

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Department of Health and Human Services

Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

Mayor Dan Sullivan

March 23, 2011

Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Support for Senior Meal Increment, Senior and Disabilities Services

Dear Chair Stedman and Chair Hoffman:

The Municipality of Anchorage Senior Citizens Advisory Commission respectfully seeks your support of the \$300,000 increment amendment for Senior Community Based Grants, Home Delivered & Congregate meals appropriated to Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) that was approved by the Senate Finance/Health and Social Services Sub-Committee for the Governor's operating budget. In consideration of the increased cost of food and fuel this past year, these additional funds are critically needed and will be most appreciated by Alaska Seniors and their caregivers.

In 2010, there were 10,956 (unduplicated) older Alaskans who received a total of 518,364 meals through senior nutrition programs. These meals target the most vulnerable seniors, those who are frail, low-income and disabled. These services are an essential safety net in allowing seniors to remain in their own homes, delaying the need for more costly institutionalization.

For an elderly person, unable to prepare their own meal due to financial or medical hardships, the home-delivered meals may be the only nutritious meal they get. In addition, to the meal, the daily delivery, assures a welfare check to monitor the elder's safety and well-being and social visit. Lunchtime congregate meal sites provide a nutritious meal along with opportunities to socialize and take part in senior center activities which are all key components in healthy and positive aging.

The Municipality of Anchorage Senior Citizens Advisory Commission appreciates your support of this increment for Alaska's Senior Nutrition programs. Thank you for your ongoing support of older Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Joan Fisher, Chair
Senior Citizens Advisory Commission
6800 Louise Court
Anchorage, AK 99507

Cc: Senator Donald Olson Senator Joe Thomas Senator Lesil McGuire
 Senator Dennis Egan Senator Johnny Ellis

RESOLUTION

To: Senate Finance Committee

Sponsor: Anna Wilbur Roys, Certified Teacher

Title: Alaska Performance Scholarship Considerations

WHEREAS, it is important to support, and encourage our Alaskan secondary scholars, and the ideals of the P-16 educational reform movement which strives to create a more integrated, seamless education system;

WHEREAS, recognizing that many complex issues are involved, the Alaska Performance Scholarship has the potential to be a powerful agent for change – in line with the P-16 educational reform movement;

WHEREAS, the phrase, “The kids are our future,” may have been overused and thereby lost its impact and meaning in public spheres, it is still very true and deserves careful consideration;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Performance Scholarship will make higher education feasible for many 2011 qualified high school senior scholars who would otherwise be unable to pursue post secondary education;

WHEREAS, our secondary scholars who qualify for the scholarship program need to be nurtured and supported well because they are the leaders in Alaska’s future, we should not forsake them;

WHEREAS, while NCLB works to save students at lower academic achievement levels; it is equally important that Alaskans support our scholars at the top achievement levels;

WHEREAS, It's often been said that a college is the smartest investment you can make, and earnings statistics certainly seem to bear that out; statistics compiled by the National Center for Education clearly show a wide disparity in earning power between those with a high school and college graduates which would subsequently impact our state’s economy as well;

WHEREAS, over their lifetimes, men and women who have attained at least a Bachelor's degree can expect to earn hundreds of thousands of dollars more than their high school-educated counterparts;

WHEREAS, Statistics for the year 2008 show that a male worker with a high school diploma could expect to earn an average salary of \$32,000 and women \$25,000, and in stark contrast, male workers with at least a Bachelor's degree had average earnings of \$55,000 and women \$45,000; and over a career spanning 30 years, that means a pay disparity of well over \$600,000;

CALLS UPON the Senate Finance Committee to:

1. Fund the Alaska Performance Scholarship for 2011 qualified Seniors at least at the highest level; and/or
2. Give thoughtful consideration to the idea of increasing the percentage of UA Scholars Awards for each high school in our state;

THEREFORE, if the sponsors of the idea to eliminate funding for 2011 Seniors find this Resolution and operative clauses friendly, so be it resolved.

SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium - SEARHC	Lynn Canal Medical Center	HAINES
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium - SEARHC	Pelican Health Center	PELICAN
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium - SEARHC	Tenakee Springs Health Clinic	TENAKEE SPRINGS
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium - SEARHC	Thorne Bay Health Clinic	THORNE BAY
Sunshine Community Health Center	Sunshine Community Health Center	TALKEETNA
Sunshine Community Health Center	Willow Clinic	WILLOW
Tanana Chiefs Conference - TCC	Edgar Nollner Health Center	GALENA
Tanana Chiefs Conference - TCC	Edgar Nollner Huslia Clinic	HUSLIA
Tanana Chiefs Conference - TCC	Edgar Nollner Kaltag Clinic	KALTAG
Tanana Chiefs Conference - TCC	Edgar Nollner Koyukuk Clinic	KOYUKUK
Tanana Chiefs Conference - TCC	Edgar Nollner Nulato Clinic	NULATO
Tanana Chiefs Conference - TCC	Edgar Nollner Ruby Clinic	RUBY
Tanana Chiefs Conference - TCC	Alatna Clinic	ALATNA
Tanana Chiefs Conference - TCC	Allakaket Clinic	ALLAKAKET CITY
Tanana Chiefs Conference - TCC	Frank Tobuk Sr. Health Center	BETTLES FIELD
Tanana Chiefs Conference - TCC	Hughes Clinic	HUGHES
Tanana Chiefs Conference - TCC	Nenana Clinic	NENANA
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	Yakutat Community Health Center	YAKUTAT
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Alakanuk Clinic	ALAKANUK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Anvik Health Clinic	ANVIK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Atmautluak Clinic	ATMAUTLUAK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Catherine Alexie Clinic	UPPER KALSKAG
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Chefornak Clinic	CHEFORNAK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Chevak Clinic	CHEVAK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Chuathbaluk Clinic	CHUATHBALUK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Clara Morgan Sub Regional Clinic	ANIAK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Crimet Phillips Sr. Clinic	LOWER KALSKAG
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Crooked Creek Clinic	CROOKED CREEK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Emmonak Clinic	EMMONAK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Grayling Clinic	GRAYLING
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Hooper Bay Clinic	HOOPER BAY
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	John Afcan Memorial Clinic	ST MARYS
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Kotlik Clinic	KOTLIK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Lime Village Clinic	LIME VILLAGE
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Mekoryuk Clinic	MEKORYUK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Mountain Village Clinic	MOUNTAIN VILLAGE
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Nightmute Clinic	NIGHTMUTE
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Pilot Station Clinic	PILOT STATION
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Pitka's Point Clinic	PITKAS POINT
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Scammon Bay Clinic	SCAMMON BAY
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Shageluk Clinic	SHAGELUK
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Sheldon Point Clinic (Nunam Iqua)	SHELDON POINT
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Sleetmute Clinic	SLEETMUTE
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Stony River Clinic	STONY RIVER
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Theresa Demientieff Health Clinic	HOLY CROSS
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Theresa Elia Memorial Clinic	MARSHALL
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation - YKHC	Toksook Bay Clinic	TOKSOOK BAY

Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc - EAT	St. George Health Clinic	ST GEORGE ISLAND
Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc - EAT	Whittier Health Clinic	WHITTIER
Iliuliuk Family & Health Services, Inc	Iliuliuk Family & Health Services, Inc	UNALASKA
Interior Community Health Center - ICHC	Interior Community Health Center	FAIRBANKS
Interior Community Health Center - ICHC	Interior Community Health Center, Healy	HEALY
Kodiak Island Health Care Foundation	Kodiak Community Health Center	KODIAK
Maniilaq Association	Ambler Health Clinic	AMBLER
Maniilaq Association	Buckland Clinic	BUCKLAND
Maniilaq Association	Deering Health Clinic	DEERING
Maniilaq Association	Kiana Health Clinic	KIANA
Maniilaq Association	Kivalina Clinic	KIVALINA
Maniilaq Association	Kobuk Clinic	KOBUK
Maniilaq Association	Noatak Health Clinic	NOATAK
Maniilaq Association	Noorvik Health Clinic	NOORVIK
Maniilaq Association	Point Hope Clinic	POINT HOPE
Maniilaq Association	Selawik Clinic	SELAWIK
Maniilaq Association	Shungnak Clinic	SHUNGNAK
Mat-Su Health Services, Inc.	Mat-Su health Services, Inc.	WASILLA
Municipality of Skagway	Dahl Memorial Clinic	SKAGWAY
Native Village of Eyak	Ilanka Health Center	CORDOVA
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Bessie Kaningok/Gambell Clinic	GAMBELL
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Brevig Mission Clinic	BREVIG MISSION
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Elim Clinic	ELIM
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Euksavik Clinic	UNALAKLEET
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Golovin Clinic	GOLOVIN
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Katherine Miksruaq Olanna Health Clinic	SHISHMAREF
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Koyuk Village Clinic	KOYUK
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Little Diomedé Clinic	LITTLE DIOMEDE
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Savoonga Clinic	SAVOONGA
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Shaktoolik Clinic	SHAKTOOLIK
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	St. Michael Clinic	ST MICHAEL
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Stebbins Clinic	STEBBINS
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Teller Clinic	TELLER
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	Wales Clinic	WALES
Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC	White Mountain Clinic	WHITE MOUNTAIN
Peninsula Community Health Services of Alaska	Aspen Dental Center	KENAI
Peninsula Community Health Services of Alaska	Cottonwood Health Center	SOLDOTNA
Seldovia Village Tribe	Seldovia Village Tribe Health Center	HOMER
Seldovia Village Tribe	Seldovia Village Tribe Health Center	ANCHOR POINT
Southcentral Foundation	McGrath Health Center	MCGRATH
Southcentral Foundation	Nilavéna Subregional Clinic	ILIAMNA
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium - SEARHC	Alicia Roberts Medical Clinic	KLAWOCK
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium - SEARHC	Angoon Health Center	ANGOON
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium - SEARHC	Front Street Clinic (Homeless Clinic Site)	JUNEAU
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium - SEARHC	Hydaburg Clinic	HYDABURG
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium - SEARHC	Kake Health Center	KAKE
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium - SEARHC	Kasaan Health Center	KASAAN
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium - SEARHC	Klukwan Clinic	KLUKWAN

Community Health Center Organization	Community Health Center Service Site	City
Alaska Island Community Services	TideLine Clinic	WRANGELL
Alaska Island Community Services	TLCHC-Coffman Cove	COFFMAN COVE
Alaska Island Community Services	TLCHC-Edna Bay	EDNA BAY
Alaska Island Community Services	TLCHC-Naukati	NAUKATI
Alaska Island Community Services	TLCHC-Point Baker	POINT BAKER
Alaska Island Community Services	TLCHC-Port Protection	PORT PROTECTION
Alaska Island Community Services	TLCHC-Whale Pass	WHALE PASS
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. - APIA	St Paul Health Clinic	ST PAUL ISLAND
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	Adult Rehab Prog-Salvation Army (Homeless Clinic Site)	ANCHORAGE
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	Anchorage Community Mental Health Services-Cross Over House (Homeless Clinic Site)	ANCHORAGE
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission (Homeless Clinic Site)	ANCHORAGE
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, Fairview	ANCHORAGE
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	AWAIC Shelter (Homeless Clinic Site)	ANCHORAGE
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	Brother Francis Shelter (Homeless Clinic Site)	ANCHORAGE
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	Charlie Elder Houser (Homeless Clinic Site)	ANCHORAGE
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	Clare House (Homeless Clinic Site)	ANCHORAGE
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	McAuley Manor (Homeless Clinic Site)	ANCHORAGE
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	McKinnell Emergency Shelter (Homeless Clinic Site)	ANCHORAGE
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	Safe Harbor Inn (Homeless Clinic Site)	ANCHORAGE
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center - ANHC	Salvation Army Care Kids - SACKS (Homeless Clinic Site)	ANCHORAGE
Bethel Family Clinic	Bethel Family Clinic	BETHEL
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation - BBAHC	Kanakank Hospital	DILLINGHAM
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation - BBAHC	Chignik Bay Sub Regional Clinic	CHIGNIK
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation - BBAHC	Goodnews Bay Clinic	GOODNEWS BAY
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation - BBAHC	Igiugig Health Clinic	IGIUGIG
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation - BBAHC	Manokotak Health Clinic	MANOKOTAK
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation - BBAHC	Platinum Village Clinic	PLATINUM
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation - BBAHC	Togiak Sub Regional Health Clinic	TOGIAK
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation - BBAHC	Twin Hills Health Clinic	TWIN HILLS
Bristol Bay Borough	Camai Community Health Center, Inc.	NAKNEK
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments - CATG	Arctic Village Clinic	ARCTIC VILLAGE
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments - CATG	Beaver Clinic	BEAVER
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments - CATG	Birch Creek Health Clinic	BIRCH CREEK
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments - CATG	Chalkyitsik Clinic	CHALKYITSIK
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments - CATG	Circle Clinic	CIRCLE
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments - CATG	Myra Roberts Clinic	VENETIE
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments - CATG	Rampart Clinic	RAMPART
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments - CATG	Stevens Village Clinic	STEVENS VILLAGE
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments - CATG	Yukon Flats Health Center	FORT YUKON
Cross Road Medical Center	Cross Road Medical Center	GLENNALLEN
Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc - EAT	Adak Medical Center	ADAK
Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc - EAT	Anesia Kudrin Memorial Clinic	AKUTAN
Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc - EAT	Anna Livingston Medical Clinic	COLD BAY
Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc - EAT	False Pass Clinic	FALSE PASS
Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc - EAT	King Cove Medical Clinic	KING COVE
Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc - EAT	Nelson Lagoon Clinic	NELSON LAGOON
Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc - EAT	Sand Point Medical Clinic	SAND POINT

**Explanation of \$3 Million Direct Patient Care Operating Request
for the Community Health Center Program**

Statement of Intent: The purpose of the request for \$3 million for the reinstatement of the Community Health Centers Program (CHCP) in FY 2012 is to increase direct patient care at Alaska's 25 Community Health Centers (CHCs) operating 142 CHC clinics throughout Alaska. The intent of the funding is to support direct services and 1) increase health care access, 2) improve quality of care and health outcomes, 3) promote cost-effectiveness, and 4) promote overall savings to the health care system in Alaska.

Budget Item: The CHCP was funded one-time at \$1 million in FY 2009. The operating request for \$3 million for FY 2012 is to be routed and administered through a competitive grant process under "Assistance for Community Health Facilities" (see AS 18.25.07 and 7 AAC 13.010). We would defer to Commission Streur's preference for routing the funds, but expect it might be DHSS / Division of Public Health / Health Planning & Systems Development / Primary Care Office / Community Health Centers Program.

Method of Distribution: Competitive grant application

Eligible Organizations: The 25 CHCs / "Section 330" clinics operating 142 CHC clinic sites will be eligible to apply. (During FY 2009, there were 21 successful CHC applicants.)

