
From: Destiny Fountain [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2026 9:32 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB263 Written Testimony: Request for Key Early Childhood Investments

Dear House ,

For my written testimony of the Operating Budget, HB263, I am requesting the inclusion of five essential early childhood funding allocations in this year's operating budget:

\$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce)

\$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (providing crucial early intervention services)

\$500,000 to support Parents as Teachers (Building early parenting skills and available supports)

\$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain this widely appreciated literacy program statewide)

\$3.756 million for Head Start (Ensuring the complete 20% federal match that safeguards services for children and families in Alaska)

These investments play a crucial role in stabilizing the early educator workforce, providing vital intervention services for young children, strengthening families with evidence-based home visits, and fostering early literacy across the state.

I urge you to include all five items with these funding amounts in the House Finance operating budget.

Thank you for considering this request.

Regards,

Destiny Fountain
[REDACTED], Juneau, AK, USA

From: Jessica Armstrong [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 8:19 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Written Testimony for HB 263: Prioritize Early Childhood Funding in This Year's Budget

House ,

I am reaching out with my written testimony to the House Finance Operating Budget (HB 263) to implore you to incorporate five crucial early childhood funding allocations in this year's operational budget:

\$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce)

\$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (essential early intervention services)

\$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (enhancing early parenting skills and support systems)

\$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (to sustain the respected literacy program statewide)

\$3.756 million for Head Start (to fulfill the full 20% federal match and preserve services for Alaska's children and families)

These investments are vital to stabilizing the workforce of early educators, ensuring prompt intervention for young children, reinforcing families with proven home visiting methods, and promoting early literacy across the state.

I urge you to include all five allocations at these financial levels in the House Finance budget.

Kind regards,

Jessica Armstrong
[REDACTED] Fairbanks AK 99708

From: Nora Aja Roldan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 9:54 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: House , HB263, Operating Budget Testimony

House ,

I am reaching out to share my written testimony for HB262, the State's operating budget. I want to highlight the importance of investing in Alaska's future by funding five crucial early childhood initiatives:

\$7.5 million for the ROOTS Award annually (stabilization of the child care workforce)

\$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services)

\$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and support structures)

\$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the much-valued literacy program across the state)

\$3.756 million for Head Start (Ensure the full 20% federal match is met, safeguarding services for families and children in Alaska)

These investments are crucial for stabilizing the early education workforce, ensuring necessary early interventions for young children, supporting families with evidence-based home visiting, and fostering literacy during critical brain development.

I urge you to use your leadership to help all five investments make it into the next version of the operating budget presented by the House Finance Committee. Alaska families deserve no less.

Sincerely,
Nora Aja Roldan
[REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA

From: Blue Shibler [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 10:13 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Written Testimony for HB263: Please Help Include These Early Childhood Investments!

Representative,

Please accept this email as written testimony for HB263, this year's operating budget. I am reaching out to strongly encourage your full support and leadership for these five early childhood investments.

\$7.5 million towards the annual ROOTS Award (Supporting child care workforce stabilization)

\$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Essential early intervention services)

\$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and assistance)

\$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the popular literacy program statewide)

\$3.756 million for Head Start (To fulfill their complete 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska)

These funds are instrumental in supporting our early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for infants and toddlers, bolstering families through proven home visiting programs, and fostering statewide early literacy.

Please work to incorporate these five investments in the next version of the House Finance operating budget.

Sincerely,
blue shibler

[REDACTED], Juneau, AK, USA

From: Debi Baldwin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 1:13 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Written Testimony for HB 263: Prioritize Early Childhood Funding in This Year's Budget

House Finance Committee Members

As an early childhood professional working for over 25 years in Alaska, it is apparent to me when traveling around our State, which communities have early care and education opportunities for young children and which do not. It is also apparent to me which communities have programs to support parents of young children and which do not. I am reaching out to you today to ensure that more children, families and communities have access to these early opportunities that are so important to our state's education, economic and community well-being. There are significant and measurable benefits and outcomes associated with high quality early childhood programs that lead to lifelong success. I remain steadfast in the belief that Alaska is getting a great return on their investment. Please support crucial early childhood funding allocations in the FY 27 Operating Budget:

\$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce)

\$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (essential early intervention services)

\$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (enhancing early parenting skills and support systems)

\$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (to sustain the respected literacy program statewide)

\$3.756 million for Head Start (to fulfill the full 20% federal match and preserve services for Alaska's children and families)

Respectfully,

Debi Baldwin
[REDACTED], Eagle River, AK 99577, USA

From: Sharlay Mamoe [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 2:14 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: House , HB263, Operating Budget Testimony

House ,

I am reaching out to share my written testimony for HB262, the State's operating budget. I want to highlight the importance of investing in Alaska's future by funding five crucial early childhood initiatives:

\$7.5 million for the ROOTS Award annually (stabilization of the child care workforce)

\$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services)

\$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and support structures)

\$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the much-valued literacy program across the state)

\$3.756 million for Head Start (Ensure the full 20% federal match is met, safeguarding services for families and children in Alaska)

These investments are crucial for stabilizing the early education workforce, ensuring necessary early interventions for young children, supporting families with evidence-based home visiting, and fostering literacy during critical brain development.

I urge you to use your leadership to help all five investments make it into the next version of the operating budget presented by the House Finance Committee. Alaska families deserve no less.

Sincerely,
Sharlay Mamoe
[REDACTED], Petersburg, AK, USA

From: Rebecca Braun [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 4:44 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: operating budget testimony

Dear House Finance Committee members,

I'm a Juneau resident and parent of a senior at Juneau Douglas High School. I'm writing to urge you to increase education funding.

Thank you for your leadership last year - I know it was a big lift to override the governor's vetoes. But unfortunately, it only got us a \$20 increase in the BSA over the prior year. And even with last year's increase, state funding for education has fallen behind costs by some 25% since 2011.

Over the past 15 years, as investment in our schools has dropped, outcomes have followed. Fourth grade and 8th grade test scores have fallen. Enrollment in post-secondary education and training has backslid. Teacher turnover has reached crisis levels. This year, 7000 students did not have a teacher on the first day of school.

We are robbing our kids of a solid foundation.

And we're harming our economy. My doctor sheepishly admitted they now commute to Juneau - their family moved out of state for better schools. I hear this story over and over and the data back it up. We've had more than a decade of net outmigration of working-age Alaskans and our nonresident workforce is at a record high.

I used to publish the Alaska Budget Report. We often charted winners and losers by agency. Last year I ran some numbers. From FY 17 through FY 25 the general fund budget for state agency operations went up 8% overall (not adjusted for inflation). At the high end, the Dept. of Public Safety went up 62%. Law, Corrections and the Court System weren't far behind.

Near the bottom was Education, with a decrease of 4%. That's not adjusting for inflation.

Over the same period, the Legislature's own budget grew 42%. If money doesn't help solve problems, why did you need more money?

If education spending had increased 42%, our schools could offer what Alaska kids got 15 and 20 years ago. Money matters. It takes money to provide competitive salaries and benefits. It takes money to fix roofs and buy books. It takes money to implement programs like the Alaska Reads Act.

A poverty mentality is a self-fulfilling prophecy. There is no reason to starve our kids and our state of a vibrant future. We have the tools and resources to generate the revenues we need.

I urge you to show courage and leadership, and set a budget driven by vision, not lack. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Braun
Juneau, AK

From: Magdalena Sanchez de La-Puente [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 4:42 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: We need to protect Public education

Please prioritize education funding in the budget! Invest in our schools and our students so our state can thrive.

As an educator, I will not stop fight for this fundamental right . Thank you for listening.

Magdalena de La-Puente

Teacher

From: Sarah & Wally [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 4:37 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Education

From: Sarah Parks
[REDACTED]
Chugiak, AK 99567

Please fund the education bill.

Our students are the ones suffering the most.....

Teachers have "0" incentive to teach in the State of Alaska. We need the Teachers Retirement Fund made available to them.

Thanks
Retired teacher -- 39 years teaching..

Sarah Parks

From: Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 4:33 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Please invest in public education

Dear House Finance Committee,

I know the budget process is lengthy and complex, and our state revenue changes depending on what is going on in the oil economy. Now is the time to invest any "extra" oil money into public education. Our school districts need the help, and quality education encourages families to stay in the state.

Please consider adding money to the education budget, preferably through increasing the BSA as in HB 374 or other vehicles. If that is not possible, please at least increase the general education budget for this year.

Our kids need your help now, and we have a short window in which we can expect the revenue.

Thanks for your service,

Cheryl Lovegreen
Anchorage

From: Shanah Kinison [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 4:28 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Financial and moral priorities for F27

To the members of the house finance committee,

I was in the room yesterday, wearing a giant purple scarf, with some incredible caring people. I want to thank you all for your gracious listening yesterday and care in making hard budget choices.

My name is Shanah Kinison and I have been a caregiver for over 30 years and the need is greater than ever for your support.

Thank you for allocating money in the budget for caregiving. This will help uplift our clients and help us survive the ever rising prices of life. Please continue this support when voting for HB96 and SB154. This alongside fierce protection of funding is crucial to help ensure that home healthcare has a future.

We all have a moral responsibility to care for those most vulnerable. Thank you for your understanding of that priority now and in the future.

Thank you for your time and service to Alaska.

Shanah Kinison
Haines, Alaska

From: Libbey Houseman <Libbey@sproutalaska.org>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 3:47 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for ILP Budget Increase

Dear House Finance Committee members,

My name is Elizabeth Houseman, and I'm emailing to express my support for increasing funding for the state's Infant Learning Program. I'm an occupational therapist who provides services in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, Homer area, and Seward area for Sprout Family Services. With increased funding, more families would benefit from valuable early intervention services, which are critical to supporting families with developmental delays in the birth-to-three population. Therapy services, including occupational, physical, and speech therapy, are limited in these remote and rural areas, and some families may lack insurance coverage or the financial means to obtain specialized services for their children. Infant Learning Program services provide these services to children who qualify for early intervention at no cost to families, helping to save Alaska millions of dollars in future special education costs.

Thank you for supporting the budget increase of \$5.72 million dollars as we support families and help children prepare for school!

Elizabeth Houseman

Libbey Houseman, OTD, OTR/L (she/her)
Occupational Therapist
Sprout Family Services / www.sproutalaska.org
Office General: 907-235-6044 / Cell: 907-299-7050
Fax: 907-235-2644

From: Megan McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 3:40 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Operating Budget Testimony: Fund Education!

House Finance Committee members:

I grew up in Anchorage and attended public schools here from Kindergarten through graduating high school. I am a parent of two children, one in Kindergarten this year who is learning how to read right now, and it is amazing! I'm in awe of the teachers and staff at his school. I'm testifying today because I am deeply concerned that our state is driving our outstanding public education system into the ground.

Alaska used to attract the best educators in the country; now many are leaving, and the rest are overworked - schools have cut so much and teachers and students are feeling the burden.

I urge you to prioritize education funding in the budget this year and every year. While other departments submit baseline budgets based on actual expenses and needs, education is tied to an arbitrary Base-Student-Allocation that has resulted in years of underfunding that has not kept up with inflation and rising health care costs.

Districts across the state are making impossible choices to balance their budgets, resulting in dangerous deferred maintenance and high turnover of staff. Our public schools are amazing, but they are starving and students are suffering.

To restore the buying power schools had in 2011, we would need to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$1400. The \$630 proposed by House Education is a good start.

Alaska school spending is below the national average. A [2023 study by ISER](#) showed when you adjust for the cost of living, Alaska's per-student spending was 15% below the national average.

In fact, Alaska ranks last among the states in cumulative, education spending per student relative to inflation over 2012-2024. Most states increased spending faster than inflation's 35% growth. (<https://edunomicslab.org/roi-over-time>)

We have a fiscal crisis, but our youth are bearing an unfair share of the burden of budget cuts. A couple of examples: The legislature's own budget increased 42% since 2017 while education budget decreased 4% over the same time period. Since 2019, state spending on Corrections is up [54%](#), while spending on education is up only 12% in the same timeframe.

Many are asking schools to improve performance - when schools had more resources they had better performance. I absolutely want our schools to do right by our students, and we have to provide them with stable, predictable, sufficient resources to get good results.

We need to adjust the education budget this year and every year so our schools, our students, and our state can thrive.

Thank you,
Megan McBride
Anchorage parent
99517

From: Holly Blackstone [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 3:19 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Please do NOT close Campbell STEM

March 13, 2026

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Holly Blackstone, and I'm a parent and community member affected by the ASD Board's decision to close Campbell STEM Elementary School due to budgetary constraints. I am writing to seek assistance in obtaining additional financial support to grant separate and distinct funds exclusively to reverse the closure of Campbell STEM Elementary School and return it to operational status.

Closing Campbell STEM reportedly saves ASD \$900,000—a mere one percent of its current deficit. However, additional busing expenses will quickly outpace initial savings. There's currently one bus route supporting Campbell STEM students. Next year, at least two buses would likely be needed to send our K-5 students to Willowcrest, Klatt, and Gladys Wood. We face additional potential busing expenses to divert our developmental pre-k students to Taku and Sand Lake.

Despite supposed "savings," our community cannot afford to lose Campbell STEM. The school offers invaluable opportunities that cannot be found elsewhere. While other schools in the district emphasize STEM subjects, Campbell is the only school in Alaska to hold the national certification. The STEM certification process is a rigorous endeavor; Campbell achieved its national certification in 2024 after 7 years of tireless efforts and it costs a mere \$1,000 every 5 years to maintain. With no plan to relocate the STEM program to another school, it is simply wrong to throw out all that hard work.

Prior to the February 24 vote, parents and neighbors engaged the community in efforts to save Campbell STEM. The overall sentiment was that if Campbell STEM were to close, Anchorage residents would be hesitant to vote for future education bonds. In 2025, voters granted Campbell STEM over \$11M in bonds for remodeling costs. Our community feels betrayed; residents are skeptical that future funding will be used as promised. We are very concerned that Campbell's closure sows distrust in ASD, and will make future funding difficult to obtain.

Our entire community is affected by Campbell's closure. Several families have already experienced multiple relocations from previous ASD rezoning efforts. Many have expressed intent to move due to frustration over poor organization, which results in disruption of their children's education. Our children deserve a sense of stability in their formative years, and such drastic changes negatively impact our youths' educational journeys. Campbell STEM is home to a large portion of low-income families and does in fact qualify as a Title 1 school, despite ASD not awarding the status and subsequent funding. Closing this school and its STEM program would impact the community to its core in a devastating way.

Public notice of the proposed closure was published 11 days prior to the vote (6 working days). During that time, our community supported Campbell by attending the 2/17/26 School Board Meeting to provide testimony, creating a petition that's accumulated 894 signatures and counting, contacting our local representatives, organizing and attending student and community rallies, seeking and obtaining media coverage from local news outlets, and attending the Board's 2/24/26 meeting to witness the vote. We've worked hard in the incredibly short amount of time provided, despite the lack of proper notice to the community, but we need your help as well.

Our community's energy and dedication speak to Campbell STEM's character. Aside from specialized STEM instruction, our school has given us strength through connection and a sense of belonging fostered by its community. Again, we urge you to help secure additional funding to reverse the closure of our school. The loss of Campbell STEM would leave a tangible hole in our youths' education and sense of community. Please help us save this vital school and help preserve our community.

Respectfully,
Holly Blackstone
On behalf of Campbell STEM students, parents, and neighbors

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Please consider the environment before printing this email. No trees were harmed in the production of this message. However, a rather large number of photons and electrons were somewhat inconvenienced.

