

House Finance Committee
Public Testimony

HB 2001

Emails received to

HouseFinance@akleg.gov

July 17, 2019

Part 5

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore UA Scholars Scholarship Funding

Good afternoon,

As a lifelong Alaskan resident, UAA graduate and current UAA faculty member I urged you to grant funding for the UA scholars scholarship program! These students earned this opportunity and chose to stay in Alaska to continue their education. This is our future workforce and community leaders! These are the top 10% of our state students and they earned this scholarship opportunity!

I personally think it's a shame to cut this funding!

Laura Stoddard
Anchorage Resident

From: Charlie & Jamie Rodriguez <cjrodriguez@ak.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 1:46 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HD2001

To: Members of the House Finance Committee
From: Charles Rodriguez, Alaskan Resident since 1974 (plus ten years of visits previous to moving up for good!)
Re: HB2001

It's time to pass HB2001 and do things correctly.

If there truly is an immediate emergency need to cut \$400,000,000 from the budget, it's not necessary to destroy the key programs and education that make our Alaskan strong and successful. Instead of focusing on the selected targets for youth and elder services, there is a much less destructive way.

If the cuts really are an emergency, then make those cuts in a horizontal fashion to lessen the impact to any one group. Take a flat percent from each and every line item in the budget, AND include the Governor's budget and salary, AND every legislator's budget and salary as well. The Anchorage school district did something similar when the froze teacher salaries for three years several years ago.

Additionally, the governor is unnecessarily spending millions of dollars on imported "experts" to do his planning and run his numbers. We have plenty of in-state talent that can do an excellent and honest job for far less of an expenditure. Alaska Hire! Keep jobs in state! Let's do this intelligently. If we really need to cut, let's do it in an honest and fair manor! In the mean time, vote YES on HB2001 to put things back together and then take the time to rethink this whole mess. Remember, this is Alaska, not Animal House. Do right by our beloved state.

From: Michael Jeffery <mijeffery@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:09 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Rep. John Lincoln <Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov>
Subject: Urge support for HB 2001 (CS Substitute)

My name is Michael Jeffery and I've been a resident of Utqiagvik (Barrow) for over 42 years. Many thanks to the House Finance Committee for holding the three hearings to allow public comment on HB 2001. I have been listening to today's hearing originating in Fairbanks, but I must leave the line.

I am writing as an individual and not representing an organization. I served in the Alaska Court System for over 32 years, but have retired because of the age limit of 70 years. I strongly support House Bill 2001 (Community Substitute). I believe the approach of a limited permanent fund dividend and replacing all funds vetoed by the Governor will prevent the devastation to our state if the funds vetoed by the governor are not replaced. We cannot allow the unstudied, unplanned cuts that have been made. Some basic points:

1. I have been present in Alaska before the PFD existed and when it was created. The PFD is not a part of the state constitution. I recall that at the beginning, the PFD was a conscious decision to pass a statute to give the people of Alaska a reason to be interested in the Permanent Fund by having a dividend. The concept that a certain amount must be paid as a PFD no matter what the financial repercussions is very foreign to me. It makes sense to have a more limited PFD at this time.
2. We should all participate in funding state services through a graduated income tax and possibly a sales tax. In the past, the Legislature has found itself unable to do so, but now is the time.
3. Authorizing the "reverse sweep" to restore funding like scholarship funds, the Power Coast Equalization funds based on specified investments is very important. Students are counting on the scholarships that are now unfunded. The PCE in particular is a lifeline for rural residents. Rates will drastically increase.
4. Our state must support social services providing support to individuals that prevent a sled into the criminal justice system and the far more costly increases to the Corrections budget.
5. Maintaining the Nome Youth Facility will preserve the ability to work effectively with troubled juveniles in Northwest Alaska. The alternative of the Fairbanks Youth Facility will not meet the needs of these rural youth.

Thank you for your time!

Michael Jeffery

From: Betsy Turner-Bogren <turnerbogren@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:10 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 2001

Dear Members of Alaska's House Finance Committee,

Thank you for meeting today and taking public testimony on House Bill 2001.

As a resident of the great state of Alaska for the past 38 years, I urge passage of this legislation to fund the capital budget and return funding to state programs including University of Alaska performance scholarships, rural power cost

equalization, medical and nutritional support for our vulnerable elders, services for the homeless in our communities, Alaska's Council for the Arts, legal services to those in need, and to make it possible for our state to receive millions of federal matching dollars for improvements to our state infrastructures.

I understand the devastating impact that funding cuts made by Governor Dunleavy will have on Alaska's economic and civic well being. We cannot, as citizens of this state allow for the elimination of state programs like the ones mentioned above. We cannot stand for further injury to our state.

This injury to our state is real: From the Anchorage Daily News, Moody's Investors Service today downgraded University of Alaska's rating by multiple grades for general revenue bonds and lease revenue bonds. The downgrades reflect "the severity and magnitude of the financial challenges confronting University of Alaska" if Gov. Mike Dunleavy's budget vetoes stand, Moody's said.

Further injuries resulting from of the cuts included in the Governor's veto are the instability created in our workforce, and in in making Alaska an uninviting place for new business and entrepreneurs to come and provide the economic engines that help our community grow and thrive.

Please vote to support House Bill 2001.

Respectfully,
Betsy Turner-Bogren
P.O. Box 343
Ester, Alaska 99725
Ph: 907-978-5672

From: Alitha McCarty <ruby.tribal.clerk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:12 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PCE

To Whom It May Concern,

Please restore the funding for our PCE for our villages. All the villages would greatly appreciate the funding and it would be very helpful to us living in the villages where the cost of living is already high.

Thank you for your consideration.
Alitha McCarty
Village of Ruby

From: Angela Schmidt <angelaschmidt.ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:11 PM
To: LIO Fairbanks <Lio.Fairbanks@akleg.gov>
Subject: Committee Substitute for House Bill 2001 (CSHB2001)

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your all your hard work and sacrifices during this very dynamic and stressful time. I do NOT support the governor's vetoes, and ask that you restore funding to areas that have been cut. The legislature advanced a very well thought out and workable budget plan to the governor prior to his vetoes - please restore that budget. I believe a moderate PFD of \$900 to \$1,500 is wholly acceptable.

It is imperative to restore funding to the University of Alaska as soon as possible. The university is an enormous economic engine that brings millions of federal dollars into our communities. It attracts the best and brightest here with their families to live in and contribute to Alaska. It provides an avenue for the youth of Alaska to develop their aptitudes and to live their fullest lives. It serves as a factory of ideas for diversifying our economy. Cutting funding to this institution is cynical and short-sighted and will have detrimental effects that will last for generations.

This current crisis is a political crisis - not a budget crisis. We do not need to slash and burn all that makes life meaningful within the next two weeks. We as Alaskans must tighten our belts and work together to build a future that continues to be bright, despite declining oil revenues. I believe the legislature's proposed budget (prior to the governor's vetoes) would allow us to do that. Please restore funding to those levels. It is imperative if this state is to continue.

With respect,

Angela Schmidt

413 Cowles

Fairbanks, AK

(24-year resident of Alaska, current University of Alaska Fairbanks employee and part owner of private businesses in Fairbanks and Palmer)

From: Ryan Madros <ryanmadros@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:14 PM

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

Subject: Don't cut our PEC!

Good afternoon! Please return funding for PEC from the budget! Many Alaskans will suffer from this. With the price of diesel for the generators, our light bill is always high. PEC helps us out with that.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Melissa Shippey <mshippey68@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:14 PM

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

Subject: Budget Veto Override - Save our State

I am writing, since I cannot make it in person to testify.

Please work to override Governor Dunleavy's budget vetos.

His plan, adopted from an outsider that has no personal vested interest in Alaska, or Alaskans, will kill the state.

Personally I have friends who could both lose their jobs resulting in unemployment for their entire household, possible

personal bankruptcy, and either having to leave the state or be homeless because they both work in public education (K-12) and at the University of Alaska.

The Governor's actions are completely irresponsible. The University of Alaska system benefits the entire state from both an educational and economic standpoint. It especially benefits those who do not have access to higher education in remote communities.

Please override the Governor's budget veto and come up with a sensible compromise that maintains a sustainable permanent fund dividend and ensures the future well being of the state of Alaska and ALL of its residents.

thank you,

Melissa Shippey

From: William Schneider <wsschneider@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget

I encourage you to follow through on the budget you developed and support. A \$1000 dividend will leave sufficient funds to support the budget.

It is ludicrous that a governor can destroy an institution like the University quirk raw arrow of his pen and that there are legislators who will support that action.

Bill Schneider

--

William Schneider
Professor Emeritus
Alaska and Polar Regions
Rasmuson Library
907-474-5355
wsschneider@alaska.edu

From: Richard Carter <richardjaycarter@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Voicing Support for Education and the Arts

Good Afternoon,

I urge your support in correcting the vetos to the state's budget that so drastically and negatively affected our state-- specifically the arts council and education system. Art is fundamental and art is an educational and cultural foundation upon which people learn, connect, share, and develop professionally. Please don't allow a budget reconfiguration that cuts away at our foundation. To cut away at our foundation would mean to compromise everything we've built above it.

Sincerely,
Richard Carter
District 33

From: terrel.paula <terrel.paula@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Hb2001

I support HB 2001 that provides for a smaller pFDividend and would amend the Governor's budget vetos and the unreversed "sweep" of funds out of programs like education funds and power cost equalization funds that are so critical for rural Alaska.

I would hope that another special session would put the vetoed funds into another bill.

Please recognize the dire impacts of these vetos on so many Alaskans. I think that when the Governor promised a full \$3000 dividend, many Alaskans didn't realize how much they would be impacted by budget and program cuts.

Surely, it is time for Alaska to consider an income tax as a potentially equitable solution.

It is in the hands of the legislature and I look forward to seeing your leadership on this issue. It is time to stop tearing out the soul of this beautiful state.

Paula Terrel
4970 Thane Rd
Juneau Alaska

From: Lisa Oberlee <loberlee@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:17 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Veto

My husband and I urge you to veto Governor Dunleavy's budget proposal. We have lived in Anchorage for 17 years and we want to continue living here for many more years. My husband is a business owner and is invested in bringing high quality environmental work to the state of Alaska.

We have three children that we hope would consider going to college at UAA in the future, but these cuts have us wondering if the university will survive them.

I work with the March of Dimes in the NICU at Providence Alaska Medical Center. The proposed cuts suggest cutting Medicare, which gravely concerns how we care for poor and vulnerable mothers in Alaska.

Please consider vetoing Gov. Dunleavy's proposal and save the citizens of Alaska the heart ache of losing a major University and cutting funding for mothers in need. Thanks for listening. I don't need a bigger PFD. I need thriving education for my children and compassion for the needy!

Lisa Oberlee

From: tcup@gci.net <tcup@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 1:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support a \$929.00 PFD Payout & support HB 2001

Greetings:

I support a \$929.00 PFD Payout for 2019 and fully support HB 2001.

Thanks.

Ed Bean

From: Katharine Heumann <mkheumann@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:18 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support our State!

Pass HB2001. So many many reasons to do so. Arts, health care, education vulnerable populations, capital projects and the list goes on.

Thank you for what you do

From: Sue Keller <suekeller06@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: FY 2020 budget

Dear Committee

Please restore the money vetoed from the FY 2020 budget by Governor Mike Dunleavy, to keep the university strong and assist in children's education. Keep our communities thriving.

Personally I would be happy to take a zero Permanent Fund Dividend amount this year. Oil tax and income tax is a better solution than slashing key Alaska programs and institutions. Let's keep Alaska strong.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Carolyn Keller

1913 Raven Dr

Fairbanks AK 99709

From: Saralyn Tabachnick <eisha@gci.net>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:20 PM

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

Subject: Save Our State

Dear House Finance,

Firstly, thank you for the budget you crafted during the regular legislative session to ensure our state and citizens remained viable, a budget which reflected Alaskan needs and values.

I am writing in support of HB 2001, a bill which includes funding for all items vetoed by the Governor, the "reverse sweep" language, and a PFD of \$929.00. This bill is another attempt to ensure our state and citizens remain viable, and it reflects our needs and values.

Thank you for your critical work at this time.

Sincerely,

Saralyn Tabachnick

From: K Scanlon <kellyhillscanlon@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:22 PM

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

Subject: HB 2001

Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB 2001. I heard mixed testimony at the LIO in Fairbanks, today, and was especially pleased to hear Representative Wool state that the PFD was not a Constitutional guarantee. I would particularly like to see continued/increased funding for education and safety.

Our education system is not a business and should not be run like a business. If it was, we would turn away about half of the kids coming to first grade because they aren't adequately prepared for what they should know to start school. There are good reasons we do not do that! Education is the great equalizer in our society. We cannot legislate personal responsibility and parenting and this is no fault of the child. Education is an investment in the future of our society----- from pre-school to college. We are not "throwing money" at schools as one person stated in the hearing today. Adequate funding helps keep master teachers in Alaska and class sizes at a reasonable level for helping students.

I am also concerned about threats to safety in our communities and resources to address issues. Although it is anecdotal, I want to highlight a story that shows where we are on community safety in our state. Around 11:15pm the other night, a stolen car crashed, flipped and caught on fire in front of my house (on Steele Creek Road---so NOT in the city of Fairbanks). As I called 911 the driver of the car got out, got his dog out and ran away from the scene wearing only a pair of shorts. When the fire department arrived to put out the 12 foot flames from the car and the trooper arrived on scene I asked him if he was going to drive around the area to see if he could find the driver. I was told, "No, we don't have resources for that." No resources for driving around an area to find a criminal? Is this really what we want? It is disconcerting from so many levels.

Please keep the items in the original budget funded. Our state cannot afford any further cuts. And, yes, I support an income tax and reduced PFD to do so!

Kelly Hill Scanlon
1041 Steele Creek Road
Fairbanks, AK 99712
907-479-9655

From: Phyllis Tugman-Alexander <ptugmanalexander@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:23 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Save our Alaska!!!

Dear Committee Members - to be brief let me state emphatically that our beloved Alaska needs quality pre-school, grade schools, middle & high schools. We also need and value our world renowned university system. We need to have fully funded educational programs for ALL of our systems. Because we value education does not mean we are elitists. It means we, like our parents before us, and their parents before them, want our children to be better educated, to have more opportunities than we had, to soar higher than we were able to soar. We believe our kids and our grandchildren are worthy of our investment now, because just like our ancestors, we know that material possessions can be taken away, but our education is ours forever. Please respect Alaskans overwhelming desire for education. Take away the PFD, institute taxes but do not gut our university system and allow 'forward funding' to continue in our public schools.

Thank you,
Phyllis Tugman-Alexander
3271 Turnabout Avenue (no mail receptacle)
PO Box 81374
Fairbanks, Ak. 99708

From: fullcircle <fullcircle@ak.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:27 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

I am sending this message in support of HB 2001 and restoring funding for the ARTS. This is critical. PLEASE LISTEN TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS AND BE REASONABLE AND THOUGHTFUL ABOUT ALASKA'S FUTURE. I am counting on you to listen to the voters and restore funding.

Thank you,
Mary DeSmet
Music Teacher
Full Circle Music
Juneau, AK
(907) 789-3933

From: Adele Person <adele@bunnellarts.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:28 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please restore funding to the items vetoed by Gov Dunleavy

Dear House Finance Committee,

I have seen art make such a difference in people's lives, from bringing economic returns to saving people from committing suicide. The Alaska State Council on the Arts is the central hub of this work and leveraged a direct 1:1 match of NEA funding and then another \$1.2 M in private foundation money. I know that the same kind of leverage exists for many other worthy programs that suffered the Governor's veto pen.

I strongly support the work you are doing and HB2001 as a first step to restoring funding to the University, Alaska State Council on the Arts, senior benefits, scholarships, power cost equalization, a reasonable PFD, Headstart and so many other worthy programs. The Legislature worked hard to make tough choices and cut \$280M from the budget. Cuts should be made by a representative Legislature that speaks for the many needs of our community, not one executive with a one-sided red pen.

My children have had 1/2 of their PFD's invested in the UAA savings programs. Having a robust competitive university is more important than \$3000 in their pocket.

I support a big-picture solution that includes a stronger oil tax, a mix of income or payroll taxes, a sensible PFD, and strong investment in education and proven programs. HB 2001 is a good first step and I support your efforts to create a bipartisan solution for the good of Alaska.

Sincerely yours,
Adele Person
Homer, Alaska

From: Jenny Bell Jones <jenny.belljones@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:32 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 2001

Dear House Finance Committee and Legislators,

I urge you to do whatever it takes to pass legislation that will restore all funding of all vetoed items. There is no good reason to do otherwise and every reason to make sure that the lives of Alaskans are not destroyed by these thoughtless and cruel vetoes. Perhaps some of you do not personally know people who are dependent on Seniors Benefits and programs like Headstart and Alaska Legal Services but I do, and seeing them suffer for no good reason is heartbreaking. I know that I will receive a call before the end of the month from a friend in the Village who cannot afford to buy Depends because she has lost her Senior Benefit ... telling her that she will get a \$3000 dividend in October will not help her immediate need one bit. Nobody should be placed in the horrible position of having to make that call! That Senior Benefit provided, among many other things, dignity to Elders. Anyone who thinks otherwise should be ashamed of themselves! I will help her, even though I am disabled and living on a fixed income myself because that is what Alaskans do, but she should never have been placed in the position of having to ask.

I have lived in Fairbanks for 23 years and worked at UAF since 1999. I retired due to disability in 2016 but still work part-time for my Department. I did not make a lot of money, in fact I made less than I did in my previous construction career but my work was rewarding and I had the opportunity to change a lot of lives for the better. Most importantly, I watched students who I had taught go out and get good jobs in Alaska and contribute to their communities and the State in ways they could never had done without their college qualifications.

During these 23 years I purchased two pieces of property and three vehicles. I shopped regularly at local businesses and ate out in Fairbanks restaurants. I had my car serviced at Ron's Chevron, my dental work done at Barrera Dental, my hair cut by a local stylist. I did all of my banking at Denali State Bank. I hired local workers when I needed help with projects. I contributed regularly to a variety of local causes. In other words, my UAF wages were spent right here in Fairbanks with the exception of a few short vacations. This is likely the same spending pattern as all of my colleagues at the University. Eliminating hundreds of positions of UAF will take dollars like mine out of the community when they are most needed here.

I am willing to go with a small PFD and am willing to pay an income tax. We all need to contribute to services we need and use, and yes, we all benefit in one way or another from those services. Please go with the budget plan you all worked so hard to come to agreement on and do the right thing for Alaska.

Jenny Bell-Jones
Fairbanks

From: Dan LaSota <dan@ae-data.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:29 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska > PFD

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I favor a radically reduced or eliminated PFD payout to balance the State's budget so you can reverse the devastating veto cuts put forth by the Governor.

Dan LaSota

--

Dan LaSota
dan@ae-data.com
907.479.0700

From: Jennifer Delamere <padjsd@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska PFD: Reduce and tax

Dear House Finance Committee,

I strongly support a reduced PFD and a state income tax. We are on the eve of socioeconomic devastation and yet the state legislature remains incapable of convening and resolving the budget crisis.

Governor Dunleavy employed outside help to manipulate a budget spreadsheet with little regard or understanding of the economic consequences of this ill-conceived budget. Donna Arduin is unqualified to solve Alaska's budget problems.

History will judge us harshly and with utter disbelief if we move forward on a path to dismantle, for example, the 10% ranked university in the world – UAF, to abandon the arts, and to turn our backs on the most vulnerable Alaskans. We must do better than this.

What good does a \$3000 PFD check do for a family forced to pay out-of-state tuition because of a collapsed university? What good does it do for a business owner, forced to close shop due to economic recession?

We have the ability to avoid all of these tragic outcomes if we work together. We have an unbelievable luxury in the Permanent Fund. We can do amazing things as a state if we are forward thinking and willing to collectively invest in our economy.

Sincerely,

Peter Delamere
2420 Locksley Ct.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Abby North <abbyofthenorth@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support House Bill 2001

I'm Abigail North and I'm here representing myself. I want to thank the House Finance Committee for meeting in Fairbanks and for your continued work on our complex fiscal issues, as well as all the legislative members and staff who worked so hard to produce a bipartisan budget for Alaska. I've lived in Alaska for 16 of the last 18 years. I've lived most of my adult life here. I came for UAF and stayed because I fell in love with the community and adventure in Alaska. I strongly support House Bill 2001. These cuts to the arts, education, social programs, and other programs that have been in place for decades are so important to the vibrancy of our community and our economy. My wife and I are here for the long haul. Our house is paid off and we plan to do whatever we can to stay and fight for the community and state we love. But I teach high school science, and I fear for my students' future in Alaska. Yes, we spend a lot on education in this state - education is well founded in our Constitution. But everything costs more here, and especially in Rural Alaska. My first teaching job was in the Iñupiaq village of Atqasuk on the North Slope. It cost me a minimum of \$1000 to fly to Fairbanks, and that was 8 years ago. I loved my students and families there, I'm still friends with several of them, some of whom are parents now. It terrifies me to think of how these vetoes will affect their lives, how their power and fuel bills will skyrocket, and how will they afford the food they need for their families. Again, I'm asking you to restore the funding for all the programs cut in the Governor's vetoes, a reduced PFD, and to please tax us all, especially the 20%* of our workers that fly back to their home states with big bags of Alaska green. Thank you.

* <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/reshire/nonres.pdf>

Abigail North
666 Lowell Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99712

907-750-1204

From: Samantha Reynolds <samantha@nsbfairbanks.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:33 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

To the House Finance Committee:

I am a fairly new Alaskan, but in the short three years I have lived here I have come to love this state and consider it home. Which is why I am speaking up today in support of HB 2001.

Before I became Executive Director of North Star Ballet, I was a project manager for Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation, a position I held for two and a half years. During that time, I learned that an economy exists for the people not the other way around. Governor Dunleavy's vetoes suggest the opposite and plays Jenga with Alaskans well-being and quality of life.

At North Star Ballet, we were heartsick to see the Alaska State Council on the Arts close its doors this week after more than 50 years of service. ASCA provided a unified voice to help ensure Alaskans had access to the arts and artists had the support they needed to carry out their unique vocation. Why is this important? Because people are inherently creative, so when the arts are devalued so is a fundamental element of the human experience. Art doesn't exist for its own sake. It exists for the people. Art matters because people matter. Please recognize this.

Gratefully,

Samantha Reynolds
Executive Director, North Star Ballet
4832 Palo Verde Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(303) 921-0318

From: Swartzbart, Karen P (DFG) <karen.swartzbart@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:36 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 2001

To Whom it May Concern,

My family and I are in favor of House Bill 2001, which re-instates all of the Budget items vetoed by the Governor.

We are willing to reduce our PFD and look into a state income tax to cover needed services, such as our education, the arts, elderly care, the homeless, and the ferry system.

We need to look at Oil Tax Credits and see why the state of Alaska is subsidizing the Oil Companies.

Thank you

Karen Swartzbart
P.O Box 233
Cordova, Alaska 99574
907 253 3421

From: Dan Callahan <akcallahans@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:36 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFDs/State budget: Restore program funding; reduce or eliminate PFD cash payments

Dear Members of House Finance Committee:

I am writing to urge you and the entire legislature to take any action necessary to restore funding for those budget items subject to the governor's budget vetoes. I followed the course of the budget through the legislature this spring and I was pleased that the legislature was able to agree upon a reasonable budget in light of the state's current financial circumstances.

The governor's vetoes would result in loss of services and programs in the state to such an extent that many residents would be forced to leave Alaska to find work, and no ambitious and achieving high school senior would seriously consider going to the University of Alaska. The state's economy would spiral downward.

It is incredible given the state's financial woes and the governor's vetoes that payment of a full Permanent Fund Dividend is even being discussed. I believe the governor has promised a full dividend to distract voters from the real impact of the devastating reductions in the state budget he would put in place. Payment of a full dividend is not in either the short or long term interest of the state. The State of Alaska simply cannot afford to give away money.

No one has a right to a PFD. It is entirely a luxury and should be reduced or not paid at all if there are not funds available after funding reasonable state projects and services. (I would support reinstatement of a progressive state income tax as a way to address the state's long term finances and to permit a modest PFD.) If anything the PFD represents profits from oil extraction, which products are responsible for global warming and climate change. Logically the Permanent Fund should be dedicated first to mitigating the impacts of climate change. I know that course is not politically viable at this time, but in any event funding cash payments to residents should be the last priority, not the first.

Thank you for your service in the legislature.

Dan Callahan
[P.O.Box](#) 71621
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

From: Christa Mulder <mulderchristaph@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:37 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for House Bill 2001

Dear legislators,

I would like to testify in support of House Bill 2001 proposed by Representative Foster and the Finance committee.

I am a professor at UAF. Here are three ways in which cutting my position would impact Alaskans in not so obvious ways:

1) I am a Principal Investigator on about \$1 million worth of funding, almost all of which has been distributed throughout the state. This funding has supported, among other things, numerous flights on small airlines such as Ravn to villages, stipends for rural teachers, and travel and presentation opportunities for rural students.
My work supports the rural economy all over the state.

2) In every ungraduate course I have taught I have had military personnel or military spouses. I have advised numerous military personnel / spouses who are trying to finish degrees that they have had to patch together following numerous moves. **My work supports the military.**

3) I run "science adventure camps" for youth in care of the state, and I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate for youth in my spare time. **My work supports kids in foster care.**

The university does so much more than conduct classes. Please support this bill.

Sincerely,
Christa Mulder
Fairbanks

From: Annie Sartz <sartzanna@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2001

Hello House Finance Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear/read your constituents' testimonies. I wish I could be there in person but I am on my own with my one and three year old daughters today (and while them screaming while waiting in line/addressing you in person might be more impactful than this email I've decided to spare everyone that). :)

The governors' \$444 million in budget cuts to the university, medicaid, services for seniors, youth, the arts, scholarships, etc.. have really shaken our community. I have friends that work for UAF and other organizations that would be affected by the cuts who are considering moving out of this great state. The loss of jobs and people leaving the state will have an irreparable negative impact on the Alaska economy and morale.

It breaks my heart to think of an Alaska without a strong University system. For me this is very personal; my two amazing daughters would not exist if it weren't for UAF. I attended UAF for my Bachelor's and Master's degrees and now give back to this community as a middle school counselor and on the Board for the local Boys and Girls Club. I met my husband at UAF, he is a National Champion air rifle shooter who came to shoot for UAF in 2007, helping them win the NCAA title. He could have gone to his choice of universities with rifle programs but chose UAF because of their strong academic reputation and strong rifle team. He fell in love with UAF and Alaska and has recently become a US citizen. We've always planned on staying in Alaska but for the first time we have talked about relocating our family. We do not want to raise our children in a place that does not value education (preK through post-secondary).

We will gladly forfeit some (or all) of the PFD if it means funding for the University and the other social services that the governor put on the chopping block are restored.

I implore you to listen to the people and do the right thing, the future of our state depends on it.

Thank you,
Anna Sartz
1280 Sundance Lp
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-378-7599

From: Geraldine & Charles Collins <collins@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:38 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Testimony

I was unable to attend the testimony session at the Fairbanks LIO today, so am making my comments by e-mail.

First, as a long-term Alaskan (I have a birth certificate from the Territory of Alaska) I do not feel that I have some sort of "right" to a PFD. Since I strongly feel that all of the Dunleavy vetoes should be overridden I actually have no problem with no PFD.

But what I do want is a healthy education K-12 system with funding structured so that school districts can plan ahead. I want a fully funded University of Alaska system. I want financially needy seniors to receive their senior benefits, and adult Medicaid recipients to receive dental care. I want to have an Alaska Arts Council. I believe that the ferry system should be funded so that the fleet can be maintained and the route scheduled to meet the need of those who use it. I could go on and on, but in brief I support the override of ALL of the unfair and reckless Governor Dunleavy vetoes. The budget developed by the legislature was formulated in a deliberative and organized manner. If allowed to stand the Dunleavy vetoes will cause significant harm for years to come.

Geraldine Collins
3215 Craft Avenue
PO Box 82031
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

From: Carl Benson <carlbensonalaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 2001

I fully support House Bill 2001.

The Dunleavy vetoes would cause unprecedented damage to the State of Alaska. I have spent most of my life in Alaska. I paid non-resident income tax in 1950 and resident income tax for the 20 years between 1960 and 1980. It was a simple tax to pay, it did no harm, but lots of good. It gave strength to the Territory of Alaska and paid for the Constitution Convention in 1955 which laid the groundwork for the State of Alaska.

But today our income tax would go to Big Oil. We have to fix this. We pay too much to the oil industry. SB-21 has cost us (Alaska) well more annually than our income tax will counter.

The present Dunleavy crisis has shaken Alaska and we must act. House Bill 2001 is a good place to start.

As a state we need to examine all sources of actual income, as well as potential sources of income that we have ignored. We also need to examine expenditures, especially the tax breaks and credits to the oil industry (because they are the biggest) and the PFD (because it is an unknown and possibly the biggest expense).

The original way of calculating the PFD is incompatible with present day reality. We cannot afford to give everyone who spends a year in Alaska an unsustainable amount of money as a PFD; this has to be carefully reconsidered. Representative Adam Wool presented a good argument for a revised formula for calculating the dividend.

I plead with you to overcome the vetoes and put us on a different course as suggested by Representative Charles Kopp.

Sincerely,
Carl

Carl S. Benson
945 McGown Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

From: Rob Marx <alaskamoose@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:41 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 2001

In short, restore the funding and support HB 2001. All of the funding.

In detail, I'd like to speak on the cuts to homelessness funding. I've heard derisive remarks about this, and that the impact is overstated.

I completely disagree.

- 1) I wonder, and I don't think I am alone if the cuts to this budget doesn't violate some laws- it is a targeted and cruel maneuver. I think this could find the state in a serious legal battle.
- 2) Besides what I view is a completely morally bankrupt maneuver, I don't see this as a budget saving matter. The short term savings in eliminating homeless service funding will be lost exponentially over time with the extensive costs this will cause throughout a multitude of systems in Alaska. Medical care, emergency services, crisis teams, not to mention the general public outcry to see an already bad homeless situation increase dramatically.
- 3) I am pessimistic regarding if people care, certainly I do not see the governor showing much care about this matter- but make no mistake their will be people who die from this. Their will be many more hurt in a dramatic fashion.
- 4) I understand the governor does not believe it is the states job, but rather local governments who should fund the costs. I could not disagree more with this. Thinking this is a municipal issue and not a state issue, is so myopic, so fundamentally unsound, it is stunning. Anchorage is the epicenter of the homeless crisis for the state.
- 5) Not restoring funding is going to damage this state. Good people are leaving, have left. My family will look to leave. If the state does not take its own quality of life seriously, if protecting the most vulnerable does not matter, if legislators disown their own constituents to fall in lock step with the governor at all cost, and all of those costs will be untold, then we will need to relocate our children to a place where their lives and future is actually, truthfully, compassionately considered.

Robert Marx
2725 Telequana Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

From: Deena LaRue <dlarue@ccthita-nsn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore the Vetoes

My name is Deena LaRue and I am a concerned Alaska Native Mother, hard-working citizen and taxpayer. Please Restore the Vetoes.

The impact of the elimination of Community Assistance, also known as Community Revenue Sharing, is a major concern to me as a homeowner and taxpayer. I am a working citizen who has struggled to own my own home despite annually paying high property taxes and this year, paying almost \$5000.00 for a paved road. I am also from a small SE village that has a high unemployment rate, therefore, minimal revenue base to sustain a healthy community for the families who trust in their government to support their efforts to raise their families in rural Alaska. No more timber, no more sawmills, restricted fishing rights, minimal ferry services to these road-less communities, commercialized harvesting of the native land foods, the list goes on and on. Now, to further minimize their hopes for healthy families is to strip the

elder of senior benefits, eliminate early childhood education programs and Medicaid that provides health care benefits in these rural communities and to reduce/lapse the VPSO funds who are the only public officers in villages to enforce the law.

A very positive impact for rural Alaskan youth is education. University of Alaska is the heartbeat and hope for Alaskans to become educated within their own state and to become educated and compete in a global world; the Artic Research (IARC) is a program that will educate and provide a lens with an overarching view of our earths changes that is affecting our lives. Artic Research is an important program for our Alaska and internationally.

Thank you for your time. As you can see these vetoes are a chain reaction to the well-being of our State of Alaska.

I respectfully request to put "Alaskan's First" and carefully consider and restore the vetoes.

From: Lois Rodrigues <lois.rodrigues@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:45 PM

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

Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is Lois Rodrigues and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy. I believe the proposed cuts would be devastating to my community and to all of Alaska. The PFD was a bonus, but has become an expectation; it is time to consider eliminating it altogether. It is definitely not as important as our schools, our seniors, and our communities.

From: claudia <claudiaa.ak@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:45 PM

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

Subject: HB2001

I have lived in Alaska since 1972. I was here when we started the Permanent Fund, when we had a school tax and an income tax.

I SUPPORT HB 2001.

The vetos were above and beyond philosophy. They were fiscally irresponsible.

I support a full PFD, if we have an income tax. I support a balanced budget. I do NOT support putting the state into an economic tail spin. Education is the State's responsibility. Education includes internet to the Bush and public broadcasting.

Thank you for hanging in there. Thank you for being our democracy's representatives.

Claudia Anderson

3964 Cliffside
POB 310
Kodiak, AK 99615

From: Celia Rozen <rozencelia@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB2001

I am writing in support of HB2001. I was proud of our legislature this year. You came up with a compromise budget. You caucused and worked across the aisle, legislators stepped up and negotiated fairly. You knew the Governor's budget was bad for Alaska and you did something about it: you came up with a budget that had reasonable cuts, that didn't hurt Alaska.

Then came the Governor's vetoes and that's when there was gridlock between you. Dunleavy successfully divided you, as seemed to be his intent. You need to find the spirit to work together again. Although I believe the legislators who are in Juneau are acting properly and legally, you all need to be in one place. If that involves swallowing your pride and going to Wasilla, so be it. You all need to be in one place to get this work done. The 22 in Wasilla who are acting like they work for the Governor are wrong, but they are very stubborn; more stubborn than the legislators in Juneau. Please compromise and go to them if necessary, so we can get this important work done.

I don't support what people are calling a "full" dividend, yet I know you are hearing from people who do, who call it "the people's money." At the hearing in Anchorage I heard a woman say "we're not buying toys" with this money. What about all those big TVs streaming out of Costco after the pay-out? Anecdotal evidence, I admit, but it's obvious that, for some people, the PFD is merely used for frivolous purchases, but for some, it is essential. The formula needs to be changed as it is no longer sustainable. It needs to be based on the current economy, not the economy 37 years ago in 1982 that will this year overdraw the Permanent Fund.

Whatever the final amount of the dividend, we need revenue in this state to provide continuing services that Alaskans cannot do without, including K-12, the University, and the arts. Foremost, I believe the oil tax credits have to be revoked or modified. In addition, I would support an income tax that is cheaper to operate than a sales tax. I came to Alaska in the 1970s when we still paid a small income tax and a school tax. I was at that time a much lower wage earner and that was before kids, but it didn't hurt and I supported the school tax. I see public services as a positive for everyone's lives and education as our future. When you were sworn in, I expect that you promised to uphold the constitution of Alaska. Article VII covers health, education, and welfare, all of which come under the vetoes. The Alaska Supreme Court has interpreted Article VII to "impose a duty upon the state legislature" to maintain the public schools and it "guarantees all children of Alaska a right to public education." If Dunleavy has his way, this will be a substandard education, due to the extreme cuts. Legislators, please do not let this happen and thank you for suing the governor over the one-time education funds. Please do not destroy the Alaska we know and love. Please work together to restore state services. Thank you.

Celia Rozen, 3711 Amber Bay Loop, Anchorage 99515 (District 24)

From: Virginia Farmier <virginia@truenorthcpa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:48 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001 hearing

Dear Representatives,

I support a PFD of \$1,600 for fiscal year 2020, therefore I support HB2001. We really need funding for the University and education, Medicaid, Council for the Arts, senior citizens, marine highway system and public safety. We need to make sure the State of Alaska match any federal funds so we don't lose that funding, including the funding for the art council. I really hope you will **pull together** and keep Alaska from losing more jobs, and the quality of life we have come to appreciate here. **WE deserve better!!**

The State of Alaska's future is in your hands. I've kept my commits short but they are very sincere.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia N. Farmier
Fairbanks Resident since 1972

From: Jeanne Kitayama <jeannek@aptalaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:46 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore the funding!

Please **restore the vetoed funding** in the operating budget! The chain effect of Dunleavy's veto is going to harm us all. Cutting early childhood education, the Alaska Marine Highway, and the Alaska State Council on the Arts provide essential services to our society now and in the future. Tax the oil companies, reduce the permanent fund - and restore what's so important to Alaskan life.

Thank you,
Jeanne Kitayama
PO Box 911
Haines, AK. 99827
jeannek@aptalaska.net

From: Anna Widman <AWidman@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:48 PM

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

Subject: Finance Committee

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to request restored funding to the state budget, which includes the Alaska State Council on the Arts. I am so deeply saddened that this has happened and I honestly could not have imagined my leaders would make a decision like this.