Primary Care: Applicants are required to identify strategies to support the program goal of increasing direct services to patients. Funds are to be used for patient direct-service capacity, not general organizational capacity. The 2008 Legislature stipulated that the FY 2009 funds were to "be made available for direct services provided by primary care community health centers operating as federal 330 facilities through a competitive grant process under 7 AAC 78."

Activities Supported: Applicants are to select strategies that fit the needs of their own catchment areas. In FY 2009, a wide range of strategies were submitted.

Applicant	Strategy-1	Strategy-2
Alaska Island Comm Srv	Dental equipment thus referrals	Physician recruitment
Aleutian/Pribilof Island Assoc	Locum coverage during fish season	Diabetes lifestyle & dietician
Anch Neighborhood Hlth Ctr	Case management for prevention	Dental care for seniors
Bethel Family Health Center	Well early-child visits to villages	
Bristol Bay Area Health Corp	ID for Cervical Cx screening in villages	
Council of Athabascan Tr. Gvt	BH Aide & DHAT services	
Cross Road Medical Ctr	Mobile HC to bush via 2 partial FTE	
Dahl Memorial Hlth Ctr	Dental equipment thus referrals	
Eastern Aleutian Tribes	Recruit dentist & re-activate dentistry	
Iliuliuk Family & Hlth Srv	Outreach & Preventive Care	
Interior Community Health Ctr	Preventive Medicine strategy	
Kodiak Island Hlth Care Found	Outreach & Preventive Care	
Mat-Su Health Services	Outsource diagnostic lab & imaging	
Native Village of Eyak (Ilanka)	Sigmoidoscope buy	Pay re-location costs
Peninsula Comm Hlth Srv	PC-BH service integration coordination	Vocational ed for SMI
SEARHC	Ultra-sound purchase; set-up/maintn	Ultra-sound leasing
Southcentral Foundation	EMS pilot project at Lake Illiamna	
Sunshine CH (Talkeetna)	Child Dental Pilot Program	Dev Transport pilot proj.
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Women's Health Screening	
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	Purchase equipment for dental operatory	
YKHC (YK-Delta)	Breast & Cervical Screen in Village	

Alaska's Community Health Centers – Direct Patient Care FY 2012 Operating Request

Alaska's Community Health Centers (CHCs) are requesting \$3 million to help provide primary care, direct patient care, to Alaskans seeking medical, dental and behavioral health treatment at one of the 142 local CHC clinics.

State assistance is needed to ensure access to health care to the underserved population, to continue screening, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, care coordination, a team approach, improved communications and increased patient engagement – all aspects of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH). This state investment will result in tremendous overall savings to the health care system by addressing medical, dental and behavioral health conditions *before* they become more acute and expensive to treat.

Our goal is to treat more Alaskans, at a lower cost to the state and at a lower cost to individual Alaskans. In 2009 CHCs treated 87,000 Alaskans, during 388,000 medical, dental and behavioral health visits. In rural areas, without these facilities, clients would need to travel to urban areas to receive basic primary care services. Reducing unnecessary medivacs and medical travel is a primary function of CHCs in rural regions. Reducing non-emergent care in emergency rooms and reducing overall hospitalizations is a function of CHCs in both rural and urban areas.

In 2009 CHCs treated 20,000 Medicaid patients, far less than 20% of Medicaid enrollees statewide. With additional funding, CHCs could treat more Medicaid patients to help bring down the costs of their overall health care. With Alaska's \$70 billion statewide Medicaid travel budget, the state would realize savings if more Medicaid patients received care at CHCs and didn't need to travel for care. Another example: a particular lab test at a CHC costs \$24 but \$119 at a hospital, an 80% savings.

We propose a \$3 million operating line item grant, to be distributed by the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Health Planning and Systems Development Section, through a competitive grant process under "Assistance for Community Health Facilities" (see AS 18.25.07 and 7 AAC 13.010). All 25 "Section 330" clinics will be eligible. This is an efficient, proven process as demonstrated in the successful FY09 one-time \$1 million CHC grant program. **The request translates to about \$35 per patient or an average of \$21,000 per CHC clinic site (or \$120,000 per CHC organization).**

Issues Facing CHCs

Recruitment and Staffing

It is expensive to hire and keep doctors and other health care professionals in Alaska. During 2005-2006, Alaska's CHCs spent \$1,021,435 simply filling vacant positions. Some provider categories suffer from a 30% vacancy rate.

Energy Costs

Energy costs have increased rapidly over the past few years, and particularly in recent weeks. These skyrocketing costs have pressured some clinics to reduce their services to compensate for the increase in energy prices.

Shipping Costs

Costs to ship medical supplies and equipment to Alaska are increasing rapidly, particularly in rural areas. Some costs have been partially subsidized by the USPS bypass mail system, however, in 2009, USPS increased the rates of bypass mail to rural Alaska by 12-17%, which has increased the cost of doing business for Alaska's rural CHCs.

Accountability

Community Health Centers are private non-profit businesses that leverage grants to help provide health care services to their clients, which tend to be underinsured. CHCs report annually to the Uniform Data System. Quality of care indicators, health outcomes and disparities, provider utilization, patient demographics and financial data are accounted for in this nationally standardized report.

For more information, contact Shelley Hughes with the Alaska Primary Care Association at 907-841-1634.

From: Robert Holston [<mailto:holston@kpunet.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:13 AM

To: LIO Ketchikan

Subject: TESTIMONY: Senate Finance Committee hearings on the FY12 Operating Budget.

RE: Senate Finance Committee will hold hearings on the FY12 Operating Budget.

I'm Rob Holston, President of Lighthouse Excursion, Inc. I have been involved in the visitor industry for 25 years here in Ketchikan. We host about 12,000 guests a year and have about 10 employees seasonally. I remember the old days of growth when the state was kicking in a substantial budget and you could click on the television and see an add reminding you of the greatness that Alaska has to share with the rest of the world as a destination.

I would like to state my support for legislation that will create long term & sustained tourism promotional efforts by the state. Please give your support to a \$20 million tourism marketing budget to keep Alaska competitive with other destinations. A significant tourism marketing budget is an investment in Alaska's future. Our bookings for this coming season already show significant improvement over the three previous seasons.

Please support tourism by providing for finding legislation in any way you can.

Please add me to your mailing list.

Rob Holston
11380 Alderwood St. N.
Ketchikan, AK. 99901
holston@kpunet.net

Please notify me of any public events that any committee members may be involved in here in Ketchikan.

Kindly,
Rob Holston
www.lighthouseexcursion.com

March 15, 2011

RE: Closing the USDA ARS Subarctic Agricultural Research Units will be detrimental to Alaska

Dear Elected Officials,

The U.S. Conservation Service has identified 20.5 million acres of lands with soil & climatic conditions suitable for cultivation of crops in Alaska. While most of these lands continue to be undeveloped, Alaska could become an important supplier of food for not only inhabitants of the state but for export of developing markets such as seed potatoes. In order to reach that goal we need to continue the agricultural research that is being done in Alaska by the Subarctic Research Station in Fairbanks and the Research Station in Palmer.

While food security continues to be discussed at both the Federal and State level Alaska is at risk as the majority of our food comes from the Port of Seattle which is over 2,000 miles away. Should disaster strike the citizens of Alaska have approximately a week's supply before we run out. This does not sound like President Obama's plan for sustainable food production, let alone food security.

Important research on Plant Viruses, Small Fruit production, Insects and Disease and Invasive Plants has been done by a small group of research personnel whose work is readily shared with growers and other agencies to assist in improving agriculture and sustainability across the state.

While I realize that the USDA needs to cut its budget, this cut will leave our state vulnerable with little to NO research to assist food production in our unique climate and growing conditions. Other states will continue to reduce their ARS personnel, but we are alone in removing ALL personnel and closing the facilities and because of this I urge you to support the continuation with funding for the ARS personnel in Fairbanks and Palmer and the health and security of our children and future generations of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Janice Chumley
P.O. Box 7001
Nikiski, Alaska 99635



Sealaska Heritage Institute

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www.sealaskaheritage.org • www.alaskanativeartists.com • Fax (907) 586-9293

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Bert Stedman
Senate Finance Committee Members

March 23, 2011

Honorable Senate Finance Committee Members:

I am writing today in support of the FY2012 Operating Budget Amendment "Teaching and Learning Support" for the Juneau School Districts Community in Schools Program. This program has been operating in our schools for a number of years, working towards improving struggling students' success, curbing drop-out rates, and coordinating with other community organizations.

Alaskan Native youth comprise almost 70% of those benefiting from the Community in Schools Program. One such program that they offer is the Alaska Native Elder Mentor Program, which was initiated to help students by reconnecting them to their culture, has been beneficial to many Juneau youth. This interaction has been shown to reduce risky behaviors that lead students astray, decrease truancy, and improve Native family's interaction within the schools. Whether it is helping them with their homework, attending parent teacher conferences with students and their parents or just showing an interest in their school work, the Community in Schools Program provides a benefit to those students who need it most.

Sealaska Heritage Institute was established in 1981 to manage the cultural and educational programs of Sealaska Inc. Conceived by Clan Leaders, Traditional Scholars and Elders at the first Sealaska Elders Conference in 1980, Sealaska Heritage Institute's mission is "To perpetuate the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures."

Tasked with this significant mission, Sealaska Heritage Institute offers its support to those programs that form an important gateway for our children. This program works directly with the most disenfranchised student populations by identifying and removing barriers to their success in school and in life.

Thank you for considering this important program for our community.

Sincerely,

Rosita Worl, Ph.D.
President, Sealaska Heritage Institute
One Sealaska Plaza, Ste. 301
Juneau, AK 99801



PO Box 240588, Anchorage, AK 99524

www.akpeersupport.org

Ph: 907-351-6890

March 22, 2011

Dear Legislator

The Alaska Peer Support Consortium would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the inclusion of \$300,000 (GF/MH) to the Division of Behavioral Health for trauma-informed care for victims of interpersonal trauma.

Trauma-informed care is vital to the ability for people to recovery from their experiences. Many people with behavioral health issues state that their issues stem from being victims of some kind of trauma. The peer workforce throughout the world has been utilizing trauma informed support for years and the behavioral health providers are just starting to address this and we applaud them for that.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the federal funder, has also seen the need to address this issue and is working to increase funding and asking States to do the same.

Unless the trauma of people's past is addressed, people with behavioral health issues will be limited in their recovery. This funding will support providers to gain the training to address these needs.

I encourage you to support this funding throughout the coming weeks as this increase will:

- Increase recovery for people and helping them return to life as productive citizens

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robyn Priest". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robyn Priest
Executive Director

From: Krissy Smith [shelby@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:55 PM
To: "Senator_Lyman_Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us"@mail.aptalaska.net;
"Senator_Bert_Stedman@legis.state.ak.us"@mail.aptalaska.net; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen.
Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Cc: Abbe Hensley; Robin Bergey; Joy Lyon
Subject: Support for Best Beginnings from Wrangell Early Childhood Coalition: A Best Beginnings
Partnership

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your hard work and to thank you for maintaining \$2 million for prekindergarten education and for supporting Head Start. I also wanted to let you know how much our community appreciates the funding that Best Beginnings received last year. Last year we were able to start an early childhood coalition in Wrangell through a grant from best Beginnings. This grant has allowed those of us in Wrangell to collect data and to develop a coalition, so that we can work together toward establishing goals in our community to ensure that all of Wrangell's children are kindergarten ready. In Wrangell we know that early learning sets the foundation for life and with the help of the Best Beginnings funds we are now able to establish a strategic plan to work toward ensuring that we are meeting the needs of young children in our community. For this we thank you! We would urge you to please add at least \$380,000 for Best Beginnings to the base, so that it will become part of the regular budget. This will enable us to continue to meet the needs of our children in our community of Wrangell and in other communities. Our children need your vote, so please show them that you care about their future by supporting Best Beginnings.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Krissy Smith - Chair

Wrangell Early Childhood Coalition: A Best Beginnings Partnership

PO Box 615

Wrangell, AK 99929

907-874-4307

Krissy.Smith@akics.org



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
Committee
on HB108 dated 032311.

I regret that I am not able to attend personally, but I wanted to lend my support for the Governor's merit based scholarship.

I have a son currently attending UAA that graduated in 2010. A program such as this would have helped him to avoid starting life in debt with student loans.

My wife and I earn too much for him to qualify for any free money, but not enough to pay for his tuition. When he finishes his degree he will have a debt of almost \$24,000.

I realize that this son was too old by one year, but we have a daughter in high school now that we are making sure will qualify for this scholarship.

The way I see it this scholarship helps quality students, with hardworking parents, become better more productive citizens of the state.

Sincerely,

Brian Calhoun
207 Sterling Court
Kenai, AK 99611
907-398-7158

STAR Talking Points:

My name is Rosemary Owens. I work as the Operations Manager for Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) in Anchorage. I have been asked by the Executive Director of STAR to speak on her behalf. The remainder of the staff is involved in a pre-scheduled strategic planning session looking at how to meet the growing need for services both at the individual crisis response level as well as the community level.

First, a huge thank you to the Department of Public Safety subcommittee for recommending full funding (of the \$550,000 increment) to the grants line item now before the Senate Finance Committee. These funds will positively impact STAR's ability to continue providing services to victims/survivors of sexual assault.

STAR's health insurance costs increased 47% this year, a full \$60,000 plus annually. \$60,000 represents the salary and fringe benefits of one advocate. Without the increased funding STAR would be required to decrease staffing thereby impacting our ability to respond to victims of sexual assault. The other option would be to discontinue employee health care coverage, leaving STAR less competitive when attempting to recruit or retain staff.

The increment will also allow STAR to continue providing legal advocacy services to victims/survivors of sexual assault as they navigate through the criminal justice system. All too often criminal proceeding takes years to come to trial leaving the victims with little information and a great deal of fear as the trial nears; a legal advocate helps to lessen the unknown for the survivor. The legal advocate attends DA meeting with the survivor, sits with them as they wait to testify before the grand jury, helping them stay engaged with the process as the wheels of justice moves slowly forward. The legal advocate is an essential piece of successful prosecution.

Again, STAR thanks you for your support and commitment. Your actions help to assure services are available to victims of sexual assault today, while working towards a day when sexual violence is an anomaly in our communities.

PO Box 15
Kiana, Alaska
March 23, 2011

Senator Finance Committee
State Capitol, Juneau, AK

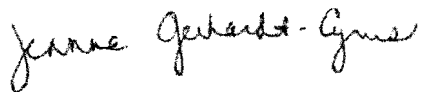
Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I appreciate and thank you in advance for supporting the following issues that are of particular concern to me as a parent of children with special needs, parent navigator and provider:

- Complex Behavioral Health Collaborative
- Substance Abuse Treatment for At-Risk Parents
- Early Childhood Screening Package
- Rural Peer Support Services
- Trauma-Informed Care for Victims of Domestic Violence
- Pre-K Pilot Programs
-

Again, thank-you for your support as you make your important decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus".

