

From: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: SFIN Public Testimony FW: Education funding
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 1:35:44 PM

Please find the following public testimony below

From: Lisa Worl [mailto:lmworljnu@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 12:48 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen.Mile.Dunleavy@akleg.gov; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Education funding

Honorable Senators of the Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing as a concerned parent of school age kids and as a Juneau School board member.

I understand that each of you is charged with setting our State of Alaska budget with an enormous deficit. I appreciate the funding the legislature has provided yet the funding increases have primarily been for PERS/TRS and not enough to keep up with inflation providing minimal funding to our operating budget. For this reason we're facing a fifth year in a row of budget cuts in the Juneau School District.

Our district has seen significant increases in graduation and each of our elementary schools, including the Title I schools with disadvantaged and challenged students, are currently four-star rated. Also, more of our previously under-performing high school students are now taking honors level and Advanced Placement classes.

However we are now cutting the very programs which were integral to providing support to the students who need it most. It is likely the gains we've been making in these past years will slide as we cut more teachers, support staff, programs, and professional development. Our initial years we were able to keep the cuts from the classrooms but now as our costs continue to rise and with basically no reserve we're left with having to cut essential programs and staff. As a school board member, there is nothing more disheartening than passing a budget which further increases class size and eliminates programs you know are helping students succeed and graduate in order to balance a budget.

While the state budget is beyond our control, we are doing the best we are able on the local level to deliver world class education to each of our students with our decreasing budgets. Please consider restoring the one-time education funds that were approved last session. Investments in our students now will reap a productive work force and competent labor pool for our state in the future.

Respectfully,

Lillian M. (Lisa) Worl
Juneau School Board
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