From: Donald Poling [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 3:19 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Meet the Match

I am puzzled as to why the Republican Party has decided to commit political suicide by refusing to accept Federal aid for highways and ferries in Alaska. The Cascade Point debacle, aimed at destroying the ferry system for everyone north of Juneau may be a factor; Haines and Skagway will suffer the most in both issues.

Donald Poling
Haines, AK 99827-0293

From: Jahna Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 3:12 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Education Funding

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input as you deliberate the budget. I am grateful for what the legislature accomplished in the last session for our public schools. At the same time, we know that we are still failing our students because funding levels are not yet adequate to address the long term damage from neglect.

I am a lifelong Alaskan, product of the Anchorage School District, and retired special educator. I have witnessed firsthand the best of times and the worst of times for our schools. It is heartbreaking to witness the results of our failure in this arena. When I graduated from high school and left for college, I discovered that my public school experience in Alaska rivaled the best of the best across the country. When I came back with an advanced degree and teaching certificate, there was so much competition for every job opening, I had to interview all over the state and be willing to relocate. The harsh reality today makes my experience seem like fantasy. During my tenure, I worked with numbers of families who moved here expressly for the stellar reputation of our public schools in Alaska. They wanted their children to have what we had to offer.

Please stay strong and focused on our constitutional obligation to a functional system of public education for ALL students. I strongly support a focus on neighborhood schools over and above charters, alternative, and optional programs. We once had a strong foundation of neighborhood schools out of which could grow wonderfully rich and varied specialized programs. We no longer have that foundational equity for students. Whether unwittingly or as a calculated attack on the democratic nature of public education, we have effectively created a segregated system.

I am thankful for all the legislators who share the vision to restore our public schools and equip our students with the kind of education that will produce the next generation of Alaskan leaders in all of our communities. Please prioritize education funding in the budget. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jahna Rakos Pollock
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: Jessica Goodell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 2:56 PM
To: House Finance

Hi, my name is Jessica Goodell and I live in the McKinley Village near Healy, Alaska.

I'm reaching out to ask House Finance to include the early childhood budget investments in the operating budget:

- \$7.5M for the annual ROOTS Award,
- \$5.72M for Infant Learning,
- \$500K for Parents as Teachers,
- \$400K for Best Beginnings Imagination Library, and
- \$680,000 for Head Start.

These investments work together to stabilize the workforce, support babies and toddlers early, strengthen families, and build early literacy. Please include all five items at these funding levels in HB 263. Thank you.

From: Donna Aderhold <DonnaAderhold@ci.homer.ak.us>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 2:34 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB263 Operating Budget Comments

Dear House Finance Committee,

Please accept the following comments on HB263 made on behalf of the City of Homer and the board of directors of the Alaska Municipal League.

As you work to balance the state budget for Alaska fiscal year 2027, I ask that you remember the municipalities in the state, your partners in providing important government services. In particular, please fund, fully fund, or increase funding to the following:

—Fully fund community assistance, which used to be called revenue sharing. These funds are important to municipalities and they often provide valuable reimbursement for unfunded mandates from the state, such as property tax exemptions.

—Fully fund community jails. Municipalities that have community jails, the City of Homer included, are important partners in housing state prisoners who appear in courts in local communities and individuals who have been arrested by state agencies.

—Fund National Parks and Recreation Association grants. These grants are used by municipalities for a variety of park and trail improvements and amenities. The City of Homer has benefitted from these grants in the past and looks forward to doing so again to improve services to our residents and visitors.

—Increase the base student allocation (BSA) and adjust the BSA for inflation. While the Kenai Peninsula Borough funds the schools in Homer, the City of Homer recognizes the importance of adequately funding schools, which is a constitutional requirement for the State of Alaska. Our schools our deteriorating and school districts are losing teachers, valuable programs, and support staff who make the system function properly.

Thank you for your work on the operating budget and wrestling with the many demands on limited funding.

Sincerely,
Donna Aderhold

Donna Robertson Aderhold (she/her)

Homer City Council
491 E. Pioneer Ave.
Homer, AK 99603

PUBLIC RECORDS LAW DISCLOSURE: Most e-mails from or to this address will be available for public inspection under Alaska public records law.

From: Serina Muzenda [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 2:20 PM
To: House Finance

Testifying on FY 2027 budget

Please prioritize education funding in the budget! Invest in our schools and our students so our state can thrive.

Specialist Educator

From: Serina Muzenda [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 2:18 PM
To: House Finance

Please prioritize our education. It is our future for our generation.

From: AILPA Alaska Infant Learning Program Association <alaska.ailpa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 2:11 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB263/HB265

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your support of **expanding Infant Learning Program supports in FY27**. We were overjoyed to see the Legislature include this long-sought increment for ILP expansion in FY26 – THANK YOU – and today we ask you to do it again. Please support Infant Learning Program service expansion to infants and children experiencing a 25% developmental delay.

I am the President of the Alaska Infant Learning Program Association who works with providers across the state through our association membership. In my role, I have seen the impact early intervention has had on Alaskan children. Expanding ILP eligibility from 50% to 25% developmental delay helps more Alaskan families and saves the state money.

We know the budget is tight. That's why it's important to recognize that in addition to being the right thing to do, investments in early interventions promise to result in a 400% return on investment for the State of Alaska. Data show that a \$5.72 million increase in funding for ILP generates nearly \$35 million in savings to the state's annual special education spend. Nearly half of the children who experience between 50% and 25% developmental delay and receive early intervention services will **not** need higher cost special education services when they get to K-12 schools.

Additionally, the association supports the increment requests for the ROOTS award, Parents as Teachers, Imagination Library, and Head Start programs.

The association appreciates your consideration during a very difficult time recognizing the opportunity to invest now to save later. Thank you for your commitment to Alaskan's now and in the future.

Heidi Haas, President

Alaska Infant Learning Program Association

From: Michael Bronson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 2:10 PM
To: House Finance; Rep. Alyse Galvin; Rep. Zack Fields
Subject: Alaska in last place for education again

Dear committee members,

Thank you for keeping education funding as your FY27 budget's top priority.

You may not have heard, but Alaska ranks a distant last place among the states in per pupil K-12 spending relative to US inflation. That alone explains how schools are starving for teachers and student proficiency has fallen a full grade-level.

Please see the link below for data showing Alaska's last place for nominal dollars' growth in school funding.

Thank you,
- Mike Bronson, Spenard, District 16

https://open.substack.com/pub/muddybottomsllc/p/alaska-ranks-last-among-states-in?r=7dp4jk&utm_medium=ios

Sent from my iPhone

From: Elliott Dennis <elliott@attorneydennis.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 2:02 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Meet The Match funding

March 13, 2026

To the Alaska House of Representatives.

I have lived in Alaska for 68 of my 77 years. My tenure has extended from pre-statehood to the present and I've witnessed the economy and population grow, crash, grow and crash. I have worked as a logger, a fisherman and a business owner/lawyer. Looking back, over 68 years I've seen brilliant political decisions made which benefited citizens of Alaska as well as gross incompetence in government.

Past errors can't be changed, but going forward legislators and citizens should figure out the best path to follow which will benefit the state for its citizenry and economy. The state Senate unanimously passed legislation which allowed the state to match federal funds for the benefit of the construction industry, the oil and gas industry and betterment of state education opportunities. Making a decision to obtain investment dollars on a 9 to 1 ratio should be easy! (nine federal dollars for every state dollar) yet, minority members of the house, yielding to the influence of Gov. Dunleavy has failed to step up and add their voice to that of the Senate to secure this investment. On its face, this is simply idiotic.

Gov. Dunleavy's leadership has consistently failed the state of Alaska over the last eight years. While he may be a nice guy (I don't know him) we only have to look at state's health over the last eight years to justify not following his lead. The state economy has imploded, jobs have disappeared, young Alaskans have left in pursuit of greater opportunities and though we have heard years of promises, we have not seen improvement. Last, but not least the state educational system has gone from one of the best in the nation to competing with Mississippi for the last place ranking in the country. This is downright embarrassing.

There have been promises of new developments, new jobs, and a brighter and more productive economy in the near future. This is the same song I have heard for years. If we don't have infrastructure and an educational system for the children of the workers we hope to entice how are we going to secure workers required to make that dream come true. Many of the young Alaskans who have left the state for new opportunities and to start a family would gladly return, but they won't if their children are being subjected to failings of an underfunded poorly ranked educational system. And they won't, if there are no jobs supported by infrastructure.

Therefore, I strongly urge the House of Representatives minority members to follow a different leader; follow someone with vision and creativity. That someone is not Gov. Dunleavy.

Elliott T. Dennis

Law Office of Elliott T. Dennis

645 G St., Suite 100-940

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

(907) 929-4890

(907) 929-4891 (fax)

(907) 887-3420 (cell)

From: Dawn Wilcox [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 1:22 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Public School Funding

Please prioritize needed funding for our public schools. As a child in the Anchorage School District, our schools were among the finest in the country. For nearly 25 years as an ASD teacher, funding was declining year after year. Now, with grandchildren in ASD, the outlook is bleak with schools closing and teacher moral at an all time low. Additional funding is needed to secure the future of our schools throughout Alaska and to retain our skilled teaching staff. Please put the future leaders of our state, our children, at the top of your budget funding. They deserve a high quality education, just as the previous generations in our community have had. Alaska's future depends on it.

From: Chrissy May [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 1:00 PM
To: Senate Education; House Finance
Subject: Prioritize education in the FY2027 Budget

Dear House Finance Committee,

As you consider the 2027 Operating Budget, please prioritize education. I ask that you invest in a significant funding increase so our schools, our students, and our state can thrive.

As a reminder, Education is an obligation. Alaska's constitution requires the Legislature provide for a system of public schools open to all children, [defined](#) by the courts to require "adequate funding so as to accord to schools the ability to provide instruction in the standards."

Education funding falls behind inflation every year that we *don't* raise the BSA. Since 2011, per-student funding has risen 17% while inflation has risen 45%. Most successful workplaces consider accounting for inflation in their budgets, compensation and employee retention strategies. Funding for education, especially quality public education should follow the same strategy.

Thank you for your time and public service. Please prioritize education for the success of our state.

Chrissy Pohl
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK

Sent from my iPhone

From: Chris & Kathleen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 12:46 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Public Funding of Education & Operating Budget

It was a severe disappointment to witness the House Republican minority's vote to block the state match for \$700 million in federal highway and ferry funding for the 2026 summer construction season. This is a colossal travesty. On Wednesday evening, the Governor of Ak met with the House GOP minority to urge them to vote against this match thus betraying Alaska's construction, oil, and gas industry. Moreover, the minority's vote also blocked the restoration of the Higher Education Investment Fund, which supports Alaska Performance Scholarships. What are these legislators doing? Who are they working for? It's clear they are not working for the citizens of Alaska!

The minority's sabotage of the Meet the Match program is the most economically and politically suicidal vote ever to be witnessed in the Ak Legislature! This 9-1 federal match for each dollar we put into transportation, is the best match rate in the entire country. Good Lord! I'm flabbergasted at the level of small minded, negative/politically focused, intellectual mentality that governs our state. Someone needs to step up and save this state from itself. Cause this administration is not inclined to do so. Corporations are not the only one's working in this state. There's real people here, too.

Meet the Match was supported by a coalition of every business and labor organization in Alaska. As a result of the House minority's action, Alaska will lose up to 1,800 construction jobs this summer. Tragically, many of these tradespeople will be forced to look for work out of state, and we know from past experience that many of them will not return to Alaska, exacerbating our out-migration problem. Since many of our construction workers do pipeline work in the winter, crippling summer highway work will also have the effect of increasing non-resident hire on high-paying oil and gas jobs. Numerous Alaska business leaders urged minority Republicans to vote the right way, but the minority refused to listen.

But there is still a glimmer of hope for Ak if worthy politicians can work passed the foolishness of the House Minority and support *PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING!!* It is difficult to see whose side our anti-education governor is on. But, we as a state have to be larger and more adult than the pettiness this governor displays on a daily business. Please, please, please support *PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING!!* As a retired MSBSD Teacher I'm fully aware of how important education of our citizenry is to the health and welfare of our Democracy. And Alaska! Please vote wisely, support education and the citizens of Alaska. We are counting on you! Thx for your time, —wayne c jones, palmer, ak [REDACTED]

Sent from Chris & Kathleen

From: Arden Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 12:32 PM
To: House Finance
Cc: Rep. Steve St. Clair; Rep. Elexie Moore; Rep. Jubilee Underwood; Rep. Garret Nelson;
Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Kevin McCabe
Subject: Food Insecurity/Matsu Valley

Good afternoon,

I am on the Board of Directors for the Matsu Food Bank, an active volunteer at the Matsu Food Pantry, and a life long Alaskan.

I am writing to show my support for the \$3 million allocation for food banks and pantries currently included in the State Operating Budget (HB 263).

In the Matsu Valley, we are seeing a marked increase in clients needing food. With the cost of living increasing for food, housing, and fuel, and the backlog in SNAP applications, our services are needed more than ever.

Our clientele has increased over 20% in the past year, to include Senior citizens, families, veterans, disabled, and the homeless. We are fortunate to have a generous community that donates food, but it cannot keep up with the current demand. Food banks provide an essential safety net when people experience job loss, medical expenses, or other unexpected hardships. There needs to be a commitment for the future, to be able to provide food for our Alaskan communities. HB263 funding would support the Food Banks and Pantries with funding to purchase food, pay for transporting to Alaska, and then distribute to needy Alaskans.

I understand that budgets are constrained, that the operating budget needs to be balanced. But this is a basic need that should be supported for Alaskans. Please keep this important allocation in the budget.

Sincerely,
Arden Miller

[REDACTED]
Wasilla, Ak 99654
[REDACTED]

From: Cassee Olin <colin@mshsak.org>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 11:41 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Written Testimony for HB265 - Mental Health Budget -CBHTR

DOMAIN CHANGE: Our email domain has updated to @MSHSAK.ORG, please update your address books!.

Members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of Mat-Su Health Services (MSHS), I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the Legislature's continued commitment to behavioral health services through the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery (CBHTR) program. Your support has been instrumental in helping providers like ours deliver essential mental health and substance use treatment services to individuals and families throughout the Mat-Su region.

We understand that the CBHTR program remains an appropriation in the state budget for the upcoming fiscal year. However, we have recently been informed that the Alaska Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), does not intend to issue awards at the full appropriated level. Instead, MSHS has been notified of a **75% reduction in our CBHTR funding**, which equates to approximately **\$1.1 million**. Instead of receiving a continuation grant of \$1,522,934.62, we received \$380,733.66. This reduction was unexpected and occurred without sufficient advance notice to allow providers to responsibly plan for staffing, service capacity, or program sustainability.

CBHTR funding supports critical behavioral health programs serving approximately 985 clients at MSHS, many of whom rely on these services as their primary source of treatment and recovery support. These funds support clinicians, case management, and skills support staff who address both behavioral health and primary care needs. A reduction of this magnitude will have immediate and significant operational impacts.

We also want to highlight the importance of the **Guidepost Solutions study**, which examined behavioral health reimbursement rates and the true cost of delivering services in Alaska. The findings of that study accurately reflect the financial pressures providers are facing and demonstrate that current reimbursement levels are insufficient to cover the cost of care. The recommended rate adjustments identified in the Guidepost analysis represent a realistic and necessary step to ensure behavioral health providers can sustain services, recruit and retain qualified staff, and maintain access to care for Alaskans.