The only class that kept me going through school was the arts. This is true for many of my students as well. The arts have saved entire community and in recent years they have saved my life. Come see my exhibition or hear my talk on July 25th if you want to know more (https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.facebook.com_events_199078997695172_&d=DwIFAw&c=Q8iJasR7RZ-J0Fd9RXD9ZA&r=a5pDORdnYs7kR4VjhUDiyLmbIkyX7D-bQzoi8NQbiqI&m=WBUCWuNloVFvywlzcixehe07MxFcFDIJX-NwPupWx9I&s=DUM2XPKfYwXiqN5_ji5Q0BtKTGRqRQztgIY-wUU-bz0&e=<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.facebook.com_events_199078997695172_&d=DwMFAw&c=Q8iJasR7RZ-J0Fd9RXD9ZA&r=Y1WLp46KpOqhmlSdm_tM2eUuxeOZVj-gePvmWK3TxlceWJgnlg23xIVgsZSxPZ_F&m=yP_mal3iAfMrB9IbURKXw4w025FaSK32mx3pY9YHV2g&s=dH7-FU8kTQ-N9QihYePluaq33allxjr8L2LbXDI6H7g&e=>) Art is culture and culture is what keeps our children excited about life. My heart is breaking at the thought of what our state is on it's way to. I beg you to please look at what ASCA has done for Alaska in its many years. Communities that have no access to arts education and preservation depend on it. For many schools their artist in residency program is the only way students are reached with the fine arts. ASCA's grants have provided my community with leaders and events that have created two large collaborative murals that bring ownership and life to the town. Please for the future of our state and the well being of our children do not let this organization go. We are now the only state in the union denying to meet the federal contribution to this fine arts service thus eliminating this program. This has taken out leveraging power of the state arts agency. Without a state commitment to ASCA, the agency will not be eligible to secure a share of National Endowment for the Arts funds. Those dollars will be allocated elsewhere, leaving Alaskan taxpayers to foot the bill for the arts in other states not a great use for our states monies. Let's be a state that cares about it's communities and relationships not just a state that sees numbers and corporations. These cuts are hurting our children and vulnerable populations. Please fund our arts, culture, education

From: michele doyle <mdoyle20@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:50 PM

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

Subject: I support HB2001

I came to testify in person but due to personal responsibilities had to leave before it was my turn. I appreciate the Committee taking the time to hear from community members at this critical time. I came to speak in support of HB2001. I implore the legislature to restore Operating Budget that was adopted by the Legislature. My heart is breaking thinking about the possibility of the governor's line item vetoes remaining in place, because I know it would be the end of the Alaska I have come to love and cherish. I am 50 years old and have lived in Alaska for 25 years, it is home. I have raised two kids who graduated from West Valley High School this year and I am afraid there is no future for them here in Alaska, or myself and husband if we don't restore the budget.

We are already feeling the impact. My daughter worked very hard for the last 4 years to earn the Alaska Performance Scholarship. Many sacrifices were made on her part and on the part of the rest of our family to ensure she maintained the standards to earn this scholarship. She is enrolled at UAF and was planning on attending as a freshman in the fall. She was approved for a loan and between the value of the loan and the value of the scholarship it just covers the cost of

tuition. Without the scholarship we are unsure if she will be able to attend in the fall. As well we are unsure if her program will still be in place after the proposed cuts to the University.

It is certain that our property taxes will go up if the governor's budget goes through and it is also certain that the value of our home will decrease at the same time. I am no economist but it isn't hard to see how quickly the economy will tank and how quickly things will become very challenging for the average citizen. What it will create is a desperate situation for many people to simply meet their basic needs to feed and house themselves. The elderly, the sick, and the young people of this great State will be the most immediate to suffer. But it won't end there; we will all be impacted whether directly or indirectly, because desperate people resort to desperate actions when they can't meet their basic needs. We can expect crime rates, death rates, and drug usage to increase, among other things impacting safety and security.

So, if these cuts don't touch your heart, they certainly should make an impression in your head. These kinds of cuts will cost dearly in the long term and it will take a long time to recover from them. All you have to do is read the national news. They all say the same thing. I haven't read a single article that was in support of these cuts.

We need responsible governance with a vision for our future. Not just cuts for the sake of cuts. I am in support of an income tax or sales tax. I don't care what amount of PFD I receive. Don't get me wrong. The PFD has always been a blessing and has always been used to pay bills in our house and never used for anything extravagant. But I understand when times are tough you make concessions. And you certainly don't ask a bigger hand out at the expense of the State. It is short sighted and immoral what this governor is doing.

Thank you for your time and consideration

From: jim black <akjimblack@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:48 PM

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

Subject: House Bill 2001 is a scam! And Legislators who support it are trying to take away our money.

This bill is deceptive. It uses the term 'special appropriation' in a way that implies 'extra', as though the bill will provide an additional payment on top of our regular

annual dividend.

And. the wording of the bill is intentionally vague and therefore misleading. The use of that term 'special appropriation' implies a single, one-time pay-out, By not

clearly stating that the 'special appropriation' is not a single, one-time pay-out , the bill avoids stating the truth: the \$1600. is meant to be the exact annual amount paid

to us.

HB 2001 will steal our money. Supporters of this bill are thieves

From: Sam Norlin <sam.norlin@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:52 PM

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

Subject: Save education and our State

Dear House Finance committee,

Please shift funds from the PFD to support a livable state.

My parents were schoolteachers in rural Alaska in the 1970s. I was born in Anchorage and lived in the Village of Akiachak, up river from Bethel where they taught elementary school.

Many years later I moved back to Alaska and earned a teacher certification from UAF. Now I live in Fairbanks and work at the University developing and implementing STEM education programs to teachers and students throughout the state. I've worked with teachers and students in many parts Alaska and have seen the importance that a safe, accessible and caring school community is for our children and families. I have also seen the deep challenge we have as a state in recruiting and retaining teachers and the hard and long term work that the University has done in developing and training homegrown Alaskan teachers.

Gutting the University is the very last logical thing to do for our children, our families or our economy. Without K-12 and higher education our children and young adults who have the means will leave Alaska for an education in the Lower 48. Only 1/3 of college students who leave AK ever return home. Massively cutting the University will only force more students outside for opportunities, increasing the 'brain drain' of talented engineers, teachers, nurses, safety officers, fisheries workers, wildlife biologists, and business leaders that we need as a state.

Please fund education and not force our next generation of Alaskans outside.

Thank you,

Sam Norlin
907-451-1988

From: Alex Prichard <akprichard@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB2001, smaller pfd, income taxes

I am writing to encourage you to fully fund all the cuts made by the governor's reckless and irresponsible vetoes. These vetoes have already plunged the state into chaos, done irreparable harm and caused real human suffering. We now have multiple lawsuits, downgrading of UA bond ratings, threats about loss of accreditation, teachers and professors leaving the state, loss of hospice care, Medicaid patients who had their teeth pulled but can no longer afford dentures, and hard working college students who suddenly lost the scholarship they earned and were promised. We are all on edge wondering who of our friends will lose their jobs, which ones will leave the state, which of our businesses will fail. All this just for the equivalent of an increase in PFDs of about \$700. This money will go quickly for the estimated 4,200 people who will lose their job, the thousands that will have to move, the college student who have to go expensive out-of-state colleges, and everyone who will pay higher local taxes and higher health insurance premiums. Over the long-term we will be a poorer state with a lower quality of life. These budget cuts seem designed to cause pain and hurt the economy. They are fiscal arson by our governor.

Sincerely,

Alex Prichard
Fairbanks, AK

From: Olivia Lunsford <oliviaklunsford@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Testimony, PFD & Budget

Name: Olivia Lunsford
Address: 1134 Candamar Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 266, Ester, AK 99725

To whom it may concern,

I have worked in and around local government in Fairbanks, Alaska for a number of years now. You might also know me as a bartender at your favorite watering hole in town. In these roles, I've heard a lot of conversation over the years about Alaskans, our needs, our dislikes, and ultimately the flurry of opinions about our State.

In a lot of these conversations, as is not unfamiliar to many of you, I have heard the antipathy Alaskans hold toward government. Whether it be local, state, or federal, there is almost always a grievance that is followed by a, "Why don't they just leave damn well alone?"

YET - As it often happens, conversations like this continue, maybe the chatter dissipates, maybe folks talk about sports or gardening, OR the snow piling on the sidewalks in downtown, or the bike path with a hugely disruptive gauge in the middle of a busy section, or how awesome the maps have been for helping folks track wildfire activity near their homes or loved ones. All government related.

This incredibly polarized conversation - that occurs so, so often - unified by the common topic of our beloved Last Frontier - enlightens me on the very real challenge of us even remaining a State in years to come.

This nonsense surrounding a PFD - that we have to literally pay almost HALF back to the IRS - appalls me as a resident and lover of all things Alaska.

Being HUMANS who are existing in this arctic environment and demanding so much from it in terms of energy, goods, infrastructure, space, mobility, and more... we owe it to this land to care for it.

We need to look at the challenges we gripe about with a little more personal scrutiny, as well as more emotion and connection - because with these elements, a greater sense of responsibility is often recognized... and the current, proposed budget and the reimbursement of PFD's (which contributed to caring for our State), is irresponsible. The budget and reimbursement strategy only communicates to me *just how much* so many people who live in this State do not seem to truly care about it from the perspective of keeping it relevant, maintained, and Alaskan.

DO NOT reimburse the PFD.

DO NOT allow this new proposed axe of a budget to go through.

TAX US for the things we demand solely by choosing this State as a place to live.

and have a lovely evening.

Sincerely,

Olivia

From: Mindy Gallagher <mwgallagher@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: LIO Fairbanks <Lio.Fairbanks@akleg.gov>
Subject: Dunleavy's veto of the budget

I am disgusted and dismayed at the irresponsible actions of Governor Dunleavy in vetoing the budget which had been hashed out by the legislature during their session. In particular, his veto axes K-12 school funding a short 3 weeks before school starts, giving the school districts little time to react. In addition, he is taking away funding for headstart programs, the university, public services, and a myriad of other services which this state relies on. His charade of holding a legislative meeting in the gym at Wasilla underscores his total ineptness and lack of financial responsibility to the people of this state. How much money and time did he waste on this farce? And why? So that he can hand out \$3000 to each Alaskan? We will each lose far more from the losses of the programs he wants to ax. For example, I understand that Moody's has now reduced the credit rating of the University, which will increase the amount of their debt, because they do not see the state as proper fiscal stewards. Matching grants are being lost all over because he wants to take away the state part of these payments, further reducing the funding available. He may think he was elected and supported by many Alaskans, but he was elected only because of the fiasco of the elections last fall, with the independent incumbent withdrawing in the final days.

The only line item veto I want to see at this point is the one authorizing the governor's salary, and the salaries of his sycophants, many of whom are not even Alaskans. We need to recall this governor because he doesn't understand or care about the untenable situation he is placing the state into!

Sincerely,

Melinda Gallagher
Ester, AK

From: Sidney Stephens <sidneystephens048@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:49 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 2001

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am appalled by the Dunleavy Budget and its impact on all Alaskans now and in the future. To put it mildly, his plan is short-sighted, ill-conceived and stupid.

I believe this is the rainy day for which the Permanent Fund was originally set aside and therefore believe we should use the PFD to pay for important state services like K-12 education, the University of Alaska, Medicaid, social services, the arts and so on.

If this \$1600 PFD amount is the only reduction capable of passing the House and Senate, then I urge you to pass it. But my preferences overall would be to reduce the dividend even further or to eliminate the PFD payouts altogether and use those monies for funding necessary services..

Thank you for your consideration and work.

Sidney Stephens
Fairbanks, AK

From: Cedar Cussins <cedarcussins@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:57 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Restore Funding for Alaska State Council on Arts, University, Elderly, Homeless, Medicaid

Hello,

I attempted to call in today but was told to expect a wait of 2 - 3 hours. As I am not able to say on the phone that long, I am writing in.

I have not had the opportunity to read the text of House Bill 2001, so I will not speak to it directly.

I am absolutely for restoring funding that was vetoed by Governor Dunleavy. The budget passed by the legislature was bipartisan, well-considered and mostly reasonable. The vetoes were not reasonable. They have created chaos, plunged us into uncertainty and are already damaging our state.

Education is important.
Keeping promises of scholarships to our youth is important.
Arts are important.
Healthcare is important.
Safety is important.
Rural safety is important.
Housing the homeless is important.
Lowering energy prices in rural Alaska is important.

I am a life-long Alaskan. My husband and our two children were born here. Our families are here. I want to live in a vibrant, thriving, safe, beautiful state. For too long, I have seen crime rates rise and the Alaskan recession drag on. Before these vetoes, I was feeling optimistic that we were pulling out of the recession. Now, I am terrified and certain that the recession will return with a fury making my family's future here bleak.

While the dividend is important for low-income families and taking it away is effectively an incredibly regressive tax, we will all pay far more than the dividend if all of these cuts stand.

I support a reduced dividend until a more broad-based tax can be agreed on.

In the future, I support a broad-based tax. Income tax. Sales tax. Whichever is cheaper to administer. We must get away from having a government that is so completely reliant on oil revenues.

Thank you,
Cedar Cussins
Muldoon, Anchorage

From: pstark@mosquitonet.com <pstark@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony

I have a broken kneecap and cannot attend to testify. Please put this email in as my testimony. Please cap the PFD as low as possible in order to fund the university, public education, pre K programs, medicaid, the ferry system, and other social service programs that Gov. Dunleavy cut. I am willing to pay an income tax, school tax, sales tax etc. We can not afford to let the Governor's budget stay. The university cannot sustain his cuts. We need the programs listed above for Alaska to remain the Alaska we know and love. We do not need a \$3,000 PFD. We do need a good university and public education system as well as other social services.

Patricia Stark
P.O. Box 82525
Fairbanks, AK 99708

From: Garrett Armstrong <garrettarmstrong86@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony Supporting HB 2001

Good Afternoon,

This is Garrett Armstrong. I am an early-career teacher, born and raised in Fairbanks, and have spent my teaching career in the North Slope Borough School District and will enter a new position in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. I am also an alumnus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' School of Education, and am pleased to be a teacher who studied and teach in his hometown and educate the next generation of Alaskans.

My experience in both regions has shown me the wide range of lifestyles, and how state services support rural communities. I took part in a community listening to Willie Hensley giving a lecture at Tuzzy Library in Utqiagvik while in Point Lay via OWL, for example. KBRW, Utqiagvik's radio station, was also rebroadcasted there and is a mainstay in houses across the village. The community of Point Lay also benefited tremendously from the tidy, well-maintained

school, the roads were maintained well with the local Public Works station, and the North Slope Borough's Search and Rescue saved lives at least once in the past school year.

All of these services are at risk with the current budget. I am gravely concerned with this, since I know it would affect all of Alaska seriously. Speaking for myself, since I have moved to Fairbanks, I have renewed my library card at the Noel Wien Library, listen to KUAC nightly for my news, and am planning on taking continuing education classes at UAF while teaching full-time with the FNSB School District. All of these institutions are at risk under the current budget, and I know that there are members of my community who rely on services from the State of Alaska or the local municipal governments more than I do.

I support these services because there are no alternatives to some state services here in Alaska, even in larger communities such as Fairbanks. I strongly encourage the house finance committee and all state representatives to support HB 2001 and recollect the people whose lives depend on the state services that could be cut back or disappear next year under the current budget.

Sincerely,

Garrett Armstrong, M. Ed.

From: Thomas Heywood <heywood@aptalaska.net>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:17 PM

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

Subject: House Bill 2001

I am writing you today in support of House Bill 2001, reinstating the funding for all the items that were vetoed by Governor Dunleavy. We should not allow the Governor to put our state in an economic tailspin and destroy so much of what we hold dear with his vicious vetoes. Should his vetoes go through, it will be devastating to all Alaskans, particularly those most in need, and I have no doubt that we will see an exodus from the state as a direct result.

Personally, I would be happy to forgo my PFD in favor of overriding the Governor's line item vetoes. I also think it's time for the oil and mining industries to pay their fair share to the state rather than being the recipients of tax credits and benefits at the expense of all Alaskans.

Please vote to right Governor Dunleavy's wrongs!

Thank you for your consideration.

Liz Heywood, a 38-year Alaskan resident
Haines, Alaska

From: Pat Virden <pat7.pv@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:01 PM

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

Subject: University

It's too bad so many people from Juneau have all that time & money to fly all over the state & dominate these hearings.

Keep in mind the vast majority of people testifying proudly about their degree from UA probably were able to pay for it because their parents saved their PFDs for them for years. I hope you won't take that uniquely Alaskan dream away from our current children by squandering their PFD money on excess social programs. Some social programs yes, but people don't benefit from a lifetime of dependence.

Please take note of information regarding decentralization of various components of UA to save \$\$ & freshen the atmosphere.

Please engage the Governor & compromise.

Eugene & Pat Virden
Eagle River

From: Sonja Benson <sonja@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:03 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sonja Benson <sonja@mosquitonet.com>
Subject: Testimony, House Finance Committee July 17, 2019

Thank you for holding this hearing today and for standing by the original budget you passed earlier this year. And thank you to those of you who voted to override the governor's vetoes that cut out so many important elements of that budget.

The governor's budget vetoes will cause irreparable harm to the University of Alaska, whose credit rating, as a result, has already been downgraded. The University is a unique, world-class Arctic research and teaching institution that employs thousands of people. It is an economic powerhouse for our communities, leveraging multiples of the dollars it receives in state funding. That money flows directly into Alaska's economy.

It is obvious that the governor's cuts are not in the best interests of our state. Investment in educating our children and our workforce, our arts council, which also leverages many dollars for every dollar of state funding received, and in protecting and caring for our most vulnerable neighbors, benefit all of us. The governor's statement that a \$3,000 dividend will make up for some of the pink slips or the increase in homeless people out in the cold is disingenuous. What can the governor be thinking? He can't have thought through the consequences of his actions.

The acting, Outside so-called budget director hired by the governor says that her job wasn't to study the impacts of these cuts. All she needed to do was take an axe to a pile of numbers. But that requires no expertise in budgeting or anything else. She knows nothing about Alaska or its university or its demographics, or, really, anything. Therefore, she's grossly overpaid. (Eliminating her salary would feed the homeless in Anchorage for a year.) She and the governor apparently think they're only dealing with numbers. But these are real people and their families whose lives and livelihoods are being devastated.

These cuts will destroy the University of Alaska and cause great harm to thousands of Alaskans in all walks of life. These cuts include the VPSO program, at a time when the U.S. attorney general has declared a law enforcement emergency in rural Alaska. Yet these cuts, combined, amount to less than half of what is being given to the oil industry in tax credits. More than a Billion dollars. That's Billion with a B. So, to say we *have* to make these cuts is simply not true. We're making a choice. We're placing largesse toward the richest corporations on the planet above the greater good and the future of our state, its communities, and the most vulnerable among us. This is simply shameful, and a terrible legacy to our future.

If we don't look at ending the tax credits to the oil industry and developing new revenue through a state income or sales tax, we're not being serious about the concept of living within our means. How could a family live within their means if their biggest budget outlay is the kids allowance, followed next by a fat donation to the millionaires in the mansion next door? What's left for food, lights, rent? We seem intent on ensuring that we *have* no means.

I urge you today to stand by your original operating budget. Pass HB 2001 and work again to override any new vetoes. Then work on repealing the oil tax credits and developing new sources of revenue. Restore funding to the institutions and programs that help make Alaska a great place to live. Stop the bleeding. People are leaving, businesses are folding, families are stressed out and hurting, and it has to stop.

Thank you. And *Bon Courage*!!!!

Sincerely,
Sonja L. Benson
P.O. Box 82860
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

From: Elizabeth Hanson <echanson@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:04 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 2001

I have lived in Alaska for 34 years. During this time, I have been involved with and worked for social and educational services. While I brought up two children who have grown into successful contributors to society, I have been proud of the Alaskan perspective that our children are our most valued resource and our seniors are our important legacy. Services that our Governor has cut from our budget, such as, Head Start and much of the University system and senior services does not align with my 34 years of life in Alaska.

I sat through the testimony today in Fairbanks, and I am sad to hear some young people selfishly promote the large PFD handout. "We have earned that money" was said - I ask you and all I know, how have we "earned" that money? Because you were born in Alaska, you earned that money? Because you moved here? Because you have never paid an income tax? The only people I know who have earned that money are the people who have tirelessly worked in the services that are now in danger of being abandoned by our Governor. Ironically, those are the people that are willing to "give up" the handout for the greater good.

Our state needs a strong University system to ensure a thoughtful population of people who will protect our environment, youth, elders and economy. We need public schools that keep the bar high and create productive members of the Alaskan society and more importantly the world. We need programs such as Head Start - a data driven successful program that raise educational success of underserved children. We cannot afford to lower the bar.

Restore the budget and continue to propose other revenue opportunities such as an income tax and reduced oil company tax breaks. Do the right thing.

Elizabeth Hanson
2010 Coalition Lane
Fairbanks AK 99712

From: Jackie and Edward Debevec <akdebevec@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:12 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: need jobs and services more than a dividend

17 July 2019

To the House Finance Committee:

I work at the university and would rather have a job than a dividend. My wife works at the university and I would gladly give up my dividend so she has a job. Hundreds of others, some we know and many we don't, work at the university and I would rather give up my dividend than see them lose their jobs. But it's not just UA. I would rather have public radio and television than a dividend. I would rather have a thriving art community than a dividend. I would rather Medicaid be available for the people who need it than a dividend. I would rather seniors have affordable housing and care than my dividend.

If things are so bad in this state that the governor felt he had to veto close to half a billion dollars from the budget, then I don't see how we can afford to hand out what some call a "full" dividend. This is an expense like any other and if the university and so many agencies have to tighten their belts when times are tough, then so do we, the people of Alaska. I support either no dividend this year or a minimal amount of, say, \$1000. I want Alaska to be a state where we all care about each other and take care of each other. I can't justify cutting all those thousands of dollars of services that help so many people and keep our state alive just so I can have another \$3000 of "free" money.

Thank you for listening.
Edward Debevec
3662 Hardluck Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: nancy fresco <nancyfresco@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: testimony

Dear Legislators,

I waited for two hours at the Fairbanks LIO today, but could not stay long enough to give my testimony. Thus I submitted it in written form, and am copying it here. I would like to add, that in addition to the statement I prepared, I just learned that Moody's (national financial service company) just downgraded the university by THREE notches, thus wrecking our credit and greatly increasing our costs. This is yet another terrible blow to Alaska caused by the governor's budget cuts.

Testimony to the House Finance Committee, July 17, 2019, Fairbanks LIO
Legislators, thank you for this opportunity to address you.

I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 2001, which would set the PFD for this year, restore funding removed via line-item veto, and accomplish the "reverse sweep" that is essential for funding some state programs.

I could direct my comments in so many different ways, appealing to your love of Alaska's people as I beg you not to take away health care, homeless shelters, village safety officers and so many other crucial services. But with only two minutes, I'll focus on my own story.

I have a PhD from UAF, and I work at UAF. My husband grew up in Skagway, earned a performance scholarship, graduated from UAF, and has worked at UAF ever since. Like everyone else, we spend money in local restaurants, stores, businesses, garages. We built our home with locally harvested wood from Northland Lumber, Fairbanks. We heat our home with locally produced wood pellets from Superior Pellets, North Pole. We love our community, and we love Alaska.

You might think that I'm here to plead for the jobs that support us and our two kids – and that's true. I'm deeply worried. But both our jobs are supported almost entirely not by state funds, but by grants – competitive grants from NASA, from NOAA, from BLM, from the government of Canada, from the US military, and more. If our university is undermined, if we start slashing departments and faculty, we will lose our competitive edge, and lose the ability to pull in this out-of-state money.

I'd support other ways to improve Alaska's budget, including taxing my income or my property. But hacking and slashing is desperately short-sighted, and will harm not only my family, but our community, our economy, and our state.

Again, thank you.

Nancy Fresco
93 Roxie Road
Fairbanks AK 99709
907-888-6960

From: Catherine Hanks <clhanks@mac.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:14 PM

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

Subject: I support UAF and more!

House Finance committee—

I am a long-time Alaskan that worked as a geologist for both the oil industry and UAF. I have spent my entire working life in Alaska, raised two daughters here and retired here. I value the true American values I have found in Fairbanks, including doing it for yourself wherever possible while being a contributing part of the community.

Even back in territorial days, the highly independent citizens of Alaska recognized the value of education, technology and the arts. Those are what allowed them to conquer the unique environment of Alaska and psychological stresses caused by that environment while building a vibrant economy and maintaining their creativity.

Now, thanks to the governor's draconian cuts, we are looking at a dismantling of that community. Alaska is now the only state without an arts council, resulting in millions of dollars of immediate loss in federal and private grants. Dozens of service agencies that serve the most vulnerable members of our community now are floundering or closing. UA is losing students as confidence in UA drops. Federal agencies have suspended awarding millions of dollars in research grants to UA due to uncertainty as to whether there will be a university to conduct the proposed research. Just today, UA's bond rating was drastically reduced by Moody's, a terrible statement of a lack of confidence in our state.

Is this a vision of our future? A state with no community and a third world education system? Who would want to live in such a future?

I urge you to support the future of our state by funding the university, the arts and the social services to the level necessary for our state to move forward into the future and not go back to the past. PLEASE develop a stable funding mechanism—be it income tax, sales tax or using a portion of the PFD—that will make this happen!

Respectfully,

Cathy Hanks

[709 Sparrow Court](#)
[Fairbanks, Alaska 99709](#)

Date: July 17, 2019 at 4:36:24 PM AKDT

To: "housefinance@akleg.gov" <housefinance@akleg.gov>

Subject: PFDs/State budget: Restore program funding; reduce PFD cash payments

Dear Members of House Finance Committee:

I am writing to urge you and the entire legislature to take any action necessary to restore funding for those budget items subject to the governor's budget vetoes. Thank you for presenting a reasonable budget to the governor's office. It's unfortunate that your budget proposal was not considered by the governor.

The governor's vetoes will result in loss of services and programs in the state to such an extent that many residents would be forced to leave Alaska to find work, and no ambitious and achieving high school senior would seriously consider going to the University of Alaska. The state's economy would spiral downward.

It is incredible given the state's financial woes and the governor's vetoes that payment of a full Permanent Fund Dividend is even being discussed. I believe the governor has promised a full dividend to distract voters from the real impact of the devastating reductions in the state budget he would put in place. Payment of a full dividend is not in either the short or long term interest of the state. The State of Alaska simply cannot afford to give away money at this time.

I would support reinstatement of a progressive state income tax and decreasing or eliminating oil tax credits as a way to address the state's long term finances and to permit a modest PFD. Combustion of carbon fuels is responsible for global warming and climate change. Logically the Permanent Fund should be dedicated first to mitigating the impacts of climate change. I know that course is not politically viable at this time, but in any event funding cash payments to residents should be the last priority, not the first.

Thank you for your service in the legislature.

Dan Callahan

[P.O.Box](#) 71621
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

From: Joanna Young <joannayo1@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:15 PM

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

Subject: Reinstate the UA budget

Dear Representatives,

Please provide supplemental funding for the University of Alaska. I live in Representative Hopkin's district in Fairbanks.

I am a PhD student at UAF and am deeply concerned about the future of the university and, as a consequence, the state. The impacts of a cut so severe and so immediate will be irreversible and long-lasting: for the quality of education for future and current students, for the availability of a talented and trained work force for Alaska, for the state and local economies if 1300 employees and countless discouraged students leave the state, and for the future of Arctic research that is necessary for our state to adapt to changing times.

I was attracted to UAF in 2010 because of its the world-class reputation as THE place in North America to study glaciers, my area of study. I came to do a Masters, and was so enamored with the state, UAF, the people, and the quality of my education that I decided to stay for a PhD, which I will soon complete. I am about to enter the job market armed with a load of skills I gained here at UAF. I would like to stay in AK and contribute meaningful information and decision-making power to resource managers and communities that rely on knowledge of water resources and landscape change in order to adapt.

Make no mistake, if the university falls into an economic and intellectual recession, I will be forced to leave my beloved Fairbanks. I simply can't afford to stay if the value of my newly-purchased home (I am a first time homeowner) declines, if the support and resources necessary to do my work are reduced and, worst, if my potential job as a researcher at UAF vanishes altogether

I don't want to leave, but the UA budget cut will make it nearly impossible for my partner and I (also at UAF as a staff member) to stay. Hundreds of other friends and colleagues are bound to face the same awful decision.

Please provide supplemental funding to UA to maintain the strong institution we have, for the present and for the state's future.

Thank you for your service,

-Joanna Young

1760 Short Dr

Fairbanks, AK

99709

From: Brian Charlton <bcskijor@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:16 PM

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

Subject: Testimony

I could not make it to testify in person but i support reducing the dividend and oil tax credits to restore any and all services that have been cut.

Date: July 17, 2019 at 4:36:24 PM AKDT

To: "housefinance@akleg.gov" <housefinance@akleg.gov>

Subject: PFDs/State budget: Restore program funding; reduce PFD cash payments

Dear Members of House Finance Committee:

I am writing to urge you and the entire legislature to take any action necessary to restore funding for those budget items subject to the governor's budget vetoes. Thank you for presenting a reasonable budget to the governor's office. It's unfortunate that your budget proposal was not considered by the governor.

The governor's vetoes will result in loss of services and programs in the state to such an extent that many residents would be forced to leave Alaska to find work, and no ambitious and achieving high school senior would seriously consider going to the University of Alaska. The state's economy would spiral downward.

It is incredible given the state's financial woes and the governor's vetoes that payment of a full Permanent Fund Dividend is even being discussed. I believe the governor has promised a full dividend to distract voters from the real impact of the devastating reductions in the state budget he would put in place. Payment of a full dividend is not in either the short or long term interest of the state. The State of Alaska simply cannot afford to give away money at this time.

I would support reinstatement of a progressive state income tax and decreasing or eliminating oil tax credits as a way to address the state's long term finances and to permit a modest PFD. Combustion of carbon fuels is responsible for global warming and climate change. Logically the Permanent Fund should be dedicated first to mitigating the impacts of climate change. I know that course is not politically viable at this time, but in any event funding cash payments to residents should be the last priority, not the first.

Thank you for your service in the legislature.

Jamie Callahan

[P.O.Box](mailto:jamie.callahan@akleg.gov) 71621

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

From: Dawn Brashear <dawnelisebrashear@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:17 PM

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

Subject: Reprehensible cuts to UAF have destroyed my family's finances

Dear Legislators,

At the hands of Mr. Dunleavy and several legislators, the **reprehensible** decision to cut the UAF by 40% and steal the AK Performance Scholarships from our young citizens, has **destroyed** our family and **damaged** our community. The following is a partial list of the damages you have inflicted upon my family:

1. After 25 years of excellence, my husband will lose his job as a tenured Professor
2. My husband will lose his tuition waiver benefit for our 2 children (UAF students)
3. My children have had their AK Performance Scholarships stolen from them
4. My family will have to **suddenly come up with \$150,000** for college tuition
5. My daughter will be forced to attend college out of AK because her major will be eliminated
6. The nearly **unbearable** emotional distress that has **severely and negatively impacted** our 26 years of commitment to Fairbanks and our careful financial planning for our children's education and our retirement.

You just **shoved** high quality Alaskan citizens out of the state and **slammed** the door on my children's desire to stay in a state that **abuses** them. The **destruction** you have done is nearly unforgivable; and, it **will NOT be forgotten**.

Dawn Brashear

775 Merlin Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 590-6078

From: Elizabeth Parr <elizabeth@nsbfairbanks.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 2001

To the House Finance Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 2001.

Dunleavy's budget is unconscionable. The proposed budget cuts will make Fairbanks unlivable. I was born and raised in Fairbanks, experiencing all the benefits of having libraries, arts education, and a university in my backyard. I graduated high school and moved to Seattle and earned a BFA in Dance. Post matriculation I wanted to move back to Alaska, but there were no jobs in my field. So, I lived away from my family spending all of my vacation time and money to come back and visit this great state. I lived outside for 12 years wishing I could be home. It wasn't until 2017 when I was offered a position at **North Star Ballet** that my dreams came true and I was able to move back home to Fairbanks.

Since returning to Fairbanks I have taught two Creative Dance residencies in public schools funded and facilitated by **Alaska State Council for the Arts** and **Fairbanks Arts Association**. I have taught 3 dance camps through **UAF Summer Sessions and Life Long Learning**. I have taught two free multigenerational dance classes at the **Noel Wien Public Library**. I have had the honor and privilege of becoming an instructor for the **Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival** after attending it as a student for over a decade. Our local and state arts communities and organizations have made my life in Alaska not only possible, but joyful, rewarding, inspiring, and stimulating. The arts matter because people matter.

Dunleavy's budget will devastate Fairbanks. I know of no family or individual that will be left unharmed. If you cannot restore funding by using my PFD please institute a state income tax. I am begging you to keep these programs alive and make Alaska a great place to live.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Parr

Volunteer Coordinator
North Star Ballet
elizabeth@nsbfairbanks.org

970 Water Thrush Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99712
206-954-4929

From: tamara lodge <tflodge@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Healthy state, not inflated PFD

Thank you for taking the time to review the PFD. As important as the PFD is to so many Alaskans, it is not worth sacrificing the health of the state. The PFD should only pay out what it can each year without depleting other funds.
Thank you

Tamara Martz

From: Christi Buffington <buffingtonchristi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001 Testimony - Restore funding of vetoed items

Dear Finance Standing Committee and Alaska Legislature,

I am submitting written testimony because I am unable to arrive in person. I ask that you vote for HB2001 - Appropriations for the Permanent Fund to restore all funding of all vetoed items.

I moved to Alaska in 2018 because I care about Alaska and Alaskans. I am an educator and researcher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. As a former grade 6-12 science and math teacher, I now provide teacher training in hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) with Alaska communities as the back-drop to conduct impactful science investigations. The project is funded by NASA and the National Science Foundation, with the match consisting of office space and administration staff at UAF. The teachers and students we empower go on to present their research at the state, federal, and international levels - all with out-of-state funding. In turn, the students' passion for science issues unique to Alaska leverage even more outside funding to flow into Alaska to benefit Alaskans and its ecosystems. The Governor's vetoes and the Legislature's inability to override them jeopardize millions of dollars of outside funding, as well as opportunities for Alaska teachers, students, and communities.

I also moved to Fairbanks because my husband is a family doctor. A major draw to Fairbanks is that it is a college town. With two teenage sons, the prospect of in-state college opportunities helped us make the decision to move.

Alaska needs STEM educators. Alaska needs doctors. And Alaska needs teenagers to stay here to become future Alaskans.

Restore funding of vetoed items. I support a small PDF. This will enable me continue to work on projects with outside funding to benefit Alaskans; my husband to continue to provide medical care, and my sons to attend UA. Not restoring the funding sends a clear message to that we - and the majority of Alaskans everywhere who did not support the vetoes - are not wanted here.

Regards,

Christina Buffington
1420 Goshawk Ln.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Rob Cermak <rob.cermak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

Joseph (Rob) Cermak
5629 Reconstruction Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709
Affiliations: Democrat, staff at UAF

Dear Legislature,

Please continue to compromise and shore up HB2001 so that the legislative body can reach a supermajority which will stand up to a subsequent Governor veto.

Rob

From: Teresa Sarabia <tsarabia@ccthita-nsn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:22 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; representative.Sara.Hanna@akleg.gov
Cc: Teresa Sarabia <tsarabia@ccthita-nsn.gov>
Subject: RESTORE THE VETOES

Hello,

My name is Teresa Sarabia, I was born and raised in Juneau, Alaska; as were my parents, GrandParents and Great Grandparents, all from various villages, Hoonah, Klukwan, Douglas. I AM A PROUD ALASKA, NOT PROUD OF THIS BUDGET!!

I am writing today to **RESTORE THE VETOS** - it is very hard to see so much of our heart and soul of all Alaskans hurt on so many levels with the budget that I am reading and seeing to date. PLEASE RESTORE THE

VETOS! Too much is at STAKE here, our most vulnerable Alaskans and most precious Elders will be hit hard by budget as written!

RESTORE THE VETOS - there are so many, I only covered a few below; but need you to know that I SUPPORT ALL TO BE RESTORED!

Veto Impacts

- Reduce Village Public Safety Officer Program Funding (\$6M)
 - FY2019 Supplemental budget. Ended June 30, 2019. (\$3M)
 - FY2020 Operating Budget (\$3M)
- Reverse One-Time Transfer of Funding from the Village Public Safety Officers Program to Be Reversed in FY2021 (\$250K)

This wipes out all security for the State for are smallest communities that have no Public Safety officers and/or Police; we already see the effects of no security and endangers all Alaskans, families, children, less fortunate, etc.

Department of Law

- Eliminate Reopening Utqiagvik Office and Adding One Attorney IV and One V/W Paralegal II (\$533K)
- Tundra Women's Coalition (\$63,000)

Cannot believe we are even here to eliminate legal help and the Tundra Women's' Coalition! RESTORE The VETOES

Department of Health and Social Services (\$28.7M)

- Mental Health: Deferred Maintenance and Accessibility Improvements (\$250K)
- Mental Health: Home Modification and Upgrades to Retain Housing (\$750K)
- Mental Health: Assistive Technology (\$500K)
- Mental Health: Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) Beneficiary and Special Needs Housing (\$2M) - **Wow - I work with Special Needs - people with disabilities - nationwide, people with disabilities receive the least amount of help already - For Alaska to eliminate this help would make MANY MORE ALASKANS HOMELESS!! RESTOR THE VETOES**
- Mental Health: AHFC Homeless Assistance Program (\$7.2M)
- Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants (\$6.1M) - **WE KNOW ALASKA IS IN CRISIS ALREADY HERE - WE NEED TREATMENT CNETERS FOR RECOVERY - DO NOT ZERO OUT HERE ON ANY OF THEESE PROGRAMS!**
- Eliminate Youth Detention and Treatment in Nome Youth Facility (\$2M)
- Eliminate Senior Benefits Payment Program (\$20.7M)
- Eliminate Human Services Community Matching Grants (\$1.3M)
- Eliminate Community Initiative Matching Grants (\$867K)
- Medicaid (\$50M) - vetoed atop a \$70M cut by Legislature
- Eliminate Adult Dental Medicaid Benefit (\$27M)

University of Alaska (\$130M) - RESTORE THE VETOES

NO, NO, NO RESTORE THE VETOS - EDUCATION IS OUR FUTURE - PRESENT, PAST AND UPCOMING YOUTH, WE NEED TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!

-
- Alaska Native Languages - **Just started getting language preservation started in our great state - supported our Languages - RESTORE**
 - Rural campuses - Alaskans should be able to choose where they go to school - **RESTORE**
 - Arctic research (IARC), climate change, traditional ways of life - **wow cannot believe our natural resources are greatly affected and you want to eliminate invaluable research - RESTORE**
 - Changes to fire season, the disappearance of sea ice, changes to the base of marine food chain impacting State's fisheries
 - Subsistence resources vital to Alaska Native communities

- Alaska Native Studies – **wow again, WHAT – disparate treatment here – our history should be told in all schools, etc.**
- Alaska Native Arts - **Same with this line item – our history should be preserved and taught**
- ANSEP Same with this line item

Department of Education & Early Development – Restore the vetos

Alaska Council on the Arts (\$3.8M)

- Eliminate State Council on the Arts (\$2.7M)
- Delete SDPR for Private Grants (\$1.1M)
- Community and Native Arts Program Staff
- Alaska Native Advisory Board
- Alaska Native Arts Program/Silver Hand Program
- Grantmaker to arts organizations statewide and individual artists
- Advocate for Alaska Native artists statewide

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

This is our mode of transportation in Southeast Alaska – AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION – THIS AFFECTS ALL ALASKANS! NO, RESTORE THE VETOS HERE ON ALL LINE ITEMS

Fund Capitalization RESTORE THE VETOS –ALL!! LEAVES US VULNERABLE IN ALL REGIONS!

