

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Baxter, Kathleen <kbaxter@city.kodiak.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 12:37 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Restore OWL funding

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From: Baxter, Kathleen  
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:05 PM  
To: finance.committee@akleg.gov  
Subject: Restore OWL funding

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

While in Juneau last year I had the opportunity to speak in person with many of you and thank you for the care and time you gave to that period of extraordinary decision making. You gave me much food for thought as I considered the practical budget decisions regarding library operations at the Kodiak Public Library. This year, I thank you again for your careful consideration as we Alaskans navigate a course of astonishing actions. Leveraging the best and most cost effective resources for our state is paramount.

Please restore the Governor's amount of \$761,800 for the State Library OWL program to the budget. Eliminating OWL deteriorates a cost effective budget strategy to sustain public library internet connectivity for all Alaskans. Without OWL, as a public library director I cannot maximize the local municipal funding, and I certainly will lose the 4-1 match of federal e-rate dollars.

I recall a few members of the Senate Finance Committee last year thinking that by FY2017 the public could pay an internet fee for using the public library internet connection. This is not possible for those 95% of Alaskan libraries accepting federal e-rate dollars. Federal law stipulates that if e-rate dollars for internet connectivity are used in libraries, then the library cannot charge the public for internet connectivity. Currently the State uses 1.5 million e-rate dollars.

If I do the math after losing OWL, and, consequently, losing federal e-rate dollars, the public library will be charging children, cannery workers, parents, childcare providers, anywhere from \$2.00 to \$3.75 per 15-minute internet session. At a critical time of severe, deep cuts at 4% to 19% across the State budget, these very individuals of rural communities who need to participate in 21st century global endeavors as vibrant Alaskans will be counting on the modest, cost effective, OWL and e-rate funded public library internet connectivity. Please restore OWL funding.

I am at your service and urge you to contact me for any clarification or additional information.

Many thanks for all you do,  
Katie Baxter  
Kodiak resident

Katie Baxter | Library Director | Kodiak Public Library  
612 Egan Way Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Office: 907-486-8688 | Mobile: 907-654-7377 | kbaxter@city.kodiak.ak.us

Kodiak Public Library Hours: M-Fri: 10am-9pm Sat: 10am-5pm Sun: 1pm-5pm

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** mlackeyak@gmail.com on behalf of Mark Lackey <lackey@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 12:24 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Childhood Programs

I'm advocating for Early Childhood Funding to be funded in the budget at the levels they are currently at.

We all know the budget needs to be cut, but we shouldn't be cutting items that will just save us money now and cost us money over the long term.

If we want families to be less supported and children less prepared for school then we will pay for these cuts in higher special education costs and more family involvement with OCS, law enforcement, and criminal justice.

Alaska is far behind the nation as it is in early childhood services - eliminating these three programs moves us further down the list of states that understand that early intervention saves money down the road.

Mark Lackey  
1330 Woodcrest Dr  
Wasilla, AK 99654

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Vivian Sakar <vsakar@kuspuk.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 11:58 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

I would like to see that this fund for the Early childhood be restored. I have seen that it helps with the kids of own have more of the books that were sent. As being a single mom and trying to make ends meet, these books and programs help alot with trying to help my children learn at home as well in the school. As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Thank you

Vivian Sakar

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Marv Hanson <hansonanc@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 11:55 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Time for serious solutions

Dear Senators,

Alaska is in a serious financial crisis, bold moves must be taken now even if they are unpopular.

Yes, we need to cut expenditures to the bone, but we cannot cut our way to fiscal security, and with oil revenues declining we must have new sources of revenue. As much as I am against increased taxes, I see no alternative but to initiate a state income tax, we have enjoyed a free ride for a long time, but now it is time for all of us to share in the budget crisis solution.

I know this is unpopular and you may suffer politically for it, but it is time to have the fortitude to do what is necessary to keep us solvent. Please have the courage to act now, next year will be too late.

Sincerely,

Marvin L. Hanson

Homer, Alaska



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the \_\_\_Senate Finance Committee on the Operating/Mental Health Budget\_\_\_, dated 030916\_\_\_\_\_.

Please accept the following as written testimony.

## HB256/SB139

I would like to keep money in these areas:

Education, health services for all women, special needs, youth, children, mental health, senior citizens in AK receiving assistance with living expenses, in-home care and public safety needs. Suggestions:

State taxes- all Alaskans pay state tax according to income, all "out of state workers" pay state taxes according to income.

Sales tax:

Anchorage starts paying a 3-5% sales tax. All Alaskans pay a gradual increase of 3-5% sales tax. Increase sales tax during tourist season (May-Sept), Alaska residents of 6 months or longer exempt of sales tax increase i.e. see Washington State.

PFD: **Do not touch!!!** Use a percentage of \$30 million kept in savings and long term investments.

Legislature: Cut "open ended spending"

Nothings of this counts the potential income/taxing the marijuana industry i.e. see Colorado, Oregon, Washington and California who have a formula set that is working and making more money for state budgets.

These are examples for making our own revenue, fund education and making countless jobs for our economy.

7037,625 people in AK X 3% tax =\$221,287  
\$221,287 X 25 a day spending = \$5,532,187  
\$5,532,187 X 365 days = \$201,924,844  
Per person \$273.75 per year

Signed:

Edith McCusker  
Kenai Alaska 99611  
283-3751

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sally & Al <dwyersa@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 11:30 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** comments

Good morning,

We want to encourage the support of **NO CUTs** to Public Broadcasting, or at the very best effort, the proposed 27% reduction.

We can survive just barely with this cut, any deeper and we will lose our federal match and close the doors after more than 36 years of operation. This will effectively end public radio in all of the smaller communities statewide. Growing up in Alaska outside of the larger cities means we rely on the radio for everything from the lunch menu at the school, to flu shot clinics, birth announcements, funeral announcements, local editorials, history moments, interviews of local interest and so much more

Small island communities like ours totally depend on our own KFSK for news, music and most importantly emergency notifications and alerts. We do not have the luxury of choice as in the large and larger markets. We only have our wonderful volunteer driven KFSK which reaches more than 30 small villages/hamlets in our surrounding area. The whole town supports our radio station with thousands of volunteer hours annually saving a huge portion of the budget -a clear sign that this works for us. If you look carefully at the budget, you will see that any cuts are into the bone-the meat is gone.