In addition, the population we serve presents unique operational challenges. Our behavioral health programs currently experience a **no-show rate of 35 percent**. While our schedules remain fully booked, a significant portion of clients do not attend their appointments. As a **Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)**, we are restricted by **regulations from charging no-show fees** to recover costs associated with missed appointments. This creates a financial strain for safety-net providers, as staff time and clinical capacity remain reserved but unreimbursed when appointments are missed. Programs such as CBHTR help offset these structural challenges and allow us to continue serving individuals who often face complex barriers to care.

Equally concerning is the uncertainty regarding the timing of upcoming grant solicitations. Without the timely issuance of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) or clear guidance regarding funding levels, organizations like ours are left in a difficult position. Behavioral health programs rely on stable funding to retain qualified staff and maintain continuity of care. Delays or substantial reductions pose real risks of staff attrition, reduced program capacity, and service disruptions for vulnerable individuals in our community.

We respectfully ask the House Finance Committee to review the implementation of the CBHTR program to ensure that appropriated funds are distributed in a manner consistent with legislative intent and that providers receive timely communication regarding future funding opportunities. Predictable funding and transparent timelines are critical to sustaining Alaska's behavioral health infrastructure.

MSSH remains committed to working collaboratively with the Legislature and the Department of Health to ensure Alaskans continue to receive the behavioral health services they need. We greatly appreciate your continued leadership and support for these essential programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Cassie Olin

CassieOlin, MBA
Chief Financial Officer



www.mshsak.org

Phone: (907)352-3327
Mobile: (907)942-3722
Email: colin@mshsak.org

Mat Su Health Services, Inc.
1363 W Spruce Ave, Wasilla, AK 99654

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From: Elizabeth Dam <edam@focusoutreach.org>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 10:25 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Written Testimony for Infant Learning Program Funding
Attachments: Outlook-high_focus

“My name is Liz Dam and I’m writing in support of expanding Infant Learning Program supports in FY27. We were overjoyed to see the Legislature include this long-sought increment for ILP expansion in FY26 – THANK YOU – and today we ask you to do it again. Please support Infant Learning Program service expansion to infants and children experiencing a 25% developmental delay.

I am an Infant Learning Program Coordinator who provides services in the Eagle River community. In my role, I have seen the impact early intervention has had on my home community. Expanding ILP eligibility from 50% to 25% developmental delay helps more Alaskan families and saves the state money.

We know the budget is tight. That’s why it’s important to recognize that – in addition to being the right thing to do – investments in early interventions promise to result in a 400% return on investment for the State of Alaska. Data show that a \$5.72 million increase in funding for ILP generates nearly \$35 million in savings to the state’s annual special education spend. Nearly half of the children who experience between 50% and 25% developmental delay and receive early intervention services will not need higher cost special education services when they get to K-12 schools.

But cost savings are only one of the many reasons to support ILP expansion. The others are far more personal and powerful and don’t fit in 2-minutes; that’s why I’m also submitting my expanded testimony in writing.

In closing, please support expanding ILP programs from a 50% to a 25% developmental delay in FY27 and beyond! Thank you.”

Liz Dam
ILP Coordinator
Family Outreach Center for Understanding Special Needs, Inc.
edam@focusoutreach.org
(907) 694-6002
Direct line (907) 689-7245



From: Jennifer Traver <JTraver@alaskacenter.org>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 10:55 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Expanding Infant Learning Program supports in FY27

Good Morning,

My name is Jennifer Traver and I'm writing in support of **expanding Infant Learning Program supports in FY27**. We were overjoyed to see the Legislature include this long-sought increment for ILP expansion in FY26 – THANK YOU – and today we ask you to do it again. Please support Infant Learning Program service expansion to infants and children experiencing a 25% developmental delay.

I am the Finance Director at ACCA and have been an employee here for more than 20 years. Over those years I have seen the impact early intervention has had on the many communities we serve. While I don't work directly with families, I still have had the opportunity to hear from families and providers about just how important the role ILP plays in a child's first years. Expanding ILP eligibility from 50% to 25% developmental delay helps more Alaskan families and saves the state money.

We know the budget is tight. That's why it's important to recognize that – in addition to being the right thing to do – investments in early interventions promise to result in a 400% return on investment for the State of Alaska. Data show that a \$5.72 million increase in funding for ILP generates nearly \$35 million in savings to the state's annual special education spend. Nearly half of the children who experience between 50% and 25% developmental delay and receive early intervention services will **not** need higher cost special education services when they get to K-12 schools.

Please support expanding ILP programs from a 50% to a 25% developmental delay in FY27 and beyond!
Thank you,



Jennifer Traver, Finance Director

P: 907.456.4003 x102 F:

907.456.6124

1020 Barnette St., Fairbanks

AK 99701

www.alaskacenter.org

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 10:23 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Expanding Early Learning Program Supports in FY27

My name is Deborah Blair and I am writing in support of expanding early Learning Program supports in FY 27. We were overjoyed to see the Legislature include this long-sought increment for ILP expansion in FY26- Thank You- and today we ask you to do it again. Please support Infant Learning Program service expansion to infants and children experiencing a 25% developmental delay.

I am a community member in Thorne Bay who has seen the impact early learning interventions has had on my community. Expanding ILP eligibility from 50% to 25% developmental delay helps more Alaskan families and saves the state money.

We know the budget is tight. That's why it is important to recognize that- in addition to being the right thing to do- investments in early interventions promises to result in a 400% return on investment for the state of Alaska. Data shows that a \$5.72 million increase in funding for ILP generates nearly \$35 million in saving to the states annual special education spend. Nearly half of the children who experience between 50% and 25% developmental delay and receive early intervention services will not need higher cost special education services when they get to K-12 schools But cost savings are only one of the many reasons to support ILP expansion. The others are far more personal and powerful and don't fit in 2-minutes; that is why I am also submitting my expanded testimony in writing.

In closing , please support expanding ILP programs from 50% to 25% developmental delay in FY27 and beyond!

Thank You.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Carrie Nash [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 10:20 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for Infant Learning Program Expansion

Hello!

I am writing to the committee to urge support for the expansion of the Infant Learning Program in FY27.

I have had two children who were helped by the Infant Learning Program and I am currently the Board President of ACCA here in Fairbanks. We cover the northern part of the state with Infant Learning Program.

Expanding ILP eligibility from 50% TO 25% developmental delay helps more Alaskan families and children, and saves our state money because nearly 50% of the kids who exit our program do not need to be covered by public school special education programs.

There is simply no way to measure the importance of family support for families of kids with developmental disabilities which ILP provides. Families are our best teachers and our early childhood specialists and therapists help families be successful when things are tough. These parents go on to be effective advocates for their kids and for programs that help disabled Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration and for your forward-looking support for the Infant Learning Program expansion in the FY27 budget.

Sincerely,
Carrie Nash, Fairbanks

--

Carrie Nash
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Cathy Hernandez [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 10:11 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for increment for Adult Day services

Thank you, Chair Josephson for reading my email today.

My name is Cathy Hernandez and I a physician assistant working at Northstarr Cardiothoracic Surgery in Anchorage.

I support the \$1.5 million increment for Adult Day services in the state budget. I value this because I have a personal tie to Alzheimer's disease as I lost my mother to the disease in 2012. It took a toll on our family and we were so fortunate to have her attend some adult day care during the course of her disease. It was something that brought her some joy and helped our family as well since we were her only caregivers.

Adult Day services support not just seniors and adults with disabilities, but the family caregivers who rely on them. Existing centers are struggling with inflation, workforce turnover, and increased demand. Without additional funding, centers risk reducing services or closing entirely.

This funding would help existing centers stay afloat and recover financially and increased funding would allow grantees to serve more Alaskans.

Thank you, Chair Josephson and members of the committee, for your time and consideration. I urge your support for this increment.

Thank you,

Cathy Hernandez

From: Linda O'Bannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 9:54 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Budget

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am weighing in today to express my support for an increase to the BSA and specifically HB 374 on public education funding.

Thank you for being willing to increase the BSA. In my opinion Alaska needs to do more to support public schools.

Best regards,

Linda O'Bannon
[REDACTED], Anchorage, AK 99503

From: Anchor Point Food Pantry <apfp.266@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 11:23 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Please support HB 263

Dear Mr. Chair and members of the committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Anchor Point Food Pantry, which serves families across the southern Kenai Peninsula. Our mission is to ensure that every neighbor in our region has reliable access to nutritious food. I am writing to respectfully request your support for direct food purchasing funding for food banks and pantries within the State Operating Budget.

Our community faces significant challenges in accessing food, particularly during the winter months. Many of our residents are currently out of work due to seasonal layoffs, weather conditions, or injuries. Even those who are employed often struggle to balance the rising costs of rent, fuel, and groceries. We also provide essential support to seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

We are constantly seeking the resources necessary to assist these vulnerable populations. Support for HB 263 is critical to ensuring our neighbors have the food they need. Predictable, state-level funding is vital to helping us meet the growing needs of our community effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns. We hope you will support this essential funding for Alaska's food pantries.

Sincerely,

Melissa J. Martin

APFP President, E.D.
(907) 299-8437

We are here to help with food because we all go through tough times.

From: Hilary Nystrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 9:15 PM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: Please increase funding for PIC programs

Hello,

My name is Hilary and I am writing in support of increasing funding for the Infant Learning Program. I receive services in Anchorage and my hope is that more families get to receive services like I have for my child. The ability to have free in-home services tailored to my child's needs by certified professionals is of great benefit to our family both logistically and financially.

Thank you for adding \$5.72 million to the budget for the Infant Learning Programs so they can continue to help kids develop important life skills.

Sincerely,
Hilary Nystrom

From: Heidi Haas <HHaas@alaskacenter.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 6:03 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB263/HB265

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

As mentioned during my public testimony, I am writing to provide additional information in support of the proposed \$5.72M increase to Infant Learning Program (ILP) funding in the FY27 budget. Since FY18, ILP funding has remained flat and is now lower than the levels appropriated from FY14–FY17. While we continue to serve every child referred to us and stretch our resources as far as possible, we have reached a breaking point. This increment is essential to stabilize our programs and ensure we can sustain and expand services.

Every week in our ACCA ILP team meetings, I hear our providers share both the successes and the challenges faced by families raising a child with a disability or developmental delay. Their dedication is extraordinary. They work tirelessly to deliver parent-driven, research-based, culturally responsive early intervention. These are services that make a measurable difference for children birth to age three. Their commitment is reflected in our most recent family survey, where we received a **90% positive** rating across three assessed areas.

You have an opportunity to help ensure Alaskan children receive the services they need now; while also positioning the state for long-term savings, something that is increasingly important as budgets continue to tighten. ILP has a long history of providing efficient, effective services. This modest investment will yield substantial returns by reducing the number of children who enter school with delays that require more intensive and costly support later.

I urge you to support the ILP increment request, recognizing that programs have been operating with insufficient funding for nearly a decade while still doing everything possible to meet families' needs. I also encourage you to support the ILP expansion bill when it comes before you. The bill and accompanying fiscal note will allow programs to bill appropriately for services, strengthening long-term sustainability. This will help us expand our reach and improve outcomes for children without requiring a significant future ask from the Legislature.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Alaska's children and families.

Heidi Haas, MS
Executive Director
Serving infants and toddlers in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, Delta/Ft. Greely, Copper Center, and North Slope Regions.



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"What we know matters, but who we are matters more." - Brene Brown

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From: Kerry Irons <Kerry.Irons@kibsd.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 4:36 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Public testimony for HB 263

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Kerry Irons, and I serve as the President of the Board of Education of the Kodiak Island Borough School District (KIBSD). Thank you for the opportunity to provide public testimony on the state's Operating Budget.

In our district, we have invested heavily in instruction, with a strong emphasis on elementary reading. That includes a broad plan for professional development for our teachers, so they truly understand HOW to best teach students the skills they need to be successful readers. District-wide, it has involved building a team of professionals at each site who work collaboratively to identify and monitor students and who provide appropriate interventions for those students who need them.

Because of this investment, over the past 2 years we have seen steady gains in student achievement, especially at the elementary level. We have managed to maintain our instructional momentum despite unprecedented budget deficits – which we addressed last year by closing one of our beloved elementary schools. In spite of the upheaval of school closure and reconfiguration and increased class sizes, student growth and achievement is impressive and exciting as evidenced by assessment results from December and January. Isn't that what the students in our districts deserve? Is their education, and are the opportunities for their future success really negotiable?

As our district moves forward, we simply cannot maintain that level of support without additional funding from the state. The gap between our projected revenues and expenditures is simply too large. Our school board recently passed a balanced preliminary budget for FY 27 that included nearly 3 million dollars in cuts to those programs and supports for students that have made our student growth possible. And they also necessarily include cuts that make a positive difference in the social-emotional and physical health and safety of our young people.

Last year's increase to the Base Student Allocation is deeply appreciated. However, it was not enough to stabilize our budgetary requirements. I urge you to support an additional increase to the BSA. Please, invest in Alaska's future. Please, help change the trend in out-migration from our state and help stabilize our communities.

Thank you for your ongoing service to Alaska, and your commitment to our future voters and leaders.

Sincerely,

Kerry Irons
President, KIBSD Board of Education
Kerry.Irons@kibsd.org

From: Deb Foster [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 1:01 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Expansion of ILP Program Budget, FY27

My name is Debra Foster and I'm writing in support of **expanding Infant Learning Program supports in FY27**. We were overjoyed to see the Legislature include this long-sought increment for ILP expansion in FY26 – THANK YOU – and today we ask that you to do it again. Please support Infant Learning Program service expansion to infants and children experiencing a 25% developmental delay.

I am a parent/guardian of two adult sons who displayed disabilities at a very early age, who received early intervention services in Fairbanks. These services were crucial in their development!

In my role, I have seen the impact that early intervention has had on my home community. Expanding ILP eligibility from 50% to 25% developmental delay helps more Alaskan families and saves the state money.

We know the budget is tight. That's why it's important to recognize that – in addition to being the right thing to do – investments in early interventions promise to result in a 400% return on investment for the State of Alaska. Data show that a \$5.72 million increase in funding for ILP generates nearly \$35 million in savings to the state's annual special education spend. Nearly half of the children who experience between 50% and 25% developmental delay and receive early intervention services will **not** need higher cost special education services when they get to K-12 schools.

But cost savings are only one of the many reasons to support ILP expansion. The earlier my sons received intervention strategies, the sooner they showed growth. It was critical to intervene at an early age so that we are able to foster typical learning experiences, specifically targeting speech and cognition.

Also, as an educator of 30+ years, I have seen first-hand what a difference it makes, when students are able to receive individualized focused learning services, before they enter kindergarten. It helps to close the learning gaps that students face, if they do not receive early intervention.

In closing, please support expanding ILP programs from a 50% to a 25% developmental delay in FY27, and beyond! Thank you. Debra Foster

From: Sara Beth Ignizio [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 11:34 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 374

Hello House Finance Committee Members -

I am a proud parent of a kindergartner in Anchorage at Inlet View Elementary. As our son is new to the public school system, we didn't know what to expect at the start of the 2025 school year, especially with all the uncertainty surrounding school funding and resource allocation. We were pleasantly surprised to discover that the kindergarten classroom sizes at Inlet View Elementary were smaller than we anticipated. This small classroom size has made the transition to elementary school a joy for our son. He has thrived, is engaged and excited to go to school each day. I have had the pleasure of volunteering a few times in his class, and it is clear to me how instrumental the small classroom size is for all the students. The individual attention they get from their teachers is invaluable, especially for the youngest of learners. I appreciate the work that went into supporting education throughout the State of Alaska last year, despite vetoes from the Governor's office. However, I ask that you commit to increasing the BSA to take into account the past 15 years where inflation was not taken into consideration. This cannot be kicked down the road to another year, it must be addressed now in a manner that provides school districts, teachers, and parents with the security to focus on quality education for all of our students.