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus

March 22, 2011

Senate Finance Committee

Fax: (907) 465-4523

Dear Senators:

My child currently attends the Kids' Corps, Inc. Head Start program in Anchorage. I have three older children who are Kids' Corp graduates. The program has made a big difference to my children and family. It is my sincere belief that Head Start instilled an early love of learning in my children; they still continue to benefit years later. Head Start is a comprehensive program that makes families stronger as a whole. My family is proof of the benefits of Head Start.

While my oldest child was enrolled in Head Start, I received free parenting classes and mentorship training because the parent is the child's first teacher. I learned skills that helped me to teach my children and build on their school experience. I now have two children in IGNITE gifted classes at their school and a third child who attends the Highly Gifted Program at Rogers Park. I attribute much of this success to the head start that Kids Corp gave our family.

In these difficult times we need investments in early childhood programs like Head Start to create productive jobs and provide educational opportunity. An investment in Head Start now is an investment in the future of our children and our communities. Please support an increase in funding for Head Start so that more children will be prepared for success in school and life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhonda Sue Drake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rhonda Sue Drake

861 Connie Court

Anchorage, AK 99504

-How many communities and residents would be washed away if there was a dam failure? I know that the AEA people told us it would "never happen" but...let's be realistic, it could happen.

-What are ALL of the costs...not just the dam, but the upgraded power lines, studies, the REAL cost of the power...for example, how much of the project would be covered by state subsidies? And if power companies are willing to buy subsidized hydro power, why are they not willing to buy subsidized wind power? An equal amount of money should be given to other renewable sources, not just one project. Putting all your eggs in one basket is never wise.

Please take this and allow real public input.

Sincerely,

Cathy Teich
P. O. Box 155
Talkeetna, AK 99676
(907) 733-2155
cathyt@mtaonline.net

Please reply to: cathyt@mtaonline.net

To all the legislators and CC: Governor Parnell:

When the Alaska Energy Authority came to Talkeetna, the people representing the AEA were unable to answer 95% of the questions asked. A representative from our community was present at other meetings in the state and the same was true in other locations. The people of Alaska have not been given adequate opportunity for input in what should be a public process. It seems that AEA has already decided that hydro power has been selected....doesn't it seem that such an agency would be open to any and all different types of power? Does the governor have an agenda that is currently hidden from the public?

Dams all across the lower 48 are being dismantled. And, even though the AEA has said that "no dam has failed", that is NOT true...just google dam failures....The 1976 Teton dam in Idaho is just one of them, and Alaska has a lot more seismic activity than Idaho. We had a 7.9 in 2002 in the area near the proposed dam site. There currently is a LOT of seismic activity in the world. Remember New Zealand....now Japan.

A dam failure would take out portions of the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad, cutting off transportation. Every year during break up as it is, the tracks wash out somewhere between Gold Creek and Talkeetna and stop train traffic for a few hours to several days...then there is a period of slow orders. The section around Curry is the worst. This is dealt with every year, but in the event of a dam failure, the situation would be entirely different. Things would come to a stand still.

Representative Neuman expressed concern over the older bridges at the Town Hall Meeting in Willow on March 19, 2010, in the event of a large earthquake. Maybe that's just because he's pushing the Knik Arm Bridge project. I personally would not want to be going across the Knik Arm even on a new bridge if a large earthquake were to occur.

I urgently ask you to table HB 103 and SB 42 until a lot of important questions have been answered. Alaska is famous (infamous) for spending money first and asking questions later. It seems that the logical thing to do would be to get answers to questions concerning dam construction BEFORE spending money on permits that may not be able to be used. Some of the questions that must be answered include:

- What will be the long term effect on fisheries (commercial and sport fishing) ? The past 2 years we've had almost no Kings come in as it is...the ones that eventually got here were late.

- What will be the long term effect on tourism ? (Alaska is a destination BECAUSE it is wild ...and wild rivers are what we are about.) Don't forget river trips/rafting....

- What will be the effect on the Nelchina Caribou Herd? Migration, getting stranded if the water levels drop and they are unable to get out of the reservoir area? How about people who make their living from guiding? How many residents depend on that herd for winter's meat?

- How many archaeological sites will be covered up?



Alaska State Legislature

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

on FY12 Operating Budget, dated March 23, 2011:

Good day to the members of the Committee, and in particular to my senator Johnny Ellis. Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today.

My name is Glen Hemingson. I am general manager of the Copper Whale Inn, located here in downtown Anchorage at the corner of Fifth Avenue & L Street.

My understanding is that changes were made in the House to the funding formula for tourism marketing in the FY2012 budget. From what I understand, these changes would delete a substantial portion of state support and require much more support from within the industry to sustain the dynamic, new marketing programs implemented in fiscal year 2011. For the Copper Whale Inn, this change of formula would require us to triple our expenditure to guarantee the same marketing exposure we currently receive via our participation in ATIA.

When I learned that the funding formula implemented last year had been altered in the House, I was most upset by the fact that, while Alaska tourism brings in significant tax revenue for the State, this revenue is not being re-invested fairly to help insure continued growth. ATIA has implemented viable long-term solutions, and these programs are already producing results this year. But if the funding formula as forwarded out of the House makes its way to the governor's desk without alteration, we will be back at a pre-recession level of support, and businesses small and large will feel another serious pinch while the overall economy rebounds around them.

The Copper Whale Inn has seen direct results from Alaska's increased presence in the worldwide travel market, with higher reservation activity this year from across the globe. The Legislature took a positive step in 2010 by directing income derived from tourism-related taxes and re-investing it in the industry. Today, by coming here and speaking with you, we are asking that you continue in the same direction. The travel industry is poised to grow this year, in 2012, 2013, and beyond. We have broken ground on programs that will increase the flow of visitor dollars into the State of Alaska, and we ask the Legislature to assume the responsible support role necessary to keep growth moving forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Glen Hemingson", is written over a horizontal line.

Representing: Copper Whale Inn, a member of the Alaska Travel Industry Association

Address: 442 L Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone No. (907) 258-7999, (907) 227-6486



March 23, 2010

Senate Finance Committee
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

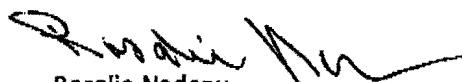
Re: Operating Budget

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As a part of your budget are funds designed to support Substance Use treatment services. While none of us like to spend money for people who apparently refuse to take care of themselves, those of us who work in the substance Use treatment field deal with clients who are going to cost you money. You can ignore them and pay the cost of child protection, police, attorneys, prisons and their staffs. This option is a very expensive way to go without even considering the social costs to everyone concerned. You can spend far less money over time by addressing the substance use problems early in its manifestation. The result can be reduced crime, no abandonment of children, no domestic violence, and no court and related costs. It also can mean a taxpaying citizen rather than a tax user in the form of services. In either case we will pay for these people and the only choice we have is how much and when. I believe funding treatment is the most economical way to approach this problem.

Finally, in addition to the general budget for substance abuse, there are two bills that warrant your support, Substance Abuse Treatment for At-Risk Parents, \$225,000 and Trauma-Informed Care for Victims of Domestic Violence, \$300,000. We regularly treat parents whose children are under the supervision of OCS, but there is much need for services for this group of people. We save money if we get these folks out of alcohol and drug use and back caring for their families. The second measure would allow us to provide specific service to individuals suffering trauma as a result of domestic violence. We currently have a small trauma informed mental health program serving the women we serve in our treatment programs. Nearly all of our women have a history of suffering trauma. We need to address this.

Sincerely,


Rosalie Nadeau,
Executive Director

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

4111 MINNESOTA DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
907-503-6448
907-565-1200
FAX: 907-278-6072

TREATMENT PROGRAMS:
AKEELA HOUSE RECOVERY CENTER
907-561-5266

ALASKA WOMEN'S RESIDENTIAL CENTER
STAMPING STONES
907-569-0097

AKEELA/RIII: OUTPATIENT PROGRAM
907-562-7483

ALASKA WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER
OUTPATIENT PROGRAM
907-279-5000

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS:
ALCOHOL DRUG INFORMATION SCHOOL
907-565-1238

ALCOHOL SAFETY ACTION PROGRAM (ASAP)
907-283-6586

PREVENTION PROGRAMS:
TOBACCO PROGRAMS
907-565-1242

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES
907-279-5015

WWW.AKEELA.ORG
E-MAIL: INFO@AKEELA.ORG

ACCREDITATION:
CARF

MEMBERSHIP:
THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES OF AMERICA



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Oper Budget/Lease/Fund
committee name

committee on HB 108 Finance dated 3-23-11
bill/subject

I oppose potential cuts to AUTC budget, especially their Maritime DOE program. These cuts to secondary education will hurt Alaska competitiveness in maritime jobs. Alaskans will have to go outside to receive training to work on Tugs, the AK Ferry system oil and gas and the fishing industries in Alaska. Hundreds of jobs are anticipated in the near future.

I am a licensed Captain with over 30 expeditions to Antarctica, I am the General Manager to a company with 300 ships globally, with 9000 employees. I sit on AUTC's Maritime Advisory board, Red Cross Board of directors, Resource Dev Council Board and am a 1996 AUTC Graduate.

Since Graduating AUTC in 1996. "I have not missed a paycheck"

Please do not cut these Programs,

Signed: Capt Michael Terminal

Testifier

AUTC

Representing (Optional)

17630 Shasta Circle Eagle River

Address

907-360-2145

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the State Finance Committee
committee name
committee on Finance / Tourism dated March 23, 2011
bill/subject

My Name is Frank Flavin a photographer AND IN BUSINESS IN ALASKA FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

I AM ONE OF THE MANY SMALL BUSINESSES WHO RELY HEAVILY ON THE TOURISM INDUSTRY.

ALASKA TOURISM, A RENEWABLE RESOURCE, REPRESENTS OVER 36,000 OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS JOBS.

WITH AN ECONOMIC GAIN OF \$180 MILLION IN STATE & MUNICIPAL TAXES & FEES THAT THE INDUSTRY PAYS EACH YEAR THE SMALL APPROPRIATION REPRESENTS THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THESE JOBS AND FOR BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR.

I ASK YOU PLEASE SUPPORT GOV. PARNELL'S BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR TOURISM.

WITH THIS SAID ANY CHANGES TO THE FY 11 TOURISM BUDGET WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO ANY STRATEGIC MARKETING PLAN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF TOURISM

Signed: 

Testifier

Flavin Photography

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 141172 Anchorage, AK. 99514

Address

907-561-1606

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Finance

committee name

committee on

AVTEC Funding

dated

3-23-11

bill/subject

Thank you for you time. My name is Natalia Sholik
I'am complete my CNA program and also I'am
current student LPN program in AVTEC. This school
have key for success for many students.
I'am American citizen. We have right to choose.
For continue my education I have only ONE
choise UAA. I choose AVTEC. Please restore
the 326,800\$ AVTEC RN program funding.
We want to have right to choose

Signed:

Natalia Sholik

Testifier

AVTEC

Representing (Optional)

2031 E 74th AVE Unit #B Anchorage AK 99507

Address

907-764-5306

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

AVTEC

committee name

committee on

Funding

dated

3/23/11

bill/subject

My name is George Mundy

I would like to see AVTEC have an RN Program because the learning style allows students to progress from CNA to LPN through a stair step method. with the addition of an RN program, LPNs would be able to advance their career path and become Registered Nurses. with Alaska's aging population, nursing jobs are expected to be in high demand for many years to come. The addition of an RN program to the AVTEC curriculum would be a wise professional investment

Please restore the \$326,800 AVTEC RN program funding

Signed:

George Mundy
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1202 W. 42nd Apt A Anchorage AK 99503

Address

(907) 628-1595

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name
committee on AUTEC dated 3-23-2011
bill/subject.

I would like to ask you to restore the
326,800 AUTEC RN program funding.

UAA ~~only~~ turns away 2/3 of applicants each year for
their Associate program. There is also a 2 year
wait for the Bachelor program. I believe in the
people at AUTEC & know that they will teach
to me the skills and knowledge that I would
need to join the RN job field. My husband works at
Red Dog mine and once I finish my RN program he
will be able to get a job in town and be able to
come home each night to my children and I.

Signed: _____

Testifier

AUTEC

Representing (Optional)

2668 E 18th Ave Anchorage, AK 99507

Address

907-522-2441

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name
committee on VISITOR INDUSTRY, dated 3-23-2011
bill/subject.

- AS A FORTY YEAR RESIDENT OF ALASKA, I HAVE WATCHED AS POLITICIANS, BUSINESS LEADERS AND OTHER POLICY MAKERS HAVE CALLED FOR DIVERSIFICATION ON OUR ALASKAN ECONOMY. OUR RELIANCE UPON THE GAS AND OIL INDUSTRY IS DANGEROUS AND MYOPIC. THE VISITOR INDUSTRY IS THE ONLY INDUSTRY BASED UPON A RENEWABLE RESOURCE THAT HAS EXPERIENCED STEADY GROWTH OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS.
- AS A PHOTOGRAPHER, I ~~RELY~~ RELY UPON THE VISITOR INDUSTRY FOR ONLY 15-20% OF MY INCOME. WITH THAT SAID, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME AND MANY OTHERS LIKE ME WHO MAY NOT BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TOURISM BUT RELY ON THE STEADY GROWTH OF THIS IMPORTANT INDUSTRY.

(OVER)

Signed: _____

Testifier

CLARK JAMES MISHNER PHOTOGRAPHY

Representing (Optional)

1238 G ST., ANCHORAGE, AK

Address

907-275-8847

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name
committee on Best Beginnings funding dated 3-23-11
bill/subject

I had previously sent in a letter, but I was hoping to have the opportunity to testify today on behalf of restoring \$380,000 in funding for Best Beginning. Early learning is a crucial time for development, and it's important that we support resources for young families so that children show up for kindergarten ready to learn and succeed.

Signed: Meghan Chappell
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1916 Beaver #1 Anchorage 99504

Address

907 952 8252

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name

committee on Restore Artec dated March 23, 2011
bill/subject Budget
of \$326,000

Dear committee member

I'm Zora Lesueur, representing
Artec's LPN to RN program. By way of
asking you to restore \$326,000 to their
program's budget.

Signed: _____

Testifier

AVTEC LPN to RN program

Representing (Optional)

905 Muldoon Road, Space A-34

Address

907-764-4432

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Finance

committee name

committee on Artec RN Program dated 3-23-11
bill/subject

My name is Rebecca McKinley. I am in the Sand lake voting district. I am a 40yr old mother and wife. I moved from the Kenai Peninsula to go to Artec. I choose Artec because I didn't want to wait years to go to UAA. I do not have the luxury of time as I am 40. I would love for Artec to be funded for the RN program so I may get my RN and go back to work serving the people I love. Thank you!

