

House Finance Committee

Public Testimony HB 3003

Emails received to
HouseFinance@akleg.gov

August 24, 2021
By 3pm.

Packet 2

From: Mark Schwan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 3003

Dear House Finance: I am writing to object to the funding level proposed for the Permanent Fund Dividend in HB 3003. I believe the proposed PFD of \$2,350 is unacceptably high and should remain at the previously agreed upon amount of \$1,100. The proposed drawdown of the permanent fund for this purpose seems totally irresponsible and is not in the long-term best interests for Alaska and its residents.

Sincerely,

Mark Schwan
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Camille Broussard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Full Constitutional PFD - HB 3003

This email is in support of Alaskan's receiving a full constitutional 2021 dividend year PFD and receiving the unpaid balance of previous years (2016-2020) PFD that were not paid at the full constitutional amount.

I am in support of Governor Dunleavy's bill, but would like to see it amended to the full constitutional amount.

Our legislature needs to pass a bill/policy that sets the PFD to be a set constitutional percentage like in pre-Walker days. Our legislature wastes so much valuable time arguing about the PFD. Put it back to the way it was and make it law.

Camille Broussard
Nikiski, AK

From: carol broussard <[REDACTED].com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Attn. House Finance/Regarding the PFD

I am writing to ask/plead with our representatives there in Juneau, to preserve our full permanent fund dividend.

My parents homesteaded here in the '50s and fought hard to keep their mineral rights with their homestead. They lost that fight but later the permanent fund program was set up to give all the residents of our state, a share of the profit from the oil and minerals money that came into Alaska.

Everyone knows there is way too much wasteful spending in our State bureaucracy that “should” be cut substantially, but is not!

We elect our reps to fight for us, but sadly watch as the lobbyists call the moves.

Sincerely,

Carol and John Broussard

([REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nikiski, AK 99635

From: Chris Bataille <[REDACTED].com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:02 PM

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

Subject: HB 3003, Alaska Legal Services Corporation

I would like to voice my disagreement with Governor Dunleavy's veto of funds for the Alaska Legal Services Corporation.

This money goes towards an organization that helps ensure that our most vulnerable population is not taken unfair advantage of by others with greater resources and interests contrary to the rights of the vulnerable. I believe the financial benefits to the state by ensuring representation to help assure that justice governs over self-interest will outweigh the financial benefits of the veto. Please consider overriding this veto.

From: Becky Judd <[REDACTED].net>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:53 AM

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

Subject: HB 3003

House Finance Committee,

While HB 3003 ensures students receive state-promised support through WWAMI and performance scholarship programs, it does not address our fiscal instability.

Please consider a smaller PFD (under \$1,000.) and new revenue options such as greater oil taxes, reinstate the income tax or sales tax on NON-essential items.

Thank you for your hard work,

Becky (Rebecca) Judd

[REDACTED] Anchorage 99516
[REDACTED]

From: Stephen Martin <[REDACTED].com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:44 AM

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

Subject: PFD

Hi,

I think it's time for everyone to keep their hands off the PFD. Stay with the formula already in the constitution. The Senate and House have played enough taken money that was the people's from the fund without a legal right. All changes to the PFD were to be voted on by an election of the people. Give back what you have taken and keep the same formula that's there, AND KEEP HANDS OFF WHAT BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE BY LAW.

Stephen E Martin

[REDACTED]

Nikiski, Ak

From: Brenda Campen <[REDACTED]icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:42 AM

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

Subject: HB 3003

I strongly support the WWAMI and performance scholarship programs.

I **DO NOT** support a PFD of \$2350 as it would result in withdrawing too much from the Permanent Fund. There are no corresponding revenue generating measures offered in this bill. If a PFD this large is offered, there must be accompanying revenue measures to support it. Absent that, this is not feasible. Please reject this.

Linking the funding for the scholarship and WWAMI programs and a \$2350 PFD in one bill feels like bribery. Shame on the governor.

Brenda Campen

Sitka, Alaska

Alaska resident since 1977.

From: Liz Mering <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:51 PM

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

Subject: Written Testimony on HB 3003

To whom it may concern,

I would like to write concerning Governor Dunleavy's appropriation bill (HB 3003). I am writing with concerns regarding Governor Dunleavy's veto of state funding from Alaska Legal Services Corporation.

ALSC provides a vital service for Alaskan Communities around the state. Too many people need legal help or legal assistance but cannot afford it. This is our neighbors, friends, and family who reach out to ALSC to help. It may be a relative trying to get legal protection from an abuser. A grandmother seeking

legal help to care for a grandchild. An elder who needs help with a will. Our justice system is not justice if the legal system's doors are only opened to people who can afford an attorney.

ALSC already has to turn away too many people because of inadequate funds. I worked at ALSC in the past and loved helping my community. I hated having to tell people that we could not help them and that I did not have any good advice on where to send them--because often there are no other options for many of these people seeking assistance. Without these funds, 818 Alaskans will be turned away - not because they don't need help and not because it is not a priority issue - but because ALSC simply does not have the funds to help them.

This veto is cruel and hurts Alaskans, our communities, and the state as a whole. Please reconsider allowing this veto to go into effect.

Thank you for your time and your consideration,
Elisabeth Mering

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99503
[REDACTED]

From: Molly Clingsmith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:32 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD should be the MOST possible for all eligible Alaskans

I could not make the hearing today, but I wanted to share my testimony.

Alaskans are hurting by the tyrannical mandates of last year and earlier this year.

We are hurting from inflation. We are hurting from skyrocketing oil prices.

The PFD is OUR money. NOT yours. It should not be up for debate. Getting the most possible into the hands of Alaskans will help each individual and family, and the Alaskan economy.

- Molly

From: Lila Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:46 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject:

Please listen to what most of the people of Alaska want. Year after year, you waste time and our money fighting at how much money the people will get from the PFD and how much that you will spend on your pet government projects.. The PFD was not formed for more government spending. I demand that you put the PFD in the Alaska constitution so that

you don't have to go over this year after year. Give us out rightful payment from the PFD. This year, give us the full amount per the percentage that was instituted from the beginning. Many people are hurting financially from the COVID pandemic and need the extra PFD payment to keep afloat. Hundreds of people testified to the committee of eight. Listen to us and do the right thing.

Sincerely
Lila Smith

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99504

From: Drew Toliver <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:50 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

Restore the full PFD and leave it alone.
Learn to live within your budget and quit stealing from Alaskans.

From: Irene Quednow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:08 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Hb3003

Dear Finance Committee members,

It is time for you to do what the majority of people of Alaska, whom you work for, are asking you to do: make the budget work with the money you have (no more additional income streams that you then just waste away) and put the Permanent Fund into the Alaska Constitution so you cannot raid it every time you come up with a new way of increasing government size and thus spending. You are being paid a good amount by the taxpayers for the work you are supposed to be doing - so do it.

And by the way, I find it reprehensible that a lot of you think it is acceptable to go fishing while there is a special session going on, thus hindering the work that needs to be done even further.

Irene Quednow

NEW: [REDACTED]

From: Mary Brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:09 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 3003 - PFD

To Whom It May Concern:

The PFD is very important to Alaskans. For too long, we have not had a voice in this and our legislators are either ham-strung or do not care if we receive the full amount we are entitled to! It is not fair to the Alaskan people and goes against the originally intended purpose for We the People of Alaska.

Please follow the statutory calculations of the amount we should have been getting and stop the steal!

Thank you,

Thomas & Mary Brown
Palmer, AK

From: Kathy Steadman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

Hello. I am respectfully asking our legislators to do the right thing and cut spending and pay us our statutory PFD. Please don't ask to tax us more or take any more money from the people until our statutory pfd is paid out to us from what was withheld the last 6 years. It is time!

