staff or maintaining the facilities) the business will simply wither and die. The same is true for university research and the university in general. Furthermore, the research itself plays a very important role in the education of our students.

4. Misconception: We are doing fine with the budget as it is despite years of cuts.

There is already a loss in quality for the students. Since fewer and fewer people are doing more and more, more and more things are not being done, or being done less carefully or completely. This ranges from student services where getting issues dealt with takes more time or repeated attempts to maintenance of the buildings where broken bathroom fixtures can take much longer to be repaired and small repairs are simply left undone. It should be stressed that this is not because student support staff and the maintenance personnel are not working hard, rather it's because there are too few of them and they are working too hard but are simply unable to get everything done. As mentioned earlier, at the faculty level there are a number of people working extremely long hours with much time spent on tasks that are perhaps necessary for the university but are not directly needed for the teaching and research. This of course means that the teaching and research, which the faculty were hired to do, suffers. At some point the moral starts to seriously degrade from the constant overwork and people start to leave. This is already happening and people (our human capital) are easy to lose and very hard to replace. The reputation we have as a great place to live and work with excellent people, once lost, will take decades and large expenses to recover (much more than would be saved by the initial cuts).

What would the state lose with a degraded or destroyed University?

1. Most crucially to me is we will lose the ability to educate our own children. This will (and already is) lead to our kids going outside for their education with many not returning. This

will naturally first effect our best students as they (and their parents) are particularly concerned with the highest quality education (which we currently offer), and they have many choices where they can go to school. Losing these people from our future workforce will be devastating to the state in the long run. As two small side notes, two of my students came up to me after class on a Friday after the Governors Budget proposal was released to discuss whether they should transfer outside to finish their engineering degrees. Also over the last 2 years a couple of families that I was helping with recruiting, told me that they had decided to go outside because they were not convinced the University would maintain it's quality due to the continued funding cuts we have been experiencing.

2. Next and closely tied to the first, is the economic impact. As stated earlier, there is a direct research dollar multiplier which leads to 4-7 actual dollars coming to Alaska and being spent in our communities for every dollar we invest in research. Those would go away, but likely of far greater impact would be the loss of highly productive people both directly at the University and educated Alaskan citizens who go elsewhere for opportunity's they no longer have here.
3. For the entire state but particularly in the communities where campuses are located, the rich vibrant culture and quality of life will suffer. This is one of the difficult losses to quantify but will inevitably cause a cultural spiral in which more and more of the cultural influencers will leave as the situation gets worse and worse. The wonderful diverse community culture will dwindle and will take decades to restore

The governors proposed funding level is so catastrophic that it would necessarily lead to either 1) the closing of UAA and UAS with devastating impacts in those communities, 2) the closing of UAF leading to even larger economic losses due to the external research dollars going away, the lose of our flagship research university and an even larger impact on the Fairbanks community, or 3) the downgrading of the entire system to "Community College" status. Negotiating from our current budget is a pointless exercise since we have already been cut way too much and are in desperate need of growth to ensure/enable a bright future for our children and State.

Once again, I therefore urge you not just to reject the governors proposed cuts to the University budget but to restore some of the cuts which have been implemented over the past years.

Simply saying don't make further cuts without a constructive solution is not fair. I strongly don't want the growth of the University to come at the expense of other areas in education (they too have been cut to the bone and must grow to ensure our future). Therefore I realize that to maintain or increase the education budgets and to meet budget constraints, new revenue sources (such as bringing back the state income tax and or reductions or elimination of the PFD) are likely needed. This is a small price to pay for the enormous benefits we can reap in the future. To paraphrase the old farm saying, we must preserve our seed corn. Investing in the University and education is our future and I strongly urge you to make it brighter.

Thanks you for your consideration

David Newman

From: H Brandon <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fund UA and K-12 education

Please don't follow the Governor's proposed budget. We can not afford to have a weak education system in Alaska. Don't cut the University of Alaska or K-12 education. I would rather not have a PFD or would pay income or sales tax than have education cut to the bone. Thank you for considering my input.

Heather Brandon
Juneau, AK

From: Debra LaRue <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State Budget

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am a resident of the Mat-Su Borough and an Alaska Resident for 34 years. This is not the first budget crisis in those years, and I continue to have the same thoughts.

1) The Permanent Fund Dividend was an add on to the Constitutional Permanent Fund. Preservation of the dividend should NOT drive decision making about the state budget. Cutting the Dividend is the right thing to do. Either the option Governor Walker suggested two years ago with a new foundation fund to pay a set yearly PFD or reducing the PFD from last year's level by a set percent each year should be instituted. Permanent fund earnings should be used to help pay for the state budget.

2) The education budget should be forward funded. The legislature did the right thing last year in forward funding the K-12 education budget. Families, students, and employees of districts deserve to have a stable budget and clear expectations. Schools are the first to experience cuts and have been cutting programs and employees for years.

3) Alaska acts much like a rentier state. Citizens pay no taxes to the state and big business pays the bills so there is a disconnect between the elected lawmakers and the citizens that elect them. We need to have citizen taxes for multiple reasons. I prefer an income tax, but I would be supportive of a sales tax. We cannot continue to live off of investment earnings.

4) Oil tax credits must end. Alaska cannot continue to give away tax revenues that rightfully belong to the state. Taxes on the oil industry need to help fund the state government as should taxes on all businesses, residents and non-residents that earn money in Alaska.

We have been cutting the state operating budget over the last several years. It is time to increase our revenue flow through sensible taxes and sensible reform to the PFD and oil tax credits. I am disheartened by the number of people I have talked to that plan to leave the state because of the proposed massive budget cuts to schools, the university system, and other massive cuts to state departments and services. We must pass revenues with the end goal of a stable revenue source.

Sincerely,

Debra LaRue

From: Jeane Breinig <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:00 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: University Budget

Honorable Finance Committee

The University is crucial to Alaska's economic future. Please implement an income tax, increase the oil taxes, and reduce our PFD funding. PFD funding in the large amounts the administration wants to "give" will do us no good if we lose jobs, students, and people move from the state.

Talk about a welfare state--that's Alaska if the only reason people stay is to receive the handout!

What planet is our governor living on if he believes businesses will move here because our budget is balanced if we have nothing else to offer as a livable state?

States that have strong universities have an educated workforce and companies set up business because they need those graduates to take their jobs. We had not a prayer that Amazon would come to Alaska even though we are an air freight hub. They wanted and needed educated people to hire and education has not been a priority for our state.

Thank you.

Alaska and our UA students are counting on you!

best regards

Jeane Breinig
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, 99507

From: Andrew Navarro <[REDACTED]@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

Please Pay back funds that were taken from us on our PFD and Please! corral out of control spending and build a sustainable plan. Thank You

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:16 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget testimony

i support senario one of dunleavys budget. taxing the pfd is a immoral regressive income tax that hurts middle to lower income families.

Catherine Felt

[REDACTED]
Kenai

From: Sam Tauriainen <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:10 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Education Forward Funding FY20

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Sam Tauriainen, I graduated with honors from Nikiski Middle High School in 2016.

While attending high school I was on the Student Council for 2 years, I was voted Student Body

President, and I participated in extra-curricular activities like Musical Theater, football, soccer, and

basketball. The education I received from NMHS was extraordinary. In addition to the core classes every

high school student takes I had the opportunity to take AP US history, AP Calculus, AP Literature, and AP

Writing and Composition. My school also offers exceptional programs like woodshop, CAD/CAM, and

welding. The classes I was able to take during high school put me in a great position for success going

into college that I am thankful for today while I attend KPC working towards a Paramedic degree.

However, the classes were not the only thing at Nikiski that prepared me. Everyday I was surrounded by

excellent educators, administrators, and support staff. My teachers went above and beyond their job

descriptions. In addition to teaching the curriculum they also created a positive learning environment

with their passion to educate. But it didn't stop there, during the hardest times in my life there was always a person there willing to listen and lend a helping hand or word. Without NMHS and its excellent staff I would not be the man I am today.

That is why I feel the need to write to you. I was troubled to learn that my old school, and my old school district is at risk to losing the funding it needs to create the learning environment I spoke of in my letter. As a supporter of education at all levels I find the Governor's proposed budget disturbing. The proposed cuts to education would make it impossible to create a quality learning environment. I urge you to protect the forward funding passed last year. It is the only way to ensure other students have the same chances I had in school. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sam Tauriainen
[REDACTED] Nikiski, AK 99635

From: Dylan Hooper <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget testimony

Please include this with public testimony on the budget.

I am against the governor's budget cuts. I do agree that we should look for efficiencies, but cutting before finding them is irresponsible. the Governor is using misleading data to push this agenda. The assertion that Alaska's schools are last does not apply across the state and the commissioner of Ed has acknowledged the achievement gap that should be the real focus of Alaska's educational shortfalls. The fact is that we are failing to effectively educate our Alaska native population which is largely an issue with rural education. Dermott Cole does a nice job of breaking down the test data. <https://www.dermotcole.com/reportingfromalaska/2019/3/26/wclk6juzhu3o8cvabusobtwzh49xi> Cutting education will do nothing to improve education in the state.

The governor's budget is balancing the budget the backs of the most vulnerable Alaskans while wealthy corporations continue to record huge profits as described last years LRS report. <http://aksenatedems.com/docs/050218-18-218m.pdf>

I understand and support the concept of a balanced budget, but the governor's budget is not

the solution that I want for my future Alaska. I fear that the services that Alaskans value will be decimated and make Alaska into a place where people won't want to raise their children leading to an exodus of many of our residents. I know many families that are discussing the possibility of leaving the state based on the fears of where this budget would put our education system.

Please use a combination of income tax/wage tax, possibly with a partial resident exemption, sales tax and a reduction in the oil tax credits. I would like to see the pfd left alone as it is the most regressive of the options, but I am willing to give it up too if needed.

Dylan Hooper
Nikiski, AK

From: Susan Henrichs <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:16 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written testimony on the budget

House Finance Committee Members:

I support funding all state agencies and the University at the FY19 level or above. Alaska has the financial resources to do that, with the income from the Permanent fund and with, if needed, moderate taxation. I am willing to have a smaller dividend, or no dividend, if necessary, and I am willing to pay taxes similar to those in other states. The state-funded services are too important to deeply cut, with no clear plan on how those reductions will be dealt with nor even a clear idea of what the impacts will be.

In particular I am writing on behalf of education and the University of Alaska. Education is vital to the future of Alaska and to the futures of the many students that UA serves. UA brings about \$140 million per year in federal grants and contracts to the state, and these funds have a substantial positive economic impact throughout Alaska, but especially in Fairbanks. The Governor's proposed cuts would have severe consequences for students who are already enrolled and would drive many students and prospective students to leave the State. The proposed reductions, whether applied solely to UAF or more broadly, would rapidly end UA's ability to secure federal grants and contracts. The figures presented to House Finance by Mr. Barnhill of OMB were misleading, apples to turnips comparisons, and should be disregarded. Please fund UA at a sufficient level to keep it strong.

Respectfully,
Susan Henrichs

From: Uma Bhatt <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:18 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget cuts

Dear Finance Committee Members,

My name is Uma Bhatt, I am a resident of Fairbanks with a child in the Fairbanks/Northstar Borough School district and am a Faculty member at UAF in the Atmospheric Sciences Department. Below is my statement of support for increased funding for the University and Education in general.

I'm writing to you to urge you not just to reject the proposed cuts to the University budget but to restore some of the cuts which have already been implemented.

We need to ask "What kind of future do we want for our state? Do we want to move forward or backward?" Our kids, Kindergarten through Graduate School age, are our future. They are critical to our economic future as well as the health and safety of the people of our great state. Education is critical to their future and we have been doing great damage to our educational infrastructure and by extension to our children and therefore our state's future.

People who are arguing for full PFDs and no taxes are going to destroy this state if they win. It will be a bit like what has happened in Syria. The wealthy have long supported Assad and let him decimate the rest of the country who opposed him. The country and infrastructure have crumbled around them and they are finally feeling the effects of this destruction. And now they are looking less favorably at what Assad is doing, but it is a bit late. So if the budget for education is cut at all, it will be too late.

In fact, funding needs to be increased for education if we expect our children future to be bright since it has been cut so much over the past five years. People are barely hanging on as they do the jobs of multiple lost staff. This is a problem that has a clear solution, a state income tax and reduced PFDs (do a graded reduction so those with lower incomes get more of the PFD). Everyone uses state services so it is only reasonable that people contribute to this pool.

I am not arguing for my job or those of other faculty members. We could likely find jobs elsewhere, but it will destroy this wonderful state if education is not restored as a funding priority. As the young people feel there is no future here they will move Outside never to return and where does that leave us.

Thank you for your time
Uma Bhatt

From: Donna Brendel [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

Dear House Members

This budget as written, will destroy the ferry system on which our small business relies, as well as countless small communities that cannot be reached otherwise. Our education system will be in shambles with no way to provide positive outcomes for our children and grandchildren, and our college will be gone as well. Is this the way to see Alaska and it's people into the future? I don't think it comes close, and I believe it is a malicious attempt to gut our state of everything valuable in it for the sake of the oil companies. End ALL tax credits and payouts first. Then talk about an income tax, which I will support gladly then, but please stop paying our lifeblood to powerful oil entities who do not live here and will not suffer from these cuts, which are in fact, amputations.

Donna Braendel
Chickaloon, Alaska

From: Nicole Lyke <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fund education

Education is important. It must be funded. I support the forward funding of education for FY20.

Nicole Lyke
Resident of Nikiski, AK

Sent from my iPhone

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:35 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on the State Budget

March 26, 2008

To: Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Rich McClear

[REDACTED] Sitka, AK 99035 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sitka AK 99835 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] mcclear.net

I am writing to support the continued funding of Public Media in Alaska. Public Radio, TV, and Alaska Gavel to Gavel help to unite our diverse state and also help to create a better informed and engaged citizenry. Further, Public Media supports civil society, it provides coverage of the non-profit community and gives voice to diverse parts of our society and economy, helping to build community and helping communities to solve problems. This service is unique and, in the long term, saves the state millions of dollars more than it spends in helping communities organize and help themselves.

Public Media also provides emergency links throughout the state. It is the first line in getting information out to citizens. During the Anchorage earthquake media was crucial in preventing injury and loss of life. In rural Alaska media means public media. Please consider continued robust support to public media.

On other issues I am opposed to draconian cuts to education and health and human services. I also strongly support our ferry system and believe that the efforts of the Southeast Conference to reform and improve the ferry system should have time to pan out and take effect before cuts.

These can be paid for, in part, by not providing everyone a \$3,000 PFD, by reforming oil taxation reducing tax credits and a progressive state income tax. While I would not be happy to pay the tax, I realize it as a civic obligation, part of the price of citizenship. When I moved to Alaska, I paid a state income tax and would be willing to pay it again. I have had nearly 40 years of a reduced-price ticket.

Finally, many people, including members of the legislature, have wondered how we got into this budget problem. I believe one of the main contributing factors to the budget problem is that since 1980 citizens did not pay for state services and capital projects. Funds came from oil. When people have to pay for something, they are more careful of how they spend to get that thing and they take better care of it once they get it. Re-imposing a modest state income tax is the best way to prevent this type of situation from happening again when we have the next boom.

From: Billeen Carlson <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:37 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Options

Hello,

I am Billeen Carlson, a 6th-12th grade language arts and social studies teacher at Nikolaevsk School. I was born and raised in Anchor Point, Alaska. I have an AA with an English Literature focus from the Kachemak Bay Branch of the Kenai Peninsula College, a BA in History from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and an MAT with a social studies endorsement from UAA's formerly accredited College of Education. I am the single mom of two children, 8 & 10, who attend Nikolaevsk School. I support my children & pay my bills (and taxes) primarily with the salary I earn teaching.

Education is a pretty big deal to me.

I worked waiting tables and gutting fish to help put myself through school. I finished my degrees with a baby (or two) on my hip while juggling a teen & building a home. I've been a driven and active member of my community for most of my life while pursuing my career as an educator.

I've worked hard because I know that a solid education can improve the lives of children living in [poverty](#). I know that a [healthy](#) school can reduce crime, increase property values, and make a community a safer and healthier place to live. [Excellent](#) public education is the key to a stable and productive workforce. I do not want to live in a community of undereducated, desperate people. I do not want my children growing up in that community.

I've been hearing a lot of "common sense" talk from people who support cutting education and other infrastructure in the state. The talk likens balancing the budget with managing a household. I propose that those "common sense" people do not have a great grasp of metaphor. The governor isn't choosing to forgo brie & steak in order to save his wallet. He's choosing to board up his children in their bedrooms. And light the bedrooms on fire.

Here's a different dea, to extend the metaphor, get a freaking job!

Alaska, as a state, has subsisted off the royalties obtained from the oil industry since [1980](#). When, in our infinite wisdom (sarcasm), we decided to lower [taxes](#) on the oil companies in 2013, we set the stage for our current fiscal [situation](#).

So, getting back to the metaphor, instead of murdering our children, how about we start collecting rent from our deadbeat buddies again (reinstate appropriate taxes on the oil companies)?

We might also choose a state lottery, although 2016 lotteries in [Wyoming](#) & [North Dakota](#) netted their states only \$2 million and \$7 million, respectively. Only a drop in the bucket in our current economic crisis and possibly not worth the hassle in the short term but it is worth considering, particularly in light of the jobs the industry would create.

