From: <u>Martha Simon</u>

To: Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Pre K

Date: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 3:08:27 PM

Good afternoon,

My name is Martha Simon and I am from Hooper Bay Alaska. My 5 year old son participates in the pre K program in Hooper Bay. I am writing to fully support this much needed program as there are children who do not get to go to attend head start due to income guidelines, over limit of students etc.

My 5 year old son will enter Kindergarten next fall if we did not have this pre K program my son would have not had the opportunity to experience a classroom setting and that would have been devastating to me as a parent and my nuclear family as we are a strong unit and education is important to us.

Our pre K teachers are well educated, caring, and help prepare our children for Kindergarten. Since my son joined pre K he has greatly excelled in the areas of language development, intellectual development, social emotional development, and has impressive fine motor skills. I am proud to say that my son is now ready to enter kindergarten thanks to the pre K program. Please continue to support this much needed wonderful program. Remember the children are our future. Support their education. Thank you very much for your time.