

**From:** [MIKEHEIDI HINK](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Restore education funding!  
**Date:** Saturday, April 25, 2015 12:00:08 PM

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Dear Finance Committee Members:

As a resident of Alaska for almost 20 years, I thank you for your service to our state, and I realize the difficulty of the task in front of you. However, you also must realize that while the state budget needs urgent attention, cuts to education funding are not the answer. I believe that the short-term fix of cutting education funding will not only short-change our students, but also have a detrimental effect on the state's economy in the long run. For our district, less funding will mean fewer teachers, and less time for remaining teachers to plan and prepare to do their jobs well, especially with the resulting larger class sizes. This, in turn, will result in more students falling through the cracks and leaving school without all the necessary skills to be successful. Fewer well-prepared Alaskans will equate to more labor needed from outside the state, which we as a state know from decades of experience means that more of the money generated in the state will leave the state.

I could go on and on about the downward spiral that ensues from cuts to education funding, but the bottom line is that education (second only, I believe, to strong families) is the glue that holds our society and our economy together. As it is allowed to erode, other aspects of our society and our economy will erode as well.

Thank you for your time, and your effort.

Heidi E. Hink  
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