

From: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: SFIN Public Testimony FW: Education Budget Cuts
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 1:13:43 PM

Please find the following public testimony below

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

From: Katherine George [<mailto:kgeorge@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 6:55 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly
Subject: Education Budget Cuts

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

We are writing to you today to voice our disapproval of the proposed budget cuts for education, particularly for pre-kindergarten.

While dollars are tight, economists agree that the best place to spend is on long term investments, and few investments pay off like good child care. Access to high quality early childhood education is among the smartest investments that we can make.

Research has shown that the early years in a child's life—when the human brain is forming—represent a critically important window of opportunity to develop a child's full potential and shape key academic, social, and cognitive skills that determine a child's success in school and in life.

The long-term benefits of a high-quality pre-K program can be substantial. These include higher high school graduation rates, lower rates of juvenile delinquency, less substance abuse, and higher adult earnings.

We recall the days when a \$10 "school tax" was levied annually and we were happy to pay it. We feel so strongly about education funding, that we support and would gladly pay a state income tax to help pay for education. Substandard education cannot lead to a productive society.

Most sincerely,
Linda Munns, on behalf of The Progressive Women of Homer