Thank you for your dedication to the education of our children.

Sara Beth Ignizio (Kenai Central High School Alumni)

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99517
[REDACTED]

From: Michelle Snowball/Darlene Chiskok <epa.igap@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 11:21 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support \$3M Food Bank & Pantry Funding in HB 263

Dear Representatives,

My name is Darlene Chiskok, I am a resident of Saint Michael, Alaska. I am writing to respectfully express my support for House Bill 263.

HB263 plays an important role in funding the essential operations of our state government and supporting the programs that Alaska communities rely on. As you may know, in Rural Alaska there are not enough jobs available to every resident. A responsible operating budget ensures that public services, infrastructure, and community programs can continue to function effectively across our state. Growing instability is driving need. Families are increasingly forced to choose between groceries, rent, utilities, childcare or medical care. In the past year, Alaska experienced compounding disruptions that pushed more households to the edge:

- * Catastrophic flooding in Western Alaska
- * Longest federal government shutdown in US history (Delaying SNAP benefits and paychecks)
- * Persistently high food and fuel costs
- * Limited access to groceries in rural and remote communities

I respectfully ask that you support \$3M Food Bank & Pantry funding in HB 263 and work with your colleagues to move this legislation forward.

Thank you for your time, your service to our beautiful state and for considering the voices of your constituents.

Sincerely,
Darlene Chiskok, EPA Assistant

Michelle Snowball
EPA/IGAP Coordinator

Darlene Chiskok
EPA/IGAP Assistant

Native Village of St. Michael IRA

P.O. Box 59050

St. Michael, Ak 99659

Ph: (907)923-2304/2405

Fax: (907)923-2406

Email: epa.igap@yahoo.com

From: Vanessa Budge [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 11:05 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Budget comment

Hello,

My name is Vanessa Budge I'm from Ketchikan Alaska.

We need more money for care because we need to have people be trained in for lifting the disabled that need help taking showers and to transfer into their chairs so they don't get bed sore for being in bed for long periods of time.

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From: Vanessa Thompson <toknessie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 10:53 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: in support of HB 263

Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Vanessa Thompson, and I serve as president of Helping Hands Food Bank which serves families in Tok and the Upper Tanana Valley. Our focus is providing access to nutritious foods our clients need. Currently we serve an average of 90 families per month representing about 205 individuals. I am writing today in support of direct food purchasing funding for food banks and pantries in the state operating budget.

Tok and the Upper Tanana Valley only have one grocery store so there is no competition to help keep prices down. Because of this, many families travel 105 miles to Delta Junction where prices are lower. With the rising cost of fuel, that trip has become almost impossible for many households. Most of us keep a running shopping list so if we must travel 200 miles to Fairbanks for medical appointments or other reasons, we can do our major shopping there and save a substantial amount.

Helping Hands Food Bank does receive a 10% discount from our local grocery store on the items we purchase for distribution each month. However, we still try to stretch our donated dollars as far as possible by making trips to Costco in Fairbanks when we can.

Predictable funding acts as a shock absorber when need spikes, helping us meet the needs of our community in the most efficient and cost-effective way.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we appreciate your time and consideration reading our comments in support of HB 263.

Vanessa Thompson

Please share with your motorcycling friends that may be headed this way.

www.thompsonseaglesclaw.com

Vanessa Thompson
PO Box 715
Tok, AK 99780
907-940-5558

From: Kaleigh Ryno [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 10:41 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Increase funding for ILP

Dear Members of the Alaska House Finance Committee,

My name is Kaleigh Ryno, and I live in Klawock, Alaska. I am the mother of two sons who have both participated in the Infant Learning Program (ILP), which we know locally through Community Connections as Early Learning. I am writing to respectfully ask you to support adding \$5.72 million to the state budget for Infant Learning Programs.

ILP services play a critical role in helping children with developmental delays receive early intervention during the most important years of brain development. Yet there has been no increase in state funding for these programs in over 13 years. During that time, costs have continued to rise, while the need for services has grown.

Research has consistently shown that early intervention through ILP significantly reduces the need for special education services later in school. In many cases, children who receive early support through ILP no longer require special education during their K–12 years. Investing in early learning not only changes lives for children and families, but it also reduces long-term costs for the education system.

Alaska also has one of the strictest eligibility standards in the country. Children must meet a 50% delay criteria to qualify for services, which means many families who could benefit from support do not qualify. Even with this high threshold, programs are stretched thin.

For families in rural communities like mine in Klawock, these services are especially important. We often do not have access to private therapy providers or other outside resources that families in larger cities may be able to find. For many of us, ILP is the only place to turn for early developmental support.

Supporting this funding increase would allow programs to reach more children and families, strengthen services in rural communities, and ensure that Alaska's youngest learners get the best possible start.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important investment in Alaska's children.

Sincerely,
Kaleigh Ryno
Klawock, Alaska

From: Maryam Norton <maryam@sproutalaska.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 10:11 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: support for ILP funding

Hello,

My name is Maryam Norton and I am a speech therapist working for Sprout Family Services, serving the Seward, Homer, and Aleutian Chain areas. I am writing in support of increasing funding for the Infant Learning Program.

I work with many families who are low-income or otherwise under-resourced. In addition to speech therapy, part of my job is providing service coordination for families. This looks like connecting them with higher level care, coordinating with their primary care doctors, providing emergency diapers, working with both biological families and resource/OCS families, and ensuring that families are connected to community resources. Sometimes, before we even start speech therapy we work on getting the family stabilized, connected, and in a good place to participate in speech therapy. This is much different from the private practice model where families are often removed/discharged from services due to lack of insurance coverage or lack of reliable transportation.

Infant Learning Program is special because we go TO the families homes, wherever that may be. We work with the family system to provide support on all sides. From a financial perspective, participation in early intervention leads to a significant reduction in the need for special education services when a child reaches school age. It also leads to a reduction in cost per child across their time in school. Birth to 3 is a critical time for intervention for both children and their families, and it benefits Alaska in the long-term to support early intervention through Infant Learning Programs.

Thank you for adding 5.72 million to the budget to continue and expand support for our most vulnerable Alaskans who are just getting started in this world.

Warmly,

Mar

Maryam (Mar) Norton
Speech-Language Pathologist / Family Service Coordinator
Sprout Family Services / www.sproutalaska.org
Office General: 907-235-6044 / Cell: (Sprout cell 907-630-0043)
Fax: 907-235-2644

From: Raymond Pastorino [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 9:58 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support HB265/SB41

I imagine NAMI has already provided you with significant and thorough data outlining the very significant Health Care needs, not only of All Alaskans but in particular those of youth. This early step to establish guidelines for addressing and caring for our youth outlines the importance of these bills. Prevention, knowledge of, and normalizing awareness of a problem will always trump the after care of healthcare outcomes (which are extremely costly to society, both in dollars and in more trauma and grief).

Our young people are particularly resilient, but so much more so when offered awareness and the tools to address life issues; like differences, and even tools to address conflict. They are more open and ready to help one another than most adults. This bill gets the adults moving in terms of helping them to develop early awareness and knowledge which they will be able to use throughout their entire lives. This is something most of us adults did not get. It is well past time for offering them these basic life skills, tools and basic awareness of something that is real and not just on television. Ray Pastoino, retired Psychologist

From: Hendley, Maranda <Maranda.Hendley@foundationhealth.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 9:16 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for Child Advocacy Center Funding in the FY Budget

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your continued support of Child Advocacy Centers serving children and families across Alaska. The \$5.5 million included in the budget for CACs reflects the Legislature's recognition of the essential role these centers play in responding to child abuse and supporting multidisciplinary teams.


I also strongly support the \$1.5 million increment included to help offset reductions in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. VOCA cuts will significantly impact victim services in Alaska, and this additional funding will help ensure CACs can continue providing critical services such as forensic interviews, advocacy, and coordination with law enforcement and child protection partners. The CAC in our community is the glue that brings everyone together and supports the children in situations to help deal with a traumatizing experience.

Thank you for supporting Alaska's children and the professionals working every day to ensure their safety and healing.

Sincerely,
Maranda Hendley

Forensics at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Fairbanks Alaska

Maranda Hendley, BSN, RN
Forensic Nursing Services, RN Manager
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Office Phone: (907) 458-5221 Work Cell: (907) 328-8364
Fax: (907) 458-6497
Maranda.hendley@foundationhealth.org

 [Book time to meet with me](#)

From: Townsend, Maureen E <Maureen.Townsend@edwardjones.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 9:14 AM
To: House Finance
Cc: Arielle Wiggin
Subject: Support for \$1.5M for Adult Day Services – Written Testimony

Dear Chair Josephson and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Maureen Townsend. I am a Senior Branch Office Administrator with Edward Jones, currently completing my education to become a financial advisor, a lifelong Alaskan, and a Board Member of the Alzheimer's Association. This work places me at the intersection of families, caregiving, aging, and financial strain, and I see every day how urgently Alaskans need reliable Adult Day services. I am writing to express my strong support for the \$1.5 million increment for Adult Day services.

For many families, Adult Day programs are what make an ordinary day possible. When services are available, people with dementia or disabilities can spend the day in a safe, structured environment surrounded by trained staff. Caregivers can go to work without fear. Families can maintain a routine. There is stability, connection, and dignity. Life feels manageable. Without these programs, the reality looks very different. Caregivers are forced to reduce hours or quit their jobs entirely. Loved ones spend long days alone, which increases confusion, isolation, and declines in health. Families become exhausted, both emotionally and financially. I see this in my office. I see this through my work with Alzheimer's families. And as a lifelong Alaskan, I feel the weight of how deeply this affects communities across our state. Adult Day funding is not simply a budget item. It is a safeguard that allows Alaskans to keep their loved ones at home, to maintain employment, and to avoid costly and premature institutional care. When these programs struggle or close, the ripple effects touch every part of family life and strain the state far more in the long run. This funding will help centers remain open, increase capacity, and ensure that families across Alaska have access to the support that allows them to keep going.





Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. I strongly urge your support for this increment for Adult Day services.

Sincerely,
Maureen Townsend



Maureen Townsend FPQP®

CST, Alzheimer's Regional Coordinator

-  907-260-2670
-  888-505-1275
-  www.edwardjones.com
-  47294 Progress Court, Suite B
Soldotna, AK 99669

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From: Desiree Macz (SP) <dmacz@rcpcfairbanks.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 9:03 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for Child Advocacy Center Funding in the FY Budget

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your continued support of Child Advocacy Centers serving children and families across Alaska. The \$5.5 million included in the budget for CACs reflects the Legislature's recognition of the essential role these centers play in responding to child abuse and supporting multidisciplinary teams.

I also strongly support the \$1.5 million increment included to help offset reductions in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. VOCA cuts will significantly impact victim services in Alaska, and this additional funding will help ensure CACs can continue providing critical services such as forensic interviews, advocacy, and coordination with law enforcement and child protection partners. I represent Stevie's Place Child Advocacy center serving the Fairbanks North Star Borough, Interior Alaska and the North Slope Borough.

Thank you for supporting Alaska's children and the professionals working every day to ensure their safety and healing.

Sincerely,

Desiree' Macz

she/her/hers
RCPC Stevie's Place Manager
726 26th Ave Suite 2
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Direct: 907-456-9017
Main: 907-374-2850
dmacz@rcpcfairbanks.org



From: kelly gitter [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 8:02 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for Child Advocacy Center Funding in the FY Budget

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support of Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) that serve children and families throughout Alaska. The allocation of \$5.5 million in the budget underscores the Legislature's recognition of the vital role these centers play in addressing child abuse and supporting multidisciplinary teams.

I also wholeheartedly endorse the additional \$1.5 million increment aimed at mitigating the reductions in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. These cuts will have a substantial effect on victim services in Alaska, and this extra funding is crucial to ensure that CACs can maintain their essential services, including forensic interviews, advocacy, and collaboration with law enforcement and child protection partners.

Thank you for your commitment to Alaska's children and the dedicated professionals who work tirelessly to ensure their safety and healing.

Sincerely,
Kel Gitter
Fairbanks, AK

From: Naomi Whitaker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 12:32 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Testimony Regarding House Bill 263 – Operating Budget

To whom it may concern:

My name is Naomi Whitaker. I am a resident of Kotzebue, Alaska, and I am writing today regarding House Bill 263 – Operating Budget. I am writing in support of funding for these items: the annual ROOTS award, the Infant Learning Program, HeadStart, Parents as Teachers, and Best Beginnings Imagination Library.

Funding for these items is crucial because this will provide financial aid towards the opening and operation of a second childcare center in Kotzebue. Access to early childhood support is a critical component of the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and funding is imperative for the success of this non-profit center. Funding will enable parents in our community, who currently have access to one childcare center at maximum capacity, to have increased access to childcare resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter in our community.

Sincerely,

Naomi Whitaker

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 12, 2026, 11:52 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Thalia Mulock
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to request that you incorporate five crucial early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the effective literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (To fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for Alaskan children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure timely early intervention for infants and young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visiting, and expand early literacy across the state. Please use your leadership to include these five allocations at their specified funding levels in the House Finance budget.</p> <p>Sincerely, Thalia Mulock [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 12, 2026, 10:35 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Social Media Shared On (Share Campaigns)	
Issues	
Supporter	Amy Nicolaisen
Text	<p>Representative, Please accept this email as written testimony for HB263, this year's operating budget. I am reaching out to strongly encourage your full support and leadership for these five early childhood investments. \$7.5 million towards the annual ROOTS Award (Supporting child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Essential early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and assistance) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the popular literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (To fulfill their complete 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) These funds are instrumental in supporting our early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for infants and toddlers, bolstering families through proven home visiting programs, and fostering statewide early literacy. Please work to incorporate these five investments in the next version of the House Finance operating budget. Sincerely, Amy Nicolaisen [REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99503, USA</p>
Organization	Wooden Spoons Alaska
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Community	Anchorage

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 12, 2026, 5:53 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Tyesha Battle
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am sharing my testimony to urge you to include five key early childhood investments in the operating budget this year: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Critical early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Strengthening early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To maintain the popular literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (To meet their full 20% federal match and protect services for Alaska children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure babies and toddlers get early intervention when it matters most, strengthen families through evidence-based home visiting, and build early literacy statewide. Please include all five items at these funding levels in the House Finance budget. Thank you! Tyesha Battle [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK, USA</p>
Supporter Unique ID	
Supporter Quorum ID	128898822
Organization	Tundra Tykes
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Community	JBER