From: Susan Entsminger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:16 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: finance

How corrupt is the majority in our state government to hijack the PFD!!!! There is a formula for state government spending, you should all stick to it. The legislature should stop excessive government spending. Stick the the original intent of the PFD.

We are ticked off that the Bush Caucus will not let our representative in. Talk about unwilling to work together. Looks like most legislators are not there for the people. Sad

Frank & Susan Entsminger
[REDACTED]

From: Marilyn Menish Meucci <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 3003

My name is Marily Menish-Meucci, I represent myself and I live in Petersburg. This bill is a good start and I support part of it. I support funding for the WWAMI and performance scholarship programs. I do not support such a large dividend.

We need different revenue. Please do not put a State Sales Tax on. There are so many small communities, like Petersburg, that already have a sales tax of 6%.

We need a state income tax like the one we had before 1980. It wouldn't hurt to also think about the one time tax for schools. These two taxes would apply to everyone that works in Alaska!

Absolutely DO NOT put the dividend in the constitution!!

Thank you for all your time and service,
Marilyn Menish-Meucci

From: Mabel Danielson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 3:12 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support governor PFD

Good afternoon,

Support Governor Dunleavy PDF

Thank you,
Mabel

From: Neil Pilgram <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 3003 - PFD

Please give the full PFD, as figured by the original formula, the Alaska citizens need direct financial assistance more than a bloated government.

From: Carmen John Croas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill No. 3003A, State of Alaska 32 Legislature, 3rd Session -
Importance: High

Maddam/Mr. Chair and members of the Finance committee, I support House Bill No. 3003A as recommended by Governor Mike Dunleavy to safeguard the annual disbursement of the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) for current and future Alaskans and outline the operating expenditures from the general funds for state government programs.

Respectfully yours,
Carmen C. Croas

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99517
Retiree, 30+ Alaska resident

From: Sara Hondel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:55 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska Permanent Fun Dividend

Greetings House Finance Committee,

As a lifelong Alaskan (40+yrs), I'm encouraging you to support a full statutory Permanent Fund Dividend in 2021 (which has not been paid since 2015) to all Alaskan residents. It's time to fix Alaska's fiscal problems and protect the PFD!

I support the following for the Special Session:

- Pass the full PFD for Oct.
- Pass a constitutional PFD formula that most Alaskans accept based on a fair share.
- Stop kicking the can down the road. Provide a fiscal fix for the \$1 Billion deficit, not by looting Alaskans' PFD.

Pass a full PFD or at the very least, please support Bill SJR 6. I'm hoping to receive a full PFD for myself and my family members. I have a second year college student and a husband who is in graduate school. It would be great to have the full PFD for them to offset their continuing education costs. Their continuing education will benefit our state as my daughter plans on returning to Alaska to pursue a career in business and my husband will open practice mental health counseling when he graduates.

P.S. Thank you to all who are doing your part to protect Alaskans' rights and wealth.

Best regards,
Sara Hondel

From: Rebecca Bezdecny <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing re: the PFD.

A statutory PFD would be nice. But, do you know what would be nicer? Not having to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to send my kid to an out of state college because the UA system is circling the drain.

I'm not really down with a Constitutional amendment protecting the PFD either.

I hate the PFD and what it has done to our state and residents. It's divisive and that money could be better spent on things like schools, universities, roads, ferries, etc that help our state.

Thanks for your time.

Rebecca Bezdecny

Kenai AK

From: Jennifer Anderson <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:59 PM

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

Subject: Fund 2021 PFD

I fully support The Governor's plan of paying out a \$2350 PFD THIS fall to every Alaskan. I have several reasons why, but the most important is that the State of Alaska made an agreement when they bought the oil and mineral rights from Alaskans individually. to pay a portion of the profits back to the people who live here. It is not a choice - it has to happen per the agreement. I implore you to do the right thing - pay it out and move the issue forward so that the people of Alaska can vote on the future of the dividend.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Anderson

From: Glenn Cravez <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:04 PM

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

Cc: Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields

<Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep Andy Josephson <AndrewJosephson2003@yahoo.com>; Rep. Ivy

Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep.

Calvin Schrage <Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 3003

Good afternoon,

Although I can't attend the public testimony session of the House Finance Committee this afternoon, I did want to offer my comments on HB 3003.

I am pleased that the bill restores WWAMI and performance scholarships funding. However, the bill does not address the root reason for our fiscal predicament – our unwillingness, it seems, to invest in our future.

Yes, I am speaking of the need to raise revenues. The dreaded “t” word. Alaska remains the only state in the country without either a broad based income tax or sales tax. I have lived here 40+ years, and yes, it’s wonderful to not pay those taxes AND receive a PFD check each year. But as adults, we know that money does not grow on trees, and that the free ride is over.

Alaska has been losing population for years. Handing out free money and refusing to tax ourselves is NOT attracting new business investment. Instead, we are losing population, losing business, losing young entrepreneurs to other states – states that are willing to invest in education, transportation, public safety, and everything else that makes a place an attractive one in which to live, work, and do business.

We need to invest in our future. And we can’t kick the can down the road yet again. Please, stand up for Alaska, stand up for our children and grandchildren. Make the hard decisions on revenue this year.

Thank you for your consideration. Glenn Cravez. 2810 Kingfisher Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99502.

Law Office of Glenn E. Cravez, Inc.

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

[REDACTED]

www.cravezlawmediation.net

From: Hippler Family <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:11 PM

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

Subject: HB 3003 --- public testimony - Generally supportive, we need reductions in overall spending to justify a law based PFD

Dear Legislators,

First of all, thank you for your service and taking this issue seriously.

The reason we are having these problems as a state, is due to out of control spending at the general level. The DHSS alone is larger than the entire state budget was in 2000. This growth is unsustainable, so to fund the growing state budget, the PFD is being crowded out.

Therefore the solution has to be two fold.

Firstly, it is imperative to establish reductions in spending built into a spending cap. This is required to persuade Alaskans that you will not simply take this money and then spend even more. It was not that long ago that the state was throwing money away in useless Film Tax Credits, for example. By establishing a spending cap, you build the credibility with your constituents that allows you the ability to divert PFDs from your constituents to your spending programs.

Secondly, whatever you do should be based on a statute. A new one, if you need. We have two on the books and the Legislature ignores them both. That means that the PFD is a political game every year. It is not good statesmanship. Take this off the table by establishing a new statute (yes I know you can also ignore it but it is better to have a statute that you use, even for just one year, than simply making up numbers).

I look forward to a long term sustainable solution.

Sincerely,
Allen Hippler

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: David Weisensel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:12 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB3003

Dear Members of the Committee,

I have read and fully support HB3003. Primarily this is about the PFD and the desire to return the payout to the statutory amounts. I believe it is criminal to pick and choose for yourselves what to take and use for legislative action and what to give to the people of this great state. It is not a handout, as it is specified by law. If you choose to do away with PFD payments, let the people of Alaska vote on it. I think they would answer clearly if given proper chance without fraudulent activity.

Secondly, I am surprised to see the Alaska Performance Scholarship up for debate. This has been a carrot to many high school students, mine included. My daughter has met all the requirements and I would be angry to see that carrot fed to some other pet project.

Finally, I have written to my local representatives and I fully support a heavy decrease in spending. Government projects and oversight have become bloated. Reinstate the full PFD after passing HB3003, reduce spending, do away with all the red tape, and watch Alaska thrive as Alaskans live in freedom and liberty.


Respectfully,
Lara Weisensel

From: JUDY BASLER <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska PFD

Please look into consideration all of the families that rely on the PFD to make it through the year !

I have worked in the Anchorage school district many years and see his families in need can use the money 💙

Having a check for 2350.00 per person will help to get food on the table (cost of food is going up) and clothing (kids grow and need winter clothing each year) .