Thank you for the careful consideration of this very important decision,

Al and Sally Dwyer  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833



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[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

# City of Sand Point



To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Sand Point is writing this letter in support of public broadcasting, and in particular for local support of our regional radio affiliate KSDP.

The Alaska Public Broadcasting service is a statewide essential service supported by the State of Alaska. Public broadcasting, and radio in particular, has a unique and important role to play in rural Alaska. Public broadcasting provides a wealth of civic, cultural and education information to Alaska residents, public safety and emergency communication services, not to mention programming and entertainment. In Sand Point, folks rely on KSDP for weather reports, commercial fishing updates and management reports, community event information, and showcasing local talent. In addition, the station live broadcasts our City Council and Borough Assembly meetings, streams Board of Fish meetings (when the internet allows!), and airs live basketball. In short, it is a crucial component of our community's health and well-being, not to mention local democracy.

We obviously realize the State of Alaska is facing another budget deficit for FY17, and likely additional deficits in future fiscal years. A budget shortfall in the range of \$2-3 billion results in tough choices and difficult cuts to all facets of state government across Alaska. The public broadcasting budget endured a severe cut during the FY16 legislative process, and further significant reductions are expected in FY17. Cuts to all segments of the government are expected for next fiscal year but the extent of the proposed reduction to public broadcasting seems disproportionate and will adversely affect the availability of service across Alaska. This is especially true in rural Alaska where public broadcasting is often the primary means of entertainment and community and regional information sharing.

We in rural Alaska are willing to "do our share" to help the State climb out of our fiscal hole, but the City of Sand Point respectfully requests the Alaska Legislature consider less severe cuts to the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission in the FY17 budget.

Sincerely,

Glen Gardner, Jr  
Mayor



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** howard williamson <hjwak@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:52 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Rep. Chris Tuck  
**Subject:** Budget

I have lived in Anchorage before statehood and before big oil and the Permanent Fund.

The life style was very good. My first job after graduating from Anchorage High School was putting in house foundations. At the end of the day my boss would look at what we did and would usually say, "We earned our keep." We earned our keep and felt good about it.

I do not see how we can disperse money for a few years. Maybe when the oil gets below \$100.00 a barrel we the owners should pay into the fund to keep it and the State healthy.

We need to keep people working in the government sector and private sector. We need to keep the cash flow around the state going. Maybe pay rates reduced but not cut.

Suspend the PFD for a few years. Try to use some of that money to create jobs and reduce the dependency of different welfare programs.

Howard Williamson

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Karen Hofstad <karenhofstad@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:34 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Essential Service - Public Broadcasting Budget....

Hello, I am Karen Hofstad in Petersburg and worked with our Group over 40 years ago to get our Incredible KFSK public radio station started. We worked so hard to get communication in our community – we did not and do not have any other means of communication for ALL in our area including our Borough area to Juneau's limits and all of Prince of Wales Island from Whale Pass north. Our fishermen and all in the surrounding area depend on KFSK for safety and emergency issues!

The proposed budget cut from the House and now in your Senate Finance committee would be the end for our little town! We SUPPORT public radio – of 3,000 population (including babies!) we have 1,200 members and raise 51% of our budget LOCALLY. We are just too small to be able to pick up more!

Again, if the State does not come in with at least the 27% the Governor recommended, we then are not eligible for federal grants that has been so important.

It is JUST NOT good business sense to cut below where we then are not eligible for other funds that have made our Station function!!!

We all know the financial situation of our State and what a tough time you are having to make this work. I am all for cutting out the Permanent Fund at least until there is more enforcement of the rules! There are a lot of people getting PFD that are not eligible.

Respectfully,

Karen Hofstad, Petersburg

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Debra Thompson <dthompson@petersburgak.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:10 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Radio Funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Petersburg Borough, I'd like to express our concern for cutting 100% of public radio funding in Alaska. Rural towns do not have multiple radio stations or private radio stations. Our public radio station in Petersburg, KFSK, is a valuable resource for getting out the word regarding Borough business (Water line shut downs, road closures, icy road reports, special meetings, holiday closures, holiday refuse pick up schedules, public hearings, ordinance adoption notifications, call-in shows on local issues – just to name a few off the top of my head) as well as being our emergency notification center for all emergencies (school lock downs, tsunamis, etc.). In their effort to keep the public informed, they also broadcast our Assembly and School Board meetings live, both on the radio and streaming over the internet. KFSK not only serves Petersburg, but many surrounding communities as well (Kake, Kupreanof, Whale Pass, Coffman Cove, etc.) **and** our remote neighbors, many residing within the Borough.

On a personal level, I appreciate KFSK for much of their programming – Local News, broadcasting of school sports events like basketball and baseball games, Tradio, APRN programming (Talk Alaska, Alaska News, Alaska Fisheries Report), NPR programming (NPR News, Wait Wait Don't Tell Me, Car Talk). I enjoy the daily birthday and anniversary listings that allow us to acknowledge these events when we run into each other. KFSK is truly a community radio station.

A 100% cut to Public Radio funding across the board would be detrimental to KFSK and many other small public radio stations. Not only would KFSK lose the State's funding, but they would also lose Federal funding that requires State funding in order to be awarded.

PLEASE, consider a lesser cut to public radio funding in the FY 2017 State Budget.

Thank you for your time,

Debbie Thompson

-  
Debra K. Thompson

Borough Clerk

Petersburg Borough

907-772-4519 ext 23



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Debra Blaylock <kdblalock@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:07 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 139 Should keep Alaska's food system strong!

As a member of the Alaska Food Policy Council, I believe that food security is key to a healthy, self-reliant and prosperous Alaskan future. I want to applaud members of the Senate who have worked hard to engage Alaskans and understand the impacts of various budget cuts that will affect our food system. I am writing today to talk to you about some cuts in the current budget draft (SB 139) that are so deep, I believe they weaken Alaska's food security.

Point 1: Restore funding to the Department of Environmental Conservation, Food Safety & Sanitation program: We know that the Senate has already restored a portion of the funding for this incredibly important program, and we thank you for your efforts to keep our food supply safe.

Point 2: Restore research and outreach funding to the University of Alaska system: While the proposed budget makes no specific cuts to the Cooperative Extension Service, Future Farmers of America, or the 4-H Program, non-specific cuts to the UA budget could force the universities to make tough choices that could reduce funding for those programs by up to 71%.

