

March 6, 2013

State of Alaska

House and Senate Finance Committees:

HB 605 operating budget

Chairman and members of the Committee: My name is Lanetta Lundberg and I reside at 7446 South Tongass, Ketchikan, Alaska. I am a constituent from District 1A and the Vice President of Culture and People at Ketchikan Medical Center.

I am here today both in that capacity and as a citizen to encourage you to include the Alaska Area Health Education Center in the UA budget or in the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's General Fund request. The funding is to support five (5) regional, industry-hosted Centers that focus on community-based training, and preparation of Alaskans into health careers. Regional centers are located throughout Alaska and Ketchikan Medical Center is proud to host the Southeast Area Health Education Center serving all of Southeast Alaska, otherwise known as SE AHEC.

UAA Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) (GF: \$320.0, NGF: \$75.0, Total: \$395.0)

The Alaska AHEC system has felt the impact of decreases in federal funding that have already occurred for three centers and will continue through FY2016. This budget reduction for each of five centers is from \$250k to \$100k per year. The AHEC program office, located at UAA, supports the five AHEC centers (Interior, Yukon Kuskokwim, South Central, Southeast, and 15FY14 Operating Budget Program Descriptions Northwest) serving large geographic regions of Alaska, which focus on: developing and sustaining a strong healthy workforce in Alaska by engaging youth and others to enter health related careers; recruiting health students to consider working in rural and underserved areas of the State through clinical rotations in rural areas; and retaining health professionals in rural areas by providing continuing education opportunities. The AHEC system plays an important part in developing the health workforce in the state and works closely with a variety of partners to attract Alaskans into health careers, beginning with courses in UA health programs. In upcoming years the healthcare sector is predicted to produce Alaska's largest job growth; funding for the AHEC system is a key factor in fulfilling the UAA mission as the lead university at UA for health matters, and is a high priority of the Alaska Health Workforce Coalition and the Mental Health Trust Authority.

The indisputable fact remains that we all use and will continue to need access to health care services. This requires having a qualified workforce available to tend to our needs – and the needs of our parents, children, and friends and neighbors. We can't rely on this coming from outside of Alaska and need to continue to strengthen and grow health care education, training and workforce within Alaska.

Thank you,

Lanetta Lundberg

7446 South Tongass

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Lanetta Lundberg

*Please ensure the
AHEC increment for \$395,000
is included in the
UA operating budget.*

FAXED
03-06-13

Dear House Finance Comm.

Dennis and myself (Vickie) are so thankful for independent living ^{for} ~~and~~ the help they provided. Dennis had back surgery and also had a broken hip that ~~he~~ had not been repaired. Without the ramp Dennis would have been housebound. ~~etc etc~~ We both
Thank Independent Living Center.

Vickie Diver

Dennis Vaughan

FAXED
03-06-13

My Name is Patricia Chapman, I reside at 3233 Emma court in Ketchikan. I am concerned about many aspects of your proposed budget cuts and omissions. I commend you all for trying to be fiscally responsible. However I believe that your proposed budget cuts may cause an increase in services that are very costly to the state. The Complex Behavioral Collaborative program that you have omitted from the budget is to care for those individuals who have too complex of behaviors for their providers in their home communities. The CBC funding would provide for a professional to train and provide tools to the staff and family in how to help that individual. This would keep the individual in their home community around family and friends safely. This would help stop some of the abuse to families and children by individuals with complex behaviors. Believe me an individual with complex behaviors do not wish to behave as they do; most do not understand what they did until after it was done; then they are appalled. Many individuals try to commit suicide when they understand how they have behaved; they do not know how to stop it or why they do it. The CBC funding would keep some of those individuals from entering our criminal Justice system. Just 10 individuals who are sent to a 30 day psychiatric institute (only ten mind you) will cost what we are asking you to fund the CBC for a year for. This funding would support 4 to 5 times, or more individuals in their home community. A per day stay in a psychiatric unit is \$1200 per day plus, the transportation is up to \$80,000 per medevac trip. The cost of keeping an individual in Jail costs the state hundreds of dollars per day. The cost of legal system is a expensive cost to the state, as these individuals use the public attorney system. I would rather pay out now to help these individuals stay at home and perchance heal enough so that they could get a job, even part time, to allow them to be a healthy part of the community. Please add the CBC funding back into the budget.

