

Testimony of Joseph H. Murray
P.O. Box 39014
Elim, Alaska 99739

Resident of Elim, Alaska

My Name is Joseph H. Murray and I am a registered voter and a resident of Elim, Alaska. We have an Early Head Start/Head Start Program here that is run by Kawerak Inc.. Kawerak in administering the program has developed a comprehensive program which involves parents and teachers which help the children grow mentally, socially, emotionally and physically. Kawerak Head Start children are examined by skilled professionals for any health problems. Professionals will arrange vision and hearing tests and any needed immunizations. Head Start offers a nutrition assessment and dental exams as well. Children with health needs receive follow-up care. Mental, Behavioral health and other services are available for children and families who wish to receive them. The Head Start Program at Kawerak includes getting the parents involved in educating their children, child rearing for parents along with many other resources for the parents.

I have a grand-daughter attending the early head start program and my 2 year old grandson should be attending soon when he gets old enough. I have seen a tremendous amount of new things my grand-daughter has learned when she started attending this program. She turned 4 years old in December and is already starting to learn how to spell her name, she has learned her ABC's and she has already learned to count to 20. Every time she comes to our house she wants us to read a book to her, then she starts to count or say her ABC's. I think that it is really great that she wants us to read a book to her instead of watching cartoons. My grand-daughter has stated to her mother many times that she wants to go to school when she wakes up in the morning. If you are looking for ways to create jobs in Alaska, this program has been a great program, which has created 5 jobs for this community as well as educating our children at the same time. Education should be a high priority for the State of Alaska and this nation so that in educating our children we can and may in the process reduce alcoholism and drug addiction which has caused our jails to be full due to poverty and no jobs available. We already have a new head start building in place and it would be a waste to see it sitting there empty should you cut this program. I encourage you all to think about this program and urge you not to cut the early head start/head start program not only in Elim but for the whole State of Alaska Head Start Program. Please don't cut this program. Thank you.

Mindy ONeall

From: Ellen Wood [ellen.viavant@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 9:47 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Les Gara
Subject: Testimony on the Budget

I strongly oppose lowering taxes on the oil companies. I have not heard or read any evidence that convinces me that this is necessary to promote a "better business climate" for the oil companies that would lead to "more jobs." It will simply deplete the state coffers. I am a teacher, and also oppose any bill that will take resources away from education. I think bringing in less revenue from oil taxes will, without question, impact the education we can provide for our students. I am disturbed to learn that the pilot Pre-K program was cut from the budget. This is shameful; outrageous. We are a relatively wealthy state, compared to many. We CAN afford to fund programs like a Pre-K that will reap many benefits down the road in the education of children, especially those from families who aren't able to provide early learning experiences for their children, experiences that do lead to increased academic success. Thank you all for your efforts to see that this bill (lowering oil taxes) does not become law. Please keep trying to support the education of our children through very well-documented beneficial programs like the proposed Pre-K. Thank you!

Ellen Wood
PO BOX 83053
Fairbanks, AK 99708

House Finance Committee Public Testimony 2 March, 2011

Fairbanks LJO (Melba) 452-4448

Finance Committee

Stoltze Co-Chair
Thomas Co-Chair
Fairclough Vice-Chair

2 min limit

Operating Budget Public Comment.

Danita Koehler, MD
EMS Medical Director
Member, Governor's Council on Emergency Medical Services

Residence: Milepost 1379 Alaska Highway, Dry Creek, AK 99737

Narrative:

~~" Co-chairs Stoltze, Thomas, Vice Chair Fairclough and Committee Members"~~

Thank you for this opportunity. The opinions expressed today are my own.

In light of the historical events taking place and the enormous self-sacrifices common citizens are making in Arab States throughout Africa, my right to testify before you is truly a privilege and duty. God Bless America, and thank you for the work you do.

I am speaking to you on the needs prehospital emergency medical providers in this state, and specifically the need to close the gap in funding for the EMS unit of the Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Programs. Yesterday you received testimony from Mark Johnson in Juneau regarding the gaps in staffing the State Office EMS unit, the unfilled staff position of Emergency Programs Chief and funding for EMS programs.

I am a medical director for EMT's and paramedics and a member of the Governor's Council for EMS.

The Institute of Medicine produced a white paper in June of 2006 that included comments about prehospital EMS being at a 'cross-roads' and breaking point. The National Report Card on the State of Emergency Medicine graded each state on emergency medical services. The State of Alaska received a D+.

Since those two reports, we have close some gaps. You all passed and the Governor signed into law, the Trauma Bill. Disaster funding in the Emergency Programs has seen an increase in its funding.

Emergency Programs includes a separate unit called EMS. This is the Unit responsible for managing ground and air ambulances and the various organizations and people that work in those areas. We should be married together I suppose: Disaster Preparedness and EMS, since if you don't have any first responders or EMTs or paramedics digging people out of crushed building or extracting them from mangled vehicles then you don't really have a response at all.