Let's think about helping our state and families in need 

Thank you , Judy Basler



Wasilla Alaska

From: John & Candy Miller < >

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:22 PM

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

Subject: HB 3003

To Our Select Committee Members

As working man along with a vast number of others who cannot attend this meeting and speak in favor

of a full PFD as originally established and executed for over 40 years, I find it appalling that we find our self

in this self inflicted mess each year since Walker lied to Alaskans, broke the rules and stole the PFD's.
Now

this illegal practice of theft is propitiated by other lawless legislators controlled by big unions. If you truly want

to stimulate the economy, help suffering business and families and solve this problem once and for all, simply

return to the original formula and protect it with a constitutional amendment.

Thank You for your time

John Miller Dist 9

From: Steven Swedenburg < >

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:22 PM

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

Subject: PFD, HB 3003 Support.

Greetings:

Please pass on my support for Governor Dunleavy's PFD plan.

Please vote to make the PFD permanent and not open to misappropriation.

I support the issuance for a \$2,350 PFD .

I also want to voice my support for permanently guaranteeing the PFD by placing it into our state's constitution and give the people of Alaska a chance to vote on it.

Judges have no legal authority to write law, the PFD should never have been looted.

Regards.

Steven Sweedenburg

[REDACTED]

Wasilla, AK. 99687

From: Sierra Wilson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:24 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 3003 - PFD

I am in 100% support of Dunleavy's plan, and will not vote again for anyone who opposes it. We are a family of three. My husband is a Miner who works weeks at a time away and I am a fulltime Graduate student. Our dividend helps us immensely (just like many other Alaskans), because we are so tight financially without me working. Also, our dividends were written into our constitution when Alaska was created as a state. Law makers who are blatantly going against our constitution obviously think that they are higher than the law and need be relived of their jobs.

Thank you,
Sierra Schnell

From: Laurie Lance <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:26 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Hb3003

I am an alaska resident for over 23 years and I am in support of getting the permanent fund back to the alaska people, not into the government. It is time to get this taken care of. You are getting paid by the tax payers, whom you work for, to get this done. I support governor Dunleavys plan. If you worked in any other job, you would have been fired for incompetence.
Laurie Lance

From: Anne Ruggles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:27 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB3003

Dear Legislators;

I support fully funding the important WWAMI and performance Scholarship programs but I do NOT support a PFD of \$2,350! For many in Alaska a significant portion of that will be passed on to the Federal

Government with our income taxes. We have significant funding needs in Alaska that much of that money could be spent on (especially after the draconian budget cuts of past years). Please approve a much smaller PFD, fund programs that have been cut (The University, K-12 Education, the ferry system, expand medicaid) and please institute a state income tax that is indexed to federal taxes and the PFD so that the highest state income tax paid is equivalent to the amount of the PFD.

Thank you
Anne Ruggles
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks

From: Carol Thurneau <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:27 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Dunleavy's proposed dividend

We stand behind Governor Dunleavy's proposed PFD. Let the people have the money to spend.

Vern and Carol Thurneau
60 year Alaskans

From: Judy Storey <[REDACTED]m>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:33 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Ref: HB3003

Please pass Gov Dunleavy's bill on the PFD of \$2350 this year.

Thank you.
Judy Storey

From: Todd Tuomi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: \$2350 PFD

To the Alaska legislature of house, I am writing on behalf of my family to urge the State House members to accept governor dunleavy's plan to pay out 2350 and place the permanent fund dividend in the Alaska Constitution so that any future changes to the PFD can be voted on by the people. the PFD has made a difference year after year to provide my family with mr. income to provide a quality of life that is equal to those that live on less means in other places.

From: Bonnie Jaynes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:41 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

As a lifelong Alaskan I fully support paying the PFD as it was originally intended since it began.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Jaynes

From: BradandJody Otto <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:44 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public testimony for PFD

My name is Jody Otto. I would like to submit my official public testimony in support of the Governors permanent fund plan.
Sincerely Jody Otto
Sent from my iPhone

From: Shari <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:45 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>
Subject: AKs PFD

As a life long Alaskan and Yupik native of 49 years, I urge our Legislators and the Governor that I voted for to CUT THE BUDGET and and pay us our Statutory PFD in the full amount that you have stolen from our people of this state and plus interest. Remember what this account was created for and to be a responsible group and quit spending beyond your means. What an embarrassment this has been to show our children that our own state can't balance a REASONABLE budget.
Please be moral and an example of what is right for the Alaskan residents.

God Bless.

Alaskan,
Sharisse Prince

From: Nathan Traugott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:46 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Dividend 2021

Dear Alaska legislators,

Please follow the law and allow Alaska residents to have the complete dividend of \$3700 a person. Spending must be cut in other areas rather than garnering more from the citizens of this state.

Respectfully,
Nathan and Elizabeth Traugott

From: Kimberly Frey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:47 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB3003

Good day all:

Please pass HB3003. Please Support Gov. Dunleavy's PFD plan and protect the PEOPLE'S PFD in the state constitution. It is time to solve the issue of the PFD. Put this issue to a vote of the Alaskan's. Please fund the Alaska Performance Scholarship and WWAMI medical school program as post secondary education is important for Alaska's future. Thank you for all your hard work.

Kimberly Frey

UAA BSEE Student

From: katherto <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:47 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 3003 - PFD

My husband and I are on a limited income retired. We use the pfd to assist in helping ends meet. Thank you for your attention. Karen and Dave Atherton

From: Jennifer Katasse <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:50 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

A 500 pfd is pitiful. You should feel ashamed for wanting to give Alaskans that when your per diem is WAY more than that. Get your head out of your asses and pass the PFD that alaskans need which is

under the bill Governor Dunleavy passed. Again, if you could remove your head from your rear that would be much appreciated. Might have had your per diem if you did this in the first place 🙄

Sincerely,

Pissed off & disappointed Alaskan

From: Mallory Haines <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

> Dear Legislators,

>

> As you are in special session, I urge each of you to give serious and thoughtful consideration to the impact the PFD has on each of your constituents. The PFD has been robbed from the people for too long, and I, and many others, appreciate the time that has been dedicated to resolving this serious issue this year. Compounding the need for a full PFD, as you know, is the ongoing pandemic. As I write this email, my family and I have Covid, a reminder of how much a full PFD is desperately needed at this time.

>

> While I realize there are many legislators on board, I also know that there are those who, for political or other reasons, are not voting in favor for a full PFD in 2021. I am writing specifically to those, that they may hear and understand from their constituency that anything less than a full PFD is unacceptable and that the people are watching how our reps in government vote on this important issue.

>

> I look forward to seeing how each of you represent the people on this important issue.

Thank you,
-Mallory Haines
North Pole

From: Keith, Erin R <erkeith@anthc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaskans need their PFD

Good Afternoon,

I am in support of the proposed \$2350 dividend and I URGE you all to put political agendas aside and do what is best for Alaskans. Having lived in rural Alaska and seen the positive impacts that the dividend has on the State's most vulnerable population, it is appalling to think that \$500 would be sufficient. \$500 does not cover one month of utilities in some locations. There is NO need to continue to have these special sessions and no need for you all to continue taking money that is rightfully the residents of this great state. Fortunately, Gov. Dunleavy hasn't pushed harder for the \$3800 it SHOULD be this year. Providing Alaskans with the proposed \$2350 dividend that many would view as a compromise. You all get to keep some of what is our to pay for our inflated government and social services AND all Alaskans get most of what is rightfully ours!

Thank you,

Erin Keith | Accredited Campus Safety Officer
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
4500 Diplomacy Drive Suite 436
P: (907) 729-2912 | erkeith@anthc.org
Tiger Connect: ANMC Safety Officer

From: Joel & Teresa Padgett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

I want you to approve the governor plan.

Joel Padgett
Teresa Padgett
District 2 Fairbanks.

--

Joel & Teresa Padgett

From: Lindsey Troup <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pfd

Give us what is rightfully ours!!! Full PFD!!

