

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Doniece Gott](#)
Subject: FW: Budget Priorities
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:53:38 PM

From: Judy Veerman [mailto:veerquilt@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:09 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Subject: Budget Priorities

Please enter this into the Public Record.

Dear Alaska State Senators,

This is a difficult time for Alaska.
And you have a difficult job to do.
I applaud your time and effort to create a sustainable and fair budget.

You may know the adage “penny wise and pound foolish.”

It may be penny wise to cut funding for Alaska’s schools.
It may help to balance the bottom line.

However, it would be pound foolish to short change Alaska’s children whom we claim to be Alaska’s future.

My three children went through the Anchorage school system and had many opportunities that have helped them succeed in college and in their careers.
My four grandchildren who are now students in the Anchorage district, do not have the same breadth of opportunities such as smaller class sizes, art, music, gifted programs, and sports programs that do not require fees to participate.

The lack of funding and actual cuts to funding are tightening a belt to the extent of cutting off breathing, circulation..
Our schools can barely do it anymore.

This isn't only a money question. It is a question of values, too.
It is a question of our personal values and of how much we value our children.
So, please, when you draft the budget think about not only the bottom line, but what kind of young people does Alaska
want to send into an increasingly competitive world.

It's time to tap into the Budget Reserve to fully fund our schools.

Respectfully,
Judy Veerman
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