Point 3: Provide funding for Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center (PMC): The PMC provides a wide variety of fundamental services to the agriculture industry including: certified seed production, horticultural recommendations, conducting variety trials, disease testing and production of the State's only native plant directory. These services help many individual Alaska farmers every year and are an invaluable data source for future growers.

Point 4: Provide funding to the Division of Agriculture Potato Program: Alaska's disease free seed potatoes – which are propagated at the PMC – support a \$3 million dollar industry that feeds Alaskans.

Point 5: Provide funding for one year of operational funds in the Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage (MMM&S) budget line: As one of only three certified meat processing plants in the state, it is not an exaggeration that losing MMM&S would be catastrophic for local ranchers. A private corporation has expressed interest in transitioning the meat plant out of State ownership. One year of funding will allow that transition to take place.

As we work towards altering our reliance on natural resource extraction, let's not forget that this is also an opportunity to support natural resource production and strengthen our food system.

Debra Blaylock  
12287 W Arctic Ave  
Palmer, AK 99645

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Jeff Rice <jeffreyromanrice@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 9:47 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Broadcasting

Dear members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing you today to encourage you to seriously consider what public broadcasting does for a community like Petersburg. KFSK is the only source of local radio available to our community. The impact on our borough and surrounding area, should they no longer be able to function would lead to absolutely no ability to get the word out about a pending emergency. Over and over, throughout the year the people of this community depend on being able to tune in to find out what is happening. Muskeg messages provide important meeting times and places to those outside cell phone areas, road reports during the winter alert drivers to the conditions and offer important reminders, local borough assembly meetings are broadcast alerting locals to important issues and encouraging comment, and our local police utilize the radio to alert us to safety issues as they arise. These are simply a few examples of what KFSK provides that cannot be replaced by any other source. They are the most immediate and important conduit of information for our town. This community has supported them wholeheartedly with both memberships and monetary contributions for close to four decades and we will continue to support them moving forward, but we need your help.

I understand that you have a difficult job in front of you, but understand that some things once gone cannot be easily brought back. Choose wisely in what you do here and realize that unlike other places, this radio station is all we have. Please find a way to help us keep it.

Thank you,

Jeff Rice

*P.O. Box 157  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
(907) 772-2410*  
[jeffreyromanrice@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffreyromanrice@yahoo.com)



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on SB 139/SB 140, dated 3-9-16  
bill/subject

Please reinstate state funding for OWL

Many people use this service- locals,  
visitors, children, adults and seniors.

Without this service many people around the state  
will be without needed internet for schools  
and homework, job resumes, interviews and training  
this cut will affect all ways of life  
but especially the low income.

Please keep this funding.  
Thank You Gretchen Wing

Signed:

Testifier

Gretchen Wing  
Kodiak Public Library Association

Representing (optional)

PO Box 2827 Kodiak

Address

907 486 3367

Phone number

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Kathy O'Rear <kathyorear@raincountry.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 9:44 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Radio Cut

Dear Senate Members.... I urge you to do whatever is possible to secure funding for public radio throughout rural Alaska. Public radio is a large participating community member in our rural areas and in many cases the only reliable national media outlet available. Please don't cut-off this vital resource and communication link.

Thank you for your consideration.



Parent  
North Pole

It is important to educate our young and the leaders of the future. My child loves getting books!

Parent  
Wasilla/Mat-Su

To Whom It May Concern:

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library has been such a blessing for my son Samuel. His 5th birthday is in less than two weeks and he has gotten 59 books during his years on this Earth. We are so blessed to pass them down to his brother who also shares a love for reading. We are so thankful for the inspiration by this program for us parents to involve ourselves day after day with reading to our children. It truly is very important for babies to be read to, have pictures to look at in stories, etc. It makes for a higher interest in vocabulary and learning. Please reconsider taking away this great program for our youth. We need smart children to lead this nation in the future and it all starts with books and reading. ☐

Thank you,  
Tari Patinka

Parent, Education Professional  
JBER

As a parent and a teacher I see the difference early education makes in our communities. I love connecting with my kids over books. I love my little girls face every time she gets a new book in the mail. These programs let kids get excited about learning.

Parent  
Fairbanks

As a parent of a 4 year old I loved having various resources to turn to. My family all live out of state and I felt rather isolated and uncertain in the beginning of my son's life. My husband was very involved but equally uncertain. Places like Best Beginnings, Thread, The Imagination Library, Rosource For Parents and Children and Public Health all were all places I turned to at various times. All were super!! I encourage these resources to remain available for all new parents out there! They helped me and my family.

Parent  
Eielson

It is so important for our future, for our children's future that we invest in this programs. My kids have received books from imagination library and they love it. They know they get a special book in the mail once a month and they want to read them right away. They love to read. It is heartbreaking to think that you are taking the love of learning from children all over the state.

Parent  
Anchorage

Children are the future leaders of our world.

Parent  
Anchorage

The imagination library program puts books right where they belong -- in the hands of children. Study after study has demonstrated the positive influences that being read to have on young children. Please allow this program to continue.

Parent, Education Professional  
Homer

Early childhood education is necessary to make sure our children grow up with necessary skills to become contributing members of our society. Without it, we end up spending more money trying to catch up with correcting behavioral and academic problems in k-12 system. Why do we not try to correct all these things earlier on when children are more malleable to changes and their brains are still developing and absorbing everything around them? Influencing and educating young children at really young age would lead to reducing a number of children who participate in special services, because a lot of medical and behavioral conditions can be countered if discovered earlier time.



Parent, Concerned Citizen  
Copper River

I think it goes without saying that to invest in children is to invest in the future. By eliminating funds to these early childhood education programs you are effectively ensuring that the children that benefit from these programs the most, low income and minorities, are not being served. The Copper River Basin has very little available to families in regards to programs that cultivate learning besides the public education system and the public library. Many of the families who receive books from Dolly Parton Imagination Library or get visits from the Parents As Teachers coordinator are without vehicles to be able to take advantage of much else in the community. So, to have these programs basically brought to their doorstep is monumental in providing the children and families of this community with much needed resources to succeed.

Parent

Nenana, Fairbanks

Provides books for learning for my baby. These books come straight to my house, many people have difficulty getting around, with limited public transportation or none at all, this helps.

Grandparent  
Fairbanks

They're our future.

Parent  
Juneau

State support helps those who really need it. Some kids might not get some amazing opportunities and these state funded programs could help. These programs help kids continue to thrive in their environment. Please continue to help those kids in need. They are the future.

