

**From:** [Jones Melinda](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** PreK Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 2:45:29 PM

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Dear committee members,

I work for the Anchorage School District providing special education consultation support to the 15 general education preschool classrooms in the school district. Having worked in early childhood education for 30 years, I can absolutely attest to the positive impact that this program has on the lives of young children and their families. Without this program, many of the student who are enrolled would otherwise enroll in kindergarten exhibiting delays in development - which might lead to special education referrals - increasing costs greatly through their next years of school. But with the intervention of the high quality early childhood education provided through the school districts preschool programs, many of our highest risk preschoolers will enter kindergarten prepared and eager to participate and succeed in Kindergarten!

Please - I ask you on behalf of the youngest learners in our school system - DO NOT reduce funding for preschool. This is a program that is exhibiting the highest quality early childhood education that I have seen in my career. It is a program that should be fully funded and expanded - not diminished in any way.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

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