[Colorado](#) generated \$247 million in tax revenue on marijuana in 2017. Alaska, with our much smaller population, could not hope to reach that number but, knowing our state, I have faith many would give it their best shot.

Other ideas might include "collecting rent," (income tax) on everyone who is living and working in our state. Non-resident workers made \$2.5 billion, \$2.5 BILLION, in our state in [2017](#). Non-resident workers make up 20% of our workforce! They extract our resources, benefit from our infrastructure, take their earnings, and leave.

The actions proposed by our current governor is gutting Alaska's ability to create and maintain safe and healthy communities for our population. I believe that it is the governor's intention to drive out as many of us, his constituents, as he can; forcing us to relocate for employment or out of concern for our children. I believe that he, and those in his camp, are in the pockets of outside interests who would return Alaska to a gold rush territory, unable and/or unwilling to regulate and protect itself from the predations of those who would extract its resources and leave behind a depleted mess.

We became a state partly to stave off this very thing. We wanted to protect our salmon from over harvesting by outside corporations. History repeats itself.

I would encourage you to spend some time with my message. Follow the links. I've done my research. Make an educated decision for education and for our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Billeen Carlson

"Bravery, creativity, curiosity."

From: Bill Schnabel <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for the University of Alaska

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to support the University of Alaska in your upcoming budget discussions/votes. The university predates our existence as a state, and serves as a beacon to guide Alaska into the future. It must remain strong.

I attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and thus far my children are planning to attend as well. That said, my children and their peers are watching this process closely. In many instances, this legislature's actions regarding the university budget will determine whether our children choose to stay here and contribute to our future, or flee to a more supportive and promising environment. Thus, I urge you to support UA -- help us to keep our young adults in Alaska -- invest in our future.

I appreciate your service to the state.

William Schnabel

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Marin Granholm <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:47 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony re budget

Please stop the madness. If we want our great State to have a future, we need to throw out all this Dunleavy nonsense and start over with a goal to maintain public services with increased broad based funding, including taxes. My Alaskan parents will need help aging, my Alaskan son needs an education, and my Alaskan patients need health care. All of these are high priority and I with my fellow Alaskans would be willing to share in their cost.

Sincerely,

Marin Granholm, MD
Anchorage

From: Jacqueline Foss <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:50 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance Committee
<Finance.Committee@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony on State budge and PFD 3/26/2019

Hello. I spoke the evening of 3/26/19. Here is a written version of my testimony.

My name is Jacqueline Foss. I have lived in Alaska for 16 years. I live in Sitka, Alaska. I am a fisherman and a parent of 2 kids ages 6 and 4. I support the current system where much of the aw fish tax I pay returns to the community it was landed. Sitka reinvests this money back into harbors—directly supporting the fisherman who make our rural communities vibrant. I do not support funneling all fish tax to the AK state government. I would also support using fish tax to fully fund ADF&G for the purpose of sound fisheries management. Alaska's conservation-oriented management has made it possible for my family to make a living in commercial fishing. Every effort needs to be made to properly manage this abundant, natural resource.

As a parent, I support adequate funding of our schools and not the Governor's proposed budget. I have watched my son bloom in his small class with a veteran teacher. Please prioritize education and the future of Alaska.

I support a modest, graduated income tax and a modest PFD to support critical functions of government.

Thank you for your time listening to all of this testimony. I really appreciate your service to the state of Alaska.

I am available to answer any questions.

Best,

Jacquie

From: Brian Charlton <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:07 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: 2019 State Budget - Citizen comment on Medicaid

Hello Finance Committee Members,

Thanks for reading this! My overall message is short. The community wants to help pay for services, oil won't last forever or pay for everything, ever again.

This part is longer...it is my Medicaid story...challenges and successes...and it would take all evening to tell you the full story. So here it is.

Did you know that medicaid will pay for your child's care if they are out of the home for more than 30 days. Let that sink in.

My daughter, one of many, started suffering from mental health issues in Junior high. It got bad enough that she hurt herself and we had to take her to the emergency room. We stayed with her in the emergency room all night. In the morning we were told that there was nowhere in Fairbanks that she could go for help. We were told that the of the three facilities in Anchorage, only one had space. A privately run facility called North Star. And that one of us had to go with her, and then leave her there, alone. (If you ever want an earful about North Star, call me)

This story only continues because at the time I was a State Employee and had INSURANCE to help pay for her care. Without this care, I may have lost my daughter.

We couldn't afford the approximately \$1,000/day, but after deductibles insurance helped. But insurance only goes so far. Children in deep depression are in intensive care for a max of 30 days, but often take months (16-24 months!!) to heal and recover from deep depression in clinical, residential facilities. Do the math, \$30,000 a month, \$360,000 per year! Are these children worth it? (YES!!) (And should it be that expensive?)

My daughter spent a little more than 30 days in intensive care, and then went through 9 months of care at North Star. This was obviously hard on everyone! She was getting better, but not that much better. North Star determined they could not provide the care she needed to progress. She needed to go somewhere that specialized in her situation. Keep in mind, this is my daughter. I will do anything for her. But I couldn't get anyone on this earth to give me \$270,000 for her care.

This story only continues because of MEDICAID. Remember...MEDICAID will pay for your child's care if they are out of the home for more than 30 days if you are an Alaskan resident. So, that means my daughter received the care she needed regardless of whether I could afford it. She spent 9 more HARD months in a facility in UTAH. Alaska

MEDICAID allows certain facilities to provide care to Alaskans, constantly monitoring need and appropriateness. She got lucky and got to one of those. Other patients, from other States did not have the same level of state support as the 2 Alaskans that were there. People were impressed with how well Alaska was caring for the mental health of their children....

WERE.....(are you cutting MEDICAID??)

The mental health care in Alaska is ridiculous if you consider the added mental health impacts of remoteness, darkness, high costs of living and the impacts on our communities. Mental Health improvements take a lot of support and we don't really have it here. :(

By the way, my daughter has recovered greatly from her earlier struggles!!! She is now a Freshman at UAF and a loving and helpful member of our family.

WAIT!!! I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU THE SECOND MEDICAID STORY!

My Dad is on Medicaid. He has been for about 3 years. WHAT A PAIN THAT WAS!!!!

My Dad moved us here in 1976 for a job at UAF. His first job, as he tells it, was to straighten out the accounting at UAF. Eventually he landed the position of Risk Manager for many years. He got older and his UA retirement insurance didn't cover his needs..

He got dementia. He could not function on his own, and we did not have a home or living situation to take him in. WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH OUR ELDERS?

I found my dad an assisted living center. They are expensive and the best of them offer pretty poor service. Sorry, it's true, someone should look into that racket!!

I applied for him to be covered by medicaid early right away. (FYI, tell all your friends to get on the wait list for the pioneer home as soon as they turn 65, otherwise when they need it, it won't be there.)

It took over a year, repeated phone calls with hour long waits, letters to legislators, and the state ombudsman to get him on to medicaid and into improved care at Denali Center. The assisted living center could not handle his temperament. And not many people can afford Denali Center. They do great things and have amazing staff!

So medicaid saved my daughter and is caring for my dad. Can you please, please;...I dare you....tell me the alternatives? What could I have done differently to now need this support and help?

MEDICAID FOR ALASKA!

Please ask me more, I'm glad to answer questions!

Brian Charlton
[REDACTED]

From: Marsha Munsell <[REDACTED]@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:07 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget cuts for UAF, UAA, UASE, etc.

The University will most likely "fail" with the crippling budget cuts that have been suggested. The real failure would be in the short-sightedness of legislators not willing to support the future of our young people or the future of those who travel from other states and countries that attend the University. It saddens me to think of the progress that has been made in the collaboration of scientists from abroad and those at UAF disappearing. Work and training as elemental as building homes to accommodate northern climates, to figuring out what to do about dealing with the climate changes that have occurred and are occurring, will become less available to all of us as different programs are cut. Right now, our University system has a pretty high rating for education, nationally. These cuts will make it difficult to sustain that rating. I am pleading that we stand behind and support our University system now and in the future.

Respectfully,

Marsha Munsell

From: Brian Charlton <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Education - Pre-K through UAF

I was so excited last year when the Governor proposed and you passed forward funding of education.

I was relieved and excited when my kid's teachers, my friends, and people I love did not have to worry about whether they would have a job the next year, whether they would get pink slipped, or have to move schools or classrooms.

Well....that didn't even last a year!!! Joke's on them!

This state of affairs is ridiculous! Can we not hire teachers in this state and tell them they have a job year to year?

I grew up here, I went to school here. I even went to college here. I raised a family here. I'm still raising a family here. I want to retire here!

Get your SHIT TOGETHER and make this a community and state that people want to live in! Not a state where people want to skate by garnering the services and mooching what they can without contributing anything!!!!!!

Pay our way! Seize the Day! Lead to the future!

The PFD helps everyone...live beyond their means...and buy stuff. Let's use that money for the good of the community and the State.

PAY OUR WAY. Use the PFD, find revenue sources, pool the resources. GROW ALASKA!!!

Thanks,
Brian Charlton

From: Suzi McClear <[REDACTED]@mcclear.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:29 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget testimony

Good Day to You, and thank you for taking all this testimony and the effort to make sense of it.

Governor Dunleavy has done us the favor of making Alaskans recognize that we've been living in a growing discrepancy between income and expenditures and that it's time to seriously consider the priorities of the State. He has suggested budget cuts to our education system, the State Ferry and our health and social services programs that are so draconian as to have created an amazing amount of discussion. I believe that those cuts will destroy the state as we know it and our quality of living. I suspect you've heard as much, in great detail, from others.

My concerns at the moment, however, are the small items that might almost be called "rounding errors" relative to the above, but are equally important. I ask you to consider these items, and the matching funds that many of them bring into the state, with equal concern.

My example here would be public broadcasting. Radio (the only broadcast service in many of the rural parts of the state) connects the state and provides the basis for democracy. This is enhanced by "Gavel to Gavel" where television or internet is available. We're also looking at life-saving potentials in tsunami or general weather

advisories, amber alerts, etc. My son and his wife live in the Anchorage area and both consider that good radio did much to ease the tensions and potentially limit the damages after the November earthquake. Broadcasting will also fill the entertainment gap for folks whose personal budgets become constrained by impact of all the state budget cuts so that other options are closed to them.

Where to find the money? 1) Cut the oil tax credits. 2) Forget the past and don't pay out the additional PFD from three years ago. 3) Eliminate the staff for the Governor's wife (she has no Constitutional role) 4) Cut into this year's PFD if needed. Ultimately, we need to be paying taxes. It strikes me that a progressive income tax would be the most reasonable option as many communities have their own sales taxes.

Again, thank you.

Susan McClear

[REDACTED] Sitka, AK 99835

From: Lia Slemons <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:32 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Joshua Revak <Rep.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budgeting for the social contract

Dear Representative Revak and House Finance Committee Representatives,

Thank for repeatedly extending testimony opportunities throughout the state. I have not testified in person yet, but these hearings have been much in my heart and mind. Just as roads and public safety are justifiably considered core to why we form governments because they provide for all safe and productive commerce, I believe education and infrastructure that enables a resilient, adaptable economy likewise provide the means for citizens to live and work in Alaska over multiple generations. If we understand the role of government to be limited, but provide structural services, we accept the need to pay for education, including the training of our doctors (WAMI) from K-college. We accept the need to pay for dairy inspections, Village Safety Patrol Officers, and ferries. We need to provide Medicaid money so that families have access to health care and medical clinics are paid for their services.

I would happily pay for these services. Indeed, for economic growth to aid the state economy, rather than erode it by increasing the need for services without a compensatory income, we must pay for them. An income tax is my preference, but if a PFD reduction is more politically feasible, so be it. The rates at which programs are expected to adapt to draconian budget cuts must also be considered if we expect them to serve their purpose.

I heard Governor Dunleavy state on 'Talk of Alaska' this evening that Alaska's recession is due to reduced access to capital in the so-called "private economy". Although I'd challenge his stark separation of private and public sectors, I also think that was an misappropriation of the impacts of reduced oil prices

and production and the carryover of a nationwide recession. Cutting infrastructure-supportive government programs, especially education, is a misguided, short-sighted choice if we are trying to improve Alaska's economy.

Thank you for your service.

Best,
Lia Slemons
Voter, worker, [REDACTED] Anchorage

From: Janet Johnston [REDACTED]gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fully Fund the University of Alaska and WWAMI

Dear House Finance Committee,

As an Alaska resident and the parent of two teenage boys, I am writing to you to ask you to fund the University of Alaska and the WWAMI program.

Alaska needs to education our residents to prepare them to be thoughtful citizens and to enable them to fill jobs that require college-level skills and education. If we do not have a viable, comprehensive University system in Alaska, many students will not go to college or post-secondary education at all. And many students who decide they have to leave the state, will not come back later.

I recognize that we cannot keep spending from savings. But we can find additional revenue sources. I am not a tax or revenue expert but I can think of many options - sales tax, value added tax, fees on tourist programs, reduction in oil tax credits. These may not be the right choices, but I believe that if we can accept the fact that we need additional sources of revenue then people who are tax and revenue experts will be able to come up with a variety of options. The Institute for Social and Economic Research at UAA might be a good place to start having those conversations.

But for tonight I ask you to consider these two basic concepts:

1 - Alaska needs a comprehensive university system. The University of Alaska has absorbed many cuts over the past 5 years and cannot absorb another large cut this year and continue to meet the state's needs. Please have the courage to fund the University of Alaska and the WWAMI Medical School.

2 - Alaska needs to increase sources of revenue in order to be able to pay for the services we need. These services include education and public health. Please have the courage to face this truth and come up with a plan to pay for the services we need.

Thank you for your service.

Janet Johnston
Anchorage 99508

[REDACTED]

From: Carolyn Heuer <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Proposed budget

House Finance Committee

My name is Carolyn MacIntyre from Sitka. I am writing to express my concerns for the current proposed budget. I attended the House Finance meeting this past Saturday and appreciated the presentation given showing three different budget scenarios. It just doesn't seem to make sense though. Why would anyone want to cut \$1.5 billion dollars to pay each Alaskan \$3000. We simply can't afford it. Those services are worth way more than my \$3000. Or even the \$9000 my family gets. The truth is Dunleavy's budget is sponsored by the Koch Brothers. You can't cut education at every level, transportation and health care and expect people to stay. This budget will seriously harm our state. It doesn't look like we have a budget problem, but rather a priority problem. Please make Alaskans and not corporations a priority in this budget process.

As for solutions to financial short falls.

1. Do not pass SB 23 and SB 24. This creates a \$1.5 billion dollar problem.
2. Pass SB 14. Repeal oil tax credits. I think that earns us \$2.5 billion
3. Implement an income tax.

Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration,
Carolyn MacIntyre

From: Gareth Chesley <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:51 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written Budget Testimony

House Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my displeasure with the Governor's proposed budget. I am a life long Alaskan and have attended our K-12 schools as well as earning bachelor's and master's degree's from UAF so one of my particular concerns is fully funding education. Additionally, items like the Marine Highway are also vitally important to fund.

I am happy to have a smaller PFD or, better yet, an income tax. I value state services and am happy to pay for them.

Thank you for your consideration and continued work.

Gareth Chesley

[REDACTED]
Homer, AK 99603

From: Sandy Dauenhauer [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: University of Alaska budget

I am not affiliated with UA in any formal way, but I can see the benefits of the university throughout the state. For that reason, I have made this institution a major beneficiary of my charitable donations for many years, with special emphasis on scholarships and public broadcasting, rather than donate to my own alma mater.

The university not only allows Alaska's young people to remain in this state for their education, it brings in millions of dollars through corporate, federal, and organizational research grants and patents. UAF itself has an international reputation for excellence in geophysical and other scientific and engineering research. With the growing emphasis on the Arctic in terms of military engagements, international shipping, climate, and potential social disruptions, the university is indispensable in providing the research and solutions for policymakers and the public to use in decision-making. The WWAMI program and other medically-affiliated programs allow us to train our physicians, nurses, paramedics and EMTs either wholly within the state or under cooperative agreements that lower program costs. Given Alaska's chronic shortage of medical personnel throughout the state, it makes obvious sense to train Alaskans in these fields, people who want to be here.

The university also offers the public free or low-cost access to educational offerings through the Museum of the North and a large variety of lecture series, plays, concerts, and special student-organized events like star-gazing. Every state needs a quality university. The university needs a great deal of money to perform its many functions, but it provides us an educated citizenry, trained employees in a huge variety of fields, cultural and social programs, and an enormous wealth of practical basic and applied research that leads to innovation and wealth creation in the state.

I do not support the governor's proposed cuts to the university.

Sandra Dauenhauer [REDACTED]Ester, AK 99725

From: Elizabeth Cooper [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Cutting school budgets

Hello!

The Dunleavy budget cuts to schools are so extreme that even if the Anchorage School District cut EVERY ELEMENTARY TEACHER, it would not be enough to cover the gap in finances. The budget cuts also would cripple UAA, so that our young adults would not be able to access good post-secondary education needed to secure a decent career. Is Alaska willing to fail our children and young adults in this way, put

hundreds of families out of work so that those who remain get an extra \$1,000 for three years? I do not need a PFD in addition to state services and I am willing to pay income taxes or sales taxes to keep these services. What I do need, is my job that provides a good wage and health care, which I currently have as an elementary school teacher. I also need my home to retain its value, which would not occur if these cuts go through and thousands of jobs are lost, because the real estate market would crumble. Governor Dunleavy has neither done the math nor the research to demonstrate how these extreme budget cuts would impact the economy. I urge you to craft a sensible budget without these Draconian cuts. This is not a fiscal crisis, it is a crisis of priorities. Not investing in education ensures that our brightest and best will leave the state to seek greener pastures elsewhere. Our state would become a barren wasteland if this slash and burn budget is approved.

