

**From:** [Pamela Soderholm](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for DDCC - Denali Deaf Community Center  
**Date:** Monday, April 06, 2015 12:12:31 PM

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I ask all of you to please consider Denali Deaf Community Center in the budget this year. We have trimmed our capitol request from 2.6 million last year to \$995K in order to keep the center and continue our mission to assist the deaf/blind and hard of hearing/blind persons in the communities of Alaska. In this state, we do not have a deaf community center--not one. We are very underserved and we need your assistance to help them become independent, self sufficient and employable. In return, they will be educated to vote, work, and pay taxes. Parents and relatives of deaf children need your help to allocate funds to DDCC. DDCC would be obtained as a one-stop center for the deaf and hoh communitites and partner to all other local agencies for related programs such as health and social services, employment services, housing services, training for employers on these needs, outreach to rural communities and an unlimited resources to bridge the gap, the missing link of making this possible. There is a tremendous need for social services to support them in our Alaskan communities.

We have completed the first two phases for the Denali Deaf Community Center and this is the final phase to make Denail Deaf Community Center a reality, a **viable** reality.

Thank you,

Mrs. Pam Soderholm  
DDCC Board Treasurer

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