- Community Assistance Program [formerly known as State Revenue Sharing] (\$30M) - Most Alaska municipalities will be affected. Projected loss in annual revenue:
 - Mat-Su Borough (\$60M)
 - Fairbanks North Star Borough (\$56.3M)
 - City of Valdez (\$47.3M)
 - Kenai Peninsula Borough (\$39.8M)
 - Aleutians East Borough (\$10.7M)
 - North Slope Borough
 - Northwest Arctic
 - Southeast Alaska

RESTORE THE VETOS

Medicaid

The veto of \$50 million from the Medicaid budget, on top of the \$70 million in cuts approved by the legislature, threatens the health and wellbeing of Alaskans and will surely send the state's economy back into recession, which will result in the loss of thousands of jobs. There has been inadequate explanation about how these cuts will be executed or who they will impact. Alaskans deserve to know how unallocated cuts to Medicaid will impact children, the disabled, the elderly, and rural hospitals. Complete elimination of adult preventative dental will result in untreated disease and more expensive trips to emergency rooms. This drastic economic change will surely send the state's economy back into recession, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs.

Senior Benefits / Early Childhood / Homelessness

- Senior Benefits Program cuts target over 11,000 of Alaska's most financially challenged elders who rely on modest monthly stipends to make ends meet.
- Elimination of HeadStart, Parents as Teachers, Best Beginnings and other early childhood programs – not to mention reductions to child nutrition supports – undermine the health and wellbeing of Alaska's children and jeopardizes Alaska's future.

• Reducing funds for homelessness prevention programs remove a critical safety net and will result in more children and families on the streets. These cuts will make our communities less safe.

Thank YOU,

Teresa Sarabia
Alaskan
Proud Tlingit
RESTORE THE VETOS

From: elizabeth hart <emhart19@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:22 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: HB 2001

7/17/19

Hello House Finance Committee,

Thank you all for your time and dedication. Unfortunately, I am out of time. I have been waiting since 1:55 pm to address you by telephone. Though I am unable to testify verbally, this does not diminish my wholehearted disagreement and dismay with Governor Dunleavy's budget line item vetoes. Please vote taking into account the majority of your constituents' opinions heard today. Please restore funding to the aforementioned items, including the ferry.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Hart
907-772-3274

From: elizabeth hart
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 3:22 PM
To: housefinance@akleg.gov <housefinance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

House Bill 2001 7/17/19
Elizabeth Hart
204 N Third St
Petersburg AK

I have been an Alaskan resident for 30 years. I chose to make Petersburg my home because Alaska is a great state, and an amazing place to raise children. My family also had job opportunities that enabled us to make a living wage.

Please pass HB 2001. Please reinstate funding to the University of Alaska, general education and preschool, Public Radio, Medicaid and the homeless services, and the Alaska Marine Highway. Our Permanent Fund Dividend is a privilege, not a right. The PFD is intended to be placed in the General Fund as needed, and distributed during times of prosperity as able. Our future as a state is in jeopardy; this budget is irresponsible,

fear based, and reckless. I support a balanced budget, and I am willing to give up my dividend and pay an income tax to balance the budget.

The University of Alaska system is insurance for our future. Our schools need to be supported from preschool through graduate school. The Governor's vetoes eliminated funding that has already been promised to school districts, our students, and our university system. Our daughter recently graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage, where a significant portion of the graduating class was the first in their family to receive a college degree. The Alaskan youth we educate will give back to our state in the form of an educated workforce, well paying jobs, families that stay in the state to keep us strong. The incoming students were promised a scholarship that the State of Alaska is now recanting. Our university system is staffed by professional and dedicated professors who are unable to plan for the upcoming semester, starting in 6 short weeks. Let's keep them here and keep our state healthy by reinstating funding.

Please reinstate funding for Public Radio. The Public Radio system is the only emergency broadcast system for many rural parts of our state. It is a meager part of the state budget, the cut is simply mean-spirited. Our Public Radio station in Petersburg operates on a bare bones budget, and will now be unable to purchase supplies like paper towels and dish soap, and fuel oil.

Please reinstate funding to Medicaid and the homeless. These cuts serve to eliminate the safety net that help support our most vulnerable and disenfranchised citizens. These citizens have so much more to lose than a \$1500-\$3000 PFD. As we have heard, private organizations such as Catholic Community Services already provide many funds to feed and clothe the elderly, homeless, children, and our most vulnerable residents. These organizations cannot keep their current level of services without help from the State of Alaska. It is our duty to provide for our most vulnerable population, and the measure of a decent society. I appreciate your efforts to create a reasonable balanced budget. Please do not cripple our state and future. Alaska is as healthy as it is due to previous administrations' foresight, and legislators' diligence. Please do not let the current administration endanger our future so dramatically. I support the bipartisan effort to create a responsible budget.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Hart

From: Ruth G. Benson <ruthmgb31@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:23 PM

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

Subject: Governor's Vetoes

House Bill 2001 shines light and hope on the grim situation we face. I support it and hope it will be adopted.

I am appalled at the gross negligence of the recent budget vetoes. The person elected to look after the interests of his "charges" (us) is totally delinquent of his charge. The most vulnerable of us will suffer the most; that is, the homeless and the indigent, the extremely young and the very old; students, teachers, nurses and patients; no one in the state will be exempt. Businesses will close, the orchestra will be forced to disband, those who remain will struggle to keep going! I can't imagine finding much joy with many empty houses and boarded-up businesses in Fairbanks. Crime and domestic abuse that have long disgraced Alaska will continue unchecked.

People who remain in Alaska will be demoralized to the extent that their quality of life will be lessened.

Not a pretty picture? Lay it at the door of the Governor and his circuit-riding Budget Director.

Best wishes in your work.

Ruth G. Benson

945 McGown St
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

From: Martha Bristow <mbristowcsf@catholic-schools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Count me in favor of a reduced or zeroed out PFD; restore the cuts to UA, the elderly, the arts ETC.

My name is Martha Bristow. I live at 3536 Vian Way in Fairbanks. I was born in Anchorage in 1959, the year of statehood.

I am in favor of a reduced dividend or no dividend at all if it means we can pay for the university, the Pioneer Homes, services for homeless youth, the arts, libraries and all of the other services my parents and other pioneers worked so hard to establish in Alaska.

I am particularly opposed to the governor's cuts because he has not been forthcoming about what his plan is. Just exactly what are we going to do for all of these people who quite suddenly find themselves without a place to live? Medical services? Scholarships?

I am beginning to think that the PFD was the WORST thing that has ever happened to this state. It has established a sense of selfish entitlement that I frankly cannot fathom. I do not recognize the Alaska in which I grew up. Get rid of the PFD. Give me an income or a sales tax, I don't care which. Just don't take Alaska back to territorial status.

Sincerely,

Martha Bristow

P.S. I have already pledged 2/3 of my PFD, if there is one, to the Fairbanks Pioneer Home. The rest I'll use to pay Uncle Sam.

From: Lori Schoening <lorischoening907@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: FY2020 Dividend and Budget

Dear House Finance Committee,

I support the implementation of a bill that will reduce the Permanent Fund Dividend payout this fiscal year and restore money that the Governor vetoed from the budget. I am a lifelong Alaskan, a Fairbanks resident, a mother of two teens,

and a grant-funded employee at the University of Alaska. The current state budget will have sweeping negative consequences for my family, colleagues, community and state. I will happily have a tiny or nonexistent dividend check if we also have a state budget that is restored to the sensible funding levels recommended by the legislature. My children plan to attend UA after they finish high school. I want there to be a UA campus with strong and competitive programs in our community for them to attend. I've dedicated a 20 year career to conducting grant-funded UA science education outreach. I want there to continue to be a UA infrastructure that fosters discovery and knowledge construction for me to reach out from. I want there to be strong Head Start programs educating the earliest learners in our state. Longitudinal studies show low income youth who attend Head Start preschool programs become more successful adults than their peers who don't attend Head Start. I want there to be an Alaska Council for the Arts enriching our community again. I want homeless folks to have shelters to go to, and low income folks to have access to dental care. I believe in an Alaska full of people who care more about each other than they do about the size of their dividend. Please reduce the dividend and fix the budget.

Thank you,
Lori Schoening
501 Valley View Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: Paula Caywood <cmmgen@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

Please fund our full PFD. Support the governors budget cuts.

From: sdelisa@gci.net <sdelisa@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB Bill 2001

Dear Representatives,
I fully support reinstating the 444 million cut from the appropriations bill by the Governor. A cut that monstrous would be devastating to all Alaskans and could plunge us into a recession we might never recover from. It is senseless to slash basic services when we continue to give away billions in tax credits to the oil companies, which continue to make huge profits year after year. It is not a choice between the PFD and supporting the essential services that Dunleavy wants to cut. I for one am willing to have a reduced PFD, but only AFTER repealing some of the oil tax credits. I also support reinstating a state income tax but, again, only AFTER taking back oil tax credits.

Thank you,
Susan DeLisa
1918 Southern Ave.
Fairbanks AK 99709
907-474-4011

From: Lori & Dave <loridavex@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

How does one address each of you? I'm speaking to all the state representatives in our legislature. Hoping that you'll hear and serious think about how we will pay for the expenditures you are advocating. Yes, we need education, arts, social services but not at the expense our your constituents budget. If we(Alaskan citizens) can live within our means, why can't our state finance committee come to the conclusion that our state government **must** live within its income?

As you kick the can down the road and take our PFD, add an income tax, state sales tax, you will make us just like California. DEBT DEBT AND MORE DEBT. Who wants to live like that? Certainly not my family!

Please, please recognize we have to cut this budget to keep our state functioning. The people of Alaska, who plead for all services to continue as is, must realize that they have to help themselves and stop looking for constant government subsidy. Government wasn't meant to be the continual parent whose pockets are bottomless. They must stand on their own feet and work within their budget. Even when revenue falls way short of past income, budgets have to be adjusted!

So to end this, please go back & talk to everyone and compromise.....
Otherwise, you'll probably be out of a job at the next election.
Lori

From: Miker Frantes <miker.frantes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:28 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Vetoes and Budget

Alaska Legislators:

I am writing in regard to the vetoes and the budget. I think it is obvious that the vetoes are absurd. Alaska is a state that has to support its community. We are a land that is dangerous and needs the kind of people who would pull over in the winter to help somebody with a broken down car.

Dunleavy and his vetoes do not demonstrate that ideal. We have the money for the budget. The legislature spent all that time agreeing on the budget. Dunleavy and his vetoes just wasted all the time and money that went into that budget.

Please don't let Dunleavy and his ridiculous vetoes destroy Alaska. It has already hurt the Goldstream community in Fairbanks, where I live. If we need to have extra money for Dunleavy's PFD promise, then let's end the tax credits per barrel of oil. We don't even have to end them completely, just drop \$3 to \$5 off of it.

Thank you for hearing all our testimonials. I hope you will do the right thing and stand up to the bully of a governor who is trying to steal the state's lunch money for a ridiculous one time benefit of the PFD.

Regards,
M. Frantes
1248 Jones Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Wendy Langton <wendylangton@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:29 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: In Support of HB 2001

To the House Finance Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 2001.

The devastation of the cuts to the University, Arts Council, and health services are unfathomable and will wreak havoc on the state. I work in the arts field and my husband is employed by the University. These cuts will touch our lives directly, and either directly or indirectly effect every single Alaskan I know and those I don't. Friends have already moved out of state for employment opportunities and others have begun working for Alaskan companies remotely, pouring their economic resources into other communities because of their fear of the future of Alaska.

I was born in Nome and grew up in Fairbanks. As a young adult I briefly left to pursue my dream in the arts field, which was only possible because of the arts education I received in Interior Alaska, made possible by culture of the arts community bolstered by the Alaskan State Council of the Arts, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The arts and education community prepared me to have a career as a professional artist while receiving a degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks through distance education. My mother worked for UAF all throughout my childhood and still does, exposing me to the culture and importance of higher education from an early age.

I came back to Alaska because it is my home. I chose to establish my adult life in Alaska because the community inspires and challenges me. My community prepared me to be an arts educator, artist, UAF alumni, food service worker, UAF employee, office manager, consumer of goods and services provided in the Fairbanks economy, and community member.

I urge you with all of my will to find a solution that will not devastate the state. If the University, Arts Council, and health services are not funded, Alaskan will not recover in my lifetime.

Use my PFD, tax me, stick to the well thought out and crafted bipartisan that was brought to the table before the vetoes; please LISTEN to Alaskans, and find a solution that does not rip all that is truly right and Alaskan away from those who are fighting for our state. Alaska needs the University. Alaska needs an Arts Council. Alaska needs social services. By killing these institutions and services, you are killing our community and our opportunities; you condemn Alaska to a slow death, while your constituents fight and scream for you to save us.

Respectfully and thoughtfully,

Wendy Walker
Lifetime Alaskan
Arts Advocate
University Supporter
Community Member

1255 Saint Anton Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

From: Kate Ripley <kate.ripley907@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please restore sanity to the budget process - support HB 2001

Dear Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I support HB 2001. Gov. Dunleavy's vetoes would force Alaska into a deeper recession than it already is in.

Dunleavy's ill-considered vetoes are the vision of the Koch Brothers and his temporary, out-of-state budget director Donna Arduin, who likes going into states and wreaking havoc while collecting a big paycheck, leaving disaster in her wake (Kansas). People's cries for "their" full PFD are misguided, and they have unfortunately been used by conniving political operatives (Babcock) who understand it's in their own selfish interest to create division and fear among the electorate. We all benefit from a robust state with good education, infrastructure and a safety net for the elderly, the poor, the ill and the vulnerable. Let's not gut important institutions and programs for the sake of a "full" PFD. Don't allow the governor to manufacture a crisis, repeat lies and sow division in our state. Our strong Alaska community, where people care about each other and have empathy for their fellow human being, is completely at risk under Dunleavy. To my great dismay, he is "Standing Tall, Thinking Small."

I support a reasonable state income tax, a seasonal sales tax, Click Bishop's school head tax and a revisitation of SB21 oil tax credits. We should not be giving away more in credits than we take in from our biggest industry. I support a POMV approach to the PFD.

To see this annual check divide our state the way it has, and the way it's been used as a political football by people for selfish reasons, is appalling. People who need assistance with their health-care and living expenses etc. need to have adequately funded public programs that help them. The way the governor talks, the PFD is spent by each and every recipient about 10 times and solves everything. It's a false promise. His cuts won't save money, either--they'll just make the problem worse. He used smoke and mirrors to claim a skinny budget but he just foisted a lot off on local governments.

My beautiful state is one that has a good education system and offers a vision for a vibrant future. I want true statesmen and women--much like those 37 who voted to override the governor's vetoes during the special session in Juneau, a bi-partisan and collaborative group--to think about the future of our great state and craft a sustainable fiscal plan. Those "Wasilla 22" should be ashamed for allowing the governor to use them for petty partisan politics.

I want a prosperous Alaska, with safe and healthy communities for families, a place where businesses will flourish, where the environment is protected while still allowing for economic development. Good public schools and education, pre-K up through our university system, must be a priority. People who claim our educational system is failing are cherry picking stats for political purposes, and need to be called on the carpet for it. Alaska's graduation rates are increasing and our university is world-class for its Arctic research. This is all at risk under the Dunleavy vetoes.

I'm a proud eighth-generation Alaskan, born and raised in Juneau and a Fairbanks resident since 1992. My husband and I have been married nearly 25 years and we have three beautiful children; two of them now out on their own. We aren't going anywhere. We are willing to pay our fair share for the state services that make Alaska a desirable place to live, raise a family and do business.

Thank you for your service.

Kate Ripley
(Sen. Coghill and Rep. Hopkins district)
Fairbanks, Alaska

--

Kate Ripley & Associates
907-460-1442

From: lori Stedman <lstedman58@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:32 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Supporting HB 2001

Dear Senator or Representative,

I write to convey my support House Bill 2001. My position is rooted in the Legislature's constitutional responsibilities to Alaskans.

Article VII of Alaska's constitution obligates the Legislature to provide for the public education (including a state university system), public health, and public welfare of Alaskans. Upholding these responsibilities should be the Legislature's sole concern. Prolonged focus on the location of the second special session or the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend, as various members continue to do, absolves individual lawmakers of their Article VII constitutional responsibilities to Alaskans.

For this reason, I urge the Legislature to reinstate the operating budget it passed on June 10 through HB 2001.

Sincerely,
Lori

From: Ryan Marsh <ryan.arash.marsh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:35 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on HB2001

I arrived at the LIO at 4pm and was heartened to see that it would be hours before I could give my testimony and glad to hear that everybody was giving testimony in protest of the governor's vetoes. What follows is what I had hoped to share verbally.

I am not well versed in the intricacies of the budget negotiations but I know that I am opposed to the governor's vetoes and to him forcing the legislature to consider the PFD separately from the rest of the budget.

We were supposed to be rolling in money after passing SB21 a few years back. Instead we are saddled with these cold-blooded budget vetoes, the dismantling of our state, and the highest rate of job losses in the nation. Meanwhile, we gave away \$1.2 billion to oil companies last year and are projected to give away over \$1 billion every year for the next 10 years. We could solve this crisis (and fund the entire budget) with these funds.

As a state, we are almost entirely dependent on oil and gas. we need to fix the tax credits and diversify our revenue. We need a progressive income tax. We need to bought in, literally, as citizens of our state so that we don't just see the government as a source of a PFD check, but rather feel ownership in our government and the public services it provides.

We can't let the governor hold us hostage with this false choice between public services and a PFD check. We have other options and fixing the oil tax credits is one. Taxing ourselves is another. I oppose these vetoes.

I also want to thank my representative Grier Hopkins for his floor speech last week in attempt to overturn the vetoes.

Thank you.

Ryan Marsh
1713B Farmers Loop
Fairbanks AK 99709

From: James Brashear <jamesjbrashear@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:37 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject:

House Finance Committee;

Please reverse the Governors assault on higher education. I have two children that were planning on attending UAF. They both preformed well in high school and turned down opportunities to attend viable Universities in the Northwest. They chose to stay in Alaska due to the University of Alaska Fairbanks having strong programs in their chosen field of studies: Fisheries and Japanese. Combined with the incentive of the Alaska Performance Scholarship. They have worked very hard to qualify for these promised incentives.

My wife and I are both educators and may have our jobs axed due to a Governor with an uninformed shortsighted political ideology. Now our kids will not have the financial support they earned and were promised. We have no idea what they will do in the short term but they will not graduate from a crippled University of Alaska. They will leave the State and as with most of the UA scholars our best and brightest will not return. My family who has worked in education and contributed to this State for 27 years will be on the verge of bankruptcy, overnight by the Governors continues assault on education.

Jim Brashear

775 Merlin Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

(907) 590-6088

From: Jason Schoening <arcticsparro@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Hb 2001 testimony

Hello legislators,

My name is Jason Schoening and I am a lifelong Alaskan resident. My grandma homesteaded lowell point in Seward, both my parents were raised in this state and I am raising my 2 kids here. I urge you to please restore as much of the funding vetoed by our Governor as possible. I would gladly accept a smaller dividend to not have my hometown of Fairbanks destroyed by a collapsed economy. I would rather have a dependable stable job than a bigger dividend as well. I have attended UAF since 1995 as both degree seeking and not to gain knowledge and skills that I have put back in to the local economy. During that time I worked full time jobs and am raising a family. Our state university has given me the tools to better not only my life, but that of my family. Alaska is and should be a place of fierce independence but with a community heart. Our arts, our children, and our seniors are NOT the place to cut for short sighted political greed. Governor Dunleavy doesn't seem to know or care about the impacts of the cuts he's proposing. He has given no long term plan or revenue stimulus package either. Please pass a capital budget that reflects the interest of the state and the budget previously approved by our legislators (you) after a lot of long hard work. Thank you for your time and efforts and please defend the future of our state as we elected you to do! I would like to thank all the legislators who have made this effort a priority and congratulate you on your continued efforts. Please don't let the people of Alaska down!

Sincerely,
Jason Schoening

From: Nate Buffington <nbuffing@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:41 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>
Subject: Future of Alaska budget questions

Representatives,

How are the Governor's steep budget cuts predicted to impact the economy in Alaska in both the short and long term? Has there been any serious analysis?

Why does the Governor feel the need to give out more 'free money' to the populous rather than work to create jobs here? Does he want people more dependent upon government for their money, or does he want to create opportunities for building wealth?

Are there differences in the tax benefits that oil companies receive from the state of Alaska compared to Texas? If so, why? Is there money the state of Alaska is missing out on by being overly generous to oil companies compared to other states?

How much more difficult will it be to recruit professionals to the state of Alaska if we severely undercut higher education here? I am a physician. UAF as a career opportunity for my wife and an educational opportunity for my sons is a big reason why we made the decision to move here. Destroying the University, as I believe these budget cuts would do, makes moving here as a professional much less appealing. My younger son has already become dismayed and is considering going out of state for school. I worry that it will be more difficult to recruit other professionals here as a result of the budget cuts to education. Additionally, the logic of defunding of scholarships and the WWAMI program for an underserved area like Alaska is beyond me.

I am all for responsible governance and spending. The spending cuts from the governor appear far too steep to be considered either of those things. We need to think about short and long term implications for all Alaskans and be smart about our future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nate Buffington
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: Luke Hopkins <lukethopkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:37 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Luke Hopkins <lukethopkins@gmail.com>
Subject: July 17, 2019 Submitted Comments on CS HB 2001

Please find my attached comments I am submitting for the public record dated 7/17/19 on CS HB 2001.

Comments to House Finance Committee, July 17, 2019, Fairbanks

I, too, support passing CS HB 2001 to override the vetoes. Many of our current legislators just voted one year ago for SB 26 that reduced the full dividend payout to Alaskans to support our economy.

I want funding for programs that provide needed health and social services, provide for pre-K education, the Alaska Ferry system and restore funding to what this Legislature had the already passed in a reduced UA budget.

I can't believe the Legislature would move forward to support paying out about billions this year as a "FULL" PFD. So many other Alaskans have called on you not to do THAT - but to restore funding in this special session and then pass a capital budget

We haven't packed up because we won't get a huge check. We will still live here.

You know with your recent votes, you have already passed a budget that's economically sustainable for our economy!

Going forward with Dunleavy's vetoes - THAT's not the sustainable budget I want for my community.

Again, I want you to support programs with this funding - for our University, our young Alaskans, our seniors and elders - our businesses that have told legislators to override!

And I am not opposed to a reduced PFD - I will still say thank you, Alaska - for \$900 or \$1000 - as I did when I got those checks in the past!

Thank you,

Luke Hopkins, PO Box 81622, Fairbanks, AK 99708

From: Lois Hendersonn <loisinak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

My name is Lois Henderson and I live in the college post office area in Fairbanks. I am urging you to do whatever is needed to restore the state budget. Please support HB 2001.

We need to prioritize education first - everything from Head Start through the University. Scholarships *must* be reinstated. Taking care of our youth is our promise to the future.

There are numerous other areas that must be addressed including the state arts council, food and medicine for elders, homeless services, etc.

Thank-you for your attention to this most important legislation.

--

Lois Henderson
she/her/hers
907-378-2321

From: philip osborn <15.1wildview@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:41 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska's money woes

Hello, and thanks for hearing my concerns. I came here in January 1968 and lived with a modest income tax for a number of years. Things were slow then, and the pipeline project rapidly changed all that. I was happy to be working and didn't mind the tax. I support the reincarnation of an income tax, sales tax and a permanent fund defined by and responding to fiscal reality.

I am appalled by Gov. Dunleavy's careless and wanton brandishing of his veto powers, and the resulting turmoil his actions have unleashed on the people of Alaska. There are far too many tales of woe suddenly appearing on the horizon, especially UAF's downgrading because of totally inappropriate budget slashing.

I encourage you all to arrive at a solution, perhaps HB 2001. I am pleased and excited that this nightmare fiscal onslaught may be averted after all. Thanks for your hard work dealing with our governor and here's wishing you all success in the coming days.

Phil Osborn
1451 Flat Man. Rd.
Fairbanks, Ak. 99712

From: James Brashear <jamesjbrashear@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:41 PM

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

Subject: Reverse the damage Dunleavy has done to UAF and students' AK Performance Scholarships

House Finance Committee:

I ask you to **not support** Governor Dunleavy's veto of funding in support of public education both at the K-12 and the University level. The Governor's election was through circumstances and his policies do not represent the constituents, the people of Alaska.

I write to my legislators because of my children. My son is a sophomore at the UAF School of Fisheries. My daughter just graduated high school and was accepted at UAF in Foreign Languages. My son graduated in the top 20% and my daughter in the top 10% of their respective class. They were both planning on attending UAF in the Fall. My daughter was planning on studying Japanese. She has traveled to Japan and is developing foreign language skills. She would like to go into business or teaching. My son currently works for NSRAA Aquaculture Association as a Hatchery Technician. Both, if they stay in Alaska, could and would contribute to the state of Alaska. If the University's funding is slashed by the Governor's proposed level we do not see UA as a viable institution to send our children to. My son is looking at Montana State, and my daughter Northern Arizona. So, the best and the brightest will leave. My wife and I would like to stay in the state after retirement but not in a state that does not fully support public education, mistreats its constituents, and mismanages its resources by giving them away for nothing in return. We will leave.

We just purchased a rental property in Fairbanks with the intent of our children living there after spending a year in the dormitories at UAF. We currently have a lease with a graduate student. She has informed us that she may have to back out of her lease if her funding is slashed. All of these plans we have carefully developed for years are at risk of collapse. How can you not support education just on the principle that it provides a healthy economic engine alone?

If Governor Dunleavy's draconian cuts go through to our public schools and the University the effects will be catastrophic and will be felt for decades to come. My son was completely challenged and excited by his educational experience at UAF. Developing successful University programs takes decades. Dunleavy's proposed cuts would cripple the institution and in doing so my children's education. The University will experience brain drain, all faculty and staff who can leave, will do so. The youngest most talented and brightest will be forced to Institutions out of state that have effective legislative leadership and educational support. At the public school level, few would go into education. Nobody wants to work in such a difficult, taxing vocation for minimal salary, benefits, and on top of it all, political condemnation from an unsupportive legislature.

Education is the key to having a productive, healthy constituency, and State. One thing that will carry forward is the voters of this state will never again elect any official, Governor or otherwise, that does not publicly put forward policy beyond "big ideas" prior to elections. Voters will not support those who blindly shamefully follow hollow rhetoric.

I implore you to not support Governor Dunleavy's cuts to public education, kindergarten through University. Please vote to override Dunleavy's veto of education. I would like to hear what you have to say, I invite your response. Thank you for your support.

Jim Brashear
26-year resident of Alaska
(907)590-6088

From: Becca Wachter <beccawachter@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:44 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: support for limiting PFD

My name is Rebecca Wachter I live at 1139 Ivy Dr, Fairbanks, AK 99709. I strongly support the bill to reduce the PFD to balance the budget and reinstate some of the line-items voted by the governor. The budget as it is will hurt all Alaskans but it will hurt the most vulnerable and youngest Alaskans most.

From: Allison Hourigan <allihourigan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:44 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore funding

I am writing in support of restoration of funding for the governor's vetos and reverse sweep. I support a smaller PFD. I am a student in the Alaska WWAMI program and a resident of Anchorage. I want to continue to attend medical school in Alaska and eventually practice here. You all have a choice and I hope you choose to represent the Alaskans who elected you.

Thank you for working together,

Allison Hourigan

From: Tom DeLong <delong.tom@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: We need to tax ourselves before we get a PDF

Dear House Finance Committee Members.

In the order of importance please find a way to fund the cuts that outlined below.

When I talk to others that do not live in Alaska they can NOT comprehend the destructive path we are on and they also can not believe that we pay no taxes. We need to institute an income tax and we need to increase our fuel tax (its the lowest in the nation).

We have \$16B in the Constitutional Budget Reserve and we should use \$400 Million of it now to stop the recession these draconian cuts will sure bring upon our state.

Please also consider that this governor has taken steps that meet the statutory requirements to consider a RECALL. Its time to start that process.

University Budget Cut \$130,253,100
Medicaid/Mental Health \$83,104,500
Senior Benefits \$20,786,100
School Bond Reimbursement \$48,910,300
State Personnel Reductions \$11,875,600
Mental Health Capital \$11,700,000
All Other \$53,621,300
Fund Transfers/Capitalization's \$49,694,500 Total \$409,945,400

Thank you

Tom DeLong
Fairbanks, AK

From: Renee Trafton <renee@beakrestaurant.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:47 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: YES ON HB2001

Dear Representatives,

This is Renée Jakaitis Trafton, and I am writing on behalf of myself, my family, and also the staff at my small business, Beak Restaurant. While many of us could use the extra money from a larger payout, none of us can do without all of the education and health and state services threatened by the current administration.

I am VERY CONCERNED about the devastating effects of Governor Dunleavy's budget. I was so happy with the budgets the House and Senate worked so hard to come up with, but I was heartbroken when the governor vetoed that budget and when those vetoes couldn't get overridden.

I believe that the state's current system works hard to take care of our state citizens, and our entire system would begin to collapse upon itself if all of the funding would be taken away.

Everyone I've talked to would rather receive a smaller dividend payment than to see the governor's painful and incredibly drastic cuts take effect.

On behalf of the welfare of Alaskans and the future of our state, please fight for HB2001 so we can restore funding to all of our state's essential services.

Thank you.

--

Renée Jakaitis Trafton
Chef and Owner
Beak Restaurant
Sitka, Alaska

From: Kathy Alton <kalton60@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:48 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget/ PFD

We do not have a money problem; we have plenty of money. We have an allocation problem. Figure out a way to fund the state social infrastructure and contribute to economic development, then decide how much, if any, to allot to the PFD dividend.

The state receives the oil money collectively and it should be shared collectively. Alaskans only receive dividend checks individually at the will of the beneficiary the state. However we collectively benefit every year when our children are educated well, and the university and medical communities are robust and contributing to our local economies ,encouraging young professionals to choose to raise their families in communities all over our state. The Governor's proposed cuts will,needlessly,put Alaska into an economic recession.

Katherine E Alton
Resident of Alaska since 1957

From: Timothy Mowry <timjmowry@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:48 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public testimony

Dear Committee Members,

As a 33-year resident of Alaska and proud parent to a son who is attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks on both an athletic and academic scholarship, I implore you to come up with a solution to the budgetary crisis currently facing this great state. If these budget cuts go through, our son will likely leave the state to attend college and ski elsewhere. There is a good chance that we would follow him

But that is beside the point, really. These budget cuts proposed by the current administration would gut Alaska like a freshly killed moose. While I agree that there are cuts that need to be made to make government more efficient (and I am employed by the State of Alaska) wholesale cuts like those proposed by Gov. Dunleavy are not the answer. This would devastate Alaska, both economically and culturally. The Last Frontier would become the Lost Frontier.

And to me, the answer is so simple that it's maddening. I did not move to Alaska to collect a Permanent Fund Dividend. Anyone who did does not deserve to live here. My suggestion is simple: Do away with the Permanent Fund Dividend and use that money for state government services that people need and depend on. The PFD is a wedge that has polarized Alaskans, both residents and politicians. I am sick and tired of politicians from both parties running on the platform that "I will protect your Permanent Fund." We are in the position we are in now because Mr. Dunleavy promised Alaskans a \$3,000 PFD and the majority of Alaskans, sadly, could not suppress their greed at the prospect of sacrificing state services, the educational future of our children and the well being of seniors for a lousy \$3,000 check that most of them will spend on flat-screen TVs, snowmachines and other toys they do not need. Get rid of the PFD and institute an income and sales tax. Like it or not, that is going to have to happen at some point in the future. It will just take people with guts to do it. I hope you have the guts to do so and that's a challenge.

Or better yet, we really can have the best of both worlds. Cap the PFD at \$500 a year and use the rest to pay for necessary state services. That way, everybody gets \$500, we have a balanced budget and we can still be proud to live in the Last Frontier, not the Lost Frontier.

I hope you have the guts to do what's right for the majority of Alaskans who live here because we love to, not because we're paid to.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tim Mowry

Proud to be an Alaskan, at least for the time being.

From: Kesler Woodward <kewoodward@alaska.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:49 PM

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

Subject: Testimony on HB2001

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

I was at the Fairbanks LIO for 2 1/2 hours today to testify in person, but never got close to my turn, so here is my testimony electronically:

I am here today to support HB 2001 and urge you to include funding in the Capital Budget or any other supplemental funding bill to enable the work of the Alaska State Council on the Arts to continue.

We so appreciate the bipartisan support to restore fully the modest \$700,000 funding for the ASCA in the budget you sent to the Governor. But as you almost certainly know, since there was no override of the Governor's vetoes of that entire funding, along with authority to receive the 3 times greater funding it had been confirmed to bring from the Federal Government and from private foundations, ASCA closed its doors two days ago, and its entire staff turned in its keys.

If money is not included in a supplemental budget this special session, the following are just a few of the immediate, draconian impacts of Governor Dunleavy's veto of all ASCA funds:

- Alaska's annual 1:1 match of \$700,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts will be revoked, and the funds slated to go to Alaska will be distributed among the other 49 states and six territories and jurisdictions.
- \$1.5 million in private money already granted for the coming year to Alaska from the Rasmuson Foundation and Margaret A. Cargill Foundation will be recalled and returned to those foundations.
- Funding for all Artists-in-Schools programs statewide will end immediately.
- All recently-approved grants to Alaskan arts organizations, individual artists, school districts, and local arts agencies statewide will not be paid. Those local arts organizations match the funds we provide by a figure of 27:1.

- *Creative Forces*, a collaborative program of ASCA, the US Department of Defense, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which provides healing art therapy to servicemen and servicewomen with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) will end.

-Alaska Native artists have already been informed that they will no longer be able to display the *Silver Hand Seal* to prove authenticity of their artistic products, as there will be no state enforcement of fraudulent marketing of Alaska Native art.

-All the pieces of art from the Alaska Contemporary Art bank in State offices statewide will be recalled immediately, to be inventoried and deaccessioned in compliance with state law and the federal Visual Artists Rights Protection Act.

These are just a few of the immediate impacts that are already underway, as of 2 days ago.

Thank you again for your service and the support to ASCA that you've already shown, and for your consideration of this extremely modest request for ongoing funding for a state entity that has brought, and can continue to bring, countless benefits to Alaska for more than half a century.

Sincerely,

Kesler Woodward

Vice-President, Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation

780 Merlin Lane, Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Tammy Tragis <akpowerplay@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:50 PM

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

Subject: Support of HB2001

Respected members of the AK House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your service as an elected official of the Alaska legislature representing the people of Alaska. My name is Tammy Tragis-McCook, an Alaskan for 23 years and UAF employee for 17 of those years. I am representing myself.

I am writing to indicate my support for HB2001.

Hope is all we have left at this point as we are in a downward spiral to a devastated state, economy and deep recession if the vetoes stand. I believe the UA system has its issues, but debilitating it in one fell swoop is not the answer for a healthy economy or educated people.

Please consider:

- Restoring the vetoed funds
- Reversing the budget sweeps
- Provide a reduces PFD and consider long-term changes such as a reduced or no payout
- Move PFD earnings into the corpus

The PFD was set aside for a rainy day and we've reached thunderstorm status.

I also support a tax, whether income, sales or both.

Respectfully,

Tammy Tragis-McCook

--

Tammy Tragis-McCook

907.322.4173

@akpowerplay

From: Tom McKenna <mr.t.mck@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:49 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Smaller Div., Restore Infrastructure

Dear Alaska legislators,

Please do everything in your power to restore the solvency of our critical state institutions such as the University of Alaska. Follow David Teal's financial wisdom on the unsustainability of a large PFD. I am willing to pay an income tax so that we can ethically and in an economically constructive way take care of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Tom McKenna
1410 Mary Ellen Way
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Jennifer Carroll <jjjlcarroll@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 2001 to restore the budget

My name is Jennifer Carroll and I am a lifelong Alaskan, resident of Fairbanks, and faculty with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Thank you for your work and for reading my testimony.

I am testifying in support of HB 2001 and restoring the funds cut from the legislature's approved budget. These cuts will destroy the economy of the state. The bump to the retail sector provided by the PFD will not make up for the loss of jobs. The private sector will not be able to grow without the public services that make the State a good investment and good home. Our young people will be forced to not only leave the state for their education, but to stay away for the jobs, public schools, and quality healthcare that will no longer be available for families in Alaska.

The university has supported my family's educational aspirations for decades. I have degrees from UAF, my husband has vocational credentials from UAF, my grandparent's received degrees from UAF, my eldest daughter received a degree from UAF, and my youngest daughter is to start in the fall, possibly without the Alaska Performance Scholarship she worked hard for over the last four years. Higher education is an essential economic engine for the state. Do we want to be a state of transients with no connection, no reason to remember Alaska except for the money we put in their pocket, no reason to stay? A state that does not provide educational opportunities is a state that has given up charting its own course and handed the reigns over to outside interests. We can't let that happen.

Thank you. Jennie Carroll

From: DeAnne & Gary <schmunk@mosquionet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:54 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Override the veto

DeAnne and I are perfectly willing to pay our part of the state budget. We receive essential services and we should pay for them. The first step is overriding Dunleavy's ill conceived and destructive vetos of essential state funding. The PFD is not a right, it is a benefit. The state income tax should never have been repealed.

From: Mark Herrmann <mlherrmann2019@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:54 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Finance Committee testimony

My name is Mark Herrmann and I live in Fairbanks - Senate district B and house District 4.

I am writing in support of the University Alaska Fairbanks and opposed to the Governor's veto of the University budget.