From: Frank Entsminger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:54 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: feeling on PFD

How corrupt is the majority in our state government to highjack the PFD!!!! There is a formula for state government spending, you should all stick to it. The legislature should stop excessive government spending. Stick to the original intent of the PFD. Time to work for the people in Juneau. Government spending is out of control. Stop all the pork barrels by quick spending more money for frivolous projects that require more future funding for maintenance & etc.

We are ticked off that the Bush Caucus will not let our representative in. Talk about unwilling to work together. Looks like most legislators are not there for the people. Sad!! A native republican doesn't fit their narrative. Pretty bloody sad!! I'm not a republican or dumbarat but an extreme conservative.
Frank Entsminger, Wildlife Artist
Wilderness Creations

Tok AK 99780

www.wildernesscreations.com

From: Melissa Montague <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:55 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pfd

All Alaska's deserve the FULL PFD!!!

From: Karrie Richert <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance
<Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>; House Ways and Means
<House.Ways.And.Mean@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD vote

I understand that the amount of the PFD is a contentious issue, and the state budget is being propped up with those funds. However, the issue of calculating the PFD amount has been settled with a law. It may be true that we need to change the way that we calculate the amount, but that requires a process of changing the statute. It is NOT the prerogative of the legislature to violate the law as they see fit. You are not representing us by violating the law. You must follow the law, give the statutory PFD, then follow the law-abiding procedures to change the law with a vote from the people if you want the law changed. Remember; if we could oust John Coghill over this, we can oust you, too. The amount of the PFD is really a secondary issue. The fact that legislators think they can arbitrarily override the state statutes is the bigger issue. Follow the law, or resign. Uphold the statutory PFD!

Karrie Richert

From: Jen Craft <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Full PFD

I am telling you to support Dunleavy's proposal for PFD this year. Telling you, not asking. PFD was designed for the people of Alaska. DO NOT TAKE IT AWAY AGAIN!

Jen Craft
Registered Nurse of 14 years.
9073309099

From: jllanosjr@camp14.com <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 3:00 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony

James Llanos Jr
Ketchikan, Alaska
Representing myself

I am in favor of Governor Dunleavy plan which calls for a \$2,350.00 Dividend.

I am a strong believer in Following the rules (Law), and I am saddened and really upset with the state legislators since they have been breaking the law for years. We are not a country of do as I say and not as I do. So, when I heard that the legislators were using funds that did not belong to them, from the PFD, it really made me mad. When facing a deficit in any budget, whether it be local, state or government. You do not keep overspending, regardless of programs the state or local government promises to provide. Regardless of how honorable or essential they are. You either look for ways to create more money or you cut programs and/or needs.

I know on my own personal household budget, when I find I have too many bills, I do not continue to overspend, I realize I have I only have a certain amount of money, so I cut things from my budget. Maybe I stop eating out? Or take the bus a few times a week instead of taking my car. The point is, I do not take other people's money like the Legislators are doing. It is not yours it is the peoples so stop taking it. Please do the state a favor and ask the public if they would be in favor of a state tax to cover the state's overspending. If the public would like the programs paid for then they would be in favor of a state tax. I would be in favor of a state tax in leu of you illegally drawing down the PFD.

Furthermore, if all the legislators that continue to attack and garnish the PFD, I would be in support of the removal of those who do so.

Thank you, I would appreciate this being read on the air, as I cannot be on the phone, since I am at work.

From: Tisha Victory <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 3:00 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: PFD

As Alaskans, We deserve our PFD checks in the full amount according to the original formula. This needs to be solved. Keep your hands out of the cookie jar where you are not allowed to spend.

The people are angry, tired, we are suffering from the pandemic, And you want us to continue to suffer financially. Please vote for the full amount of our PFD's as a single mother on disability and public asst, I have to survive feeding myself and my child and pay all of our bills off of \$1600 a month and \$159 in food stamps. I only get paid once a month. We rely heavily on our PFD's to feed us and help pay bills. You are forcing the poorest of us to suffer more, without our full PFD checks. Please give us our PFD's so we can make it thru the winter with this pandemic. Every little extra cost takes away from our budget. Extra cleaning supplies, the price of food has gone up. utilities have gone up. Some of us don't qualify for pandemic relief money because we didn't loose our jobs me especially because I'm on disability. Please help me pay for

my home this winter and help feed my family by keeping our PFD's and distribute the amounts owed.

Thank you,
Tisha Victory

From: Brooke Ivy <bivy@alaskachildrenstrust.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:30 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Trevor Storrs <tstorrs@alaskachildrenstrust.org>; Thomas Azzarella <tazzarella@alaskachildrenstrust.org>
Subject: HB3003 Public Testimony - Alaska Children's Trust


Good afternoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 3003. Attached please find a letter and enclosure from the Alaska Children's Trust for consideration by the House Finance Committee. This letter was previously emailed directly to House Finance Committee offices, but we would also appreciate for it to be included on the record.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thank you kindly,

Brooke Ivy
Vice President of Policy & Advocacy

 O 907-248-7676
C 907-229-3182
3201 C St., Ste. 110, Anchorage, AK 99503
alaskachildrenstrust.org

Together we can prevent
child abuse and neglect



January 2018

Protective Factors for Youth Substance
Abuse and Delinquency

The Role of Afterschool Programs



PREPARED FOR



PREPARED BY



Protective Factors for Youth Substance Abuse and Delinquency: The Role of Afterschool Programs

Prepared for:



A Program of:



Prepared by:



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January 2018

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Introduction

The Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) asked McDowell Group to create a brief that describes how protective factors reduce youth substance abuse and delinquency and the role that afterschool programs (ASPs) can play within this context. First, this brief defines protective factors and describes their capacity to reduce youth substance abuse and delinquency. Recent data from the Anchorage Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is presented to underscore the experience of local youth. Next, it presents an overview of afterschool programs (ASPs) and their potential to provide and enhance protective factors for youth. Distinguishing features of successful ASPs are noted. In closing, a case study of the Icelandic Model showcases a leading-edge preventive strategy that cultivates youth protective factors at multiple levels of the social ecology.

McDowell Group conducted a literature review of relatively recent, peer-reviewed research from a number of online resources. Additional resources were provided by the Alaska Afterschool Network, Afterschool Alliance, and the American Institutes for Research. To help interpret the results, several informal interviews were conducted with ASP professionals. All photos were provided by the Alaska Afterschool Network from local programming.

McDowell Group thanks Barbara Dubovich of Camp Fire Alaska, the National Institute on Out-of-School Time, and the American Institutes for Research for their support on this project.

The following definitions are used in this report:

Afterschool programs (ASPs) are regular, structured or semi-structured activities for school-age (K-12) youth that occurs before school, after school, between school terms, or during the summer. Other terminology—out-of-school time or OST, extra-curricular activities, organized activities, expanded learning time, school-age care—is synonymous in this context and used interchangeably.^{1,2}

Protective factors are features within an individual, family, or community that enhance healthy development and help a person cope successfully with life's challenges.

Risk factors are individual, family, school, or community features that increase the likelihood youth will engage in unhealthy behavior.



¹American Youth Policy Forum. (2006). *Helping Youth Succeed through Out-of-School Time Programs*. Washington, DC: American Youth Policy Forum.

²Little, P., Wimer, C., & Weiss, H. B. (2008). After school programs in the 21st century: Their potential and what it takes to achieve it. *Issues and opportunities in out-of-school time evaluation*, 10(1-12).

Risk & Protective Factors

This section first describes how risk and protective factors influence behavior through conditions at the individual, family, and community levels, then presents risk and protective factors linked with decreasing youth risk behaviors. Finally, it displays analysis of protective factors and efforts to prevent risk behaviors among students in the Anchorage School District (ASD).