Parent, Concerned Citizen  
Fairbanks

I'm a father to four children - age 16, 10, 4 and 1, three ( the youngest just turned one and will hopefully have the benefits the other three enjoyed) of which have greatly benefited from pre k education. One of the things we have been able to enjoy was the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. I am asking that funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget. I believe budget cuts are necessary given the state's economic situation. However, it seems imperative to continue to invest in our future and not remain short sighted with our economic decision making.

Parent  
Fairbanks

I support early childhood education programs because I have seen first hand how they work. My oldest daughter had access to these programs and has absolutely flourished as a result. I feel like cutting any finding would do a disservice to society and only hinder us as a nation in the future. We need well educated children to be able to lead our great country one day.

March 8, 2016

To the Alaskans who are concerned:

It has come to my attention that Governor Walker is requesting the support of the citizenry in helping the budget crisis by accepting a state tax on their wages as well as the use of Permanent Fund monies in whatever form necessary.

Had this crisis been the result of careful management of our assets, I would be accepting of this necessary sacrifice. I object heartily. Those in charge of the State's assets have been purposefully profligate in their use. Instead of planning for the issues before us, they have been donating our assets to several corporations with no guaranteed exchange of goods or benefits. The best example is over \$6,000,000,000 to the three major oil companies.

Now these same people are crying to us to sacrifice. Elderly people are being robbed of their access to nutrition, health care and in some cases their homes, so they cannot even pass in dignity. Our educational system is being decimated to the detriment of our State's future.

Those who have created these situations are crying SACRIFICE. At the same time they continue to spend money as if it flowed freely into their common pocket. They justify the money spent freely on frivolous lawsuits, expensive studies to keep the fanciest building in the State for their use, frivolous, unenforceable new laws that use up time and public funds, and the battle against a major women's health group.

Once those who are spending the common monies show more responsibility to the owners of the money, their constituents, I would feel able to offer more support.

*M* 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

BRIAN BART

REPRESENTING:

BILL # or SUBJECT:

SB 139 OPERATING BUDGET

COMMITTEE:

SENATE FINANCE

DATE: 3-9-16

SENIOR BENEFITS

THESE BENEFITS SHOULD NOT BE LOWERED OR ENDED.

AS THE SENIORS WHO RECEIVE THESE BENEFITS CRITICALLY NEED THEM FOR BASIC ESSENTIALS SUCH AS FOOD MEDICAL NEEDS RENT AND TAXES (WHERE TAXES ARE COLLECTED). LOWERING OR ENDING BENEFITS WOULD THEN CAUSE MANY IF NOT MOST SENIORS TO NOT BE ABLE TO PAY THE BASICS. THEREBY CAUSING THE STATE TO PAY FOR MANDATED REMEDIES LIKE WELFARE, FOOD COUPONS, MEDICAL NEEDS, SUCH AS DOCTORS, MEDICAL TREATMENTS, MEDICINE, CLOTHING AS WELL AS PROVIDING AND PAYING FOR HOUSING, ELECTRIC, NATURAL GAS, GARBAGE COLLECTION. AND AT ITS WORST MAY CAUSE OTHERWISE LIFELONG HONEST CITIZENS TO COMMIT VARIOUS ILLEGAL OFFENSES, THEREBY PURSUING SENIORS THROUGH POLICE, THEN JAIL, THEN THE COURT SYSTEM AND POSSIBLY LONG TERM PRISON SENTENCES AT MONSTEROUSLY GREATER COST TO THE STATE THEN THE NOW OPERATIONAL SENIOR CITIZEN BENEFITS. SO BOTH COLD HARD FINANCIALLY THOUGHTS MAKE KEEPING THESE BENEFITS SIMPLE COMMON SENSE AS WELL AS GOOD RATIONAL BUSINESS SENSE.



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Maria Pointer <mariapointer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 8:53 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support for Public Broadcasting and AMHS.

Your job seems impossible with all the needs of our great state, but we have faith that your solution will keep Alaska functioning and moving forward.

My name is Captain Maria Crowl - Pointer Ret. and I was the first female deckhand in S.E. with the AMHS. In the early 70s life in Alaska was dangerous and bleak for me at times. I lived and worked in many difficult situations and isolated places. Working and living on the water by myself or on an Exxon tanker or with the AMHS, I always counter on two things in Alaska, a public broadcasting system every vessel depends on, and a merchant fleet such as the AMHS, that could respond to any emergency.

Growing up from my teens to now retired, I never imagined a day when lifelines of Alaska could legally jeopardized with budget cuts. I own two properties that have both suffered from earthquake or flooding, which public broadcasting was my only venue for vital information. Countless other times I've depended on a public broadcasting stations as they reach far into the needs of outlying regions. KHNS in the upper Lynn Canal is the lifeline to a vast region that suffers much earthquake, weather, and transportation needs just to name a few. As a board member with KHNS any further cuts, let alone 100%, would isolate the area beyond safety. We will lose our federal dollars with other standing grants when you pull further funds. Our growth in the upper Lynn Canal depends on transportation and information. Business, education, and tourism will falter with your budget proposals.

Alaska has more than a uniqueness, it is so vast that we requires public broadcasting to protect her people from disasters, alerts and even as far as keeping our political awareness from taking the wrong course. I urge you to think outside the box, keep Alaska growing in the right direction, introduce a tax, or take a wage cut as we all have suffered with losses and possibly more without our oil profits.

Smoother sail is always ahead if you stay at the helm and change course, as storms physically can't last forever. There is always calm seas in days to come. Sometimes it is just a change in the tide that makes all the difference. You where elected to be that change in tide of our storm in this oil based budget. Alaska needs to stay the course with her programs you where elected to keep off the rocks, command is hard at best, but please don't sink our future. Find a better course that will ride out this storm and learn from this passage we went down depending on a volatile oil market. In other words, don't chart the same course in the next storm as the tides always change.

May God grant you wisdom and calmer seas.

Capt. Maria Crowl-Pointer, Ret.  
P.O. Box 715  
Haines, AK 99827

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Tamara L. Boyd <tamara.boyd@k12northstar.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 9:07 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

## **Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Greg Hill <hillobooks@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 9:23 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Operating Budget

To all the committee members,

I've been a resident and property owner in Alaska for a quarter century, arriving just after the state's economic crash in the mid-80s. That event scarred everyone I met when I arrived, and now we're facing a far more debilitating blow to the state economy for reasons we all know too well.