I am Dean of the UAF School of Management (SOM) and have worked at the school for 30 years. Under the Governor's veto our school is likely to be eliminated. We have nearly 800 degree seeking students in SOM primarily from Fairbanks, North Pole and the Interior. Our faculty, staff, students and the business community are very much partners in the incredible educational opportunities that our students enjoy. These students, who work very hard on their degrees, would be completely displaced if our school is eliminated. Taking distance courses from Arizona State, or some other substitute online program, is not going to replace the hands-on opportunities that our students receive from our caring faculty, staff and the community. Further, many of them have already lost their Alaska Performance Scholarship and the stress that the Governor has put these incredible individuals through is just unconscionable.

I urge you to please come to an agreement with the Governor that restores all or most of the vetoed University Funds. Both Anchorage and Fairbanks are large enough to have their own business schools.

Thank you for your time and service and all that you do for the state of Alaska.

--

Mark Herrmann
3730 Frenchman Road
Fairbanks Alaska 99709

From: Jake Herrmann <jakeherrmann@posteo.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:54 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support House Bill 2001 – Appropriations for the Permanent Fund

Hello,

I am a Computer Science student at UAF and a student software engineer at the Alaska Satellite Facility (ASF). The budget cuts proposed by the governor would uproot my family and disrupt my education, and do the same to many of my friends and fellow students. Please support students and university families by supporting House Bill 2001 – Appropriations for the Permanent Fund.

Thank you,

Jake Herrmann

From: Christy <christy.novaconsulting@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:55 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Reduce PFD please

Hello.

I support reducing the PFD so we can maintain programs we need.

Thank you,
Christy Anderson

From: shawn osborn <shawnsfo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 2001

My name is Shawn Osborn I have been a resident in Fairbanks for 30 years. I am in support of House Bill 2001. My wife has worked at uaf for over 20 years. We have three children two of them are going to uaf. I will be laid off in September from my job. If my wife loses her job we could potentially lose our house and and my children will no longer be able to attend uaf without taking out student loans. My wife and I will be filing for unemployment insurance. Do we really want hundreds of alaskans out of work? Do we want to flood the job market completely? And how much unemployment insurance is the state going to dish out? Do we not want the population that is healthy and educated? Not supporting House Bill 2001 flies in the face of logic and compassion. Please make the right decision and support House Bill 2001.

Thank you

From: Jill Pedersen <jsslzp@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:57 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Save OUR State!

Dear House Finance Committee member,

I urge you to restore funding to UA and the state programs red-lined in the Governor's draconian budget. If these drastic cuts go forward, I fear a slow, steady wasting away of everything that makes living in Alaska wonderful.

I support a state government that supports its citizens with services such as education, transportation, health care, public media, and law enforcement.

My priorities include support of the University of Alaska and education at every level, support of seniors, the many art associations and PBS, clean air and water for a healthy environment.

A fully funded PFD at the expense of the University, health care, and the environment is terribly short-sighted.

A check for \$3000. will never make up for the destruction of Alaska... the once-great-state.

Keep Alaska and its citizens healthy, safe and educated!
Please - SAVE OUR STATE!
Be on the right side of HISTORY!

Sincerely,

Jill Pedersen
1757 Rise Rd
Fairbanks AK 99709
jsslzp@gmail.com

From: Donna Olesen <drolesen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; representative.DaveTalerico@akleg.gov;
senator.ClickBishop@akleg.gov
Subject: On behalf of HB 2001

To the members, House Finance Committee in Fairbanks, Wednesday, July 17, 2019

I believe HB2001 can do the job we need to move forward.

I'm 72, have lived in Alaska 66 years, since my dad came here to work for Wien Airlines for 'a couple of years' in 1952... but stayed. I don't go anywhere for Christmas or Thanksgiving...my family gathers here at home for the holidays.

I support funding the Pioneer Homes, one of the best programs this state has ever created on behalf of my 92 year old mother who has resided at the Fairbanks Pioneer Home since 2014.

I support the funding for K-12 education be returned to the budget on behalf of my 3 grandchildren, attending local schools because their parents all graduated here and are doing wonderfully as contributing adults in our community.

I support the university's funding at the agreed amount in the bipartisan budget developed by the legislature after the governor's proposal was scrapped because it deserves the support! It's a world class institution, mandated in the Constitution and does a wonderful job.

Those are all easy things to speak to. What's difficult is all the small amounts in the budget for the Arts, Headstart, Elder assistance and help that comes from the matching funds made available from the state and federal governments when those non-profits providing valuable community services raise money locally. But those are so necessary!

I remember hearing Wally Hickel refer to us as an "Owner State" and I know that doesn't have a thing to do with personal ownership of mineral or subsurface rights but that I participate with the rest of the population of Alaska as guardian and investor of this great land.

That PFD has been a damned fine BONUS from the first one and that's how I have always viewed it. It isn't OWED to me, I benefit from a well-thought out, well-managed program that should continue to be managed carefully. I trust the majority of you to know how to move forward with the formula for funding that bonus. If it can't be a full amount this year because we have to use from the fund (as well as institute an income tax), at least we'll have our state!

On behalf of my home, Alaska, I am sincerely yours,

Donna Reilly Olesen
6580 Johnson Rd
Salcha, AK
PO Box 72805
Fairbanks, AK 99707

From: Tara Wheatland <tara.wheatland@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:58 PM

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

Subject: Fully fund vetoed budget items

To the Alaska House Finance Committee:

Please record my comments as part of the public testimony in this week's hearings. I ask you to fully fund the budget items vetoed by the governor. As an attorney, I am a big fan of rules, process, and having facts to support your argument. The legislature went to great lengths this year to craft a sensible budget, including careful consideration of the effects of all of its decisions (including decisions to cut funding). With the governor's vetoes, however, I have not seen ANY effort to analyze or understand what the effects of these cuts will be, let alone the opportunity for us to discuss, as a community and a state, whether we are willing to accept those effects. Despite that, there has been a flurry of analysis (none of it coming from the governor's office) reported in the press and released by various individuals and institutions about the devastating effects of these cuts on various people and institutions in our community. Please, reject the governor's attempts to circumvent the ordinary process for budgeting and restore the vetoed items from the budget.

Tara Wheatland
Anchorage, AK

From: Cindy <csouschef@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 5:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: state budget & pfd

Good Afternoon,

My name is Cindy Damario. I am from Fairbanks.

When the price of oil dropped \$100/barrel I said I hope the legislature takes this into account when they do the budget. That was years ago & I am still waiting for them to start being fiscally responsible.

I need a full dividend to fill my fuel tank every fall. This year we had planned to replace our 35 year old furnace, which has been limping along the last 2 winters, with our PFD checks. Hopefully our furnace will make it through another winter.

If anyone wants to return their PFD check to the state please feel free to do so.

Also why hasn't a state tax been implemented so all employees of our Alaskan economy pay their fair share? I know several people who work for the university yet live out of state so Alaska doesn't even get the benefit of them living & shopping here.

The FULL \$3000 PFD MUST PAID! This is not money that is used for frivolous items. I am sure we are not the only ones who need our PFD checks to make ends meet.

Thank you.
Cindy Damario

From: Shana Eager <eager000@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:00 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Funding

We need to fund AK or the state will die.

-1. Not taking care of our elders is disrespectful. They took care of us it is now our turn to take care of them.

-2 The children of this state is the future. The schools have been cut back to the bear bones that the next step is to cut more teachers and have 40 or 50 kids in a class. The students will not learn in this environment. As an employee of a school district I would like to keep my job.

-3 My children grow up in the 4-H program. This program thought my children to great adults. If the budget goes as is this program will no longer have an advisor in our district. The Advisors are the lifeblood.

-4 The University Alaska of Fairbank is a world renowned University. If you do not fund it. This will not be. The teachers will be fired and then we lose more people that live here. The students won't come. No people no money in the state. The UAF Fire Department is run by students that are learning to be firefighters and medics. University Fire Department serves a large part of the Fairbanks community. The airport, west side of Fairbanks, Ballaine Rd and half of Farmers Loop. The graduates of this program are firefighters in Fire Departments throughout the state. This is just one of the great programs that the state universities have that will not be funded if the cut go through.

-5 Not funding the scholarships of students that worked hard to get ahead in the world. That is again stepping on the youth that have worked hard in school so that they can becoming better Alaska citizens.

-6 not helping with energy cost in the bush will raise the cost of all things in the villages.

So the funding for the state needs to be put in place.

Thank you,
Shana Eager
[728 Constitution DR](#)
[Fairbank, Ak](#)

From: Krista Holbrook <kristahansonholbrook@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:00 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support House Bill 2001

I support HB 2001

Krista Holbrook
P.O. Box 83864
1895 OtterSlide Lane
Fairbanks AK 99708

From: Sven H. Grage <sven.grage@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Undo Governor's Cuts

Dear House Finance Committee Members;

I would like to urge you in the strongest way possible to undo Governor Dunleavy's budget cuts. I am sure all of you are very well aware of the long-term and, in parts, devastating consequences should the proposed cuts stay. So many of us are counting on you!

Thank you for your effort!

Sven Grage

From: Sally Kieper <sally.kieper@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:02 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore funding

Hello,

I was unable to attend the public hearing in Fairbanks today due to work and volunteer commitments.

I urge you to do whatever it takes to restore funding for the University of Alaska (especially UAF), K-12 education, HeadStart, the Arts Council, Medicaid, rural utility subsidies, programs that help those experiencing homelessness, the ferry system, the program that polices the cruise ship industry's waste practices, and any other entities or programs that are vital to our communities and quality of life in Alaska.

I support reducing the tax breaks to Big Oil. I also support a state income tax.

Thank you for your time,
Sally Kieper

1055 Chickadee Loop
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: Deirdre Osborn <dsosborn@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:03 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HELP ME STAY IN SCHOOL

I've been living in Fairbanks with my family my whole life. My mother works at UAF as a librarian so that me and my siblings would be able to afford college. If my mom loses her job we will lose our house, along with many other things. Education should be more important than a PFD. Many of my friends are going to school at UAF and are worried they won't be able to finish because of all the extra expenses. The university needs to be available for all Alaska residents or

they will have to leave. The future doesn't seem bright at the moment. Our town is full of dedicated workers and students who deserve a nice university.

From: Kathryn Brashear <kathrynbrashear@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:04 PM

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

Subject: Oppose the Deal that Kills Education

My name is Kathryn Brashear and I am a concerned student. With these cuts to the UA system my tuition waiver, APS scholarship, and Major in Japanese have been slashed. Looking into college I had many options, but I chose UAF because of it's close proximity to home as well as it's financial incentives. Now not only have I lost all of my support for college, but I have also lost my major. With the addition of my father's job on the line if this deal is sealed, I will not only have to go to college and will incur massive debts through loans, but I will most likely have to leave the state that I love. I implore you to change the decision that will destroy not only my life but the lives of over 1,500 other employees of UA and their families.

Sincerely, Kathryn Brashear
775 Merlin Lane Fairbanks, AK

From: karenjensen99709@yahoo.com <karenjensen99709@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:05 PM

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

Subject: why research matters

This is my testimony in support of additional funding for the University of Alaska.

Pick up the phone in your hand. Start your car's engine. Get on a plane that takes off and lands safely. Help a relative recovering from chemo, and know that because treatment is so much better today than it was 20 years ago, he/she will probably survive, or at least live much longer than before. Get your child/grandchild immunized against polio, measles, chicken pox and prevent the disease from making him/her blind, infertile, or even from dying. Eat safe food in a dizzying diversity of options.

All of these things are possible because of research. Some research is applied research, such as testing different varieties of barley or peonies, in sub arctic growing conditions. Some research is "pure" research, looking at how animal cells behave in different circumstances, or testing different battery storage media. Applied research might lead directly to a new business opportunity, the avoidance of disaster, or a solution to a public health problem. And applied research depends on pure research - knowing how the world works, from physics, to chemistry, to immunology.

UAF does both types of research and has for 100+ years. We are truly world class. Although we've suffered horrific cuts for the past five years, that have damaged our research output and reputation,

we're still here and still doing world class research, and our students get to participate in this amazing opportunity. The capacity is here, the people here, and the infrastructure and private support, to get grants to sustain our research. Research dollars support the community, support students, and our faculty make it happen. To lose this for the university system is akin to an individual severing both legs; you'll live through it, but why on earth would you do it?! Surely you'd find another option.

We all depend on research and what it gives back to society. It's not merely an intellectual exercise for academics. It leads to our understanding of how the world actually works, what makes it tick, using methods that can prove or disprove hypotheses, so that we can rely on predicting what will happen. You know your car will start, or that if it won't, something is wrong with one of its parts. You know that your cell phone works, and it's not magic (although it can seem that way!). You know all of that because universities like ours build knowledge, real knowledge that we share with humanity to improve our lives, our environment, our future.

Help sustain Alaska's amazing record of research, education, and contributions to society and pass a spending bill that gets us through to better times.

Thank you,
Karen Jensen
karenjensen99709@yahoo.com

From: Colleen Morey <soaringeaglespiritchild@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:06 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Hearing Fairbanks

Hello,

I'm a Fairbanks resident and am taking this opportunity to state that I support a reduced or eliminated PFD and state funding returned to the levels passed by the legislature before the governor's veto. We need state government funded. A PFD is nice, but it's not essential. It's unnerving that our governor and 22 legislative members are more interested in keeping outside interests happy than they are in taking care of Alaskan residents. It's also unfortunate that they have created a situation where Alaskan residents are squabbling amongst themselves over \$1,400.

Thank you for reading my statement.

Colleen Morey
1345 Arctic Tern Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

From: Alayne Tetor <atetor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:07 PM

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

Subject: restore funding

To the House Finance Committee,

I have been a resident of Alaska for nine years and a public high school art teacher. I moved to Alaska initially for the beauty and the adventure. I stayed because of the rich culture, the community, and because of how people take care of each other and the environment. I urge you to please restore funding to the programs that were cut due to Gov. Dunleavy's veto. We all prosper in wellness, safety, education, science, and the arts. We are more than a site for extraction and profit. Our communities and our state thrive when we are whole; not when we have been cut down to bare bones profit for wealthy corporations.

Sincerely,
Alayne Tetor

PO Box 2012
Homer, AK 99603
atetor@gmail.com

From: Klara Maisch <klara@klaramaisch.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:08 PM

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

Cc: Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please restore funding for the state council on the arts

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Klara Maisch, I am an artist and painter with lifelong roots here in Fairbanks. I knew making a living as an artist would not be an easy way to support myself but I feel that creating artwork is worth the financial instability I often feel. I certainly know the work of my artistic peers is incredibly important and they feel similar pressures and yet we all still continue to make work and generate a living. Collectively we bring culture, passion, and a genuine voice to this place we choose to call home. I think funding should be restored for all the line item vetos- but I want to speak from my own experiences and how the Alaska State Council on the Arts has specifically and personally impacted me in two direct ways (line item 27).

1. I paint the changing landscapes of Alaska directly in the field and often in remote areas. I was a one time recipient of an individual artist grant from ASCA (\$900) to go towards documenting and studying under my mentor Bill Brody. Bill has practiced art in Alaska for 40+ years and is a source of great cross generational knowledge and inspiration for my own work. This grant allowed me to capture his process while we worked together and painted in the remote wilderness of the Wrangells. I can't begin to say how fundamental this experience was for me and I feel incredibly lucky to have received the support to pursue this opportunity. I feel this work is an important link and a direct passing of the generational baton in the realm of field art in Alaska. The Arctic is changing, vast, and dynamic. Art is a critical way to communicate and generate dialogue about our home.

2. Through ASCA and Fairbanks Arts Association, I have had the pleasure of working in three schools as an Artist-in-the-Schools including North Pole Middle, Pearl Creek Elementary, and Watershed Charter. My studio walls are plastered with notes from the North Pole Middle Schoolers who found a lot of release, self discovery and focus through our collaborative mural project. This age group in particular really benefited from an adaptive mural project designed for their interests and stage in life. They were given a freedom to explore the creative process and I saw them transform

over three weeks from disengaged to full on active ownership of the work. Being able to connect, learn from and teach those students is an outcome that is perhaps intangible in many ways, but no less profound. These students are our future. We need engaged and creative minds.

These are two examples of programs that will disappear if ASCA remains defunded. For less than \$700,000 of funding from the state budget, your vote to support ASCA brings in far more than four times that amount in matching funds (those funds will be lost entirely if there's no ASCA) I solemnly request that you PLEASE act in the interest my livelihood, and more importantly in the collective interest of our state, the future of our educational system and our youth to fund these immensely important programs.

Thank you for your time,
Klara Maisch

From: Doug Norton <alaskanortons@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:09 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: In favor of proposed bill that sets dividend at \$900+ and restores cuts

I would much rather pay a tax than accept the cuts that the governor has made. My personal preference would be an income tax so that workers who live out of state would pay part of it. In particular, I see the cuts to the university system as devastating to the Fairbanks community in many ways.

Thank you for listening to your constituents.

Sandra Smith-Norton
1352 Glade Ct
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-479-8727

From: Erik Drygas <erikdrygas@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:09 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 2001

Dear House Finance committee,

I am asking you to support HB 2001 that restores all of the funding that the Governor vetoed. The Governor's largest veto is to the University of Alaska, and this will have a devastating impact on all Alaskans.

As a lifelong Alaskan I am here because my father came to Alaska on a swimming scholarship to UAF in 1970. Eventually I earned a scholarship to play hockey at UAF and was proud to wear the

blue and gold of my hometown school. After suffering a spinal cord injury the entire state of Alaska supported me as I was able to earn my degree from UAF, and continue working with the hockey program for the last 20 years. That's what Alaskans do for each other, they look out for each other and they help them when they are in need of help. Right now Alaskans are in need of your help!

I also had the opportunity to serve on the University of Alaska Board of Regents, and currently the Regents and the President have the impossible job of trying to cut \$135 million dollars from the budget. There is NO way possible to cut that amount from the budget without fundamentally altering the future of the University of Alaska forever. The shockwaves would hit the students, staff, faculty, all Alaskans, as well as the country.

We've just witnessed the tip of the iceberg, when earlier today Moody's downgraded the University of Alaska's bonds to just above junk bond status. It will happen if the funds are not restored to our great University and there will be no going back in the future. Do we want the the University (and Alaska) to be thought of as junk? What message is this sending to current and future students? And, what message are we sending to current and potential investors who would like to invest in Alaska?

My wife and I, as well as our two young daughters would gladly give up all future dividends so we don't see Alaska crumble. I urge you to listen to the majority of Alaskans and support HB 2001. Alaska needs you!

Sincerely,
Erik Drygas

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Erik Drygas
2617 Chief Alexander Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Home: 907-322-2825

From: Music Bell <musicality24@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written Testimony against Dunleavy's vetoes

Hello,

My name is Shelly. I am a current undergraduate student at the University of Alaska. I come from the Mat-Su area, and I am currently living in Fairbanks. I had to leave the UAA/Mat-Su district because UAA suspended their Chemistry program, only to reopen it again later. However, UAA's chemistry program is not accredited by the American Chemical Society (the world's largest scientific society). UAF is the only university with an accredited program for chemistry by ACS in the state of Alaska.

I have met other undergraduate students who had to leave UAA to attend other universities within and outside of Alaska in order to complete their degrees. Many of these students face this decision due to budget cuts in many different educational departments at the University of Alaska.

I have seen the struggles of many educators in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education. They are not able to personalize their classes to meet their students' needs to be able to succeed due to limited classes offered and limited teachers and professors teaching the courses. Many people learn differently, and the children need more attention and personalized education to make sure they succeed in every way possible. These children, young adults, and college students are the future of our work force. The medical students at UAA might attend Washington University's medical program, which we have a collaboration with, come back to support the Alaskan community.

How are we able to give to Alaskans if we limit the sources that Alaskans need in order for Alaska to be supported? In other words, if Alaskans don't have the resources to make this state stronger and more unified, then how can we have a community and how are we able to keep people here to continue the cycle of support and growth?

As for PFD, I would be willing to not have a PFD if it means that the PFD goes towards the budget cuts so that we have these resources available to the people of Alaska. I don't want to see women, children, and men who need these resources be kicked out just because we cannot supply them the basic needs for human life: water, food, and shelter. We don't even pay state taxes, and our PFD money is just something extra we get. Most of us haven't done anything special to "deserve" the PFD besides live in this state year round. I say we use the PFD to make sure our state budget is balanced and that everyone can have the resources that they need without having to worry about not being able to cover medical costs or being able to eat the next day. We should use the money to invest back into the people of Alaska. We should be saving humanity.

With that said, I want to thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Shelly

From: Susan Campbell <susancampbell.2ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:15 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: testimony

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

I want to add my voice to the myriad others who are imploring you to do everything you can to counter the travesty of cuts Governor Dunleavy has made along with the extraordinarily irresponsible \$3,000 PFD. I have lived and worked in Fairbanks for 30 years. I have made Fairbanks my home because of the quality of life I have found here.

I am willing to see my own PFD zeroed-out if needed to maintain K-12 education funding, University of Alaska funding, the Alaska State Council for the Arts, and social services funding. These institutions and functions are crucial to the quality of life in our unique state of Alaska. I believe it is the role of our government to fund programs that benefit all Alaskans, and that funding support for these programs and institutions should take clear precedence over giving away more PFD funds.

I wholeheartedly agree with Senator Click Bishop's comments to the UA Board of Regents when he said, "To do what we have done here is nothing short of a travesty." I am willing to pay income- and sales-taxes to fund Alaska's thriving quality of life.

Sincerely,
Susan Campbell

From: Scott Shirar <scottshirar@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:17 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for HB2001

Hello,

I am writing to express my support for a bill that includes a lower PFD amount while reinstating funding for all of the governor's line item vetoes. My feeling is that these funding cuts implemented by the governor are a huge mistake that will take years to recover from. I would also like to take this opportunity to voice my support for alternative ways to increase funding for government programs and the University of Alaska including but not necessarily limited to restructuring oil industry tax cuts/exemptions, a state income tax, low to no PFD, and/or a state sales tax. I believe we are at a critical juncture in Alaskan history and am asking the legislature to take corrective action with regard to the state budget.

Thank you,
Scott Shirar
Fairbanks, AK

From: Peter Damiano <damiano.pa@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:18 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: please restore vetoed funds

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I strongly urge the Legislature and Governor to be consistent with the action in recent years by agreeing to pay out a lower dividend and use the remaining balance to restore the vetoed funding including that to the UA system and Medicaid. Both individuals and businesses benefit from a stable and predictable level of quality government service (including education) and the partial use of the dividend funds to help maintain this stability is to the benefit of all Alaskans. I am not a native Alaskan, but came to the state attracted by the tremendous research environment that UAF fosters. It only benefits the state to attract more individuals such as myself as it helps diversify the economy and opportunities within the state. However, the cuts, if implemented, will force many in my position to seek employment again outside of Alaska.

In lieu of a reduced PFD (and to sustain the long term financial stability of the state), I would also advocate for a state sales or income tax. I believe that a modest tax rate would go a long way to keeping financial stability without negatively impacting the competitiveness of the state. Indeed, access to a consistent high quality educational system, medical and other government aided services are a competitive advantage in themselves.

Sincerely,
P. Damiano
Fairbanks

From: Karen Mannix <loonglass@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:19 PM

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

Subject: HB 2001

Honorable Legislators and Governor:

It's difficult to greet many of you as "honorable," I'm sorry to say. I feel it is wholly dishonorable to literally sink a state, along with its only institute of higher learning, its State Arts Council, and its aid to children, the poor, the elderly, etc. to the degree you have seen fit to do. It is unprecedented, thoughtless, cruel, and completely backward thinking...all for the sake of a \$3000 dividend.

I support HB 2001, and I also support a PROGRESSIVE income tax. I believe that "you don't get something for nothing," and that quality things are worth working and paying for. I think it is very important to override in full the vetoes that Governor Dunleavy slashed from the budget. These vetoes represent taking even more services away from the residents of Alaska, and that a \$3000 dividend can't possibly make up the difference that the disenfranchised, in particular, will PAY for in terms of services of health care, food, fuel subsidies, etc. they have lost.

I am lucky. I don't need a PFD. It's great to get. It cushions our family financially. It's a gift. Other people need it to live, just to get by. But I am most willing to pay a State income tax in order to have stable State funding, and if that in turn gives me a PFD, that's fine. The reason I support a PROGRESSIVE income tax as opposed to a flat tax is that a flat tax is inequitable. It taxes the poor as much as the rich. For example: If a family of 3 that earns \$30,000/year is taxed at 10% rate (\$3000,) its net income is \$27,000. If a family of 3 that earns \$300,000/year is taxed at the same 10% rate its net income is \$270,000. Which family can actually survive let alone eat well? People of lower and moderate income should not bear the same tax burden as the wealthy. That family of little means should be paying a lower percentage. A full PFD might be possible with a State income tax and that family of lesser means would be able to eat better or maybe even buy something they otherwise couldn't afford.

I see the value of the PFD for Alaska residents who need it; I realize it must be given to all residents (legally), BUT if you strip the State of services such as Medicaid dental assistance, that same family of lesser means will be using their PFD at the dentist, and the wealthy family will be able to buy a new snow machine.

I'm only saying this for the sake of demonstrating 1) That I recognize the value of the PFD, especially for low income families, 2) I feel the State needs to come to its senses and levy a PROGRESSIVE income tax so as not to be dependent on oil revenue, and 3) I feel that ALL Alaska residents should not be penalized by losing their State Arts Council, their very quality University system, and the numerous other significant and needed services this Governor and 20 or so legislators are willing to take away from Alaska, for the sake of \$3000.

This disastrous budget will put Alaska in a recession. Are you really willing to put 1500 University employees out of work? Are you willing to make the University an UNENVIABLE place to be educated? Are you willing to watch teachers and students leave Alaska? Are you willing to take away EARNED scholarships? No one will trust the State when it comes to going to college if you can so destroy its programs in ONE YEAR. It is the quickest way to cause the University to FOLD and its students and teachers to go elsewhere. It makes the question "Would you like to donate \$ to the Alaska college fund?" (that appears on the PFD) a complete joke. What University? What programs? Oh, I can't get that degree close to my home UA campus. Might as well go out of State.

I think HB 2001 should be passed because funding needs to be restored and the legislature needs to consider a REAL, source of State income; either a progressive income tax or a greater tax on fossil fuels. Imagine if Alaska had had an income tax for the past 30 years and everyone who made money here, who doesn't LIVE here, paid taxes (non-residents can take the \$ and run; they give nothing back)...imagine the revenue our State would have had. Instead, we find ourselves with no consistent revenue.

I feel we should override the Governor's vetoes and this thoughtless budget via supporting HB 2001, give out the highest PFD we can afford, and balance the budget with income taxes. You don't get something for NOTHING. I'd like a vibrant University, the Arts, support for health care, children, elderly, PUBLIC radio. \$3000 to me pales when compared to the staggering losses you propose through this budget.

Sincerely,

Karen Mannix
Talkeetna, Alaska
907-351-9246
Resident Since 1979

From: Laurene Madsen <laurenemadsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: pfd payout

Hello I am very concerned about the exorbitant amount of the governors suggested PFD. Is 50 kids in a 1st grade classroom worth \$3000. Or no ferry service all winter worth \$3000? I think not. You are playing with our state's future in a drastic way by not solving our financial problems. Get rid of tax credits for oil companies. Do not give people money and take away services that make life better in this state. The homeless, children, elderly, and others who will be marginalized. Matching federal funds for OWL will be gone to the villages. Rural lives will die. Do what's right. This welfare check called the PFD should be judiciously distributed and some may have to be used to balance the budget if the legislature won't do https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_something.like&d=DwIFaQ&c=Q8iJasR7RZ-J0Fd9RXd9ZA&r=a5pDORdnYs7kR4VjhUDiyLmblkyX7D-bQzoi8NQbiql&m=I60La040WywiuZvjAVP7VDKXasDruxvMhq0pJx9APE&s=iQPrQRjrQN-5UrpKZN8-7Md6-Q1EnFx-cqwOeHZna-o&e= income tax after oil tax credits are removed. Do what's right solve these problems Thank you
Laurene Madsen .

From: Teresa Lantz <tlantz.technical@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Restore Funding!

Please restore funding vetoed by the governor! The legislature worked a long time to develop the budget, and it should be honored.

The Governor's vetos are already harming Alaskans - homeless shelters cutting back their hours, college students facing an uncertain future, senior citizens missing vital payments, the Alaska State Council for the Arts closing, to name only a few. The list goes on and on. We cannot let this happen to our state.

The University of Alaska is a major economic and cultural driver in our state - it is shameful for the Governor to slash the budget the way he did. The University's accreditation is at risk, and the bond rating has already been dropped because of the uncertainty.

This is not good government. This is reckless behavior. We must protect our most vulnerable citizens, and we must create a future for the young people in this state.

Please do not sacrifice Alaska's long-term prosperity for the sake of a few large PFD payouts!

Thank you,

Teresa Lantz
Fairbanks

From: Laura Grage <llgrage@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:23 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: the budget, the PFD and Alaskan Priorities

Hi House Finance members,

Thank you for taking my testimony on the priorities for the budget that our state is undergoing. There is so much that is wrong with the cuts that Dunleavy made to the budget that the legislature put out, but I'm going to stick to a few priorities in this email.

1) Education - Alaska's economy cannot go forward and compete with the rest of the U.S. if we don't invest substantially in education at all levels. I come from a family where nobody ahead of me had graduated from college and several barely squeaked through high school. I obtained both an AAS and a BS in nursing from the UAA program from right here in Fairbanks. I've practiced nursing at FMH and in our school district as a school nurse. I very much value and appreciate what that education has enabled me to do and the quality of life I've obtained. I am now a graduate student at UAF studying epidemiology and public health. I will be working on a project aimed at reducing obesity in 3-5 year olds in the YK Delta over the next few years. I don't know how more to stress to you how important education has been for me personally and to what I can give back to further education and health for the next generation. From Pre K all the way to graduate work and research at UAF, education is the way forward for this state.

2) PFD - I personally have come to HATE this aspect of Alaska living over the last few years. We cannot be so shortsighted as to look through a tunnel at what may or may not be a constitutional right for people to get this money at the expense of every public education program that the state has to offer its residents and children. I am well aware of how much money poor Alaskan's with many children stand to lose or gain through the varying PFD payments. I, myself am not in that position, however as a way to offset the burden that changing the PFD to a lesser amount may impart on these people, how bout an income tax so that those of us who can afford to help contribute revenue while the state can continue to provide schools for these people who may not realize what services they benefit from that the state funds.

There are many creative ways forward. Tax is not a bad word to those of us who see the value of long term fiscal planning.

Thank you so much for your work during this tumultuous time in Alaska. I appreciate that work, even if I don't always agree with the outcomes!

-Laura Grage, RN

From: gary <grknuepfer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:23 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: gary <grknuepfer@hotmail.com>
Subject: HB 2001

Please vote for HB 2001 and restore all funding, or this state will be in a sorry state. Without opportunity and support, the future of Alaska is doomed. People will leave and nobody will come except money grabbers. The University should continue to be a huge lure, not decimated almost beyond repair. Without a robust education system and public services, what kind of a community can be expected? Not a very healthy one.
Thank you for listening, and thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Gary R Knuepfer
Fairbanks

July 17, 2019

Dear Legislators,

Thank you for your service to our state. I know this budget situation is as stressful for you as it is for the citizens of Alaska, and I appreciate your time and efforts on our behalf.

I am writing to implore you to restore all of the funding that was eliminated from the FY20 budget by Governor Dunleavy's vetoes. While I do feel that we Alaskans need to learn to live within our means, and that some budget cuts are necessary and appropriate, such rapid defunding of social programs and of the University of Alaska threatens the future of our state and of our communities.

I am a registered republican, and a 25 year employee of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I hear a lot about bloated University salaries. I make \$51,000 a year and, despite stellar performance reviews, have not received my approximately .25 an hour step increase in 3 years due to budget cuts. That is fine with me. I understand that I work for a state that has money problems, and belt tightening is necessary. I would even be fine with a pay cut, and I do see plenty of opportunities for increased efficiencies in the UA system. My fear is that with the magnitude and speed of cuts currently required, the reductions are going to be sloppy and unsystematic, leaving a University from which no one is proud to graduate. Already Moody's has reduced our credit rating, leaving only Puerto Rico beneath us in the financial stability of its college system.

I also worry about Fairbanks' economy. If UAF were to be shuttered, or even have its number of employees drastically reduced, I feel that Fairbanks would suffer tremendously. My husband and I own a couple of rental properties and for the first time ever we had to reduce our rent this week on a vacancy in order to be competitive. Rents are going down. We bought and rehabilitated these properties as part of our retirement, and now as we are approaching retirement age I fear they will become worthless. My husband was born and raised in Fairbanks and he tells me how, during the recession in the 80s, the banks here in town were burning houses because so many of them had been given back to the bank. Already I have friends who have decided not to make improvements on their homes and to forego buying a new vehicle due to fears of being laid off. I cancelled my local gym membership and have economized in many other ways because even if I am not laid off in this round of cuts, there is always next year's budget. Most everyone I know intends to hold on to the money that they have now. No \$3000 dividend can erase the uncertainty that this budget has created.

I believe that Alaska needs to get over our "oil rich" mentality and make plans to be move forward within our new fiscal reality, but I don't think cuts are solely the answer. It's time we tax ourselves, require the oil companies to pay their fair share, and make gradual, well thought out cuts to our state budget. I urge the Legislature to use this time to negotiate for more gradual cuts and to influence the UA system into creating a University that can be both fiscally and academically strong for the future of Alaska.

Many Thanks,
Rebecca Phillips
1161 Dolphin Way
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

907-378-0006

From: Liz Lyke <LLyke@fnsb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pass HB2001 for the sake of all Alaskans

Dear House Finance Committee members,
I urge you in the strongest way to pass HB2001. The most valuable resource we have is our people. Should the Governor's vetoes become law, the Fairbanks economy will be forced into an unnecessary recession. The cuts will impact the most vulnerable residents the most. We could do so much more for people in need, but by no means should we do less! The overwhelming majority of Fairbanks residents I've spoken to support the common sense budget the legislature past this year. As an Assembly member I strive to pass ordinances and resolutions that reflect the will of the majority of residents. I also try to consider what will best for the future of our Borough. The cuts to pre-k to University education will take away a brighter future for the children and youth of our state. I encourage this committee to unanimously pass HB2001. I admire your determination to keep working to do what's right for Fairbanks and the State of Alaska!
Thanks,
Liz.

Liz Lyke
Borough Assembly Seat F
Fairbanks North Star Borough
907 Terminal Street
PO BOX 71267
Fairbanks, AK 99707
LLyke@fnsb.us
Phone: 907-378-3727
Fax: 907-459-1224

From: adam.zenger@gci.net <adam.zenger@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

Please accept this communication as support for restoring the operating budget to the one presented by a bi-partisan legislature and subsequently vetoed by the governor. I am ambiguous regarding a Permanent Fund Dividend, although I understand there are people who rely on it, quite frankly I'd rather not receive one (ever again) if it means destroying Alaska's education system and depriving our most vulnerable populations of needed benefits. In fact, in addition, I'd rather see a state income tax so that some of the money that leaves the state is actually used to support the state in which it is earned.

I believe this governor has been less than truthful and forthcoming with the people of Alaska and his actions are shameful and potentially severely harmful to Alaskans. I strongly support the idea of living within your means and having a balanced budget, but I cannot support a ludicrous plan to remedy the wrongs of decades in two years and on the backs of our youth, seniors and marginalized populations.

As a side note, the stripping of funding from the Alaska Performance Scholarship illustrates an utter lack of conscious on the part of the governor, in my opinion. Those kids worked for a benefit and then are not provided the benefit they were promised. That is unacceptable and sends a horrible message to young adults who will be the decision makers of the future.

In conclusion, thanks to each of you for your service to the people of Alaska, please remember it is us, and not the governor that you serve.

Very respectfully,

Michelle Holland-Zenger

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:28 PM

To: Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>

Subject: Budget vetoes

I would like to be one voice in a sea of many pleading you to stop the Governors vetoes and reverse the sweep. Personally, my daughter is one of those brilliant students who earned the academic scholarship and is starting UAF in a month. She made her decision to stay in Alaska partly because of her fiscal responsibility. This sweep changes her scenario and gives her zero time to change where she would get her education.

I would also like a budget that makes sense. One that allows for growth and income opportunities. Please...do your jobs with due diligence and speed.

Thank you,

Cynthia Swan

A concerned Constituent

From: Bob and Joyce <widmanalaska@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:29 PM

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

Subject: Restore funding!!!

Education is what builds our future. Cutting funds to education increases the prison population and makes our state and unattractive place to live. We need to support our youth and those who are trying to better themselves!

Joyce and Bob Widman

Fairbanks

From: KS Bollinger <ksb729@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comment on HB 2001 and 2019 PFD

TO: Alaska House Finance Committee

FROM: Karen S Bollinger
3265 Anella Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska
House District 5

SUBJECT: Comment on HB 2001 and the 2019 PFD

Please see the attached Word document (2019-07-17 - KSB Comments to House Legislature re HB 2001 and PFD).
that communicates my views and comments.

I have also presented the text of this document below:

2019-07-17

TO: Alaska House Finance Committee
FROM: Karen S Bollinger
3265 Anella Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
House District 5
1980: First Moved to Alaska
2000-2006: Absent from Alaska
2006-Present: Resident of Alaska in Fairbanks
SUBJECT: HB 2001

I am testifying via this written correspondence as to HB 2001 that is the means by which the legislature will make appropriations from the earnings reserve and determine the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) for 2019. Also, I would like to comment on the State Legislators interest in restoring the \$444 million in funds that were cut by the governor in this appropriation bill.

My stand on these current issues:

1. Bipartisan Budget Bill by the Alaska Legislature submitted to the Governor
 1. Whole-hearted Support of Legislature Budget reached by hard-fought compromises
2. Alaska Governor Vetoes of the Bipartisan Budget Bill to the tune of \$444 million in funds
 1. Whole-hearted Disagreement
 2. Very Saddened that the Override Attempt to these Vetoes failed
3. Permanent Fund Dividend payment to Alaska State Residents: STOP!
 1. Stop any Payment of the PFD to Alaska State Residents

I am in agreement with the Governor's commitment to reducing state spending, increasing the efficiency of state government, and balancing the state's budget. However, I am very much opposed to his approach as to how to accomplish this – which (as I understand it) is to prioritize payment of a full dividend of \$3,000 to every Alaska resident over providing ESSENTIAL state government services for all Alaskans.