Thank you for doing the right thing and crafting a decent and sensible budget rather than what the governor has proposed.

Elizabeth Robertson

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cindy Westergaard [REDACTED]@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comments on Governor Dunleavy's proposed operating budget

03/26/2019

State of Alaska
House Finance Committee

I am writing to oppose the Governor's proposed operating budget, with the following concerns:

- By cutting off ferry services, many island and rural family members will be unable to travel, or will be burdened by the cost of air travel, not just for pleasure trips, but also in order to access health care services at hospitals, clinics and pharmacies.
- By slashing funding for education, you doom generations of children to an overall lower quality of education, and a lower ability to be successful in a competitive world.
- By slashing funding for health and social services, including Medicaid and Medicare, while simultaneously doubling the price of monthly care at the Pioneer Home, you needlessly cause our elders to suffer and find themselves priced out of their retirement residence.

I propose that you consider the following possible ways to improve the Governor's new budget, which I find disturbing were not at all represented on the as follows:

- Vote down the proposed supplemental PFDs (VOTE NO on SB23 & SB24)
- Reduce the PFD
- Reinststate an income tax
- Pass SB14 and repeal all existing oil tax credits

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Cindy Westergaard
Sitka, AK 99835

From: James Schramek [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:08 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget for Alaska

Greetings:

I oppose the governor's proposed budget and his cuts to schools, the ferry, healthcare, and public radio.

Declining oil revenues since the restructuring of the fees paid by oil companies for what they extract (SB 21 2013) have become insufficient to cover the state budget. Market prices for oil were not supposed to drop this low and now this restructured revenue law, with huge credits paid to oil companies for exploration and other "investments" dropped state revenues by over \$2 billion. We can thank Governor Dunleavy when he was in the state senate as a primary advocate for this under the Parnell administration. The state budget has yet to recover from this huge give away to oil companies and the state has yet to see a return on these "tax credit investments" touted to bring up revenues by increasing the oil supply.

I came to Petersburg, Alaska from Minnesota in 1976. I was working for the USDA Forest Service and had an exceptional experience on an Alaska Airlines flight that year. It was open seating on the plane. I was the last to board. I came in from the back of the plane and there was just one open seat. There were two gentlemen in dark suits in an aisle on the left side that was without a row of seats in front of it. The aisle seat was open and I sat down there. The man in the middle seat rather emphatically said, "You can't sit there"! Then, the man in the window seat more calmly said, "No, he can sit there, there are no other open seats". I looked and was shocked to see Governor Hammond in the window seat!

I had written a paper in graduate school about the D2 lands issue in Alaska and was particularly impressed with Governor Hammond's proposal. I mentioned that and we started talking. The man in the middle was Lieutenant Governor Lowell Thomas Jr. After the Governor and I did some head weaving to look at each other while speaking, Governor Hammond asked the Lieutenant Governor to take the window seat. We ended up sitting together for almost two hours. The time went as fast as I've ever experienced!

I was interested in discussing the management of lands in the state. We talked about wise use of resources and I was amazed how much the Governor knew about water, fisheries, wildlife, timber management and risks associated with access and development. He was sincerely interested in assuring future Alaskans would enjoy the magnificence he experienced. After a while he said, "I'd like to ask you what you think about something".

Governor Hammond was really excited about his ideas about what to do with the oil revenues and what has now become the permanent fund. He thought it was imperative that half of the oil revenue should

be saved and invested for the future. He was also interested in seeing that all Alaskans benefited. I felt honored to be asked my opinion and was definitely in favor of what he said. To this day I wish I'd been able to record our conversation!

The Governor was particularly enthusiastic about how distribution of some earnings annually to everyone would uplift the bush communities that had been reeling from the almost complete loss of trapping income due to the uproar against furs. Everyone would benefit and it would help the state economy in all communities.

He also talked about the fact that the oil revenues would drop off some day and investing as much of it as possible in reserve would support the state budget in the future. I think he said something about putting half in investments that would assure a sound fiscal future for the state. He was particularly interested in education, infrastructure and quality management of fish and wildlife resources.

We also discussed the state income tax and how it would be necessary to cover needs wisely. When oil revenues became insufficient to cover state budgets without taping the principle of the investments, use of the income tax would allow those of limited means to spend their dividends on living expenses while those who have more income would provide some of their dividends as part of their income tax payment. That would be preferable to reducing the dividends for everyone, which would impact the rural and depressed economies and people who need the dividend the most.

Unfortunately, the state legislature only authorized setting aside 1/8th of the oil revenue in the reserve and also didn't set taxes at a level as high as could have been. Had Governor Hammond gotten his way there would still be sufficient funds from the interest on revenues and the income taxes to cover the budget. The catastrophic downward slide in meeting the budget resulting from SB21 and the litany of Republican efforts to reinstate an income tax leaves limited options.

Continuing oil subsidies while imposing devastating cuts to funds necessary for education, infrastructure, economies of rural communities is no way to manage any state, let alone one that benefited from the legacy of Governor Hammond.

I continue to marvel at the intelligence, foresight and integrity of Governor Hammond; especially in comparison to the administration that now threatens the well-being of everyone in Southeast Alaska and probably the entire state as the budget cuts will likely put the economy into a depression in Southeast and a recession state-wide.

The House and Senate need to pass both a state income tax and a budget that will continue to support the needs of the state by a sufficient margin to override a veto by the Governor, who seems committed to his draconian budget. A progressive income tax should be enacted and used instead of taking money from PFD checks but for this year there isn't likely time for any use of income taxes and PFD's will need to be tapped. Unless of course the subsidies to oil companies stemming from SB21, which Governor Dunleavy helped pass and clearly supports can be overturned and those funds used to **sustain public schools, the ferry system, healthcare, and public broadcasting.**

Sincerely,

Jim Schramek
Petersburg, Alaska

From: Roy [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:13 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

To whom it may concern

housefinance@akleg.gov

Crony capitalism isn't swayed by the harm inflicted, health education and transportation are under attack. In my lifetime I've watched Native land stolen, oil belonging to Alaska dealt away. Dunleavy is part of a national agenda of kowtowing to big business under the guise of good intent. A lie or two thrown to shut up and distract. Republicanism to serve a select few, the 1%. Mark my words if this idiotic idea of his somehow gets through. Alaska with its back to the wall better consider its options such as secession and calling other governments for aid, it'll be impossible to tolerate the foolishness and stupidity of Dunleavy's Budget. The worst idea ever by any Alaskan Governor.....

Roy Nathan

To: House Finance Committee

From: Brenda Campen
[REDACTED]
Sitka, Alaska 99835 [REDACTED]

You have heard from many Alaskans who oppose the budget proposed by Governor Dunleavy. I oppose the governor's approach to dealing with the economic issues; there are other ways to deal with this. I also oppose amending the Alaska Constitution to enshrine the governor's ideology. I have lived in Alaska for 42 years; I am retired and on a fixed income. My two children are self-employed in Alaska, in the private sector—investing in this state and wanting to remain here.

I challenge the casting of those who have spoken in opposition to the governor's budget variously as "whiners, union advocates, greedy civil servants, wealthy, poor/non contributors, liberals....". We are all Alaskans. We care.

I started to list all of the proposed budget cuts I oppose. But, the list was so long and others will have enumerated those already. I will only especially note that the AK Marine Hwy System, K-12 and UA education, fish taxes for coastal communities, Sheldon Jackson museum, WWAMI, public broadcasting are areas of particular, personal concern.

I do support:

1. review of the oil tax structure to pull back more revenue for Alaska. It is unacceptable that the governor proposes so many cuts with no expectation that the oil industry would share in the remedy by paying more to the state.

2. revenue sources:

- a. cap the PFD – perhaps \$800-\$1000
- b. modest income tax
- c. small state sales tax - .5% I know that a sales tax is regressive, but this would allow a capture of taxes from seasonal workers and visitors, as well as giving ALL Alaskans a sense of contribution, responsibility, and a stake in the state
- d. use of Permanent Fund earnings – inflation proof the fund!, state services, PFDs

I think that it is essential to address the concerns of conservative, Dunleavy supporting Alaskans who feel that an income tax linked to a % of federal tax would be paid by only about half of Alaskans. Therefore they resist. A small sales tax paid by all may counter that position. Alaskans cannot retreat to opposite corners.

I lived in Alaska when we had a school tax and an income tax, and understand the original intention of the Permanent Fund and the PFD. I am unwilling to see our state destroyed by the present administration. I am willing to pay, even from a fixed income. The oil companies must also pay a fair share.

Brenda Campen

From: Terri [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:22 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 39-APPROP Operating Budget

I was unable to testify at LIO today, please accept email as testimony.

My name is Terri Mach, Homer, AK

In 1965 my mother, with 3 young children, became involved with Head Start. She grew as a parent, went on to earn a teaching degree and specialized in early reading and language intervention, improving

outcomes for hundreds of children during her long career. She raised children who also pursued education and they now have children who are employed and contribute to the economy in Alaska.

The story starts much earlier though. My mother's father dropped out of school at age 13 to support his mother and 4 young siblings when their father died. He grew up in poverty and so did my mother. 1965 was a pivotal year in my family's history. This is when my family got a "head start" with needed support, information, and empowerment to create a new pathway.

I recognize that policymakers must identify educational investments that yield the highest public returns. Decades ago, Jean Piaget said there should be an inverse relationship between the age of students and salaries of their teachers. Piaget recognized long ago and research has since confirmed that the first 5 years of life is a critical period for brain development. Early experiences correlate with outcomes in adulthood. If the period from birth to age 5 supports growth in language, cognition, motor skills, and social-emotional functioning, the child is more likely to succeed in school and later contribute to society. Conversely, without support during these early years, a child is more likely to drop out of school, receive welfare benefits, and commit crime.

I'd like to thank members of the House Education and Early Development Sub-Finance Committee for recognizing that dollars spent on early education are one of the best investments we can make for economic and social health of our Alaskan communities.

Thank you for your consideration,
Terri Mach

From: Audra Gooden <[REDACTED]@lpsd.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: testimony regarding HB 39

My name is Audra Gooden. I am a wife, mother of four children, a K-12 teacher, and a long-time rural Alaskan. I do not disagree that public education needs re-envisioning, but cutting the funding out from under districts and students in exchange for an increased PFD is not the best way. Rather than suddenly throwing districts into a tailspin, give the public and districts a year to counsel together, knowing a serious budget cut is coming, about how we might actually improve schooling in our state, but only after all interested persons have digested a pre-determined list of literature highlighting various solutions. We need to educate ourselves about education before trying to up-end everything. Because conversation about education is so fraught with emotion and disagreement, it is necessary to somehow give the people common ground from which to debate and discuss.

While it is desirable and fair for the Governor and Legislature to look for ways to balance the State budget, to cut education funding out of the blue will cause unnecessary hardship. Better to make the cuts having had time to gather our forces and choose wisely, rather than being forced to make decisions in panic-mode. I think the proposed cuts can be a catalyst for positive change, but only if those changes occur based on an open discussion of commonly understood possibilities (based on that set list of literature).

Thank you for your time, and all that you do on our behalf.

Sincerely,
Audra Gooden

From: Carol Gales <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:30 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: We need a more reasonable solution to the state budget

Dear House Finance Committee:

Alaskans need to work together to thoughtfully resolve our current budget crisis. Bringing outside political groups into the situation is very distressing and just so wrong for this great state! The Koch Brothers / AFP have their own interests and agendas ... and should keep them at home, where they live. We Alaskans know our state and our people, and can work together to figure out how to move forward. Please keep these outsiders Outside!!

Like any family or business facing a budget problem, we need to look at how to trim expenses *and* how to increase funds.

The state has been cutting like crazy for the past few years. Further immediate drastic cuts are *not* a reasonable solution. The budget cuts proposed will be devastating to rural communities such as Nome, my home since 1996.

We need to stop giving money to the oil companies through the per-taxable-barrel credit of SB21. This program ultimately does not serve Alaska's interests.

We need a progressive income tax—especially to capture some of the income that so many people earn in Alaska and then take away to the Lower 48. Taxes are the way that we Alaskans can pool our resources to help fund the programs that our communities need.

The "full" PFD *sounds* like a great way to help rural Alaskans, but ultimately it doesn't best serve the common interests of community members, such as education and public safety and health care and power cost equalization and elder care. Of course people want a big PFD (who doesn't want money?!), but considering the realities of our budget and the needs in our communities, a PFD in amount similar to what was paid in recent years is a wise idea.

I am a homeowner and a new small business owner and love my community in rural Alaska. The intrusion of Lower 48 politics into our state is wrong. Please work to resolve the budget challenges without the draconian approach of the governor's proposed budget.

Thank you for wrestling with these difficult issues!

Carol Gales
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nome

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:37 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support funding for UA

Unfortunately I had to work during public testimony times tonight, but in connection with HB39 I would like to voice my support for the UA system and funding it as much as possible. As a life-long Alaskan for nearly 50 years, born and raised in Fairbanks by my father who was also born here, I remember when we had an income tax and no dividend. I could live here with no dividend check, although I believe an income tax and less tax breaks for the oil companies is the way to go in the long run. Last year's capped dividend was nowhere near the smallest non-capped dividend we've received. That is a small price to pay to keep the state running until better alternatives are put in place.

I could live here without the dividend, but I could not live here without the UA system. I would not want to. The benefits it brings to the community are too many to go into here. Program cuts over the last five years have already been devastating. If I were starting college today I would go out of state, as my program is no longer offered in the capacity it was 30 years ago. I am so thankful I didn't have to do that. I know you have tough decisions to make, but education is important to the future of Alaska.

Thank you for your time,

James Hassel
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709
[REDACTED]

From: Jochen Mezger [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:47 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support University of Alaska

Dear Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Jochen Mezger and I live in Fairbanks where I am a member of the faculty at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I am writing to ask for your help in preventing the debilitating effects to our city and state that the adoption of Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget would impose. The Governor's proposed fiscal year 2020 operating budget will significantly cut education, healthcare and other government services, all of which provide Alaskans with the support they need to prosper under the special conditions inherent in our state. While I don't question the importance of the Alaska PFD, I believe its administration can be managed in a fashion that is equitable and that embraces a prosperous future for all Alaskans. I respectfully ask that during budget deliberations you lobby strongly against the proposed cuts and instead support a policy approach that considers the good of all Alaskans now and in the future.

As a first generation university graduate in my family I can personally attest to the influence a great education has on one's life, both intellectual and financially. Throughout my postgraduate career at various German universities I have come to regard teaching as equally important as research. Seeing a former student succeed in professional life makes me as proud as having one of my research papers published. When the opportunity had arrived to come to the University of Alaska Fairbanks to head the Geology Field Camp, I did not hesitate. This was more than six years ago, and I have not regretted it once. I love the University of Alaska Fairbanks. It is a small university, compared to the German and Canadian universities I attended, but very large in its teaching and with some unique and world class research (Arctic research, sea ice, permafrost, aurora, etc.). Again, UAF has been named as one of the ten best small universities in the US! I was also pleasantly surprised how well UAF is intertwined with the city of Fairbanks. Many people living in and making a living in Fairbanks are UAF graduates. Our Geoscience Department graduates are employed in the private and public sector in Fairbanks and central Alaska. I cannot imagine Fairbanks without UAF.

Anyone who has never been to Alaska cannot understand the challenges, which are unique in the western world, this great state faces in order to service his citizens. Where, except maybe Russia and Nunavut, live a large part of the population in remote villages that are off the road grid. If excellent education is important for the prosperity of cities like Fairbanks, it is even more so the case for those rural towns and villages. UAF's rural campuses are crucial for the prosperity of the mostly native communities in western Alaska. I was able to experience the great impact rural campuses have when I visited a friend who is a faculty member at our Nome campus.

The massive cuts to education and the university system in particular proposed by Governor Dunleavy would severely impact the ability to service the needs of Alaskans even more than the significant cuts already experienced in four of the previous six years. In our department we were not able to fill several vacant positions, whose teaching responsibilities had partially been distributed among the remaining faculty, including myself, leaving us less time for other important duties. Further massive cuts would significantly reduce the number of teaching faculty, either by not filling vacant positions, layoffs or early retirement. Consequently, the quality of teaching will suffer and be reduced. Under these conditions it would be harder to retain faculty members who would rather accept job offers at other less stressful and more secure locations. It would also be harder to attract excellent new faculty and graduate students who would rather not join a university which faces budget cuts on an almost yearly basis. Closure of programs or even campuses will inevitable lead to smaller number of students enrolled, resulting in lower revenue from tuition. Since most of the University of Alaska students are from Alaska, this would result in lower university enrollment for young Alaskans and emigration to universities in the lower 48. Once students have left to graduate outside Alaska a large number will likely stay away and seek jobs outside Alaska. Thus, slashing funding to education results in a brain drain. While this evolution is bad for Anchorage and Fairbanks, it would be devastating to rural Alaskan communities when the some of the brightest students leave and maybe never return. It would also impact very negatively the prosperity of the native Alaska societies.