It's up to you to increase revenue, through both income and sales taxes as well as other means, and include those temporary residents who make their money here but actually live in the Lower 48, and those benefiting from state resources apart from oil.

In terms of higher and lower education, infrastructure, overall salaries, state credit rating, and other distressing descriptors, we're well on the way to becoming the Mississippi of the North. Something can be done about it, and however you respond will give history a lot about to consider.

Please consider posterity, not the next election cycle, and preserve the quality of life our wonderful Alaska provides.

Thanks for your consideration.

Greg Hill  
4320 Parks Ridge Rd.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

# Mat-Su Senior Services

Senate Finance Committee Public Testimony  
March 9, 2016

Good Evening Chair Kelly, Chair Mackinnon, and members of the Senate Finance Committee. For the record, my name is Rachel Greenberg, Executive Director, Mat-Su Senior Services; and for full disclosure I am also a Member of the Coalition of Mat-Su Senior Services; Vice-Chair of the Mat-Su Council on Aging; and member of the Alaska Commission on Aging. Today I am speaking on behalf of the Mat-Su Senior Services.

We do not envy your position making the difficult decisions you need to make to ensure Alaska is a great place to live, work, play and retire, now and into the future.

The Mat-Su Senior Services is grateful to the House Finance Committee recommendation to include FY2016 funding levels of the Senior Community Based Grants in the FY2017 proposed budget. The Mat-Su Senior Services is hopeful the Senate Finance Committee will follow suit with this recommendation. If the proposed decrease in senior benefits, and healing assistance is approved, seniors will likely rely on programs and services offered at senior centers and senior service organizations in order to remain independent and out of the more expensive assisted living and skilled nursing facilities as well as minimize hospitalizations. Due to the increase in senior population, keeping the senior grant programs funded at the FY16 level essentially reduces our ability to provide services at the current levels. Any decrease limits our ability to accommodate the increasing demands.

The senior grant programs include congregate and home delivered meals; transportation, exercise programs, adult day services, care coordination, chore services, respite services, and more. These programs cost \$574 per senior per year. It costs over \$153,000 per person per year in a skilled nursing facility. About 33% of Alaska Seniors utilize these programs and services

In the Mat-Su, we pride ourselves on working together to minimize or eliminate duplication of administration, grants administration, and more. We are truly doing what we can to maximize the funds to deliver services to the people who need it the most. Collectively, through partnerships, services are currently provided all over the Mat-Su Borough.

Senior contribute to the local economy by bringing in over \$2.4 billion in retirement income, pensions, and social security. Additionally, seniors contribute through volunteerism, board service, professional advice, and more.

We are concerned that some of the proposed budget reductions will result in unintended consequences that may lead to increased utilization of more expensive health and long-term care services thus straining the State's budget and, most importantly, compromise the health and safety of Alaska's older people. We suspect that many residents of Alaska would support restructuring the way government is funded in order to keep seniors living as independently as possible in our state. This may include



Palmer Senior Citizens Center, Inc. ~ 1132 S. Chugach St. ~ Palmer, Alaska 99645  
Phone: (907) 745-6454 ~ Fax: (907) 746-5173 ~ Email: [pscc@mtaonline.net](mailto:pscc@mtaonline.net)



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## Mat-Su Senior Services

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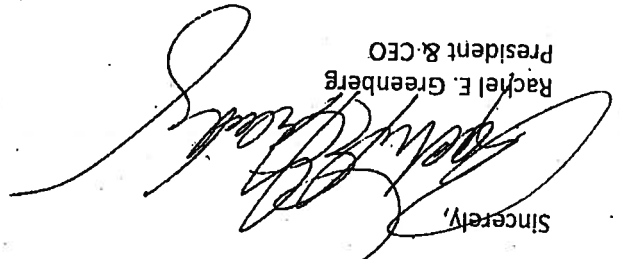
funding the budget out of the permanent fund earnings; capping the permanent fund dividend; an income tax; or other options.

Thank you for your time and commitment to attempt to cut the budget. I urge you not to reduce programs and services to the people who have made this state the great state it is; or at least work with us to come up with alternatives to ensure Alaskans elders can remain safe, secure, healthy, and independent. I know this isn't easy.

Thank you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (907) 745-5454 or by email at [rachel.greenberg@mat-suseniorservices.com](mailto:rachel.greenberg@mat-suseniorservices.com).

Sincerely,



Rachel E. Greenberg  
President & CEO



Palmer Senior Citizens Center, Inc. ~ 1132 S. Chugach St. ~ Palmer, Alaska 99645  
Phone: (907) 745-5454 ~ Fax: (907) 746-5173 ~ Email: [pscc@mtaonline.net](mailto:pscc@mtaonline.net)



**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Angela <brooks.angela672@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 6:23 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Angela Brooks

**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Marge <mjhays.ak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 5:49 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** UA Budget

Senators, I am mindful of the difficult decisions you have before you. Thank you for gathering this input.

The following are some of my concerns about the budget for UA. The mission of UA is severely impacted when programs are cut, faculty eliminated and students suddenly finding themselves without a clear career path. In addition, facilities must be maintained, and at times, upgraded to accommodate accreditation requirements.

Those involved in UA understand that states are judged by their opportunities for growth and quality of life. A large contributor to this is the excellence of their educational system. To meet their challenges, UA has consistently been creative and flexible with problem solving sessions including administration, faculty, students and community.

Extended campuses can face budget cuts that drastically interfere with endeavors to keep students on track. Many find it impossible to move or to find internet courses which meet their program requirements. They also depend on the consistent encouragement needed to keep them enthused.

Thank you.  
Marge Hays  
Box 2876  
Soldotna, AK  
99669

262-3908  
394-2664

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

**From:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 5:42 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** jsullivan@nomeschools.com  
**Subject:** FW: ACP E Services Nome constituent Janeen Sullivan email 3.9.16 Senate Finance  
Testimony re ACP E (AK Com on Post Sec Educ) please do not cut will deeply affect rural  
native AK

Dear Janeen,  
I am forwarding your email to the full senate finance committee so that it can be added to the public budget testimony records.  
Thank you,  
Sydney Seay  
Staff to Sen. Olson

**From:** Janeen Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@nomeschools.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:58 PM  
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Senate.Finance.Committee@akeg.go  
**Subject:** ACP E Services

Hello,

I understand that the Senate Budget Subcommittee recommended cutting ACP E's budget for the upcoming year. I believe this cut will dramatically affect the rural regions of our state. ACP E has come to Nome to provide a variety of services to help our students be college ready. As you know, rural students in our state have a difficult time making the adjustment to college and their college success rate is much lower than anyone would like. Without the support of the programs ACP E has provided to us, that success will be even more difficult to come by. Over the years, ACP E has proved us with services like Kids 2 College events, Financial Aid nights, AKCIS, and Community Outreach. These programs have been well done and well received by our students. Every bit of help they get in the area of college preparation is crucial. Please reconsider this budget cut that will disproportionately affect the rural, primarily Alaska Native portions of our state.

