

#155

Geser Bat-Erdene

Juneau, Alaska

UAF Funding

Dear Representative Foster,

My name is Geser Bat-Erdene. I'm an international student from Mongolia at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I'm writing today to urge you to support HUOA 6: Adding \$16 million to the Governor's proposed budget of \$325 million, offered by Rep. Adam Wool.

I had an opportunity to advocate for the University at the beginning of last month in Juneau. The future of the state is built on investing in the human capital. The University has given me the opportunities that I couldn't have had anywhere else.

We recognize the difficulties that the economy faces and can't even imagine how you deal with this crisis. Nevertheless, we still urge you to support the University.

Many thanks for the work that you do.

Yours sincerely,

Geser Bat-Erdene

#156  
Katie Hunter  
Kenai, AK

03/08/2017 14:46 Hope Community Resources INC.

(FAX) 907 280 9435

P.004/010

**KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

NAME:

Katie Hunter

REPRESENTING:

BILL # or SUBJECT:

HCBW

COMMITTEE:

DATE: 3/3/17

I have witnessed first hand the benefit of day habilitation has had in our community. At the grocery store, the laundromat, the hospital. Seeing a vulnerable community given an opportunity to "work" and contribute to our community. Seeing them with a sense of pride and purpose in the job they are doing. I feel that limiting that ability/opportunity is irresponsible and will negatively affect the community as a whole. Please seriously consider the repercussions of such actions. Not only for the individuals receiving these services, but also for those who take great pride in providing them.

## KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Sheena Haas

REPRESENTING:

Sibling and friend

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Dayhabilitation Cap

COMMITTEE:

DATE: 03/03/17

I am outraged that the State would even suggest cutting more funds from our most vulnerable population. This population of people already live at the poverty line. Just two years ago the State took 150 people off of our previously 200 people to receive waivers. These waivers give people with disabilities the ability to live outside of an institution. If the State cuts Day Habilitation Services down to a maximum of 8 hours if they live in a natural home and down to NO hours if they live in a group home, the State is then forcing individuals to become shut-ins. Basically the State is forcing <sup>us</sup> people to live in institutions. Apparently people with disabilities aren't seen as equal and valuable to the State. Because of day habilitation hours my friend is able to volunteer in the community. She also is able to enjoy cooking classes and creating her own art. But if the State cuts her hours she'll be forced to stay home and never see her friends, nor be a productive member of Society.

#158  
Jeremy Hunter  
Kenai, AK

03/08/2017 14:45 Hope Community Resources INC.

(FAX) 907 280 9435

P.002/010

**KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

NAME: Jeremy Hunter  
REPRESENTING: \_\_\_\_\_  
BILL # or SUBJECT: HCBW  
COMMITTEE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 3-2-17

I have witnessed the positive effects the day  
habilitation program has on the vulnerable individuals  
that receive this care. The program helps individuals  
with intellectual and developmental disabilities engage and  
participate within the local community as well as  
insure that these individuals are adequately performing  
and receiving help with their activities of  
daily living. Loss of funds to this program  
will adversely affect and harm these vulnerable  
people.

## KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Susan Dayall  
REPRESENTING: Richard Reger  
BILL # or SUBJECT: Day/Hob cutbacks  
COMMITTEE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 3/4/17

I have had the privilege of knowing Richard since 2006. He has come to our office and helped with projects. He flew with our pilots to a lake where our boats are.

In the years that I have known Richard I have observed a growth in him where he at one time didn't talk or reply, as of now he acts like ~~as~~ he's our best friend. Cheerful now, talkative and very enthusiastic.

I've observed the progress in his personality, his self esteem and his friendliness.

The program that Richard is participating in all week has most definitely been an advantage to his communicating with the public -

## KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Sheila Thayer

REPRESENTING:

Any individuals with disability with DayHab

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Hope Community Resources.

COMMITTEE:

DATE: 02/28/2016

I believe that all the individuals I have worked with deserve to have more than 8 hours of day Habilitation Services a week to improve there future and there individual lifes an order to help them be more indepent. Our goal as there staff is to improve there well being and there Social life in the community to learn how to Communicate and live around other people. Think of it this way would you as a person want to sit in your house every hour besides 8 hours a week when you have no friends or no other Communication besides when your out in DayHab with your staff. Because some people cant afford cellphones to Communicate with some individuals wait anxiously for there staff to get there so they can get out in the community and not to mention the amount of money our individuals spend out in the community that the State profits from. So I would like you to please take this into Consideration.

#161

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

As the chair of the department of history at the University of Alaska Anchorage I urge you support the amendment proposed by Representative Guttenberg to raise the University of Alaska budget request from the \$325 million put forth by the governor to the \$341 million request put forth by the Board of Regents.

I urge this both for very immediate, tactical reasons, but also for more critical concerns regarding the University.