Lastly, the impact of reduction in the size of UAF, or even a possible closure, would be disastrous for the place I call home, the City of Fairbanks. Faculty, staff and students are the major economic drivers in Fairbanks. Without UAF many if not the majority of local businesses will disappear, from Safeway and Fred Meyer to car dealerships, hardware stores, cafes and restaurants. The population would dramatically shrink as many faculty, staff and students would leave Alaska. I doubt that Governor Dunleavy has this in mind for the future of Fairbanks.

I understand the difficult task the legislature faces and have deep respect for the challenges you currently face. This year's state budget puts clear choices before all of us but I hope that you agree, it is in the best interest of the great State of Alaska to consider all of the options for funding service. I ask that you oppose the Governor's unneeded statewide cuts and vote to override any veto action he may take.

Best regards and thank you for your service to the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Jochen Mezger

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

March 19, 2019

House Finance Center

State Capitol Room 505, Juneau 99801

Re: Pioneer Homes

We are writing to ask you to support the current level of funding in the state budget for our Pioneer Homes. Our elders are the ones who have made Alaska, they are our history.

We realize the state has financial problems but are hopeful you can find solutions without harming our elders in Pioneer Homes.

Respectfully,

Homen Pioneer of Alaska

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

cc: See attached page of signatures, March 11, 2019

March 11, 2019

Persons of Alaska

Syloo 32 Syloo 14

Don Burt, [REDACTED], Anchor Point, AK 99556

Glenn Green, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Frances Lorraine Haas [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

James [REDACTED] (Pastor), [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Marilyn Green, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Amber J Klopfer, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Cliff Koenig, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Charlene Dutton, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Bob Dutton, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Youse Edens, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Janet M. Kreitzer, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Vision \$, [REDACTED], Anchor Point, AK 99556

Donald Van Buren, [REDACTED], Anchor Point, AK 99556

From: [REDACTED] Jayme Jones
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 12:37 PM
To:
Subject: State Budget Feedback

From: Michael Beck <[REDACTED]@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:21 AM
To: Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>
Subject: State Budget Feedback

Dear Rep Knopp,

I wasn't able to attend the House Finance Committee budget road show this past Saturday so I'm sharing my comments now. Deep cuts need to be made to the budget - that's pretty obvious. That being said I think people need to be prepared for them. I don't really have a problem with a cut to the PFD checks. My problem is Gov. Walker made the first cut about 6 weeks before the checks were due to come out. People were counting on a \$3000 check and at the last minute got a \$1000 check. That's mean and wrong. What a jerk.

If possible, cut's should be minimized this year with an expectation of what departments will be seeing the ax next year so employees and residents / recipients can be prepared / make other plans.

I think every effort should be made to fully fund the PFD checks this year with NOTICE that the check's will be cut and used to fund state government in the future. It's stupid to institute a State income tax or sales tax while at the same time giving out large amounts of free money. I'm not opposed to a flat rate income tax and would prefer that to a sales tax. I view a progressive tax as income discrimination and so would prefer a state sales tax to a progressive income tax.

There's about what . . . \$60 to \$70 billion in the permanent fund now? Some of that money should be used to fully fund the public employee retirement and health care accounts - we have kicked that can down the road far too long and now it's a giant black cloud hanging over our head. We should also use a portion of the PF to forward fund education. We should have done that years ago when we had the money and the people who voted against it in my opinion are too stupid to be in public office, and hopefully are not there now if this does gain traction - which it won't.

I have no idea how the legislature is going to fund law enforcement and prison costs but those are my priorities in the budget. We have productive citizens leaving and being replaced by meth heads who openly admit they came to Alaska because of the lenient crime laws. That is really messed up and needs to be fixed. People have had it and I think are going to start taking the law into their own hands. Not good.

The Kenai School District can weather cuts better than any district in the State. UA does a crappy job so I don't really care what funding they get (and I graduated from UA). Medicaid - again give people a heads up and opportunity to move some place that can support them if this is important. Power cost equalization - discrimination based on where people CHOSE to live - get rid of it. Along with any other perks based on where people choose to live.

The people voted on oil taxes not that long ago - and so there's no reason to visit that again right now.

Anybody involved in the loans to Brooks Range Petroleum should be fired or ideally locked up. Enough of these stupid State funded projects for private business already.

Guess that's about it.

Regards,
Mike Beck
Kenai Alaska


@mac.com
55 year resident



City of Hoonah

P.O. Box 360 Hoonah, AK 99829 (907) 945-3663 Fax (907) 945-3445

**Neal Foster
House Finance Committee Co-chair
120 4th Street
State Capitol Room 3
Juneau, AK 99801-1182**

March 20, 2019

RE: Hoonah Opposition to Governor Dunleavy's proposed FY20 Budget

The City of Hoonah strongly opposes a number of cost-cutting provisions in Governor Dunleavy's proposed 2020 operating budget (HB 20/SB 39). The reason is simple: Hoonah and its 773 residents – individuals, schools and businesses alike – will suffer disastrous consequences.

Here are a few examples, with specific impacts:

- **The proposed cuts to education would mean a \$506,224 cut to our school budget, leading to the loss of half of the 11 teachers in our K-12 school system. Our school is already operating at a minimum and can withstand no further funding reductions. Hoonah already contributes \$458,000 toward our school. Our local government cannot sustain a higher contribution – the likely result of the massive cost-shifting from the State that would occur under the FY20 operating budget as it currently stands.**

- **Elimination of the Alaska Marine Highway System or loss of its winter service would also be disastrous for our community. Hoonah receives barge service seven months out of the year and relies on the ferry system to provide freight for the other five months. In addition, Hoonah would lose the ability for our residents to travel to Juneau for medical and other purposes on days that planes cannot fly. In one instance this past winter, we had five days of no flights and the only way in and out was by ferry. Additionally, the equivalent of 4.5 AMHS are based in Hoonah. We cannot overstate the importance of our marine highway to the outside world.**

- Power Cost Equalization provides \$613,081 of value to our community, primarily in the form of reduced power rates on our residents' first 500 kilowatt hours of electricity. That means those living here are able to spend those savings on food, clothing and other essentials. The average Hoonah resident only consumes 750 kwh of electricity per month, where the national average is 2,000 kwh.
- Shared Fisheries Business tax represented \$76,350 in 2019 revenue assistance for the Hoonah. While may seem a small number to some, it represents a large financial assist for our small community. This loss would force the City to look at recovering that much more revenue locally to keep our budget on track. This would be unfair and unacceptable.

There are other examples but we in Hoonah believe those stated above illustrate the dire – and unprecedented – situation the City of Hoonah and the people who live here would be placed in should the sweeping changes proposed in the Governor's presently proposed operating budget for FY20 come to pass. Please do not let this happen.

Respectfully,


Gerald Byers, Mayor


Amelia Wilson, Vice-Mayor


Shawn McConnell, Council Member


Gus Skaffestad, Council Member


Stan Saviland, Council Member


Mark Smith, Council Member


John Murray, Council Member

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Community Budget Hearing

Name - Amber Rogers
Email - [REDACTED]@profounding.com
Physical/Mailing Address -
P.O. Box 871432
Wasilla, AK
99687

Please be advised that this is your public testimony and it will become part of the public record – Should you wish to email this information-please use:

House.Finance@AKLEG.GOV

Testimony: I am writing this to say I am in support of Governor Dunleavy's Budget Plan.

I also want SB 91 repealed. I have personally been effected by SB 91 and first hand see that it's not working to make the people safe. I feel very unsafe under SB 91 ruling and want it repealed immediately. I have been robbed 8 times in the last 2 1/3 years and under the SB 91 ruling even though the thieves were identified the next day after the robbery nothing was done to punish or prevent them from stealing from myself or others. In the end under SB 91 the people are in danger and the criminals have no consequences to their actions to make them want to stop their wrong behavior.

I want ~~the~~ all past and future PFD's in full to be given back to the people.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Homer City Council

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

March 11, 2019

Honorable Governor Dunleavy
Alaska State Legislature, State Capitol
120 4th St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: City of Homer Municipal Impact Statement

Honorable Governor Dunleavy and Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

We appreciate the State's commitment to sustainable spending but want to draw attention to the unsustainable impact the proposed FY20 budget will have on local governments in Alaska and offer our support for considering revenue solutions. We believe the information below needs to be considered by you before these very drastic cuts occur.

REVENUE SOLUTIONS

The Homer City Council wants to be proactive and is supportive of a sincere and honest look at new revenue for the State of Alaska. This includes:

- Examining the oil tax credit structure to ensure oil and gas exploration is not being subsidized by citizens
- Exploring an income tax
- Using our largest asset, the Permanent Fund, to fund essential government services by capping the Permanent Fund Dividend

IMPACT OF PROPOSED CUTS IN HOMER

The City of Homer is responsible for municipal governance in our community of 5,313 residents. We have 101.5 full time employees who fulfill the obligations of a local government. Our ability to do so is limited by statute, public interest, and available resources. Traditionally those resources have included State and Federal funding, which offset the burdens that might otherwise be felt by a local tax base.

On average our tax revenue comprises 72% of our total General Fund budget, and any impact from State decision-making on Alaska's economy further weakens the City's ability to sustainably serve our community. The City of Homer is very concerned about the impact cuts to the University, Alaska Marine Highway System, education, and Medicaid will have on our local economy. You need to know that just stopping these services will have a direct impact on the quality of life for Alaskans.

- The Kachemak Bay Branch of the Kenai Peninsula College is part of the fabric of Homer. It educates students in a formal learning environment and the community through diverse programming. It provides critical job training for everyone from fisherman to nurses and employs 56 full and part-time professionals.
- The City of Homer is the Home Port to the M/V Tustumena. In addition to employing local residents, the

Alaska Marine Highway System brings visitors and residents into town as a gateway to Seldovia, Kodiak, and Western Alaska. The ferry port in Homer is also a freight destination for cars and trucks from Kodiak, Seldovia, and the Aleutians. Fishermen use the ferry to move gear, groceries are transported to and from the outlying villages, and mail is sent using the marine highway.

- South Peninsula Hospital is the largest employer in Homer with over 400 professional jobs. The Hospital provides critical care to our residents; the Kenai Peninsula Borough has the fastest growing senior population in the State.
- Without adequately funded schools, families will leave Homer. Cuts to the Kenai Peninsula Borough will have a direct impact on the City of Homer and our residents. We are especially concerned about \$20 million in cuts to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District that will force the closure of schools and compromise the quality of education. Without good schools, people will leave Homer which will further effect our local economy and erode our tax base.

Based on the proposed FY20 budget, we have highlighted below some of the areas that will be directly impacted based on your administration's proposed budget:

- Our Community Assistance funding was \$177,172 in State FY2019.
- Our receipt of the Petroleum Property Tax was \$5,998 in 2018.
- We received \$62,069 in 2018 in Fisheries Taxes from the State. These funds are invested directly back into our public access fish dock to support fishing industry infrastructure.

The City of Homer was hit hard in 2015 when the State reduced the contract with communities for shared prisoner space by 45% and we removed Community Assistance from our operating budget due to the uncertain future of the fund. Also during this time, the City Council cut the budget, which included staff reductions, and with voter approval, restructured sales tax to cover municipal operations. Recognizing the need to pay our own way, voters approved a .35% sales tax increase in 2018 to fund a long overdue police station. The City of Homer and its residents have stepped up to the plate. There is no room in our budget or tax base for further cost shifting.

We believe the proposed FY20 budget and approach that you have outlined reflects little concern for the burden that you have passed on to the residents of Alaska and the local governments that serve them. The City of Homer will work to mitigate the damage from these administrative actions while partnering with our legislative leaders to develop solutions that protect the public's interest.

Sincerely,

Homer City Council



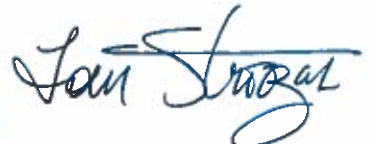
Mayor Ken Castner



Donna Aderhold



Heath Smith



Tom Stroozas



Shelly Erickson



Caroline Venuti



Rachel Lord



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Governor Dunleavy's Budget Proposal

March 24, 2019

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am the State Director for Planned Parenthood Votes in Alaska, lifelong Alaskan, and current resident of Anchorage. Thank you for holding this event and for the opportunity to provide feedback. I am here to share our concerns about Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget.

Like many organizations and individuals across the state, Planned Parenthood has significant concerns about the proposed budget because it makes drastic and unprecedented cuts to nearly every program in the state, from education to infrastructure to social services.

This includes an alarming 40 percent cut to Medicaid funding. Slashing the program so drastically would cut the most vulnerable Alaskans off from the care they need. More than 200,000 low-income Alaskans rely on Medicaid for life-saving care like cancer screenings, preventive health care, emergency care, and family planning services.

One in five women relies on Medicaid, which means these cuts will disproportionately harm women and families. Alaskan families should not be forced to decide whether to seek medical care or pay their bills. We should be working to improve health care access and outcomes, not cutting access to care for those who need it most.

And our state simply cannot afford to cut Medicaid. If the proposed cut of \$270 million goes into effect, we will also lose nearly \$500 million in additional federal matching funds for Medicaid. And drastically cutting Medicaid would likely result in many Alaskans losing access to basic preventive care, leading to more expensive treatment and emergency room costs down the road.

It is also important to note that these cuts will not just impact Medicaid enrollees, but will harm our state's entire health care system. If reimbursement rates are slashed and health care providers cannot afford to provide health care in our state, they will be forced to shut their doors, threatening all Alaskans' access to health care.

We need fair and equitable revenue sources, not dangerous and unsustainable cuts that will harm every single resident of our state.

Thank you for your consideration.



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Cler', with a fluid, cursive style.

Jessica Cler
Alaska State Director
Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawaii

Honorable Finance Committee Representatives

I am writing to let you know how I personally feel about the proposed cuts by Gov. Dunleavy.

Personally, I say to stop the perm fund for this year and maybe next year. Meantime you and the Senate finance committee work towards giving us a stable budget that fairly represents the moral and sincere considerations of those in need. Our seniors, children and disabled among us should not bare the brunt of budget cuts.

As Alaskans our nature is to care for those less able than ourselves. Make no Government increases in salaries, such as governor Dunleavy has, left bad taste when he then tries to cut those who need funds. Alaskans have always taken care of those living in their villages, shared the wealth of food or whatever. That is what the fund was about, sharing of the wealth.

Do we now need to reinstate the state tax, maybe? Do we now need to reinstate the school tax, I think we should do that so all equally pay towards the education of our upcoming generations. If a tax needs to be put in effect then do so; yes some will be upset but are they Alaskans who lived here in years we were not plush?

I paid state taxes and school tax and it did not hurt me. I felt okay when those who needed assistance were able to get it, as I had assisted in that.

I am opposed to any cuts that take away our mode of transportation, I am not really in favor of privatizing the Marine highway, would you folks like your main highway in Anchorage and Fairbanks areas privatized? The coastal areas need the marine highway the same as land folks need a paved roadway. Gov. Dunleavy was not here in the days between the shut down of the steamships and the Marine Highway. We get groceries and medical supplies, folks moving to town, recreational travel as well.

The folks in our state that have mental health issues should not suffer because the state has less funds than before. There are too many pork barrel projects in our state budget that could be eliminated without hurting the vulnerable citizens that you are there to protect.

We have our share of homeless or those who cannot afford housing. We need to look into how we can assist those in a way that they can accept, as many homeless cannot stand to live totally indoors or within a confined area. Those with special needs who cannot live in the housing available due to a disability we need to fund their needs, but not over fund as some businesses are doing.

Alaska Legal services needs to be funded to assist those with issues they do not understand and financially are unable to pay for legal services. Often just a little education helps them to stay out of trouble and ease the correction of what they did.

We should be looking at the many fraud issues within our Medicaid programs that nitpick funds but add up to millions per chance billions of dollars wasted. Stop aiding the group of folks unmarried that have children so they can draw state income. The children are at risk and we add more to assist those children who are suffering, while the women and men benefit from this. A woman living with a man and

her children should not be on Medicaid, food stamps and other benefits. These are not in need, they are both able to work and care for their family. This is a big fraud that I see constantly. Businesses taking advantage of Medicaid is another one. I could go on but feel the state would be wise to clean up the frauds in this program.

Gov Dunleavy's proposal to take away the hold harmless of the perm fund for those truly on Medicaid should not be allowed. Often that hold harmless allows the individual to get medical or health care that the Medicaid does not pay for. Or heating fuels, clothing and food to aid them over the winter. To give with one hand and take away with the other is not sensible or moral behavior.

I am long winded and apologize to you all.

I just ask you stop Gov. Dunleavy's proposed budget and hold last years budget as a plan then work darn hard to come up with a reasonable way of new revenue and a sensible budget for the next few years.

If the perm Fund needs to be set aside for a year or two then do so! It is not our right, but was a way of sharing the wealth. Now the wealth is gone let's share the burden of need. Those who don't like it can go elsewhere, we Alaskans have weathered the good and bad and can do so again.

Thank you all for your work and hope this can be settled so you can all do what you are there to do.;
New needed legislation and fixing bad legislation.

Sincerely

Pat

Patricia Chapman

Ketchikan, Alaska

March 26, 2019

Alaska Budget Remarks

3-23-19

Good Afternoon: My name is Doug Stark, and I live in Homer. I want to give you a few biographical details so you'll know where I'm coming from. I've lived in Alaska for over 50 years. I was appointed in charge of coordinating statewide capital improvements by Governor Hickel, as City Manager and City Engineer in Petersburg, was elected to head the citizens committee that got Juneau City and Borough unification, the first in Alaska, graduated from U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College and from Civil Air Patrol National Staff College, was Commander of statewide Civil Air Patrol Search and Rescue, was elected to 2 terms Homer City Council, and to the statewide Alaska Municipal League Board of Directors.