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 12, 2026, 4:05 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Social Media Shared On (Share Campaigns)	
Issues	
Supporter	Carmen Cano de Guevara
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to encourage you to allocate funding for five crucial early childhood initiatives in the forthcoming operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the annual ROOTS Award (to support child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (To bolster early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To preserve the popular literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (To fulfill their full 20% federal match and safeguard services for Alaska's children and families) These allocations are essential to stabilize the early education workforce, provide timely early intervention for young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visitation programs, and promote early literacy across the state. I urge you to include all five of these funding priorities at the specified levels in this years House Finance budget. Thanks so much for your consideration, Thank you! Carmen Cano de Guevara [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Children's World Bilingual Montessori
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 12, 2026, 3:17 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Social Media Shared On (Share Campaigns)	
Issues	
Supporter	Brittney DeMain
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, For my written testimony of the Operating Budget, HB263, I am requesting the inclusion of five essential early childhood funding allocations in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (providing crucial early intervention services) \$500,000 to support Parents as Teachers (Building early parenting skills and available supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain this widely appreciated literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (Ensuring the complete 20% federal match that safeguards services for children and families in Alaska) These investments play a crucial role in stabilizing the early educator workforce, providing vital intervention services for young children, strengthening families with evidence-based home visits, and fostering early literacy across the state. I urge you to include all five items with these funding amounts in the House Finance operating budget. Thank you for considering this request. Regards, Brittney DeMain [REDACTED], North Pole, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Thrivalaska
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Community	Fairbanks

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 11, 2026, 11:27 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Jennifer Barclay
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am sharing my testimony to urge you to include five key early childhood investments in the operating budget this year: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Critical early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Strengthening early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To maintain the popular literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (To meet their full 20% federal match and protect services for Alaska children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure babies and toddlers get early intervention when it matters most, strengthen families through evidence-based home visiting, and build early literacy statewide. Please include all five items at these funding levels in the House Finance budget. Thank you! Jennifer Barclay [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Wasilla AK 99654</p>
Organization	First fruits creative journey
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Community	Wasilla

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 11, 2026, 10:45 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	April Ledingham
Text	<p>Representative, Please accept this email as written testimony for HB263, this year's operating budget. I am reaching out to strongly encourage your full support and leadership for these five early childhood investments. \$7.5 million towards the annual ROOTS Award (Supporting child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Essential early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and assistance) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the popular literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (To fulfill their complete 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) These funds are instrumental in supporting our early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for infants and toddlers, bolstering families through proven home visiting programs, and fostering statewide early literacy. Please work to incorporate these five investments in the next version of the House Finance operating budget. Sincerely, April Ledingham [REDACTED] Soldotna, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Little peoples education center
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Community	SOLDOTNA

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 11, 2026, 9:21 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Mariah Porter
Text	<p>Representative, Please accept this email as written testimony for HB263, this year's operating budget. I am reaching out to strongly encourage your full support and leadership for these five early childhood investments. \$7.5 million towards the annual ROOTS Award (Supporting child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Essential early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and assistance) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the popular literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (To fulfill their complete 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) These funds are instrumental in supporting our early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for infants and toddlers, bolstering families through proven home visiting programs, and fostering statewide early literacy. Please work to incorporate these five investments in the next version of the House Finance operating budget. Sincerely, Mariah Porter [REDACTED], Juneau, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Tlingit & Haida Headstart
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Community	Juneau

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 11, 2026, 8:45 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Olena Brusuelas
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to request that you incorporate five crucial early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the effective literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (To fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for Alaskan children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure timely early intervention for infants and young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visiting, and expand early literacy across the state. Please use your leadership to include these five allocations at their specified funding levels in the House Finance budget.</p> <p>Sincerely, Olena Brusuelas [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 11, 2026, 5:32 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Susan Anderson
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am writing to share my written testimony for HB263. Please use your leadership to make sure these five critical early childhood investments make it into this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilization of child care workforce and keeping child care programs open) \$5.72 million dedicated to the Infant Learning Program (essential early intervention services for children with developmental delays) \$500,000 allocated to Parents as Teachers (enhancing early family support and parental skills) \$400,000 directed to Best Beginnings Imagination Library (to sustain the well-loved statewide literacy initiative) \$3.756 million for Head Start (to fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) These financial commitments play a key role in stabilizing the early education workforce, ensuring that infants and young children receive timely interventions, bolstering family units through supported home visitation, and promoting literacy across the state from an early age. Please use your leadership to help ensure these items are funded at the stated levels within the House Finance budget.</p> <p>Sincerely, Susan Anderson [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 11, 2026, 5:23 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Cassandra Nichelson
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am writing to share my written testimony for HB263. Please use your leadership to make sure these five critical early childhood investments make it into this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilization of child care workforce and keeping child care programs open) \$5.72 million dedicated to the Infant Learning Program (essential early intervention services for children with developmental delays) \$500,000 allocated to Parents as Teachers (enhancing early family support and parental skills) \$400,000 directed to Best Beginnings Imagination Library (to sustain the well-loved statewide literacy initiative) \$3.756 million for Head Start (to fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) These financial commitments play a key role in stabilizing the early education workforce, ensuring that infants and young children receive timely interventions, bolstering family units through supported home visitation, and promoting literacy across the state from an early age. Please use your leadership to help ensure these items are funded at the stated levels within the House Finance budget.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cassandra Nichelson [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Kasilof, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 11, 2026, 2:49 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Janet Cerdena Bryant
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out to strongly encourage the inclusion of five critical early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award aimed at stabilizing the child care workforce \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program, which provides</p>

	<p>essential early intervention services \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers to enhance early parenting skills and assistance \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library to ensure the continuation of the statewide literacy initiative \$3.756 million for Head Start to secure the complete 20% federal match required to sustain services for children and families in Alaska These funds are essential for stabilizing the early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for young children, fortifying families with evidence-based home visiting programs, and expanding early literacy efforts across Alaska. I urge you to ensure that all five initiatives are funded at the proposed levels in the House Finance budget. Thank you for your consideration, Janet Cerdena Bryant [REDACTED] Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Little hands Bilingual montessori Daycare
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Community	Anchorage

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 10, 2026, 9:01 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Shannon Mueller
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to request that you incorporate five crucial early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the effective literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (To fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for Alaskan children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure timely early intervention for infants and young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visiting, and expand early literacy across the state. Please use your leadership to include these five allocations at their specified funding levels in the House Finance budget.</p> <p>Sincerely, Shannon Mueller [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK 99517</p>
Organization	Faith Daycare & Learninf Center; Faith Daycare & Learning Center
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!

Date	March 10, 2026, 8:00 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Hazel Greene
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to request that you incorporate five crucial early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the effective literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (To fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for Alaskan children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure timely early intervention for infants and young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visiting, and expand early literacy across the state. Please use your leadership to include these five allocations at their specified funding levels in the House Finance budget.</p> <p>Sincerely, Hazel Greene [REDACTED] Kotzebue, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Nunakins Daycare
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Community	Kotzebue

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 10, 2026, 1:32 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Katherine Hummel
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to encourage you to allocate funding for five crucial early childhood initiatives in the forthcoming operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the annual ROOTS Award (to support child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (To bolster early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for</p>

	Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To preserve the popular literacy program statewide) \$3.756 million for Head Start (To fulfill their full 20% federal match and safeguard services for Alaska's children and families) These allocations are essential to stabilize the early education workforce, provide timely early intervention for young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visitation programs, and promote early literacy across the state. I urge you to include all five of these funding priorities at the specified levels in this years House Finance budget. Thanks so much for your consideration, Thank you! Katherine Hummel [REDACTED], Fairbanks, AK 99709, USA
Organization	Fairbanks Montessori School
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Community	Fairbanks

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 9, 2026, 11:56 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Cecilia Quiambao
Text	Representative, Please accept this email as written testimony for HB263, this year's operating budget. I am reaching out to strongly encourage your full support and leadership for these five early childhood investments. \$7.5 million towards the annual ROOTS Award (Supporting child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Essential early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and assistance) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the popular literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their complete 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) These funds are instrumental in supporting our early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for infants and toddlers, bolstering families through proven home visiting programs, and fostering statewide early literacy. Please work to incorporate these five investments in the next version of the House Finance operating

	budget. Sincerely, Cecilia Quiambao [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Anchorage, AK, USA
Organization	Morning Star Christian School
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 9, 2026, 8:20 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Francine Cachucha
Text	Dear Representative Josephson, For my written testimony of the Operating Budget, HB263, I am requesting the inclusion of five essential early childhood funding allocations in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (providing crucial early intervention services) \$500,000 to support Parents as Teachers (Building early parenting skills and available supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain this widely appreciated literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (Ensuring the complete 20% federal match that safeguards services for children and families in Alaska) These investments play a crucial role in stabilizing the early educator workforce, providing vital intervention services for young children, strengthening families with evidence-based home visits, and fostering early literacy across the state. I urge you to include all five items with these funding amounts in the House Finance operating budget. Thank you for considering this request. Regards, Francine Cachucha [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Fairbanks, AK, USA
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 9, 2026, 8:16 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Kristin Ramstad
Text	Dear Representative Josephson, For my written testimony of the Operating Budget, HB263, I am requesting the inclusion of five essential early childhood funding allocations in

	<p>this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (providing crucial early intervention services) \$500,000 to support Parents as Teachers (Building early parenting skills and available supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain this widely appreciated literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (Ensuring the complete 20% federal match that safeguards services for children and families in Alaska) These investments play a crucial role in stabilizing the early educator workforce, providing vital intervention services for young children, strengthening families with evidence-based home visits, and fostering early literacy across the state. I urge you to include all five items with these funding amounts in the House Finance operating budget. Thank you for considering this request. Regards, Kristin Ramstad [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 9, 2026, 7:02 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Melissa Thompson
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out to strongly encourage the inclusion of five critical early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award aimed at stabilizing the child care workforce \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program, which provides essential early intervention services \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers to enhance early parenting skills and assistance \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library to ensure the continuation of the statewide literacy initiative \$680,000 for Head Start to secure the complete 20% federal match required to sustain services for children and families in Alaska These funds are essential for stabilizing the early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for young children, fortifying families with evidence-based home visiting</p>

	programs, and expanding early literacy efforts across Alaska. I urge you to ensure that all five initiatives are funded at the proposed levels in the House Finance budget. Thank you for your consideration, Melissa Thompson [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 8, 2026, 5:49 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Gloria Elena Echeverri delgado
Text	Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out to strongly encourage the inclusion of five critical early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award aimed at stabilizing the child care workforce \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program, which provides essential early intervention services \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers to enhance early parenting skills and assistance \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library to ensure the continuation of the statewide literacy initiative \$680,000 for Head Start to secure the complete 20% federal match required to sustain services for children and families in Alaska These funds are essential for stabilizing the early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for young children, fortifying families with evidence-based home visiting programs, and expanding early literacy efforts across Alaska. I urge you to ensure that all five initiatives are funded at the proposed levels in the House Finance budget. Thank you for your consideration, Gloria Elena Echeverri delgado [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 8, 2026, 7:08 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Esther Greenberg
Text	Dear Representative Josephson, I have been in the field of early education for 35 years, running the Gan Yeladim Early Learning

	<p>Center, affiliated with the Alaska Jewish Campus in Anchorage. We have been beneficiaries of Thread and State Grants for the last 35 years and we can testify to how crucial those funds are to keep us going and keep our doors open. I am writing to share my written testimony for HB263. Please use your leadership to make sure these five critical early childhood investments make it into this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilization of child care workforce and keeping child care programs open) \$5.72 million dedicated to the Infant Learning Program (essential early intervention services for children with developmental delays) \$500,000 allocated to Parents as Teachers (enhancing early family support and parental skills) \$400,000 directed to Best Beginnings Imagination Library (to sustain the well-loved statewide literacy initiative) \$680,000 for Head Start (to fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) From personal experience I can testify that these financial commitments will play a key role in stabilizing the early education workforce, ensuring that infants and young children receive timely interventions, bolstering family units through supported home visitation, and promoting literacy across the state from an early age. Please use your leadership to help ensure these items are funded at the stated levels within the House Finance budget. Sincerely, Esther Greenberg, Director Gan Yeladim Early Learning Center Affiliate of Alaska Jewish Campus [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 8, 2026, 1:57 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Social Media Shared On (Share Campaigns)	
Issues	
Supporter	MarryGrace Garchitorena
Text	Representative Louise, I am reaching out with my written testimony to the House Finance Operating Budget (HB 263) to implore you to

	<p>incorporate five crucial early childhood funding allocations in this years operational budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (essential early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (enhancing early parenting skills and support systems) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (to sustain the respected literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (to fulfill the full 20% federal match and preserve services for Alaska's children and families) These investments are vital to stabilizing the workforce of early educators, ensuring prompt intervention for young children, reinforcing families with proven home visiting methods, and promoting early literacy across the state. I urge you to include all five allocations at these financial levels in the House Finance budget. Kind regards, MarryGrace Garchitorena [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Kodiak, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Email Custom Target	
UTM Source	
UTM Medium	
UTM Campaign	
UTM Term	
UTM Content	
UTM Source Type	Direct Link to Action Center
Supporter Email	[REDACTED]
thread Staff	
Child Care Program Administrator	
Policy Makers & Community Leaders	
Parents for Care FY26	No
Media Consent	
Learn & Grow	
Language	
Family Services	
Educator	
Donors & Supporters	
Community	
Alaska SEED	
Advocacy	

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 10:47 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Social Media Shared On (Share Campaigns)	
Issues	
Supporter	Sherry Dompierre
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out to strongly encourage the inclusion of five critical early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award aimed at stabilizing the child care workforce \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program, which provides essential early intervention services \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers to enhance early parenting skills and assistance \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library to ensure the continuation of the statewide literacy initiative \$680,000 for Head Start to secure the complete 20% federal match required to sustain services for children and families in Alaska These funds are essential for stabilizing the early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for young children, fortifying families with evidence-based home visiting programs, and expanding early literacy efforts across Alaska. I urge you to ensure that all five initiatives are funded at the proposed levels in the House Finance budget. Thank you for your consideration, Sherry Dompierre [REDACTED], Tok, AK 99780, USA</p>
Supporter Unique ID	
Supporter Quorum ID	95130292
Organization	Tanana Chiefs Conference Early Head Start; Tanana Chiefs Conference Head Start
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Email Custom Target	
UTM Source	
UTM Medium	
UTM Campaign	
UTM Term	
UTM Content	
UTM Source Type	Outbox Email
Supporter Email	[REDACTED]
thread Staff	
Child Care Program Administrator	
Policy Makers & Community Leaders	

Parents for Care FY26	
Media Consent	
Learn & Grow	
Language	
Family Services	
Educator	Yes
Donors & Supporters	
Community	Tok
Alaska SEED	
Advocacy	

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 7:33 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Social Media Shared On (Share Campaigns)	
Issues	
Supporter	Wydalis Rivera
Text	Dear Representative Josephson, For my written testimony of the Operating Budget, HB263, I am requesting the inclusion of five essential early childhood funding allocations in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (providing crucial early intervention services) \$500,000 to support Parents as Teachers (Building early parenting skills and available supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain this widely appreciated literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (Ensuring the complete 20% federal match that safeguards services for children and families in Alaska) These investments play a crucial role in stabilizing the early educator workforce, providing vital intervention services for young children, strengthening families with evidence-based home visits, and fostering early literacy across the state. I urge you to include all five items with these funding amounts in the House Finance operating budget. Thank you for considering this request. Regards, Wydalis Rivera [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA
Supporter Unique ID	
Supporter Quorum ID	61452094

Organization	WyzeAngelZ
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Email Custom Target	
UTM Source	
UTM Medium	
UTM Campaign	
UTM Term	
UTM Content	
UTM Source Type	Direct Link to Action Center
Supporter Email	
thread Staff	
Child Care Program Administrator	Yes
Policy Makers & Community Leaders	Yes
Parents for Care FY26	
Media Consent	
Learn & Grow	Yes
Language	Spanish
Family Services	Yes
Educator	Yes
Donors & Supporters	Yes
Community	Anchorage
Alaska SEED	Yes
Advocacy	Yes