The Permanent Fund Dividend was created by the Alaska Legislature in 1980 and signed into law by Governor Jay Hammond. The original statute listed three purposes: (i) mechanism for equitable distribution . . . of the state's energy wealth, (ii) encourage maintenance of Alaska residency, (iii) encourage resident involvement in the management of the PFD. The PFD is NOT an ENTITLEMENT for individual payouts and/or to enrich individual Alaskans. Rather, the purpose of the Permanent Fund itself (the corpus) is to help provide government services for future generations of Alaskans as nonrenewable resources are depleted. As Governor Jay Hammond stated in his 2011 book, "It makes little sense to pay out ever-increasing dividends if we have in place no means of recouping whatever is necessary to fund essential government programs" when lamenting the 1980 repeal of the state's income tax.

The Governor's vetoes to the Legislature's State Budget totaling \$444 million in cuts directly affect services such as the University of Alaska, public education, health care, public safety, transportation, etc. No analysis of the impact of these \$444 million cuts has been done and the actual impact to the state and its economy cannot be definitively predicted or understood. The impact to the University of Alaska is of special concern to me and how it will affect the future of this state. However, many are of the opinion (including many respected state leaders) that these draconian cuts will devastate the state and its economy to the point from which it will be hard to recover for many, many years, if ever.

Overall, the attitude of the American people, including Alaskans, is that they 'DESERVE', that they are "ENTITLED TO" government services and payouts without having to pay for them. I believe this general attitude, along with the prevalent lack of personal responsibility for one's own actions, will eventually undermine the character and future of the not Alaska but of the entire United States as well.

A couple of further notes:

I am also in favor of re-instating a state income tax.

Review of the current oil tax credits need to be accomplished

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Karen S Bollinger

From: Arthur Mannix <arthurjmannix@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:29 PM

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

Subject: HB 2001 Letter of Support

Dear Governor Dunleavy and Alaska Legislators...

I am writing in to express my support of HB 2001. I've been an Alaskan resident for 41 years working as a self-employed Building Contractor (Licensed, Bonded and Insured).

I was a registered Republican for over 40 years but changed my affiliation to the Democratic Party.

I am willing to pay a State (Progressive) Income Tax (if it is properly implemented) if that is what it would take to maintain the integrity of our State government.

Figure it out folks. Ask not what your State can do for you, but what you can do for your State.

Arthur Mannix
Talkeetna

From: Peg Schaffhauser <pegfairbanks@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Partial PFD, fund education at all levels

Dear Representatives,

I urge you to fund education statewide, from early education programs to the university. Also, your support for the Marine Highway System is the only way to keep a viable population in coastal Alaskan communities. Public radio and television provide connection and education, as do the arts. Reduce the PFD this time and pursue other revenue sources, such as income taxes and taxes for resource extraction, to sustain quality of life.

Thank you for your efforts.

Peg Schaffhauser RPT
PO Box 71241
Fairbanks, AK 99707-1241
907 455-6448

From: Lyndi Krause <lyndikrause@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

It is with great disappointment that we see this governor take services away from the children and the seniors, the most vulnerable. And it seems he has a personal vendetta against UAF, although according to his bio that is where he earned his MEd. We cannot allow UAF to be gutted! Not only has it been a great educational opportunity for our children (and myself - go Nanooks!) but it is also world renowned for research and study. Now my grandson has lost the Alaska Performance Scholarship, for which he worked hard, and may not be able to attend college because that earned amount was in his budget!

If there is no APS, no senior discounts for property taxes or basic services, no jobs at UAF (which means Fairbanks will be greatly affected), we will not be able to stay in Fairbanks where we have been since the 1975. This is our home and all of this is so disheartening. Those of us who used to stand on the corner and wave signs, or used to stage sit-ins, are getting tired. Or I guess I should say sick and tired of the ineptness and unfairness.

Just give us a tax! Fund our schools and university! Decide on a small amount we all get for the PFD and used that fund as it was intended! I know you are working hard and long - keep it up!

Lynette Krause, 710 Waves Rd. Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: Ron Hauck <rhauck@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

To all House House Representatives;

You currently have 5 trials left.

AK - State/Local Employee Salaries - All Local Employees

Select new category

Customize Your View **Current View: All Employees**

Year	Employer Name	Job Title	Name	Annual Wages
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		Thomas Robert Matthew	\$604,557.90
2017	City Of Anchorage	Senior Patrol Officer	Kennedy Alvin	\$450,304.00
2017	City Of Anchorage	Senior Patrol Officer	Feliciano Ellezer	\$428,304.00
2018	University Of Alaska Anchorage System	President	Johnsen James Roland	\$384,599.99
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		Russell Gabrielle Anne	\$370,869.20
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		Johnsen James Roland	\$358,892.47
2017	City Of Anchorage	Line Foreman	Reese Robert	\$331,852.32
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		Williams Vickie L	\$316,911.65
2018	University Of Alaska Anchorage System	Chancellor	White Daniel M	\$315,197.09
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		Cundiff Nicole Leann	\$285,481.10
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		Thomas Dana Lester	\$279,770.16
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		Case Thomas R	\$278,742.38
2018	University Of Alaska Anchorage System	Chancellor	Caulfield Richard A	\$276,666.59
2018	University Of Alaska Anchorage System	Athletics Coach 3	Mccarthy Ryan Matthew	\$275,263.96
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		Konar Brenda Helene	\$273,748.60
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		Harrington Phillip L	\$255,466.40
2018	City Of Anchorage	Firefighter	Thompson Emily	\$249,936.52
2018	University Of Alaska Anchorage System	Chancellor	Gingerich Samuel B	\$249,600.00
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		Harris Jennifer Balster	\$246,620.54
2017	City Of Anchorage	Line Foreman	Phillips Patrick	\$242,725.75
2018	University Of Alaska Anchorage System	Temporary Faculty - Non-Credit	Lo Deborah Eville	\$242,198.75
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		White Daniel M	\$240,712.64
2018	University Of Alaska Anchorage System	Temporary Faculty - Non-Credit	Kofinas Gary P	\$237,345.06
2018	University Of Alaska Anchorage System	Associate Professor	Michel Christine Marie	\$237,220.00
2017	Anchorage School District	Superintendent	Bishop Deena	\$235,000.00
2018	Anchorage School District	Superintendent	Bishop Deena	\$235,000.00
2017	University Of Alaska Anchorage System		Kruse Gordon H	\$233,092.37



The Alaska State Legislators have spent millions recklessly for years. A multimillion pool in Sitka, a town of 8,000. There are now 3 public pools in Sitka. SO UNNECESSARY! You are spending multimillions (I think I heard 30 million) on extending the end of the road in Sitka, truly "A ROAD TO NOWHERE"(picture enclosed)! Your U of AK budget that pays the administrative salaries throughout the state, salaries from \$250,000-\$500,000, is scandalous! Out of the top 15 highest paying salaries in the state of Alaska, 10 go to the U of A administration (See enclosed printout)!

Now, you want to steal our money, the PFD, which is given to us because we own the state land and oil. The fund was created for us, not for greedy politicians to put their hand in and steal! ALaska is our state, our land, our oil, our money! The money IS NOT YOURS TO SPEND OR AMEND!

Thank you,

Marilyn Hauck

From: Baker Building <bakerbuilding907@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:33 PM

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

Subject: maintain the legislative budget

Importance: High

Please DO NOT let the Governor's VETO stand.

To lower the rating of the University in this State is devastating: Loss of funding, loss of dynamic professors & staff, loss of top Alaskan students, loss of programs that are having a positive impact on the world, loss of the dynamic energy that a university offers its hometowns, loss of grants and so on... It took 100 years to build and 6 months to destroy.

It is responsible to make cuts as presented and then wait a year or two to see the impact of these cuts and what needs to be changed.

To take a baseball bat to the knees of Alaska so it crashes, is NOT responsible leadership.

Regards,

Katharine Weber-Baker

kathewb@gmail.com

907-388-4992

From: Linda Wies <rlmcwies@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:34 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

Hi my name is Linda Wies I have lived in Fairbanks for 20 years and was planning to spend the next 30 or 40 years here.

I want to let you know that I oppose the drastic cuts the governor has implemented. They are simply too drastic I believe they will ruin our economy. My husband works at the University and for the first time in our 14 year marriage we have talked about where we would go if he loses his job. I am currently at home raising our young children and often watching Neighbors kids but are used to write Medicaid waivers for the disabled it is unconscionable to cut all the funds to very vulnerable citizens. I am also an artist the cuts to the arts feel personal what is the society with no art.

I think we should be looking at an income tax or a sales tax a big PFD is not worth cutting the University and services to our most vulnerable community members and the arts it's not worth it! Please find a solution that does not gut our state!

Sincerely,

Linda Wies

1104 Canterbury Dr

Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Alan & Lizzie Skinner <skinner.ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:34 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: 2019 budget talks: HB 2001

I am expressing my own personal beliefs. I am disappointed with the current state of affairs in Juneau. As a young man raised in the Fairbanks area, I need to express my voice in this debate for PFD funding and a signed budget.

I am in favor of a full PFD for many reasons. The most important one is that a change in the PFD formula should be made by the people and more than 4 months from when the check is supposed to be in the bank. People need stability. The fact that we're still talking about this (on the 4th year running) is a huge disappointment in our state leadership. We could have largely gone without any state legislature for the last 4 years and still ended up nearly where we are. The expenses for state senators, representatives, aides and support staff are not justified with the lack of results.

As a young father, my family has been effectively taxed over \$18,000 over the last 3 years and I stand to be taxed another \$10,000 this year through the reduced PFD of HB2001. My state tax liability shouldn't exceed 10% of my AGI, but it appears it will be much higher under this legislation!! Combined with property taxes, my effective total state and local tax for next year will be 20% of my AGI. THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE! I might as well live in high tax states like New York or New Jersey!!

We need a signed, balanced budget. I am against extravagant taxes but I cannot sit back and watch my family bear the majority of this financial burden when others are able to go on (largely unaffected) due to their stage of life. A 2.1% payroll tax combined with a 6% capital gains tax would more evenly distribute the tax burden away from working, growing families and share the load with people who have been blessed with the abundant resources of Alaska and some 35 years of tax-free income, combined with generous, full payment dividends during their child-rearing years, and a glorious pension in their retirement. Legislators accept the PFD grab because it works out considerably better for them than any other revenue generation available.

To have a group of out-of-touch individuals leading the state down a financial hole is unacceptable. I have been awake [at 3 am](#) stressing about this legislative emergency in Juneau. I don't know if Juneau loses sleep because of Alaska, but I know Alaska is losing some major sleep because of Juneau. Please use your extensive experience to stop playing politics and to look at the bigger picture. A payroll tax and capital gains tax spreads the tax burden and removes the regressive effective tax on poor, young, and rural Alaskans.

Alaska deserves better leadership!
Alan Skinner

From: Edward Linkous <edlinkous@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:29 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Public Testimony concerning Alaska Fiscal Budget Veto Overrides.

I have made public testimony concerning this years budget before, and I am attaching two of my Community Perspectives submitted to the Daily News Miner for publication. Please, I implore you to stop these draconian veto's. Please take the time to look at my arguments and my 4 point plan for an equitable way forward. It is a path to full PFDs.

From 7/17/19

Community Perspective

I am sure that there are many people who feel that their own government is wasteful, inefficient, and in general socialistic. If you are one of those who feels that our only responsibility is to ourselves, that we have no responsibility as stewards of Alaska's future than this is obviously your point of view. Let's be realistic, we all are wasteful.

There was a time, back in the 70s and 80s when State Govt. spending was accelerating because of the gushing oil money and wages were excessive because of the pipeline construction. Pipeline wages were excessively high because Alyeska knew that every dime that they paid out to build the pipeline would be recouped from Alaska taxpayers through depreciation. As the decades have passed, most of those excesses have evened out. Most govt. workers, teachers, nurses and administrators, and their support staff pay scales are equal to other States despite our high cost of living.

What never evened out is the death grip on our Legislators and now our governor, by major corporate resource extractors who operate in our state. They continue to push for deregulation and for corporate welfare subsidies like the oil tax credits. They promote the idea of privatization of government functions, a mechanism that trades decent wages and working conditions for corporate profits. If you don't believe me than I would like to hear your explanation of why worker wages are stagnant, while corporate profits are at an all-time high, Why the Koch Brothers and others paid so much to get their puppet into office.

If you are a conservative Republican in Alaska, you need to open your eyes to what is really happening to our future. Nationally, and especially here in Alaska we are facing the biggest challenge of our lives. We seem to be on a death spiral from a can't do attitude. Why can't we have free education through at least a higher education degree for those who are willing to work for it. We have provided K through 12. Why aren't we funding preschool programs. Haven't they proved their value.

I can hear your response in my ears right now. We can't afford it; who is going to pay for it! In response to that I ask, who have been the clear money winners during the last two decades. Has it been the middle class? No, it has been Republican supported Corporations, billionaires, and conmen who have bought out our politicians, preyed on our weak and brainwashed many of us with their alternative facts and divisive rhetoric. Much of their actions have created every

crisis that the US and Alaska have faced in the last two decades and paid themselves handsomely while we taxpayers bailed them out.

If you don't believe me, how can you explain the extreme shift in wealth in our country to the 1% while the middle class shrinks and jobs at Walmart, McDonalds or Amazon are all that is left. Trust me, the one percent's good fortune would never have happened without government-paid-for infrastructure and scientific discovery; and, yes, back room deals, provided by our own government representatives.

Oil revenue is not the only source of money to provide for positive social programs, but it is, in my estimation, still untapped. Also, it is time that we made those super wealthy, pay at least what the rest of us pay. The accumulation of wealth by hedge fund managers like Jeffery Epstein is obscene and should have been heavily taxed. I am now going to repeat what I feel is the right path forward for Alaska.

- Revisit Alaska's extraction tax structure with emphasis on increasing revenue and especially the removal of the tax credits.
- Reinststate the school tax at \$50 annually
- Reinststate the income tax
- Pay the full PFD but only after the above is implemented

This will not solve all our problems, but it will go a long way in equalizing the shared pain in digging out of this mess. Social programs, especially education, scientific discovery and health care are absolutely essential if we are to even keep up with the rest of the world. Artificial intelligence is poised to remove an estimated one third of all jobs worldwide. Will our future generations be the next uneducated underachievers or leaders and pioneers? The choice is ours and the time is now!

Ed Linkous, 1513 Gillam Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701

From 5/24/19

Community Perspective

We have all heard the definition of "insanity". Expecting different results from an ill-conceived continued path. And yet politically we continue to believe that the paths that we followed in the prior century, free markets, trickle down economics, and individual freedoms will lead us to prosperity. As a person born prior to the baby boom period I found this path did lead to prosperity for me and for many other Americans as the middle class expanded. Market competition worked for the most part but as time went on the number of competitors in any given market

began to shrink dramatically. As an example, up through the 1970s there were still mom and pop grocery stores in each community. Gas stations were independently owned and Strip Malls with independent businesses were everywhere.

But because of science, technology, economies of scale and changing political power our world is becoming smaller and much more connected. Gone are the mom and pops, independent stations, and now Strip Malls are no longer thriving. We buy our groceries from only a few conglomerate corporations, our gas only comes from a couple of major corporations, and we are now getting much of everything else from Amazon, Walmart or a hand full of online corporations. Chances are, our employer is a major Corporation.

The key word in all of this is “Corporations” and what comes with it are CEO’s, super wealthy stockholders and bankers. These are not necessarily bad things. They all are an outcome of our new world order. What is bad is that, because we have continued with what politically worked in the prior century and especially after WWII, it is no longer promoting the common good for the country.

Giving the power of citizenship to corporations, allowing the free flow of infinite money into our political system has corrupted the system. Banks and other financial institutions go bankrupt and then get the taxpayer of the country to bail them out while millions lose their homes. We all have felt and seen the effects of this corruption of our government entities. We now have a president that has been extremely successful at exploiting our weak and vulnerable government to his political and financial gain. We have seen the effects of the Koch brothers political action money and we now have a State Governor who is following the Presidents playbook by holding K12 education hostage.

The world is much different now and will require a different approach if the best outcome is to be achieved for most Americans. The survival of the fittest approach used in the past will even doom the fittest if America loses its ability to compete with China India and Brazil.

For those of you who are staunch independent Republicans I would like you to please honestly consider where this path is now going. Do you really like what you see? And for you bleeding heart Democrats, has the path that you have been following, opposing any conservative ideas, worked in your favor?

Our Country has been in this predicament before when the balance of wealth and power were entirely in the hands of the corporations and monopolistic barons (the great depression) and we found our way out. We did it with more collective government control. We strengthened unions, broke up monopolies, made public

utilities where it made sense and put controls on banks and financial institutions. In other words, we used more regulation, not less, we expanded government power and we protected the weak from exploitation. It wasn't perfect but it did work for 50 years.

We need to change this destructive path and work together and that is through a much stronger government "of the people, by the people and for the people". That is what government is! People working together for the good of the Majority. We need to:

- Remove citizen rights from Corporations
- Remove unlimited money from our political system
- Strengthen regulation oversight to protect citizen rights
- Strengthen our ties to our allies throughout the western hemisphere and Europe to combat China
- Add more, not less, taxes on wealth through higher income brackets and inheritance taxes to support our new effective government.
- Stop gerrymandering by political parties when in power
- And for Alaskan's, pay the full PFD but reinstate the state Income tax as a counterbalance.

I know that socialism is a nasty word for most but not all socialistic ideas are bad ones and many European countries are practicing socialistic ideas with great success. Socialistic ideas are people working together for the betterment of all.

Ed Linkous

1513 Gillam Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701

9074523689

edlinkous@gmail.com

From: marykatherine romberg <mkrinnome@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:36 PM

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

Subject: HB 2001 Please Pass

Please pass HB 2001 and restore all state funding! As a retired public school teacher, fully funding education is crucial to the well being of our children. Also public services that help the disabled and disenfranchised are needed to be fully funded....it is our society's responsibility to support these people in need.

Thank you,

Mary Katherine Romberg
Retired School Teacher Fairbanks

From: April Rezendes <barefeet4@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:38 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject:

To the House Finance Committee,

I am encouraged to see that you are working toward a fiscally responsible solution that prioritizes keeping state services operating. The vetoes were irresponsible and devastating to Alaska and I encourage you to continue working toward a compromise that will keep the universities open, early education, senior services and homeless services funded. Know that there are Alaskans who would prefer to be taxed and have a smaller PFD if that means that our state has a future.

Thank you,
April Rezendes
Juneau

From: Claire Matthews <claire.matthews@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 2001 and restoring funding

Dear Finance Committee & legislators,

Reverse Dunleavy's vetoes. I am happy with a small PFD. Funding for the arts, college education and other services is critical to the economic and social health of our state. I grew up in Fairbanks and moved home this spring after over 7 years living, studying and working in the San Francisco Bay Area, one of the most culturally rich places in the country. One of the biggest reasons I felt confident in moving home is that Alaska has a thriving visual arts and music community that sustains us through the long, dark winter. The arts, and the organizations that support them, are not trivial and extracurricular here -- they are vital. I also strongly support funding for homelessness services. It is both humane and financially wise to fund these services rather than allow additional suffering and incur higher costs to the state further down the line.

I have worked and taken classes at both UAF and UAA. Each university has its own strengths that create value and opportunities for our state, including education that encourages people to stay in state and fill essential roles in our community. Yes, there are inefficiencies in any campus... but such a huge budget cut would be phenomenally wasteful compared to finding smart ways to save across the system. I worked for UAA's Institutional Research department, so I am familiar with data on our students, programs and campuses and I know that cuts this severe would destroy wide swaths of services and programs that will be difficult and more costly to rebuild.

Thank you for reading my testimony. Please protect the community services that allow Alaskans and Alaska to thrive.

Claire Matthews

Fairbanks, AK
907-474-3946

From: [Barton Maize](#)
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:34 PM
To: housefinancw@akleg.gov
Subject: Fairbanks public testimony

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for scheduling the several listening sessions around the state. It is my hope that I am addressing both Republican minority members as well as those of the majority caucus.

I will be concise:

- Overturn all budget vetoes
- Reduce the PFD to a manageable, make sense amount
- Develop a new and sensible way to compute the PFD amount
- Institute a modest but progressive state income tax
- Support the recall of Governor Dunleavy as he is unfit and incompetent
- Support an amendment to the Constitution to change the gubernatorial veto override requirement to not greater than two-thirds of the legislature

Thank you,
Barton Maize
493 Marshall Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99712
Fairbanks resident since 1976

From: Sally Endestad <sendestad@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:44 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: testimony

I oppose these cuts and the deep damage they will do to our economy and communities. I want to see negotiation for a new budget bill. I am in support of overriding Governor Dunleavy's \$444 million in vetoes which I believe will lead to a devastated economy and devastated Alaska. I support our legislators (all of them) into special session in Juneau where they can set the agenda and negotiate to get a super majority so that a veto can be overridden.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Appreciatively,
Sally Endestad

From: Syndonia Bret-Harte <ms.bretharte@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support HB2001; restore what was vetoed by Gov Dunleavey

Dear Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to support HB2001 - Appropriations for the Permanent Fund. I hope that you will restore all the appropriations that were cut by Governor Dunleavey's line item vetoes. I feel very strongly that the appropriation to the University of Alaska should be restored to the level that the Legislature passed in the original budget.

Governor Dunleavey's cuts are drastic, rapid, and will destroy the University and much of the infrastructure of the state of Alaska. They will harm our most vulnerable citizens. They will put the state into a severe recession, and they will put us back 50 years. I feel like a stuck record repeating this yet again, but the economy of Fairbanks is highly dependent on the University of Alaska Fairbanks, which is one of the 100 best small universities in the world, offers a high quality education for its students, and which leverages six dollars in research for every dollar invested in research by the State of Alaska. Dunleavey's vetoes are simply catastrophic for the entire Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Personally, I would be happy to forego having any permanent fund dividend. I would also be happy with a modest dividend and a progressive state income tax. I would even be happy with modest dividend, a progressive state income tax and a sales tax.

I think that it is far more efficient and beneficial for all of the citizens of Alaska to use the permanent fund dividend money to pay for state government, than it is to parcel out billions of dollars to individuals while leaving the state a wasteland. No other state offers a dividend to all of its citizens, because we simply cannot pay for services like roads, ferries, universities, homeless shelters, etc. as individuals. Do the right thing! Use the permanent fund dividend money to pay for a reasonable state government. Restore the appropriations that were cut by Governor Dunleavy.

Thank you for considering these thoughts, and thank you for your work on behalf of the citizens of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Marion S. Bret-Harte
93 Roxie Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: jldgak90@acetekk.com <jldgak90@acetekk.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:46 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore funding to University, vulnerable Alaskans

Please restore funding to the University of Alaska and programs for children, elders, and other vulnerable Alaskans. The role of government is to support the citizens, not drive them away by gutting programs that provide necessary services for the health and safety of us all. I support a sustainable PFD, and income tax, and restored funding for state services.

Thank you,
Jeannette Gorda

From: Faustine Bernadac <faustine.bernadac@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:50 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB2001

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Faustine Bernadac, I have lived in Alaska for 11 years, and dearly love Fairbanks and our State. I represent myself, my family, my friends and my community. Thank you so very much for the opportunity to voice my concerns, and for fighting for Alaska.

I urge you to support HB 2001 to protect the future of our state and its people.

Governor Dunleavy is either crazy/stupid, or he's on a mission to destroy our State. I am honestly convinced he's the latter. He's chosen to ignore the warnings of experts, economists, and many others well informed about the danger of a Great Recession for Alaska. It's clear that he does not care about balancing the budget or making the state better. He does not care about Alaskans. He's on a mission to destroy the most fundamental rights and services that make our State a great place to live. He's misleading his supporters, and dividing the legislature for an ill purpose. He's one of many Koch brothers' puppets. He wants to sell Alaska to big oil, to open it to mining, and drilling, and to outsiders who get rich here and spend their money elsewhere. And he's doing that by getting rid off of anyone who would be in his way - families, academics, progressive thinkers, services, etc.

We need to fight him off with all we have. If it means start a revolution, then be it. But I'm not willing to watch him dismantle everything that makes our State, and Fairbanks, a beautiful place to live.

We have a man-made crisis in our hands, not a financial one.

We need to find efficiencies for sure, but also need to stop pretending that cuts are the only options:

- tax my income!
- lower the PFD!
- cut tax credits to oil companies!
- reverse the cuts!
- save education!
- save services to seniors, kids, homeless, mentally ill people, etc etc etc
- SAVE OUR STATE

Please support HB 2001. Please stand up to the governor. Continue to work in a bi-partisan effort, because Alaska deserves so much better than the threats attacking our livelihood. Let's make history today, and stay sustainable for the future.

Thank you.

Faustine Bernadac

907-750-1772

1212 Denali Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701

From: Liz Ervice <lervice@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:50 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

Hello, I am writing in support of HB2001 that restores the funding that was cut by the Governor's vetoes.. Thank you for trying to safe our state.

Yours, Elizabeth Ervice, Homer, Ak.

From: Angel Peger <angelpeger@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 2001

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. My name is Angelica Peger, I represent early childhood education by being a member of the National Association for Young Children and an early childhood educator for over ten years.

By limiting access to higher education for locals to attend UAF, thereby earning their degree we would lose quality people from our state when they are forced to move elsewhere to get a college education. We would lose their valuable membership to our community and their knowledge would be lost to us.

Head Start losing funding means that we are telling our only hope for the future of the earth, young children, would lose out the access to what they need to succeed in school as well as socially, which is a bigger predictor of a happy, healthy life.

Homeless services serve our overwhelmingly teenaged transient population that we care more about a petty amount of cash (the PFD) than we do about their actual lives.

I support HB 2001, because I care more about children than I do about money.

--

Sincerely, Angel Peger (they, them, theirs)
907-388-5534

From: Gail Norton <gail.norton.pchn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

My name is Gail Norton and I am a lifelong Alaskan and a family physician. I support HB 2001and I think that the governor's vetoes would hurt my patients and the economy of Alaska in general, leading to massive job cuts and a recession.

From: Daniel Osborne <alaskaosborne@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001, Budget comments

Dear House Finance Committee

I have lived in Alaska my entire adult life, over fifty three years, I have paid Alaska Income Taxes, and other Alaska Taxes. I did that willingly because I lived in Alaska and by simply being here caused a government to exist and government services to be made.

The PFD has outlived its purpose, the Alaska Permanent Fund now needs to pay for State Government. So do Alaskans. The Governor's budget cuts are aimed at getting Alaskans to leave so his corporate buddies can control Alaska.

Please Fully Fund our State Government.

All advanced civilizations over the last 7,000 years, recognized that a government is required to have a civilization, and have relied on taxing its citizens to fund that government. A income tax is the most equitable way to tax ones citizens. Pass an income tax.

Daniel Osborne
1107 Pika Road
P.O. Box 80807
Fairbanks, AK 99708

From: Alla Grikurova <agrikurova@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Save Our State

Please do not ruin our state by dismantling the University (I retired from UAF two years ago, after teaching Russian for 26 years), and taking away senior benefits and Medicaid Dental: my 85 year old Dad, who lives with me and has no income, depends on it.

Thank you,
Alla Grikurova, retired

From: Barbara Rondine <barbararondine@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:54 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Irresponsible governing threat

Dear Committee Members,

I am a Fairbanks Alaskan and am staggered at the enormous possibility of harm to ask of us if Dunleavy's cuts as allowed.

We ALL need our University, social services, regulatory funding, and money for education of our children rather than an enormous PFD or any PFD at all if in lieu of these services.

Sincerely,
Barbara Rondine
2640 Gaia Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Zoe Hill <zahill@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:55 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pfd testimony

Hello,

My name is Zoe Hill and i am a lifelong Alaskan. I would like to say that my family and i would all gladly give up out pfd's and or pay income tax if it meant saving this state from the devastating cuts to out university, health care, and many other essential programs. These cuts will ruin our state, and our future. Please save Alaska and help fund these programs.

Thank you.

Zoe Hill

From: sthomas99712@gci.net <sthomas99712@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support the bill to return state funding

Members of the Alaska Legislature,

I am a citizen of Alaska. I have lived in Fairbanks for 25 years, I am a homeowner, have worked and payed taxes for the time I have been up here. I support our state and community, and I think my property taxes are worth the cost of supporting our schools, police, fire department, university and state workers. The PFD is nice, but an extra \$1200 in a year is nothing compared to what I will lose on my home value and wages if the state economy crashes. If the legislature doesn't restore funding to the state budget, people with good paying jobs will leave, businesses will leave and the economy will go into recession. Why don't middle class working Alaskans like my wife and I ever have a voice in these decisions? Why do the oil lobbyists and special interest groups get to dictate our state laws?

In addition, why has the state decided to turn its back on the elderly, mentally ill, homeless, and students? I would think it unconscionable that members of the house and senate could let such pain and suffering happen to vulnerable groups when we had a balanced budget that would help them. Tax breaks to oil companies are more important than Alaska residents?

I am annoyed that I have to take away from my limited time at home with my wife to write this letter to remind you to consider the home owners, the tax payers before you gut the state economy for the sake of oil lobbyists and a \$3000 PFD. To remind you to consider poor, needy and vulnerable residents of this state. The majority of the state want the funding restored. It is only a small loud minority that think the destroying the state economy is worth an extra \$1200.

Please represent the majority of Alaskan and do the right thing and restore the state funding that the Governor's vetos stripped from the state.

John Thomas

From: Dale Clark <dalevclark@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: re our budget crisis

Hi,

I believe that Gov. Dunleavy's budget vetoes will cause irreparable harm to the State of Alaska and its residents. I would go so far as to say that Mike Dunleavy is a clear and present danger to the State of Alaska, and should be recalled.

Our legislature is also a disgrace. I've never seen anything so disturbing, in Alaska politics, as the failure of our legislators to deal with or even to meet to discuss our current budget crisis.

I believe it's time to amend the constitution to provide for a formulaic PFD, in order to remove it being used as an electoral political football. I would gladly accept a lower PFD to fund essential state government functions.

Sincerely,

Dale V. Clark, NP (Non-Partisan)

485 Sun Way

Fairbanks AK 99709
(907) 322-1136

From: Louise Joseph <weegiepi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget cuts that would affect me and my household immensely

As an Alaskan, I support House bill 2001. I firmly disagree that we should be targeting the most vulnerable populations in our state with the governor's budget cuts. It is not the Alaskan thing to do.

From: Darren Snyder <darrengsnyder@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:57 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 2001 and restore vetos

Greetings,

I am writing because I support HB2001 and efforts to restore the governor's vetos. I am in favor of a reduced pfd in order to support the important state services vetoed by the governor.

Thank you,
Darren Snyder
527 5th St
Douglas, AK 99801

From: Aurora Bowers <boweralis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

To the House Finance Committee:

I am a teacher who has chosen to live (for awhile anyway) with my partner in Mississippi. I love my job in Mississippi, teaching special education at one of US News and World Report's silver medal ranked schools. However, we've always thought that someday we might come back to Alaska to work and live. Alaska (and particularly Fairbanks) is a unique place with a strong pull that's hard to leave for any amount of time (evidenced by the fact that I've only spent one of my 29 summers alive away from Alaska). It saddens and sickens my heart to think that my dream of coming back home to work and live might be thwarted by a government that clearly doesn't understand the point of civil society.

Sure, we could condemn all government and live every person for him or herself. But that wouldn't be a society, and that's not the point of society. The point of society is that there is a way to make everyone's life easier, and better, by living together and exchanging goods and services. Here, in this supposedly first world country, we collectively have so much wealth that it should be laughable that anyone would go without. And yet, here we are, making decisions about what homeless person deserves a bed tonight, watching the doors to our State Arts Council close, and envisioning a new world in which teachers will have to do more with even less.

And so this is where I stand: I currently live in a state that most people look askance at when I tell them I work there. They ask how the education system is, sure that I'll tell them we lack even the meager funds to buy pencils. And yet this is the future I see when I envision returning to my home state now. A place where teachers are underpaid in a state where the cost of living is already exorbitant. A place where already overcrowded classrooms are being added to in numbers that shouldn't even be thinkable. And a place where no student wants to stay, because they know that there's no hope in pursuing higher education at the local university - an institution that once was on the vanguard of research and opportunity, but now all that has just become a joke, because they've heard their parents lament about it too many times.

The truth is, I may not return home now. I have no work future here. My family may leave, because my brother and his wife don't want their daughter to go to school in a place so underfunded and under-supported, with teachers that couldn't care less, because all the good ones left long ago.

Please, please, don't let Gov. Dunleavy do this to the state I love. I come back to Alaska every summer from a state that many consider a laughingstock, mostly due to unfounded stereotypes. Don't let Alaska become the reality that many people believe Mississippi to be. Please, use our oil money wisely, and invest in the services that are required to make Alaska the wonderful place it always has been to live, work, and visit. I'm sure I don't have to remind you, but this budget disaster could have such far-reaching consequences that we may not even be able to fully comprehend the extent of them yet. It would drain the state of its intellectual and artistic talents and it would severely inhibit the strong and vibrant indigenous culture that makes Alaska unique, as so many are driven from villages that are too expensive to pay for fuel in. All of this will make Alaska a much less desirable place to visit, as its many cultural, intellectual, and artistic resources are pushed out. I would hate to see this happen to this place that I love, and I would hate to know that there's no longer any reason for me to return.

I appreciate your efforts in returning some semblance of normalcy to our state. I trust you to do the right thing. Please do everything you can to fund this budget that you've worked so hard on, and that so many Alaskans are counting on.

Thank you,
Aurora Bowers

From: Jean McBrien <jnogma@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for HB2001

DATE: July 17, 2019
TO: The Alaska State Legislature
FROM: Jean-Marie McBrien
300 Hermit St. Apt 14
Juneau, AK 99801
907-321-5885
RE: Testimony for HB2001

I write today in support HB2001, which I understand to be a stopgap bill to counteract many of the Governor's vetoes and provide funds to organizations and offices which are highly valued by Alaskan citizens. I was appalled at the huge cuts made and feel that they will negatively impact many of the things that make life worth living in Alaska. To cut such items as the Senior Stipend, the Pioneer Home, and the Arts is not only mean-spirited – in many cases its just plain cruel. To make cuts to education, from pre-school through university funding, is extremely short-sighted, as it will have a huge negative impact for many generations. The Governor wants people to know that “Alaska is open for business” – well, we aren't open for business if we're not educating a ready workforce.

Alaska has a revenue problem – not a spending problem. Citizens want to support the healthy, happy lifestyle that Alaska provides. Alaska government needs a reliable source of revenue – a state income tax. With oil revenue funding 65% of the budget, we are dependent on a commodity whose price not only fluctuates wildly, but is manipulated by the oil producing countries around the world. There are 8 other states which do not have a state income tax, but 7 of the 8 have a substantial state-wide sales tax – the 8th state taxes investment income only. Why is Alaska the ONLY state which doesn't have a source of reliable, steady income?

22.8% of the workforce in Alaska is comprised of non-residents who, according to the 2017 Report by the Alaska Dept of Labor and Workforce Development, earn \$2.5 billion and then take those wages out-of-state! A modest graduated state income tax would go a long way in supporting the state and the way of life that Alaskans enjoy and want to pass along to their children.

I urge you to take up a proposal for a graduated state income tax at the earliest possible date. Keep the Permanent Fund Dividend if you will – people living on the edge of poverty will welcome it, others can use it to pay their tax.

From: Jason Thoma <jethoma@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Testimony for HB 2001

To the House Finance Committee;

I feel the current governor is being extremely short-sighted and is staking the future of our State on the assumption that a one-time larger PFD payout is going to somehow provide enough economic drive to sustain our State through the next year and beyond. I believe HB 2001 is a good way to get back to a better starting point for working on better ways to balance our budget.

I also feel that very few of our legislators have made a realistic analysis of the finances of our State. Yes, there needs to be some balance to the State budget based on the money we take in. We should not be cutting so many services so deeply, so quickly. I don't believe that any of our legislators has given serious consideration to a state sales tax or state income tax - we want public services, then WE must be ready to pay our share of the cost for those services. Yes, we must adjust our spending to live within our income as a State, but I also believe the massive cuts to so many services that the governor committed are egregious and poorly implemented. A \$3,000 PFD payout will not help all those people who will be put out of work due to the cuts necessary to make this payment. I do believe that public services should be funded through the government, however I also understand that they can not be free of cost. Again, we want those services, we need to pay our share of that cost.

Alaska has relied too heavily, for too many years, on very limited income streams with very little thought for the future. Oil will run out someday. Even natural gas is limited. The Permanent Fund was supposed to be just that - a permanent fund setup for the future when revenue from the oil industry was no longer available. We must diversify the State's income streams in some way and the only other way to do that is to institute some form of tax. A sales tax is most consistent and does not rely on a single date for collection - it also tends to be most fair across the economic streams.

Thank you,

Jason Thoma
jethoma@hotmail.com
PO Box 70894
Fairbanks, AK 99707

From: Ilva Fox <ilva.fox@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB2001

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work this session to pass a reasonable budget for Alaska. I support HB2001 and the effort to restore the essential services and programs cut by the governor.

I feel that a 'full' permanent fund check is little compensation for what our state is slated to lose.

I am particularly concerned about the Alaska State Council on the Arts which has been in existence for 53 years. The council receives minimal funding from the State of Alaska and is the vehicle for receiving federal and private foundation moneys/grants which constitute the majority of their budget. This money is distributed for arts education and programs through out the state.

Again, thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska and Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Ilva M Fox

From: Craig McCaa <cmccaa@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Don't let the Governor get his way

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am very disappointed that the legislature failed to override the Governor's vetoes. I completely disagree with the disastrous direction in which Governor Dunleavy is trying to take the state. I think his incredibly severe budget cuts will damage the state's economy, gut many of the services that we reasonably expect our state government to provide, harm Alaskans' educational opportunities, and put many people out of work. And what for? A \$3,000 PFD. Not worth it. I support reducing or eliminating this year's PFD and proceeding with the more reasonable budget that the legislature proposed earlier. Even paying taxes would be preferable (and probably long overdue) over what the Governor wants to do. Sincerely, Craig McCaa

From: Sue Steinacher <502sue@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: neal.foster@akleg.gov; sen.donny.olson@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Comment on HB2001

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am appalled at the cuts being made by the Governor. HOWEVER, I cannot accept a cut to the PFD if it is not also coupled with an income tax. To only reduce the PFD takes the same amount of money away from Alaska's poorest child as it does our wealthiest citizen. This is simply not fair.