Signed: R. [Signature]

Testifier

Artec

Representing (Optional)

4675 Cascade Circle, Anch, 99502

Address

907-717-1148

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
committee name
committee on AVTEC RN Program dated 3-23-11
bill/subject.

My name is Autumn Lawder & I am here in support of the AVTEC RN program. I would like to you to take into consider the Budget funding for the RN Program. There are many advantages to different learning styles & I believe Autec has success in the mind of their students & they strive to make that happen. I did the CNA course & I am currently taking the LPN Program & will be graduating in November 2011. The Stair Step approach is a great learning mechanism because there would be no overlap from what I previously learned. Thank you again for your time.

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name committee
committee on Community dated MAR. 23, 2011
bill/subject Health Centers (CHC)

On behalf of Older Persons Action Group, and myself, I strongly support the \$3, million dollar operating budget request for CHC. The Anchorage and state-wide Community Health Centers need this financial support.

As Alaska's population ages there is a growing demand for CHC services. This funding will help support these vital services.

Signed: RAY CLEMENTS

Testifier

Older Persons Action Group Inc

Representing (Optional)

325 E 3rd Ave Ste 300 Anchorage

Address

AK 99501

907-276-1059

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the State Legislature Budget committee name
committee on Restoration of the dated 3/23/11
bill/subject
326,800 AVTEC RN
Program funding

My name is Marla Clark. I am from Anchorage, AK. I am writing to express my support for the restoration of the \$326,800 budget for AVTEC RN program funding. AVTEC programs allow for a more one on one experience with more attention to individual learning types (small class sizes). It is cost effective (short program lengths), and courses are very well structured. I also benefit ^{from} the 'stairstep' progressive learning technique. I can become an LPN + work to improve my skills + gain experience in nursing, while going to school to reach the next level of nursing education (RN). Thank you for your time + consideration.

Signed: Marla P. Clark
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

6612 Cimarron Cir. Anchorage, AK 99504

Address

(907) 602-3950

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AVTC
committee name
committee on RN Program dated 3/23/11
bill/subject

my name is Mary Xiong. I am representing
AVTC's 2 years Associate Program (RN).

Please restore the \$326,800 AVTC
RN Program funding so people like
me can get into the Nursing field.
This will benefit me a lot, because I
have been waiting for the UAA BSN/AAS
for 5 years now. Thank you

Signed:

Mary Xiong
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
committee name

committee on _____ dated 0323-11
bill/subject

Good Afternoon,

Restoring the funding for the Antec RN Program will be a win win program for Alaska as we have a nursing shortage. There are many LPN out in our community who would benefit from this program.

Antec's nursing program is a very personal which some do better with. I know for my self Antec would be a better choice for me. Antec student are people who do not wish to get mixed up in the university way of teaching. We need to remember that all do not learn the same way which is okay.

As a seasoned LPN of 31 year, I would have the ability to move forward to have the best of best. I know that Antec is a great program and am encouraging you all restore the \$326,000 Antec RN Program fund.

Remember you + your family will someday need the services of an RN.

Thank You
Ann Barker

Signed: _____

Testifier

Antec

Representing (Optional)

Anchorage

Address

907-744-1108

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Finance Committee

committee name

committee on

AVTEC RN Program

dated

23 March 2011

bill/subject

AVTEC RN Program Support for funding \$326,800 funding

I am a veteran, active duty military spouse, mother of 3. With so many responsibilities, I desire to earn my AARN degree. However UAA cannot exceed their limit of students per year.

30 AA degree program students, 60 BSN degree students, 8 AARN degree ^{students} for the valley. I have been placed on numerous ~~Alternate~~ lists however I have to continue ~~resubmitting~~ my request to be considered again ~~even though~~ I have already completed my prerequisites. AVTEC has given me the opportunity to start again with education in CNA duties I found employment immediately. I am continuing to pursue the LPN course and am requesting that you support the RN program through AVTEC. I am used to government training and see the similarities in the AVTEC program. I am ready to meet the shortage of nurses if you will give me the opportunity to pursue my dream. Alaska is my home and I am ready to be part of the healthcare system here. Thank you for your support.

Signed:

M. L. Dake

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 3624 Anchorage AK 99505

Address

(907) 232-1908

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
committee name

committee on AVTEC RN program dated 3/23/10
bill/subject

I am a current AVTEC LPN student and half-time UAA student. I have been taking UAA prerequisites as a nursing premajor since 2007. As a single mother of 2, AVTEC has several distinct advantages over the traditional university system. By stepping up to progressive levels of education, I am better able to support my family as my education level provides better job opportunities. (Rather than working at Burger King while I wait years to get into nursing school.) The fast-paced, full time schedule at the AVTEC programs (Mon-Fri year-round) facilitates ~~a regular schedule~~ finding daycare and work opportunities that aren't interrupted every semester based on class availability. The UAA RN program is designed to be taken with corequisites, however to be a competitive candidate out of the hundreds of applicants, students must have corequisites completed. The result is half-time classes for twice as long. Most importantly, the AVTEC program is significantly cheaper than traditional university. Without reinstatement of the funding for the AVTEC program, I plan on pursuing my education out of state, as many prospective nursing students ultimately do. In consideration of non-traditional students and the community benefit ~~to~~ to the state, please restore the AVTEC RN program funding. Thank you!

Signed: Cassandra Watkins
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

525 W 3rd Ave #309 Anch, AK 99501

Address

(907) 310-5243

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Finance
committee name

committee on

bill/subject

dated

March 23, 2011

Thank you for your time. My name is Courtney Martin. I am currently a LPN student at AVTEC. I have developed my-self through there school and wish to continue my education with them. AVTEC allows for smaller class sizes and more individualized learning for its students. Please restore ~~AVTEC~~'s funding so that I can become a RN to help Alaskans. Thanks.

Signed:

Courtney Martin

Testifier

AVTEC RN program

Representing (Optional)

2124 McKenzie Dr

Address

907 590 1457

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name

committee on BUDGET dated March 23, 2011
bill/subject

My name is Stephane Kaiser. I have been a cna in Seward since 2002 and am currently attending AVTEC's Lpn program. I am in support of funding for the AVTEC RN program. By AVTEC offering this program I would be able to return and work in my Seward community. Please restore the AVTEC RN program funding.

Signed: Stephane Kaiser
Testifier

AVTEC

Representing (Optional)

~~AVTEC~~ PO Box 2092 Seward, AK 99664
Address

907-362-3647

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
committee name
committee on AVTEC RN program funding dated 3/23/11
bill/subject

My name is Eli Murph. I'm from Ketchikan and a current student ~~at~~ in the AVTEC LPN program. I ~~can~~ encourage the committee to fund AVTEC with \$26,800 for the RN program. This program offers smaller more personal classroom/learning environment. Along with that this is a separate choice for students like me to pursue a different direction than the UAA ~~program~~ nursing program. Thank you.

Signed: Eli Murph (Eli Murph)
Testifier
AVTEC
Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____

committee name

committee on Best Beginnings, dated March 23, 2011
bill/subject

In my work, I rely very heavily on Best Beginnings, who pave the way for my efforts to promote early literacy in infants + toddlers throughout the state. My project provides thousands of high-quality board books + picture books to caregivers of children birth to age three, especially where print materials are scarce. I ~~see~~ ^{also} give presentations on early literacy at conferences in Alaska. I see a significant usage of ~~at~~ my materials + attendance of my presentations by those who come from communities that have Best Beginnings early childhood partnerships + Imagination Libraries because they understand the importance of early learning. Also, when I plan my outreach efforts, I ~~look~~ seek those communities where Best Beginnings have made some headway, and there I will follow their lead. Please add at least \$380,000 to the Best Beginnings budget, to continue their positive, wide-reaching results.

Signed: TERRIE CHANG, Librarian

Testifier

Anchorage Public Library Ready to Read Resource Center

Representing (Optional)

3600 Denali St, Anchorage 99503

Address

907-343-2970 Email: changtn@muni.org

Phone No.

Barbara Swenson [bswenson@chenegahotels.com]

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 108 today. Unfortunately, I am unable to participate in the live testimony so I am sending you my position via email. Your support for our industry is key to continued progress in hospitality revenues which support many other businesses throughout the state (i.e., commercial fishing). The three hotels that I manage are Alaska Native owned and operated and represent 75 full time jobs in Anchorage. Two thirds of these positions are union, and 100% of these jobs rely on continued success with the tourism industry. In addition to membership, participation, and financial support with ATIA, ACVB and other organizations, our hotels also spend thousands of dollars annually on marketing and promotion. The support that we are asking from the state for tourism marketing is minimal when compared to similar budgets for much smaller states in the lower 48. We are competing with destinations like Hawaii, Australia, and New Zealand who spend more than \$90 million annually, and we are asking for your support for \$20 million.

Our industry supports a total \$20 million tourism marketing budget to keep Alaska Competitive with other destinations. At a time when the industry has a realized loss of 30% in 2009 and a compounded loss of 20% in 2010, this is no time for the Legislature to be putting more financial strain on businesses in Alaska trying to survive in the hotel and lodging industry. Alaska hotels already pay over \$52 Million in municipal taxes through bed, property and sales taxes. Since ATIA's 1,100 members already contribute literally tens of millions of dollars in annual marketing through their businesses, any required industry match should be reasonable and attainable. (\$2.7 million in industry match generated through Co-op Advertising Sales is reasonable). It is unacceptable to allow the match to revert back to a dollar for dollar industry match. Because the visitor industry already pays \$180 million in state and municipal taxes & fees a year, it is appropriate that the State use a portion of these tourism revenues to pay for the lion's share Alaska's tourism marketing program. The \$3.4 billion annual economic impact created through tourism supports 36,200 jobs - jobs that exceed the payroll of ATIA's members alone (think of all the dry cleaners, fuel stations, food wholesalers etc). A reinvestment of existing taxes, rather than an increased match burden placed on ATIA members, is only fair and recognizes the breadth of benefits all Alaskans enjoy from this program. The tourism industry has already proposed 2 long term funding solutions for tourism marketing in the last 3 years - as requested by the legislature. The first was a Tourism Corporate Income Tax Credit proposal found in SB 138 last session, the second is the Alaska Visitor Industry Investment Fund found in HB 160 this session. We call on the legislature to either pass one of these proposals or to provide another viable solution this session. If no long term solution is agreeable this session, we request status quo funding with a status quo match: \$9 million in this operating budget, \$7 million in the capital budget and \$2.7 million in required industry match.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and anticipated support,
Barbara Swenson
Vice Chair, AK Hotel & Lodging Association

*Barbara A Swenson, CHA
General Manager
Clarion Suites, Quality Suites, Rodeway Inn-Voyager Hotel
Anchorage, AK 99501
phone 907-222-4430 fax 907-222-4431*

I ask you to approve this funding
and open more doors for Alaskans
Do NOT let politics & Big money
influence your decision. VAA Does
NOT need to be the exclusive
training center for Alaska Born
Nurses. AVTEC has given me a
wealth of education and if given the
choice to choose between AVTEC &
VAA to continue on with my RN I
would choose AVTEC - if for nothing
more than a better experience.

Thank you for your time.

granted these positions require 1 year experience as a nurse - how can we expect to fill positions that require nursing experience if you do not have the training ~~to~~ available to make these nurses that alaska needs? we are hiring out of our state - bringing in travel nurses that we pay much more - taking away from our states jobs. If there is not more training options made available some of us will leave the state of Alaska for training and some of us will have to abandon this goal all together ~~until there is more options~~ and continue to live & work with the support of the State of Alaska - such as food stamps daycare assistance and WIC - creating a greater burden for our state.

My name is Whitney Brandhaw and I am representing AVTEC as a LPN student. I am asking that you support restoring the \$326,808

AVTEC RN program funding. I am a non-traditional college student, a single mother trying to better myself so I can support my daughter. I've been in the field of Nursing for the last 6 years. I've been working towards my nursing degree during that time. AVTEC has given me a chance to succeed at my goal of obtaining my LPN license however - my next goal of becoming an RN has not been so easy to attain. UAA is the sole provider of RN training in the state of Alaska, besides online programs. The wait to get into the program can be up to 2 years depending on where you rank & how many times you end up applying. There is still a great need for nurses here in Alaska. Yesterday during our orientation at Providence for clinicals we were told that there were 12 open RN positions in that department alone.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name
committee on HB108/HB109 dated 3/23/11
bill/subject

Attached is my information
in support of the AVIEC
addition to adding them
to the Budget.
Thank you.

Signed: _____

Testifier

AVIEC

Representing (Optional)

8959 June St #10 Anch, AK

Address

907-727-5865

Phone No.

- By establishing a state wide performance scholarship that rewards students who work the hardest, take the most rigorous courses in high school and strive to excel, the Legislature will build the foundation for a generation of responsible, hardworking, achievers who will be well-prepared to carry our great state into a secure and prosperous future.
- The bill before you rewards financial aid to those students who have worked the hardest, with their eyes on the goal, and who have clearly earned it.
- This bill represents the idea of what America once was, and ought to be - sooner, rather than later: the notion that personal responsibility, hard work and conducting oneself as an honest and upright citizen, has its rewards.

I urge you to pass this Performance Scholarship bill with full funding in order that we might build a better Alaska.

Thank You

Hans Rodvik

8301 Berry Patch Drive

Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Home Phone: 907-522-7738

Cell: 907-947-4784

Testimony in Support of Governor Parnell's Performance Scholarship Bill SB 43

Good afternoon Senator Stedman and Senator Hoffman, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my honor to be here today, participating in our wonderful democratic process.

My name is Hans Peter Rodvik. I was born in Anchorage, Alaska and have lived here my entire life. I am a senior at Dimond High School and currently have a 4.0 GPA. I intend to pursue my higher education in Alaska, and build my career in Alaska, for the long term. I am an avid outdoors man who loves to hunt and fish. I am a hardworking, responsible young man, who commercial fishes for former Lt. Governor Loren Leman. This coming summer shall be my third season fishing for him.

I have come here today because I wish to let you know that Governor Parnell's Performance Scholarship needs to be funded this legislative session.

The main reasons why this scholarship needs to be funded are:

My name is Penny Vasileff, and I am speaking in support of the RRANN program at the UAA School of Nursing and at the 13 distance sites ~~for AAS nursing that are extensions of the SON at UAA.~~ ^{in rural areas} I used to work for the RRANN Program at UAA as a Student Success facilitator and as interim coordinator.

The best way to have adequate staffing in rural hospitals is to "grow your own" nurses. Men and women who are invested in the community and who will stay for a career in that community. Each of those nurses not only provides culturally sensitive care, but also is an example to children and adults in that village or community of what can be accomplished with hard work and education.

