

Jake Almeida

From: Laural Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 10:51 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and SB 24

Good Day

I am writing to comment on Senate Bills 23 and 24. I am both a resident of this state (31 years) and a public educator (37 years). I see the question of the PFD and the funding of public education as separate issues though in the past three years they have become intertwined.

The State of Alaska has made public education of its residents a constitutional requirement. That means it falls squarely within the responsibility of the State. It cannot be re-assigned to any other entity.

While I am not opposed to either SB 23 or 24, this decision must be made while paying full attention to how it may impact the constitutional obligation to provide education. If supporting the reallocation of PF dividends results in your inability to appropriately fund any services required by the State constitution then there had better be another readily feasible solution to take care of the obligations

The PFD is not the money of the citizens until it is given to them. I would liken it to an inheritance. We may be in the "will", but until that time comes and the inheritance is passed on to us, the owner of the inheritance is free to spend their wealth as they see fit or as they need. If the State has a NEED for the PFD funds it is their right to spend them.

No matter what is done with the PFD please keep in mind that the children of this state cannot wait. They continue to grow up and need their education. A year lost is a year that can not be easily recouped.

Sincerely,

Laural Jackson, Superintendent
Delta/Greely School District
[REDACTED]

This message is considered confidential and should not be shared without explicit permission of the sender.

Jake Almeida

From: Fred Torrisi [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 10:33 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 & 24, extra dividends

Members of the State Affairs Committee:

I lived in Bristol Bay for 35 years and so have seen the importance of the annual pfd distribution in both rural and urban areas of the State. But most rural residents plan to stay in Alaska, making sustainability of the program more important than the exact amount. And while there was a legitimate question about whether the dividend was an appropriation, that question has now been resolved, and there is nothing sacred about the old formula.

The last legislature took a different approach to funding government, taking a percentage from the Permanent Fund which the experts believed to be sustainable. We should treat the pfd the same way. While I believe in an income tax, we should start with a modest rate structure, and even with funds from a tax, there would not be enough money to pay dividends at the level the Governor has proposed without the drastic cuts to State services which Alaskans are telling you they don't want.

These cuts, and the confiscation of local sources of revenue, will hurt our economy and change our collective idea of what Alaska is and can be. Let's pay a reasonable dividend, fund education and critical services, and work to nourish and preserve the Alaska we all know and love.

Fred Torrisi
Anchorage

Jake Almeida

From: Tracy Lowell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:35 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Cutting Education Budget

Hello,

I will keep this short. I don't live in Alaska because of the PFD. If it means never getting a PFD for the rest of my life, I will do it so my children can have a quality education, which includes sports- a main reason rural kids stay in school!

Tracy Lowell
Gustavus, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Erica Jarman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 10:06 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD payback

Good evening senate, my name is Erica Jarman and I have lived in the state of Alaska my whole life. When governor Walker vetoed the mandatory pay out of the permanent fund dividend it was like a slap in the face to every man, women and child. The PFD was made for those that call Alaska home, something that is paid to us once a year. This is our right as Alaskans because we have no rights to the minerals that are in the ground, if we own land they are found on. This was a compromise for the state to pay back those that live in this wonderful state. By saying we have no right to the Permanent Fund is bologna. As Alaskans and especially being Alaska Native we have the right to those funds. Because of the mineral rights not being our own if we happen to find oil or gold or anything else of value in the ground. The PFD has been the same since it was made and it should stay the same for in the future. If that means the amounts will get lower as time goes on, so be it. As long as those that call Alaska home can be compensated for giving our rights away to the mineral development in this great State. Thank you

Mrs. Erica Jarman
Born and Raised Alaskan

Jake Almeida

From: Josh Hejl [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 8:32 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: public testimony.

I support fully funding all of our current "social programs" as well as a full PFD.

I do not support funding tax breaks for oil companies. I also support a reasonable income tax if it is what must be done to fund our communities.

We live in an extremely complex state where the cost of one school or road seems preposterous, these are difficult decisions to make. I understand you have a hard road ahead of you.

Are you aiming to be a single term governor? That is what you are headed for now, unless you think the oil companies can vote for you? All jobs are important to our economy. As are the future jobs created by education.

Your job is not only to appease the constituents of today but to employ the constituents of tomorrow. There is a lot of rhetoric out there on both political fronts. There are no sides, we are all members of community. Please help create a community that is profitable for all not only your friends and the rich.

Josh Hejl

[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Erick Fish [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Alaska public schools in budget

To Whom it May Concern, and you should ALL be concerned,

I am writing on behalf of my family, my child's school, and my community in Cooper Landing, to beseech you to reject the proposed cuts to our public education system.