What IS fair is the same way our government system makes it fair for fifty diverse states. Each state gets two senators AND each state gets a number of representatives according to their population size.

I have no problem with cuts to the PFD, where every citizen is cut by the same amount AS LONG AS every citizen also pays according to their ability to pay. This is the only fair way, AND it's the American way.

Thank you for giving serious consideration to my proposal. Now is the time to bring an income tax back as we also look to cut the PFD. But not one without the other.

Respectfully,

Sue Steinacher
Nome, Alaska 99762
907-443-7673

From: Lara Horstmann <ugruk1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore the University Budget

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to give testimony on budget vetoes and the pfd; please restore a responsible budget that includes our university system! I am a Alaska resident for over 20 years and a member of the University of Alaska Fairbanks faculty. Our state, community, and university system is facing very difficult, if not to say impossible, times due to the Governor's vetoes. These vetoes are affecting all aspects of my life. I am fearing for my job security, and may have to leave the state I love to find employment elsewhere. My husband and I put in an offer in on our forever house, that we had to withdraw as a consequence of the vetoes. This already shows you that the ripples in the pond are spreading to other businesses. Any amount of a pfd "entitlement" provided by the state will never offset the loss of a job in a state that I love and is and has been my home. I understand that there are many people in this state who do need the pfd, Could a possible solution here be to limit a pfd to people who fall below a certain income bracket? Should the pfd paid to children under the age of 16 be required to be put into a savings account for future use? Are entitlements of \$3000 really benefiting our state? We are paying federal taxes on the pfd, so this money again is not benefiting Alaska. Maybe just get rid of it, or pay it to people in need, support social systems with it to benefit people in need, but do not pay it to people who feel "entitled". I will happily forego any pfd amount and pay state income taxes, like the majority of US residents, to continue living in a state that values education.

Please save our community!
Regards,

Lara Horstmann

Fairbanks Resident since 1998

From: Madeline Hunter <hunter_madeline@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

To the House Finance Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 2001.

As one of many artists within our community, it is with great concern that I write this. Such extreme cuts would change the lives of many Alaskans in a number of negative ways. I have lived in Alaska for my entire life and I have been able to live a life rich with the arts. Access to several opportunities involving the arts has not only given me a creative outlet, but has helped prepare me for my future.

When reviewing the budget cuts one should consider Alaskan citizens and how it effects them in the long haul. The people should always come first, and though a large dividend may seem like doing a service to the people of Alaska it is doing quite the opposite. The money would be temporary and with it gone we are left with a struggling community. I ask that you think of all of the lives that would be affected by the budget cuts. The future of our state depends on sidestepping greed and doing what every state government should do: support and protect the people.

Sincerely,

Madeline Hunter

Creative Movement Instructor

North Star Ballet

From: Craig Hughes <craigh54@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget woes

I heard today that the University had its credit rating lowered. I'm sure the State of Alaska will suffer the same fate. We need to restore funds to the services that were vetoed. If that means eliminating the PFD then so be it. We cannot allow this governor to destroy our state. I fear that process has already started. Maybe it's not too late to turn this mess around. Thanks. Craig Hughes

Sent from my iPhone

From: priggscsf@catholic-schools.org <priggscsf@catholic-schools.org>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:03 PM

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

Subject: Veto Override

Dear Finance committee:

My name is Patrick Riggs, and I am the principal at Monroe Catholic High School (though my views are not meant in any way to represent the views of the school, the Diocese of Fairbanks, or the Catholic Church). The vetoes by governor Dunleavy, particularly the alarming reduction to the budget of the University of Alaska system, have me alarmed as an educator, as a resident of Fairbanks, and as someone who loves the state of Alaska.

While cuts are expected during lean times, economically this decision does not make sense. The largest funding cut to the University of Alaska system, a \$134 million dollar cut, is tantamount to destroying University of Alaska system, or, at least, forcing the closure of one of the major campuses – cuts that drastic could not sustain UAF, the flagship campus, or any of the other major campuses as the world class research universities that they are. In particular, damaging UAF that severely would gut the important programs that help make the interior a viable place to live, to do business, and to host major military operations. For years, economists and policy makers have lamented the brain-drain, the exodus of skilled, talented, and brilliant young minds, from the state. Decimating the university system can only magnify that problem beyond reckoning.

As an investment strategy, economically this budget does not make sense. According to an outside group (The McDowell Group), the university generates \$1.1 billion in economic activity. The university system bought \$122.6 million in goods from 2,000 Alaska businesses per year and is one of the largest employers in Fairbanks and the interior. What other investment vehicle has an 821% return? Much of the federal dollars, including military funding, comes into this state because of the presence of three major research universities in the state. The F-35s, for example, came here on the understanding that there would be an infrastructure in place to support the pilots, families, mechanics, construction workers, and training necessary. Without vibrant, fully functional universities, those federal dollars will evaporate.

For fiscal conservatives, this does not make sense. The \$1.1 billion annual impact from the UA system far outweighs the short-term – the one-time – impact of an increased pfd.

As policy, this does not make economic sense. This decision will ripple through all sectors of the economy. Families that rely on the university for one income will be forced to leave – many have already begun applying out of state out of fear. Those families buy goods from local businesses, supporting the trade of goods into the state and into the interior. Those families send their children to schools, to colleges, and to trade schools, paying tuition and fees. Families will leave, businesses will close, and schools will empty. Alaskan institutions will be forced to close. \$1.1 billion flowing into the economy annually will be ended if the university system is forced to shut down a university or cut back programs so severely as to not be a viable institution. The problem is, this is not really a reversible decision. Once the decision is made, it will be much more expensive to rebuild those programs. Finally, how much will it cost to shutter those buildings?

These cuts are even more draconian than the cuts made over the years to the budgets in Kansas and Oklahoma and those states are reeling from the aftermath as are those politicians. We are even more precariously balanced than those states. We cannot afford to make even bigger mistakes.

Finally, this does not make sense for our families. As principal of Monroe Catholic High school, I see year after year how poor, middle, and even upper middle-class students struggle to afford higher education. For many of them, the UA system is the only viable option. For many here in the interior, UAF is the only viable option because of the vast distances between the major cities of this great state. For others, true sourdough Alaskans who love this state, the UA system is the only system that can understand and encourage true Alaskan values and their parents would send them to no other institution. Please don't allow their futures to be limited by the narrow vision of one governor.

I urge you to help overturn this veto. I urge you to save our state.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Patrick Riggs

From: Chanda Meek <chanda_meek@yahoo.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:04 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Colin Craven <colin.m.craven@gmail.com>
Subject: testimony HB 2001

House Finance Committee Legislators,

I support your efforts to restore funding to the critical state services and infrastructure that were vetoed by the Governor. I believe in a strong public as well as private sector and believe that we need to work together to make sure that all Alaskans are able to move forward together. I am a university professor and am teaching a course right now in American politics and government and my students are upset and scared. I look at them and see our future teachers, engineers and leaders and worry that they will not be able to afford to finish their degree programs if they cannot study in Alaska. As much as University fundinuppam concerned about Head Start, Medicaid, VPSOs and the rest of our safety net that was established to make sure that no one was left behind.

I support a PfD that helps balance the budget, but would even support a larger PfD if it meant that we could review some of the other state transfers to the oil and gas industry in the next round of cuts. I do believe many people rely on the PfD but for my family, schools and hospitals beat PfD transfers in terms of critical spending.

Thank you for your service to the people of Alaska and I look forward to us moving forward from this battle.

Sincerely,

Chanda L. Meek
804 Cranberry Ridge Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: Lynn Wrightsman <lwrightsman@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore Vetoed Funding

Save Alaska from the devastation the governor's vetoes will cause. We MUST NOT take from the most vulnerable of our citizens! We have seen proof of the devastating consequences of these cuts in just these first 17 days of the fiscal year. Medicaid cuts have lead to unfinished dental work, teeth extracted with no means now of paying for dentures. The loss of senior benefits hurts the elderly who are at the very bottom of the income scale, they cannot wait until receipt of whatever amount the permanent fud may be to buy groceries that are needed today. We CANNOT allow our university system to be decimated. Withdrawn scholarships must be reinstated.

Thank you for continuing to listen to the citizens of Alaska. No amount of PFD will make up for these unconscionable cuts.

Lynn Wrightsman
1793 Caribou Way

Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Barbara Johnson <sbejohn1@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:08 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: support for House Bill 2001

To whom it may concern:

I support HB 2001. I am extremely upset with the Governor's vetos and disappointed and surprised that there were not enough votes to override these devastating blows to our state. I am very concerned for the state economy, for our education system from Headstart through to the University of Alaska. I am worried about our seniors and our homeless population. I am also saddened that the State Arts Council has been essentially eliminated. What kind of state do we want?? This does not represent the Alaskans I know or our values. We help each other, support education and a quality of life that includes the arts.

I am willing to limit my PFD to help keep these essential programs in our state. I do feel that we should not be subsidizing oil companies in Alaska. They are making record profits with state resources and cutting the subsidies is not going to mean these industries will abandon our state.

Alaska is also on the frontline of climate change and we need to be looking at alternatives to fossil fuel sooner than later. We can't change all at once, but renewable energy needs to be supported and promoted instead. We cannot wait any longer. If we subsidize anything it needs to be to encourage alternative energy. I feel our State needs to protect and support our renewable resources like the tourism and fishing industry and we need viable ways to build our economy, without being so dependent on oil.

We have been fortunate to not have to pay taxes and to get a permanent fund dividend, but It is time for us all to chip in and help wean our state off of fossil fuel. We cannot afford to lose our university or cut vital programs that help many who need help in this state. We all know that these cuts will increase poverty and even crime and mental health issues (which are already high in this state). No one wants to live in a state that financially supports wealthy oil companies and shows no compassion for the underprivileged, unhealthy and has no foresight to maintain or improve our education system and the arts. Think about it. What kind of place are you working to provide for yourself, your constituents, and this great state? Please pass HB 2001.

Respectfully,

Barbara A Johnson
Chugiak, Ak
907-229-6891

From: Chanda Meek <chanda_meek@yahoo.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:10 PM

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

Subject: Meek testimony on HB 2001 (corrected)

House Finance Committee Legislators,

I support your efforts to restore funding to the critical state services and infrastructure that were vetoed by the Governor. I believe in a strong public as well as private sector and believe that we need to work together to make sure that all Alaskans are able to move forward together. I am a university professor and am teaching a course right now in American politics and government and my students are upset and scared. I look at them and see our future teachers, engineers and leaders and worry that they will not be able to afford to finish their degree programs if they cannot study in Alaska. As much as University funding concerns me, I am just as concerned about Head Start, Medicaid, VPSOs and the rest of our safety net that was established to make sure that no one was left behind.

I support a PFD that helps balance the budget, but would even support a larger PFD if it meant that we could review some of the other state transfers to the oil and gas industry in the next round of cuts. I do believe many people rely on the PFD but for my family, schools and hospitals beat PFD transfers in terms of critical spending.

Thank you for your service to the people of Alaska and I look forward to us moving forward from this battle.

Sincerely,

Chanda L. Meek
804 Cranberry Ridge Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: Nathan Feemster <nfeemster@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:13 PM

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

Subject: Support for HB2001A

My name is Nathan Feemster. I was born in Seward Alaska. I graduated from Seward highschool and then got my bachelors at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, where I now work and live.

Dear House Finance Committee,

Please approve HB2001A

First - HB2001A, is about the permanent fund dividend and relevant to this special session. In the second line the bill says "...for the payment of permanent fund dividends...".

Second - I want my money to go towards a state government that supports its residents. A state that has the ability to support people in remote areas of the state, and people who are going through traumas that neither I nor you can even imagine. To do that the state government needs every tool at its disposal, and it must operate in a manner that enables it to stay afloat. To make big impacts and take large steps to help Alaskan's, the government must have enough tools and approved funds. Please consider this bill as giving you, our representatives, the tools necessary to help Alaskan's. Please approve this bill.

Third - There is a lot of talk about the 'size' of the Alaska state government. There is surprisingly little talk about the capacity of the state government, nor is there talk about how efficiently that capacity is being utilized. To talk about size, without talking about use, is a conversation of individual values, not of objective feedback. My humble suggestion is to objectively evaluate how effective you have been as legislators in leveraging the

capacity of the government to help your constituents. This suggestion extends to the governor and senate as well. This bill is a welcome opportunity for you to try again. Please approve HB2001A.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Nathan Feemster

From: Ryan Bowers <rbowers@alumni.berklee.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:13 PM

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

Subject: Yes on HB 2001

My name is Ryan Bowers. I live at 1139 Ivy Drive, Fairbanks Alaska. I strongly urge you to pass HB 2001, restoring funding to vital state services and institutions.

I am the father of an 11-month-old baby, and it terrifies me to think of what her future might look like in Alaska if there is no early childhood education, no university, and no jobs.

I am a life-long Alaskan, and I love this state so much, but if my daughter can't have a future here, then my family and I will be forced to leave, though we do not want to.

So please, limit my PFD, tax me, reduce the oil subsidies... whatever you have to do to restore my daughter's future, just do it.

Thank you for your time,
Ryan Bowers

From: Judy Andree <jagster42@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:14 PM

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

Subject: For a Sensible Bipartisan Budget such as the Legislature Passed



League of Women

Voters of Alaska

P. O Box 101345, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1345

July 17, 2019

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports a budgeting plan that will restore an appropriate budgeting process that is fair to Alaska's citizens and students, one that does not resort to sudden and draconian budget cuts. The League applauds the bipartisan budget that the Legislature passed, a budget that included budget reductions that were arrived at by compromise, a critical and sometimes difficult essential in a working democracy.

The League asks for transparency and accountability where the vetoes are concerned. What are the results of the administration's study of the possible effects of these deep cuts to the State's budget? What can the citizens of Alaska expect should the cuts be set in stone? We have already seen our low income senior citizens lose their senior benefits suddenly and with no notice. Today Juneau's Glory Hall announced it would stop serving breakfast and lunch to local homeless persons and families due to the cuts in State funding. We have already seen the Arts Council close its doors across the State. What other changes do the members of the current administration foresee for Alaska's citizens? The administration should be willing to share their evaluation of the effects of these vetoes.

The current budget discussion pits the PFD against responsible governing. In order to provide a higher PFD, we would also be cutting funding as follows:

- we would sacrifice healthcare through cuts to Medicaid for many low income people including children while at the same time turn away federal funding;
- we would eliminate programs that help children get ready for school;
- we would harm the public school system by suddenly dropping the State's promise to assist with bond payments and add the uncertainty of no future future school funding:
- we would devastate our university system, which today had its bond rating downgraded, and reduce the scientific research and economic advantages provided to Alaska's citizens by this institution;
- we would leave rural residents with exorbitant energy bills that the larger PFD might not cover;
- and we would end or severely limit many other public services in the arts, public media, and public safety.

While supporting these devastating budget cuts, the Governor's followers refuse to consider adjustments to the oil tax credit, a progressive income tax, or other forms of revenue. This is not governing, but rather following a rigid, misguided ideology. The League of Women Voters of Alaska urges the House Finance committee to protect the dividend in ways that do not cripple the State and to establish a payout plan that does not require the deep cuts to the State budget that are represented in the Governor's vetoes.

Thank you again for the work done to craft a reasonable budget in a bipartisan way.

Sincerely,

Carol Dickason, Secretary, League of Women Voters of Alaska

The Officers and Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Alaska

From: Marcus Trivette <marcustrivette@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001 testimony

To the House Finance Committee,

My name is Marcus Trivette and I am a resident of House District 5. I am writing today to voice my opinion on House Bill 2001. I manage a medium-size heavy civil construction company that is based in Fairbanks and performs work all over the state of Alaska. During the summer Brice Incorporated employs hundreds of Alaskans working to build public and private infrastructure all over the state. We recruit heavily from the University of Alaska to staff our operations with engineers, construction managers, accountants, business students and marketing professionals. I support overturning the Governor's line-item vetoes to the operating budget that was passed by both bodies of the legislature because to the impacts to the university and other critical state services. Additionally I support immediate passage of a capital budget.

I also support paying a dividend out of the Permanent Fund AFTER the state operating and capital budgets are funded. I do not support a "full" PFD. That is not my money and I did nothing to earn it. The fund was set up to provide permanent income from a non-renewable resource to a state with too small a population to provide the tax base to build out the infrastructure needed. I was born in Petersburg in 1980, and I have never paid a broad-based state tax. It is time to revisit the intent of the Permanent fund, it's use, and other revenue sources.

In summary:

Override vetos

No full PFD

Maybe a dividend after the operating and capital budgets are funded

Thank you for your service to the State.

Sincerely,
Marcus Trivette

From: Bjarke Bennedsen <bjbennedsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget

Good morning.

The legislature has worked hard to craft a difficult budget, all the while attempting to serve the best interests of our economy with limited means.

A fully funded PFD will not make up for the damage the Dunleavy budget will do our state.

I am strongly in favor of the budget originally crafted by the legislature which includes funding to the University and many of the services that are important to keep our State economy strong and Alaska a nice place to live.

Thank you for all the hard work you do and all the time you give to our state.

BJ Bennedsen
Fairbanks

From: Emily Lanni <emilylanni@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony regarding house bill 2001

To whom it may concern,

I write today as a concerned citizen of Alaska; I find it deeply disturbing that members of this administration are willing to sacrifice so much in order to fund a massive dividend payment. I write in support of house bill 2001 because I believe it is shortsighted and fool hardy to take for granted all of the civil and social services that will be so deeply impacted by the Governor's vetoes.

I was born and raised in Fairbanks Alaska. I received my education at University of Alaska, an education I was able to complete here at home with the support of my family and community, and one that has allowed me to serve my community as a registered nurse for the last 4 years. Through my work at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital I have seen first hand the struggles caused by substance abuse, mental illness and domestic violence in our communities; I have seen also the great potential for healing and the way that access to appropriate resources can completely change the outcomes of individuals and families . Given the scope of these issues in our state I find it shocking that the governor would consider cutting vital funding to mental health and social services, as well as making cuts to Medicaid that will effect the financial future of Fairbanks Memorial and other institutions that do this important work. I fear also that decreasing access to education, the arts and recreational activities will only make our youth more vulnerable by diminishing their opportunities for social-emotional growth and early cognitive development, the consequences of which are well documented in scientific literature. Finally, I fear that these vetoes will not have the economic return promised by the governor and that they will in fact harm the economic future of Alaska, as has been predicted by so many who have testified before me. As a young person planning to build a life here in my home state I plea with my legislators to reconsider their priorities, to put quality of life for Alaskans first, and to protect the things that make Alaska such a special place to live.

Thank you for your time.

From: Dianna Leinberger <dlleinberger@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:32 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony on Budget

To the Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

I called in to testify today, but was told it would likely be a couple of hours before I could testify, so I decided to submit my comments in writing.

I oppose the draconian cuts in the Governor's vetoes. I think the Legislature worked hard to develop a balanced budget and I would support that budget.

I am supportive of a reduced PFD in order to support the State's budget.

I am opposed to the continuation of the oil tax credits. Oil development is economically feasible or not. The tax credits do not have a significant impact on oil development. It's a farce and I resent that they are getting those credits while the citizens of the State are being asked to endure major cuts. Do oil companies really need tax credits? Really?

Lastly, we need a capital a budget that allows us to maximize federal matching funds for infrastructure and programs that support our economy.

The Governor's vetoes don't diversify or grow our economy. They are short sighted. I ask that you please consider these points and restore funding to the budget.

Sincerely,
Dianna Leinberger

Fairbanks
907-322-4538 cell

From: Cindy Bettine <cindybettine@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:24 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Save our economy-compromise!

Finance committee,

Everything that you do and have done to date is very appreciated. I think reducing the PFD to take care of essential services such as education is very important. I agree with the budget cuts that were made prior to the veto; possibly even more, but not what the governor has proposed. As a business person, I have to wonder how each state department has economize. Let's do an audit.

A \$3000 PFD is ridiculous in my view. Most of it will be spent on new Tv's, trip to Hawaii and non-essentials; yes, I believe that this PFD money also goes to savings for college education, but what good will it do if the students can't get an education in the state? Restore the states contribution to school bond indebtedness; if you never have the program again, fine, but pay your obligation. Revenue sharing to municipalities is infrastructure creating. Revenue Sharing is a great way to contribute oil wealth(aka the people's money from OUR resources) to community resources. Local government can properly vet spending.

I'm 100% for compromise. Uneducated people are not productive, nor are unhealthy people, which is why I support Medicaid expansion.

I'm from the Mat Su. Compromise! And hurry up about it.

Cindy Bettine
Big Lake

From: Carrie Dershin <carrie@dershin.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 2001

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I appreciate the important work that you do. I know that you have worked tirelessly to do what you can to support your constituency, your communities, and Alaska. As a steward of our state, I firmly believe that you care about our collective health, safety, livelihood and overall well being. I cannot imagine truly any other reasons why someone would dedicate so much time, energy and resources as a legislator for Alaska. Thank you for your service. It is because of your service to Alaska, I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 2001.

Because,

- Youth should be valued and supported in Alaska. Education from pre-kindergarten programs through post baccalaureate programs is important and should be financially buoyed. Our youth are the future strength and growth of our state. Eliminating early childhood education, slashing K-12 funding and crippling the University of Alaska with a \$135 million cut would be decimating to our state economically, culturally and socially. We would be losing any hopes of educating and keeping our youth in Alaska. Alaskans with the skills and expertise in engineering, business, education, mining, healthcare and more would go away. An educated populace is the backbone of a free and sustainable society.
- Seniors must be protected and cared for in Alaska. Senior benefits should not be eliminated. Seniors should have every opportunity to “age in place” with dignity and compassion.
- The Health and Safety of all Alaskans must be prioritized. The Governor’s vetoes destroy public assistance for our disabled Alaskans, defund behavioral health services, rip public safety from our villages, eliminate Medicaid dental care, and gut the Court System and Alaska Legal Services. These programs help to keep Alaskans safe, protected and healthy. How can such cuts improve the lives of folks who desperately need these services as well as the rest of our communities as a whole?
- Our most vulnerable populations who are homeless and with addictions should not have additional doors nailed shut to them. Closing housing programs and homeless services will only make things more dangerous for people living hand to mouth and not give them any chances to improve their situation, leading to even more of an increase of crime and devastation in our communities.

There has to be a better way. We need to diversify our economy through a progressive income tax, change the dividend formula and responsibly develop our resources with appropriate taxation to extraction companies. Tens of thousands of Alaskans have spoken out against the Governor’s cuts. These cuts will damage Alaska beyond any comprehension. Please protect and sustain Alaska. The vibrant future of our state depends upon you. Please support House Bill 2001.

Sincerely,

Carrie Dershin, 1050 Smallwood Trail, Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: Jonathan Biderman <jbbiderman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Medicaid = public safety

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Jon Biderman. I am a public defender in Fairbanks but I am writing this evening as a concerned citizen. I encourage you to restore funding to Medicaid. Defunding Medicaid strips our community of an invaluable asset and tool to combat crime. If the legislature desires to curb crime, to protect our communities from property crimes, the legislature would be wise to restore Medicaid funding to the furthest extent possible. Medicaid allows low income people to get substance abuse treatment. If people get treatment for their addictions they are far less likely to commit crimes. Funding Medicaid is a public safety issue. The legislature repealed SB 91 in an attempt to curb crime, but that act will be in vain if the legislature takes away the ability to combat addiction in a holistic and meaningful way.

To this end, I believe sustainable funding is essential. As such, I encourage the legislature to pursue a progressive income tax and tax the oil industry.

Jon Biderman

From: Jennifer Arseneau <arseneaujen@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:36 PM

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

Subject: HB2001

Thank you for your many hours of listening to testimony. You have seen and heard our passion for our home.

I write in support of HB2001 and any and all efforts to restore funding to the university, Medicaid, senior benefits, the AK State Council for the Arts, etc.

I am away from the state on a family vacation this week. It's both saving me and killing me. I have lived in Fairbanks for 21 years. I'm a UAF alum and now staff.

I want my kids to go to school with reasonable class sizes. I want them to have art on the walls and artist in schools experiences. I want to continue to live in the house we built from local logs without watching property taxes skyrocket due to a shrinking revenue stream. I want PBS. I want my neighbors to have help and healthcare and for it to be there if ever I should need it. I basically want my kids to live on the Alaska we were in just a month or so ago.

Reduce or sliding scale the PED. Diversify revenue streams. Implement a state tax. Let us pay AK instead of giving 25% of a large PFD to federal taxes.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Arseneau
3861 Ridgeview Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99700

From: Sherry Sherry <fly_gal22@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Cut Budget

As one of the silent majority I request that you support the Governor in cutting the budget.

Sherry Wilson

From: elaine zeine <ezeine@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:43 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is ___Elaine Zeine_____ and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

From: Karen Kowalksi <kark@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:43 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State budget

July 17,2019

I do not know Governor Dunleavy so I do not know why he is so desperate to give himself and his family a huge DVD at the expense of our university and educational resources, our communities and our state.

His excessively large DVD is not my priority. Please override his vetoes and restore funding for the operating and capital budgets, for the university and education services, health, shelter, food, safety, medical services and court system. Please restore senior benefits, arts and music conferences. These are my priority. These contribute to a community I want to remain in.

These services are not a waste of money or time. I came to Alaska in 1964 as a freshman at the UA in Fairbanks. With a part time job I paid school tax and state income tax. Over the years I have never regretted being a part of Alaska. I have never regretted contributing to my community through taxes or donations. I am certainly willing to continue doing so.

Today I am sick at what is being done to destroy our state.

Sincerely,

Karen Kowalski
2085 Loose Moose Loop

North Pole, AK 99705

From: James H <james.p.r.honkola@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:44 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for the Record on HB 2001

My name is James Honkola and I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska. I would like to testify on the record in support of HB 2001 to reinstate the budget items vetoed by Governor Dunleavy and provide for a "surplus PFD". I believe a \$3000 PFD is not sustainable and would cause irreversible damage to our state by way of the devastating cuts proposed.

From: Todd Sherman <tlsherm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support the bill designed to restore money vetoed from the FY 2020 budget: HB 2001

July 17, 2019

Dear House Finance Committee:

Please reverse the Governor's vetoes and reinstate the responsible bipartisan budget passed by the Legislature. Your work to make this happen is proof that you put the welfare of Alaska before partisan politics. The restoration of the budget for the University of Alaska is crucial, especially in the face of the governor's veto which is precipitous and ill conceived.

UA is an essential economic engine for the state through the many research and educational projects and programs that are a mainstay of its critical-to-Alaska mission. The range of massive cuts to UA (over 40%) will simply be catastrophic to students, staff and the economy of the state of Alaska. It is mind numbing to think that a responsible governing body would purposefully seek to destroy its primary engine of the economy when options are available to avoid this, entirely.

I was born in Anchorage when Alaska was still a territory. My wife and I as well as three siblings and two of my cousins are graduates of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. We all know the importance of UA and how it is interwoven into the diverse fabric of Alaska. We have worked as professionals in Alaska as teachers, engineers, historians, artists and natural resources managers.

The PFD should be restructured for a manageable and smaller dividend amount that allows the necessary support of many programs of vital importance to Alaska. We most definitely need to begin to develop alternative revenues to support our Alaska. This would include taxes as our main source of state government is almost solely reliant on oil revenues, which has resulted on the current budget crisis we face.

Thank you for all of your important work on behalf of Alaska.

Todd Sherman
3130 Chinook Drive

Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Kim Dunshie-Herning <kherning58@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:48 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Over ride Gov.'s Vetos

Dear House Finance Committee,

I appreciate all of your hard work in trying to find a way to keep necessary services while trying to balance a budget. The cuts, while some would say are necessary would be devastating to those affected and to our community. First of all, Mr. Dunleavy's hiring an outsider as a budget director was just downright stupid. Someone who has never lived in Alaska would not understand the complexities of living in such a remote place. We have challenges that most in the lower 48 states could not even imagine. The number of square miles of land, miles of coastline and being cut off from the rest of the continental U.S. virtually requires certain services be maintained for the good of our remote population.

Institutions and facilities need funding to continue to provide services.

The University of Alaska funding should not be cut to the point that it can not operate or endanger it in losing accreditation. The University of Alaska Fairbanks campus is part of what makes Fairbanks such a wonderful place to live. Higher learning and accessibility to all make our campus unique. If parts of it are not working – work on fixing it. It is all we have and many can not afford to go out of state to college. My oldest is attending UAF -working on a Computer Science degree. He started college in TX and then transferred to UAF when we ran out of money. He has a year and a half left to finish. He is only one of thousands this will affect.

I understand budgets and not having enough money. I can stretch a pound of ground meat to feed twelve. But if I had a rich uncle who expected me to continue to subsidize him while I am feeding a huge family on potatoes, rice, beans and a little meat, I would be telling him there is change in the air. And those payments are going to be going away. I do not advocate a large PFD, that is irresponsible. I do advocate going back to the table and think about reducing the oil and gas industry subsidies, introducing state income tax and sales tax.

Thank you,

Kim Dunshie-Herning

From: David Newman <bhattman@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:06 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Uma Bhatt <usbhatt@alaska.edu>
Subject: written testimony in support of HB2001

Dear Finance Committee,

My Name is David Newman, I live in Fairbanks at 1585 Gonzaga Way, Fairbanks AK 99709. My Phone number is 907-388-9425. I am a faculty member at UAF in the Physics Department.

I am writing to urge you to pass HB2001 to restore as much as possible of the governors veto cuts to the University budget (and the other cuts) and have a smaller PFD.

Some of the arguments are below.

Alaskans are proud independent people who are known for helping each other and thinking not just about themselves but others and the State as a whole. This is why the Governors budget and insistence on a “full” PFD are so disappointing and un-Alaskan. The cuts and the demand for a “full” PFD dispersal are extraordinarily short sighted. Even before the Legislature has stopped trying to fix the situation, the ramifications are being felt. There are people I personally know who are halting home construction, putting off plans to make purchases, looking for jobs elsewhere (or actually already leaving) and even more disturbing choosing to send their children outside for schooling.

Once again, the questions 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.

The governor’s veto simply highlights the stark choices that must be made about our future and make no mistake, from the Universities side, these cuts can not be absorbed, they will destroy the University and critically damage the future of Alaska.

At the bottom, I will include more information about the University that I have sent earlier in case it is useful in making your case or convincing those who might need convincing and while I am focusing on the University since it is a significant focus of the budget discussion because of the magnitude of the proposed budget cuts, but funding the rest of the Education infrastructure, Health, Arts, Safety and state services should not be forgotten.

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 right after the Governors Budget proposal was released to discuss whether they should transfer outside to finish their engineering degrees, I could not give them a good answer. 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 loses 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 small “Community College” status. Negotiating from the Governors proposed budget (with the Veto) 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. Those that say, it's okay, the University can sustain some further cuts are simply mistaken.

Once again, I therefore to urge you to pass HB2001 to restore as much as possible of the governors veto cuts to the University budget (and the other cuts) have a smaller PFD and if possible to restore some of the cuts which have been implemented over the past years.

Again, people are our biggest asset (human capital in economic talk). You can quickly fix broken or run down physical infrastructure (buildings, roads etc) when money is available but people are not so easy to get back. The people in question range from staff to faculty to students. When the human capital is lost, both the institutional memory of what works and the institutional reputation goes with it which then makes getting good replacements a daunting task which would take years to accomplish if possible at all.

The legislative budget with the much smaller cuts was nearly unsustainable already, with the governors veto, the demise of University education in Alaska would be all but assured. This is neither hyperbole nor exaggeration. With that destruction will come a flight of talent (young and more senior), a serious hit to the economy and a devastating impact on our social and cultural lives.

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.

Thank you for your hard work

yours truly

David Newman

Some information and misconceptions about the University:

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. Please understand that I am not in any way criticizing UAA or UAS, I'm simply stating the situation as it is and as it was originally set up. The state has one full service research University and is not likely to be able to support more than one, though the other campuses serve valuable roles in education. We do ourselves and our state a great disservice when we don't recognize our own strengths.

Much of the justification given for the budget cuts are based on misconceptions about the University that I think need to be corrected as they are helping to fuel the current fiscal plans which have already been so harmful and will lead to irreparable harm if the current budget cuts go forward.

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 personal are not working hard, rather its because there are too few of them; they are working too hard and 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 then would be saved by the initial cuts).

David Newman
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Director Center for Complex Systems Studies
University of Alaska-Fairbanks
Physics Department
P.O. Box 755920
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USA

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Fax: (907) 474-6130

From: Peggy and Alex <alaskawerts@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:18 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

My wife and I have been living and working in Alaska for 50 years. We raised our kids here, and have long appreciated the efforts of state and local government to provide education, health care, roads and ferries, and public safety. We have seen first hand the boom and busts of the economy and the challenges of providing sustainable necessary services to the people of this great state. The 2019 legislature did an admirable job at putting together a rationale budget which reduced spending while maintaining the essential services for Alaskans. The array of line items vetoes by Governor Dunleavy is a disaster in the making. These vetoes are an attack on Alaska's children's education, our University System, our health care infrastructure. They will send Alaska into economic decline. They will transfer the burden of supporting essential services to local governments while at the same time devastating the economic base of local government. These draconian cuts were NOT part of the Dunleavy campaign rhetoric, and thus do NOT represent the will of the people. Indeed they are the work of his out-of-state, anti-government budget director. Please work with your colleagues in the Senate and House to restore the funding in HB2001 and give us a budget crafted by Alaskans for Alaskans.

Alex and Margaret Wertheimer
17200 Andreanoff Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Emily Kane <dremilykane@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

Hello Esteemed members of the House Finance Committee:

I have been a family doctor in Juneau for nearly 30 years and also serve as the chair of the CBJ Commission on Aging. I am currently conducting a survey about why seniors might leave the state, so as to address gaps in services and retain our senior population.

The world in general is aging but Alaska is on the leading edge of that trend. Seniors are the fastest growing segment of the state population. Some may think that seniors represent a drag on the state economy but many analyses have shown that is not true here. The majority of seniors contribute significantly to the state economy and would do so even more vigorously with a reasonable state income tax, say 4% of our federal tax bill.

If the cuts designed by a hatchet woman from outside who has left a trail of destruction in her wake stand, the wealthier seniors who can afford to relocate will leave.

Alaska doesn't have a fiscal problem. We have a revenue problem. Many of the cuts do nothing to address revenue and worsen the fiscal picture by rendering ineligible millions of dollars in matching federal and private grants.

I waited several hours to testify in person but you have been at it much longer. Thank you so much for your commitment to fostering our beloved young state. We are witnessing the biggest pushback against executive overreach in the state's history. I'm so thankful that you are willing to hear the overwhelming testimony from the public and reconcile the majority of legislators who clearly indicate the state must not be cut off at the knees.

I'm in favor of HB 2001. It's a creative and swift compromise to the veto fiasco. Keep up the good work. Know your work is deeply appreciated. Push back with the majority of Alaskans.

Sincerely
Dr Emily Kane
Alaskan citizen

From: Mary Calmes <yetna2@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:21 PM

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

Cc: Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 2001

Dear Members of the Alaska House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2001.

Earlier today I was at the Legislative Information Office in Fairbanks and listened to some of the testimony. I could not help to note that those speaking in favor of the \$3000 PFD spoke primarily in their own self interest not about the future of Alaska and the people who will be populating the state in the future. (I signed up to testify but given the slow progress with testimony, was not able to stay to actually testify.)

A governing body needs to make decisions that are in the best interest of ALL Alaskans and of the future of the state of Alaska. (I find myself wondering time and again: Whatever happened to the sentiment that "We are ALL in this together!") This whole budget debacle centers on the amount of the Permanent Fund Dividend. This dividend is not a right or even a privilege. It is a discretionary distribution by the state from the Permanent Fund's Earnings Reserve

Account. As the portion of the Permanent Fund that is available for appropriation, the state legislature and the governor are

charged with making decisions on how that money is appropriated. One of several of the options for appropriations is paying

dividends to qualified applicants. Others include for operation costs, investment manager fees and related state expenses.

This fund was meant to give Alaska a leg up when the oil revenues dried up.

From the APFC website under FAQ's: "So Alaskans voted in 1976 to amend the constitution

to put at least 25 percent of the oil money into a dedicated fund: the Permanent Fund. ***This would save money for future generations, which would no longer have oil as a source of income.***” We as residents of Alaska have generously been included in the earnings of this fund through the Permanent Fund Dividend program. We did not earn this, we are not entitled to it, it is a gift from the state. If those charged with determining how the ERA is appropriated decide that in the best interest of the State of Alaska they cannot reasonably provide for a Permanent Fund Dividend, they are NOT stealing our PFD. They are making a determination in the best interest of ALL ALASKANS. Enough said.

I am having a very difficult time understanding how an administration can come in and deliberately disrespect the work of generations (museums, the University system, health and social service networks, policing and public safety, mental health facilities, arts councils and other cultural treasures) by cutting funding so drastically in one budget cycle (with promises of more draconian cuts in the 2020 budget) that these institutions have little or no chance of recovery. These institutions have been **entrusted to us from generations past to carry forward for the benefit of future generations.** Where does this brazen arrogance come from?

A budget director (and governor) who has no interest in the state of Alaska. She will leave as soon as her dirty work is done and leave us to clean up her mess.

Thank You to the Interior delegation (minus our representatives Dave Talerico and Tammie Wilson) for standing up to this administration. The budget that the bipartisan coalition brought forward came with a surplus. Did you get that? A surplus! How can we call this a fiscal crisis? Their careful efforts are then dismissed by the Governor/ Donna Arduin with devastating vetoes. But what did we expect given the budget they presented; something that a third grader with an understanding of the concept of subtraction could have put together. And no plan from the governor, yes no plan on how we move forward.

Oh, and did you notice there were no vetoes to the Governor’s office budget?

Respectfully,
Mary Calmes
853 Smallwood Trl
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Mary Calmes
yetna2@gmail.com

From: Nicki Shelton <shelton99829@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:23 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: vote yes on HB2001

Dear Representatives,

Please vote yes on HB2001. Please reinstate the budget as passed by the Legislature.

I support a statewide income tax as a means to bolster the budget's revenue. Cuts alone will not balance the budget.

