

Helen Phillips

From: Burns Cooper <gbcooper@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 1:58 PM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: The state budget catastrophe

Dear Representatives Thompson, Neuman, Saddler, Edgmon, Gattis, Munoz, Pruitt, Wilson, Gara, Guttenberg, and Kawasaki, Chairs and members of the House Finance Committee:

I am deeply worried about Alaska's future, and disappointed in the Legislature's handling of the budget. Low oil prices are inescapable, but some of the drastic cuts being proposed, and the way they're being decided, are not. Please consider some other options, especially in terms of raising revenue instead of making more cuts. It's a cliché by now, but it's still true: we can't cut our way out of this mess. I'm willing to accept more taxes and/or reduced Permanent Fund dividends if it means keeping our institutions and infrastructure viable. My choice would be a

I'm especially worried about the University of Alaska. It's one of the biggest contributors to the state's economy, its quality of life, and its chances of making the transition into an economy less dependent on oil. The University President's "Strategic Pathways" plan is not a solution, but only a nicer name for amputations, or perhaps executions. It takes decades to build up a good university, but only a couple of years to destroy one. Once we've gotten rid of large numbers of faculty, shut down research infrastructure, and persuaded students and parents that UA is not a competitive choice compared to other universities they could go to, there's no getting it back.

I've lived in Fairbanks since 1990; this is my home. But I simply couldn't live here with no UAF, or with a UAF degraded to a diploma mill or industrial training program status. UAF is what makes Fairbanks special, a place young people want to stay. If you kill UAF, you kill Fairbanks, plain and simple. If you kill UA, you kill Alaska.

Thank you for considering my views.

Burns Cooper

745 Goldfinch Road

Fairbanks, AK 99709

(House District 4)

Helen Phillips

From: Gina M Williams <gmwilliams@uaa.alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 12:06 PM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: Testimony for Budget

To whom it may concern,

When I read the proposed cuts for the budget it made me cringe and have empathy for those of you that are tasked with the horrendous job of balancing Alaska's budget. I ask that when you are working and in the thick and throws of the numbers, paperwork and gavels remember the future of this great states lies with our children and if the funding to the University is cut so drastically our children may be forced to go out of state to obtain an education. Currently UA provides one of the best educations money can buy. I admit that I may be biased as a UAF Alumna and a current employee of UAA's Student Health and Counseling Center. I'm proud to say I am one of the 60 % of UA graduates that work in Alaska five years after graduation. Since I have experience within the UA system, I can tell you that hands down that my children would benefit from having the University continue to offer excellent services, top notch degree programs and cutting edge research . Proper funding of this intuition will contribute to that excellence. Having all of this available to them in their own backyard is a tremendous benefit.

In addition these cuts will effect families because jobs will be lost. UA is a big employer to many Alaskans. To have that source harshly shaved could potentially drive Alaska's unemployment rate up. It's a trickledown effect that many may not be able to recover from. I'm sure this task is great but trust that all of you will think about the budget decision as if it will affect you directly as mother tell their children "Treat others how you want to be treated".

I want to leave you with words of encouragement as the ending to this testimony "Education is the most powerful weapon you Can use to Change the World" Nelson Mandela, Education is not Preparation for life: Education IS Life itself" John Dewey and finally " One child, one teacher, one book and one **pen** can Change the World" Nalala Yousafzai

I pray that all of you understand the magnitude of your decision and you consider every aspect before the decision is final.

Thank you
Gina M Williams
SHCC
CMA, AAMA

Physical Health Provider 2