

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Education

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Joint Armed Services

Judiciary
Vice-Chair

REPRESENTATIVE ZACH FANSLER DISTRICT 38

TO: Senator Coghill

FROM: Rep. Zach Fansler 

DATE: 4-5-17

RE: House Bill 106 Questions

While my staff Mary spoke on HB 106 with staff members of Senate Judiciary members a few questions come up.

In relation to other state's allocations to similar organization as it stands now every other state in US, with the exception of Idaho, provides funding to support legal aid organizations. Additionally, 33 other states use court fees and/or fines to fund legal aid. There is a broad range of state contributions for legal aid which varies by the size of population of the state. For instance, a big state like Texas contributed \$9 million in a straight appropriation plus another \$18-19 million from filing fees and/or fines last year; whereas states with smaller populations give less. Wyoming (similar to Alaska in terms of population and rurality) appropriated \$1.3 Million last year from court filing fees.

In relation to state funding in the past ten years alongside caseload. Please see figures below:

State Grant Funding Alaska Legal Services Caseload

FY'17 450,000	2016: 2,880
FY'16 450,000	2015: 2,671
FY'15 550,000	2014: 2,492
FY'14 550,000	2013: 2,587
FY'13 550,000	2012: 2,542
FY'12 350,000	2011: 2,441
FY'11 350,000	2010: 2,420
FY'10 200,000	2009: 2,431
FY'09 200,000	2008: 2,320
FY'08 200,000	2007: 2,304