These nurses are seeds planted to nourish a way of life that places increasing emphasis on the importance of education in building a safe, healthy, and industrious community. These seeds do not flower in a year or two; but in five, ten or fifteen years a self-seeding garden of sustaining size develops. Anchorage is the largest Native village in the state. The same applies here.

Before the RRANN program was implemented in 1998, one or two Alaska Native nurses graduated yearly from the SON. In the thirteen years RRANN has been in place, not 13 or 26 nurses have graduated, but 125 nurses now provide care for Alaska citizens. This program has proved its worth.

RRANN has managed to keep going for 13 years by dint of various Federal grants and extensions of existing grants. At this point grant opportunities available have been exhausted. I ask \$311,000 be added to the budget for RRANN in order to help sustain this program that has demonstrated success in adding Alaska Native nurses to our state workforce.

March 23, 2011

My name is Penny Vasileff, and I am speaking in support of the RRANN program at the UAA School of Nursing and at the 13 distance sites for AAS nursing that are extensions of the SON at UAA. I used to work for the RRANN Program at UAA as a Student Success facilitator and as interim coordinator.

I am sure that all members of the Senate Finance Committee are only too aware of both the ever increasing need for nurses in Alaska's healthcare workforce, and also of the dismal levels of reading and mathematical proficiencies on the high school proficiency test from rural areas of Alaska. Hospitals in Bethel, Kotzebue, Dillingham and more have had to hire traveling nurses from the lower 48 to staff their facilities. Travelers come at great expense. Some stay for a two-year rotation, but many also leave early when they experience life in the Alaskan bush communities. They are not invested in the communities and with the best of intentions cannot provide the level of culturally sensitive care given by an Alaska Native nurse from the community.

The best way to have appropriate staffing at Native hospitals is to "grow your own" nurses, men and women who are invested in the community and who will stay for a career in that community. Each of those nurses not only participates in the healthcare workforce, but is an example to children and adults in that community of what can be accomplished by Native men and women. These are seeds planted to nourish a way of life that places increasing emphasis on the importance of education in building a safe, healthy, and industrious community. These seeds do not flower in a year or two; but in five, ten or fifteen years a garden of sustaining size develops. Remember also that Anchorage is the largest Native village in the state. The same applies here.

RRANN provides cultural and emotional support for students in pre-nursing courses as well as those in the clinical nursing coursework. RRANN staff are non-threatening, and help the student find the most efficient way to maneuver through the intricacies of university rules and regulation. Weekly meetings are held for pre-nursing students, monthly ones for those in clinical coursework. RRANN meetings, staff, and community give students a safe place to express confusion or frustration without fear of ridicule or retribution. Those meeting RRANN requirements can eventually obtain a modest stipend. The stipend is the hook, but the real benefit to the student is the individual attention given by the staff so that guidance can be offered in a timely manner, before problems become overwhelming.

Before the RRANN program was implemented in 1998, one or two Alaska Native nurses graduated yearly from the SON. In the thirteen years RRANN has been in place, not 13 or 23 nurses have graduated, but 125 nurses now provide care for Alaska citizens. This program has proved its worth.

RRANN has managed to keep going for 13 years by dint of various Federal grants and extensions of existing grants. At this point we have exhausted grant opportunities available. We ask that \$311,000 in the University Regents' budget be added to the budget in order to help sustain the RRANN program that has demonstrated success in adding Alaska Native nurses to our state workforce.

JoAnn Molloy
3254 Montpelier Court
Anchorage, AK 99503

My husband and I have been Alaskan singer/songwriters, recording/performing artists in Alaska for over 35 years. We have earned much of our income from visitors to our state as well as from locals.

We performed a summer Alaska show for ten years here in Anchorage and our CDs are still sold through gift shops and other outlets throughout the state.

As an individual and small business owner who has earned much of my income from the visitor industry, I know the effect good marketing has on this state.

I ask you to continue investing in this industry which produces over \$3 billion dollars in return revenue and supports almost 40,000 jobs.

Plus, this industry has an immeasurable effect on businesses that are not even directly involved with tourism but reap the benefits.

Whenever I spend my tourism earned dollars, someone in this state is benefiting: movie theatres, live performances and concerts, my dry cleaner, my gas, my two car that we purchased, my condo fees, my bank, home repairs and decorating purchases, my plumber, electrician, my food, and on and on.

Alaska is in competition with every other state in this country and many other countries themselves.

If we think "build it, they will come" is enough, we must understand we have to let them know we are here.

Marketing is a key factor in running any business and, as you are very much aware, the state budget is a business.

Let us examine all the figures and do everything within our power to invest in this visitor industry that produces exceptional financial return and job support to this state that we love so well.

I support a \$20 million tourism marketing budget.

Thank you for all you do!

Respectfully,
JoAnn Molloy



David Matthews Testimony

3.23.11

Senate Finance Room 532

HB 108 – APPROP: OPERTING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS

1:00 – 2:15 PM In Anchorage

Hello, my name is David Matthews. I am VP and AK General Manger for Price Gregory International, a large heavy industrial construction concern based in Anchorage AK. I am also on AVTEC advisory board and a few other organizations promoting workforce development in AK.

I am here to today to voice my support of the Governors FY 2012 budget request of \$326,800 and 2 instructors for a RN Training program, expected to affect 20 Alaskan per year.

- AVTEC currently provides **Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)** and **Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)** training in Anchorage. AVTEC has a long history of serving non-traditional low income Alaskans from diverse populations. AVTEC offers a successful model of training minority students and will extend this model to the RN program.
- AVTEC's model is successful. AVTEC has graduated 753 CNAs and 128 LPNs to date. With this funding the model will be expanded. The AVTEC program uses the career ladder approach, so students seeking admission in AVTEC's one-year RN program will have already achieved the nine-week CNA and one-year LPN credentials and have worked in the nursing field. I believe AVTEC 's model has the optimum mix of hands on training and classroom training. Again, this approach to training will be clinical intensive and have less class room time, making it more suitable to nontraditional students
- There is a need beyond current training providers, In FY2010, the Alaska Job Center Network received notice of 1,789 job openings for registered nurses and referred 875 individuals to those jobs.
- In 2009, 11.1 percent (886) of all registered nurses in Alaska were nonresident, and 54.6 percent of new hires were nonresident [Source: 2009 Nonresidents Working in Alaska].
- There is industry interest in AVTEC's program. AVTEC is developing the required clinical portion of program with Elmendorf Air Force Base hospital and the Alaska Native health hospital—we will not conflict or overlap our clinical portion of the training with the University.

I urge the committee to approve the AVTEC RN funding request.

I ask you to approve this funding
and open more doors for Alaskans.
Do NOT let politics & Big money
influence your decision. VAA DOES
NOT need to be the exclusive
training center for Alaska Born
Nurses. AVTEC has given me a
wealth of education and if given the
choice to choose between AVTEC &
VAA to continue on with my RN I
would choose AVTEC - IF FOR NOTHING
more than a better experience.

Thank you for your time.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name
committee on HB108/HB109 dated 3/23/11
bill/subject

Attached is my information
in support of the AVIEC
addition to adding them
to the Budget.
Thank you.

Signed: _____

Testifier

AVIEC

Representing (Optional)

8959 Jabe St #10 Anch, AK

Address

907-727-5865

Phone No.

department alone.

I have lived in Alaska for most of my life. I have also spent all of my 21 and half years as a nurse caring for the Alaska Native and American Indian population. I attended nursing school at the University of Alaska Anchorage. One of my good friends in nursing school was Alaska Native from a rural community. She struggled during nursing school academically as well as socially. She lived in the dorms among individuals who had no understanding of her cultural or the impact of moving from a rural community to the city. She ended up leaving nursing a few years after graduating.

I have also worked in rural Alaska and the Navajo area. Upon arriving to both of these places I was asked "how long are you here for?" As a white person I was seen as a transient individual, an intruder.

I grew up in Alaska so I am well aware of the community's perceptions of Alaska Native people and the Alaska Native Medical Center.

When I entered nursing 21 years ago there were very few Alaska Native nurses. As I walk through the hospital today I see a greater number of nurses who are Alaska Native or American Indian.

As a nurse caring for Alaska Native people I always thought I had a good connection with the patients I cared for. It wasn't until I saw a patient's response to a nurse who was Alaska Native that I understood that the connection I had was nothing compared to that of someone from their own culture. Alaska Native nurses bring an important component to caring for their own people. In addition, Alaska Native nurses working together with nurses from other cultures helps us become more culturally aware. This is the beginning of helping the community understand and be sensitive to the Alaska Native culture. When I attend the RRANN meetings at UAA I see a group of individuals who have a commonality that supports them through nursing school and living in the city. They all face their individual struggles as well as struggles common to them all. This support system helps them deal with the struggles and challenges as well as celebrates the achievements and successes they experience as they progress through nursing school. To then see them become nurses caring for people of their own culture is a success. Whether they work at the Alaska Native Medical center or else where in the community and around the state the impact the Alaska Native nurses are making is tremendous.

Nurse Educator - Many new grads during the nursing int. at ANMC have expressed how the RRANN program contributed to their successful completion of nursing school.

*Jill Montague
Nurse Educator
ANMC*

File w 4th)
 Regil CTAs

approx
 unofficial
 op's

Overall 38%
 RN 11%

Talking points for RRANN testimony

Mr. Nana Direct-ANMC RRANN
 Superintendent

RRANN/diversity program is vital to our nursing workforce at the Alaska Native Medical Center. We hire 40 to 50 new graduates each year, of which 15 to 20% are Alaska Native. RRANN graduates are currently working and excelling in all of our areas of the hospital. * through-out our entire HC syst.

Our Alaska Native consumers of healthcare are best served by registered nurses who are from the same culture. For many reasons, but most importantly, it is one of the known strategies to ameliorate health disparities, as recommended by the Institute of Medicine Report, Unequal Treatment. As we know, health disparities in Alaska Natives are still significant. Decreasing the numbers of our Native Nurses is not moving HD's in the direction where we want them to go, and could contribute to a decline in the health status of AN's.

Because of the networking and activities that students are exposed to in this program, they come to us with expanded leadership capabilities. Several RRANN graduates have gone on to vital leadership roles such as Nurse manager and nurse educator. An Alaska Native RN is one of our nurse analysts who is building our electronic health record for critical care and you will hear (or have heard her testimony today). Alaska Natives in these roles are a huge support for our workforce, both Native and non-Native. Because RRANN graduates were the recipients of high quality mentoring, they are more likely to become mentors for others that are in earlier stages of their career trajectory.

Sylvia
 Esch has been

Alaska Native Nurses bring insight and understanding to their practice. They can understand how the patient's response to things like pain or grieving may be different, and through teaching and sharing, they can help us to understand, and make sure they we don't miss signs that may be important. They lead and partner with us on research studies to ensure that our approach is culturally appropriate.

Most importantly, our patients want to be cared for by their own people and this impact goes beyond measure. I've seen the faces of our patients light up because the person coming to provide their care is from their region.

47% (38%)

Despite this program, our percentage of AN nurses is still too low, and percentage of nurse managers is even lower. There is much more work that is needed, especially at the masters degree level to increase these numbers.

to our workforce

This program is one of our vital networking partnerships, and has been highly featured in our quest to successfully become a Magnet designated facility. Partnerships with academia and the Native community drives much of our work at ANMC and contributes significantly to our mission of Alaska Natives being the healthiest people in the world.

Please support the funding for this excellent & much needed prog

TH

Thank-you
 Julie M. Hugg, RN, MS
 Nursing Director, ANMC

Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee CHC

Mr. Chair and Committee Members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

For the record my name is Randi Sweet, Community Action Director for Health with United Way of Anchorage.

United Way supports the \$3 million budget increment for the community health centers which provide a system of care across our state, particularly to the most vulnerable.

Our local CHC is the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center which provides

- A critical basic health care safety net in Anchorage
- They served 11,000 clients last year
 - 41% of those uninsured
 - 17% were Seniors
 - 64% were at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level
- ANHC is a key community partner with United Way and in particular with Anchorage Project Access, Project Homeless Connect and the Dental Care Access Project.
- They are working actively to incorporate the Patient Centered Medical Home in their current practice and in preparation for the new facility to open in 2012. They provide critical general, oral and limited behavioral health services to support overall patient health.
- ANHC Staff and services are held in high regard and greatly appreciated in our community.

And so, we ask that you fund the \$3 million budget increment for Alaskan Community Health Centers.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Chairman Hoffman and Chairman Stedman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,
thank you for this opportunity...**

**My name is Alexander von Hafften. I reside in Anchorage Alaska.
I am Chair and am speaking on behalf of the Alaska Psychiatry Residency Steering Committee.**

The Residency is a partnership of:

- VA, military**
- DHSS, AMHTA, API**
- AK Native Health Organizations (SCF, SEARHC, TCC)**
- Hospitals and providers across the state**
- University of Alaska**

We have raised \$2.88 million for the first 5 years and over \$½ million annually beginning year 6.

4 of the 11 training slots are for the VA.

Two partners provided comments that I would like to share:

"The Alaska Command Surgeon, Col Paul Friedrichs, remains committed to working with the State of Alaska and community partners to address the worsening shortage of in-patient mental health resources. We continue to limit who can move to Alaska due to the lack of adequate mental health resources. We often experience long delays before patients who need in-patient mental health care can receive it, or have to send them to the Lower 48 due to lack of capacity. Timely access to appropriate mental health care is important."

Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership Executive Director, Samuel C. Johnson III.

"The number one medical need in Alaska is Mental Health and this need will continue to increase. Alaska does not have an adequate number of psychiatrists and mental health resources to meet this growing need. Since there is no medical school in Alaska, the best way to attract and keep new psychiatrists is through this program, since it has been proven that Doctors typically stay where they complete their residency.

Psychiatrists are integral to our health care system.

Psychiatrists are doctors who specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, and addictive disorders.

Psychiatrists provide direct clinical care, consultation, supervision, and training for other health care providers.

Thank you.

Members of the Committee, I'm Barbara Brown, and I'm with Best Beginnings.

I'd like to thank you for last year's funding of Best Beginnings, including the work of the Imagination Library. And I'd like to urge you to restore funding this year to at least the level of last year (\$680,000).

Imagination Library is not just a book delivery program. It's not a mailing list subscription to get a free book in the mail every month. Other places, it might be, but here with Best Beginnings, it's something very different. It's a Get-the-Whole-Community-Involved-in-Reading-to-Kids Program.

