

From: [Jonas Lamb](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Restore funding to Online With Libraries (OWL)
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 7:01:38 PM

I hope you will find these two brief highlights of the impact of the OWL program enough to vote to restore the governor's funding of \$761,800 to this vital program.

- 1) **OWL (Online With Libraries)**, which was included in Governor's budget, is being cut entirely by finance education subcommittee. The governor's funding of **\$761,800** should be restored. OWL internet funding leverages federal dollars in E-rate subsidy so is a good investment. **For every \$1 spent by the state on internet services, the federal match is \$4.**
- 2) Like many state agencies, the **Alaska State library budget** was going to be reduced by about 4%. The finance education subcommittee increased this reduction to 19% (reduced by \$500,000)!!! **The governor's original allocation should be restored. The Alaska State Library provides library services to state agencies; provides continuing education and online services to all libraries in the state; and collects, preserves and shares historical documents about Alaska.**

Public Libraries provide essential services like internet access, safe spaces for kids and free literacy (print and digital) to the entire state of Alaska. In many communities the public library can only afford the exorbitant cost of internet service due to subsidies made available through participation in OWL. The OWL program also connects rural residents with cultural, economic and educational programs and services not available in their communities via video conference.

I appreciate continued support for the Live Homework Help service provided through the Alaska State Library/SLED program and urge you to not lose sight of your constituents and other residents across the state in small communities who need the enhanced broadband support provided by the Alaska State Library to access this excellent and cost-effective service.

Thank You-

John (Jonas) Lamb

Juneau