I also ask you not cut the Traumatic Brain injury funding. We have hundreds individuals and families who need the case management and someone to guide them to the resources to allow in TBI individual to heal and become able to understand the sudden change in themselves. It is very scary to wake up and be a different person and yet know who you once were. Not to be able to do what you once could do or even speak as you use to do. You do not have to have a severe injury to have this happen to you, a mild brain injury has the potential to change your whole life. As my daughter told her peers once, "In a nano second, your life is totally changed". It could happen to you or one of your loved ones at any moment, if so you would want help for them or yourself. The TBI program helps hundreds of folks with gaining tools to use in their daily life or locating resources for them in the state.

To cut the mental health budget as you are projecting will put many vulnerable individuals at jeopardy of being homeless, in jail or in the psychiatric institution. Those with jobs may lose them as services are no longer available for them to maintain a safe healthy behavior. Let us not load our jail system up even more with these individual with mental health problems because we omitted to provide them with the services they needed to live in a safe manor.

FAXED
03-06-13

People with mental health and developmental disabilities are depending upon you to safe guard them and keep them in their communities safely. I urge you to look back upon the vast cuts you are proposing to this segment and revise it to safe guard those in your hands who cannot safe guard temselves.

The center for independent living provides aide and skills that other agencies do not in aiding individuals develop and retain independence living capabilities. They provide free loan of equipment for folks to try to see if it will aide them in gaining some independence. They have trained staff to help fix homes so folks who acquire a disability suddenly, can stay in their homes safely. They help in finding resources for people with a disability that will enable them to function within the community. Centers for independent living are a vital part of the disability community. Lose the function of your eyes, ears or extremities and see how suddenly you need to find a resource to help you live somewhat as you use to do, or even stay in your home. Please help Centers for independent Living continue to stay in our communities.

You may ask how I know what things cost or how an individual reacts. I work in a field where the cost of medical care is prominent. I work in a field where the cost of medical care is prominent. I am hearing impaired myself and a parent / care provider of a 24 yr. old TBI individual who was brain injured seven years ago and occurred severe physical limitations along with the brain injury that she is very actively attempting to overcome. So I am living the life with her and it is not always joyful when those around do not comprehend the stress and challenges she daily has to face. I also volunteer to help others with brain injuries find help and understand what is happening. Finding the resources are not easy to locate when most are just not available in our state at this time.

You are my elected officials and I would like to think you are proactive in your fiscal responsibilities and not reactive. I do not like to see our budget getting larger and larger but our state is getting a larger and larger population and they live or lived dangerous lives. We also have not cared for many of these individual in the past, so we now have a high population that needs treated and cared for. If we do a good job now we should slow down the expanding costs of care for these individuals within the state. Alaska is behind other states in the care for TBI victims.

I thank you for taking the time to read this and understand what I am trying to convey to you. Please feel free to contact me for more information if I can help in any way.

FAXED
03-06-13

Patricia (Pat) Chapman

patchapman@peacehealth.org

907-617-5704

FAXED
03-06-13

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: (907) 225-9675
Fax: (907) 225-8546

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Paula Price-Executive Director

REPRESENTING: HOPE- Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies

BILL# or SUBJECT: DVSA

COMMITTEE AND

HEARING DATE: House Finance Committee 2-26-2013

I would like to thank the Alaska State Legislature on behalf of HOPE and the people of Prince of Wales Island for including funding in the budget for new and emerging DVSA programs such as ours. We offer legal advocacy and prevention education services. DVSA is a major concern here and it affects many families. This funding could enable us to provide more prevention and outreach training to the more remote parts of P.O.W. This funding could ensure that we retain our advocate as a full time employee.