Overview

Extensive research has shown an individual's social conditions, personal traits, genetic disposition, and life experiences are associated with different types of healthy or unhealthy behavior. These social and personal influences are defined as risk and protective factors.³

Risk factors are individual, family, school, or community features that increase the likelihood youth will engage in unhealthy behavior (such as substance abuse or misuse [e.g. alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs] or personal, domestic, or interpersonal violence). The more risk factors present in a child's life, the greater likelihood unhealthy behavior will develop.

Protective factors are features within an individual, family, or community that enhance healthy development and help a person cope successfully with life's challenges. Protective factors are sometimes called resiliency factors or developmental assets. They are integral to strength-based abuse-prevention efforts.

Some protective and risk factors are fixed and cannot change, while others are considered variable. Factors are also cumulative and interrelated: the more protective factors in place for an individual, family, school, and community, the less likelihood of community members engaging in unhealthy behavior. Researchers believe an imbalance of risk and protective factors leads to negative outcomes. This means, if a person has enough protective factors in his or her life, s/he may be able to navigate even numerous risk factors to positive outcomes.⁴

Individual protective factors are associated with each phase of a child's life. Infancy and early childhood factors (under age 5) include self-regulation, secure attachment, mastering communication and language skills, and the ability to make friends and get along with others. Factors specific to middle childhood (age 5-12) include increasing academic skills, positive behavior at home, school, and in public, and the ability to make and keep friends.

For adolescents and youth (over age 12), protective factors also include engagement in meaningful activities (e.g. participation in clubs, sports teams, volunteering activities, service-learning projects and/or peer-based programs); social, emotional, and life skills (e.g. problem-solving, decision-making, grades, educational attainment); connection to culture, religion, peers, and/or community; and positive personal qualities, self-awareness, and peer influence. As youth enter early adulthood, this base of protective factors increases their

³ Alaska Department of Health and Social Service's Division of Behavioral Health. (2011). "Risk and Protective Factors for Adolescent Substance Use (and other Problem Behavior)." http://dhss.alaska.gov/dbh/Documents/Prevention/programs/spfsg/pdfs/Risk_Protective_Factors.pdf.

⁴ Bernat, D. H., & Resnick, M. D. (2006). Healthy youth development: Science and strategies. *Journal of Public Health Management Practice* (Supplement), S10-S16.

capacity to explore their identity, self-sufficiency and independent decision-making, and helps them be future- and achievement-orientated.

Family protective factors include family connectedness, attachment, and bonding; positive parenting styles characterized by reliable and consistent responsiveness, support, and discipline; adequate socioeconomic supports for the family; clear expectations for family behavior and values; and strong family communication, attention, and sense of caring.

School protective factors include a strong connection to school; a caring school climate with positive norms; participation in extracurricular activities and healthy peer groups; positive teacher expectations; reliable and steady school administration and management; positive partnerships and overlap between family, school, and community life; physical and psychological safety, including policies to ensure a welcoming atmosphere from school staff and other students; and high academic expectations.

Community protective factors include positive connection to other adults and strong role models; safe, supportive, and connected neighborhoods and communities; strong community infrastructure, including access to mental health and health care; a strong regulatory system for childcare providers; healthy social norms and programs to enhance them; a variety of opportunities for youth engagement; a sense of belonging and connection to community and culture; and strong cultural traditional activities.

Factors that Impact Youth Substance Abuse and Delinquency

Numerous risk and protective factors affect youth substance abuse, delinquency, and other risk behaviors. The more risk factors an adolescent has at the individual, family, school or community level, the more likely s/he is to engage in risk behaviors. The more protective factors present in an adolescent's life, the more likely s/he is to engage in prosocial and developmentally-healthy behaviors. For example, youth who experience adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), witness family members engaging in substance use, and live in disconnected or transient communities are more likely to engage in risk behaviors themselves. On the other hand, youth who have a positive self-concept, are engaged in meaningful activities, and are connected to their families and other adults in their community are more likely to avoid risk behaviors.

Table one summarizes risk and protective factors shown in national research to be associated with increases and decreases in adolescent risk behavior.

(See next page.)

Table 1. Types of Risk and Protective Factors for Adolescent Risk behaviors

Level	Risk Factor	Protective Factor
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early initiation of risk behavior • Depression or suicidal ideation • Loss of cultural identity and connection • Childhood media exposure to violence and alcohol • Friends who engage in risk behavior • Early and persistent antisocial behavior • Low perceived risk of harm from risk behavior • Gang involvement • Older physical appearance than peers • Working more than 20 hours/week • Perceived risk of early death • Academic failure • Lack of personal commitment to school • Experience of child abuse and/or other family violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement in meaningful activities (e.g. organized activities outside of school such as clubs, lessons, sports or volunteering) • Life skills and social competence • Cultural identity and connection • Positive personal qualities • Positive self-concept • Positive peer role models • Religious identity • High grade point average • Student participation in extracurricular activities
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family history of risk behavior, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and family violence • Family management problems • Family conflict • Favorable parental attitudes towards and involvement in risk behavior • Household access to guns or substances (alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or other illegal drugs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family connectedness • Positive parenting style • Living in a two-parent family • Higher parent education • High parental expectations about school
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disconnected from school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected to school • Caring school climate
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of drugs and alcohol • Community norms and laws favorable toward drug use and crime • Availability of firearms • Transitions and mobility • Low neighborhood attachment • Community disorganization • Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive connection to other adults • Safe, supportive, and connected neighborhoods • Strong community infrastructure • Local, state policies and practices that support healthy norms and child-youth programs • Range of opportunities within the community for meaningful youth engagement (e.g. volunteering or participation in community-based projects)

Source: Adapted from Alaska Department of Health and Social Service's Division of Behavioral Health. (2011). "Risk and Protective Factors for Adolescent Substance Use (and other Problem Behavior)."

Local Protective Factor Data

The relationships in the table above have been identified in Alaska as well. Analysis of 2003-2013 YRBS⁵ data from ASD traditional high schools shows protective factors perform a preventive function for student risk behaviors.⁶ Using correlational and multiple regression analyses, Garcia, Price, and Tabatabai examined the relationships between eight protective factors for ASD students—talking to parents about school every day, having one adult besides a parent to ask for help, spending at least one hour a week volunteering or helping at school or in the community, engaging in organized after school activities at least one day a week, not feeling alone, feeling like s/he matters to the community, having teachers who care and provide individual encouragement, and attending schools with clear rules and consequences for behavior—and substance abuse and delinquency.

The study found that “[f]or every one unit increase in the number of protective factors, youth are 15% less likely to currently drink alcohol; 16% less likely to binge drink; [and] 20% less likely to smoke marijuana.”⁷ The study also analyzed the associations between the eight protective factors and the following risk behaviors:

1. Alcohol use during the past 30 days
2. Binge drinking (five or more servings of alcohol in one sitting)
3. Smoking marijuana during the past 30 days
4. Missing class without permission during the past 30 days

The protective factors associated with the greatest reduction in likelihood a student will drink alcohol, binge drink, or smoke marijuana are ‘having teachers who students feel really care’ and ‘regularly talking to their parents about school.’ The strongest protective factors for reducing school absenteeism are ‘having teachers who students feel really care’ and ‘attending schools with clear rules and consequences.’⁸ In addition, the study illustrated a dosage effect related to afterschool program participation. The next table details the strength of association between each of protective factors and risk behaviors measured. Statistically significant results are highlighted in blue. The impacts of afterschool programming are discussed in detail in the following chapter.

(See next page.)

⁵The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a risk-based survey administered to all high school students (grades 9 through 12) every other year regarding risk-related behaviors. The nationwide survey assesses youth risk in six main areas:

1. Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence
2. Sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases
3. Alcohol and other drug use
4. Tobacco use
5. Unhealthy dietary behaviors
6. Inadequate physical activity

⁶ Garcia, G. M., Price, L. and Tabatabai, N. (2014). Anchorage Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Results: 2003-2013 Trends and Correlation Analysis of Selected Risk Behaviors, Bullying, Mental health conditions, and protective factors. UAA Department of Health Sciences. This study was completed at the request of the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC), in partnership with United Way of Anchorage.