This is what I wish to relay to you all today. EMS- is broke in this state.

We are hanging on—those of us who have served for so many years. Two thirds of our States EMS providers are volunteers. You can't get cheaper than that. The problem is similar to the VPSO crisis which you all have worked so hard to improve. 911 medical calls go unanswered for perhaps two or three tone-outs before someone responds.

In some areas of the State.

There are 8 positions in the EMS office, three of which are unfilled. The open position for the Chief of the Emergency Programs needs to be prioritized. The Chair of the Governor's Council for EMS describes EMS as a turning wheel with the hub being the state office and the metal that hits the road the various responders that directly take care of patients. We cannot do our jobs if the hub is broke.

Thank you for your attention this year and in the coming years to the public safety issues related to EMS.

Dan N Koehn ms

House Finance Committee Public Testimony
March 2, 2011

I am in favor of maintaining the FY11 level of funding for Alaska's Tourism through ATIA. Please maintain the \$9 million in the core program and continue the 30% matching funds. Tourism is an economic driver in our state that helps many Alaskans and continues to attract more visitors and businesses to our state. As we embark on a concerted effort to reach the Arts & Culture Traveler, who spends more, stays longer, extends their visit just to attend an arts & culture event, opening or exhibit, State support of these partnering efforts with Tourism is critical. Tourism marketing needs your support. I am opposed to any attempt to unfairly increase the tourism industry's match requirement. Tourism is just now recovering from the incredible hit in the recent past. Support our state and this easy economic driver that realizes so much for our entire state.

Thank you,

Terese Kaptur, Director
Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival
P.O. Box 82510
Fairbanks, AK 99708
907 474 8860
www.fsaf.org

Mission: To provide to participants highly qualified guest artists who offer multidisciplinary study and performance opportunities that increase both personal growth and arts appreciation in the community.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the ~~HESS~~ HF/N Committee
on HB 109 dated 3.2.11.

I would like to share how PMHS has been so helpful to my Well Being Mentally + Physically. I have Been in therapy for 30 years, the last 10 years I have used PMHS Services and it has been the Best Experience I've had in so many years. Without PMHS I might not have made it thru. PMHS has so many different Services That are so important to our Community. Please allow this to stay the same for so many good reasons and the Well Being of All of us That need Services and The Families That Benefit as well.

Signed: Brandie Webster (Brandie Webster)
Testifier

PMHS (Petersburg Mental Health Services)
Representing (optional)

PO BOX 1381, Petersburg, AK, 99833
Address

907 772 2155
Telephone



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFIN Committee
on HB109 dated 3-2-11.

The services have helped me stay out of the hospital and keep me alive. Because of their commitment to me I would have not graduated high school due to my depression and PTSD. PMHS has gone above and beyond with their services. They provide me with as many sessions as I need. They also do a lot of services outside of business hours. for example I am able to call them no matter the time of the day or night. They take me to the ER when I am in danger of hurting myself. Because of them I am now stable enough to work and live on my own. Because I am not able to pay for the services they still allow me to receive multiple services 5 days a week. They also come to my doctor appointments with me. They are very supportive and believe in me when I have no hope for myself. Please give them more funding so me and people like me can continue to have healthy lives.

Signed: Morgan Falter Morgan Falter
Testifier
PMHS Petersburg Mental Health Services
Representing (optional)
Pobox 1868 Petersburg AK 99833
Address
907-518-0560
Telephone



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee

on House Bill 109 dated March 2, 2011.

If you care about keeping people alive & mentally healthy in Petersburg you should provide the money needed to keep Petersburg Mental Health running. I moved to Petersburg this past August. One of my closest friends has been a client at PMH ~~for~~ since February of last year. At 19 yrs old she was suffering with debilitating depression & Post-traumatic Stress disorder. In the past six months I have been impressed with the level of service PMH has provided. My friend has been suicidal at times and literally would not be here without her counselor's help. Her counselor helped her graduate from high school & stays up late almost nightly texting & talking with my friend to give her the support she needs. She has taken her to the hospital numerous times and sat with her for hours when she has been a danger to herself. She works closely with her employer to make sure she can handle her workload and be a productive member of society. She goes with my friend to weekly medical doctor visits to make sure her medications and physical health are okay. More than anything the services PMH have given her have given her a level of safety and security she could not have found elsewhere. I am convinced that without the excellent services of PMH my friend would not be alive today.

Signed: _____

Testifier

Petersburg Mental Health Services
Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1561 Petersburg, AK 99833
Address

907-772-2378
Telephone



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HEIN Committee
on HB 109 dated 3-4-11.

Petersburg Mental Health Services, Inc.