A parent can't just sign up their kid; a community has to sign up all their children ... and they have to provide parent engagement programs, too. ~~Books are not sitting on the shelves gathering dust. Bit by bit, a culture of reading is developing.~~ This week's Arctic Sounder has an article about parent events on the North Slope. *our*

Your money is leveraged in so many ways. Hospitals have stepped up to help fund their newborns; Brevig Mission held a cake walk to raise money; Nanwalek hosted Bingo for Books. The Kuskokwim Education Foundation enrolls their villages, and tribal councils all over the state are taking the lead. On March 30, Anchorage hosts an event with AHFC to launch their partnership to enroll children statewide. Dillingham's kick-off is April 2, and Homer's is April 16. This is happening door-to-door. As of today, 12,720 Alaska children from birth to age 5 are receiving a book a month, and their community made it happen. Seventy communities now have Imagination Libraries.

The problem is, these committees of volunteers find themselves in a bind about enrolling children: they're wary of getting their numbers out in front of their funding. They hold back on signing children up. That's why we urge you to add back Best Beginnings' \$380,000 to the base so communities can feel assured that the support will continue. They are leveraging your dollars up front in a child's life, where the return on investment is the ~~strongest~~ *highest.*

Thank you for your consideration.

March 23, 2011

Dear Madam/Sir,

The principle aim of this hearing is to determine if only one AAS RN program is to be offered in State of Alaska. I can tell you that I am *currently in* the AAS RN program at University of Alaska, Anchorage; and I am here to advocate that there *is* a great need for an alternate choice of a brick-and-mortar RN program. I applied AAS RN program started last 2007, due to very competitive and the loaded of applicants throughout this State it is very hard to get in right away and I am sure that there's a lot of Alaskan trying or waiting to get in. However, if I didn't go to AVTEC LPN program and did the bridge program LPN to RN, I probably still didn't get in by now. We have between 35 to 39 students in our class at UAA right now, and the classes offered only once a year; that if you failed the class you have to wait for another year to continue your education, and you have to go again through the ranking process to get in. Being a mother and a full time health care worker would be beneficial for us to have an alternate choice to pursue our education before our children finish their high school and be able to help them out with their education too. Not every one wears the same dress size...not every style of education fits every learner. So why is it that Alaskans, famed to be the most independent of thinkers in the U.S., are forced into the same style of learning....the same exact dress....if you will. AVTEC's smaller class size enables the students to receive a more individualized approach to teaching. English is my second language and I am still new to this country and language. AVTEC is a better fit for my education. I feel as if I don't *fit* into UAA with my learning style. My class is too big for me to get the needed learning & language accommodations. I have already proven success with the AVTEC model of education at the LPN level...I *know* I would be successful at the Associates level. If there is one like me...how many more are out there not able to express the need? How many do I represent? You know the numbers...you can do the math. Our future and our children's future Madam/Sir is in your hands, can you please make our dream come through?

PS: The only reason I am not physically here to talk to youbecause I am in UAA Nursing clinical right now.

Sincerely,



Meg J. Mapelli
1787 South Heather Meadows Loop,
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
907-743-0355 home
907-903-7698 cell

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I have known for years that I wanted to pursue a career in health care but it was not until recently that I made my connection with Nursing....

My name is Cheryl George and I am a Yupik, Native Alaskan and American Indian; my hometown is Bethel, Alaska. I am currently a Certified Nurse Aide and was employed at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) during my break before college. I am a pre-Nursing student and am almost done with my prerequisites. Nursing is a rewarding profession that will enable me to work with those in need. But before I can get there, I need support from programs like RRANN. I value the RRANN program for not only offering financial support and tutors for classes but also for providing me with a network of people who can, and have, helped me through difficult times.

I want to make a difference in the lives of others as a way of repaying all of those who have made a positive difference in mine. In accomplishing this, my scope of practice will be for Alaska's people, I will be working for my community. I will succeed in my endeavors as an aspiring Nurse not only to better my world but also the world around me.

The RRANN program is an integral part of my advancements in my overall success. This program is staffed by charismatic, warmhearted individuals who genuinely care for their students. I greatly appreciate the support they have given me. Now, I am offering my support to them in their time in need and am requesting that you too, support this program.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cheryl George

- I BELIEVE THE VISITOR INDUSTRY CAN GROW MUCH LARGER WITH CONTINUED AND SUSTAINED MARKETING SUPPORT. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO TOURISM WHILE KEEPING ALIVE THE IDEA OF DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR STATE'S ECONOMY.
- INVESTING IN THE VISITOR INDUSTRY IS JUST THAT, - AN INVESTMENT, WE GET BACK 10 DOLLARS FOR EACH WE INVEST. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SUPPORT THE VISITOR INDUSTRY TO A LEVEL THAT MATCHES LEVELS OF AT LEAST AVERAGE MARKETING EFFORTS OF OTHER STATES. A \$20,000,000 INVESTMENT IS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF ARKANSAS AND MANY OTHER STATES MUCH SMALLER AND MUCH ~~DIFFERENT~~ CLOSER TO THE AVERAGE AMERICAN TRAVELER.
- I SUPPORT THE EFFORT TO INVEST IN THE VISITOR INDUSTRY WITH A LONG-TERM AND SUSTAINED LEVEL.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' or 'L' shape with a horizontal line extending to the right.




Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name
committee on VISITOR INDUSTRY, dated 3-23-2011
bill/subject

- AS A FORTY YEAR RESIDENT OF ALASKA, I HAVE WATCHED AS POLITICIANS, BUSINESS LEADERS AND OTHER POLICY MAKERS HAVE CALLED FOR DIVERSIFICATION ON OUR ALASKAN ECONOMY. OUR RELIANCE UPON THE GAS AND OIL INDUSTRY IS DANGEROUS AND MYOPIC. THE VISITOR INDUSTRY IS THE ONLY INDUSTRY BASED UPON A RENEWABLE RESOURCE THAT HAS EXPERIENCED STEADY GROWTH OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS.
- AS A PHOTOGRAPHER, I ~~RELY~~ RELY UPON THE VISITOR INDUSTRY FOR ONLY 15-20% OF MY INCOME. WITH THAT SAID, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME AND MANY OTHERS LIKE ME WHO MAY NOT BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TOURISM BUT RELY ON THE STEADY GROWTH OF THIS IMPORTANT INDUSTRY.

(OVER)

Signed: 

Testifier

CLARK JAMES MISHNER PHOTOGRAPHY

Representing (Optional)

1238 G ST., ANCHORAGE, AK

Address

907-279-8847

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name
committee on Budget dated MARCH 23, 2011
bill/subject.

Hello,

My name is Marcus Murchison and I was an avtech today from August 2009-July 2010. This program has truly been a blessing to me. Over the years, I have been trying to obtain my license as a registered nurse. It has been very hard however I never quit. I started college right after high school in June 1995. I registered as a full time student for my 1st semester in college then life began to set in and I had to pay rent and utilities so I had to work. Therefore I went from being a full time student to a part-time student then unfortunately to 1 class per semester. Regardless of my circumstances, I continued to go to school but in the meantime I got married and started a family.

My goal appeared to get further and further apart. I tried to go to University of Anchorage Alaska(UAA). I did ok for a while. I took one class here and there for about 11 years until I tried to apply for their nursing program. I had all my prerequisite but UAA had several students ahead of me so I waited for a couple of years. I got really discouraged. I searched and searched for another way but no results until a friend told me about av-tech. When I walked through avtech's door, it seems as if all my negative hopes melted away. Registration was not as difficult as UAA and I got one on one help when needed. I am so thankful avtech had a program in place to lead me closer to my goal. But unfortunately they could only take me so far as I finished my licensure as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

As of today March 22, 2011, I am still pursuing my goal to become a registered nurse. I tried UAA again but their list seems as long as when I first started. I'm a little closer but I'm still waiting. I am in hopes to walk through avtech's doors again to feel relieved to not just continue my goal but to complete my goal and become a registered nurse.

Thank you
Marcus Murchison

Signed: _____

Testifier

AVTEC RN Program
Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name
committee on BUDGET dated MARCH 23, 2011
bill/subject.

To whom it concerns;

I, MicheaShea Theus, an previous Avtec LPN graduate would like to voice my happiness in hearing that Avtec will do a LPN to RN program but was sad to hear it had not yet be approved.

After graduating Avtec I went to UAA as a student and have had huge troubles with UAA after graduating. UAA was suppose to have a articulation program once I had applied I was told I would mostly likely not get in because few actually made it into that specific program and their advisors recommended that I do another program one that doing so would set me back another semester and broken down meant that I would repeat two courses that I had already done at Avtec. Against my judgment I went into the program they adviced. During that time the LPN students were insulted and generally told that they shouldn't be allowed into "their" program with the amount of education or lack of and were verbally beat down. I ended up deciding it was better option to look at colleges else where to finish my LPN to RN and withdrew from UAA nursing program.

I would like to say that as a previous student from UAA and Avtec, Anchorage Alaska would highly benefit from allowing Avtec to start their own program and I would love to be one of the students who attend.

Honestly and truthfully,

MicheaShea Theus
(907) 242-0761
3533 Wesleyan Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Signed: MicheaShea Theus
Testifier
UAA
Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone No.

My name is Mallory Hamilton and I am here today to testify in support of the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative. My oldest child Harley experiences some very significant disabilities including down syndrome and autism. 18 months ago, her dad and I were forced to send her to a facility out of state for her safety as well as the safety of others. I say forced, because there was literally no other option. We had spent two years exhausting every possibility before make this almost impossible decision.

There really is no way to adequately convey how damaging this is to a family. Try to imagine what it is like to send your child, in crisis, 2500 miles away for treatment by strangers and compounded by the fact that developmentally she is the equivalent of a 4 year old.

I couldn't be there to soothe her fears or dry her tears; no more rubbing her back to wake her up every morning. I couldn't answer her when she cried for me or comfort her when she was sick. I missed the milestone of her first menstrual period and watching her develop into a young woman.

I spent the first several months of her absence in a fog. I was so sleep deprived that I wasn't able to be the parent my son needed or the wife my husband deserved. I had thought my stress level couldn't get any higher, I was wrong.

The first program she was sent to was not a good match. I can't begin to explain the kind of time I spent and anxiety my family suffered over this. We were helpless. How can I possibly advocate for her effectively from here. There was lots of communication, but as we found when visiting, we were getting a lot of lip service with dubious follow up. We are fortunate, in that we have the means to visit her every 6 weeks...it's still not enough. The 9 months she spent there, were essentially wasted months.

Our choice at this time, was to bring her home and in all likelihood be in a worse place than when she went, or trust the system that had just failed her with a second chance. That was brutal. I'm happy to report that the second program was a much better fit. However, I have a strong suspicion, that once she leaves the very comfortable environment of 24/7 consistency, many of her challenges will return.

I can only imagine how different our lives might have been had there been a program available for her here in Alaska. One that worked closely with families to provide the safest, fullest and most improved life for my child.

In closing, I am grateful that the State of Alaska is willing to intercede on behalf our most venerable population, but I can unequivocally tell you, that this has been the most difficult and challenging time of our lives and I wouldn't wish this on anyone.

Thank You

efforts are applicable to the funding decision for AVTEC's new Designated Duty Engineering (DDE) Program.

I would like to make a couple of key points from our Alaska Resident Hiring reports a part of the record.

1. In 2008 per the Department of Transportation, we found that of 7126 USCG licensed mariners, only 1.46% of them reside in Alaska. In 2010, we asked for an update, and of 7094 USCG licensed mariners, 1.62% of them reside in Alaska. This indicates to us a general lack of licensed engineers available in Alaska.
2. In 2009 and similarly in 2010, Crowley, in support of the Ocean Ranger Program conducted an advertising campaign targeted to Designated Duty Engineers Alaskans, utilizing Alaska Marketing Group, an Alaskan-based company. Not including the national publicity strategies we utilized to solicit applications for Ocean Ranger in the entire maritime community, based on circulation of the Alaska-based and targeted advertising campaign project alone, we should have reached 686000 Alaskans. Last year, that recruiting campaign amounted to 1 viable Alaska resident candidate. This year we have obtained 3 viable Alaska resident candidates. This indicated to us a lack of qualified Designated Duty Engineers in Alaska.

Alaska law requires DDE's as the minimum level of training, education and experience to monitor engineering and environmental compliance aboard the large cruise ships providing tourism that support Alaska's economy. If the goal is to employ more Alaskans in the marine related industries, such as the Ocean Ranger program, then Alaska Vocational Technical Center and their Designated Duty Engineer Program would be an excellent vehicle to obtain this desired result.

Sincerely,



Captain Margaret M. Reasoner
Managing Director, Marine Personnel
AFSO

Crowley Maritime Corporation
9487 Regency Square Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32225
904-727-2684 office
510-206-2218 cell
904-726-4328 fax
Margaret.Reasoner@Crowley.com

CROWLEY

People Who Know™

Anchorage Legislative Information Office
716 W 4th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

23 March 2011

Dear Sir:

My name is Captain Margaret Reasoner and I am the Managing Director for Marine Personnel for Crowley Maritime Corporation. On behalf of Crowley, I am writing in support of Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) and their Designated Duty Engineer Program.

I am responsible for the recruiting, retention and the manning requirements of 126 Crowley-owned or managed vessels. To keep our fleet operating, Crowley employs 1,563 permanent mariners and hires annually an additional 1,173 temporary or rotary mariners.

In Alaska-

- out of Anchorage, we employ approximately 96 mariners to support our fuel distribution operations on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers;
- in Valdez we employ approximately 212 mariners in support of ship assist, escort, and emergency response operations in Prince William Sound;
- out of Seattle, we employ another 171 mariners who frequently support the various vessel operations we conduct in Alaska waters.

These mariners are the crew of approximately 33 Alaska dedicated vessels owned by Crowley. With a few exceptions, per USCG requirements, the minimum qualification to be a Chief Engineer aboard one of these vessels is a Designated Duty Engineer license.

In addition to mariners and vessel crew personnel, for the past 3 years, Crowley seasonally employs approximately 20-35 licensed engineer mariners as Ocean Rangers. With one exception (a graduate from a maritime educational institution with a degree in Environmental Safety), per State of Alaska regulations, the minimum qualification to be an Ocean Ranger is a Designated Duty Engineer.

As part of Crowley's contract in support of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the Ocean Ranger program, I have been the preparer of the annual Report on Alaska Resident Hiring which has been submitted to ADEC. The information contained in that report 2009 and 2010 and the results of our recruiting

9487 Regency Square Blvd
Jacksonville, Florida 32225
P: 904.727.2200
www.crowley.com



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name
committee on H.B. - 108 - Operating Budget 23 March 2011
bill/subject

Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) is the primary education, workforce development, employment, and training organization for Native people in Anchorage, Alaska. All of CITC's programs are rooted in the understanding that true self-determination is based in self-sufficiency and the ability to take responsibility for one's own success. CITC invests in human potential, partnering with individuals to achieve educational and employment goals that lead to lasting, positive change for themselves, their families, and their communities.

CITC is all about People, partnership, and potential - and the power of Alaskans working together - individuals, communities, and private organizations working in partnership to find effective, affordable and sustainable solutions to the issues that face our state, and that can truly develop the vast potential inherent in Alaska's people.