Tactically, if there is even a hope of getting a figure around \$325 million out of conference with the Senate, you must go in with a higher figure.

But the real problem is that a reduction from \$325 million would represent the fourth year in a row that University had suffered budget cuts aggregating to about eighteen percent since 2014. The fourteen percent reductions we have suffered up to now have already done serious damage to the University. Many young and promising faculty and students have simply chosen to take their talents and energies elsewhere rather than endure the uncertainty about whether programs they support and desire will survive.

University administration increasingly behaves like a wounded animal, capable of thinking of anything other than revenue generation. This is having direct effects on the quality of student education as higher workload (more classes with higher enrollments) mean faculty simply have no time to employ the high impact teaching practices have been the hallmark of UAA programs over the last decade and a half.

Getting something more or less like a neutral budget for the University would be the first sign of light at the end of the tunnel. It would provide the first assurance that this crisis might one day end and we could get back to making our priority quality education for our students. It would also provide faculty, staff, and above all students of the University hope in the future. It can instill faith that their legislators perceive them as more than simply an indulgence upon which the state wastes funds but an investment (the returns on which are vast) in the human capital that will build the dynamic and diverse economy that can support the broader revenue stream the state requires to function.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Paul Dunscomb (23/L)  
Chair  
Department of History  
University of Alaska Anchorage

#162

From: [Karenvanreenan@gmail.com](mailto:Karenvanreenan@gmail.com) VanReenan [<mailto:karenvanreenan@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 4:16 PM

To: LIO Fairbanks <[Lio.Fairbanks@akleg.gov](mailto:Lio.Fairbanks@akleg.gov)>

Subject: No New Social Workers

I am completely alarmed by the actions of OCS Director Christy Lawton.

Christy Lawton is asking the legislature for more money for 22+ New Social workers. The reason why I am alarmed for this request to get funding for new hire frontline social workers is as follows.

1. Christy Lawton as OCS Director is not and has never been in compliance with federal regulations regarding OCS funding on a federal level.

This shows complete arrogance and incompetency.

Christy Lawton does not even follow OCS motto on PRESERVATION OF THE FAMILY.

2. As state of Alaska social workers, they are all mandatory reporters for abuse or crimes against children. yet when my grand nephew was assaulted by his foster placement with bear spray, a death threat to kill him and the foster mother, not one social worker removed him from the home or even bothered to file a police reports.

3. Several social workers covered up crimes against my nephew. Sarah Alden stole my nephew's cell phone that had video of a huge pile of crystal meth that my nephew recorded as proof of the drug activities that went in in the home. Sarah Alden told us that she took the cell phone and erased the pictures and videos of the drugs in his placement home. Sarah Alden has never returned the cell phone to my family. The cell phone was bought as a birthday present and was stolen by OCS state employees Sarah Alden.

3. Jaylene Day, Sarah Alden, Nora Slow, Nicole Haverlik are just a few social workers known to have hidden evidence of a crime against a child. All of the above were told of the drugs, alcohol, domestic violence in the home and the death threat to the 10 year old child.

Jaylene Day said that she investigated and found my nephew to be in a "SAFE DRUG FREE HOME".

Yet the child was only removed after the state troopers made another visit to the home on another domestic violence call.

4. Christy Lawton has social workers and supervisors that are operating in ways that are borderline criminal and don't follow any state or federal laws. This criminal activity needs addressed soon before more children are hurt under Christy Lawton authority.

5. more New frontline social workers is not the answer to the ongoing problems within OCS. If MS. Lawton can't keep her social workers she has now from committing crimes against children, do you really think that Christy Lawton will train 22 New Social workers to obey the law? Up think not.

How can the Alaska legislature just keep funding OCS with money to destroy families when you all know that OCS is not in federal compliance to receive funding on any level.

I am worried about what will happen if you fund 22+ more social workers that will in the long run be over zealous criminals that run a state agency in such a criminal matter.

And to pour salt in our wounds our very own Alaska legislature takes money from the permanent fund dividend to fund such a agency as OCS.

I am against the funding of new social workers! You need to clean up the mess of social workers that exist now.



I am against funding OCS in any manor. REAL CHILD ABUSE IS reported to the police and prosecuted as such.

Overzealous social workers are destroying the family unit by doing their jobs. on their own personal feelings and taking children for themselves or their friends to adopt.

I do have all the proof of everything I talked about in this email. And proof of other crimes committed by OCS social workers that I have not told you about. Like perjury.

Do what's write for families in Alaska and DEFUND OCS NOW!