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 6:55 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Social Media Shared On (Share Campaigns)	
Issues	
Supporter	Pan Thao
Text	Dear Representative Josephson, I am writing to share my written testimony for HB263. Please use your leadership to make sure these five critical early childhood investments make it into this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilization of child care workforce and keeping child care programs open) \$5.72 million dedicated to the Infant Learning Program (essential early intervention services for children with developmental delays) \$500,000 allocated to Parents as Teachers (enhancing early family support and parental skills) \$400,000 directed to Best Beginnings Imagination Library (to sustain the well-loved

	<p>statewide literacy initiative) \$680,000 for Head Start (to fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) These financial commitments play a key role in stabilizing the early education workforce, ensuring that infants and young children receive timely interventions, bolstering family units through supported home visitation, and promoting literacy across the state from an early age. Please use your leadership to help ensure these items are funded at the stated levels within the House Finance budget.</p> <p>Sincerely, Pan Thao [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Supporter Unique ID	
Supporter Quorum ID	141607309
Organization	
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Email Custom Target	
UTM Source	
UTM Medium	
UTM Campaign	
UTM Term	
UTM Content	
UTM Source Type	Direct Link to Action Center
Supporter Email	[REDACTED]
thread Staff	
Child Care Program Administrator	
Policy Makers & Community Leaders	
Parents for Care FY26	No
Media Consent	
Learn & Grow	
Language	
Family Services	
Educator	
Donors & Supporters	
Community	
Alaska SEED	
Advocacy	

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 3:59 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Social Media Shared On (Share Campaigns)	

Issues	
Supporter	Laura Roark
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am writing to share my written testimony for HB263. Please use your leadership to make sure these five critical early childhood investments make it into this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilization of child care workforce and keeping child care programs open) \$5.72 million dedicated to the Infant Learning Program (essential early intervention services for children with developmental delays) \$500,000 allocated to Parents as Teachers (enhancing early family support and parental skills) \$400,000 directed to Best Beginnings Imagination Library (to sustain the well-loved statewide literacy initiative) \$680,000 for Head Start (to fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) These financial commitments play a key role in stabilizing the early education workforce, ensuring that infants and young children receive timely interventions, bolstering family units through supported home visitation, and promoting literacy across the state from an early age. Please use your leadership to help ensure these items are funded at the stated levels within the House Finance budget.</p> <p>Sincerely, Laura Roark [REDACTED] Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Supporter Unique ID	
Supporter Quorum ID	66187740
Organization	
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)
Email Custom Target	
UTM Source	
UTM Medium	
UTM Campaign	
UTM Term	
UTM Content	
UTM Source Type	Direct Link to Action Center
Supporter Email	[REDACTED]
thread Staff	
Child Care Program Administrator	Yes
Policy Makers & Community Leaders	

Parents for Care FY26	
Media Consent	
Learn & Grow	
Language	
Family Services	
Educator	
Donors & Supporters	
Community	
Alaska SEED	
Advocacy	Yes

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 2:56 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Sheena Hepburn
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to request that you incorporate five crucial early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the effective literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for Alaskan children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure timely early intervention for infants and young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visiting, and expand early literacy across the state. Please use your leadership to include these five allocations at their specified funding levels in the House Finance budget. Sincerely, Sheena Hepburn [REDACTED], Eagle River, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Tanaina CDC
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 2:05 PM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Gleen Yeboah
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to request that you incorporate five crucial early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the effective literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for Alaskan children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure timely early intervention for infants and young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visiting, and expand early literacy across the state. Please use your leadership to include these five allocations at their specified funding levels in the House Finance budget. Sincerely, Gleen Yeboah [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 8:19 AM
Supporter	Jessica Simonsen
Text	<p>Representative, Please accept this email as written testimony for HB263, this year's operating budget. I am reaching out to strongly encourage your full support and leadership for these five early childhood investments. \$7.5 million towards the annual ROOTS Award (Supporting child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Essential early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and assistance) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the popular literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their complete 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) These funds are instrumental in supporting our early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for infants and toddlers, bolstering families through proven home visiting programs, and fostering statewide early literacy. Please work to incorporate these five investments in the next version of the House Finance operating budget. Sincerely, Jessica Simonsen [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Learning Garden LLC; Rural CAP
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 7:32 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Mark Lackey
Text	<p>Representative Josephson, I am reaching out to share my written testimony for HB262, the State's operating budget. I want to highlight the importance of investing in Alaska's future by funding five crucial early childhood initiatives: \$7.5 million for the ROOTS Award annually (stabilization of the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and support structures) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the much-valued literacy program across the state) \$680,000 for Head Start (Ensure the full 20% federal match is met, safeguarding services for families and children in Alaska) These investments are crucial for stabilizing the early education workforce, ensuring necessary early interventions for young children, supporting families with evidence-based home visiting, and fostering literacy during critical brain development. I urge you to use your leadership to help all five investments make it into the next version of the operating budget presented by the House Finance Committee. Alaska families deserve no less. Sincerely, Mark Lackey [REDACTED], Wasilla, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 7:29 AM
Supporter	Mavielhen Joy Cabuhat
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, For my written testimony of the Operating Budget, HB263, I am requesting the inclusion of five essential early childhood funding allocations in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (providing crucial early intervention services) \$500,000 to support Parents as Teachers (Building early parenting skills and available supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain this widely appreciated literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (Ensuring the complete 20% federal match that safeguards services for children and families in Alaska) These investments play a crucial role in stabilizing the early educator workforce, providing vital intervention services for young children, strengthening families with evidence-based home visits, and fostering early literacy across the state. I urge you to include all five items with these funding amounts in the House Finance operating budget. Thank you for considering this request. Regards, Mavielhen Joy Cabuhat [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK 99501, USA</p>
Organization	Clare Swan ELC
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 6:15 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Andrea Perez
Text	Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to request that you incorporate five crucial early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the effective literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for Alaskan children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure timely early intervention for infants and young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visiting, and expand early literacy across the state. Please use your leadership to include these five allocations at their specified funding levels in the House Finance budget. Sincerely, Andrea Perez [REDACTED], Petersburg, AK 99833, USA
Organization	Petersburg Childrens Center
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 6:09 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Sharon Webster
Text	Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to request that you incorporate five crucial early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To

	<p>sustain the effective literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for Alaskan children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure timely early intervention for infants and young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visiting, and expand early literacy across the state. Please use your leadership to include these five allocations at their specified funding levels in the House Finance budget. Sincerely, Sharon Webster [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 5:33 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Penny Gage
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, Please accept this email as my written testimony for HB263, the Operating Budget. I am reaching out to strongly encourage you to include these five critical early childhood funding areas in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million towards the annual ROOTS Award (Supporting child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Essential early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and assistance) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the popular literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their complete 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska)</p> <p>These funds are instrumental in supporting our early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for infants and toddlers, bolstering families through proven home visiting programs, and fostering statewide early literacy. Kindly incorporate these five important items at the specified funding levels in the House Finance operating budget.</p> <p>Sincerely, Thank you! Penny Gage Working parent of two [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 5:14 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Crystal Berwick
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to request that you incorporate five crucial early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the effective literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for Alaskan children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure timely early intervention for infants and young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visiting, and expand early literacy across the state. Please use your leadership to include these five allocations at their specified funding levels in the House Finance budget. Sincerely, Crystal Berwick [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 4:52 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Pamela Crain
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, Please accept this email as my written testimony for HB263, the Operating Budget. I am reaching out to strongly encourage you to include these five critical early childhood funding areas in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million towards the annual ROOTS Award (Supporting child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Essential early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and assistance) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the popular literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their complete 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) These funds are instrumental in supporting our early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for infants and toddlers, bolstering families through proven home visiting programs, and fostering statewide early literacy. Kindly incorporate these five important items at the specified funding levels in the House Finance operating budget.</p> <p>Sincerely, Thank you! Pamela Crain [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Spenard, Anchorage, AK, USA, Spenard, Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Tundra Tykes Kindercare Learning Center
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 3:51 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Tiny Thomas
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out to share my written testimony for HB262, the State's Operating Budget. I am writing to emphasize the importance of investing in Alaska's future by funding five crucial early childhood initiatives in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the ROOTS Award annually (stabilization of the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and support structures) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the much-valued literacy program across the state) \$680,000 for Head Start (Ensure the full 20% federal match is met, safeguarding services for families and children in Alaska) These allocations are crucial for stabilizing the early education workforce, ensuring necessary early interventions for young children, supporting families with evidence-based home visiting, and fostering literacy from an early age. I urge you to use your leadership to help include all five funding items at these proposed levels in the upcoming House Finance budget. Alaska families deserve no less. Sincerely, Thank you!</p> <p>Tiny Thomas [REDACTED] Anchorage, Alaska, 99504</p>
Organization	Tinys Kid Care
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 3:50 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Asya Clafin
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am sharing my testimony to urge you to include five key early childhood investments in the operating budget this year: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Critical early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Strengthening early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To maintain the popular literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To meet their full 20% federal match and protect services for Alaska children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure babies and toddlers get early intervention when it matters most, strengthen families through evidence-based home visiting, and build early literacy statewide. Please include all five items at these funding levels in the House Finance budget. Thank you! Asya Clafin [REDACTED]</p> <p>Juneau, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Discovery preschool
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 3:46 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Donna Kelliagh
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out to strongly encourage the inclusion of five critical early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award aimed at stabilizing the child care workforce \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program, which provides essential early intervention services \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers to enhance early parenting skills and assistance \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library to ensure the continuation of the statewide literacy initiative \$680,000 for Head Start to secure the complete 20% federal match required to sustain services for children and families in Alaska. These funds are essential for stabilizing the early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for young children, fortifying families with evidence-based home visiting programs, and expanding early literacy efforts across Alaska. I urge you to ensure that all five initiatives are funded at the proposed levels in the House Finance budget. Thank you for your consideration, Donna Kelliagh [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Mother's Den Family Play-Care
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 3:35 AM
Supporter	Barbara Dubovich
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, Please accept this email as my written testimony for HB263, the Operating Budget. I am reaching out to strongly encourage you to include these five critical early childhood funding areas in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million towards the annual ROOTS Award (Supporting child care workforce stabilization) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Essential early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and assistance) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the popular literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their complete 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for children and families in Alaska) These funds are instrumental in supporting our early educator workforce, ensuring timely early intervention for infants and toddlers, bolstering families through proven home visiting programs, and fostering statewide early literacy. Kindly incorporate these five important items at the specified funding levels in the House Finance operating budget. Sincerely, Thank you! Barbara Dubovich [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Camp Fire Alaska
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 3:20 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Social Media Shared On (Share Campaigns)	
Issues	
Supporter	Heidi Halverson
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to request that you incorporate five crucial early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the effective literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for Alaskan children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure timely early intervention for infants and young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visiting, and expand early literacy across the state. Please use your leadership to include these five allocations at their specified funding levels in the House Finance budget. Sincerely, Heidi Halverson [REDACTED], Anchorage, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 3:09 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Margarita Jaminal
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, For my written testimony of the Operating Budget, HB263, I am requesting the inclusion of five essential early childhood funding allocations in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (providing crucial early intervention services) \$500,000 to support Parents as Teachers (Building early parenting skills and available supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain this widely appreciated literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (Ensuring the complete 20% federal match that safeguards services for children and families in Alaska) These investments play a crucial role in stabilizing the early educator workforce, providing vital intervention services for young children, strengthening families with evidence-based home visits, and fostering early literacy across the state. I urge you to include all five items with these funding amounts in the House Finance operating budget. Thank you for considering this request. Regards, Margarita Jaminal [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709</p>
Organization	Open Arms Child Development
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 2:59 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Ma Minda Valenzuela Ahmad
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, I am reaching out with my written testimony for HB263 to request that you incorporate five crucial early childhood investments in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million for the annual ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (Vital early intervention services) \$500,000 for Parents as Teachers (Enhancing early parenting skills and supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain the effective literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (To fulfill their 20% federal match requirement and safeguard services for Alaskan children and families) These investments help stabilize the early educator workforce, ensure timely early intervention for infants and young children, reinforce families through evidence-based home visiting, and expand early literacy across the state. Please use your leadership to include these five allocations at their specified funding levels in the House Finance budget. Sincerely, Ma Minda Ahmad [REDACTED] Eagle River, AK, USA</p>
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)

TAKE ACTION: Tell the Alaska House to Support Critical Early Childhood Investments!	
Date	March 7, 2026, 2:55 AM
Supporter Action Type	Wrote
Supporter	Monica Magari
Text	<p>Dear Representative Josephson, For my written testimony of the Operating Budget, HB263, I am requesting the inclusion of five essential early childhood funding allocations in this year's operating budget: \$7.5 million designated for the ROOTS Award (stabilizing the child care workforce) \$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program (providing crucial early intervention services) \$500,000 to support Parents as Teachers (Building early parenting skills and available supports) \$400,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library (To sustain this widely appreciated literacy program statewide) \$680,000 for Head Start (Ensuring the complete 20% federal match that safeguards services for children and families in Alaska) These investments play a crucial role in stabilizing the early educator workforce, providing vital intervention services for young children, strengthening families with evidence-based home visits, and fostering early literacy across the state. I urge you to include all five items with these funding amounts in the House Finance operating budget. Thank you for considering this request. Regards, Monica Magari [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Healy, AK, USA</p>
Organization	Denali Preschool and Learning Center
Official	AK Rep. Andy Josephson (D-AK-013)



State of Alaska - House Finance Committee

RE: Letter of Support and Written Testimony for HB 263 & HB 265

Dear Co-Chairs Foster, Josephson, and Schrage, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

As the CEO of JAMHI Health and Wellness, I see daily the direct correlation between state funding levels and the stability of our community's most vulnerable populations. I am writing to urge your full support for HB 263 and HB 265 as these bills are not merely spending items; they represent a strategic investment in the preventative infrastructure that keeps Alaskans out of high-cost emergency and correctional systems.

HB 265

The Mental Health Budget provides the infrastructure necessary to treat Alaskans in their communities rather than in high-cost institutional settings.

- **Cost Avoidance:** Community-based preventative care is a fraction of the cost of acute intervention. Without the workforce stability provided by HB 265, the state will see an inevitable cost-shift to:
 - The Department of Corrections as untreated mental health crises often result in recidivism rather than recovery.
 - Emergency Departments which are already over-burdened. These cuts to community care force the most expensive medical settings to act as de facto clinics.
- **Workforce Retention:** HB 265 allows community providers to compete for and retain the specialized clinical staff necessary to keep these diversionary programs operational.

HB 263

The general operating budget and supplemental appropriations in HB 263 are essential for the continuity of care. In the current fiscal environment, community providers face rising fixed costs and a healthcare workforce shortage.

- **Sustainability:** HB 263 ensures that the Department of Health and its partner agencies can meet their obligations without disrupting the services that thousands of Alaskans rely on for daily stability.
- **Accountability:** Fully funding the operating budget prevents the accumulation of hidden costs that occur when social services are underfunded and forced to operate in a reactive, high-cost crisis mode.

For Juneau and all Alaskans, these bills represent a choice between proactive investment or reactive crisis spending. I urge the committee to support HB 263 and HB 265 as essential tools for stabilizing both our community wellness and our state's fiscal future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Will Jemison
Chief Executive Officer
JAMHI Health & Wellness, Inc.