On the subject of the State Budget, as a conservative Republican, I want to congratulate the Governor for his recommendations on reducing it. But as an Alaskan citizen with a long history here, I respectfully disagree with those recommendations as too much, too soon, and simply throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

The education of our children is the future of our state. The rural areas of Alaska can't afford a reduction of support. The curtailment of the Marine Highway System would be cutting off our nose to spite our face. Our state economy, just on the verge of recovery, would be set back 5 years—over ten thousand people could leave the state.

My recommendation is a flat budget for the next 3 years, and a permanent fund dividend capped at no more than 1600 dollars. If you embrace the proposed cuts, I predict the citizens will rise up and throw you out. Thank you.

Doug Stark

PREPARED BUT NOT GIVEN.



SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Dr. Douglas Stark
[REDACTED]@yahoo.com

Major Sandra L. Stark
[REDACTED]@yahoo.com

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Homer, Alaska 99603
[REDACTED] California 96160
Summers in Truckee June to September
Winters in Alaska October to May

CORDOVA LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: LIO.Cordova@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-424-5461 / Fax: 907-424-5462

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

JEFF GUARD - [REDACTED]

REPRESENTING:

SELF

Cordova 99574

BILL # or SUBJECT:

HB 394 HB 40

COMMITTEE:

HOUSE FINANCE

DATE: 3-25-19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

This is an addendum to my
verbal testimony tonight.

Opinions

A message to ~~Congress~~ ^{ALASKA}: Don't make the same mistake we did in Kansas

By Dinah Sykes
October 19, 2017

Dinah Sykes, a Republican, is a member of the Kansas State Senate.

Americans want efficient government, responsible spending and reasonable taxes. This is not difficult. Yet sometimes what seems so simple becomes complicated when these concepts are turned into buzzwords and used as weapons for political gain.

In 2012, Republicans in Kansas enacted a "revolutionary" tax overhaul promised to be a "shot of adrenaline to the heart of the Kansas economy." With the benefit of hindsight, we can say with certainty this promise was unfulfilled. In the following five years, Kansas experienced nine rounds of budget cuts, stress on state agencies and the inability to effectively provide the core functions of government for our citizens.

As Republicans in Congress begin working to modify the federal tax code, I worry that tax reform done poorly could lead to similar failure. I hope federal lawmakers learn from mistakes made at the state level.

ADVERTISING

This year, the Kansas legislature — including many Republicans like me — voted to partially restore income-tax rates and to repeal a provision that allowed independent business owners to pay almost no state taxes on their income. We also overrode our governor's veto, who opposed rolling back the tax cuts he championed.

Critics of our vote claim that Kansas didn't cut spending enough to accompany the tax cuts. In reality, we cut our budget through across-the-board cuts, targeted cuts, rescission bills and allotments. Roughly 3,000 state employee positions were cut, salaries were frozen, and road projects canceled. We delayed payments to the state employee retirement system and emptied our savings accounts. Even as we issued more than \$2 billion in new bonds to float our debt, Kansas received three credit downgrades, making that debt costlier.

In Kansas, we understand the allure of tax-cut promises. We want to believe promises of amazing growth or outcomes. In 2012, traditional budget forecast models accurately predicted the devastating effect the tax breaks would have on state revenue. Proponents of the plan used dynamic scoring predicting incredible economic growth and supporting their own preconceived ideas. Today, we know which forecasts were correct.

Across the state, citizens may have been paying less in income taxes, but those decreases were offset by increases in sales taxes,

property taxes and fees. These changes alone were not enough to put the state on the right path. Education and infrastructure, key investments necessary for strong economic growth, were treated as the enemy. As we went through our 2017 legislative session, the "shot of economic adrenaline" still showed no signs of materializing. Our state functioned as though the Great Recession had never ended.

Kansas should serve as a cautionary tale illustrating the damage done when the normal order is shortchanged. America's founders and countless generations of leaders embedded deliberative procedures into our legislative process for a reason. But in 2012, the governor's tax proposal looked very different from the package he signed. A dispute between House and Senate versions should have gone to conference committee; however, the House cut short debate and rammed through a motion to concur with the Senate instead. I watch now as lawmakers in Congress use similar tactics, and I worry that backroom dealing and circumvention of process will lead to similar results.

I never anticipated entering public service. I was content raising my family, participating in the PTA and operating my business. However, I saw the impact that bad tax policy was having on the state. I felt the results of growing class sizes and shrinking programs in the schools my children attended. I witnessed a gradual erosion of the quality of life that makes Kansas such a great place to live.

There is a real temptation to let our frustration turn into anger. In our increasingly polarized world, we see what happens when we retreat to our ideological trenches. The antidote, it would seem to me, is listening carefully to those we disagree with and seeking common ground as a starting point. (We should also note that failing to listen to constituents while blindly holding to ideology

can have consequences: About a third of Kansas legislators became ex-legislators in 2016.)

As our country looks at the key issues ahead of us, including tax policy and health-care reform, we face important questions: How can we as Americans work together to improve our tax policy? How can we work together to provide core government functions? Answering those questions requires having civil conversations, learning from our neighbors and sharing our experiences. We are better when we can work together to find compromise.

Read more here:

Eugene Robinson: Trickle-down economics is a nightmare

The Post's View: Kansas recognizes reality

Jared Bernstein and Ben Spielberg: Exhibit A against trickle-down tax cuts

 **420 Comments**



Consultant Donna Arduin has history of dubious reports

By Online Staff, Herald-Tribune / Friday, January 24, 2014

By J. DAVID McSWANE

SARASOTA

A Republican consultant hired by Sarasota County commissioners to review development rules has a history of creating right-leaning reports dismissed by some experts as “junk economics.”

Donna Arduin was awarded a \$90,000 contract late last year to analyze a county mandate that new development also generate new taxes to offset the costs of more services, such as schools and utilities.

But commissioners in November rejected Arduin’s 48-page draft — an unusually pointed case for eliminating almost all development hurdles — saying it read less like a rigorous analysis and more like an ideological essay on the perils of government regulation.

Arduin’s revised report is due in February and could have profound environmental and economic impacts as it adds to the credibility of developers who say Sarasota County presents too much red tape that slows construction.

Prominent economists interviewed by the Herald-Tribune urged caution when reviewing reports authored by Arduin and her associate, Arthur Laffer, a former adviser to President Ronald Reagan who is considered the father of supply-side economics.

1999 — 2003

Donna Arduin is director of the Office of Policy and Budget for Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

OCTOBER
10, 2003

Arduin leaves
Florida post to
work for California
Gov. Arnold
Schwarzenegger

Arduin, a former budget advisor for Re-
publican governors in New York and Mi-

Donna Arduin is
director of the
Office of Policy and

1999

2000

2001

Economic studies by Arduin's firm "would never pass muster in a peer-reviewed academic journal," said Carl Davis, a senior analyst with the nonpartisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy in Washington, D.C.

"A lot of times, I wouldn't say that these reports contain outright lies," Davis said. "There's selective quotations, uses of statistics and some sleight of hand like that."

Arduin, who did not return calls and emails seeking comment, holds bachelor's degrees in public policy and economics from Duke University. In emails to county officials, Arduin clarified that she is not an economist.



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger talks with finance director Donna Arduin, as they walk to a Capitol news conference held in Sacramento, Calif., back in 2004. Back then, her push for changes to some social programs riled some. (AP ARCHIVE / 2004)

But that didn't stop county officials from rushing to finalize the contract with Arduin, a self-described libertarian and former adviser to five Republican governors, including Florida's Jeb Bush and Rick Scott.

Together, Arduin and Laffer operate Arduin, Laffer and Moore Econometrics.

The two also operate as Laffer Associates, the Tennessee-based firm that was awarded the Sarasota County contract.

Other studies by Arduin and her associates have been rebutted elsewhere by experts who cite "cherry-picking" of facts, creative mathematics and flawed

Yet Arduin's studies have been embraced by GOP heavyweights.

She was the architect of Scott's 2010 campaign pledge to create 700,000 jobs in seven years. Though some economists dismissed it as a bid to take credit for economic upturns that were going to happen anyway, the promise was a focal point in Scott's successful campaign, and Scott later hired Arduin as a budget adviser.

Locally, Arduin came highly recommended to the county after a rosy economic impact study she conducted for the developers of the Nathan Benderson rowing park convinced Scott, her former employer, to agree to \$5 million in last-minute state funding for the project in north Sarasota County.

In turn, Benderson Development Co. has become a top donor to Scott's re-election bid, with \$200,000 granted so far by the company's president, Randy Benderson.

Still, even Republican county commissioners bullish on new development panned Arduin's analysis on local development rules as ideological rhetoric.

While Arduin's Sarasota County study included tangents about the Industrial Revolution and Geoffrey Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," few details specific to the local community were offered.

Commissioner Joe Barbetta said too much of the report came across as a criticism of the county's "Smart Growth" strategies, cemented in the county charter as a response to rapid development in boom years.

"It didn't address really what we as a board had requested," Barbetta said. "We didn't ask for the history of Smart Growth. We didn't ask for their opinion. We wanted more of an analysis.

"My initial reaction was from the perspective of 'Was this the political bent of that firm?' I think they're more libertarian-oriented. I didn't know that at the time."

If Arduin's work history did not affirm a bias toward new development, a spin-off of one of her Florida firms might have given commissioners further pause.

In April 2013, Arduin changed the name of one of her Florida consultancy firms to "Pro-Growth Strategies Inc.," records kept by the Florida Department of State show.

The libertarian philosophy of Arduin and her partners also is documented on the firm's website and in news

reports in California, Oklahoma and Florida — states where Arduin's work has made waves.

While the details of each study vary in their particulars, the trend is clear: The reports galvanize the political right, anger the left and leave economists scratching their heads.

Oklahoma and beyond

In 2012, Republican legislators in Oklahoma banded together seeking to implement a phase-out of the state's income tax.

A consortium of economists there knew such a measure would have profound and lasting negative effects on state and local governments. But the prospect gained credibility among state GOP leaders thanks to a report claiming that eliminating the income tax would generate more than \$47 billion in new personal income, \$53 billion in economic impact and more than 300,000 new jobs.

The report was issued by Arduin, Laffer and Moore Econometrics and was commissioned by the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, a conservative think tank.

Kent Olson, an emeritus professor of economics at Oklahoma State University, was one of a handful of economists who publicly criticized that report.

"If I had a student turn in a paper like this, they would have gotten an 'F'," Olson told the Herald-Tribune.

"Because they're not looking for a result here. They're designing a result."

Olson added: "They designed the equation and the terms in it, and then tested it with a time period that gave them the results that they wanted to have. That's sort of the bottom line. They could hardly fail to get the results that they got."

Olson said he and others took issue with the study's methods, which, aside from ignoring established standards of econometrics, produced favorable results by conflating federal tax changes and state tax policies.

The Oklahoma State professor also found mathematical errors.

To arrive at favorable conclusions, Olson says ALME took already flawed yearly projections and just added them together over 10 years, which exponentially skewed the concluding data that politicians would later reference in Oklahoma City.

"It just blows my mind," Olson said. "They really violate a basic tenet of econometrics. It's pretty sloppy."

In the end, the measure failed amid intense opposition from economists.

Political ties

Arduin, once quoted as saying she "joined government to shrink it," has been no stranger to criticism.

In more than two decades as an adviser and consultant, the 50-year-old has been seen as a staunch proponent of shrinking government, often at the expense of social programs.

After stints as a top budget adviser to governors in Michigan and New York, Arduin gained further notoriety as the budget manager for then-Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who called Arduin "a budget king" for policies which he said helped generate a surplus in the early 2000s.

Speaking to her alma mater's alumni publication, Duke Magazine, Arduin recalled one of her first budget battles during her five years with Bush.

"When the budget came in for approval, we vetoed over \$300 million in pork-barrel spending," she told the magazine. "The next day, nobody in the capitol would even talk to me."

Arduin had a similar reception in California.

In 2003, soon-to-be Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vowed to tackle runaway spending but faced a combative Democratic general assembly. So he lured Arduin from Florida to conduct an unprecedented line-by-line audit of the state's \$100 billion budget.

But during Arduin's 11-month stint in California, no such audit was released, the Los Angeles Times reported.

As Schwarzenegger's finance director, though, Arduin stirred outrage when she pushed for drastic changes to social programs, such as \$274 million in proposed cuts to services for the developmentally disabled.

Paul Warren, a research associate with the Public Policy Institute of California, remembers that Arduin struggled as an outsider coming into an "insular" landscape in Sacramento.

He remembers there were reports issued by the Schwarzenegger administration intended to provide a road map to overhauling government spending.

“Almost none of it actually ended up being used,” Warren said.

Arduin left that administration in 2004 to become a lobbyist for a Florida-based private prison company that was seeking contracts with California.

A state inquiry was called for after it was discovered that Schwarzenegger had awarded a no-bid, \$3.5 million contract to prison operator GEO Group Inc., which leased a prison from Correctional Properties Trust. Arduin had been appointed to the board of Correction Properties Trust just 10 days after she left the state payroll, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The inquiry by the Bureau of State Audits found no wrongdoing, however.

Arduin would soon start up the econometrics firm with Laffer and consult for the University of Central Florida, which was seeking state funding for a new medical school. In 2007, as the Tea Party movement’s seeds were just being planted, she began consulting for then-state House Speaker Marco Rubio.

Arduin authored Rubio’s failed property tax swap plan — a highly politicized effort to roll back property taxes and replace them with steeper sales taxes.

The measure, Arduin’s research claimed, would bolster Florida’s economy.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan Washington think tank, heavily criticized that plan in a 2007 analysis.

“We find that the authors used a flawed equation in arriving at their results,” the analysis said, adding that “Arduin, Laffer, and Moore have committed basic errors in examining this issue, invalidating their conclusions.”

Questions

Arduin’s recent study of the economic impacts of the Nathan Benderson rowing park could reel in yet another \$5 million in state money — this after \$20 million from Sarasota County and \$1.5 million from Manatee County already has been spent.

But an expert who reviewed the study for the Herald-Tribune says the report used to raise funds here also raises questions.

Among other projections, the impact study promises \$158 million in new tax revenue over a decade from tourists

and athletes visiting the rowing venue. How Arduin came to those conclusions is unclear.

Greg LeRoy, executive director of Good Jobs First, a Washington-based group that monitors money governments give to companies in the name of economic development, said in an email: "I find it hard to decipher. It reads more like a promotional brochure than a study, so I have more questions than answers."

If more underlying assumptions or benchmarks were used to determine the number of visitors to the park or how much they will spend and how often, they have not been made public — though a spreadsheet in the report hints to more underlying data with the entry "assumptions enclosed."

Paul Blacketter, a former employee of Benderson Development Co. who is in charge of the nonprofit operating the rowing park, said he has not seen any methodologies behind the report.

"That's the report, believe it or not," he said. "That's the whole report."

Blacketter said he is unsure how Arduin came to her conclusions, though he supplied some of the underlying data.

That data consisted of a wide and optimistic sweep of all the possible events and visitors the rowing operation one day hopes to attract — essentially a best-case scenario.

"We basically applied all the things we knew at the time," he said, "what we could do at maximum capacity."

Blacketter said he trusts Arduin based on her reputation while working with the governor, and added that thus far, her predictions seem feasible.

"What we're seeing is that a lot of things in that report are right in line," he said.

While Arduin's work on the Benderson deal added to her local profile among those shopping for consultants, it was not the only reason she got the \$90,000 contract to delve into development regulations.

Arduin won the Sarasota County contract, in part, because commissioners feared that asking prominent academics to review so-called fiscal neutrality would take too long.

David Denslow, an economics professor at the University of Florida and one of two others interested in the contract, expressed regret that he could not complete a rigorous study within the county's tight deadline.

After reading Arduin's report, he expressed further regret.

"I have to admit the report is quite a disappointment," Denslow said in an email. "The disappointment, roughly, is that you hit somewhere around Page 26 before you get to the topic at hand."

Denslow said the comparisons Arduin employed — Sarasota County versus Texas and California, for example — were "oversimplified."

"It isn't California and certainly not Texas," said Denslow, who was chair of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors under Republican Gov. Bob Martinez.

Denslow and others could have another chance to weigh in on the long-term policies governing Sarasota County's growth: After Arduin submits her revised study, the county is expected to order that it be peer-reviewed by three experts.

Last modified: January 26, 2014

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March 19, 2019

House Finance Center

State Capitol Room 505, Juneau 99801

Re: Pioneer Homes

We are writing to ask you to support the current level of funding in the state budget for our Pioneer Homes. Our elders are the ones who have made Alaska, they are our history.

We realize the state has financial problems but are hopeful you can find solutions without harming our elders in Pioneer Homes.