While the PFD is important to Alaskans, public education is crucial. Many non-Native Alaskans chose our great state for the freedom to live far away from the big cities, and it is small communities like Cooper Landing that will suffer the most by lack of a public school. The governor claims to support small, local businesses, but for lack of proper funding in education, it will be the small, local businesses that are hurt by these proposed cuts. The young families in our community (who, by the way, also do double and triple duty as volunteer firefighters and emergency services staff) will be forced to perhaps take their families and small businesses elsewhere, likely to a state where their needs are met. When you lose the young families and small businesses in a community, it withers on the vine and dies.

The budget for Public Educations should be determined by *need*, and how that revenue is acquired should be its OWN topic, not lumped in with a general budget discussion. There are untapped resources that we need to consider, NEW revenue, like revised oil tax credits, sales tax. I don't believe that our government is asking the correct people for resources. You can't tell me we can't wring out more money from the oil fields, I don't believe it.

Public Education is absolutely crucial, taking more money from our schools is basically stealing from our own future.

Sincerely,

Erick Fish
Fish and Sons Kenai Charters

[REDACTED]
Cooper Landing, AK 99572

[REDACTED]
<http://www.fishandsons.net>

Jake Almeida

From: Kjersti Arnold [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 2:17 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD Payback Testimony

Hello,

My name is Kjersti Arnold and I was born and raised in Alaska. I voted for Gov. Dunleavy and look forward to the leadership he and his administration will bring to the state.

One of the reasons I voted for the governor was because he is standing up for the PFD. We used to be able to balance a budget and did not need the help of the PFD. That should always be our goal. The last administrations use of the PFD to make up for our bad spending habits was the wrong thing to do.

We as Alaskans need to live within our means, which means we reduce our government footprint and balance our budget WITHOUT the PFD. The PFD was never meant to be used for that purpose and I think it should stay that way.

Payback would be awesome, but I'm mostly concerned about it not being touched moving forward.

Balance the budget! It might hurt a little, but change always does.

Thank you,
Kjersti Arnold

Sent from my iPhone

Jake Almeida

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 2:01 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Alaska Does Not Need Nor Can It Afford Universal Daycare Within The School System

Everyone knows that the people in our communities want the budget cut and the PFD's restored. The only people that don't are the minority liberals and teachers. Only 54% of funding is making it into the classroom. Every teacher that shows up to these town halls should have to disclose their pay grade and Benefits. 80-100,000. Absolutely ridiculous. Some of the Highest paid in the country. The Alaska department of education should be ashamed of themselves. Teachers, this couldn't last forever. You've gone too far and have taken from the most vulnerable in our society to stack your fat retirements. Trying to sneak in Universal daycare by giving free preschool at the public schools - Disgraceful. It is a sham and they are wasting state money doing it for children that are not below the poverty line. These town halls only Benefit the unions and everyone in them knows what the majority in the state wants. Put it on a ballot, watch the teachers cry because they know this isn't what we all want. Cut the budget!

D. Karski
Wasilla, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Patricia Phillips [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 1:55 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: SB 23 and SB 24

While I value my annual PFD and recognize its importance to many Alaskans; it should not be a choice between funding public education or cutting education by 25% in order to pay for a PFD. It should not be a choice between funding other essential State services or cutting state programs in order to pay out a PFD. The formula approved in previous legislation does enough to protect PFD's.

State funds are essential to leverage Federal funds for critical Healthcare needs and Alaska Department of Transport deferred capital projects that deal with deferred maintenance and public safety.

Thank you,
Patricia Phillips
[REDACTED]

Pelican, AK 99832

Jake Almeida

From: Barbara Hamilton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Permanent Fund Pay Out

I would normally never do this but I believe the education in this State is disastrous and pouring more money to fix it is not acceptable. Good teachers should definitely be rewarded with higher wages but failing ones should not. I urge you to look at it from this perspective and not pour more money into schools until things improve. Thank you for considering this.

Jake Almeida

From: Rachael E. Neumann [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 7:34 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23 and SB 24

Dear Elected Representatives,

I am writing to express my opinion regarding payback of the PFD as well as payment of the PFD going forward.

I am ambivalent about the payback of the PFDs from the prior 3 years and have no opinion one way or another. As far as current year appropriations of the PFD, I believe this should go forward as normally calculated, and there should be a constitutional amendment to ensure it will continue to be calculated and dispersed to Alaskans as normal.

I absolutely am NOT in favor of any income tax and would favor the PFDs be used instead if an income tax were ever to be considered. Although I am against any and all taxes as a general rule, I would alternatively semi-support a small statewide sales tax of 3% on goods and services outside of groceries.

Thank you for taking my viewpoints and thoughts into consideration.