At CITC, our vision for the future is centered on the critical importance of our youth - We envision a future in which all Our People - especially Our Youth, the stewards of our future - have access to vast opportunities, and have the ability, confidence, and courage to advance and achieve their goals, infused with an unshakeable belief in Our endless potential.

The young people of Alaska ARE the future. As a state, there is no more important priority than ensuring that they are prepared to meet the challenges of the future, that they are well educated, and that they are prepared to enter the workforce and become contributing members of society.

We support the Governor's Alaska Performance Scholarship. APS provides three major benefits to the state - it provides incentives for higher academic achievement for our students, it makes it easier for graduating students to afford college, and it helps keep our young people in the state for their college education. Simply put APS is a smart investment of public funds that will help develop Alaska's human capacity, which is our most important natural resource. In Wyoming, where a similar program has been started, it has been reported that some 50% of college-bound students have applied, and there has been correlated increase in admissions in Wyoming colleges, including community colleges. Alaska, too, needs to keep its best and brightest students in the state, and to support and advance the University system.

APS will challenge our students, and our schools, to do their best. We want to emphasize that APS will work best if it can be coupled with strategies that will ensure that all of our school districts - especially those in rural areas - have the resources in place to provide the advanced curricula that will allow students to qualify for the scholarship.

Signed [Signature] Testifier

COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL
Representing (Optional)
3600 SAN JERONIMO DRIVE, ANCHORAGE
Address AK 99506
(907) 793-3403
Phone No.

“I’m going to be an officer in the Air Force, so I need to be a good leader. But being a leader is only part of it. Another is the foundational education I get from the Fellows that will make me a better officer.”

**Brandon Amico, Forty-Ninth State Fellow,
Honors College Class of 2010**

And here is a quote from a UAA faculty member:

“Involvement with Honors College has opened my eyes... We are blessed with an abundance of talent and drive among our undergraduate student body. The Honors College is the catalyst to enable these students to reach their potential and help shape a better future for Alaska.”

--Dr. Rashmi Prasad, Professor of Business Administration

The members of the UAA Honors College Advisory Board, all contributors to the College,

**Margie Brown
Sarah Barton
Dr. Bill Clark
Larry Cash
Brian Davies
Dr. Chris Dyke
Diane Kaplan
Greg Kimura
Tom Nighswander
Bill McKay
Rita Sholton**

All join me in asking you to restore to the budget \$100,000 for the UAA Honors College. It is for our very deserving students and for our future.

Testimony to State Senate, March 23, 2011

I am Sharon Gagnon. I chair the University of Alaska Honors College Advisory Board. I am here to ask you to approve the \$100,000 requested by the Board of Regents for the UAA Honors College that did not appear in the Governor's budget.

Given the chance, our students in Alaska can accomplish great things. The UAA Honors College offers them that chance through course work and research with faculty – an opportunity open to all UAA students depending on funds available.

And the measurable results are there. Our students are winning major awards, such as Fulbright, Marshall and Truman fellowships as well as admission to prestigious graduate and professional schools. And the week of April 11, designated Undergraduate Research Week by both the United States House of Representatives and Governor Parnell, UAA student Mallory Givens will be one of 74 students –out of 700 applicants—to be presenting her research at Posters on the Hill.

The results that cannot be measured will be playing out over the years as the students enrich the life of Alaska, the lives of their families and of other families.

Here are quotes from some of the Honors students themselves:

“The Honors faculty set high standards for their students and their mentoring was instrumental in my success.”

**E.J. David. Ph.D., UAA Assistant Professor of Psychology.
Honors College Class of 2002**

“My experiences in the Honors College core academic program shaped my vision for a more sustainable future.”

Marcus Welker, doctoral student in Dartmouth's program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Honors College Class of 2009

“I owe my graduate opportunities to my work with the Honors College.”

Kelcie Ralph, Marshall Scholar recipient and current graduate student at the London School of Economics. Honors College Class of 2009

Virginia R Baim [vrbaim@besafeandfree.org]
Thu 3/24/2011 1:09 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the Finance Committee via teleconference yesterday. Time constraints prevented me from speaking to two other issues currently before the Finance Committee in consideration of the operating budget that I would like to address briefly.

The first is about Alaska Legal services and is a bit complicated to me because I don't understand how the budget process works. What I do know is that both personally and professionally, I have a great deal of respect for Alaska Legal Services and understand the value of the work they do. I don't know what the people I serve would do without them. We do know that victims of violence who have access to effective civil/legal representation have a substantially greater chance to attain long term safety and support for themselves and their children and dependent family members. I understand there is a bill pending before the Senate that gives the Legislature authority to allocate a percentage of court fees to the civil assistance fund and to then transfer all or part of the fund to Alaska Legal Services to maintain services to low income Alaskans. The part I don't understand is how this bill is or is not tied into the operating budget and where best to direct my comments in support of ALS. However, I assumed I couldn't go wrong addressing the whole Finance Committee because what I remember from 100 years ago when I worked for the Legislature – if it has to do with money it will get to the Finance Committee eventually. Well, this has to do with money and it has to do with how vitally important Alaska Legal Services is in the work to end violence and create a safe and just society.

I also want to offer my support for the \$25,000 in the House budget allocated to Victims For Justice for the 2nd annual Victim Assistance Academy. I was honored by being asked to present during the first Academy and learned a lot from the experience. The Academy is a multi-disciplinary, academic based Victim Advocacy training that is the only such training of its kind available to most of the 31 participants at last year's conference. The majority of the participants were from rural areas of the state and the insights and knowledge they brought to the table made the training so much more valuable to them as well as those of us who came to teach and went away with a hefty dose of learning. More importantly, 31 Alaskans went back to their home communities able and willing to help and support victims of crime and to be an informed voice in crafting village and community specific interventions and responses to violent crime. I urge you to support the House numbers so that the Academy can continue.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Virginia R. (Ginger) Baim, Executive Director
Safe and Fear-Free Environment, Inc.
P.O. Box 94, Dillingham, Alaska 99576
907-842-2320, FAX 907-842-2198
vrbaim@besafeandfree.org

Thursday, March 24, 2011

Dear Senator Hoffman:

I am writing to you regarding Bill HB 108. I am a recipient of the Recruitment & Retention of Natives into Nursing (RRANN). I hope to work in Public Health Nursing when I am finished with school. The Bachelors of Science in Nursing is a requirement for public health so an Associates degree in nursing will not suffice. I did a little research and found that only 1.9% of the Registered Nurses working in Alaska are Natives even though the population of natives in Alaska is a little more than 15%. Nationwide there are only 0.03% Natives practicing nursing. I am a nursing student at UAA (attending the Ketchikan outreach site) with a GPA of 3.66. I ran into a little trouble a few semesters ago with Organic Chemistry which is a requirement for the Bachelors of Science in Nursing, I flunked the first exam with a score of 58%. I studied hard for exam but studied the wrong material.

I immediately called the RRANN office to inquire about tutoring. I was hooked up with a RRANN tutor and continued to attend my weekly recitation sessions (group tutoring with RRANN). I finished the semester with an 88.5% final grade of "B" overall in organic chemistry. I truly believe that without the support, assistance and camaraderie of RRANN I would have simply dropped the class. Dropping the class would have hampered my hopes of getting into the Bachelors of Nursing program and I would have had to settle for the Associates in Nursing.

As another benefit of the RRANN program is a monthly stipend. I currently receive \$325.00 per full month of class. As an outreach student in Ketchikan I am required to go to Anchorage for three weeks during our third and fourth semesters of school. Without the stipend from RRANN I would not be able to afford the costly trip to Anchorage (airfare, hotel, rental car, food, paid parking on UAA campus). Also the cost of nursing and science books is pretty expensive and my RRANN stipends are used to pay for my books each semester.

Going back to the camaraderie, RRANN provides us with the opportunity to give back to the community. While attending a semester in Anchorage I volunteered with the Centers for Disease Control during the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) conference. Before going back to school for nursing I lived in the Bay area and volunteered approximately 20 hours per week for several years with a triathlon club but the AFN volunteer weekend was by far one of the best volunteer experiences I have ever had.

I urge you to please consider funding this unique and instrumental program. There is a nursing shortage and as the profession grows and diversifies the addition of more Alaska natives into nursing can only benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

Janelle S. Hyatt
UAA Student Nurse/RRANN Participant



ADMINISTRATION

230 E. Marydale Avenue, Suite 3
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
tel 907/260-7300, fx 907/260-7301

ASPEN DENTAL CENTER

395 Main Street Loop
Kenai, Alaska 99611
tel 907/283-7759, fx 907/283-4883

COTTONWOOD HEALTH CENTER

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

230 E. Marydale Avenue, Suite 2
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
tel 907/260-3691, fx 907/260-3697

COTTONWOOD HEALTH CENTER

MEDICAL

230 E. Marydale Avenue, Suite 1
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
tel 907/262-3119, fx 907/260-7320

www.pchsak.org

Testimony to Senate Finance Committee

To: Senate Finance Chairman
Attn: **Senate Finance Secretary, 907-465-2187**
From: Stan Steadman, Executive Director, Peninsula Community Health Services, Soldotna, AK
RE: Testimony on Operating Budget

Date: 3/23/11

I called in this morning and had my name added to the list to testify on a requested appropriation for the community health centers (CHCs) of the State, but apparently that information did not get conveyed to the Committee. Therefore, I would like to add my testimony in written form.

Peninsula Community Health Services of Alaska (PCHS) is the community health center based in the Central Kenai Peninsula that serves over 8,000 patients per year (that's 1 in 4 of our area's population) through its medical, dental, and behavioral health programs. My testimony is in support of a proposal by the Alaska Primary Care Association to fund \$3 million in direct patient care to assist the 142 community health center sites across the state to meet increasing unreimbursed costs in medical services for the under- and uninsured, low income people served by our organizations.

PCHS has been in existence since 2002. During that time, our basic federal grant to serve the medical needs of these people has been leveraged through effective management and now represents only 10% of our total operations revenue. Yet, these funds are a very important component of our budget. Because of dramatically increasing demand and resultant unreimbursed costs, we have had to do contingency planning to reduce staff and services. Approval of this grant request will allow us to continue to respond to the medical needs of these vulnerable populations and effectively reduce the high public costs associated with alternatives to our care such as use of the emergency room for primary care.

Your support would be greatly appreciated.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name
committee on FUND TOURISM dated MARCH 23, 2011
bill/subject.

My name is Charles Grimm IV and I am the CEO of BAC Transportation in Anchorage.

I stand in support with ATIA to approve a status quo budget, \$7 million in the capital budget and an achievable \$2.7 million in required industry match.

I am convinced it is absolutely necessary to our business to have organizations like ATIA promote Alaska's tourism industry.

Our industry is on the rebound and we need this support.

Signed: _____

Testifier

BAC TRANSPORTATION

Representing (Optional)

660 West 54th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99518

Address

907-764-5466

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name
committee on FUND TOURISM dated MARCH 23, 2011
bill/subject

My name is Athena Grimm, I have been an Alaskan resident for 33 years currently living in Anchorage with my Husband and 3 children.

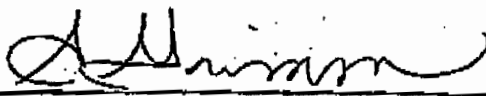
My family owns a business that relies heavily on tourism in the summer.

I support funding the 7 million to stay in the capital budget.

My company has seen a growth in sales, and the marketing that ATIA has done, I am certain is a major reason for the increase.

Now is not the time to back off of marketing Alaska.
As long as we don't have a gas line we need to fix our eyes on the other resources we can bank on.
We know tourism generates revenue and benefits every Alaskan in some way.

Thank you for your time,

Signed: 
Testifier
BAC TRANSPORTATION
Representing (Optional)
P. O. Box 243405, Anchorage, AK 99524
Address
907-764-6354
Phone No.

From: ALan JAquish <alanjaquish@yahoo.com>

To: [Senator Albert Kookesh@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Albert_Kookesh@legis.state.ak.us); [Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us);
[Senator Bill Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Bill_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us); [Senator Cathy Giessel@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Cathy_Giessel@legis.state.ak.us);
[Senator Charlie Huggins@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Charlie_Huggins@legis.state.ak.us); [Senator Dennis Egan@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us);
[Senator Donny Olson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us); [Senator Gary Stevens@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us);
[Senator Hollis French@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Hollis_French@legis.state.ak.us); [Senator Joe Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Joe_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us);
[Senator Johnny Ellis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us)

Sent: Thu, March 24, 2011 1:12:26 PM

Subject: ACES

Dear Senators,

Its my understanding that you are taking public testimony this week, unfortunately I am unable to attend and have not had success connecting by phone. I would like to express my position on our states current tax structure regarding oil and gas production. We have inherited a reserve of natural resources that managed properly can provide this state and the nation with prosperity for decades and more. However, if we continue in our current direction it will be our ruin.

History has many examples of family businesses and governments that have failed due to over taxation and poor management. We inherited a strong economy and created a tax structure that is bankrupting the business that our for fathers like Stevens and Hickel fought hard to create.

We need to restructure our taxes in a way that make our state competitive for gas and oil exploration. Our taxed percent should be no higher than any other state in our nation, considering the logistics and added expense that our oil reserves entail. I think a hard look at how the Dakotas are currently doing business is in order.

This matter should be dealt with expediently and pursued with great zeal. We, as a state, should never be affected by foreign issues such as the one in Libya right now.

I am behind Governor Parnell's push for tax reform that gives us back that competitive edge.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Alan JaQuish

Anchorage Alaska

The Gelineaus [bpgelineau@acsalaska.net]
Wed 3/23/2011 9:02 PM

Dear Senator,

I was on the line waiting to speak from 5:20 until your session conclusion at 6:20 today (3/23/11). Once the session was over, I called the contact number (1-855-463-5009) and was given your email information. Here are the comments I wanted to share.

As a parent, I encourage you to fund the Alaska Performance Scholarship as a merit based scholarship.

As an early graduate from North Pole Christian School, my son, Douglas, has already applied for the scholarship and received tentative approval based on pending funding. We have heard that the Senate Finance Committee is recommending that \$7 million of the merit-based funding be moved to a needs based funding. I believe this will remove the scholarship from my son. We are a solid middle-class family. We can provide food, shelter, and clothing for our family. However, to do so, I have two jobs. My son has always been a self-motivated, achievement oriented young man. He would love to stay in Alaska and receive a quality education without a huge debt. The Alaska Performance Scholarship offers him this opportunity, as long as it remains funded based on performance.

Thank you for your time,
Paula Gelineau

From: James R. Jones

To: Lyman Hoffman Chair of Finance Committee

Subject: Testimony for the Finance Committee

Date: March 24, 2011

Email address: jrialaska@gmail.com

My name is James Jones, President of the Board for SAFE and Fear-Free Environment here in Dillingham. I am writing to let you know what SAFE means to me and the people of Bristol Bay and why your continued support is so important to us.