Thank you -  
Janeen Sullivan

*Janeen Sullivan*  
Nome-Beltz Guidance Counselor  
District Test Coordinator  
jsullivan@nomeschools.com  
phone 907-443-6160  
<http://nome-beltzcounseling.weebly.com>



**Doniece Gott**

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

Tonya Bishop <tonyasr6@yahoo.com>  
Wednesday, March 09, 2016 5:27 PM  
Senate Finance Committee  
SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Sent from my iPhone

**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Maresence McClinton <maresence.mcclinton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 5:06 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! My children love to read and as a low income family we don't have much money to splurge on books. It really puts a smile on my kids Dave to receive these books in the mail. Thanks for listening.

Maresence

City of Aleknagik,  
PO Box 33  
Aleknagik, AK 99555

aleknagik.ak.gov

907 842 5953  
FAX 842 2107

Honorable Chair of Senate Finance Committee,

Colliers - Anna  
Pete Kelly & Mattina

Thanks for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the City of Aleknagik. Like you, we are doing our budget planning for the next 12 months and are looking at a bleak picture, with the decrease we saw on the revenue sharing paperwork we completed in February. We are struggling to manage the costs of operating the essential City functions in an environment where we have part-time and on-call employees doing the majority of the work due to the small size of the community and the lack of funds to pay benefits and high salaries that people deserve and expect. We have felt the State revenue decline in the work load of our VPSO, who does not get overtime now, and has to adjust his schedule. You may know that emergencies don't always occur during the day. We also (in small, rural communities) struggle with the freight, and travel costs. Example: Our NEW ambulance has a recall item but the company will not pay transportation for the person to come out and re-program the vehicle. There is a no local auto person to do the work. We have to PAY for RT airfare for a person to fly out from Kenai to fix a problem that could cause the ambulance to stop and not restart for 15 minutes. We use our ambulance 3 or so times per week! We also had to pay for a fire truck pump that needed replacing and the cost was \$11,000 to purchase and ship it from Alabama. We need our fire and ambulance services.

We do our share, taxing sales at 5 % and recreational lodging packages at 9 %. However, we have limited economic activity to tax, so are reliant on Revenue sharing for a large portion of our funds. I would like to ask that Revenue Sharing be kept in the Senate budget and at the total of \$150 million, which includes the Governor's additional \$35 million. Here's the thing: Revenue sharing helps nearly everyone in the state by making sure essential services are available to all municipalities!

I would speak to the PERS unfunded liability but we are so small, we don't even participate.

Thanks for listening,

Carolyn Smith,  
Mayor, City of Aleknagik



**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Stacie Watson <wynsum\_gsmd\_mastiffs@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 5:18 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Stacie Watson  
Hospital Manager  
VCA Alpine #150  
12531 Old Seward Hwy  
Anchorage, Ak 99515  
(907)345-1515

**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Melissa (Mormilo) Branch <greatlandgirl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 5:23 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Funding for Early Childhood Education Programs

Hello,

I am writing in support of reinstating the funding for Early Childhood Education Programs in the FY17 Budget.

As an engineer and volunteer here in Anchorage, I have seen firsthand the impact access to early education tools and materials can make in a child's life.

Changes that can impact their entire lives.

I am passionate about education so I've entered a lot of classrooms and participated in many outreach events over the past 15 years through Society of Women Engineers outreach programs, Junior Achievement, and United Way's Emerging Leaders group.

I've interacted with kids from pre-K through high school.

You can tell the difference access to early education tools and materials makes.

As a parent of a toddler, I am greatly concerned about cuts to early childhood education programs.

I'd like to think my son has the benefit of two working professional parents and a network of relatives who are passionate about education.

But, I know that programs like Imagination Library have benefited us as well.

While we have been fortunate enough to be able to afford books and other materials, the program provides tips, tools, opportunities for interaction, and access to a selection of books that have broadened all our perspectives.

We as a state are always concerned with our future work force and the success of our communities.

But, if we don't invest in it from day one, then we spend the rest of our lives chasing the problems caused by it.

If children aren't ready for school, then they fall behind.

With budget constraints and increased responsibilities on teachers, students aren't given the attention they need to catch up.

The results can be catastrophic.

United Way has a goal, along with the community, of increasing graduation rates.

This relates directly to early education.

Children ready to learn will succeed, they've be able to provide for their families, and contribute to our communities in meaningful ways – decreasing homelessness and other issues.

It's all tied together.

Please, please, do right for the future of our state and the future of our children, by reinstating the funding for Early Childhood Education Programs.

Thank you,

Melissa

Melissa A. Branch, P.E.

[greatlandgirl@gmail.com](mailto:greatlandgirl@gmail.com)

907/360-0985

**Doniece Gott**

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

mrs.ozz2008@gmail.com

Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:53 PM

Senate Finance Committee

SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Dear legislator,  
I have heard that you have cut funding for early childhood education programs. I'm concerned for this as a parent of two children that love getting books in the mail from dolly parton's imagination library I hate to see this program loose funding but also as a mom of a special needs child who is in a prek program I am very concerned over these cuts. My daughter would not be doing as well as she is without these early intervention programs and by cutting them you are cutting her and other children like her short. She is a brilliant child with a physical delay and would not be ready for kindergarten without prek which would hold her back for her entire life. To cut early education or education at all says that you do not value it which is sad as these children will someday care for you and me when we are old. And frankly I would like educated caregivers- not sure about you.  
Thank you,  
Rachel Osborn

**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Please restore OWL funding

**From:** R Moorman [mailto:rebmoorman@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:59 PM  
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please restore OWL funding

OWL, an important program that funds broadband and internet used by 43 public libraries for their patrons and numerous agencies, was included in the Governor's budget, but cut from the House Finance Committee's budget and the Senate Finance Committee. I know you understand the importance of this program to many people statewide, particularly rural Alaskans, but did you know this program brings in a 4-1 match of federal e-rate funding dollars? If OWL is left unfunded, those federal dollars are left on the table.