Respectfully,

Homen Pioneer of Alaska

~~Men's Gls 32 and Women's Gls 17~~
~~PO Box 931, Homer, AK 99603~~

cc: See attached page of signatures, March 11, 2019

March 11, 2019

Persons of Alaska

Sp 100-32 Sp 100-14

Don Burt, [REDACTED], Anchor Point, AK 99556

Glenn Green, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Frances Lorraine Haas, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

James [REDACTED] (Pastor), 3233 Kachemak Way, Homer, AK 99603

Marilyn Green, 110 East End Rd, Homer, AK 99603

Archie J. Klopfer, PO Box 495, Homer, AK 99603

Cliff Koenig, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Charlene Ditton, PO Box 601, Homer, AK 99603

Bob Ditton, [REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

Joan Edens, PO Box 602, Homer, AK 99603

Janet M. Kruetz, 872 Lupine Ct, Homer, AK 99603

Vision \$, [REDACTED], Anchor Point, AK 99556

Donald Van Buren, PO Box 370, Anchor Point, AK 99556

From: Jayme Jones
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 12:37 PM
To:
Subject: State Budget Feedback

From: Michael Beck <[REDACTED]@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 8:21 AM
To: Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>
Subject: State Budget Feedback

Dear Rep Knopp,

I wasn't able to attend the House Finance Committee budget road show this past Saturday so I'm sharing my comments now. Deep cuts need to be made to the budget - that's pretty obvious. That being said I think people need to be prepared for them. I don't really have a problem with a cut to the PFD checks. My problem is Gov. Walker made the first cut about 6 weeks before the checks were due to come out. People were counting on a \$3000 check and at the last minute got a \$1000 check. That's mean and wrong. What a jerk.

If possible, cut's should be minimized this year with an expectation of what departments will be seeing the ax next year so employees and residents / recipients can be prepared / make other plans.

I think every effort should be made to fully fund the PFD checks this year with NOTICE that the check's will be cut and used to fund state government in the future. It's stupid to institute a State income tax or sales tax while at the same time giving out large amounts of free money. I'm not opposed to a flat rate income tax and would prefer that to a sales tax. I view a progressive tax as income discrimination and so would prefer a state sales tax to a progressive income tax.

There's about what . . . \$60 to \$70 billion in the permanent fund now? Some of that money should be used to fully fund the public employee retirement and health care accounts - we have kicked that can down the road far too long and now it's a giant black cloud hanging over our head. We should also use a portion of the PF to forward fund education. We should have done that years ago when we had the money and the people who voted against it in my opinion are too stupid to be in public office, and hopefully are not there now if this does gain traction - which it won't.

I have no idea how the legislature is going to fund law enforcement and prison costs but those are my priorities in the budget. We have productive citizens leaving and being replaced by meth heads who openly admit they came to Alaska because of the lenient crime laws. That is really messed up and needs to be fixed. People have had it and I think are going to start taking the law into their own hands. Not good.

The Kenai School District can weather cuts better than any district in the State. UA does a crappy job so I don't really care what funding they get (and I graduated from UA). Medicaid - again give people a heads up and opportunity to move some place that can support them if this is important. Power cost equalization - discrimination based on where people CHOSE to live - get rid of it. Along with any other perks based on where people choose to live.

The people voted on oil taxes not that long ago - and so there's no reason to visit that again right now.

Anybody involved in the loans to Brooks Range Petroleum should be fired or ideally locked up. Enough of these stupid State funded projects for private business already.

Guess that's about it.

Regards,

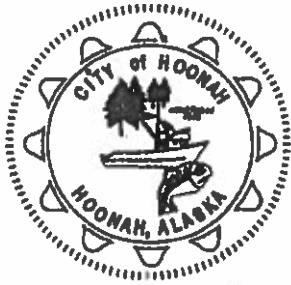
Mike Beck

Kenai Alaska

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@mac.com

55 year resident



City of Hoonah

P.O. Box 360 Hoonah, AK 99829 (907) 945-3663 Fax (907) 945-3445

**Neal Foster
House Finance Committee Co-chair
120 4th Street
State Capitol Room 3
Juneau, AK 99801-1182**

March 20, 2019

RE: Hoonah Opposition to Governor Dunleavy's proposed FY20 Budget

The City of Hoonah strongly opposes a number of cost-cutting provisions in Governor Dunleavy's proposed 2020 operating budget (HB 20/SB 39). The reason is simple: Hoonah and its 773 residents – individuals, schools and businesses alike – will suffer disastrous consequences.

Here are a few examples, with specific impacts:

- **The proposed cuts to education would mean a \$506,224 cut to our school budget, leading to the loss of half of the 11 teachers in our K-12 school system. Our school is already operating at a minimum and can withstand no further funding reductions. Hoonah already contributes \$458,000 toward our school. Our local government cannot sustain a higher contribution – the likely result of the massive cost-shifting from the State that would occur under the FY20 operating budget as it currently stands.**

- **Elimination of the Alaska Marine Highway System or loss of its winter service would also be disastrous for our community. Hoonah receives barge service seven months out of the year and relies on the ferry system to provide freight for the other five months. In addition, Hoonah would lose the ability for our residents to travel to Juneau for medical and other purposes on days that planes cannot fly. In one instance this past winter, we had five days of no flights and the only way in and out was by ferry. Additionally, the equivalent of 4.5 AMHS are based in Hoonah. We cannot overstate the importance of our marine highway to the outside world.**

- Power Cost Equalization provides \$613,081 of value to our community, primarily in the form of reduced power rates on our residents' first 500 kilowatt hours of electricity. That means those living here are able to spend those savings on food, clothing and other essentials. The average Hoonah resident only consumes 750 kwh of electricity per month, where the national average is 2,000 kwh.
- Shared Fisheries Business tax represented \$76,350 in 2019 revenue assistance for the Hoonah. While may seem a small number to some, it represents a large financial assist for our small community. This loss would force the City to look at recovering that much more revenue locally to keep our budget on track. This would be unfair and unacceptable.

There are other examples but we in Hoonah believe those stated above illustrate the dire – and unprecedented – situation the City of Hoonah and the people who live here would be placed in should the sweeping changes proposed in the Governor's presently proposed operating budget for FY20 come to pass. Please do not let this happen.

Respectfully,


Gerald Byers, Mayor


Amelia Wilson, Vice-Mayor


Shawn McConnell, Council Member


Gus Skaflestad, Council Member


Stan Savland, Council Member


Mark Smith, Council Member


John Murray, Council Member



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

P.O. Box 110693
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0693
Main: 907.465.3250
Fax: 907.465.1398

March 26, 2019

Representative Neal Foster
House Finance Committee Co-Chair
Alaska State Capitol, Room 410
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Representative Tammie Wilson
House Finance Committee Co-Chair
Alaska State Capitol, Room 422
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Subject: HB 39, Operating Budget and HB 40, Mental Health Budget

Dear Chair Foster, Chair Wilson, and House Finance Committee Members:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA and the "Commission) supports funding as proposed in the Governor's FY2020 operating budget for Grant Funded Senior Services administered by the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services and thanks the House Finance Committee for retaining this funding that comprises the *Senior Safety Net*. This *Net* provides senior meals, transportation, homemaker services, adult day, family caregiver support services, Adult Protective Services, and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. These services promote the health and safety of Alaska's older people, provide support for their family caregivers, and allow seniors to remain living safely in their homes and communities for as long as possible at the lowest cost. In FY2018, grant funded community based services provided support for approximately 31,442 older Alaskans (duplicated count), according to the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services FY2018 Continuum of Care Chart.

The Commission respectfully encourages your support of the following budget recommendations as proposed in the Operating and Mental Health Budgets, HB 39 and HB 40. We believe these programs, administered by the divisions of the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Revenue are cost effective in protecting the health and safety of all Alaskans, including our older citizens, leverage additional federal funding, and control cost increases in state spending over time. We are concerned about the proposed rate reductions and their possible disruption to critical services used by seniors.

Senior Benefits Payment Program, Division of Public Assistance (HB 39): Established in 2007 and reauthorized in 2018, provides a critical safety net program for Alaskans age 65+ with limited incomes that allow seniors to afford basic life necessities – food, housing, heating fuel, prescription medications, and transportation – to maintain health and independence based on three levels of income eligibility and assigned cash benefits. According to the Division of Public Assistance, this program served 11,597 seniors in December 2018. The loss of this needs-based program could translate into a higher cost to the family and state in the need for higher cost medical and long-term support services as well as a personal loss of health, independence, and self-determination for older people living on the financial edge.

Recommendation: The Commission fully supports continuation of the Senior Benefits Program in statute and funding as approved by the Legislature last year. Beneficiaries include the oldest old; rural elders who live subsistence lifestyles with limited cash incomes; seniors who worked low paying jobs and were not able to save much during their working years and now receive minimal Social Security benefits; grandparents living on fixed incomes and raising grandchildren; and women who earned less over the course of their working lives with many having outlived their husbands and, in the process, exhausted their savings to provide care for their spouses. Reductions to Senior Benefits could lead to a higher dependence on other safety net services, utilization of more

cost services, and a diminished quality of life for older Alaskans. ACoA is pleased to provide additional input about possible cost saving measures as requested by the Legislature or the Governor's office.

Adult Public Assistance, Division of Public Assistance (HB 39): This program provides cash assistance to the blind, disabled, and elderly (age 65+) persons who meet income and asset eligibility requirements. In the 2018 senior survey conducted by the Commission, financial security was identified as the #2 priority concern by respondents age 55+ for seniors, behind access to affordable health care as the #1 priority. Between FY2011 and FY2018, the number of seniors receiving benefits through Adult Public Assistance and the Supplemental Needs Assessment Program increased by 3.6% and 8.1% respectively. In FY2018, there were 8,882 seniors (age 65+) who received Adult Public Assistance with an average monthly amount of \$228.

Recommendation: The Commission is concerned about the proposed reductions in benefits for Adult Public Assistance by adoption of the "1983 Standard for Maintenance of Effort" calculation and elimination of the "Permanent Fund Dividend Hold Harmless" as proposed and their possible negative impact for low-income seniors and elders who live in rural/remote communities. Many retired seniors live on fixed incomes and depend on public assistance programs so that they can afford a decent standard of living to maintain health and safety.

General Relief, Division of Public Assistance (HB 39): This program provides financial support to low-income Alaskans with emergent basic needs for housing, utilities, food, clothing, and burial expenses. Last year this program provided assistance for 294 burials.

Recommendation: The Commission supports restored funding for this program to help seniors and other vulnerable Alaskans in need.

Medicaid, Division of Health Care Services (HB 39): Medicaid provides health care coverage to eligible Alaskans, including children, pregnant mothers, people with disabling conditions, and elderly Alaskans who qualify for services, and reimburses community providers, hospitals, assisted living and other direct care service agencies in providing physical and mental health care to Alaskans in need.

Alaska covers a range of 23 Medicaid optional benefits that are important to the health and safety of vulnerable Alaskans, including seniors. Optional programs such as the Alaskans Living Independently waiver, Personal Care Services, prescribed drugs, dental, hospice care, mental health services, vision and hearing services, and podiatry are some of the services used by older Alaskans. The Medicaid waiver and Personal Care Services provide lower cost community care and reduce the need for higher cost services allowing seniors to live longer in the community. The new Community First Choice option, for example, refinanced Personal Care Services and leverages a 6% higher federal match that is estimated to bring in more than \$2 million in FY2020. The Medicaid waiver program for Alaskans age 65+ is estimated to save \$161 million annually for seniors who qualify for nursing home care but choose to receive community based services through the waiver instead of a skilled nursing care facility. Nursing home care is expensive and costs an average of \$135,924 annually for a Medicaid recipient compared to \$34,146 for the Alaskans Living Independently waiver (Senior and Disabilities Services, March 2019).

Recommendation: The Commission supports adequate funding for Alaska's Medicaid program that provides health care coverage to seniors, persons with low income, and disabled people who meet eligibility requirements. We are concerned about the proposed reductions to Medicaid services without consideration of the cost savings for health care and Medicaid home- and community-based services on long-term care costs. If Medicaid health care services are reduced or eliminated, persons needing care may show up in other parts of the state's system such as hospitals and nursing homes at significantly higher costs. The Commission recommends continued implementation of Medicaid Health Care Reform strategies identified in SB 74 passed by the Legislature in 2016 to improve efficiencies such as reducing fraud and abuse, increased utilization of

telemedicine, providing enhanced supports for unpaid caregivers to care for elderly/disabled loved ones at home, moving forward with utilizing a person-centered primary care model using managed care, and maintaining Medicaid Optional Services.

Medicaid Adult Preventative Dental, Medicaid Services (HB 39): This program provides preventative and restorative dental care, including dentures, for income-eligible Alaskans. Dental pain, missing, or decaying teeth can lead to the inability to properly chew food affecting dietary choice that may impact overall health and wellness. Vulnerable older Alaskans are at risk for developing dental infections that have been associated with periodontal disease, diabetes, pneumonia, and cardiovascular disease leading to increased risk for stroke. In addition, older adults with ill-fitting dentures, missing teeth or no dentures may avoid social engagement which is essential to maintaining mental and physical health for seniors. In addition to health issues involved, decaying or missing teeth can be a negative factor in employability or job advancement for working adults.

Older Alaskans utilize the Medicaid Adult Dental program. According to FY2018 Medicaid claims data, there were a total of 31,947 distinct recipients of the Medicaid Adult Dental program of which 2,813 were elderly patients. Medicare does not cover the cost of dentures and other restorative dental services.

Recommendation: The Commission supports adequate funding to continue the Medicaid Adult Dental program as this program helps to prevent serious dental disease and generates cost savings by reducing the number of oral surgery visits, emergency medical procedures, and related travel costs. Providers have said that a tooth ache is one condition that cannot be ignored and often brings people into the primary care setting where they can have other medical needs addressed at a significantly lower cost than the emergency room. The Commission supported the original legislation to establish the Medicaid Adult Dental program in 2006 as well as the program's reauthorization in 2009, and legislation to allow use of the two-year fiscal cap on services in one year for a person to receive a full set of dentures (2010).

Alaska Pioneer Homes, Division of Pioneer Homes (HB 39): The Division of Pioneer Homes operates six homes statewide that includes the Alaska Veterans' Pioneer Home, as licensed assisted living facilities, for Alaskans age 65+ who have lived in the state for at least one year. The Homes currently provide three levels of progressive care and specialize in the care of older people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Homes are challenged by an increasing demand for a higher level of care coupled with an increase in Alaska's senior population using rates that do not reflect the true cost of care. The Governor's budget proposes increasing the three levels of care to five levels to accommodate residents with higher acuity needs and a Payment Assistance allocation to assist residents who are unable to meet the cost of care.

Recommendation: The Commission supports proposed funding of the Pioneer Homes using a combination of increased rates, greater utilization of the Medicaid waiver and VA funds, and other cost efficiencies as proposed by the Pioneer Homes. We appreciate the additional allocation of \$25 million for the Payment Assistance Program as proposed by the House Finance Health and Social Services Subcommittee. We support the Pioneer Home policy as defined in statute that no one will be removed or rejected from the Home because of an inability to pay. The Commission shares concerns about the rapid and significant increases of the fee structure and are currently seeking and receiving feedback from the Pioneer Home residents, their families, and the Pioneer Home Advisory Board.

WWAMI Medical Education (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho), University of Alaska (HB 39): WWAMI, a five-state regional medical school, provides training to increase the number of primary care physicians to practice in rural and underserved areas in the region. The program, which offers 20 slots for Alaska's medical students, pays about one-half of the tuition for these students in the form of a forgivable loan. Students who do not return to Alaska to practice primary care are required to pay back those funds. Approximately 500 Alaska medical students have graduated from WWAMI since its inception in 1971, according to the University of

Alaska. The U.S. Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) has identified Alaska as a “Health Professional Shortage Area” and a “Medically Underserved Health Care Area” as our state has large unmet need for primary care, particularly in rural/remote areas.

Recommendation: The Commission supports reinvestment in the UA WWAMI Medical School to prepare Alaska to meet the health care demands from our growing senior population and to replace the increasing number of retiring physicians. If older Alaskans are unable to find doctors to care for their medical needs, they may be forced to leave the state in search of qualified health care professionals, which would result in a significant financial and social loss for our state.

Home Modifications/Upgrades to Retain Housing, Department of Health and Social Services Facilities Section (HB 40): This program supports home accessibility improvements for Alaskans with disabilities to extend their ability to live at home safely which includes persons with dementia. Historically, this program has been a long-running and successfully managed capital program that has been funded at requested levels in the Mental Health Budget.

Recommendation: ACoA supports full funding for this program which assists seniors and disabled persons to live safely at home and in the community. Accessible housing helps to reduce the number of falls and subsequent emergency room visits as well as possible recovery stays in the nursing home. Fall-related expenses contribute to the growth of health care and long-term care spending.

Deferred Maintenance and Accessibility Improvements, Department of Health and Social Services Facilities Section (HB 40): This program provides competitive grants to agencies that serve Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries to support their necessary deferred maintenance projects (such as roof repairs and fire safety) along with accessibility upgrades. Insufficient funds for improvements often results in either substandard facilities for people to receive services or reduced access to services as program funds are re-directed to deferred maintenance.

Recommendation: The Commission supports full re-investment in this program that helps agencies to provide quality services in safe, secure, and accessible environments that promote positive outcomes for people receiving services.

Homeless Assistance Program, Department of Revenue (HB 40): These funds are awarded competitively to agencies that provide emergency or transitional housing and/or services to prevent homelessness as well as to rapidly re-house those who have been displaced. Based on data from the Homeless Coalition, there were 2,062 adults age 55+ who received homeless assistance statewide in 2018 representing 16% of the total clients served.

Recommendation: ACoA supports sufficient funding for the Homeless Assistance Program. Homelessness in Alaska is a critical problem that impacts all age categories. Homeless older Alaskans who live in poverty frequently fall between the cracks of the State’s safety net programs. Many live on the streets, in their cars, and in emergency shelters, or couch surf among the homes of family and friends. Access to housing and homeless services improves lives, public safety, and are less expensive than emergency service utilization. The Commission supports funding for seniors in addition to other vulnerable Alaskans experiencing homelessness and the positive impact from these programs that improve public safety for seniors and other Alaskans where they live.