LINKS Resource Center

777 N. Crusey St. Ste A101

Wasilla, AK 99654

March 13, 2026

Dear House Finance Committee :

I am writing to ask for your support in expanding the Infant Learning Program (ILP) in the FY27 budget. We were overjoyed to see the Legislature fund ILP expansion in FY26—thank you for taking this critical step. Today, I ask you to continue that progress by supporting ILP service expansion to infants and children experiencing a 25% developmental delay.

As a parent of nine year old twin boys who receive services in the Matsu Borough, we have benefited from the ILP throughout their childhood and have witnessed significant progress in their education and development. In Alaska, early intervention can make the difference between a child thriving or facing lifelong challenges. Expanding ILP eligibility from 50% to 25% developmental delay ensures more Alaska families—especially in rural and underserved communities—get the support they need when it matters most.

I understand the budget is tight, but investing in early intervention is smart fiscal policy. Studies show that every dollar invested in early learning can yield up to a 400% return on investment. In Alaska, a \$5.72 million increase in ILP funding could save nearly \$35 million in K-12 special education costs. Nearly half of children with developmental delays between 25% and 50% who receive early intervention services will avoid the need for more costly special education later.

Beyond dollars and cents, this investment changes lives. Early intervention helps children communicate, learn, and participate fully in their communities. It provides families with the tools they need to support their children's growth. These are outcomes that benefit not only individual families but the broader Alaska community.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support expanding ILP eligibility to children with a 25% developmental delay in FY27 and beyond. Investing in our youngest Alaskans is not only the right thing to do—it's the smart thing for our state's future.

Sincerely,
Robert Bashleben

Director Community Advocacy

LINKS Resource Center

SILC FUNDING Quick Reference Guide

We're requesting an increase in SILC's annual funding from \$200,000 to approximately \$603,000 to maintain federal compliance and fulfill our state and federal obligations.

WHY THIS MATTERS - THE BIG PICTURE IT

- SILC (Statewide Independent Living Council) is federally required for Alaska to receive ANY Independent Living funds from the federal government
- Without adequate SILC funding, Alaska risks losing ALL federal Independent Living funding
- SILC serves ALL disabled Alaskans across the entire lifespan - not just one disability group and develops the State Plan for Independent Living that guides services for thousands of Alaskans with disabilities

THE FUNDING PROBLEM - IN PLAIN TERMS

What we used to have:

- In 2015, SILC received \$348,670

What we have now:

- Since 2020, we've been stuck at \$200,000 per year
- That's a 43% CUT while our responsibilities INCREASED

What we should have:

- If funding kept pace with federal cost-of-living and inflation, we'd be at \$603,000 today
- This would put us on par with similar state councils like the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

WHAT \$200,000 ACTUALLY BUYS

Reality check - here's what we can afford on \$200k:

- ONE full-time staff member
- Basic bookkeeping and tax filing
- A phone line and email domain
- TWO in-person board meetings per year (if only half our seats are filled)

What we CAN'T afford:

- Filling all 15 board seats (current meeting costs would double)
- Proper training for board members and staff as federally required
- Pursuing additional and diverse funding streams, as AK statute recommends
- Meeting with underserved populations across the state as federally required

WHY ONE PERSON CAN'T DO IT ALL

Federal law requires SILC to:

- Develop and monitor the State Plan with extensive public input
- Maintain a board with members from across Alaska
- Engage with unserved and underserved populations statewide
- Coordinate with other disability service organizations
- Keep members trained on current independent living best practices
- Track and respond to changes in state laws and policies
- Maintain detailed records and federal reporting
- Seek diverse funding sources

One employee simply cannot accomplish all of this.

THE FEDERAL COMPLIANCE RISK

- The federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) sets minimum compliance standards
- These standards increased in 2017 - our funding decreased
- If we fail to meet these standards, Alaska loses ALL federal Independent Living funds
- This isn't just about SILC - it's about protecting federal funding that serves thousands of Alaskans with disabilities

WHAT PROPER FUNDING WOULD ENABLE

With adequate funding, SILC could:

- Fill all board seats with representatives from across Alaska
- Hold meetings in rural and remote communities
- Properly engage with Alaska Native communities and other underserved populations
- Maintain trained, professional staff
- Travel to Juneau regularly for legislative education and engagement
- Meet all federal compliance standards
- Develop a robust State Plan with meaningful public input throughout the state
- Pursue additional grant funding to further support independent living initiatives
- Protect Alaska's federal funding stream of Independent Living funds

THE BOTTOM LINE

SILC isn't asking for luxury funding - we're asking for enough resources to:

- Do what federal and state law requires
- Protect Alaska's federal Independent Living funding
- Serve ALL disabled Alaskans effectively
- Match the funding levels of comparable state councils

The choice is simple: Invest \$603,000 in SILC, or risk losing all federal Independent Living funds that serve thousands of Alaskans with disabilities. (Over 1.4M)

QUICK FACTS TO REMEMBER

- SILC funding has been flat or declining for 10+ years
- Current funding: \$200,000 (since 2020)
- Adequate funding: \$603,000 (based on inflation adjustments)
- SILC serves: ALL disabled Alaskans, all ages, statewide
- **Risk: Loss of ALL federal Independent Living funds**

KEY MESSAGE

"SILC protects federal funding for disabled Alaskans, but we can't meet federal requirements on a budget that's been cut by 43% since 2015 and been flat funded since 2020. We're not asking for more than we need - we're asking for what it actually takes to do the job Alaska and federal law requires."



Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska

104 S Binkley, Suite B

Soldotna, AK 99669

907-263-2011

Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska (SILC)

Major Accomplishments (2020–Present)

- **2020–2021:** Implemented the Rural Ramp Project, introducing a new and cost-effective model for providing safe and accessible home and community access in remote and rural Alaska, serving communities historically underserved by Alaska’s home modification programs.
- **2020:** Partnered with Kasilof Wood and Metal to develop and deliver a prototype ADA accessible aircraft ramp to the Nome airport in response to reports of injuries and inappropriate handling of people with disabilities transferring in and out of small bush aircraft.
- **2022:** In partnership with Centers for Independent Living (CILs), led statewide advocacy for a self-directed service option under Alaska’s Medicaid Waivers, which resulted in a commitment from Senior and Disability Services to implement self-direction, though not on the same timeline as what the SILC and CILs would prefer.
- **2023:** Launched the Alaska Youth Leadership Forum for youth and young adults ages 14–24 with disabilities.
- **2023:** Alongside SILC partners, brought \$10 million to Alaska in federal Pathways to Partnerships Disability Innovation Fund grant funding to build statewide capacity for youth transition to Competitive Integrated Employment.
- **2020–present:** Expanded leadership in emergency management, serving in the role of Access and Functional Needs Coordinator during disasters to ensure inclusion of people with disabilities and other disproportionately affected populations, including support during the 2025 Typhoon Halong response.

- **2024–present:** Developed artificial intelligence tools to promote independence and self-determination, including a Person-Centered Planning Assistant and tools supporting Supported Decision-Making as an alternative or companion to guardianship, with other tools on the way.
- **Ongoing:** Advances disability employment as a priority statewide through leadership on the Alaska Work Matters Task Force, Employment Champions Workgroup, State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee, and re-establishment of Alaska’s chapter of the Association of People Supporting Employment-First.
- **Ongoing and Recent:** Supports partner initiatives that require independent nonprofit leadership and grant funding not easily accessed by partners in state agencies or the university system, including the Alaska Commission on Aging’s upcoming Aging Summit and the creation of a statewide brain injury resource hub with the Brain Injury Council of Alaska.
- **2025:** Provided technical assistance and specialized training to Alaska’s Centers for Independent Living on reentry and reducing recidivism, engaging national and state experts to strengthen services for justice-involved individuals.
- **Current:** Intends to apply for funding under the Rural Health Transformation Program to continue some of the work listed above, including home modifications, ADA accessible airport ramps for small bush aircraft, AI tools for Independent Living, and creating a more effective system of service delivery for justice-involved individuals.

For more information on the SILC and its many accomplishments, contact SILC Executive Director, Michael Christian at michael@alaskasilc.org.

To whom it may concern;

My name is Dixie St. John and I am a parent of a seventeen year old daughter who has ADD and auditory processing struggles. As a parent, I have seen a powerful shift in my daughter's confidence. After attending the Youth Leadership Program at UAF this summer, she returned with a deeper understanding of who she is, how she learns, and—most importantly—how to advocate for herself. That experience didn't just teach skills; it helped her recognize her own value and voice. Because of that growth, she has stepped into independence and leadership in ways I had not seen before. She accepted a calling within our church as a youth leader and now attends weekly Sunday meetings, confidently representing and advocating for youth perspectives in the room.

Programs like those supported by the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) are essential because they provide youth with real-life experiences that schools alone cannot always offer. These programs create safe, empowering spaces where young people learn self-advocacy, leadership, and confidence—skills that carry into education, employment, and community involvement. SILC helps youth discover not just what they can do, but who they are capable of becoming.

Also attached is the list of accomplishments that the SILC program has had over the last 5 years, the SILC Funding Quick Reference Guide, as well as my daughter's testimony of her experience with SILC. Please reach out with any questions.

Dixie St John



Dear Financing Committee,

I am here to say that if it weren't for the SILC programs I've applied for, I wouldn't have gotten any help, and that said programs had benefits groups such as the YLF (Youth Leadership forum). And no, I can't simply rely on my parents for help should these programs go the way of the Dinosaur, as they are known to assume I am capable like other adults & would leave me to be on my own, yet also not allowing me to form my beliefs.

Thanks to the existence of such programs, I was able to access support without the need to rely on them, and even could share sides of me that my parent's wouldn't approve of with the people who work there.

I'm an an Autistic Adult who is comorbid with Generalized Anxiety Disorder and likely also ADHD, currently living at home with parents, at Soldotna. While I'm more than capable of being independent most of the time, I require someone to be present to give me prompts, and still am lacking in opportunities to improve my own health, physical & mental, in ways that I consider good for myself, and not my Mom or Dad.

They consider things like Therapy, Masking (to prevent catching respiratory diseases), and getting up-to-date vaccines to be worthless, and as an Autistic Individual who still requires some assistance to live independently, this makes it very hard for me to thrive at my fullest. With my parents also being busy at my Mom's Bistro, I lack direct transportation on days except for Sundays, and if it weren't for me working with DVR, I would have never known about CARTS.

I consider myself to be either unable to drive, or unwilling, and either way I'd have a hard time traversing much of the beautiful state of Alaska's terrain. I currently have signed up for the University of Alaska's Disability Support Services to help with me you know, doing college, and in the past had used DVR in hopes of getting myself a job to earn money independently of my parents. Both had

helped me get through life as a Disabled individual, and would like them to not only continue to exist, but also get better funding to hopefully improve.

Vote in favor of funding said programs so that Disabled people like me can continue to rely on support, as well as others with similar or differing disabilities. Self-Advocacy means the Disabled person speaks for themselves, not their parents or guardians, even if they may depend on them for support.

Please and thank you,

Adele Ander.



PO Box 672069
Chugiak, Alaska 99567
(907) 688-0163

March 11, 2026

Dear Members of the Alaska House Finance Committee,

As the Alaska Children's Alliance Executive Director, I am extremely grateful for the allocation of \$5.5 million for our Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) across the state of Alaska. This funding is vital for our direct services to maltreated children and their non-offending families throughout our state. The Legislature's investment has been essential in helping CACs across Alaska maintain services for children and families. These centers operate in very different settings, from large communities to small rural hubs—but each provides the same critical function: a safe place where children can receive coordinated support after abuse has been reported. This funding has allowed CACs to keep their doors open, and ensured that children across Alaska continued to receive timely services by trained forensic interviewers, advocates, medical professionals, and behavioral health providers. Due to this funding most children received these services within their own community. Legislative support was and is needed to do this work. Thank you.

Child Advocacy Centers are vital to supporting children using a multidisciplinary response (advocates, law enforcement, OCS, medical professionals, District Attorneys, and behavioral health). A typical day at a Child Advocacy Center often begins when a caregiver, teacher, doctor, or other mandatory reporter contacts law enforcement or the Office of Children's Services after a child discloses possible abuse or concerning behavior. Law enforcement or child protection then refers the family to the local Child Advocacy Center.

An advocate from the CAC contacts the caregiver to explain the process, answer questions, address their concerns, and gather information about the child's needs and abilities. The advocate provides guidance about how to explain and prepare the child for the visit, and how to avoid discussing the incident in ways that could unintentionally influence the child's statement.

When the family arrives at the CAC, they are welcomed into a child-friendly environment designed to help children feel safe and supported. A trained forensic interviewer then conducts a trauma-informed interview with the child while members of the multidisciplinary team—including law enforcement, child protection, and medical providers—observe from another room. This coordinated approach allows the team to gather the information needed for the investigation while minimizing the number of times a child must share their experience.

Following the interview, the child is offered a medical exam to assess their physical well-being and collect evidence if needed. The team then meets with the caregiver to explain next steps and ensure the family is connected to appropriate services, including trauma-informed behavioral health care. Information gathered during the forensic interview helps guide investigative decisions, supports prosecutorial review, and ensures that children and families are connected to appropriate medical care and behavioral health services. CAC advocates continue to support the family by coordinating referrals and providing updates as the investigation and care process moves forward including court accompaniment, protection orders, and ongoing support. This work depends on trained professionals and coordinated services that allow CACs to respond quickly when children and families need help. This coordinated response is why CACs are recognized nationally as the gold standard for responding to child abuse.

After the Legislature's recent support for Child Advocacy Centers, we did not anticipate needing to raise additional funding concerns so soon. However, a newly identified \$1.5 million funding gap in FY27 has emerged following federal cuts. These funds supported the salaries of frontline professionals who work directly with children and families such as multiple advocate positions, pediatric SANE positions, mental health clinicians, forensic interviewers, case managers, and program managers.

The Alaska Children's Alliance continues to pursue all available funding opportunities, including support through our congressional delegation and private philanthropy. Child Advocacy Centers are also exploring opportunities through Rural Health Transformation funds to strengthen our statewide network and expand services into more communities across Alaska. The long-term impacts of childhood trauma are well documented and can lead to significant health and social challenges later in life. The Alaska Children's Alliance and the Child Advocacy Centers we serve across the state are profoundly grateful to the Legislature for its continued support in helping ensure these critical services remain available to Alaska's children and families.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanna Penfold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joanna" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Penfold".

Joanna Penfold MS
Executive Director
Alaska Children's Alliance
director@akchildrensalliance.org
(907) 654-9022

Good afternoon, Chair and members of the Finance Committee.

My name is Nicole Songer, and I am the Executive Director of the Cordova Family Resource Center in Cordova, Alaska. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

First, I would like to sincerely thank DPS Finance Subcommittee Chair Representative Jimmie and the members of the subcommittee for recognizing the importance of these services and including increases in the proposed budget: **\$1.2 million for victim services and \$500,000 for legal assistance in the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault grants line, \$592,000 for direct payments to victims through the Violent Crimes Compensation Board, and \$1.5 million to support Children’s Advocacy Centers within DFYS.**

For a small, remote community like Cordova, these funds make a very real difference. Our community has no road system connecting us to the rest of the state, limited housing, and limited access to services. **CFRC is often the first—and sometimes the only—place people can turn when they are experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, or other violent crimes.**

The **\$1.2 million increase for victim services**, along with **\$500,000 for legal assistance**, helps keep programs like ours operating. These funds allow us to maintain trained advocates who answer our **24-hour helpline and text line**, respond to crises, and support survivors through incredibly difficult moments. When a survivor must undergo a sexual assault forensic exam, an advocate from CFRC can be there—sitting beside them, explaining the process, and making sure they do not face that experience alone.