I am a 45-year resident of Hoonah. The Governor's vetoes would devastate rural residents. The economy cannot withstand these vetoes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Shelton
PO Box 101
Hoonah, AK 99829

From: Stacie Morris <glacierquest@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001 Testimony

Dear Finance Committee,

My name is Stacie Morris and I was born and raised in Alaska. I currently live in West Anchorage. I've never written a testimony, or participated much in state politics, outside of voting, but my heart is breaking for Alaska and Alaskans and I can't sit silently by. **I ask today that you fully restore funding to the vetoed budget items.**

As much as I'd love a big PFD for myself and my family, I DON'T WANT IT at this extreme and devastating cost. These essential services are worth far more to me and my family. For example, I want my kids, and other kids, to have access to the early education programs that were cut. I want a strong and healthy University system in Alaska. I want to live in a state with a vibrant and fully funded Arts Council. I want to increase services for our homeless population and our elders, not desimate them. I want us to uphold our commitments to students counting on scholarships and rural communities in need of power cost equalization. The list could go on and on.

I really can't fathom how anyone can be greedy enough to believe a bigger dividend is more important than taking care of Alaskans and building a future where we all can thrive. Thank you for your work to pass a budget that doesn't strip our state of these vital services and cripple our financial future.

With a hopeful heart that we can retain our humanity through these crazy times,

Stacie Morris

From: Brad Wendling <brad.wendling@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:26 PM

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

Subject: Reinstate a Responsible Budget Including Education

Dear House Finance Committee,

Given the unnecessary chaos to our state by the current administration, I strongly urge you to eliminate the pfd, i.e., set it to zero. It is an entitlement, and it is destroying our state. I arrived in Alaska in December 1999 as a single dad with 2 small children, one with disabilities. I worked my way through graduate school at UAF and understand what a lifeline this pfd "entitlement" was for somebody under the poverty level. What I gained at the University was a skillset that allowed me to be comfortably at the middle class while providing for my children – I was taught to fish, not handed a net. I met my wife who was pursuing a doctorate and is now a tenured faculty member at UAF. This budget director and governor demonstrate a lack of sane vision and do not have Alaska's best interests at heart, unless they want man-camps and a brain drain. Our university is a world leader in Arctic research, and reading the current news, this reputation is already being destroyed by the vetoes.

I urge you to stand up and fight for education and against entitlements, e.g., the pfd.

Regards,

Brad Wendling

Fairbanks resident since 1999

From: Launa <weltonlj@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:30 PM

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

Subject: PFD

I'm unable to come to the meetings to speak due to personal responsibilities but I want to let you all know my opinion. A full funding of the PFD with back pay is the only thing that should be discussed. The government funding is a complete separate issue! It was a blatant breaking of the law when Walker took part of the PFD. Now that government has had a taste of our money they will never let it go- we the people need to vote on this issue not the government who will never vote for anything but taking money out of the poor Alaskan pockets! There has been talk in the past about a payout- let the people vote on that, but give us our mineral rights to our land back if your taking our PFDs. Yes we do rely on this money to compensate for the high cost of living, and yes if the PFD goes a lot of people will move out of Alaska. I already know a family that moved and that was there #1 reason- they couldn't afford to live here without the full PFD. We voted Dunleavy in to protect what was supposed to already be protected. Like always the greedy government found a loophole and took our portions of the funds. How can you possibly say you support this when any idiot can read how the PFD was founded and see that the people's half is not for government use. We have to live within our budget weather we have money or not and so should government! I may not 100% agree with all the cuts made but I absolutely agree with cutting university funding. The University was never meant to be funded long term by the people's money anyways! Things like taking the PFD is why the people no longer trust government officials!!!

Launa Welton

From: Renee Bergeron <threepugz@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:30 PM

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

Subject: Testimony on HB2001 / Budget / PFD

My name is Renee Bergeron. I am a CPA in Anchorage. I have lived in Alaska my entire life. My mothers family moved here before Alaska was even a state. My husband is Alaska Native with a large extended family throughout the state.

Both my children were born here. As long as I've been here, I have been lucky enough to collect a PFD. My children have received a PFD every year of their lives.

It has been said that UA and the Government cannot be 'all things to all people'. I am not 'all people' - I am a person. I am not a nameless person in a group of people that don't matter. My family matters and you need to hear names and stories about the real consequences of these budget decisions.

A lot of discussion for Alaska revolves around keeping our best and brightest talent. Having the right people to grow our state, to contribute to our success, to keep that Alaskan spirit. My daughter, a beautiful, brilliant, shining star is a person this state wants to keep. She is the epitome of this state's future. She was accepted to multiple universities after graduating from West High. With much consideration and forethought, she chose to stay in Alaska. Part of that decision was that she would be able to get a 4 year degree without any need for student loans and she would be safe at home with a support system in place to ensure her success. She is recipient of the (now de-funded) Alaska Performance Scholarship, Level 1. In case you don't know, Level 1 is reserved for our best and brightest. Qualifiers for this scholarship have a high GPA, high ACT score, top of their class, and take a minimum of 30 credits per year in school to maintain eligibility. She is currently entering her third year of a pre-med degree at UAA. Last semester, she pulled a 4.0 taking a full class load while working at a local hospital in the Emergency Room.

These budget cuts have dealt multiple blows to her. Both her future is in jeopardy and her spirit has been crushed. Through NO FAULT of her own she has lost a scholarship that she worked for. She worked her tail off to qualify. She earned that scholarship. She chose to invest in her own future by using that scholarship to get a degree and walk away debt free. The state has robbed her of it's promise.

Worse than the loss of the scholarship, which we can over-come, is the potential loss of her education. Will her degree be cancelled? Will her classes lose accreditation? Will she have to move across the state in order to finish her degree? Will she be able to even get the classes she needs in order to finish her degree? While she has been doing her part, earning her degree and giving it her best efforts, the state is going to rip away her future from her. The UA system will have no choice but to make massive cuts. Her degree, although pre-med, may very well be one of those degrees that is cut. She could be forced to re-declare to another degree, setting herself back 1-2 years. Tell me how the state thinks that she falls under the "all things to all people" mentality? How is she expendable? She is literally the future this state wants to keep.

The firm I work for is the second largest locally owned CPA firm in Alaska. We have a strong recruiting presence at UAA, where we work directly with accounting students and help them start their career before they even graduate. If we lose that relationship, where will we find qualified, local talent? Where will any number of industries find qualified, local talent?

Please take my PFD and all my future PFDs, but do not gut the State like this. Do not take away my daughter's future. Do not rob our elderly and our children. Our state spending has decreased every year since 2013. We are on a very reasonable and modest trajectory to reduce spending and reliance on state services over time. Why not have patience and get us through to the end goal over a period of years?

Respectfully, Renee Bergeron
907.244.1181

From: Jennifer Jolis <jjolisak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:31 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: The Budget Again

So, thank you all for coming out, around the state, to listen again to so many voices. You must be pretty tired by now. I've written each of you a minimum of 3 times, so I'm guessing it's okay if I don't go into all my reasoning. You heard it today and yesterday and you'll hear it tomorrow.

Bottom line: Spare the University. Not only because it is an investment in our state but because it is a huge economic generator and if you save other things and let that fail....nothing else you do will matter much in preventing a massive recession.

*Spare Medicaid: It is precisely for those who cannot afford medical insurance themselves, or are not employed with a union or a business that offers it. It is critical to so many people.

*Power Cost Equalization. Please

*Senior Benefits, Please.

Hang in there You are coming together and the Governor is making together moves also. We pray that it will end well -- without massive layoffs and recession.

Thanks

Jennifer Jolis
3705 Quartz Road
Fairbanks

From: Jill Stone <stonejm9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:32 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB2001! Reverse the cut

My husband is a professor at UAF in engineering. We moved to Alaska a year ago, and after moving every 2-5 years due to college and jobs, we finally found a place my young children are thriving in school, my art sales are the highest in my life, and my husband loves his teaching job. Now we worry that because he was the last one hired that he will lose his job. We don't know what to tell our children and we don't know if we will get kicked out of our faculty housing on campus along with losing the job. Please, I urge you to Support HB2001! Reverse the cuts. As an artist, art is also very important to me, and my daughters are budding artists. One of the main drawbacks to living in Alaska is that there are no art teachers in the elementary schools, please do not cut even further funding for our arts.

Sincerely,
Jill Stone

From: Mark Gudschinsky <gudsch@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:32 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Resident testimony on Governors line item vetos

The line item veto need to be overridden!

The governors prescription is likely to kill the patient!

Mark Gudschinsky
1626 Laurene St Fairbanks AK 99701
(907) 456 4785

From: Lisa Druckenmiller <skirunplay@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:33 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Override the Dunleavy vetoes: continue to fund to State services, reduce PFD, reduce payments to oil companies, Establish and INCOME TAX

Dear Representatives and Senators and Governor Dunleavy,

Override the Dunleavy vetoes, continue to fund state services (education, health, aging, arts) as you provided for prior to the vetoes.

- 1) Reduce the PFD to be able to maintain it into the future.
- 2) Reduce payments to 'those poor' oil companies (see the information easily found on the internet below and yes the B stands for Billions).
- 3) Make the right choice and establish an Alaska State income tax. I truly believe we need a State income tax. When I fly, I inevitably hear about people coming or going from the lower 48 or from overseas to work because they can leave without paying income tax. We are letting a lot of money literally fly out of the state. Yes they actually afford to fly here make money and leave due to the lack of income tax. This must stop. Had we maintained an income tax from 1980 to the present and squirreled the money away we would be in an even better position than we are in today.

The Articles of the Alaska constitution direct the legislature to provide a suitable system of the education as well as good public health and welfare programs, Governor Dunleavy's vetoes work directly against the directives of the constitution. All government originates with the people, is founded up their will only, and is instituted solely for the GOOD OF THE PEOPLE AS A WHOLE. Somehow forcing the University into exigency, reducing mental health funding, funding for the elderly poor, and putting people in jeopardy due to lack of rescue capabilities would not appear to support the good of the people as a whole.

Keep Alaska vibrant. Do not thrust us back 50 years.

Lisa Druckenmiller
691 De Pauw Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Sarah McGowan <sarahjmcgowan@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:37 PM

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

Subject: the governor's vetoes

Hi, my name is Sarah McGowan, I am a financial advisor and I have lived in Alaska for 34 years.

I have seen many things over the years, but none as spectacularly bad as this budget. It demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding how our economy works. It worries me that we are paying Ms. Arduin for her services when she clearly has no idea how to do the job. It worries me still more that Governor Dunleavy doesn't recognize that this budget will completely destroy our fragile economic recovery and send us into a deep recession from which it could take a decade or more to recover. Honestly, the governor's vetoes are so damaging to our state that I have wondered if he hasn't fallen prey to early onset dementia.

It has been argued that using PFD money to fill our budget gap is most damaging to the poor and lower middle class. That is true, and we should fix that. But what is more damaging to those people will be the loss of their jobs, which is sure to happen. The first jobs to be lost from the state will be the non-benefited temporary and part time positions. Very often, these people are the working poor.

The ripple effect of state job losses would hit the private sector hard. If the university loses 1,300 jobs, university attendance will drop. With that drop, fewer people will rent local housing. I know several retirees living on a fixed income, who have purchased dry cabins to rent out to augment their Social Security. Without students to rent those spaces, which typically go for about \$500 a month, those landlords will gain a \$3,000 dividend but lose \$6,000 a year in rental income, all while having to pay increased property taxes because of the school bond issue.

With fewer students, the local coffee shops and restaurants will suffer. If too many of them go under, we will lose Costco and the jobs it provides. And the same people who have lost income from the population exodus will suffer from higher food prices. With Costco closed, there will be fewer donations to the food bank, which will impact not only the working poor, but the Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, FRA's adult daycare and Tanana Chiefs' elder lunch program, which will have already lost funding from this ridiculous budget.

The recession this budget will cause will result in higher crime rates. Surely the governor knows that. And rural Alaska is already one of the most dangerous places in the country to live. Yet he cut funding to the VPSO program. In a state where we have a profound homelessness problem and an environment not conducive to living outdoors, the governor cut funding to the Rescue Mission budget by \$300,000. Knowing that eight out of ten students who leave the state to attend college don't come back, the governor is chasing our best and brightest out of the state by renegeing on scholarship obligations. All while holding the oil companies harmless and failing to implement any sort of income or sales tax.

None of this is OK. None of it is even rational. Please support HB 2001 and save us from this debacle.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sarah McGowan
Fairbanks.

From: Leslie Stella <rivershore1507@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:41 PM

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

Subject: Please support HB 2001

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work this session to pass a reasonable budget for Alaska. I support HB2001 and the effort to restore the essential services and programs cut by the governor.

I am particularly concerned about the Alaska State Council on the Arts which has been in existence for 53 years.

Without a state council on the Arts, the Kodiak community loses not only it's state funding, but federal and private grant funding as well.

The governor's cuts will gut the quality of life in most rural communities, who rely arts funding, on the senior supplement, and in the case of Kodiak, full ferry service.

I am fully aware that adoption of HB2001 comes at the cost of reducing the PFD to roughly \$900, but feel that it is a worthy trade.

Thank you for your consideration,
Leslie Stella
PO BOX 8895
Kodiak, AK 99615

From: Tim <timquintal@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:43 PM

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

Cc: Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>

Subject: In support of HB 2001

To the members of the House Finance Committee

I registered at the Fairbanks hearing of the House Finance Committee concerning the dividend and budget, but did not provide testimony due to time constraints.

I have been a resident of Fairbanks, AK since 1964 with several years of state residency prior to that time. I lived in the state when there was an income tax and long before there was a dividend. I was opposed to the discontinuation of the income tax, and though it has been "nice" receiving the dividend, I always thought it should never have been implemented.

I strongly support the provisions of HB2001 with one serious reservation. I would not support any bill that appropriates funds for a dividend without absolute certainty that the re-appropriation of vetoed and swept funds will stand (that either the governor will not re-veto restored funds,

or there is rocks solid support for overriding any subsequent vetoes). If funding for a dividend is passed without such certainty, all leverage is lost.

As I stated in a recent letter in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner: I would encourage the moderate legislators, the ones who really care about our state, to: (1) get together and agree on what would be a maximum reasonable PFD payout, (2) make it clear that you would vote for that level of payout only if all funding is restored for the operating budget that you passed, and (3) for any vetoed amounts that stand, reduce by the same proportion the level of PFD payout that you would support.

I hope that this committee will not give in to greed, and is not influenced by statements such as “we are entitled to a dividend because we own the resources”, or “we gave up our mineral rights, so we are entitled to a dividend”. Any ownership of resources is a collective, not an individual ownership. We do not have individual ownership shares in the state’s resources. We, as residents of the state never had mineral rights. The income to the permanent fund from royalties and taxes is collective income that belongs to the state as a whole, and within the constraints of the constitution, the legislature has sole discretion on the appropriation of the earnings on that income.

Another argument that we often hear is that reducing or eliminating the dividend would depress the economy. This is an entirely erroneous notion since any migration of funding from the dividend program into state infrastructure, services, and subsidies results in those funds still flowing into the state economy. In fact, one could argue that stimulus to the economy is greater with the latter, since many state expenditures, such as to non-profits or the University, directly leverage other funding that flows into the state.

I believe it is the responsibility of the legislature to manage the budget and permanent fund income for the collective benefit of not only the current generation, but also for future generations of Alaskans. If that means reducing or even eliminating the dividend, then so be it.

Tim Quintal
853 Smallwood Tr
Fairbanks, AK 99712

timquintal@gmail.com

Dear State of Alaska Legislators,

On behalf of **thread**, I am writing in support of early childhood education programs and services and urge you to override the current budget vetoes. Please include support for vital early learning services in the FY20 State of Alaska operating budget.

thread is Alaska’s Child Care Resource and Referral Network, a 33 year old private nonprofit that works across the state to increase access to affordable and quality early care and education. Decades of research demonstrate that quality early childhood education programs, including PreK and Head Start, make a difference. They make a difference not just in the short term to better support children being more prepared for school, but in the long term as children grow up, become employed and contribute to the strength of our economy.

In Alaska, our current early childhood education services are working. Continuing our State’s current investment is crucial in order to keep Alaskan families working while also investing to promote school readiness, identify and provide support for Alaska’s children who are most in need, and support more positive outcomes for children. Children participating in Alaska’s PreK and Head Start programs are showing growth in cognitive, language, literacy and math development and the current Alaska PreK program is meeting all 10 benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research. While these benchmarks demonstrate high quality, the current grants already only reach a small number of children. Access to high quality early education programs is needed. Currently, **thread** estimates that there are only ½ of the needed spaces for quality early childhood programs than needed.

Quality early childhood education programs, including PreK and Head Start, need to be part of Alaska’s economic infrastructure as a means of creating a strong and prepared workforce. Early and sustained participation in quality early education leads to more children graduating high school, higher lifetime earnings, reduced public spending on remedial education and lower incarceration rates. We can invest now or pay more later. High quality early

childhood education programs are among the most cost effective interventions we can make with long term pay-off.

Please override the current budget vetoes and invest in early childhood education programs.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Berglund, MSW

CEO, **thread** Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Network

(907) 265-3101, sberglund@**thread**alaska.org

From: Audun Endestad <agendestad@alaska.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:49 PM

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

Subject: Testify

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Fairbanks resident and I request restored funding to the state budget which includes the original 182 line item vetoes. I believe that not doing so would disrupt students' training and education, and jeopardize the economic well-being of Alaska. I ask that legislators preserve the UA system and restore funding to important state programs such as the APS scholarships. My son along with many Alaskans worked hard to earn this scholarship and were counting on this money this fall in order to attend school in Alaska. To take this away at such short notice was irresponsible. I strongly urge the governor and the Legislature to quickly restore these funds for the future leadership of Alaska. Thank you for your consideration.

Audun Endestad

From: Chris Brooks <chris@alaskatech.net>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:51 PM

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

Subject: I Support the University of Alaska and HB 2001

Greetings House Finance Committee,

I would like to express my support for HB 2001 including the restoration of funding for state services and a reduced PFD. Thank you for all of your hard work as it is much appreciated!

Respectfully,

Chris Brooks

Juneau, Alaska

From: Harry Merriman <Harry@silverfoxlodge.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 8:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Quality of Life in Fairbanks

Dear Legislators, excellent schools, a fine University and great local support of the Arts. My wife and I have been here over 70 years, raised four very successful children all a product of local schools, having five degrees from University of Alaska Fairbanks. Our children were nurtured by wonderful teachers and a caring community. We have a fine Symphony, Opera, Ballet and performing and visual arts unusual for such a remote area. We would gladly give up the PFD which was originally a gift from Gov. Jay Hammond to maintain our Quality of Life.

Thank you,
Harry & Ruth Merriman

From: John Citta <jjcitta@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please restore the State of Alaska budget

Dear House Finance Committee,
Please use the Permanent Fund to back-fill the budget cuts Governor Dunleavy enacted with line-item vetoes. The PFD is essentially a socialist entitlement and is ruining our state. Since moving to Alaska in 2000, I have always believed that whatever damage a Governor does to the State of Alaska can be reversed by the next Governor. For the first time, I believe that the actions of a Governor of the State of Alaska will permanently damage Alaskans and the communities in which they live. Many of the entities that will be defunded contribute matched funds to local economies. For example, many research institutions at UAF garner 1:1 matched funds from the Federal Government. The Fairbanks Concert Association garners matched funds at a 2:1 ratio (i.e., they bring in twice the amount of funds that the State of Alaska provides). This money provides for research into issues important for Alaskans, provides education for Alaskans, improves access to the arts, and provides jobs for people across the state, many of which are people with private businesses. Please understand that the proposed budget cuts will not affect my employment. I am not funded by the University of Alaska nor any of the agencies that will be affected by the line-item vetoes. Rather, I am an Alaskan concerned about the people of Alaska; I would like to protect the future of the people of Alaska and their communities.
Sincerely,
John Citta
3090 Little Dome Court
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907)699-3224

From: Bonnie Chaney <saginawchannel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

I have lived in Alaska for over 35 years and love Alaska and want to see it thrive. I strongly support passage of HB 2001 in order to fund the programs Alaska needs to make it a great state where people want to live.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Chaney

From: Donald Fox <foxdon25@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2100 Support

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work this session to pass a reasonable budget for Alaska. I support HB2001 and the effort to restore the essential services and programs cut by the governor.

I am particularly concerned about the Alaska State Council on the Arts which has been serving residents for 53 years. The council receives minimal funding from the State of Alaska and in return gets equal matching funds from the federal government and works to fund arts education, programs and artists by securing grants from private sources to fund this work.

I believe in the importance of education and other programs that add to the quality of life for those of us choosing to live in Alaska.

Again, thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska and Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Donald T Fox

From: Kim Stanford <kjstanfordak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001 - If you only read one email today I hope it's this one.

House Finance Committee Members,

I have sat down in front of my computer multiple times over the last two days trying to put into words for you the thoughts and emotions inside of me. I have written to our Alaska Legislators many times in the past and it has never been as difficult as it is now. The situation we face as a state is so very different. It is as if we are in a battle for the very soul of Alaska. I struggle again as I begin to type and the tears begin to flow down my cheeks. This may be long, and I realize you are all inundated with communications and perhaps a bit overwhelmed, but I respectfully ask that you be patient and take the time to read all the way through.

I would never have imagined an Alaska where our leaders feel it is acceptable, perhaps even beneficial, to destroy valuable and vital programs and services needed by our citizens. Where decisions are made without a complete and comprehensive study of the impacts of cuts and vetoes. Where legislators (albeit maybe a minority) appear to feel that

allegiance to a governor and the oil industry and proudly wearing the badge of Ultimate Fiscal Conservative is more important than caring for and protecting the people of the state. The effects will be real and they will be devastating, socially and economically. I am angered. I am devastated. I am embarrassed that this is what we may have become. I cry because I may lose my job, my home and I will then leave this state to never return. I cry because I care for my fellow Alaskans, whether in Bethel or Ketchikan or Fairbanks or Kodiak or any other community across our amazing landscape. I cry because this is ridiculous and unnecessary and it makes absolutely no sense.

While all of the vetoes are highly concerning to me, the calculated demise of the University of Alaska will haunt me, as it should each of you, if it comes to pass.

I was born in Juneau, Alaska in 1968 and my family moved to Anchorage when I was two. My sisters and I were raised by two loving parents who valued our education and also shared with us the inherent beauty and gifts of Alaska. We went camping, canoeing, berry picking, and fishing. My dad went hunting each year I grew up on moose and caribou meat. What a glorious place to grow up. As a product of the Anchorage School District, I received a quality education from caring teachers and administrators. When I graduated from high school in 1986, I went away to University of Oregon. The University of Alaska was smaller then, with fewer program options, still as yet to grow into the highly respected, quality institution we have today.

When I came home for the summers, I worked. Part of one summer was spent as a temporary clerical employee for an oilfield services company on the North Slope, living in ACCO trailer housing, working 12 hour days, and learning about the world of the oil industry. I also spent several summers as a temporary employee at UAA in various departments, learning the inner workings of a university and supporting faculty in academic programs. I left University of Oregon before completing as I hit a time when I decided I wasn't sure of my direction, as often happens in our late teens/early twenties. I came back to Anchorage, determined to only stay for maybe a few years and move back out of state. I obtained a regular, full-time job at UAA, and quickly fell in love with the university environment. That was 28 ½ years ago. UAA has offered me so many opportunities. I obtained my Associate of Arts, Bachelors of Business Administration, and my MBA from UAA. I have been able to apply for other positions within the university as new opportunities presented themselves with my experience and my degree attainment. I haven't had a raise in three years and I am underpaid by about \$10,000/year (just to get within 10% of market median) according to a recent compensation study. Colleagues at other higher education institutions doing similar work easily average \$15-\$20,000 more per year than I do. My computer is five years old and I have had the same desk chair for going on ten years (it was inexpensive and I like it). I stay because UAA matters to me. Our students matter to me. The work I do has meaning. It has become my home. This is why people work in education. I have watched as UAA and other areas of the UA system have grown and risen to the challenge of meeting the needs of our state – the needs of our high school graduates, our workers seeking additional knowledge to further their goals, whether it be math for fueling airplanes, or welding technology, or performing arts, or journalism, or business, or project management, or nursing, or engineering. A university continually striving to meet the needs of industry and our state and our country not only in producing highly qualified employees in many fields, but in providing valuable research. I could obviously go on. The point is that YES, the University of Alaska has grown. The University has grown because that is what a good, strong, RESPONSIVE state university does when it heeds the call of its citizens and industry. I imagine that is what our Alaskan forefathers intended when they enshrined the University of Alaska in the Constitution of our great state. It is the only state university in Alaska and it is incumbent upon UA to meet many diverse needs. It is not all things to all people and does not expect to be. But it can be many things to many people and I believe that is how it should be. There will be no private institutions stepping up to answer the call once UA is gone, and the damage cannot be undone.

I will assume you all know the data that has been presented by many others so far related to the University as well as the many other programs affected by these unethical vetoes. Much of this data is based on short although quality analysis. Imagine what a full comprehensive study might reveal. Just today, as a result of the cuts, vetoes, and uncertain fiscal situation, Moody's has already downgraded the University of Alaska by three notches, from A1 to BAA1. Puerto Rico is the only lower rated flagship university in the United States. When the Governor and legislators make statements about the university being adaptable and able to make the required changes to live within this new budget appropriation, clearly this is not based in reality. A university cannot take these cuts and completely reimagine itself into some new version in less than a year (not even in 2 years I would argue) and survive. We don't even know what that new version should be! It should not be what the legislators say, and it should not be what the governor says. It should be what the people of Alaska say. If we are to look at what our university should be going forward to meet the needs of our state, we should start there with identifying the needs by asking the people of the state, not saying cut whatever doesn't meet the budget we'll give you. Declining state funding for universities is not new and is anticipated. It's been

happening to UA for many years. It is complex and it does take time. Tuition increases need to be implemented, financial aid opportunities need to be developed, alumni and corporate giving need to be cultivated. None of that will happen in one or two years. I would encourage you to also note that many states that have decreased funding for their state universities for years are now looking to *increase* their investment in those organizations. They recognize the value. Make no mistake, if funding for the University of Alaska is not restored, the UA that will be left a year from now will be very different. Yes, definitely different, and not in a good way. We will see an exodus of bright, talented students in addition to the bright and talented faculty and staff. Recruitment will become increasingly difficult. Research beneficial to industry and state agencies? Grants? Say goodbye. Many fail to see exactly how the University touches the lives of the citizens of our state. It will become abundantly clear and it will be too late.

The vetoes were wholly unnecessary. The House and Senate worked together and passed a balanced and acceptable operating budget with manageable cuts. Education, health and social services have become political pawns. HB2001 has given me hope. Restore the funds vetoed and pay out a small dividend. I'd give up all of my dividends since the start to save this state from the direction we're heading. It is time for the Alaska Legislature to decide. There is no sitting on the fence. There is no gray area. ***What do you want your legacy to be?***

Respectfully,
Kim Stanford
Alaskan

From: Anja Endestad <balletgirlan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:28 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a Fairbanks resident and I request restored funding to the state budget which includes the original 182 line item vetoes. I believe not doing so would disrupt students' training and education, and jeopardize the economic well-being of Alaska. I ask that legislators preserve the UA system and restore funding to important state programs such as the APS scholarships and Alaska State Council of the Arts.

Respectfully,
Anja Endestad

From: Judy Neary <paradisearchannel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:28 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

Dear Legislators,

I support a smaller PFD amount (\$800 to \$900), and overriding the Governor's budget vetoes. Please support HB 2001. Let's consider future generations of Alaskans rather than satisfying a group of short sighted individuals with a \$3000 PFD! Thank you!

Judy O. Neary
17735 Pt. Stephens Spur
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Joseph Roth <uhongelikibeni@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:32 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

July 17, 2019

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee;

I am writing to you in support of HB 2001.

I was born in Palmer in 1960 as, at that time, Wasilla, where my parents lived, did not have a hospital. We moved to Sitka in 1964 and I graduated from Sitka High School in 1978. I entered medical school through WWAMI in 1989 and I currently practice family medicine in Juneau. As you can see from that many years, I have been through Alaska boom and bust cycles a couple of times.

The first PFD came out when I was in college. I remember discussing with my roommate (who was from Anchorage) how, at some time, Alaskans would need to forgo this money to provide for ongoing state services. We clearly need to reassess how the PFD is configured and prioritize putting all people of the state first, and putting our money back into education, health, protection, as well as the arts.

Thank you for serving our state by passing this bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

Joseph Roth
Juneau, AK

From: Federico Covi <fcovi@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:35 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Supplemental Funding for the University

Hello members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Federico Covi and I live in Rep. Adam Wool's district here in Fairbanks. I am here to ask you to provide supplemental funding for the University.

I am PhD student at the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska Fairbanks since January 2017. The University of Alaska has proven to be an incredible educational experience for me, as a person and as a scientist. Several of the Colleges and Institutes of the University are world leading in their field, they contribute to research and educate future

scientist generations in fundamental topics nowadays such as life in the changing Arctic. The proposed budgets cuts will not only change the University but will affect a part of what is Alaska on all it's aspects. Again, please provide supplemental funding for the University. Thank you.

Federico Covi, PhD student in Geophysics at University of Alaska Fairbanks

--

Federico Covi
PhD student
Glaciers Group
University of Alaska Fairbanks
fcovi@alaska.edu

From: Chelsea Morey <chelsmm8894@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Headstart/senior benefits

The Headstart cuts will be devastatingly horrible for so many alaskan families. This is going to literally take food from my daughters mouth they provide her with meals and a safe place to get educated so that I can have a full-time job and pay the bills with out having to rely on Welfare assistance. If she does not get to go into RuRal Cap Headstart, which I hear is the one thats going to be deeply affected and we already got accepted it is too late to change schools now..well I will have to rely on welfare to pay rent and I have no clue how I will pay my utilities which run around 500 here where I live due to severe drought.

So many of our elderly Alaskan people whom of which built our state are going hungry right now as we speak. I went to my local store yesterday, Alaskan & Proud, and there were 2 elders both around 75 or so talking, one only had a coffee and one was drinking a free water, they were discussing how their benefits were cut and they weren't able to eat food anymore literally starving, I bought both of them a burrito even tho i can hardly feed my own two kids and myself. It broke my heart and brought my to tears. These elderly men were sitting at our local grocery store deli area, they had no fair warning before getting their only income taken away and had no place else to go and werw hungry. This is just not okay. Anyone who is allowing this to happen but has the power to change, which are the 20 or so lawmakers I do know their names and will be sending them more emails and voicemails since they won't reply and refuse to answer me, I can not fathim how you can be so heartless and cruel. This is unfathomable and narcissistic to do. My heart is broken for this state. My heart is broken for the people in it. And for it's future.

I'd like to add I am absolutely not a democrat I voted for Dunleavy and then just picked names I was familiar with for the rest and that was the first time I voted other than the 2016 campaign for US President. This next time I vote I will have a FULL list of names of all who let thia tragedy happen, all 22 of them and will be voting against their favor. They want to destroy Alaska and this is just not right. WE NEED HEAD START. WE NEES SENIOR BENEFITS. WE CAN AFFORD IT. DONT MAKE COUNTLESS PEOPLE SUFFER OVER A POWER TRIP PLEASE. WE ARE BEGGING YOU.

Sincerely,
Chelsea M.

From: Amy Mackinaw <amymackinaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

Honorable members of the Alaska house finance Committee,
Thank you for your dedication to Alaska. My name is Amy Mackinaw and I have lived in Fairbanks for more than 25 years.

I want to tell you two stories.

I am an artist. A few years ago I wouldn't have told you that. I would have apologetically said, I make things, I sell them. But thanks to direct program support from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, I have built up my business as an artist, and I contribute to Alaska's economy and culture. Please fund ASCA. They reach people like me, students, rural communities and veterans. Art matters.

My second story starts last March during spring break. We took a family trip with our high school senior to tour several universities Outside. Our son received scholarships from those universities, but in the end they couldn't compare to the offers from UAF, so that is where he enrolled. I have tried not to go overboard with my frustrations about the turmoil UAF is in right now, but my son can't help hearing it everywhere. The scholarships he was offered at Outside colleges are long since lost. Deadlines have passed. He and his friends who have chosen UAF are now discussing taking a gap year and working, going to Europe where they have heard college is free. They feel abandoned by their state, with no one believing they are worth investing in for Alaska's future.

The other night in the kitchen, he asked me, "Mom, what do YOU think I should do?" And I needed to give him some hope. I needed to be the adult in the room and not fall apart, though I was feeling that inside just like he is. I said, "I think you should go with Plan A. I don't think the state will let the university lose its accreditation." Please, be the adults in the room. Come together with plans for reasonable cuts with reasonable timelines.

Thank you.

From: Tom Benjamin <tabfairbanks@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: July 17, 2019

Thomas Benjamin, 1986 Tall Timbers Drive, Fairbanks Alaska 99709

I attended the House Finance Committee hearing in Fairbanks on July 17, 2019 and probably did us all a favor by submitting this via email rather than adding to the number waiting to be heard live.

I came to Fairbanks in May of 1978 for the summer. It was a time when Alaska was transitioning from pipeline construction to pipeline production. The pipeline was finished and the money was flowing in. The Permanent Fund had been created and was accumulating money to pay for future government. We still had an income tax and a school tax.

The income tax ended in 1980 and in 1982 the government decided to hand out some of the Permanent Fund earnings to the residents as a Dividend. Some time later when income was good, the amount to be paid was put into law.

We are now at a crossroads. The income is less than it has been and government has grown. The money available is not sufficient to pay both. The primary reason for creating the Permanent Fund was to pay for government, not to provide handouts to the population. A compromise needs to be made and that was done by the Alaska Legislature, unfortunately the good sense shown was scuttled by the action of the current governor. We live in a structured civil society and a part of that is a structured government that can function and accomplish the work that has been delegated to it by the population through the action of the elected officials. Part of the charge of the government is the education of the population, primary education as well as secondary and university and trade crafts. A civil society cannot exist in ignorance and cannot survive without structure. The current efforts by the governor seem to be aimed at disordering our government and education system. It will also disproportionately affect the more vulnerable members of our society.

I keep hearing that the government wants to take our money and deprive us of our dividend. To that I would say, we are the government and it is us. It does not function nor exist without our input. It should spend the money allocated to it in the best overall benefit to all the members of our society and not necessarily to us individually. Keep in mind that the dividend is taxed and 25% or so of each check goes to the Federal Government as income tax. What is left might be spent in state.

Rescind the vetoes and fund the State Government and the University as you proposed in the budget sent to the governor, and not as he would dictate to you.

Thomas Benjamin

Sent from my iPad

From: Rachel Breithaupt <rachel.breithaupt@k21schools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public testimony

Concerning the budget vetoes and the resulting closure or crippling of public institutions: This is unnecessary, this is destructive, this is no incentive for growth, this is cutting not only muscle but limbs. Restore funding to Art and Public health programs. Including education, including the Arts, including dental care for adult recipients of Medicaid. Restore our future! Stop denying the NEEDS of the people in favor of the dollar. Stop by slashing and deconstructing institutions of science, art, learning. Consider a limited income tax, like nearly every other state in the country. Consider less tax breaks for oil companies. Keep more of the wealth created in Alaska's great summer-worker/tourist-season in Alaska.

We need you to save us. Please, we need you right now. Restore the budget. Seek fair revenue sources. Save us.

--

Rachel Breithaupt
LMSW, M.Ed.
Protective Services Specialist III
(907) 228-3365

From: James Cerney <jacerney29@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for 2001

Dear People,

I find it a contradiction that Gov. Dunleavy will not use part of the PFD to support the proposed budget because he made a campaign promise to restore the PFD. Yet when he promised to not cut funds to the University of Alaska, he cut the University off at the ankles, well below the knees. This is a governor who hates academics and would prefer the University of Alaska be reduced to a technical college. He doesn't need to be vetoed, he needs to be removed.

Thank you,
James A Cerney
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: Hannah Andersen <hannahandmoves@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:00 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 2001

Hello,

As an artist who has been supported by ASCA multiple times, I am writing in support of restoring all state funding that supports many critical organizations in your state. These organizations are crucial to the well-being of your citizens including the Alaska State Council on the Arts. I have experienced the transformation that occurs in your communities when artists are supported and bring outside perspectives to your communities. Supporting the arts is supporting humanity- without the arts we are without expression, communication, and education.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hannah Andersen

Dance Faculty
Wayne State University
MFA, Certified Pilates Instructor
www.hannahandersendance.com

From: Jerry Lipka <jmlipka@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:03 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: This my testimony

Dear House Finance Committee Members

I am furious. This budget crisis is about "who are we going to get". It is not about solving our long-term dependence on oil and spending like the oil will keep coming at high prices. It is not about our shared responsibilities to shoulder shortfalls in fair and equitable manner. Truthfully, I am baffled why the governor forced us into this current crisis. The damage is occurring right now.

- Moody's-- "University of Alaska Credit Ratings Downgraded Due to Cuts." This tonight's headline in US News & World & World Report. University of Alaska general revenue bonds downgraded from A1 to Baa1. They report this as unprecedented.
- Our credit rating places us at next to the poorest rating in all fifty states.
- Science Magazine--This prestigious magazine is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the largest science society in the world reports that Arctic Science is at risk. This includes both climate and social sciences. It also states that UAF is a world leader in this work, including collaborations with scientists around the world, direct support from Japan, and millions of dollars year after year from non state funding sources.

These points reflect what I read and heard on the radio today. This is damage. Stop the bleeding before it is too late. Personally, I worked at the University of Alaska Fairbanks for 35 years or so. Brought in approximately \$15 million. Worked if I was paid or not. Worked until the work was done. It is not soft work. I loved my work. Collaborated with folks around the world. Let's do better than destroy; let's solve some problems.

- * Reverse the vetoes
- * Reverse the sweeps
- * Need a serious review of our tax credit system in regard to the Oil companies
- * Build our way to the future.
- * Permanent Fund needs to be sustainable not a way to make the state unsustainable.
- * I know you have a difficult challenge. You produced a budget agreed upon the majority of both houses. Work together to find a way that we don't unnecessarily hurt the less fortunate, don't snuff out programs in which we are world leaders that have potential for practical work and business opportunities. Thank you

Jerry Lipka
4112 Willys Ln
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Kevin Patterson-Schiff <patterson.kevin713@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Testimony

To whom it may concern,

Hello! I am Kevin M. Patterson-Schiff. I've just moved to Fairbanks from Fort Benning, GA days ago for work on Fort Wainwright and look forward to becoming a resident and actively engaging in the community.