Coordinated Transportation and Equipment, Department of Transportation (HB 40): These funds support the purchase, modification, and maintenance of vehicles for coordinated transportation and are also used to fund taxi vouchers and alternate transportation means. In FY2019, 17 distinct coordinated transportation programs received funding to support rides. Local providers receiving funds are required to contribute at least a 20% match.

Recommendation: The Commission recommends full funding to support community transit services for seniors, the disabled, and other Alaskans. Community transportation is a life-line for seniors and people with disabilities to ensure a healthy quality of life so that they are able to access medical care, get to job/volunteer placements, and participate in community life. Transportation is consistently identified as a top priority for seniors in senior surveys and elder-senior listening sessions conducted by the Commission. Without these funds, rides will be reduced and quality of life diminished for seniors, the disabled and other community members who depend on transit services.

The Commission is pleased to provide specific recommendations and further input on any of the items identified in our comments that affect seniors as requested by the Legislature and the Governor. We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these comments and your service to Alaska. Please contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's Executive Director, at 465-4879 or denise.daniello@alaska.gov for further information.

Sincerely,



Gordon Glaser
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello
Executive Director, Alaska Commission on Aging

Cc: Representative Jennifer Johnson, Vice Chair
Representative Dan Ortiz, Member
Representative Andy Josephson, Member
Representative Gary Knopp, Member
Representative Bart LeBon, Member
Representative Cathy Tilton, Member
Representative Kelly Merrick, Member
Representative Colleen Sullivan-Leonard, Member
Representative Ben Carpenter, Member



TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL

1057 West Fireweed Lane
Suite 202
Anchorage, AK 99503

BBBSAK.org

All 13 FNSB nonprofit agencies that received the FY19 HSCMG provided critical health and human services needs, and were able to leverage other funding sources for a combined 75 times greater value of services to the community. Many of our local nonprofits network together to support the crucial needs of the Interior's citizens, and cutting the HSCMG will impact each organization and the citizens whose needs they meet. The agencies who will suffer a loss to their small budgets if this funding is not restored are the following:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska
Fairbanks Community Food Bank
Literacy Council of Alaska
Love in the Name of Christ of the Tanana Valley
Meals on Wheels - North Star Council on Aging
Alaska Legal Services
Alzheimer's Disease Resources of Fairbanks
Alaska Center for Children and Adults
Northern Hope Center
No Limits, Inc
Resource Center for Parents and Children/Stevie's Place
Interior Community Health Center
Interior AIDS Association
Boys and Girls Club of the Tanana Valley

We urge you to see the crucial value of the HSCMG funds, and the negative impact that will be felt by Alaska's most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Trina Resari-Salao'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Trina' being more prominent.

Trina Resari-Salao
Vice President of Programs and Acting CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Persily
Yuliya McDaniel
Katie Carrigan
Louis Ulmer
Sally Saddler
Josh Brown



TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL

1057 West Fireweed Lane
Suite 202
Anchorage, AK 99503

BBBSAK.org

March 13th, 2019

Representative Johnston
Alaska State House
House Finance Budget Subcommittee of the DHSS
Delivered via: Erin.Shine@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Johnston,

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska (BBBSAK) offers this letter of support for the restoration of the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) funds into the FY20 budget. The removal of these funds would significantly impact the Fairbanks North Star Borough's (FNSB) nonprofits and BBBSAK's Fairbanks program.

The HSCMG helps nonprofits assist vulnerable populations, ranging from youth to the homeless, those with food insecurities, essential medical care, legal services, and the senior population. The failure to continue the HSCMG will directly impact BBBSAK's funding of \$30,000 (\$20,690 from state funds and \$9,310 from FNSB), which in turn eliminates our ability to provide mentors to 20 Fairbanks youth.

The BBBSAK program in Fairbanks addresses the social needs of FNSB youth without enough positive adult attention in their lives. Youth without enough positive adult attention in their lives often do not develop the resiliency and self-esteem they need to avoid negative behaviors and, as a result, are at greater risk of delinquency, drug use, alcohol use, teen pregnancy, academic failure, and suicide. Nurturing and stable relationships with caring adults are essential to healthy human development. BBBSAK reduces the risks these youth face by matching them with trained, screened, and professionally supported adult volunteer mentors who provide structured, reliable, friendship-based relationships with their Little Brothers and Little Sisters. These relationships focus on the unique needs of the youth, foster feelings of caring and support, and encourage positive behaviors that facilitate each youth's development.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Persliy
Yuliya McDaniel
Katie Carrigan
Louis Ulmer
Sally Saddler
Josh Brown

May 27, 2017

An Open Letter to all Alaska Legislators:

Fact one: Paying interest on borrowed money and **paying taxes on wages and property and on whatever accomplishes only one thing; it takes money out of circulation.**

Fact two: Taking money out of circulation creates unemployment and general dissatisfaction which was so well articulated by Benjamin Franklin as the true cause leading to the Boston Tea Party. (*Benjamin Franklin supposedly said: "The Colonies would gladly have born the little tax on tea and other matters had it not been that England took away from the Colonies their money, which created unemployment and dissatisfaction."*)

Fact three: Reducing taxes generates a vacuum in the money supply because taxes are used to pay obligations that must be paid or public employees need to be laid off or public projects such as road construction and maintenance will be delayed, that in turn creates unemployment.

Fact four: Money is not capital but a medium of exchange.

Fact five: Alaska was purchased by the people of the United States of America from Russia.

Fact six: The people of the United States of America allotted about 11 percent of Alaska's land for ownership and management to the State of Alaska, about 22 percent to Native Alaskans, retained about 65 percent and patented less than 1/4 of 1 percent to private ownership.

Fact seven: Land and its resources below are capital. Whoever has control over the capital is obligated to **provide for the social needs, necessities and desires of its subjects or citizens.** (*For example, in a communistic society the community owns and controls all capital and provides for "free" education, health care and social services for its members in contradistinction to a capitalistic society where the capital is owned and controlled by each individual – remember a mule and 40 acres – to provide for its own social needs, necessities and desires.*)

Fact eight: The State of Alaska owns and controls (manages) all capital (land and its resources) within its jurisdiction and is fundamentally obligated to provide for the social needs' necessities and desires (*for example education – only a higher or different level of education than that provided by the State*

By Wolfgang Falke, [REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99707-3354, Phone: [REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]@gci.net - See: [REDACTED]

may be financed at the local level) of its citizens. The State of Alaska is a title state – it gives or patents none of its capital to anyone.

Fact nine: With the discovery of marketable crude oil on State owned land at the North Slope and the financial income associated therewith to the State **most of Alaska's citizens welcomed to forever eliminate the State personal income tax and the school tax** and voted to establish a permanent fund for that purpose and further to share in the profits of said fund in form of a dividend to each permanent resident.

Fact ten: To become a naturalized citizen of the State of Alaska requires a minimum permanent residency of 5 years. I therefore suggested that **a five-year permanent residency be required before application can be made for the permanent fund dividend**, including newborn children in the State. The main concern was that **a substantially shorter waiting period would attract less-desirable elements to the State just for the sake to collect on the yearly "free" money.**

Fact eleven: After substantial discussion a two-year permanent residency requirement with no waiting period for newborn children was agreed upon to qualify for permanent fund dividend application.

Fact twelve: Someone figured that the two-year waiting period was unfairly to long for newcomers to Alaska and complained in the federal courts. The **Federal courts**, ignoring the fundamental authority of the Sovereign State of Alaska in this matter, declared that no more than **one year** is a fair **waiting period** for applying for an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend.

My opinion: Had it been known that the likelihood existed that a one-year maximum waiting period for Alaska Permanent Fund application could be imposed upon Alaskans by the federal courts, **the permanent fund dividend program would not have been established in the first place.**

Fact thirteen: It was the **"free money"** of the Alaska Permanent Fund dividend program that in substantial part **attracted** undesirable social misfits and the **criminal elements** associated therewith to Alaska, overwhelming Alaska's educational, social, health and welfare, and judicial systems.

The rational answer: **Make it as undesirable as possible for non-Alaskans to look for Alaska as a welfare state.** A first step is to eliminate the Alaska Permanent Fund dividend program. A second step may be to require the payment of a school tax K-12 for the first three years of permanent

residency. For sure, we don't need an income tax or sales tax of any kind to sustain the unsustainability of an Alaska welfare state.

June 5, 2017

Second Open Letter to all Alaska Legislators:

Don't let you be bullied to compromise and enact a sales or income tax or whatever broad-based tax for fear that the Alaska government will shut down. Just don't pass a budget if it has to come to that. A shut down likely will do better good than harm; it certainly would cause more serious discussion concerning priorities that should be funded and services that must be reduced or eliminated to trim the overgrown Alaska bureaucracy. As inhabitants of a young State it is **our obligation to attract young industrious workers that are willing to reside in Alaska permanently, not to discourage them from coming here for fear that they will be burdened with high taxes to support a welfare state.**

Please don't fall for the "new world order" communist progressive propaganda embraced by the Democratic Party establishment (including Governor Walker) that it is time for "the blue-eyed Arabs" (meaning Alaskans) "to pay their fair share" for the government provided services in form of an income and/or sales tax like everyone in every other state of the Union has to pay.

Alaska is a sovereign state uniquely different from all other sovereign states of the Union in that all land and its resources under its jurisdiction are owned and controlled by the Alaska State government and as a consequence - and pursuant to Alaska constitutional mandates - the state government is obligated to provide for certain services, such as education (please see facts eight and nine of my letter dated May 25, 2017, a copy of which I attach hereto).

Please remember, the utilization of the State of Alaska capital (the land and its resources) is intended to pay for the services to its residents. Alaska residents, not having ownership and control of the capital, must be provided their social needs, necessities and desires by those that own and control the capital, namely the Alaska State government.

State of Alaska citizens have the right and obligation to defend the sovereignty of their state against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Please

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think about this – are you defending the sovereignty of the State of Alaska or will you be called (and hopefully treated pursuant to law) as a domestic enemy of the State of Alaska?

The American's Creed

I believe in the United States of America
as a Government of the People, by the
People, for the People; whose Just Power
are Derived from the Consent of the
Governed; a Democracy in a Republic;
**A Sovereign Nation of many Sovereign
States;**

A Perfect Union, One and Inseparable;
Established upon those Principles of
Freedom, Equality, Justice, and
Humanity for which American Patriots
Sacrificed their Lives and Fortunes.

I Therefore Believe it is My Duty to My
Country to Love it; to Support its
Constitution; to Obey its Laws; to
Respect its Flag; and to Defend it
Against All Enemies.

By Wolfgang Falke, [REDACTED], Fairbanks, AK 99707-3354, Phone [REDACTED]
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William Tyler Page, 1917

Accepted by US House of Representatives on April 1918

By Wolfgang Falke, [REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99707-3354, Phone: [REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]@gci.net - See: [REDACTED]

The following are some notes of mine that should be of urgent consideration by the Alaska Legislature:

Abortion is murder: "I have known you before you entered the womb."

Thus, abortion of any kind, whether as a result of incest, rape, etc. is a murder of God's creation. You shall not kill – the law is good, it's made for the unbelievers, the rapists, the murderers, the liars, etc.

No woman has a right to terminate her pregnancy; that is a woman has no right to kill the live that's growing in her body; the assertion to the contrary is lie of the devil.

Rapists, if convicted under civil authority, must be punished, but they must not be put to death in order to comply with God's law.

God is the Father, the Son Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, which is the spiritual helper that is send to you and me – you shall not have any other Gods next to him.

About 50 years ago, abortion was illegal and abortionists were severely punished, however, abortions were performed nevertheless. One case was highly publicized; the abortionist used error-head poison to kill the unborn and something went wrong paralyzing the mother from the hip down. The case was made to provide for mothers who aboard, still illegal then, a safer place in a hospital to perform abortions to reduce the great numbers of mother's death or injuries resulting from such abortions. As I recall, Senator Ted Stevens was very much in favor of enacting appropriate legislation therefore.

I know of no one then that envisioned that the compassion for the evil doing and self-serving mother who defied God's law would lead to the millions of murders of the unborn in the USA as we experience it today.

The consequences for letting compassion override God's law are horrifying.

No one can serve two masters. One cannot serve our God and the devil at the same time. No one can serve our God and mammon at the same time. No one can keep his cake and eat it at the same time. No one can be an American that is sworn to uphold the Constitution of the Republic of the United States of America, which means to defend the Republic - the Republic is the Union of the several sovereign states - against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and be a Democrat at the same time.

A Democrat is the enemy of the Republic. Every Democrat is determined to destroy the Republic. Democracy is rule of the people by majority, not by the dictates of our God. A Demo is a demon, a fallen angel devoted to Lucifer, a helper of the devil who is determined to destroy by deceit, lies and even murder the followers of our God and our Lord Jesus the Christ. Therefore, Bernie Sanders, Nancy Pelosi, Susan Waters and their millions of followers, must be put on trial by jury for their anti-American activity, and if convicted, be exiled, just like Karl Marx who was a citizen of the Roman Empire (a member of the Church of Rome) and a convicted rebellion against the Federal Republic of German States.

The long-term consumption of marijuana or cannabis is a significant risk factor for violence. Irrefutable evidence therefor is established by research from Denmark and Finland that link an increase of mental illness (psychosis, schizophrenia in particular) cases since 2000 to an increase of cannabis use of the age group between 18 and 25 years.

The likely connection of long-term cannabis consumption and schizophrenia is not brought to the public's attention as it ought to be and is largely ignored by law-enforcement personnel as non-life threatening to the user in contrast to the use of opiates that entails a greater risk to the user due to the large number of overdose death that they cause.

For the purpose of public safety, not out of compassion for the user, the investigation and reporting whether long-term use of cannabis was a

factor that was involved in criminal incidents and domestic violence cases, just like alcohol and substance abuse is, must be commenced at once.

Cases of schizophrenia may be rare in Alaska now, but given the fact that the state of Alaska legalized marijuana for recreational use in 2015, a dramatic increase in murders and aggravated assaults will surely be a reality that must be coped with in the near future.

Therefore, warning signs must be prominently displayed in licensed establishments selling cannabis and warning labels must be attached to each container holding such, stating that extended use and abuse thereof carries the risk of inflicting mental illness and psychosis-induced criminal violence.

Whether one uses cannabis, or any other drug for that matter, is a personal decision; however, most-important is to make sure that every user is aware of its risks.

I understand that there exists a great compassion for people with mental illness and fear that the connection between schizophrenia and violent crime may stigmatize individuals inflicted with the disease.

Compassion must never compromise common sense, must never compromise what is justified in God's eyes. The fairness doctrine is of the devil, it will generally result in disaster of unexpected proportion.

Well, how are we getting out of this dilemma? There are always two ways to the solution: God's way

Where should I start? With President Trump building the southern border wall to slow down the almost unbelievable number of presently unstoppable invading immigrants and where is the necessary men-power therefor coming from and who is feeding the bill?

Or with our new Alaska governor who is more interested to get as much money as possible into the hands of his supporters, which is nearly every Alaska native and non-native Alaska resident, first, without too much

caring where he can get it from, and then being left alone out in the bush somewhere to live as he pleases, tax free and regulation free, but enjoying all the “free” benefits of our socialistic Alaska when he needs them. Well, this is what he promised to strive for if the people elected him – so the majority, the people that dance around the golden calf, got what they want and don’t worry about the consequences for their action.

Veteran’s cemetery

The Fairbanks Daily News-miner reported of what I believe most of the Alaskan electorate condemns our new Governor for, namely for cutting from the budget money appropriated by the Alaska State legislature for the purpose of purchasing ground and developing and maintaining a cemetery for veterans; such cuts are necessary for funding full permanent fund dividend payments as he promised prior to his election. However, the Fairbanks Daily news-miner failed to report that the Legislature first unlawfully confiscated a large portion of the permanent fund dividend [that was rightfully due to the people] in order to make it possible for the legislature to fund their fundamentally unlawful communistic services.

What our new Governor in essence does here is recover some of the loot that the legislature stole from the people and gives it back to the people, who then in association with each other (like the American Legions) may provide for a veteran’s cemetery. For the American Legions as a club or association to buy the land for a veteran’s cemetery and to maintain it with funds from membership fees and benefit events is called “guilt socialism” and is the only form socialism allowed under the Constitution of the USA, that mandates that every state of the union shall guarantee a republican form government to its people.

We pledge allegiance to the flag and to the Republic for which it stands, not to a Democracy. A democracy is the enemy of the American Republican form of government and if tolerated, will destroy the government of the people, by the people and for the people.

However, our new Alaska Governor will further cut the benefits to the elderly in form of cutting SS and Medicare benefits to the elderly or seniors who spend over their lifetime taxes or withdraws from their paychecks (that is insurance premiums for all reality) that justly entitles them to the benefits of these programs, although unconstitutionally established by then President F. D. Roosevelt.

Our new governor and USA President Trump for that matter, have no justifiable right to deprive the elderly or “seniors” of their benefits as they do or try to do. If they wish to “privatize” SS and Medicare, they must put all premiums (taxes and withholdings) that are unused by the payers for those services, adjusted for inflation, into a new mutual insurance corporation of which each individual that paid into the programs becomes a member (owner). Payments made to those that did not pay into the SS and Medicare programs must be excluded and remain the liability of the of all people of the USA.

