

From: [Stacey Messerschmidt](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Capital Budget Requests
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Thank you for accepting this written testimony.

My Name is Stacey Messerschmidt. I work for Hope Community Resources and am the mother of a child who receives Medicaid waiver services from Reach.

I do not envy the job you have ahead of you, determining where to contribute capital fund resources. There are many worthy causes.

I would like to advocate on behalf of Alaskan's with disabilities and their families. My husband and I work hard to ensure that our daughter has the supports she needs to be safe in her community and a contributing member of society. But in order for us to be self-sufficient and contributing members we need the agencies that provide supports to Alaskans with disabilities.

When Capital funds are used to stabilize resources for people with disabilities it in turn stabilizes families. It also supports the continuation of programs, ensures employment opportunities for direct support providers, and provides opportunity for my daughter and her peers to have the support needed to be active and contributing citizens.

My daughter doesn't have a voice of her own, she doesn't understand how Reach is able to give her the opportunities it has, or how SAIL or Orca or Hope are able to do what they do. All she knows is that she is with her friends in her community Living. And that is good for Alaska!!

Please continue to support agencies and programs that support Alaskans with disabilities. When we send our family members out of their home communities and out of our state, we weaken Alaska.

Stacey

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