Kind regards,

Rachael Neumann

Talkeetna, AK

Jake Almeida

From: Christina Barlow [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 4:45 PM
To: Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: PFD and public services

Honorable Senator Shower:

As Alaskans we have been fortunate for so many years to have received monies instead of paying income taxes. However, the time has come when we need to question whether letting so much money leave the state for out-of-state workers is the right thing to do. That might and most likely would mean that Alaska residents will need to pay an income tax as well; we might be reimbursed some from the PFD.

As we are well into the twenty-first century and need to balance the Alaska budget, we need to weigh the needs of the many against the past oil rich days and realize we cannot live in the past. We need not just to cut the budget, but more importantly find new sources of income. Not many states allow non-residents the luxury of earning money in their states and walking away without paying any taxes. These monies could be supporting our economy and our services. Please reconsider cutting services to the island communities who rely on ferries for travel or public schools who are already doing their best with flat rate support for several years.

If you have other ideas besides income taxes, then please bring them forward to legislature. We need to forge ahead with a viable plan rather than count on free money of past oil riches.

Thank you.

Christina Barlow

Jake Almeida

From: Lu Hare [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 2:20 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB23&24

I've been a resident of Alaska for 36 years and every year for 36 years all I've heard is every state agency is short of money and every year our education gets worse and level of service goes down. The only thing that goes up is the number of people doing less. Any person with any honesty and some common sense knows that to let politicians keep the permanent fund is like throwing it in the wind.

Thanks. Bob Hare

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Jake Almeida

From: Jethro Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 8:30 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Testimony

My name is Jethro Jones, resident in Fairbanks and school principal in Alaska for the last five years. My whole time in Alaska I have seen budget cuts and had to lay off great, excited, young teachers. It's hard to find people to teach our kids in Alaska. And harder still with budget cuts looming. While the PFD may be important it should not be a choice between funding public education or cutting education by 25% in order to pay for the PFD. Please honor the commitment made last year to continue forward funding education at high levels so we can meet the needs of our students, the future.

Jethro

Jake Almeida

From: Kyle Gadd [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 8:13 PM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: Forwarded letter to Governor Walker

Dear Senators,

I thank you for revisiting the issue of paying Alaskans their PFDs. This is a letter that I sent to the former Governor Walker expressing my displeasure of his decision. I ask you to please pardon the foul language and condescending attitude. I save it only for special occasions. I commend the new Governor Dunleavy administration, and their commitment to fairness, and fiscal responsibility.

...

Dear Governor Walker,

I wanted to write to express my deep disappointment in your decision to take the dividend away from Alaskans. Any budget issues are a direct result of your incompetence at spending within your means. You are the problem, and the only solution you can think of is to tax those it will affect the most? I assume you are intelligent enough to admit that this is a tax on the Alaskan people, and those it affects the most are the poor among us. From Wikipedia:

"One mathematical effect an equal-amount dividend is that the dividend contributes a greater percentage of added income for people of lower incomes. Conversely, any cut, limit, cap, or end of the equal-amount PFD would mean low-income Alaskans would experience the greatest percentage loss of income. The PFD payout, which comes in or near October of each year, is acknowledged to have a substantial effect on Alaska's economy, both in total and especially in rural Alaska where unemployment can reach 60% and where cash is scarce."

I know that you sit with a lot of fat cats, and money isn't much of an issue for you personally. If I assume you only make the \$145,000 Governor's salary in a year, and there are 6 people in your household, then you will be receiving \$6,180 less in dividends this year. That would be a tax on 4% of your income, but you still have \$138,820 to work with so cry me a river. The Alaskan median household income is \$69,825 (2014), so that \$6,180 is about a 9% tax on income. That puts us in the highest state income tax brackets in the nation. Of course, the poor bastards that are only bringing in \$35,000 a year are paying a 17% tax, and it only gets worse from there. There is no state in the nation that even dares to approach these numbers, so you, dear Governor, truly defines the term "Maverick".

If you really can't keep a budget, and feel that you just cannot get by without an extra \$662,290,000 (\$1,030 from each of Alaska's 643,000 residents), then why not tax the total income earned in Alaska (\$16.5 billion) at 4% (the amount you seem to think is reasonable for yourself). Then the 20% of workers in Alaska that are not even residents of the state (and have thus evaded your PFD tax) will then have to "pay their fair share".

I'm sorry that a high school drop out has to explain simple mathematics to a person of your high degree, but for those of us who must struggle to live within a budget there are only two options: either live within our means, or steal from

those who have some. You have chosen to steal the most from those with the least. When you come back from your Pimp trip in Singapore, you owe Alaskans an apology, and it had better be a good one.