But like any other fascist and communist, they like to steal from the least able to defend themselves the little bit of wealth and prosperity that they have accumulated over many years.

To solve the State's so-called financial or fiscal crisis you, the legislature, have to do two things without delay; one to define Alaska citizenship as an individual residing in Alaska continuously (including new born children) for at least three years [I prefer 5 years, the time I had to reside here before I could apply for Alaska citizenship (naturalization)] and two to establish an internment camp for all unlawfully residing or travelling or camping or hunting or fishing etc. in Alaska that are caught by Alaska authorities. That camp must be located away from the papulation centers and difficult to escape from. The internment camp should be modeled like in the 1930^{ties} government camps for the homeless, but must be self-supporting, in other words to become a blessing for those individuals to live in them over the life-style they experience now.

Alaska House of Representatives



House Finance Committee Sitka Town Hall Form March 24th, 2019

Name

Janet Eddy

Address

[REDACTED]

Sitka, AK 99835

Comments: Do you want comments submitted as public testimony on the Operating Budget



Alaska necessities

State Income Tax

Ferry service

Pioneer Homes

REDUCE OIL TAX Credits



721 Depot St. Anchorage AK 99501

To: Alaska House of Representatives
Finance Committee
Juneau AK 99801

March 26, 2019

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

Please reinstate the Snowmobile Trails Grant program and SnowTRAC advisory committee in the state budget and approve HB23, the proposal to increase snow machine registration fees.

Confluence is a coalition of nearly 600 businesses, organizations and other professionals around the state with a vested interest in strengthening Alaska's \$3.2 billion outdoor recreation industry. The Snowmobile Trails Grant program is an example of a program, supported by more than 66,000 Alaska snow machine owners, that works.

- Trails groomed for snowmachine access provide vital transportation linkages in the winter to homes and backcountry businesses.
- These trails provide public safety benefits by reducing response time enabling limb- and life-saving rescues, especially when foul weather precludes use of aerial support.
- The program also supports efforts to educate snow machine riders to reduce the incidence of situations requiring rescue.
- Snowmachine groomed trails supported by this program are essential to organizers of sled dog and fat bike races.
- Snowmobile trails are an essential component as the visitor industry seeks greater development and promotion of winter tourism products.

Combined, the benefits of this program represent a tremendous cost savings to the state and create infrastructure that not only benefits the Alaska lifestyle but attracts winter visitors.

Confluence joins the 16 clubs, 20 businesses, 39 lodges, 15 dealers, 10 dog mushing races, 24 snowmachine organizations and snow machine enthusiasts around the state who want to see this program continue and thrive.

Lee Hart
Founder, Confluence
303.898.4141

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Community Budget Hearing

Name - Todd Rogers
Email - [REDACTED]@Profoundings.com
Physical/Mailing Address - [REDACTED]
WASILLA AK 99687

Please be advised that this is your public testimony and it will become part of the public record – Should you wish to email this information-please use:

House.Finance@AKLEG.GOV

Testimony:

MY Name is Todd Rogers my

See Second Page Attached

My name is Todd Rogers, my children are the fifth generation to be born here in Alaska. They're great great grandfather came here in 1909 to a land that was full of adventure and freedoms and opportunities. We are slowly loosing the reasons that drew my Great Great Grandfather, Carl E. Martin to this land. He was not opposed to government growth as he was 1 of the 12 members in the 1st city counsel meeting, forming Anchorage into a city. But he was very apposed to "Big" Government and spending outside your means. He taught his family to be responsible and productive financially. This is a land my family dearly loves and cares about how it is being ran.

I am very disappointed that you are just now working on this budget waiting to the end of the session for public comments, forcing the session to be extended! This is just plain unacceptable behavior! We have seen many changes in the State government from a conservative state to a very liberal state. Alaska has been transforming to a government that thinks it will tell the people the way it is going to be instead of the people driving the government the way the people see the government should go.

As a local business owner there are certain rules we abide by, these of the same rules government should abide by as well. They are not rules written in some government book but ones that were written on every persons heart. To be Honest, Dependable, Loving, Joyful, Patient and exercise Self Control to name a few. Also if one does not work neither shall they eat, but never, if you don't have take it from others!

The State does not have but decides that one way or another we will get what we want and it is very wrong. Government must live within its means and without taking it from others. Alaska has an incredible revenue source with the ability to be incredible productive with but sadly horribly mismanaging it away.

If we ran our businesses the way Government does we would surely be jailed, so why is it acceptable for our Alaska government to do so.

Let's look at the ferry for a moment, if I were to run that business venture the way AK government does, I'd be at a loss for words to express the trouble I'd be in. The ferry infrastructure is massive with full crew funded as if the ferry is running 7 days a week fully loaded. But sadly they are only making 3 trips a week at 25% - 30% full. (No wonder the Ferry cost the state so much.) If the State (and I'm talking to you) would be responsible they would scale back administration cost to the minimum, Keeping only employees on the payroll that are necessary for a one day a week ferry service that makes fully loaded trips. So that its not loosing money. Then as the demand arises and they can financially afford it, make two trips a week etc.

The PFD should never be on the table for looking at balancing the state budget! It's not the states to use! It's the peoples! I support for the PFD's full payout, past and present.

Last, we have been robbed eight times in different locations and as far as we can tell it was all drug-related. One of these times they stole about \$8000 in tools, the means I had to provide for my family. The troopers knew who they were the next day but nothing happened, no tools returned, no consequences for the thieves. This must be repealed, SB 91.

I support Governor Dunleavy's budget plan so should you!

Todd Rogers



March 26, 2019

Representative Jennifer Johnston
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Johnston:

Thank you for providing the opportunity for so many individuals to make comments to the House Finance Committee ("Committee") on the Governor's proposed budget. I appreciate all of the time that you and the other members of the Committee are devoting to this important issue.

Although I provided my comments to the Committee yesterday in my oral testimony, I wanted to follow-up with a brief summary in writing. As I indicated yesterday, I thank the Governor for submitting a balanced budget proposal since I believe that it is critical that the State pay for current government expenses with current revenues. However, I do have a number of concerns with the Governor's proposal that include the following:

1. The magnitude of the budget cuts to education, health and human services, and transportation.
2. The job losses that are projected to flow from these cuts that are estimated at between 7,000 and 16,000 people based upon testimony previously provided to the legislature by Mouhcine Guettabi of the University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research.
3. The level of uncertainty injected into our economy as a result of these proposals that I believe has had a chilling effect on investment.
4. The out migration of working age men and women from Alaska that is currently occurring and I believe will be increased with the proposed budget.

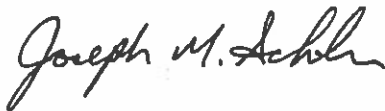
As an alternative to the Governor's proposal, I offered the following:

1. Decrease the proposed Permanent Fund Dividend from \$3,000 to \$500 which is approximately an 85% decrease to the Governor's \$1.9 billion in dividends. This savings of \$1.6 billion is equal to the proposed cuts to the services and programs in the existing budget.
2. Using the \$500 dividend amount as a starting point, the Legislature could enact decreases to programs and services of 5 to 10 percent which would allow that Permanent Fund dividend amount to increase to the \$1,000 level.
3. As a longer term solution, enact a broad based tax on individual Alaskans. I suggested an income tax in my testimony. The amount of money that could be raised through this means varies, but I believe that it has ranged from \$300 to \$500 million in most instances.
4. Commit to a more meaningful and impactful capital budget that should be two to three times the current proposed level. We need to address the deferred maintenance throughout our

state and also invest in the future both in the form of our capital budget and in our funding of education.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you at the Committee's hearing. I look forward to continuing to work with you on these issues.

Yours truly,



Joe Schierhorn
Chairman, President & CEO
Northrim Bank

CC: Governor Michael J. Dunleavy, House Speaker Bryce Edgmon, and Senator President Cathy Giessel

P.O. Box 241489
Anchorage, Alaska 99524-1489


northrim.com



March 25, 2019

Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for taking public testimony Sunday afternoon at the LIO in Anchorage. I am writing to summarize positions I advanced there, and to provide some additional thoughts with your committee that could not be shared due to time constraints.

The Dunleavy Administration's ill-conceived cuts have already harmed Alaska & Alaskans

Economists have predicted that cuts at the level proposed by the Dunleavy Administration will cause *substantial* economic harm. The proposal is simply wreckless and has already caused a chilling effect in a range of important sectors of our economy. People who have existing and potential small businesses have slowed investing and are holding their breath as they consider the prospect of selling a home before the market tanks. Professionals in education at all levels are making plans to leave the state. In fact, I have been approached by 2 faculty members and a member of the staff at UAA who are looking to relocate outside Alaska based on budgetary uncertainty for the UA system.

As someone who works in higher education and has two high school-aged daughters, one of whom graduates this spring, I can assure you **young adults are talking about leaving Alaska** in ways that I have not heard in the past. My eldest daughter and her friends, for instance, are all high performing, college-bound students who could've chosen to attend college Outside. They and their families, however, have been planning for the terrific, more affordable, in-state options provided by the University of Alaska system. Since the announcement of the governor's budget proposal, they have begun talking about delaying college for a few years (which makes completion of a degree less likely) or moving Outside to establish residency in another state before starting. Worse yet, young adults and working adults who can't even begin to entertain the idea of going Outside are simply setting aside their hopes of attending college or pursuing other types of post-secondary job training *at all*. This is disastrous for them, and for businesses and other industries in Alaska. In this day and age, stopping one's education with just a high school diploma hurts individual earning power, weakens a family's economic progress, harms the businesses in our state who want to hire high quality workers, and weakens the economy of our state as a whole. The education-economy connection is just ONE context in which the mere announcement of the governor's unrealistic, ill-informed, and harmful budget proposal has had a chilling effect on our state. There are so many others! The legislature must do what it can to reassure the people of Alaska that we have a strong, shared future. **I urge you to work together to regain the trust of the Alaskan people and attempt to counteract the Administration's budgetary scare tactics.**

I SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING MEASURES

1. I support appropriate taxes on the oil and gas industry, and a revision of oil tax credits.

It boggles my mind that we do not tax the oil and gas industry in ways that are in line with the levels of industry taxation in other states. Because we are past “peak oil,” we have missed our one and only opportunity for the kind of long-term stability and benefit that Norway has achieved with its sovereign fund, but we should at least be working from a position of equal footing and engaged in direct negotiations with the oil industry. We have a non-renewable resource the industry wants and needs. They should pay a fair and reasonable taxes, and Alaska should not be paying the oil industry tax credits for undeveloped resources. The legislature should change the tax credit structure to benefit Alaska, not the oil and gas industry.

2. I support two statewide taxes: an income tax and a modest sales tax

A. Income tax

State income taxes can and should be structured in a way that does not disadvantage those of lower socioeconomic status. FULL STOP. That said, this is something other states and the federal government have done for forever, so it would be simple to align our income levels with existing guidelines. People come to Alaska to work in oil and gas, fishing, tourism, healthcare, and other industries on what is really an in-and-out basis. While in state, they’re using—or have the potential to use—Alaska’s roads, ports, airports, safety services, and so on, but they are not contributing to the maintenance and availability of any of that. At the same time, they are almost certainly paying income taxes to state governments in the lower 48. Why are roads, harbors, airports, safety services, etc., in Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, Oregon and other states using what should be Alaska tax dollars? Alaska has provided the job, the resource, the industry, and so on. If we think it’s important to have roads, ports, airports, public safety, etc., that benefit anyone who happens to be in our state and make it possible for in-state workers to get to jobs and support their families, we should do the same with those who happen to live out of state but come here for their employment.

B. statewide sales tax of 3%

States across the country levy modest sales tax as a way of paying for things that we cannot pay for by ourselves: roads, bridges, libraries, parks, etc. We should be doing the same! Sometimes I heard people advocate for a summer sales tax saying “we should tax the tourists.” NO. We should **all** contribute to the roads, bridges, safety services, etc., that are needed to live a reasonable and productive life here. Yes, I mean ALL OF US: Alaskans, out-of-state workers, and tourists from around the world. I appreciate the improved efficiency and deserve the safety of driving on a decent road just as much as a tourist in a motorhome or a travel nurse heading to work at Providence Hospital. Building roads costs money. If I were in Southeast, I’d be saying that we need ports and the marine highway, and that tourists, travel nurses, and non-resident workers should contribute to having those available to them, too. We should all contribute to needed services.

We can (and should) exempt groceries and medications from a statewide sales tax in the same way that occurs in many other states. Doing so ensures that a statewide sales tax doesn't place an undue burden on people when they're purchasing necessities and those of lower socioeconomic status, but make no mistake about it, we need a statewide sales tax.

C. In addition to supporting the two broad-based taxes noted above, I would support statewide taxes on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and firearms.

All of these items should include a state tax that goes toward programs related to the particular category. For instance, taxes generated by the sale of tobacco products could fund smoking-related healthcare campaigns or grants to support things like the Alaska Quitline. Having state-based funding for these kinds of efforts often opens up the possibility of additional dollars and matching funds from other sources, making Alaska's dollars go even further.

3. I support a cap on the PFD.

I believe that a cap of \$500/year (depending on fund performance) is a reasonable amount for the PFD. I understand that many people believe capping the dividend is anathema, but it is far more harmful to cripple our schools, our university system, to have us driving on poorly maintained roads, to eliminate important services for our most vulnerable people, and to weaken communities across the state. A PFD should be viewed as a bonus, a *dividend* that comes in above and beyond whatever one earns. Viewing the dividend as an essential foundation of a family or individual income is a recipe for financial disaster for the entire state and, frankly, suggests that we have a wages problem in Alaska that should be addressed in and of itself.

On a related note, I support a close investigation of who is receiving payment of the PFD

While Alaska has guidelines regarding eligibility for those who receive PFDs while attending college out of state or serving in the military, it's (past!) time to take a careful look at those requirements and who is receiving payment. A friend whose husband is in the Air Force has told me that there are members of the military who simply claim they plan to retire in Alaska as a way of continuing to get the PFD, but do not truthfully plan to return to the state. And why should a college student receive payments that fund school or life outside of Alaska if that student doesn't return and contribute to the state? If the fund is designed to support Alaska's economy, the money should stay here. Perhaps the dividend that would have gone to people in the categories I've mentioned could be set aside in a separate **returnee trust fund** that would generate interest that could be used here in Alaska (maybe to fund pre-K education?). Then, *if* the person returns and lives here for a specified amount (perhaps 5 years?), they could receive the amount they missed? Finally, how many non-resident workers who really consider themselves residents of other states are filing for and receiving a PFD? There are likely some non-resident workers who maintain an address here in Alaska in order to qualify, but do not truly live here. This must be given careful consideration, too.

4. I support the development of a statewide lottery system

Although I've lived in Alaska for almost 24 years, I grew up in Colorado, and was there at the time when the state launched its lottery program. Funds generated by the Colorado State Lottery are used to support state parks, trails, and valuable open spaces, all of which benefit residents of the state, as well as millions of tourists to the region. We have similar needs here in Alaska. Perhaps a lottery system and the PFD could even have some sort of connection? For instance, there could be a standalone lottery system like the ones that exist in other states, but maybe there could also be a lottery dimension of the PFD where recipients over the age of 18 or 21 could both earmark a portion of their PFD for a program (i.e. Pick, Click, Give), along with putting a certain amount (\$100?) of their PFD into a lottery fund. Winners could be drawn to receive things like an extra PFD in the same amount for the given year. Although tourists wouldn't be eligible to win an "extra" PFD, we should definitely allow them to buy state lottery tickets, perhaps even one that would make it possible for them to win a one-time payout in the amount of the year's PFD. In other words, I think we need to be more creative with our thinking on this kind of thing. We have pull tabs or "rippies" in Alaska which are unappealing and require a special trip into a dirty little shop to play. I have to believe that only the most desperate of people ever seek out such places. I have never set foot in a rippie shop, and don't know anyone who has. Do rippies generate money for the state or solely for the shop? If we followed the Colorado system, we could have lottery tickets available for purchase at the cash register of convenience stores and, as a result, a much wider range of people would play and contribute to a fund that could benefit our parks, trails, and amazing outdoor spaces, including visitors who might be stopping at a gas station on their way to enjoying one of our state parks.

In closing, I would like to respond to an exceptionally insulting comment Governor Dunleavy made on KSKA radio regarding people who testified on Sunday in Anchorage. He said that those of us who testified are the kind of people who are able to take a day off work and that the hundreds of us who gathered at the LIO were there solely to testify for sectors that benefit us. As I am sure you saw, people who testified represented a wide range of ages, political affiliations, trades, and professions. Those who sat that small table before you were parents, educators, retirees, children from babes-in-arms to age 11, the elderly, the disabled, community volunteers, laborers, and much more. I heard those gathered advocating for pre-K children, the elderly, the most vulnerable among us, for people in rural Alaska, for the Alaska Marine Highway System, for the Interior, and more. **Above all, I heard them advocating for the government of the State of Alaska to do right by its citizens.** They were asking, loud and clear, to make it possible for citizens to contribute together to the things that we cannot do individually. The people before you were NOT lazy, self-interested, or "elite," as the governor would have you believe. They were and are deserving of the Governor's respect. It is disheartening that he doesn't seem to be able to offer than. I look to you to show us that you were listening to the hundreds of us who stood in line to advocate on behalf of the state and the needs of its people. I appreciate you giving the community your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Shawnalee A. Whitney

[REDACTED]

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