

From: [Chris and Tina Bernoski](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: please include in public testimony: Do NOT cut education funding
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 7:02:04 AM

Dear Senators,

I would like this testimony to be included in public testimony.

I feel strongly as a lifelong Alaskan that education is the backbone to a strong community. We can no longer afford to balance the budget on the backs of our children. I am ashamed that many who claimed to be education proponents are now wavering and proposing to back out of their promise and cut education funding.

I recognize that as a State we are facing some economic downfalls, however, I believe strongly that we are going about all of this wrong. I am appalled when I see big projects going forward and little care for our future citizens. Cuts to education have devastating consequences that cannot be undone. We can not afford anymore correctional facilities, homelessness or drug abuse. Students thrive when they are given opportunities and encounter caring adults.

All children deserve the right to reach their full potential, research has shown that students who receive a well rounded education surrounded by caring adults, can overcome adversity and rank amongst the best. When you make cuts to education and people who directly impact kids you leave lasting impacts. As a state we have to begin to look elsewhere to diversify our economy but not at the risk of our children, whom are our future! Myself and many others are ok with some of the permanent dividend going into an education endowment or something similar.

As your constituent I want you to keep your promise and do NOT cut education funding.

Sincerely,
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