I am looking to take classes at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks for graduate school or another degree. If I cannot attend due to the budget cuts, I will have to leave the state after my time with the Army is up.

Besides this above, I have nothing more to add that has not already been said about the detriment to the state of Alaska the Governor's cut will cause, let alone the motivation behind it. This email and my statement constitutes the civic duty I feel to the community as well as to my own interest as a new resident.
Thank you for your time and inviting public testimony.

Cheers,
Kevin M. Patterson-Schiff

From: Aimee Bibb <aimeebibb@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:08 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

Hi, I support a smaller PFD. I would like you to override the Governor's veto.

Thank you!
Aimee S Bibb
Juneau
Social Worker

From: Tamara Harms <tamara.k.harms@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:16 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: support for HB2001

Greetings House Finance Committee:

I was heartened by hearing 4 hours of Fairbanks community testimony tonight, but was not able to stay long enough to give mine, so I provide it here. Thank you for your patience in hearing our views.

I represent myself, as a parent, Arctic scientist, and UAF faculty member. I support HB2001.

The future of Alaska is tied to the future of the Arctic.

One potential future for our state is to lead the world in understanding the Arctic as a coupled human-natural system and in policymaking that charts a prosperous and sustainable path through unprecedented uncertainty.

We will need the creativity, knowledge, and skills of many to accomplish this including:
 deep Native knowledge,
 technological advances,
 creative diplomacy,

and scientific understanding.

Those knowledge bases are cultivated, nurtured, and interwoven by research and education, and it is UA's mission to do just that. We accomplish our mission by leveraging federal grants and contracts from our state's investment at a rate of over 6:1. We cannot continue to compete for these funds if we are without the infrastructure funded by our state appropriation.

Sincerely,

Tamara Harms
Fairbanks

From: Erin Gleason <epgleason@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:25 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Culture Brings Capitol Faster than Capitol Brings Culture

Good Evening,

I am writing to express my concern about the removal of Alaska State Council on the Arts from the State budget. Alaska needs the arts for many many reasons. This evening, I will focus on a reason that hopefully can garner the attention of our Governor and other nay sayers. That reason is money. The arts bring money to Alaska.

In November 2018 Anchorage received a Bloomberg grant and Michael Bloomberg came to Anchorage to deliver the funds. In an interview Bloomberg said "... culture brings capital faster than capital brings culture." Meaning that if there is culture (museums, dance, music, art, etc.) people will want to live in that place, spend money, and start businesses.

We need new business to help replace the falling oil revenue. If we remove all the art from Alaska, we will not be able to attract new businesses to start in Alaska. If we want businesses like Amazon, Tesla, Boeing, and tech industry to come live and work in Alaska, we need to have culture. If Alaska is without culture no new business will want to start here.

There are many reasons to save the arts. But please also considered the economic impact removing Alaska State Council on the Arts will bring. We will no longer be an attractive place for new business and our State will fall deeper into debt and recession.

Save the arts. Save our state.
Erin Gleason

From: dianalingle@gmail.com <dianalingle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 2001

Thank you for your incredible endurance this Wednesday evening-I really wanted to testify, but gave up at 8:45 after a four-hour wait. You all had the fortitude to stay and hear everyone out. Here is an abridged version of what I would have said: I'm sure you will be glad for some brevity.

1967 Alaska chose "north to the future" as its state slogan. Do we really want to amend our slogan to read " north to substandard and unaccredited education, inadequate social and medical services for children, elders, and the disabled, crumbling infrastructure and blatant disregard for our environment and the arts?" I sincerely hope not. I support H B 2001.

Diana Lingle
Ester, AK
907-322-0967

From: Uma Bhatt <alaska.uma@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:35 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: written testimony in support of HB2001

Dear Finance Committee,

My Name is Uma Bhatt, I live in Fairbanks at 1585 Gonzaga Way, Fairbanks AK 99709. My Phone number is 907-388-9442. I am a faculty member at UAF in the Atmospheric Sciences Department.

I am writing to urge you to pass HB2001 to restore as much as possible of the governors veto cuts to the University budget (and the other cuts) and have a smaller PFD.

Some of the arguments are below.

Right now more than ever we have to diversify our economy to make it strong for the future. A good university education is part of the solution because we need to teach students to be flexible, innovative, and nimble so that they have the skills to solve the problems of the future whatever they may be. Without a strong grounding in how government works, how commerce works, the role of arts in life, and how science and technology work, our young Alaskans will not be prepared for the future. And it will be the fault of those making decisions right now to cut spending on services in order to have a larger PFD. This is a no-brainer choice if you care about the long-term future of Alaska.

Our children will need the following skills for the jobs of the future: ability to do non-routine tasks that require social intelligence, critical thinking, and creative problem solving. These are taught through a strong educational system.

Please pass HB2001 to restore as many as possible of the governors cuts.

Thank you for all your service and hard work during this difficult time.

Regards,
Uma

From: Christine Matson <christinematson907@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Testimony Fairbanks

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I would like to add my name to the Alaskans calling for the following:

Limit the PFD amount
Reinstate ALL the funds the governor vetoed
Implement an Income Tax on people working in the State

Please act quickly to avoid further damage to our economy!!! You were elected to make good decisions for all of us and we need a strong response to the governor's shortsighted actions.

We need a strong University, K-12 education, renewable energy and safety nets for those who are the most vulnerable: the elderly, mentally ill and our children.
We are all Alaskans and should understand we need the government to fund schools, roads, emergency responders.... the services we need to have healthy communities.

Thank you,
Christine Matson
Fairbanks
907-388-0955

From: Mary Cerney <marycerney@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: in support of HB 2001

I attended the hearing in Fairbanks today but was way to far down the queue to testify; I concur with the VAST MAJORITY of those testifying that the budget vetoes by Gov Dunleavy are truly a setup to destroy almost every aspect of living in the state of Alaska. The social, safety, educational programs (including the UA system) can in no way survive; devastating for the truly needy Alaskans--those who cannot survive or improve their situations without aid. The cuts are shameful in that they slice the matching federal and other philanthropic grants which benefit every Alaskan and many in our national and global populations. It sickens me to think of an Alaska for the next generations to be deprived of the arts, public radio, transportation systems, public safety, EDUCATION, and so on. We will have a mass exodus if these cuts are sustained and we will see a multitude of cascading economic ramifications.

Likewise, I was horrified at the news of the downgrading of the credit rating of the University. It is time we paid our way, diversify our income, and trim the fat from the PFD program. ***** Yes, now that we no longer have the booming oil production, we need to resume the income tax--very fair. We have to cease our reliance on a single-strand of income. I

am incensed at the very high dollar amounts paid to workers who live out of state, extracting and dragging that money outside and contributing nothing other than a bar tab at the airport to our economy. I felt at the time it was removed that it should have been only placed into "sunset" status so that it could be reapplied WHEN we needed it--that time is NOW.

I strongly support going back to the original form suggested for the PFD--\$50/ yr of residence and a \$1000 cap. I feel another adjustment to the dividend is imperative as billions over the years have been paid to the military families who leave the state, NEVER intend to return, but milk the Permanent Fund the entire time they are on active duty anywhere, I was told by a former legislator that the provision for military was a "sacred cow"--it is time to slaughter! Perhaps even a 2 or 3 year residency should be required, along with strict monitoring of the time spent in the state.

My impression is that the governor wants to change us to an oil extraction state, favor huge multinational corporations, and provide only the higher education to train workers in mining and oil industry.(like diesel mechanics and welders--not the engineers even) He is not interested in preserving the environment, preserving the culture and tradition of Alaska, nor is he even cognizant of the status of our University-especially the Arctic Research Institute and its viable and very critical role in scientific advancements. We are world recognized--let's not flush that down the toilet. The contributions in the arts and sciences and by outstanding Alaskans are priceless!

The people of Alaska deserve a sound and humanitarian infrastructure! Please do your best to negotiate what is best for the citizens of the 49th state. Thank you for the countless hours you have committed to the legislative duties entailed!

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Cerney
1420 Ithaca Rd
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: Jana Peirce <janapeirce@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:46 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support HB2001 - Alaskans need a paycheck not a handout

To the House Finance Committee,

I am emailing you with my testimony on HB 2001, since I was not able to testify this evening due to the long lines of people waiting to testify at the Fairbanks LIO. Thank you for your diligence and courtesy in staying until everyone who signed up could testify.

I urge you to support HB 2001 with provisions for a modest dividend, a reverse sweep, and restoration of funds for the line items Governor Dunleavy vetoed. The future of our state literally depends on it. This is not like Russian roulette, in which you have 5 chances out of 6 to avoid a catastrophe. The Governor's vetoes, if not reversed, will have immediate, catastrophic consequences for our state's economy.

The University of Alaska is the 4th largest employer in the state. There is no scenario in which the ripple effects of the cuts don't reach every sector of our economy, including banking, real estate, small business and workforce development. The Governor's vetoes do not provide a glide path to a soft landing. They will cripple the university's ability to bring in revenue from other sources (research funds and tuition), making the impact of these cuts even deeper. I work for the Institute of Arctic Biology (IAB) and for a private sector firm. Both of my jobs are at risk by these cuts, even though IAB brings in \$6.7 dollars for every dollar it receives in state general funds. It cannot leverage those \$7 without

the \$1 in state funding, which pays for accounting staff, grant managers, human resources, the office infrastructure itself and the time it takes to write successful grants. All \$7 are jeopardized by the Governor's veto, not just the \$1 the Governor vetoed. The potential impact of these cuts is dizzying. Can we risk it?

As you may have read, today Moody's downgraded UA bonds to a step above junk bonds, which means higher operating costs even before any cuts are made, while warning that the bonds could be downgraded further -- or the bond rating raised back up -- depending on what the legislature does. The impact of downgraded bonds, like so much else, is not accounted for in ISER's impact model that estimated 4,200 job losses.

ISER's model also does not account for the impacts of the fund sweep, the capital budget vetoes or for longer-term structural workforce impacts. Their estimate is just for the immediate job losses that will be experienced in the short term. As they point out, the long-term consequences on economic development could be much worse. We could be jeopardizing our economic growth for decades. Can we risk that?

I do economic impact analysis as part of my job and the problem is that we do not have a good understanding of the impact of these cuts, which appear to have been made in a capricious way without analysis of unintended consequences. It is like dropping a bomb and waiting to see how big the crater will be. Are we willing to take that risk with our state? It is likely to be the biggest self-inflicted wound the state has ever experienced, and it is not necessary. There are better solutions that can be arrived at through dialog and compromise.

The impacts of these cuts have not been studied—not by OMB and not by ISER, which didn't have time to do much more than quick, back-of-the-envelope-like calculations using their existing model. The loss of the 4,200 jobs is a conservative estimate.

What we do know, based on that conservative estimate, is that the cuts will take Alaska back into a recession. We do not know how deep or long that recession will be: how many small businesses we may lose; how property taxes, sales taxes and property values will be affected; how individuals in your districts and statewide will be impacted; how Alaska's reputation as a place to do business will be affected; and how long it will take to recovery from this.

Please do not do this. There is a better way. Help find it.

Alaskans have a history of working together. When our military bases in the Interior were threatened with Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) in 2005 and again with the removal of F-16s in 2012, the whole Fairbanks-North Pole community came together and fought for them because we understood how losing one of the twin pillars of our community – the military and the university – would impact our whole economy. Not just the military or its direct contractors showed up – but the whole borough came together to keep our bases strong and save those jobs. The university is the largest civilian employer in the Interior and the 4th largest employer statewide. The impacts will spread across the state and they will not be insignificant.

In Kansas, even conservative Republicans and business leaders came to regret former Governor Brownback's budget. Brownback said his cuts would be a "shot of adrenaline in the heart of the Kansas economy." But after years of dismal economic growth, the conservative Republican legislature voted to roll back the cuts. Let's not repeat Kansas's mistakes. The Kansas experience is considered to be one of the cleanest experiments for how budget cuts affect economic growth in the U.S.

There's a smarter way. Let's take it. Let's give ourselves the time to take it.

Are we really willing to risk letting these cuts stand and seeing what happens to our economy, our crime rate, our domestic violence and substance abuse rates, our seniors, our communities, our way of life? Are we willing to roll these dice and find out how many Alaskan families will lose paychecks, lose business sales, lose their retirement savings which is tied up in their property value? This is not a game. This is people's lives and their livelihoods.

The \$444 million in veto cuts is not worth a dividend that is just \$600 bigger than what could be paid out without the

vetoed. The cost to each family from lost wages, higher sales taxes, higher property taxes or rent and the cost of lost services, will dwarf the \$600 gained through a bigger dividend.

These vetoes have made the Governor deeply unpopular across the state - his numbers are upside down in every district. The legislature does not need to go down with him. Please work together to pass HB2001 with a veto-proof majority. Alaskans are counting on you.

Jana Peirce
1820 Lilac Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

From: Trystan Herriott <trystanherriott@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:51 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: testimony to House Finance Committee

Dear House Finance Committee,

I'm writing this testimony in support of responsible and well-considered legislation to address the FY20 capital budget, Permanent Fund dividend, and restoring funding that was subject to the governor's recent line item vetoes of the FY20 Operating Budget. I support House Bill 2001 as a vehicle for a reasonable compromise. This isn't about partisan politics; this is about responsible stewardship of Alaska for Alaskans.

The governor's line item vetoes of the FY20 Operating Budget are poised to stunt Alaska's prosperity for decades to come. For example, it's simply economic common sense to fund the University of Alaska at levels passed by the Legislature in June. We need trained professionals to be educated and employed in Alaska. Cutting the University budget by \$130 million will likely ultimately cost the State billions of dollars in economic activity. The fiscally responsible course of action is to fund the University so it can continue to be an efficient and capable cornerstone of Alaska's economy. Reinstating funding for the University of Alaska is imperative in order to avoid the long-term negative impacts that would propagate for generations to come.

Please work with all parties necessary to ensure that any legislation that provides alternate funding for line item veto cuts does not end up with the same fate as the FY20 Operating Budget. This likely requires a deal negotiated directly with the governor or ensuring that 75% of the Legislature's membership will override any potential vetoes of pending legislation by the governor.

Please support Alaska, our University, and State programs that help those who need it most. Please invest in Alaskans—the greatest resource we have.

Regards,

Trystan Herriott
PO Box 83155
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708-3155

From: Amy Larsen <aslarsen79@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB2001

My name is Amy Larsen, I am an aquatic ecologist with the National Park Service and a UAF alumni. I grew up in Palmer and was quite young when the state initiated the PFD. I have been the beneficiary of this program for its entirety. Over these years the PFD has ranged in value from as low as \$330 to as much as \$2070. The PFD was set up to help Alaskans stay in the state. These funds have been helpful to me at times but what has allowed me to stay in Alaska is the education I received at UAF. My education qualified me for a high level position with the NPS as a biologist, now I make over 95,000 annually. The Alaska Student Loan, the UAF scholarships, and grants that I received while attending UAF gave me the opportunity to get the education I needed to land a good job.

I support the amended HB2001. This bill will reduce the PFD while retaining all of the governors vetoed items. I support funding the University, performance based scholarships, head start etc. In summary, the best possible outcome to me would be overriding all of the governor's vetoes, fully funding the University and reducing the PFD to \$929 or less. I honestly think it is time we Alaskans ween ourselves off the PFD completely and use those funds to help improve the quality of services provided by the state government.

Thank you very much for your service and giving me this opportunity to share my opinion.

Amy Larsen

From: Joanne <joanne_spears@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 2001

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you all for your patient listening tonight at the House Finance Committee hearing in Fairbanks! I stayed up late last night preparing for my first public testimony. However at 8:45, well past the ending time of the session, my number was far from being called. I figured you all needed some sleep tonight so spared you my comments in person.

Thank you for collaborating with your colleagues to put forward a reasonable budget earlier this summer, for showing up in Juneau for the special session, and voting to override the vetoes. Thank you for continuing to mitigate the devastating vetoes and putting forward HB2001.

- I am in support of HB2001.
- We need a State employment or income tax implemented.
- We need the PFD payout to be capped at an maximum amount so that money is available for essential services.
- Please do not payout a \$3000 dividend this year.
- Please restore all funding that was vetoed in the budget.

Were we are live, learn, work, and play are predictors of health outcomes. When people live in communities with unstable housing, low income, unsafe neighborhoods, and substandard education there are poorer outcomes for individual and population health. The programs that have been severely cut or eliminated affect the most vulnerable populations disproportionately and will have long term consequences not only on the economy but to public health as well.

Thank you for your dedication and service to Alaska and Alaskans. Thank you for working across party lines and listening to the heart of Alaskans.

Be well,

Joanne Spears
Fairbanks

From: Lorrene Forbes <ml4bsalaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:11 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 2001

612 Cedar Drive
Kenai, Alaska 99611
July 17, 2019

To the House Finance Committee Members:

I have already written to my legislators and all the other legislators in our state. Having listened to the majority of the testimony over these last 3 days I had to once again express my thoughts and feelings. I will be as brief as possible.

I am totally in favor of HB 2001. Yes, I will take a lesser or no PFD at all if it will continue these services and programs that Gov. Dunleavy has vetoed. The House and Senate worked hard and long to come up with a compromise budget. It cut over \$200 million dollars, but did not decimate the state. Polls and the testimony I have listened to since the beginning of this session have rejected by a great majority Dunleavy's budget wishes as cruel, illogical, and a punishment to the citizens of this state, especially to those in most of need of help. Gov. Dunleavy is a walking recession in a state already possessing a high unemployment rate although it had started to show a slight climb from recession.

We need a strong university system; we need the best public education possible starting with the Head Start and pre-K programs; we need our health, dental, mental health services, and addiction treatment programs, as well as homeless support programs; public safety—all aspects—are necessary to the public's welfare from the needed VPS officers to the Public Defenders Program and revoking the Governor's punishment vetoes to the Court System and Public Defender's Agency. We must reinstate the senior benefits program; public assistance to the elderly, blind and disabled; assistance for mental health and the homeless. We need to keep programs that cost the state nothing or a small amount that bring in much more in federal, private and corporate dollars such as the Ocean Rangers program, Public Broadcasting, and the Alaska State Council on the Arts as they contribute to the quality of all our lives at minimal cost. In general we need to restore the funds that the vetoes would effect to maintain a strong state.

I clearly would give up a larger PFD to help fund this budget. I will go back to the year I graduated high school and got my first adult job at the FAA to help pay for college. I paid an income tax and an annual school tax and would gradually do so again. I would pay a state sales tax on top of what I already pay for my city and borough. Perhaps our oil credit program is too high as this is where the oil is and where the companies are sited to take advantage of our resources.

I have lived in this state for 56 years—ever since I graduated from East HS and my Air Force father retired back to Minnesotal, I have chosen to live here, married here, and raised my family here. I have always imagined that my children would live here and raise their family here. I have been fortunate in that 2 of our of 3 children have chosen to

live in state while one is at home in Seattle. It is interesting that the 2 who completed bachelor degrees and then masters degrees from UAA and UAF have chosen to live in state while the one who graduated from UW in Seattle has chosen to make his home there. However, my daughter was an education coordinator for Alaska State Council on the Arts and she is currently unemployed and may have to leave the state to find a comparable job. My older son is employed by the Geophysical Institute at UAF in their super computer center and everything there is up in air due to cuts. I am a senior, widowed retired person who is fortunately able to take care of myself at this point, but I am saddened that my children who love this state may have to leave with their families. Definitely not my dream for these years.

I appreciate the quality of the life I have enjoyed in this state and hope you can make it continue for me, my family, and all the citizens of this state. It is the Alaska Legislature's job to establish our annual budget. You have already done much hard work coming up with a bipartisan budget with acceptable cuts for this year. Now that you can all meet together once more please pass HB 2001 which was almost unilaterally passed before the Governor's vetoes.

Thank you for all your hard work. Please finish it now.

Sincerely,

Mary Lorrene Forbes

From: Brie Van Dam <brievd@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:12 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for House Finance Committee

Hello,

I was not able to make it in time to the House Finance Committee meeting in Fairbanks today (7/17) so I wanted to submit written testimony instead. My name is Brie Van Dam, and I live off of Whistling Swan Dr. in Fairbanks, AK.

I moved to Fairbanks six years ago to work with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I stayed here because of the people, the community, and the opportunity to be involved with world class scientific research focused on the Arctic. UAF is the top Arctic-focused climate change university in North America, if not in the world. While I do not work at UAF any longer, I am now a small business owner who relies on the community that is, in part, here because of the high caliber local university. A 41% cut in state funding to UA is unthinkable, with all that the university brings in statewide (including federal funds, people, ideas, etc). The scale of the budget cuts to education at all levels, health services, senior services, rural community support, and all the rest, will cripple our state.

Please, I ask you to invest in Alaska's future by working to fund and build a clean energy economy, not wholly dependent on the oil industry, that provides equitable opportunities for all Alaskans and does not endanger necessary services for our most vulnerable communities. It is a false choice between funding basic services and funding a \$3000 PFD. Fund the PFD at a reasonable and sustainable level, keep our public services and funding for the university, and increase revenue by restructuring the current system of oil tax credits.

I urge you to restore funding that was cut by the governor. I support the original budget that was brought forward by the Legislature.

Thank you,
Brie Van Dam

From: Donna Goldsmith <dlugoldsmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:13 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support HB 2001

Dear Committee Members

I testified the other night in support of a reduced dividend, and in support of overriding the governor's vetoes.

I support HB 2001, and may have failed to state that directly in my testimony.

Many thanks for conducting the hearings - and for your work to resolve this issue. I believe that too many Alaskans will suffer too much harm were these vetoes to remain in place. I hope that you find the strength to do what is right on behalf of all Alaskans, and to ensure a viable future for this state.

Donna Goldsmith

From: The Temples <templefidelis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:20 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD's FULLY FUNDED!!!

I've been an Alaskan since the mid-80's and have always been proud of being part of a RARE place that respects the PEOPLE's ownership of their resources. That has been put in jeopardy by those who want to change - or even worse, ignore the very premise of the formation of the PFD in the first place. It's NEVER been meant for the GOVERNMENT, but for the PEOPLE... and that's not BY WAY of Government either!

The People ALWAYS do a better job taking care of their needs with THEIR money, than the Government does. For example, I remember when WIC programs reached a cost of \$50 for every \$1 (ONE DOLLAR) that a recipient would receive. This is terribly common and the very point of why government should NOT be the resource of choice.

The PFDs belong to the People as individuals, for US to determine how to apply to help us the most. In my own family, I have THREE disabled family members. There are MANY needs that are difficult to meet and are not provided for in any other way. We're talking basic medical care and other similar needs. We NEED our PFDs to take care of our most basic family needs: medical, getting through the winter without having to wear our coats inside all winter, or rely completely on the wood stove, safe tires for the car, education expenses, and much more.

I and everyone I know is watching this issue very carefully, and are COMMITTED to not retaining ANY legislator who takes away our most basic right as Alaskans: our FULL PFDs!

Laura Temple

Eagle River, Alaska
907-854-8625

From: Kimberley Maher <kimbo.maher@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please pass HB 2001

Members of the House Finance Committee and all Alaska Legislators,

Please pass HB 2001 and fund the items cut by the governors veto to the operating budget. I was here in 2008 and got the \$3000 PFD under Sarah Palin. I was a graduate student at UAF at the time, and while the money was nice, I certainly wouldn't trade it for all of the things that we will be having to give up for a 2019 PFD of a similar amount. I would rather have a robust university system, a state arts council, and all the other programs that will be impacted by the governor's vetos.

Regards,
Kimberley Maher
1212 Little Fox Trail
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: John Athens <jathens01@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:21 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: compromise on budget

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

I am pleased to hear that all of the legislators will soon be in Juneau, and able to all work together to reach a compromise on the serious budget concerns facing Alaska. However, it is NOT acceptable to allow the cuts to UAF to stand; it should not be sacrificed for the sake of reaching an agreement. UAF is vital to Fairbanks, and important to the entire State of Alaska.

Fairbanks depends on UAF economically and socially, but the rest of Alaska also benefits from the programs there. The University is one of the largest employers, and brings far more money, people, and jobs to Fairbanks than it costs. In reality, scientists at UAF bring in millions of dollars in grant money. Furthermore, their programs include warning residents of earthquakes, fires, floods, etc. The University educates people to work in a myriad of critical fields, including nursing, criminal justice, and fire suppression to name a few.

I also urge you to reinstate funds for the Arts Council, which only needs a small amount of state money, and can then get matching grants to continue functioning—but it does require that there be some state money. Really, what is the Governor's vision for Alaska that he wants us to be the only state in the union without an Arts Council?

I understand and agree that a compromise needs to be reached, but not at the expense of Fairbanks! A budget compromise must be fair to all. All must share in the pain and the gain. That is a democracy.

Thank you for your consideration and all of your hard work!

John Athens
Fairbanks, AK 99709
jathens01@gmail.com

From: sand Castle <zepe0010@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:28 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support hb 2001

Dear House Finance committee,

My name is Sandy Seregin. I am a Head Start teacher and am concerned for the safety and well-being of the children and families in the Thralaska Head Start and Early Head Start program.

Our program regularly helps families through some of the worst crisis situations: post-partum depression, murder of parents or by parents, murder-suicide, rape, domestic violence, mental health issues, and more. Without the support staff at Thralaska Head Start many of the children and families could not survive.

While attending UAF I learned that it takes three full-time, minimum wage jobs for a small family to afford a two bedroom apartment. These families can't afford to work any harder. They also can't afford to pay what I paid for college tuition in order to put their children in childcare every month. There just aren't enough hours in the day for them to work any more.

These families need the support from Child Care Assistance in order to go to work. They also need Thralaska Head Start to help them learn and use the resources available to help them qualify for education, training and, ultimately better employment.

Fairbanks needs these families to work. Without them we will be missing dental hygienists, teachers, fast food workers, hotel housekeeping and office staff, hospital office and housekeeping staff, in-home care providers, grocery/department store staff, a large number of military families, foster parents, and many more diverse jobs.

Sadly, some of the businesses these families work for a large chains and corporations such as Wal-Mart, Fred Meyer's (Kroger), Princess who enjoy the benefit of huge tax breaks. Yet, the families working for them make minimum wage and can't even afford the childcare to go to work and keep these places running.

I have had parents say that they would rather get their \$700 monthly child care assistance than a \$3000 PFD that would only cover 4 months of care.

So, please, do whatever is possible to work around the governor's devastating vetoes. Please, support House Bill 2001.

Sincerely,

Sandy Seregin

From: Beth Grassi <beth.grassi2016@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Governor's vetoes hurt my family and many Alaskans

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to tell you I strongly support your efforts to restore the budget the governor demolished. I am a UAF employee and my husband is a high school teacher and UAF adjunct of more than 20 years, and the governor's drastic and unnecessary cuts will directly and indirectly hurt my family. These education cuts will not only be very harmful to my family, they will have the broader effect of cutting Alaska's future off at the knees.

We are worried that I will lose employment and my husband lose his adjunct job because of the governor's short-sighted and harmful vetoes of education funding. I began working at the university in part because I had been a state employee before and wanted to continue to earn time towards being vested in my state retirement fund. If the governor's cuts cause me to lose employment, with the hiring freeze on indefinitely, it will hurt my retirement goals as well.

The governor's plan to eviscerate the University of Alaska will have huge repercussions on our Alaskan workforce and the ability of our young people to start careers that allow them to stay in state. The governor's unrealistic budget will force layoffs, furloughs, and cutting university programs--harming the families of university employees across the state in addition to the students the university serves.

The University of Alaska trains future nurses, veterinarians, law enforcement officers, engineers, teachers, and many more to become the backbone of Alaska's workforce. The governor's budget veto jeopardizes the availability of those programs not just this year but for many years to come. Such drastic cuts will harm our century-old university system possibly beyond repair. It will take away the option for many students to attend college in state, which means they may not be able to afford college at all. Tuition will likely increase, making it more difficult for students to afford to attend UAF too. Big companies like Conoco and others will start hiring from out of state because young Alaskans won't be able to get the quality education the UA system currently provides.

Alaska's K-12 teachers work hard, long hours to make sure our kids receive a quality education, yet they are continually told to do more with less and less funding. Less funding translates into more students per teacher beyond what are best practices for the classroom. Aging buildings have a backlog of maintenance that needs to be addressed--all problems the state funding should be helping to resolve. Instead, the governor's veto will make them worse.

I have a young son who is not yet in school. The governor is asking me to make choices about his and our family's future: Do I want a \$3000 PFD this year, or employment at the university? I choose employment. Do I want a \$3000 PFD this year or strong K-12 and University of Alaska opportunities? I choose the educational opportunities. Do I want a \$3000 PFD this year or an education system that respects and supports hard-working teachers? I choose to support the teachers that have such a big influence on Alaskan children's futures. The governor's tunnel-vision focus on the amount of the Permanent Fund Dividend is like a child choosing a single piece of cake over a lifetime of food--it will bring immediate gratification, but leave nothing to support the future.

The most appalling part of this budget crisis is that it is totally unnecessary to do it this way--the legislature's budget, with a smaller PFD, would not wreak such havoc. I ask you to come together as Alaska leaders and generate a budget that does not hurt Alaska families and our state's future.

Concerned for the future,
Beth Grassi

From: Madeline Andriesen <mjandriesen@alaska.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:45 PM

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

Subject: Permanent fund dividend

Dear Legislators,

Here is my testimony about the permanent fund dividend. I am a college student attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks and pursuing a music degree. I would like to see a reduced PFD and a state tax with no budget cuts, in place of the \$3000 PFD with no university system. These cuts will be detrimental to the university and may result in the end of the music department and my major along with many others. I also rely heavily on the Alaska Performance Scholarship which has not been renewed due to lack of funding. I would give up my full PFD if it meant there would be no budget cuts. It is more important to use that money towards services like road construction, the ferry system, public education, the university system, and other organizations that will be harmed by these cuts. I cannot use my \$3000 PFD to pay the salary of my voice professor. Please cut the PFD and use that money for more important things than just giving it back to the Alaskans. The PFD is a very generous institution but Alaskans are not owed that money. Each of us did not personally work for that money just by living in the state. It should be used by the state to better the people. A state tax will also be important in creating revenue for the state. I would gladly pay a state tax to save our state. Big cities like Anchorage and Fairbanks that hold most of Alaska's population, have no taxes and would create a lot of revenue for the state along with all of the tourists who visit in the summer. I beg you, please save our state by cutting the PFD and adding a state tax to secure Alaska's future.

Sincerely,

Madeline Andriesen

--

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Madeline Andriesen

17 July 2019

Rep. Neal Foster, Co-chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Rep. Jennifer Johnston, Co-chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Subject: Alaska Regional Coalition urges lawmakers to resolve budget impasse

Dear Reps. Neal Foster and Jennifer Johnston, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

The Alaska Regional Coalition (ARC) is a consortium of four Alaska Native regional nonprofits and one regional tribe – Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC); Kawerak, Inc.; Maniilaq Assn.; Chugachmiut; and Central Council Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA). We represent 100 communities and 65,000 Alaskans from Kotzebue to Ketchikan – that’s almost 1-in-10 Alaskans. We provide medical, behavioral, social, public safety, child welfare, workforce development, judicial supports, and other services pursuant to the federal Indian Self-Determination Act and a variety of grants contracts. We offer critical services on behalf of the State of Alaska in 100 communities. We provide services to all the people in our communities.

The Alaska Regional Coalition urges the legislature come together without delay to resolve the budget impasse. Specifically, we urge the House Finance Committee to restore the governor’s budget vetoes, address the unfunded and vetoed portions of the capital budget, resolve the “reverse sweep,” and set the amount of this year’s Permanent Fund dividend. The legislature worked diligently to make substantial and well-reasoned cuts to the state operating budget. Your work was informed by overwhelming public participation in the budget process. The budget passed by the legislature contains the most significant cuts to essential services in decades and comes on the heels of several years of

reductions to government spending. In contrast, the governor's vetoes run counter to Alaska's values and cut dangerously deeper.

Here is a sampling of impacts of vetoes on Alaska Regional Coalition's 65,000 Alaskan constituents:

Medicaid

The veto of \$50 million from the Medicaid budget, on top of the \$70 million in cuts approved by the legislature, threatens the health and wellbeing of Alaskans and will surely send the state's economy back into recession, which will result in the loss of thousands of jobs. There has been inadequate explanation about how these cuts will be executed or who they will impact. Alaskans deserve to know how unallocated cuts to Medicaid will impact children, the disabled, the elderly, and rural hospitals. Complete elimination of adult preventative dental will result in untreated disease and more expensive trips to emergency rooms. This drastic economic change will surely send the state's economy back into recession, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs.

"As a tribal health provider, we see first-hand how Medicaid means the difference between access to care and suffering. When people are suffering, it can be impossible to hunt, fish, participate in the cash economy, and otherwise care for their family. The legislature implemented cost containment measures for Medicaid in the adopted operating budget. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of the health status of vulnerable Alaskans." – Maniilaq Association President/CEO Tim Gilbert

Senior Benefits / Early Childhood / Homelessness

- Senior Benefits Program cuts target over 11,000 of Alaska's most financially challenged elders who rely on modest monthly stipends to make ends meet.
- Elimination of Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Best Beginnings and other early childhood programs – not to mention reductions to child nutrition supports – undermine the health and wellbeing of Alaska's children and jeopardizes Alaska's future.

- Reducing funds for homelessness prevention programs remove a critical safety net and will result in more children and families on the streets. These cuts will make our communities less safe.

“Our most honored citizens, our elders and our youth will be devastated by these cuts. Our seniors, who scrape by on fixed incomes, will suffer needlessly due to the elimination of the Senior Benefits Program. Most of them rely on this small amount to pay for food, gas, and prescriptions. Our children, our future leaders, see lifelong benefits from early education; the elimination of Head Start funding will negatively impact budget decisions for years to come.” – Tanana Chiefs Conference President Victor Joseph

Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) / Nome Youth Facility

There is a public safety crisis in rural Alaska. With 1-in-3 communities having no law enforcement, and others needing resources to retain officers, the Village Public Safety Officer program veto cannot stand. The legislature explicitly urged the Department of Public safety to fully disburse funding meant for VPSOs, rather than “lapse” that funding back to the general fund. VPSO funds can and should be utilized for recruitment and retention and other mission-critical activities – not cut. The concept of “lapse” funding is an anathema to supporters of rural public safety.

“The Nome Youth Facility will likely close as a result of these cuts. This means the chance to embrace and rehabilitate our youth from the 28 communities surrounding Nome and Kotzebue in a culturally appropriate setting will be ripped out from under us. Alaska Native culture is a protective factor for our at-risk youth. We cannot see these young people sent out of our region; here they have the best chance of developing into productive community members.” – Kawerak President Melanie Bahnke

Community Assistance / Legal Supports

- Vetoes of fund capitalization for Community Assistance, also known as Community Revenue Sharing, inhibits Alaskans’ long-term ability to address local needs. The veto of Community Assistance fund capitalization shifts the cost of essential services onto local taxpayers or onto communities with no revenue base whatsoever.

- Vetoes to legal supports for low-income Alaskans and cuts to public defenders are antithetical to the concept of justice for all.

Constitutional Budget Reserve / Power Cost Equalization / The “Reverse Sweep”

Unfortunately, the failure to secure a $\frac{3}{4}$ -vote to utilize Constitutional Budget Reserve funds and conduct a reverse sweep jeopardizes nearly \$1 billion in federal infrastructure spending and critical programs, and has resulted in a complete lack of funding for Power Cost Equalization, among other programs, which will create tremendous hardship and will cripple rural Alaska. The PCE program was established to create parity for rural Alaskans after the state invested heavily in road-system power infrastructure.

The legislature approved a budget that reflected the will of the people. Alaskans turned out in record numbers to participate in this year’s budget process. ARC urges the Alaska State Legislature to stand by its budget.

Respectfully submitted,

The Alaska Regional Coalition

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Senator Olson
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau AK, 99801

Representative John Lincoln
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau AK, 99801

July 17, 2019

Dear Senator Olson and Representative Lincoln,

The Tribal Council of the Native Village of Kotzebue had their regular meeting on July 16, 2019. They discussed in length the concerns regarding the \$444 million in vetoes to the FY20 operating budget. They have asked me to write to you to urge you to take action to protect the funding that our region needs for our health and public safety.

One important program is the Power Cost Equalization Program that is at risk to being cut from the budget. As you know, the high cost of living in rural Alaska is a real problem. This program helps our people with the expense of providing electricity in their homes, and in some cases, heat. Without this program, these expenses may become too large of a burden to handle.

We understand that the Legislature is working hard to provide a budget that meets the needs of Alaska Natives, tribal organizations, and tribal governments. House Bill 2001 is a way to meet those needs. We support your continued efforts on House Bill 2001, and we thank you for your hard work and dedication to our people.

Respectfully on behalf of the Tribal Council and our tribal members,

Nicole N. Stoops
Executive Director

Wrangell Legislative Information Office

Wrangell.lio@akleg.gov

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

Name: David Shull

Address: PO Box 1785 Wrangell, AK 99929

Representing: Self

Bill #/Subject: HB2001

Committee: FIN

Hearing Date: 07/17/19

Written Testimony

Please support HB2001 as amended. I
rely on my Senior Benefits.
Thank you for your service
David Shull

Wrangell Legislative Information Office

Wrangell.lio@akleg.gov

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

Name: Jack Dyer
Address: PO Box 2256 Wrangell, AK 99929
Representing: Self
Bill #/Subject: HB2001
Committee: HFIN
Hearing Date: 07/17/19

Written Testimony

Please support HB2001 as amended and restore the funds/programs that the Governor cut from the budget. Many Alaskans depend on these programs.

Thank you,

Jack Dyer

Wrangell Legislative Information Office

Wrangell.lio@akleg.gov

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

Name: Robert Dalrymple
Address: PO Box 2359 Wrangell AK 99929
Representing: myself
Bill #/Subject: HB2001
Committee: HFIN
Hearing Date: 07/17/19

Written Testimony

Alaska Legislatures
I urge you to support the HB2001 as amended.
The governor's budget will set Alaska back to
the territorial days. Please restore the funding.
The ^{full} permanent fund dividend is a false choice
in this matter.