⁷ Garcia, G. M., Price, L. and Tabatabai, N. (2014). Anchorage Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Results: 2003-2013 Trends and Correlation Analysis of Selected Risk Behaviors, Bullying, Mental health conditions, and protective factors. UAA Department of Health Sciences. This study was completed at the request of the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC), in partnership with United Way of Anchorage.

⁸ Ibid.

**Table 2. Strength of Association Between Protective Factors and Risk Behaviors
for Anchorage Students at Traditional High Schools**

Protective Factor		Risk Behavior			
		Current Alcohol Use	Binge Drinking Ever	Current Marijuana Use	Recently Missed Class without Permission
Talking to parents about school everyday		32% less likely	34% less likely	39% less likely	32% less likely
Having one or more adults to ask for help		not significant	20% less likely	not significant	27% less likely
Spending at least one hour/week volunteering at school or in the community		18% less likely	21% less likely	33% less likely	not significant
Feeling like s/he matters to people in the community		19% less likely	17% less likely	35% less likely	34% less likely
Not feeling alone		21% less likely	24% less likely	30% less likely	29% less likely
Having teachers who really care about him/her		51% less likely	46% less likely	45% less likely	44% less likely
Attending a school with clear rules and consequences for behavior		25% less likely	23% less likely	29% less likely	34% less likely
Participating in organized after school activities...	at least one day per week	not significant	16% less likely	31% less likely	not significant
	at least two days per week	18% less likely	not significant	39% less likely	28% less likely

Source: Garcia, G. M., Price, L. and Tabatabai, N. (2014). Anchorage Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Results: 2003-2013 Trends and Correlation Analysis of Selected Risk Behaviors, Bullying, Mental health conditions, and protective factors. UAA Department of Health Sciences. Note: Table results are rounded to the nearest percent.



This section presents an overview of afterschool programming followed by a discussion of the role of ASPs within the context of protective factors. Then it describes features linked with successful ASP outcomes.

Overview

ASPs can vary tremendously in structure, content, emphases, goals, and student demographics. Some ASPs are sponsored within schools, others are hosted by private organizations, religiously affiliated entities, community organizations, park districts, youth service agencies, health agencies, libraries, museums, etc.^{9,10} Except for summer programs, most ASPs operate for 2 to 3 hours a day, 4 to 5 days a week.¹¹ One useful way to differentiate ASPs is by activity category, whether they are structured as:

1. Team sports, sports clubs, or organized sports activities out of school.
2. Prosocial activities, such as participation in volunteering, service clubs, and/or religious service activities in the community.
3. Performing arts, including participation in band, drama, art, or dance.
4. Academic-oriented clubs and experiential/enriched learning programs.
5. School involvement, such as participation in student government.¹²

ASPs are tasked with a range of goals “from providing supervision and reliable and safe childcare for youth during the afterschool hours to alleviating many of society’s ills, including crime, the academic achievement gap, substance use, and other behavioral problems and academic shortcomings.”¹³ ASPs vary in the degree to which they articulate and target their goals. For example, some ASPs explicitly target outcomes such as improved school attendance, while other ASPs have unwritten goals or lack overt outcome goals altogether.¹⁴

Not all youth have access to ASPs. A consistent finding in the literature is that substantial barriers—cost, availability, travel, etc.—disproportionally limit participation for lower-income and ethnic minority youth.¹⁵ Although many ASPs specifically target underserved youth in their missions, children of higher income families are most likely to participate in ASPs and at a greater frequency; they are also more likely to participate in diverse programming with an enrichment (rather than tutorial) emphasis.¹⁶

⁹ American Youth Policy Forum. (2006). *Helping Youth Succeed through Out-of-School Time Programs*. Washington, DC: American Youth Policy Forum.

¹⁰ Little, P., Wimer, C., & Weiss, H. B. (2008). After school programs in the 21st century: Their potential and what it takes to achieve it. *Issues and opportunities in out-of-school time evaluation*, 10(1-12).

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Fredricks, J. A., & Eccles, J. S. (2006). Extracurricular involvement and adolescent adjustment: Impact of duration, number of activities, and breadth of participation. *Applied Developmental Science*, 10(3), 132–146.

¹³ Kremer, K. P., Maynard, B. R., Polanin, J. R., Vaughn, M. G., & Sarteschi, C. M. (2015). Effects of after-school programs with at-risk youth on attendance and externalizing behaviors: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of youth and adolescence*, 44(3), 616–636.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Little, P., Wimer, C., & Weiss, H. B. (2008). After school programs in the 21st century: Their potential and what it takes to achieve it. *Issues and opportunities in out-of-school time evaluation*, 10(1-12).

Researchers tend to categorize afterschool programming in terms of several broad, often overlapping, purposes:

- **Enrichment** – to augment the educational experience of youth by offering skill-development, training, and other enrichment opportunities outside of the regular school day.^{17,18}
- **Development** – to improve the academic, social and emotional learning, and health outcomes of youth and that are not a focus during the standard school day.¹⁹
- **Supervision** – to provide afterschool care for the children of full-time working parents who would either not be able to work or be required to leave their children in some form of self-care.
- **Prevention** – to prevent delinquency and other risk behaviors by keeping youth occupied during the peak hours for juvenile crime.

While these purposes are not mutually-exclusive—enrichment experiences, for example, can improve physical health—programs adopt a variety of target populations, strategies, and levels of sophistication to reach their identified outcomes.

Afterschool Programs Outcomes and Protective Factors

ASPs have the potential to serve as protective factors in and of themselves, as well as present youth with opportunities to develop or experience other protective factors. Several studies link ASP participation directly to reduced risk behaviors:

- Locally, University of Alaska Anchorage researchers found that students who participate in organized ASPs at least once a week are 16 percent less likely to binge drink and 31 percent less likely to use marijuana. Students who participate in ASPs at least two days a week are 18 percent less likely to use alcohol, 39 percent less likely to use marijuana, and 28 percent less likely to miss class without permission.²⁰
- A review of youth risk and protective factors related to substance abuse found engagement in meaningful activities—volunteering or participating in peer-based programs or service learning projects—was associated with reduced alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, teen pregnancy, school suspensions, and school dropouts.²¹
- Analysis of 43 studies of ASPs serving children between the ages of 5 and 14 observed declines in drug use or arrests and/or changes in attitudes towards drugs.²²
- A review of 2,587 citations related to youth externalizing behaviors (delinquency, maladjustment, drug use, discipline problems, alcohol use etc.) found a positive, but not statistically significant, effect on externalizing behaviors.²³

¹⁷ American Youth Policy Forum. (2006). *Helping Youth Succeed through Out-of-School Time Programs*. Washington, DC: American Youth Policy Forum.

¹⁸ Little, P., Wimer, C., & Weiss, H. B. (2008). After school programs in the 21st century: Their potential and what it takes to achieve it. *Issues and opportunities in out-of-school time evaluation*, 10(1-12).

¹⁹ American Youth Policy Forum. (2006). *Helping Youth Succeed through Out-of-School Time Programs*. Washington, DC: American Youth Policy Forum.

²⁰ Garcia, G. M., Price, L. and Tabatabai, N. (2014). Anchorage Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Results: 2003-2013 Trends and Correlation Analysis of Selected Risk Behaviors, Bullying, Mental health conditions, and protective factors. UAA Department of Health Sciences. This study was completed at the request of the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC), in partnership with United Way of Anchorage.

²¹ Alaska Department of Health and Social Service's Division of Behavioral Health. (2011). "Risk and Protective Factors for Adolescent Substance Use (and other Problem Behavior)." http://dhss.alaska.gov/dbh/Documents/Prevention/programs/spfsig/pdfs/Risk_Protective_Factors.pdf.