I HAVE BEEN USING THE SERVICES OF PMHS FOR ABOUT 18 YEARS, AND THEY HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS HELP TO ME AND MY CHILDREN. THE THERAPISTS AND STAFF ARE ALWAYS VERY PROFESSIONAL, AND DO THEIR UTMOST TO FIT ME INTO THEIR TIGHT SCHEDULES AND LIMITED STAFF.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT THEM, CONCERNING MY OWN MENTAL HEALTH, AS THEY HAVE COUNSELLED AND HELPED ME THRU THE GRIEVOUSNESS OF EVENTS IN MY LIFE. THEY ARE A PEAR EXCELLENCE FACILITY.

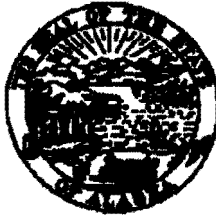
HOWEVER, THEY ARE OVERCROWDING THEIR OFFICES, AND OFTEN NEED MORE STAFF FOR THE MANY CITIZENS OF THIS TOWN. THEY PROVIDE A CRUCIAL SERVICE TO THIS COMMUNITY, AND SIMPLY NEED MORE MONEY TO OPERATE TO THEIR CAPACITY.

Signed: Dieter Klose
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Box 1522 PETERSBURG, 99833
Address

907-772-3457
Telephone



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFIN
on HB109 dated 3-7-11

Committee

Hello

My experience with Alaska mental health has led me to believe there is no place like it anywhere in the 50 states of America. My family and I went around the country trying to find help for my daughter and had little success until we brought her to Petersburg where she has made miraculous progress in the state of her birth. Returning to Alaska made a big difference but the level of her care here is the greater part in her steady recovery. Please find all available resources for the continued funding of this invaluable service that has made such a difference in our lives.

Thanks,
Jeff Ray
907-772-2030

Signed: 

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1864 Petersburg, AK 99833

Address

907 772-2030

Telephone



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HF IN Committee
on HB 109 dated 3-7-11.

Hello. My name is Madeline Ray and I have Schizoaffective disorder. Ever since I came to Petersburg and PMHS I've come from being actively suicidal to being still alive as well as independent, stable and working.

Before I came here I went to the best residential. I wanted to be discharged but no one, no doctor would except me in the U.S. except PMHS. They let me stay at their agency and watched me all day while my mom worked. They had to watch me as if I was in residential. I've come a very long way with their help and I still need ~~there~~ their support.

Thank you,

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1864 Petersburg, AK 99853

Address

907-772-2081

Telephone

**Petersburg Legislative
Information Office
State of Alaska
Legislative Affairs Agency**

PO Box 1470
Petersburg, AK 99833
Petersburg_lia@legis.state.ak.us
907.772.3741 Fax 772.3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: House Finance
FAX: 907.465.2652
PHONE: 907.465.3732/ Rep Bill Thomas

DATE: 3.2.2011

3 pages to follow this cover. Written Testimony for HB 109: FY12 Mental Health Budget. Please provide copy to all HFIN Members and enter these into the Bill record for today's Hearing.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellen Rojcewicz", followed by the number "113".

Ellen Rojcewicz
Petersburg LIO



Alaska State Legislature

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Representing (optional)

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Alaska State Legislature

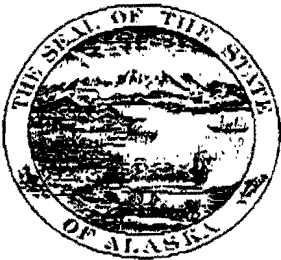
Please enter into the record my testimony to the HF 11
committee name

committee on HB 109 , dated 3, 3, 2011
bill/subject

I am Kurt Holmberg
I could have not have had any
of the information that I have
if not for the TBI meetings that
I and my girlfriend have gone to
2/monthly meetings. we have learned
more in these meetings than a
councillor has given us in over a 6
months.
Thank you

Signed: Kurt Holmberg
Testifier

~~HB 109~~
Representing (Optional)
503 Parks Aly Fairview RV
Address
907-720-2445
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Finance

Committee name

Committee on

HB109

, dated

3-3-11

Bill/Subject

I am Carol Long
& in full support for the 500,000
due to I am a member that has had
a brain injury in "93" which has left
me with a life of did I do this &
has dealt with being know as the
person with a limp. Without this
program members like me would not
have unanswered questions answered.

Signed:

Carol Long

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Warilla AK

Address

907-220 2445

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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on House Bill 109 dated March 2, 2011

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Signed: Stephanie Pawuk

Testifier

Petersburg Mental Health Services
Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1561 Petersburg, AK 99833
Address

907-772-2378
Telephone



Alaska State Legislature

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Thank you,

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (optional) _____

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907-772-2081
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FAXED



Alaska State Legislature

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Testifier

Representing (optional)

Box 1522 PETERSBURG, 99833
Address

907-772-3457
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FAXED

MM-03-2011 THU 07:36 AM

P. 02



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