

From: [Kristin L. Summerlin](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Kirsten McGraw](#); [Mary Christensen <mchristensen@coopmarket.org>](#)
Subject: Interpreter Referral Line funding
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 2:05:01 PM

Dear Senator Click Bishop,

My name is Kristin Summerlin. I live in Two Rivers and work in Fairbanks, Alaska.

I am very concerned about the proposed elimination of funding for the Interpreter Referral Line (IRL). This budget cut will, of course, negatively affect Deaf Alaskans and impede their communication with hearing Alaskans. It will also negatively impact those of us in the hearing community.

I'm the Marketing & Owner Services Manager for Co-op Market Grocery & Deli in Fairbanks. We employ a very talented young woman who is Deaf. The services of an interpreter are crucial whenever we have staff and marketing meetings. This employee is creative, imaginative and an important member of our team. Although we communicate well enough one-on-one, we must have an interpreter in meetings involving more than one person. There is no other way to be certain that we all understand each other, and without an interpreter, we would not be able to make best use of our Deaf employee's ideas and knowledge.

Please, help us continue to work effectively with our Deaf employee, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please restore funding for the Interpreter Referral Line in the Special Projects budget for the Alaska Department of Labor Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Sincerely,

Kristin L. Summerlin

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Kristin L. Summerlin
Marketing & Member Services Manager

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