OWL funding is small but immense in it's range and scope. Please support this portion of the Governor's request and keep OWL available to those 43 public libraries. If cut, these libraries will not be able to absorb the high cost of broadband and internet access. Libraries will be in the difficult position of having to raise funds to cover this cost, virtually impossible for all of these libraries. If libraries begin to charge for internet access, those already underserved members of our communities, many of whom are using library resources, will not be able to afford this cost, either. It's hard to believe but there are many folks across Alaska who have no means for this cost, thus rendering them unable to participate in the 21st century except through their public library. No way to apply for jobs, beef up skills, apply for government assistance, etc.

Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference to many people statewide.

Thank you.

Rebecca Moorman  
Anchorage



**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Rosalie Le Baron <rosaliealebaron@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:20 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Rosalie LeBaron  
(907) 301-8071

**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Susan Zeek <sezeek@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

I am a teacher and the mother of two amazing preschool age girls. I know the importance of early childhood education. As the parent of two children who receive books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! Please invest in Alaska future and restore education funding. Thanks,  
S.E. Zeek

Sent from Samsung Mobile

**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Kathleen Porterfield <koshka127@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:14 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early childhood education funding

Dear Finance Committee,  
Please invest in Alaska's future. Early childhood education programs make a HUGE impact on children and families. Therefore I strongly request that early childhood education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017 Budget.  
Thank you,  
Kathleen Porterfield  
Juneau, AK

**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Sen. Pete Kelly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:53 PM  
**To:** Doniece Gott  
**Subject:** FW: State Budget

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Linda [mailto:linda@clerkworksak.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:52 PM  
**To:** Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna Mackinnon <Sen.Anna.Mackinnon@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** State Budget

Since I will be unable to testify this evening from the Kenai LIO (I have a Soldotna City Council meeting), please allow me this opportunity to address the state budget. I do not envy you your task of balancing competing interests for limited state dollars and realize that the best outcome this year will be a budget that hurts everyone and every group a little (or a lot).

That being said, let me make my pitch for including the \$35 million that the governor included in his budget to supplement municipal revenue sharing. To be honest, if my community suffers a cut in revenue sharing, it will sting, but we will survive. The same cannot be said for most small rural communities. Perhaps it is time to tweak the formula used in distributing the fund dollars, but I beg you not to cripple the fund. That will be the death knell for many of our smaller communities.

As a municipal official, I want to be a partner with the state as we tackle our current budget crisis. After all, we serve the same constituencies, and when municipal governments suffer revenue shortfalls, our only choices are to cut programs that our residents expect and need OR raise taxes and fees. Please keep this in mind as you tackle these important issues. I also implore you to take a good hard look at the revenue side of the budget and use a portion of the earnings of the permanent fund to help close the budget gap.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and consider my suggestions.

Sent from my iPad  
Linda Murphy



March 3, 2016

Senate Finance Committee

On behalf of the Alaska Dental Society we appreciate the opportunity to comment in response to the Adult Dental Preventative Medicaid budget. The Senate Finance working budget has funding for the Adult Dental Preventative Medicaid set at 15.6 million, which is roughly the same amount as was funded pre-expansion.

The Alaska Dental Society is requesting Senate Finance restore funding to the levels requested by the Administration. Given the increase in recipients due to expansion, maintaining funding at current levels will require a decrease in available services or reimbursements to providers.

The Adult Preventative program provides key dental services to a needy population. Most prominent of the services is the ability for Medicaid recipients to receive dentures – a life altering service that has helped change many Medicaid recipients' lives and was recognized by the legislature with SB199 in 2010.

Medicaid payments to dentists are already at or below the cost of delivering services. Cutting rates further will mean fewer providers participating in the program. Fewer providers would lead to a decrease in access to care and a corresponding increase in emergency hospital visits. Dental utilization of ER services would greatly increase the costs per recipient and ultimately be futile as ER's can only provide palliative care for dental problems. Cutting Medicaid would strain hospitals and make it more difficult for them to serve everyone in their communities.

The Alaska Dental Society sponsors events for individuals without other resources. In recent years the ADS has held 2 Mission of Mercy's with another scheduled for the end of April. These events are very successful for helping a limited group – up to 2000 – but will not replace the Medicaid system. The same forces that are challenging the Legislature – limited money and many needs – are making fundraising for the AKMOM difficult this go around. Given the headwinds we are facing, and the high operating costs at the Denaina center, we are not anticipating hosting an AKMOM in 2017. The ADS also participates in the Anchorage Project Access and Alaska Dental Lifeline projects that help provide long term care to individuals without resources.

Neither of these projects is capable of replacing the Medicaid system and the thousands of individuals who receive care under the system. The rate structure under Medicaid is low and the system fraught with administrative issues but at least it helps distribute some of the costs for providing care. The Alaska Dental Society requests the Senate Finance Committee add funding to the Adult Preventative Dental Program to the levels requested by the Administration to ensure this program remains available to all Alaskans under the Medicaid system.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Jessica Blanco*  
Alaska Dental Society  
Legislative Vice-Chair

December 18, 2015

### Resolution

FEDC Board of Directors asks Alaska's Political Leaders to work together to resolve Alaska's fiscal challenge. With Alaska State expenditures exceeding revenues by more than \$3 Billion dollars, there is no easy solution to balancing the State budget. Achieving long-term fiscal stability, affordability and sustainability for the State of Alaska will require a mix of continued cuts to government spending and increased revenues including use of State investment earnings.

Regarding spending: achieving a smaller, more efficient, more sustainably affordable State Government is critical to Alaska's future fiscal health. Therefore, the Board believes reductions in the cost and, likely, scope of government are necessary to redress Alaska's systemic budgetary imbalance.

Regarding revenue: providing the State revenues sufficient for it to operate and invest effectively in and for the public interest is critical to Alaska's future fiscal health. Therefore, the Board believes that, in addition to increases in user fees, implementing some type of broad-based statewide taxation and the use of some portion of the Permanent Fund earnings to fund State government must to be considered.

We also believe that inaction will, with certainty, lead to Alaska's failure and failure is not an option. Therefore, the Board of FEDC encourages Alaska's policymakers to move forward without delay on a solution.

