From: <u>Timothy Motis</u>

To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Keep Nome Headstart in Budget
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 11:51:17 AM

Dear Sirs,

I am responding to House Bill 72 the potential budget cut of the current operating budget/Funds for House Bill 73 Mental Health Budget sponsored by the House Finance Committee. I am in support of continuing funds for Nome's Headstart program taught by certified teachers.

I am a parent of a special needs student attending the program. I am also a certified elementary/kindergarten teacher. I am astounded by the academic growth, social-skills development, and language processing improvement of my daughter since beginning this program.

As a past kindergarten teacher, I am supportive of this program which prepares at risk students with confidence of basic academic skills. Just as important, the early intervention process has helped identify and provide professional support for my daughter and many other students.

Financially, this PREK program costs 6,3330 per student while the K-12 education costs 16,000 per student per year. **This program is an investment** in our future success of Nome's education program.

**This program is an investment** in our Nome families successful early educational program.

Sincerely yours,

Stacie Motis