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Best wishes,

Kyle Gadd

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_Permanent_Fund

<http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/reshire/nonres.pdf>

<http://taxfoundation.org/article/state-individual-income-tax-rates-and-brackets-2016>

Jake Almeida

From: Jessie Burfoot [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 7:27 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Dividends testimony

To whom it may concern,

To receive any owed dividends now rather than later would be most helpful to my family and I. We pay THOUSANDS of dollars a year for heating fuel for the house we live in. We go into debt every winter and struggle every summer to climb out of debt. The nearest hospital from my town is four hours away and we have had to use those facilities this year. Travel to and from as well as doctor expenses has dug into almost all of our savings. Thank you for your time.

Jake Almeida

From: Sam Jordan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 6:15 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 23-24 Comments

My name is Sam Jordan. I am a parent and educator in Juneau. My comment is that while the PFD debate is important, it should not be a choice between either funding public education or cutting education by 25% in order to pay for the PFD. We must have a balanced debate first about adequately supporting and educating Alaska's children, including preschool programs, and then decide appropriate levels of PFD payouts second. We must invest in the long term health of our state first, and that starts with education.

-Sam Jordan
JUNEAU

Jake Almeida

From: Donald Bullock Jr. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 5:53 PM
To: Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: SB 24 Durational Residency Requirement

As introduced, SB 24 requires Alaska residency of at least two years—the first year is the year for which the applicant qualified for a 2016, 2017, or 2018 PFD and the second year is the year of qualification for the 2019, 2020, or 2021 PFD.

Two-years is longer than the one-year residency requirement for other state programs such as the pioneer homes and resident fishing and sport licenses. I am not aware of a period longer than one year for qualifying for a state benefit.

My concern is that tying the payment to eligibility for a later PFD creates the extended residency period and will invite a court challenge, possibly successful.

One possible way around this issue, is to change the bill so that a person is presumed not to be eligible for the additional payment if they are no longer in the state after receiving the first PFD. Then, eligibility for a PFD in 2019, 2020, and 2021 could rebut this presumption. The original eligibility for the PFD in 2016, 2017, and 2018 would be the basis for the payment and if they are no longer in the state at the time of the later payment, the person would have to rebut the presumption that they did not intend to remain in the state at the time of the first filing.

In other words, the original filing would be the basis for the additional payment so long as the person met the requirements of physical presence and the intent to remain or qualified for an allowable absence for that PFD.

Donald Bullock
[REDACTED]
Douglas AK 99824
Alaska resident since 1955

Jake Almeida

From: Kristin Graves [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 4:24 PM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: SB 23 & 24

Dear Senators,

I am hearing that there is a majority of you that want to vote against this. Please take a moment to think about how much the dividend affects so many families. I know personally that my fiancé and I use this to improve our standard of living. We were able to move to a better apartment, our previous apartment had a love triangle murder one month after we moved. My parents wouldn't be able to afford heating oil without the dividend. I have finally been able to get help for my alcoholism. Our healthcare system is broken, most poignantly mental health. The dividend helps me in this regard. I understand that not everyone uses their dividend responsibly but does that mean everyone should be punished? We (my fiancé and I) are finally getting to a good place. The dividend cap has hurt us immensely. We barely scrape by and this check helps us make it through the year. Whether something comes up medically that is unexpected or we need our vehicle fixed. For the low income, working class this dividend is survival not vacation money. I hope you will take a closer look at the prop and think carefully about the people who have voted for you and want the best for all of us. This is an amazing state, let's keep it that way! Support your own supporters. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kristin Graves

Jake Almeida

From: Debbe Lancaster [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 2:41 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD vs Education Funding

Good afternoon,

We, at Wrangell Public School District and citizens of Alaska, understand the PFD may be important. However, it should not be a choice between funding public education or cutting education by 25% in order to pay for the PFD.

Wrangell's budget is very tight and our families already pay for their lunch program and activity fees. While I understand some districts can tighten their belt, we cannot and still serve our students adequately.

Please support full funding for education.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Debbe Lancaster
Superintendent - Wrangell Public School District
[REDACTED]

Jake Almeida

From: Bob Redlinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 10:08 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD

Good day Folks,

We need to come to the realization that it's time to start paying for State services. I am in agreement to use the PFD to fund State government. We also need to consider a State income tax and/or a State sales tax.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Redlinger

Jake Almeida

From: Kristia Douts [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 8:50 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: PFD payout,

I am writing to share with you the importance of a one time payback of the PFD, With the state of our economy and the amount of earthquake damage many of us have suffered, it would be great to have those funds to make the much needed repairs that some of us need. The administrative cost of managing the 3 three payback as described will be burdensome, excessive and not a cost effective plan.

Thank you

Kristia Douts