²² Mahoney, J. L., Parente, M. E., & Zigler, E. F. (2010). After-school program participation and children's development. In J. L. Meece & J. S. Eccles (Eds.), *Handbook of research on schools, schooling, and human development* (pp. 379-397). New York, NY: Routledge.

²³ Kremer, K. P., Maynard, B. R., Polanin, J. R., Vaughn, M. G., & Sarteschi, C. M. (2015). Effects of after-school programs with at-risk youth on attendance and externalizing behaviors: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of youth and adolescence*, 44(3), 616-636.

- A longitudinal study of 3,000 elementary and middle school students participating in ASPs in eight states found reports of misconduct declined and, among middle school students, use of drugs and alcohol was less than their unsupervised peers.²⁴

Depending on purpose and design, ASPs have the potential to cultivate a variety of protective factors linked with youth substance abuse and delinquency prevention including:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Life skills and social competence | • High grade point average |
| • Cultural identity and connection | • Connected to school |
| • Positive personal qualities | • Positive connection to other adults |
| • Positive self-concept | • Safe, supportive, and connected neighborhoods |
| • Positive peer role models | • Range of opportunities within the community for meaningful youth engagement |
| • Religious identity | |

Many studies and evaluations have found that ASPs can cultivate protective factors:

- In their review of the value of ASPs, RAND found evidence that multipurpose programs (such as 21st Century Learning Centers, school-aged childcare and Boys and Girls Clubs) can improve youth's feelings of safety.²⁵
- The same review found that ASPs that specifically target academic instruction and skill development can improve student achievement.²⁶
- Similarly, ASPs that deliberately focus on social and emotional skill development have been linked to reduced risk behaviors.²⁷
- Lauer et al. found that ASPs can have positive effects on math and reading achievement for at-risk students.
- A review of 43 studies of ASPs found most describe positive associations between ASP participation and increases in student motivation, effort and attachment to school.²⁸ Likewise, most studies included in the review found that participants experienced an improved sense of well-being (increased self-efficacy and self-concept, and decreased anxiety and depression) compared to non-participants.²⁹
- A longitudinal study of 3,000 students' participation in ASPs in eight states found participating elementary school students showed gains in social skills with peers and prosocial behaviors, as well as decreases in aggressive behaviors with peers.³⁰

In addition to cultivating specific protective factors for youth substance abuse and delinquency, ASPs can yield other positive outcomes for participating youth as well. An extensive range of positive academic, social/emotional, prevention, and health outcomes are associated with ASPs. While many of these outcomes are identified by research as protective factors for youth substance abuse and delinquency, others—such as

²⁴ Vandell, D. L., Reisner, E. R., & Pierce, K. M. (2007). *Outcomes linked to high-quality afterschool programs: Longitudinal findings from the study of promising afterschool programs*. Washington, DC: Policy Studies Associates.

²⁵ McCombs, J.S., Whitaker, A., and Youngmin Yoo, P. (2017) The Value of Out-of-School Time Programs. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation. Available at <https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PE267.html>.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Mahoney, J. L., Parente, M. E., & Zigler, E. F. (2010). After-school program participation and children's development. In J. L. Meece & J. S. Eccles (Eds.), *Handbook of research on schools, schooling, and human development* (pp. 379–397). New York, NY: Routledge.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Vandell, D. L., Reisner, E. R., & Pierce, K. M. (2007). *Outcomes linked to high-quality afterschool programs: Longitudinal findings from the study of promising afterschool programs*. Washington, DC: Policy Studies Associates.

improved homework completion or improved body image—support positive youth development in other important ways. The following table groups ASP associated outcomes by domain.

Table 3. Anticipated Outcomes of Participation in After School Programs

Supportive Outcomes by Domain
Academic Outcomes
Better attitudes towards school and higher educational aspirations
Higher school attendance rates and less tardiness
Less disciplinary action
Lower dropout rates
Better performance in school (achievement test scores, grades)
Greater on-time promotion
Improved homework completion
Engagement in learning
Social/Emotional Outcomes
Decreased behavioral problems
Improved social and communication skills and/or relationships with peers, parents, and teachers
Increased self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-efficacy
Lower levels of depression and anxiety
Development of initiative
Improved feelings and attitudes toward self and school
Prevention
Avoidance of drug and alcohol use
Decreases in delinquency and violent behavior
Increased knowledge of safe sex
Avoidance of sexual activity
Reduction in juvenile crime
Health and Wellness Outcomes
Better food choices
Increased physical activity
Increased knowledge of nutrition and health practices
Reduction in BMI
Improved blood pressure
Improved body image

Source: Table compiled by McDowell Group using information from Little, P., Wimer, C., & Weiss, H. B. (2008). After school programs in the 21st century: Their potential and what it takes to achieve it. *Issues and opportunities in out-of-school time evaluation*, 10(1-12).

Success Features Among Afterschool Programs

Several modifier effects—including intensity of participation, program type, program quality, and system integration—influence ASP outcomes.

Participation Intensity

For ASPs to impact outcomes, the frequency, duration, and quality of participation matter.³¹ Fredricks and Eccles researched how the duration of youth involvement in afterschool programming, the total number of activities pursued, and the breadth of participation affect youth development and risky behavior.³² Analysis of longitudinal data showed that, in general, longer duration of participation predicted more positive outcomes, including higher grades, resilience, academic peer context, and a less risky peer context.³³ Likewise, the greater number of activities was associated with school belonging, resilience, academic peers, and negatively with stress and risky peers.³⁴ The number of different types of ASPs was indicative of positive school belonging, resilience, and academic peers.³⁵ Adolescents who participate in programs because of their own intrinsic interest or motivation realize a greater degree of developmental growth.³⁶

Activity Type

Researchers have found that different types of ASPs—sports, academic clubs, performance arts, volunteering/service, community-based, and religious—support different developmental outcomes.³⁷ For example, some studies suggest that youth who participate in sports-based ASPs learn to sustain effort, set goals, and develop values like responsibility, persistence, and self-control; studies of academic-based clubs, predictably, are associated with positive academic outcomes; while research on participation in service activities develops moral and political identity and predicts subsequent civic engagement.³⁸ One study found that “ASP that emphasize social skill and character development are more effective at reducing delinquent behavior than are programs lacking such an emphasis.”³⁹

Program Quality

Program quality is of paramount importance and varies greatly. Outcome gains appear to depend on the quality of an ASP’s structure (smaller program size, educated staff, low turnover, more mature programs), process (positive social inter-changes among staff and participants), and participation (frequency, duration, intrinsic motivation to participate).⁴⁰ In a study of high-quality programs, researchers found positive outcomes for youth who regularly attended high-quality programs and negative outcomes for youth who intermittently attended unstructured programs.⁴¹ Positive outcomes are more likely when the participant’s needs are well-matched with

³¹ Weiss, H. B., Little, P., & Bouffard, S. M. (2005). More than just being there: Balancing the participation equation. *New Directions for Student Leadership*, 2005(105), 15-31.

³² Fredricks, J. A., & Eccles, J. S. (2006). Extracurricular involvement and adolescent adjustment: Impact of duration, number of activities, and breadth of participation. *Applied Developmental Science*, 10(3), 132-146.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Mahoney, J. L., Vandell, D., Simkins, S., & Zarrett, N. (2009). Adolescent out-of-school activities. In R. Lerner, & L. Steinberg (Eds.), *Handbook of adolescent psychology* (pp. 228-269). New York, NY: John Wiley.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Gottfredson, D. C., Gerstenblith, S. A., Soulé, D. A., Womer, S. C., & Lu, S. (2004). Do after school programs reduce delinquency? *Prevention Science*, 5(4), 253-266.