Often, CFRC advocates support survivors who have experienced sexual assault. We are able to respond quickly, coordinate the forensic exam, and remain with the survivor throughout the process. **Survivors in Cordova cannot simply drive to another town for services.** Having a trained advocate locally means someone is there to listen, explain what to expect, be present during the exam, and remind that person they are not alone. The process—from the forensic exam to the investigation and sometimes through the criminal justice system—can take years, and CFRC advocates remain alongside survivors every step of the way.

The **\$592,000 increase for the VCCB** is also critical. These funds help victims cover medical care, counseling, or travel when services are not available locally.

The **\$1.5 million investment in CAC’s** strengthens the coordinated response for children who have experienced abuse. In small communities like ours, these partnerships between advocates, law enforcement, and child protection professionals are essential.

In communities like Cordova, these services are not abstract programs—they are lifelines. They mean someone answers the phone in the middle of the night. They mean a child has a safe place to tell their story. They mean a survivor knows they are not alone.

“In communities like ours, these funds are not just numbers in a budget — they are the difference between someone facing violence alone, or having a trained advocate standing beside them when they need it most.”

On behalf of the Cordova Family Resource Center and the community we serve, I respectfully ask the full Finance Committee to **maintain these increases in the final budget.**

Thank you for your continued support of victims and survivors across Alaska.



PO Box 672069
Chugiak, Alaska 99567
(907) 688-0163

March 11, 2026

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Following the interview, the child is offered a medical exam to assess their physical well-being and collect evidence if needed. The team then meets with the caregiver to explain next steps and ensure the family is connected to appropriate services, including trauma-informed behavioral health care. Information gathered during the forensic interview helps guide investigative decisions, supports prosecutorial review, and ensures that children and families are connected to appropriate medical care and behavioral health services. CAC advocates continue to support the family by coordinating referrals and providing updates as the investigation and care process moves forward including court accompaniment, protection orders, and ongoing support. This work depends on trained professionals and coordinated services that allow CACs to respond quickly when children and families need help. This coordinated response is why CACs are recognized nationally as the gold standard for responding to child abuse.

After the Legislature's recent support for Child Advocacy Centers, we did not anticipate needing to raise additional funding concerns so soon. However, a newly identified \$1.5 million funding gap in FY27 has emerged following federal cuts. These funds supported the salaries of frontline professionals who work directly with children and families such as multiple advocate positions, pediatric SANE positions, mental health clinicians, forensic interviewers, case managers, and program managers.

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanna Penfold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joanna" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Penfold".

Joanna Penfold MS
Executive Director
Alaska Children's Alliance
director@akchildrensalliance.org
(907) 654-9022

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Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 456-2866
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www.rcpcfairbanks.org



A Member Agency of



Backed by
National Children's Alliance*
Accredited Member

Our mission is to create a culture that values parenting and keeping children safe through education, respect, advocacy, and strengthening families.

March 11, 2026

Dear Members of the 34th Alaska State Legislature:

On behalf of the Alaska Children's Alliance and the Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) across our state, thank you for the **\$5.5 million allocated in the FY26 budget to support Child Advocacy Centers in Alaska**. Your continued investment demonstrates a strong commitment to protecting children and supporting families in some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

Child Advocacy Centers play a critical role in Alaska's response to child abuse and neglect. As you know, Alaska has the highest rates of child abuse in the nation, CACs provide a **safe, child-focused setting where children who may have experienced abuse can be interviewed and supported without having to repeat their story multiple times to different agencies**. At a CAC, a multidisciplinary team – including law enforcement, OCS, medical providers, behavioral health professionals, District Attorneys, and victim advocates – works together to ensure that children receive coordinated care. Services often include **forensic interviews, medical evaluations, trauma-informed mental health services, victim advocacy, and support for non-offending caregivers**. This collaborative approach helps reduce additional trauma for children, strengthens investigations, and ensures that families are connected to the resources they need to begin healing. In communities across Alaska, CACs are often the central hub for child abuse response and long-term recovery services.

We also want to provide additional context regarding FY26 funding. In FY26, **two CACs in Alaska did not apply for a portion of the additional funding that had been allocated**. This was the funding made available to the CACs via a grant application process this past fall. This decision was made carefully and conservatively, as those centers had active **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) grants operating under a no-cost extension**. At the time we were advocating for funding during the last legislative session, we were not aware that those federal extensions would be available. That DOJ funding has now concluded as of **February 2026**.

At the same time, the **Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA)** has voted to **reduce funding to CACs beginning in FY27 due to federal funding cuts**. As a result, Alaska's CAC network is projected to face a **\$1.5 million shortfall next year**. These funds historically supported **direct frontline services for children and families**, including advocacy, forensic interviewing, and trauma-informed mental health support.

We appreciate the opportunity that allowed CACs to **access new FY26 state funding beginning December 19th**. While this was later in the fiscal year than typical, it is common at this point in the fiscal cycle for some funding to remain unexpended. CACs across the state are **actively applying these resources to the critical work we do every day**, ensuring that children experiencing abuse receive timely support, coordinated investigations, and access to healing services.

Thank you again for your commitment to Alaska's children and for recognizing the vital role that Child Advocacy Centers play in keeping them safe. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that every child in Alaska has access to the services and protection they deserve.

Respectfully,

Leigh A. Bolin, LCSW, MAC
Executive Director, Resource Center for Parents and Children
Board President, Alaska Children's Alliance
(907) 799-3397
lbolin@rcpcfairbanks.org



Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

1008 Fish Creek Rd

Juneau, AK 99801

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February 26, 2026

Senate Finance Committee
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Finance Committee Chairs and members,

We are writing today in support of Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission budget and request that \$211.0 be returned to 3000-Services so it is at a sustainable level of \$508.2 and \$500.0 funding for the IT modernization program. CFEC brings in sufficient funds to adequately fund the agency and program as long as the funding isn't siphoned off for to reduce ADF&G commercial fishing divisions reliance on general funds.

The IT modernization program is necessary and long overdue. While they have started on the modernization, they did not have a clear idea of the cost and stated that going into this modernization process. In addition to the work that has been done already an additional increment of \$500.0 for the next three years they can keep the current system functioning as they begin the process of moving to a newer and more supportable platform that would include automated permit renewals while not disrupting current operation of the agency.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director



Retired Public Employees of Alaska, APEA/AFT
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P. O. Box 110650, Anchorage, AK 99511-0650
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February 20, 2026

The Honorable Andy Josephson
The Honorable Neal Foster
The Honorable Calvin Schrage
Alaska State House of Representatives
Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Retirement System Funding

Dear Representatives Josephson, Foster and Schrage:

I am writing on behalf of the Executive Board of the Retired Public Employees of Alaska (RPEA) regarding the Governor's Proposed FY27 Budget on retirement system funding.¹

The RPEA is very concerned that the Governor's proposed budget does not follow the action recommended by the Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARMB) with respect to the State of Alaska's FY27 "Additional State Contribution" for both the PERS and TRS Defined Benefit (DB) pension systems.

The RPEA is concerned because, as we understand it, Governor Dunleavy is the first governor in twenty years (since the ARMB's inception) **not** to adopt the resolutions of the ARMB with respect to that agency's recommended annual Additional State Contributions aimed at liquidating the State's PERS and TRS defined benefit pension liabilities by 2039.

As members of the Finance Committee are aware, the ARMB was established by law, effective October 1, 2005, to serve as the trustee of the assets of the State's retirement systems, and to establish and determine the investment objectives and policy for each of the retirement funds entrusted to it, including annually *setting an appropriate contribution rate for liquidating any past service liability* [see AS 37.10.220(a)(8), emphasis added].

On September 17, 2025, during its fall 2025 meeting, the ARMB adopted Resolution 2025-11 (Scenario 1d) and Resolution 2025-14 (Scenario 1d), impacting the PERS DB retirement system and the TRS DB retirement system, respectively. Together, these recommendations set the Additional State Contribution for FY27 at \$270.3 Million.

¹ See HB0263a and SB0213a, Section 27, titled "Retirement System Funding, page 78, Lines 7 through 18.

The Scenario selected by the ARMB (i.e., 1d) was one of six options² proposed by Arthur J. Gallagher & Company (Gallagher) to both the Alaska Division of Retirement & Benefits (DRB) [in an August 28, 2025, letter] and the ARMB during its meeting of September 16 – 18, 2025.³

In his FY27 proposed operating budget, Governor Dunleavy selected Scenario 1b from the six options presented by Gallagher. This scenario sets the Additional State Contribution at \$232.4 Million. This represents a difference of \$37.8 Million from the ARMB's recommendation.

The RPEA firmly believes that meeting the goal of eliminating the State's pension liabilities in just over a decade from now requires that the State endorse and fully align with the policies and methodologies recommended by the ARMB.

The Governor's decision to deviate from twenty years of practice is alarming to the retired public employee members of the RPEA because it overturns the significant work and policy decisions of the very agency charged by statute with annually setting the appropriate contribution rate for liquidating any past service liability.

The ARMB Board's adoption of Scenario 1d also reflects policy decisions it adopted last year to bring its amortization policies in line with current industry standards, rejecting an insistence on continuing to operate under a 25-year layered amortization policy.

Conversely, Scenario 1b, the Scenario selected by the Administration, asserts a preference for a 25-year layered amortization methodology, despite the ARMB's substantial policy review and actions during 2025 to free its management of the retirement funds from that strict and outmoded policy.

What the substitution of the Governor's Scenario 1b for the ARMB's Scenario 1d means, in terms of impact on the unfunded liability, is simple: if the 25-year layered amortization methodology is allowed to stand and is adopted by future governors and legislatures, it extends the period of time it will take the State to liquidate its pension liabilities.

Page Three

² The PERS and TRS options presented were numbered *Scenario* 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b in Gallagher's presentation to the ARMB on 9/16/2025, and were titled *Exhibits* 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, and 2b in Gallagher's letter to Division of Retirement & Benefits (DRB) Director Kathy Lea, but they presented the same information. These six options differed by their handling of the Healthcare Normal Cost and the Amortization Methodology applied to the unfunded liability. A quick review of the differences presented by these six options is found on the last page (pg. 126) of the Gallagher presentation, a link to which is provided in the footnote below.

³ Gallagher (formerly Buck) is the ARMB's and the DRB's actuarial consultant of long-standing. Attached [here](#) is a copy of the 207 pages of materials before the ARMB's Actuarial Committee on 9/16/2025, including copies of the two relevant ARMB resolutions and the entire Gallagher PowerPoint presentation. The adopted PERS ARMB Resolution 2025-11 is found on pgs. 127–129, and pgs. 136 & 137 of the Actuarial Committee materials. The adopted TRS Resolution 2025-14, is found on pgs. 147 & 148 and pgs. 155 & 156 of those materials. The Gallagher presentation is found in pgs. 59–126 of the Committee materials, including the letter to DRB Director Lea on pgs. 116–126.

House Finance Co-Chairs
February 20, 2026

And while reducing the contribution this year would save FY27 General Funds, it also means, if the State stayed on this course, that over time the unfunded liability costs would continue to grow.

If, however, the State stays with the course recommended by the ARMB in Scenario 1d, while costs are somewhat higher in the near term, by 2033 the needed annual state contribution drops precipitously, and by 2039 is zeroed out.

The RPEA believes strongly that Alaska Legislature should honor the work of the ARMB in managing the State's significant public retirement pension funds and adopt its recommendation of Scenario 1d with respect to the Additional State Contributions for the FY27 proposed budget.

We reject the suggestion that the efforts and expertise of the ARMB can be ignored and its work to meet its PERS and TRS fiduciary responsibilities discarded. Therefore, we are certainly encouraged to see that the full appropriation is included in HB 263 (HCS1), and we respectfully request that the Legislature maintains that commitment throughout the budget process.

We thank you for your consideration of this admittedly complex but highly impactful matter.

Sincerely,

Randall Burns
RPEA President

cc: House Finance Committee Members
RPEA Membership

From: [Elena Shawback](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB265 - Mental Health Budget
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 1:07:27 PM
Attachments: [alaska-department-of-health-behavioral-health-report-2025.pdf](#)

DOMAIN CHANGE: Our email domain has updated to @MSHSAK.ORG, please update your address books!.

**Written Testimony to the Alaska House Finance Committee
Regarding HB 265 – Mental Health Budget
Community Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery (CBHTR)**

Chair and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is **Elena Shawback**, and I serve as the Chief Executive Officer of **Mat-Su Health Services** in the Mat-Su Valley. I am writing today to respectfully request that the Legislature **maintain or increase the Community Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery (CBHTR) funding levels included in the Governor’s budget and ensure these funds are allocated to behavioral health providers delivering services across the state.**

Community behavioral health providers are a critical component of Alaska’s mental health system. CBHTR funding allows providers to deliver services to adults with serious behavioral health needs in community settings, helping individuals remain stable and preventing higher-cost interventions such as hospitalization, incarceration, or homelessness.

Currently, providers across Alaska are facing **grant reductions of approximately 75 percent.** Reductions of this magnitude would significantly impact the ability of community providers to sustain existing programs and maintain access to services. In the Mat-Su Valley, these cuts would result in fewer behavioral health services available to adults who rely on community-based treatment and recovery supports. For Mat-Su Health Services alone, these reductions place **27–30 behavioral health jobs at risk**, representing highly trained professionals who provide essential services to individuals and families throughout the region.

The Department of Behavioral Health has indicated that the current grant structure is being revised while future funding levels are still being determined. As part of this restructuring, services previously funded through a single program are being separated into three grant programs: adult services, children’s services, and psychiatric emergency services. While program refinement can support improved service alignment over time, this transition will require providers to submit multiple grant applications and manage separate grant contracts and reporting requirements. This structure will also increase administrative processes for the State, including issuing multiple requests for proposals, evaluating applications, and administering separate grant awards. As behavioral health systems work to meet growing demand for services, minimizing administrative complexity helps ensure that the greatest possible share of resources remains focused on direct care.

Additionally, there has been discussion that Medicaid reimbursement may be sufficient to support behavioral health services. However, the Guidehouse rate evaluation commissioned by the Alaska Department of Health in 2025 identified significant misalignment between

reimbursement rates and the actual costs associated with delivering many behavioral health services. The evaluation found that reimbursement levels for certain services do not fully reflect the cost of care and that Alaska's behavioral health system experiences substantial variability between rates and operational expenses.

It is also important to recognize that assumptions used in statewide rate modeling do not always capture the operational realities faced by community providers. Factors such as client no-show rates, productivity expectations, travel time, and workforce availability can vary significantly across regions and service types. When reimbursement assumptions differ from real-world service delivery conditions, providers must absorb the gap between reimbursement and the cost of care.

Community behavioral health providers across Alaska have worked diligently to build systems that ensure individuals can access care early and remain connected to services before their conditions escalate into crisis situations. Maintaining these systems requires stable funding and a workforce capable of delivering care consistently across communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **maintain or increase CBHTR funding at the levels proposed in the Governor's budget and ensure that these funds are distributed to providers delivering behavioral health services across Alaska's communities.**

Stable and predictable funding supports workforce retention, protects access to care, and helps ensure that Alaskans experiencing mental health and substance use challenges can receive timely services close to home.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to strengthening Alaska's behavioral health system.

Sincerely,

Elena Shawback

Chief Executive Officer
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Dedicated to improving the Health of Our Community, One Person at a Time--
Through affordable medical, dental and behavioral health care.

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