**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Sen. Pete Kelly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:21 PM  
**To:** Doniece Gott  
**Subject:** FW: Public testimony: Senate Finance

**From:** Rita Campbell [mailto:campbellrita50@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 2:48 PM  
**To:** Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna Mackinnon <Sen.Anna.Mackinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; sen.mike.dunleavy@akleg.gov; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: Public testimony: Senate Finance

On Wednesday, March 9, 2016 2:43 PM, Rita Campbell <campbellrita50@yahoo.com> wrote:

I am writing at this time, March 9, 2016, 2:34pm to urge, as strongly as is humanly possible the full funding of the following programs, at the recommendations by Governor Walker of Alaska or better. I urge full funding of the Personal Care Assistance program, Senior Benefits, the Adult Medicaid Dental Program, the Community Developmental Disability (DD) Grants, the Senior Community Based Grants, Pioneer Homes, Senior and Disability Services General Relief Assistance, Public Safety, and Early Childhood Education Programs.

I am an Alaskan, a regular voter, and I fully support and advocate for all of these programs, for full funding, and full support. I do not advocate that one penny be taken from any of the above programs, as it is counter-productive, unkind, unethical, and unconscionable to do so. These are vital and proven programs, and without them innocent Alaskans will almost certainly suffer skin conditions, falls they would not have otherwise had if they had full assistants to help with their care, dignity, and independence, and others also would not develop in positive, healthy ways, to contribute to our society, and in this case, almost certainly many would suffer in silence, die prematurely, or fall into a life of crime, which would otherwise not have been the case, if they had known the full funding, and full benefits of these vital programs, listed above.

If any mythical budget crisis exists in reality, certainly there are far better, more ethical, more socially responsible alternatives to find money for budget purposes and expenses to benefit our society at large than to ride roughshod on the backs of the most vulnerable, the most ill, the most elder, the youngest, the ones already with the most disabilities and challenges in this life, and all of those least able to defend themselves, or speak for themselves in our state.

Also I do not appreciate the lack of accessible, prior public information on this topic, or the lack of public opportunity to testify, or to comment on this matter. Most people work and have families, so such short notice, and apparent secrecy appears to go against democratic and ethical principles of fair play, and equal opportunity. There should have been letters sent to all those potentially affected, and not just to select recipients. This matter should have been posted in our Alaskan newspapers, and on public websites, radio stations, public media outlets, and in any way possible, so that the public would have been fully aware, and given every reasonable



opportunity and time to accommodate their schedules, so they could more likely testify on this matter. I highly doubt that sufficient numbers of people even knew about these proposed cuts, nor that more than a virtual handful had even the practical opportunity to comment in any democratic or fair way, and that is not right. Thank you kindly for what good you may do for all of your constituents, not just the already greatly privileged ones, and for considering my views in this matter. Have a good day, ladies and gentlemen.

Rita Campbell  
4009 Beluga Circle  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
907 235 2033

**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Jeffrey Krupke <jkrupke@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 5:28 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** early childhood ed

Please, please restore this funding to the budget even if education is taken from the PFD fund. Kids are the future don't flush there future down the toilet. Fight, fight for this if you want my vote.

Jeffrey Krupke  
Palmer, AK

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda [mailto:linda@clerkworksak.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 4:52 PM

To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna Mackinnon  
<Sen.Anna.Mackinnon@akleg.gov>

Subject: State Budget

Since I will be unable to testify this evening from the Kenai LIO (I have a Soldotna City Council meeting), please allow me this opportunity to address the state budget. I do not envy you your task of balancing competing interests for limited state dollars and realize that the best outcome this year will be a budget that hurts everyone and every group a little (or a lot).

That being said, let me make my pitch for including the \$35 million that the governor included in his budget to supplement municipal revenue sharing. To be honest, if my community suffers a cut in revenue sharing, it will sting, but we will survive. The same cannot be said for most small rural communities. Perhaps it is time to tweak the formula used in distributing the fund dollars, but I beg you not to cripple the fund. That will be the death knell for many of our smaller communities.

As a municipal official, I want to be a partner with the state as we tackle our current budget crisis. After all, we serve the same constituencies, and when municipal governments suffer revenue shortfalls, our only choices are to cut programs that our residents expect and need OR raise taxes and fees. Please keep this in mind as you tackle these important issues. I also implore you to take a good hard look at the revenue side of the budget and use a portion of the earnings of the permanent fund to help close the budget gap.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and consider my suggestions.

Sent from my iPad  
Linda Murphy

**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Linda Golden Chaves <lgc99709@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 5:35 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Both of my children love getting books in the mail. We read the books all day long when they come in the mail. Please do not cut the program. This is the only way some children are able to get books.

**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Madeline Blake <madelinerblake@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 5:38 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Childhood Education Program

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this as a concerned mother, and citizen of the Anchorage community. I have recently come aware that a program that brings joy to my sons life, as well as mine, may be getting cut by the legislators. I would like you to be aware that if the program is to be cut, my son will no longer receive a new book in the mail every month, and this means more than just a book. It means excitement and urge to read will be taken away as well. It is important we look at where our newest generation is headed and start to realize that these programs are very important if we are to keep a small glimpse of hope that our children will still be able to look back and share with their children the books that they used to read in years to come..

Regards,  
Madeline Blake



## Anchorage School District

Education Center

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. • Anchorage, AK 99504 • 907-742-4000 • [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org)

March 9, 2016

Senate Finance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 532  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comment to the Senate Finance Committee relative to SB 139, Operating Budget.

The Anchorage School District encourages the Senate's support of the work done by the House in their efforts to retain the base student allocation included in Governor Walker's proposed budget. The district believes the increased BSA is essential to support the quality education needed for our students.

ASD also encourages the reinstatement of funding for pre-k and early childhood programs, as well as support for broadband access. We believe these programs support better learning outcomes for students and provide access to 21<sup>st</sup> century education.

We understand and acknowledge the financial challenges put before you in this legislative session. We believe it is important that committees work in collaboration to address these challenges and establish a plan for fiscal stability in Alaska.

I am readily available to answer any questions you may have. You may reach my office at 907-742-4312.

Respectfully,

Ed Graff  
Superintendent

cc: Anchorage School Board  
Michael Graham, Chief Academic Officer

*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

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**Doniece Gott**

**From:** Sammy Crawford <scrawfordak68@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 5:39 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony

I hope the legislature will go easy on cuts & increase taxes - an income tax is least regressive & using permanent fund earnings is appropriate & necessary. Please work on budget & stay away from the war on women. Sammy Crawford

Sent from my iPhone