⁴⁰ Mahoney, J. L., Parente, M. E., & Zigler, E. F. (2010). After-school program participation and children’s development. In J. L. Meece & J. S. Eccles (Eds.), *Handbook of research on schools, schooling, and human development* (pp. 379-397). New York, NY: Routledge.

⁴¹ Vandell, D. L., Reisner, E. R., & Pierce, K. M. (2007). *Outcomes linked to high-quality afterschool programs: Longitudinal findings from the study of promising afterschool programs*. Washington, DC: Policy Studies Associates.

the intentions of the ASP.⁴² In a review of 69 ASPs, Durlack et al. found that four SAFE qualities differentiated programs with positive outcomes:⁴³

1. **Sequenced:** Does the program use a connected and coordinated set of activities to achieve skill development objectives?
2. **Active:** Does the program use active learning to help youth learn?
3. **Focused:** Does the program have at least one component that addresses personal and social skills?
4. **Explicit:** Does the program target specific personal or social skills?

Compared to programs that did not follow these evidence-based practices, the researchers found that “SAFE programs were associated with significant improvements in self-perceptions, school bonding and positive social behaviors; significant reductions in conduct problems and drug use; and significant increases in achievement test scores, grades and school attendance.”⁴⁴

System Integration

In recent years, the Icelandic Model—a prevention effort that includes ASPs in a multi-dimensional strategy to combat youth substance abuse in Iceland—has demonstrated the power to reduce risk factors for substance use while increasing protective factors by integrating efforts at family, school, and community levels. The government-led response has three main components:

1. **Parental education** about the importance of providing emotional support, reasonable monitoring, and time with their teenage children;
2. **Youth participation** in organized sports, extracurricular activities, and other recreational programs; and
3. **Strengthened networks** between agencies in the community and schools.⁴⁵

In addition to the components mentioned above, the model has several other elements:

- National media campaigns to discourage alcohol and cigarette use
- A national, school-based anti-smoking initiative focused on positive peer influence
- Legislation to decrease the visibility of and access to alcohol and tobacco
- Mandated labelling of cigarettes with anti-smoking messages
- A national ban on alcohol and tobacco-related advertising, display of tobacco products in shops, and smoking in all outdoor places
- Increasing the legal age of maturity from 16 to 18
- A publicized Prevention Day⁴⁶

Survey data and evaluation findings have found substantial declines in national rates of substance use and simultaneous increases in protective factors coinciding with the Icelandic Model’s interventions.⁴⁷

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Durlak, J. A., Weissberg, R. P., & Pachan, M. (2010). A meta-analysis of after-school programs that seek to promote personal and social skills in children and adolescents. *American journal of community psychology*, 45(3-4), 294-309.

⁴⁴ Durkac, J. A., & Weissberg, R. P. (2013). Afterschool programs that follow evidence-based practices to promote social and emotional development are effective. In *Expanding Minds and Opportunities: Leveraging the Power of Afterschool and Summer Learning for Student Success*. Available at <http://www.expandinglearning.org/expandingminds/article/afterschool-programs-follow-evidence-based-practices-promote-social-and>.

⁴⁵ Sigfusdottir, I. D., Kristjansson, A. L., Thorlindsson, T., & Allegrante, J. P. (2008). Trends in prevalence of substance use among Icelandic adolescents, 1995–2006. *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*, 3(1), 12.

⁴⁶ Kristjansson, A. L., James, J. E., Allegrante, J. P., Sigfusdottir, I. D., & Helgason, A. R. (2010). Adolescent substance use, parental monitoring, and leisure-time activities: 12-year outcomes of primary prevention in Iceland. *Preventive medicine*, 51(2), 168-171.

⁴⁷ Sigfusdottir, I. D., Kristjansson, A. L., Thorlindsson, T., & Allegrante, J. P. (2008). Trends in prevalence of substance use among Icelandic adolescents, 1995–2006. *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*, 3(1), 12.

Concluding Remarks

The research supports the following general conclusions:

- **Reduction of risk factors and promotion of protective factors are linked with decreases in youth substance abuse and delinquency.** These findings are demonstrated nationally and have been replicated for local Alaska students.
- **ASPs can serve as protective factors as well as cultivate protective factors at individual, family, school, and community levels,** but not all youth have access to ASPs. A consistent finding in the literature is that barriers limit participation for lower-income and minority youth.
- **ASPs vary in structure, content, emphases, goals, and student demographics.** Some ASPs are sponsored within schools, others are hosted by private organizations, religiously affiliated entities, community organizations, park districts, youth service agencies, health agencies, libraries, and more.
- **Different types of ASPs—volunteering/service, community-based, performance arts, academic clubs, and sports—support different developmental outcomes.** For ASPs to impact outcomes, the frequency, duration, and quality of participation matter. Program quality is also of paramount importance.
- **Effective ASPs share design features.** ASP best practices include explicit targeting of outcomes, engaging supportive and trained staff, and utilizing sequenced programming.
- **ASPs work best as part of a systemic prevention effort.** The Icelandic Model, a leading-edge prevention effort, exemplifies inclusion of ASPs in a multi-dimensional strategy to combat youth substance abuse.



22 August 2021

RE: Marijuana Education Treatment Fund



Dear House Finance Committee,

Alaska's youth is the hope of our future. As Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." Our ability to build our youth was obstructed when the reverse sweep failed in May.

The Marijuana Education Treatment (MET) Fund was one of the funds that was swept away causing afterschool programs to limit enrollment, begin the process of closing programs, and most of all, limit our investment in the next generation. The fiscal uncertainty is causing major negative impacts on our youth and families. The lack of afterschool program also has an impact on parents' ability to return to the workforce.

For context, the MET Fund was created in 2018 with tremendous bi-partisan support both in the House and Senate. Twenty-five percent of the marijuana tax revenue is designated towards the education, prevention, and treatment of substance misuse. Half of that amount is specifically designated to support afterschool programs for youth.

Afterschool programs are key in building the protective factors that provide youth with the knowledge, skills, supports, and resources to face the challenges of life with the resilience, strength, and heart to come out the other end a better individual. Afterschool programs build protective factors needed to lessen youth substance misuse, suicide, not graduating, and the list goes on.

Currently, the fund has provided community-based marijuana misuse prevention and afterschool programming in nearly 40 communities that are serving hundreds of youths who would be without access to community support and key protective factors if it was not for this investment. Communities include:

Akiak, Anchorage, Aniak, Atmauthluk, Big Lake, Brevig Mission, Chapman, Chevak, Chuathbaluk, Cordova, Crooked Creek, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Homer, Hooper Bay, Houston, Kake, Kasigluk, Kenai/Kenaitze Tribe, Kiana, Kongiganak, Kwigillingok, Lower Kalskag, Ketchikan, Marshall, Mat-Su Borough, Meadow Lakes, Metlakatla, Nanwalek, Napaskiak, Pitkas Point, Native Village of Kluti-Ka, New Stuyahok, Nulato Ninilchik, Hooper Bay, Native Village of Sandpoint, Stebbins, St. Paul, Tetlin, Voznesenka, Wasilla



Enclosed is a copy, "Protective Factors for Youth Substance Abuse & Delinquency: The role of afterschool programs." It outlines the vital role afterschool programming makes in the life of youths, and how they support the community's efforts to build youth for the future. Protective factors are features within an individual that enhances healthy development and helps a person cope successfully with life's challenges. Without them, the risk of youth smoking, misuse of substances, suicide, homelessness, or not graduating is very high. One way to work towards a sustainable budget is to no longer just try to feed the line but find ways to shorten it. Afterschool programs help us shorten the line.

We applaud the legislature for exploring ways to ensure the Alaska Performance Scholarship program continues. The Alaska Children's Trust, home of the Alaska Afterschool Network, is asking you to include the Marijuana Education Treatment Fund in your amendments as the legislature debates the future of Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TJS", followed by a horizontal line.

Trevor J. Storrs
President & CEO of Alaska Children's Trust