Regards,

Karen M. VanReenan victim of OCS Fairbanks Alaska  
Fairbanks Alaska 99707

## KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Tara Otcheck

REPRESENTING:

Self

BILL # or SUBJECT:

HB 57-59

COMMITTEE:

HEIN

DATE: 3/3/17

No one knew my foster daughter until her caregiver began taking her to the Salvation Army to volunteer. This wouldn't have been possible with the proposed budget cuts. A lot of these handicapped people are contributing members of society. I believe if these budgets are passed there will be more depression, more violence, more abuse, more deaths. Think of the ripple effects!!! Everyone is struggling as it is now you want to "purish" the most vulnerable.

Why not build another Harbor View?? This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There has got to be another way. Please for the love of God, find a way!!



## Nome Public Schools

P.O. Box 131 • Nome, Alaska • 99762 • (907) 443-2231 • Fax 443-5144

Shawn Arnold, Superintendent

907-443-6191 • [sarnold@nomeschools.com](mailto:sarnold@nomeschools.com)

---

To: House Finance Committee

From: Shawn Arnold, Superintendent

Date: March 4, 2017

RE: FY18 Education Budget Reductions

I am pleased to address the House Finance Committee as they consider the impact to education funding, particularly the needs at remote and rural schools. Consideration should be made to support success for all.

A key goal of our education finance system is to provide a quality public education program that produces a similar opportunity for all students to be academically successful regardless of their specific learning needs or other circumstances, such as where they attend school. Educational finance focuses on determining inputs necessary to achieve educational objectives, assuming that *equitable* access to *adequate* levels of resources is a key lever to student academic success.

I have seen dramatic differences between what schools on the road system take for granted, and what remote rural and smaller schools suffer without. Students in small and rural schools require more focused attention and policy-making because they're generally more vulnerable with fewer social and economic supports.

Policymakers need to continue funding rural schools in ways that are at least sufficient to support basic educational goals. Our children in less populated rural areas deserve quality school opportunities, and to strengthen the educational institutions in rural areas, every school should be staffed adequately to provide a solid educational foundation with counselors, librarians, and elective teachers. The impact of a dollar in Anchorage is different than the impact of a dollar in rural Alaska. As reductions in the budget are sought, differential indicators for rural schools should be reviewed.

Rural schools in Alaska serve children who often require additional resources, special programs, and expert teachers to be successful learners. Across the board funding cuts impact small rural schools in Alaska much greater as we are less likely to have counselors, librarians, and a wide choice of electives. Research has established that certified school librarians have a positive effect of literacy and achievement, particularly for poverty stricken areas. On the road system, most schools have at least one school librarian, while few if any schools in rural Alaska, the areas with the highest poverty rate in the state, have a librarian in their school. This type of deep disparity indicates that the implementation of Alaska's school funding has not resulted in educational equity.

---

The State of Alaska's educational system remains the most segregated in America by race and income. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that separate is not equal. Educational decision makers may be influenced by personal schooling experiences and the choices they have made for their own children's interests. In Alaska we need an attitude referred to by Lisa Delpit that "they" are all "our children." Fairness, grounded in a strong sense of what is right, requires that we provide, at the very least, equality of learning opportunities for all our children.

The *Moore* adequacy challenge filed in 2004 presented major achievement gaps in test scores in many rural schools demonstrated unconstitutional underfunding by the State of Alaska. In the 2008 hearings in this case, the state claimed that problems in the schools often stemmed from troubles within the communities. Although it was found the state finance system did not violate due process or state constitution's education clause, but students were taking, and failing state assessments because they were not adequately prepared. Judge Sharon Gleason further warned that difficult community conditions do not diminish the State's constitutional duty.

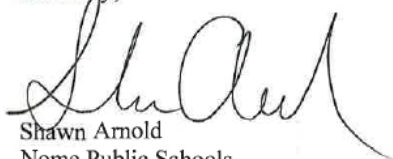
Policymakers need to fund rural schools in ways that are at least sufficient to support basic operations. Establishing this basic level of funding support ensures that every school has sufficient funds to operate a basic program of services. Adjustments for all cost factors should be set to reflect the differential cost of providing an equal opportunity for students to achieve at a given level, regardless of their needs of circumstances.

Many of these challenges of providing equal educational opportunities in rural and small schools in Alaska can be addressed if the principle that all our children deserve the best education we can offer. This principle requires that policymakers create mechanisms to allocate resources and find additional funding not only for public schools, but also use existing resources to more equitably support our small, rural schools, which could have a profound effect on stabilizing remote communities and contribute to a more sustainable Alaska.

However, budget cuts will result in much larger per pupil reductions in High Need/Low Wealth school districts than in Low Need/High Wealth districts. The spending disparities between low wealth and high wealth districts will widen. Projected over the next few years, existing funding disparities will once again become indefensible. I want to emphasize that low wealth rural districts do not want to be "starved" into reorganization due to inequitable funding.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your commitment to the education of all Alaskan children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn Arnold', written over a horizontal line.

Shawn Arnold  
Nome Public Schools  
Superintendent