In any given year, SAFE will provide direct, immediate safety services to over 600 individual people, averaging 150-200 people each month. Nearly 15% of the adults we serve are men. Our volunteers staff the only toll-free 24 hour crisis line in the region. We will provide emergency transportation to over 100 victims of violence to the nearest safe shelter. Nearly 50 individual teens participate regularly in our youth support and leadership groups. Our SISTR program for women who are battered and chemically dependent has been cited statewide and nationally as a model program. The people of Dillingham and throughout Bristol Bay have repeatedly identified SAFE as one of our region's most important resource for victim assistance and for fostering the changes that are necessary to end interpersonal violence.

It is this record for community building, collaboration and coordination, and positive leadership that positioned SAFE to be awarded the Rural Community grant for our CANDU Partnership Pilot Project through DHSS and the Governor's Initiative to end Violence in Alaska. It is also why I serve on the Board and am proud to be a member of this dynamic organization.

It is also, why I want to urge you to continue your support for the budget items that are necessary to sustain our program including the following:

\$550,000 in DPS grants line to pay increased costs for fuel,

Transportation, health insurance and emergency services,

The Department of Public Safety's recommendation to replace the funding from a one-year federal grant for legal advocacy services,

and to fully fund the Rural Community Pilot Project grants line at \$1.6 million dollars for FY12.

Thank you for the opportunity to write to your committee and share what I know about one of the best resources we have to create an Alaska where every child, woman and man is safe in their own home and in their community.

Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee CHC

Mr. Chair and Committee Members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

For the record my name is Randi Sweet, Community Action Director for Health with United Way of Anchorage.

United Way supports the \$3 million budget increment for the community health centers which provide a system of care across our state, particularly to the most vulnerable.

Our local CHC is the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center which provides

- A critical basic health care safety net in Anchorage
- They served 11,000 clients last year
 - 41% of those uninsured
 - 17% were Seniors
 - 64% were at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level
- ANHC is a key community partner with United Way and in particular with Anchorage Project Access, Project Homeless Connect and the Dental Care Access Project.
- They are working actively to incorporate the Patient Centered Medical Home in their current practice and in preparation for the new facility to open in 2012. They provide critical general, oral and limited behavioral health services to support overall patient health.
- ANHC Staff and services are held in high regard and greatly appreciated in our community.

And so, we ask that you fund the \$3 million budget increment for Alaskan Community Health Centers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Head Start/Early Head Start is critical especially when we recognize that our students have low language & academic skills and Kindergarten expectations are rising.

High school drop-out statistics show that one important and documented factor for high school graduation is Pre-school and Kindergarten attendance. Many state and federal dollars are spent remediating drop-out students, young adults, and adults. **Head Start/Early Head Start is a place that sets children up for future success. It is an investment worth making!**

Head Start/Early Head Start provides jobs! There is a 20% unemployment rate across our whole region. With limited jobs in our region, our program serves the need for jobs! Plus, Kawerak, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start fully funds staff to earn AAS and BA degrees in Early Childhood Education while they are employed with us. **Head Start/Early Head Start provides jobs and education!**

Many positive things are going on in the Bering Strait Region because of our Head Start/Early Head Start Program. Children's needs are being met. Children are learning. Families are supported. Adults are being employed. Staff are earning an education. Communities are stabilized.

It is very concerning that Head Start/Early Head Start services may be limited when families need the services. **Please consider support of the \$300,000 increment for Head Start in the House version, and recommend the Senate include an increment for at least \$300,000 for statewide Head Start. Our state is situated to lose around \$1.8 million of federal funding for Head Start. With proper funding, more opportunities exist for success in our Bering Strait region and all of Alaska!**

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Trowbridge
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March 23, 2011

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

The Bering Strait region cannot afford to lose Head Start/Early Head Start services!

We serve 274 children, with 29 children on our waiting list, in 12 communities in the Bering Strait Region: Brevig Mission, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, Koyuk, Nome, Shishmaref, St. Michael, Shaktoolik, Teller, Wales, and White Mountain.

Kawerak, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start employs 66.5 teachers, teacher aides, administrative staff, cooks and janitors. Through our partnership with Bering Straits School District and Nome Public Schools, 13 certified teachers also hold a position in our Head Start classrooms.

If federal funding cuts go through as proposed (22.4%), 58 children (21% of our 274 children enrolled) will be denied services and 14 staff positions (21% of our 66.5 staff positions) will be eliminated in our region alone. 697 children will be denied services and 158 staff positions will be eliminated state wide. 218,000 children will be denied services and 55,000 staff positions will be eliminated nation-wide.

Our children and families need Head Start/Early Head Start! Our low income families are supported and encouraged through the beginning years of child rearing. Parents are given nutrition, health, medical, and academic support for their children. Children are provided with a safe and nurturing learning environment that seeks to meet children's physical and emotional needs. Children have the opportunity to grow and develop in a positive social setting. Families are given the opportunity to give their children a solid foundation in education. **Head Start/Early Head Start gives families stability.** Not all of our children, families, and communities will have these opportunities if funding cuts take place.

Our K-12 principals emphasize the importance of our Head Start/Early Head Start Program. Many (44%) of our K-12 schools in the Bering Strait Region (Brevig Mission, Diomed, Gambell, Savoonga, Shishmaref, Stebbins, and Wales) have been struggling to meet academic requirements associated with Adequate Yearly Progress. Keeping our Head Start/Early Head Start programs appropriately funded is one effective way to help our children in this region succeed! **It is vital in preparing the students in our region for Kindergarten and the years that follow.**

AP3 Grant data shows that the children of the North-West Arctic region of Alaska scored low on language and academic tests when entering Pre-school. Currently the Nome Public Schools is adopting a 90% proficiency reading goal for all students in all grades which will increase Kindergarten entrance requirements. The federal requirements (No Child Left Behind), say 100% of the children will be required to be reading at grade level by 2014. Research shows that children in Kindergarten who are not reading at grade level have a one in eight chance that they will ever catch up. If by first grade children are not reading on grade level they have a one in thirteen chance that they will ever catch up.

increases. We should endeavor to encourage this generation to not only obtain their education within Alaska, but to remain as residents contributing their knowledge and skills. It seems to me that the legislature should feel obligated to future generations, to choose to fund this program, rewarding those who have endeavored to show themselves academically proficient and motivated. This program has been publicly supported, advertised and touted by high school counseling staffs and University staff as a program that will be in place, funded and operational for the 2011 graduating seniors of this state. Not to fund this program at this late date is to send the message that these students' needs are less important than others who may not have as much financial support or academic motivation. That is indeed a travesty!

I implore each of you that serve on this committee, and who represent all Alaskans, to please find a way to support funding to this program by exerting your influence in this budget funding as originally intended and outlined. Thank you for your time & consideration of my testimony on behalf of the students throughout AK who have by their own hard work, excelled and reached these high levels of performance. They are our future and are most certainly worth the investment of this scholarship program.

March 23, 2011

For the record, my name is Sherrie Rahlfs and I have a senior attending North Pole High School who will graduate this May. I wish to provide testimony in support of the Alaska Performance Scholarship program, as proposed and designed by Gov. Sean Parnell. The original intention of this scholarship was to reward students for exemplary academic achievement.

Unfortunately, not all students that have worked diligently throughout their schooling, will be able to receive funds from "needs based" scholarship programs. I would like to urge Senate support of funding for the Alaska Performance Scholarship as outlined in the governor's budget and previously approved by the Alaska House of Representatives. To shift these funds into a "needs based" program will have a significant financial impact on these high performing students. This may be a factor that will contribute too many of our students leaving Alaska to achieve their hopes, dreams, and goals of a quality education that is more affordable through other scholarships offered and the WUE consortium of colleges. Many students and their families had already been planning on this program, as explained to them during financial aid meetings and counseling, to assist with their financial needs to attend an Alaskan university.

Not funding the APS eliminates a prime opportunity to reward these students that have shown themselves academically committed to excellence. This program encourages our greatest resource, our young people, to remain within the state to obtain their education. There can be quite an incentive for young people to *leave* Alaska to pursue their education, when financial offers and assistance are better out of state. As our young people leave the state, (commonly referred to as the "brain drain"), to receive their education and training, the risk of not returning to Alaska post-graduation, to work and contribute as productive members of our communities,

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HOUSE BILL 108 APPROP: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds

BETHEL--testimony

As the Assistant Director of the Kuskokwim Campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I would like to impress upon you how vital the recruitment of any student is to the capacity of the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta. We already know that the best way to sustain this region economically and socially is to "grow our own," whether it be teachers, engineers, technologists or nurses. The Governor's message has been loud and clear--keep Alaska jobs for Alaskans! It makes no sense to import expertise and export our financial resources when the only thing standing between us and self-sufficiency is education.

A really important program, the Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives in Nursing (RANN) is doing an outstanding job of fulfilling its mission as spelled out in its name. The Bethel portion of that program allows pre-nursing students taking course prerequisites and nursing students completing the AAS nursing program while continuing to reside in their home communities. That factor is likely the single most important factor in the success of many of the students, coupled with a truly committed UAA faculty member placed in Bethel who gives 200% to the program and a KuC based student success facilitator who is in constant contact with the students.

I see the RANN nursing students in the halls of KuC, studying in labs on weekends and late at night, volunteering at health fairs and cultural events, but most importantly, at work in health care institutions after they have graduated. In that capacity they have the exclusive ability to understand and reflect the cultural knowledge and values that could indeed make a critical or, at the very least stressful, visit to a health care provider or the hospital manageable, and perhaps even survivable, for many residents of the region, especially Elders.

Seeing local nursing students at work in their field in their home communities is the ultimate compliment and proof of the success of a program. Cutting the funding to a program that has only good associated with it is the ultimate bad decision for the future of a region. I urge you to do whatever is necessary to reinstate the funding for this program.

Thank you for any assistance.

8. Finally, I remember talking with one nurse who was from one of the Delta villages who had just completed the Bachelor's program in Nursing in Anchorage. She had just returned to Bethel and was starting work as an RN at the Bethel hospital. I did not know her as a student but when I met her I asked her about the experience of being from a village and getting her education in Anchorage. She smiled sadly and said that the only reasons that she succeeded was her determination to return to Bethel and the RRANN program.

In such communities as Bethel there is a great need for nurses from rural areas who have the local knowledge and values that reflect the patients they serve. UAA through its nursing outreach sites, such as Bethel, is trying to provide that nursing workforce. That locally grown nursing workforce benefits the student, the community, and the quality of patient care. The RRANN program is a fundamental and indispensable part of that effort. Please re-instate the funding for this very valuable RRANN program back into HB ~~100~~ so that in Bethel and in the other 10 nursing school outreach sites from Sitka to Valdez to Nome and Dillingham to Fairbanks can continue to use the RRANN resource.

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Mary Weiss, Bethel
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 PO Box 150, Bethel, AK 99559

My name is Mary Weiss. I am an assistant professor for the UAA School of Nursing and the outreach site coordinator for the Bethel nursing program. I have heard that some think that the Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives in Nursing, the RRANN program is primarily for Anchorage. I am here in Bethel to dispel that misperception and to share with you some of the good work that the RRANN program has done here in Bethel.

In Bethel Evelyn Pensgard has been working for the RRANN program for at least 4 years. She is born and raised in Bethel and as far as I can tell she knows everyone. I have been honored to be able to work closely with her. Her effectiveness has had significant influence on the success of the students here. In my experience the overwhelming majority of academic issues that arise with the Bethel students begin as financial or family issues that affect the students and become barriers to academic success. Without the RRANN program in Bethel there would be no Evelyn.

How has RRANN helped the Bethel students?

- the RRANN success facilitator in Bethel*
1. One day a student who had come to Bethel for the nursing program was considering dropping out of the program because she missed her family so much. They were still living in one of the villages. Evelyn talked with the student and then Evelyn took the student to find housing in Bethel that would be suitable for her family. They found an apartment. The family moved to Bethel. The student remained in the program and graduated.
 2. The students travel to Anchorage for 3 week intensive clinical experiences for 3 out of the 4 semesters. Each trip costs each student approximately \$1500. Many organizations have donated generously to help defray the expenses but the cost remains a hardship. RRANN has provided monthly stipends for the students and has created community awareness through publicity about the activities of the nursing students. That publicity has increased the community awareness and support for the students.
 3. I moved to Bethel from Anchorage approximately 5 years ago to take this teaching assignment. The Bethel social structure, family structure, and prior educational preparation for the students is so complex, interconnected, and different than what I have experienced previously that I believe that without RRANNs assistance I would have been hopelessly unaware of the influences that ultimately affect the student's performance. RRANN provides the "insiders knowledge" so that I can understand the influences that affect the students performance and can be a more effective instructor.
 4. In Bethel the RRANN program works in partnership with the Kuskokwim College so that Evelyn Pensgard can advise, counsel, mentor, and motivate the students which she does as the RRANN success facilitator on a daily basis.
 5. RRANN has arranged and paid for tutors for the preclinical students.
 6. RRANN gives each preclinical and clinical nursing student a monthly stipend and provides monthly social gatherings so that the students from all the outreach sites can discuss issues with each other.
 7. The RRANN program encourages student volunteer participation in local community activities such as the Bethel Immunization Coalition annual community immunization campaign and the Kindergarten roundup.

Hello,

My name is Marcus Murchison and I was an avtech today from August 2009-July 2010. This program has truly been a blessing to me. Over the years, I have been trying to obtain my license as a registered nurse. It has been very hard however I never quit. I started college right after high school in June 1995. I registered as a full time student for my 1st semester in college then life began to set in and I had to pay rent and utilities so I had to work. Therefore I went from being a full time student to a part-time student then unfortunately to 1 class per semester. Regardless of my circumstances, I continued to go to school but in the meantime I got married and started a family.

My goal appeared to get further and further apart. I tried to go to University of Anchorage Alaska(UAA). I did ok for a while. I took one class here and there for about 11 years until I tried to apply for their nursing program. I had all my prerequisite but UAA had several students ahead of me so I waited for a couple of years. I got really discouraged. I searched and searched for another way but no results until a friend told me about av-tech. When I walked through avtech's door, it seems as if all my negative hopes melted away. Registration was not as difficult as UAA and I got one on one help when needed. I am so thankful avtech had a program in place to lead me closer to my goal. But unfortunately they could only take me so far as I finished my licensure as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

As of today March 22, 2011, I am still pursuing my goal to become a registered nurse. I tried UAA again but their list seems as long as when I first started. I'm a little closer but I'm still waiting. I am in hopes to walk through avtech's doors again to feel relieved to not just continue my goal but to complete my goal and become a registered nurse.

Thank you

Marcus Murchison