



April 9, 2019

The Honorable Dan Ortiz  
House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 513  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

First City Homeless Services  
PO Box 23095  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

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Email: [ktnFCHS@gmail.com](mailto:ktnFCHS@gmail.com)  
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Program Supervisor: Donita O'Dell

**FCHS Board Members:**

Samuel McQuerry (chairperson)  
Margret Bergerud (vice chair)  
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Joel Kotrc (secretary)  
Char White  
Jay Hochberg  
Agnes Moran  
Ruth Bullock

Dear Representative Ortiz:

Governor Dunleavy's amended proposed budget eliminates funding for homeless programs across the state. First City Homeless Services is very concerned with the loss of funding for the Community Initiative Matching Grant (CIMG) Program from the Department of Health and Social Services and the Basic Homeless Assistance Program (BHAP). The elimination of funding for homeless programs will create a statewide crisis in homelessness. Ketchikan would be particularly hard-hit, as First City Homeless Services obtains one-quarter of its annual funding from CIMG funds. Additionally, Women In Safe Homes receives CIMG funding and Love Inc receives BHAP funds. Eliminating these programs would take two hundred thousand dollars out of our community. The results for the hungry, homeless and working poor among us would be nothing short of catastrophic.

The CIMG program is irreplaceable funding. You are well aware that the community of Ketchikan is generous and caring. Our shelter receives donations of time, food, and money from citizens of Ketchikan on practically a daily basis. You also know private giving cannot replace public funding. It is simply not possible for our volunteer board to raise sufficient monies to replace our CIMG grant funding. If the CIMG program is eliminated, FCHS will have to reduce services significantly to be able to keep our doors open.

The core mission of our shelter is to keep people alive. The benefits of having our shelter include reduced arrests and jail admissions, reduced use of EMS services and emergency room beds, and a healthier community. This is why we count the Ketchikan Police Department, the leadership of the Ketchikan Correctional Center, the Ketchikan Fire Department, and PeaceHealth among our strongest local supporters.

No Alaska citizen deserves to go hungry. No Alaska citizen deserves to be without shelter from the outdoors in an emergency. All Alaskans deserve basic human essentials, such as a place to go to the bathroom and the ability to shower to get clean. In order to protect the public good, it is necessary to expend public funds.

Located at 400 Main Street (in the lower level of First United Methodist Church)  
Day Shelter Hours: Monday – Saturday, 8am – 4pm & Sunday 8am – 2pm  
Seasonal Overnight Warming Center Hours: 7 days a week, 8pm – 6am  
FCHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. EIN: 26-2565838

We recognize that you are fighting on many fronts these days. You have been a powerful voice on education. You have shown strength in defending the Alaska Marine Highway System. We ask that you use your voice and your political capital to defend the CIMG and BHAP programs. The homeless and hungry exist in all parts of this state, and in all legislative districts. Other members of the Legislature are, no doubt, receiving similar letters from agencies, programs, citizens and advocates in their own districts. With your strong leadership on this issue, other members of the Legislature will follow.

It is not hyperbolic to suggest that zeroing-out funding for homeless services will result in the loss of life. Rather, it is a near certainty. Further, the initial apparent cost-savings in budget dollars will be quickly eclipsed by the costs to society and increases in theft, jail admissions, and hospital admissions. The CIMG and BHAP Programs must not be defunded. We ask for your support in defending them.

Sincerely,

  
Sam McQuerry

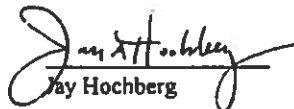
  
Margret Bergend

  
Tasha-Marie Olinger

  
Joel Kotrc

  
Agnes Moran

  
Charlotte White

  
Jay Hochberg

  
Ruth Bullock

  
Donita O'Dell

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Michele Vasquez <mvasquez@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 1:46 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** re: Opposition to Governor's budget

Chairs Stedman and von Imhoff and Committee Members:

There is a popular saying in politics; "Don't tell me what your priorities are. Show me your budget and I will tell you what your priorities are."

Well, Alaskans have seen Governor Dunleavy's budget, and now, we know exactly what he considers important; oil tax credits for the wealthiest multinational corporations and paying a full PFD.

Everything is on the chopping block except oil tax credits. His proposed budget eviscerates K-12, the university system, Pioneer Homes, ferry system, early childhood programs and countless other programs and services that help Alaskans from all walks of life including the most vulnerable people in our state.

In short, the governor's budget is immoral, cruel, mean-spirited and heartless. Dunleavy keeps saying Alaska is open for business, but I wonder, what company would dare invest in a state where the public education system is short on teachers with overcrowded classrooms due to school closures? And any new business would want their employee's families to have access to the best healthcare providers who practice at fully staffed hospitals and clinics.

A new industry would expect necessary infrastructure like roads, bridges, airports, ports and the marine highway to be in top shape and fully funded because all of these things are crucial to running a successful business.

A full PFD would be great, and I know there are many who depend on it to pay for fuel, groceries and other essentials so although I am personally willing to forgo mine, I am not willing to make that choice for others. I believe the simplest and easiest thing to do would be to eliminate the per-barrel oil tax credit immediately and implement a progressive income tax and perhaps a sales tax.

We must have other revenue streams so we can have budget certainty in years to come. The governor's draconian budget proposal is bad for Alaska and extremely short-sighted. Alaskans deserve better than this.

Thank you,  
Michele Vasquez  
Soldotna, Alaska  
District O

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**Institute a STATE income tax, and/or a State sales tax and/or other State-wide REVENUE stream.....get busy.....we're ASKING FOR it!**

SAVE MUSEUMS! We're growing tourism-to give folks a rich experience.

CUT PFDs to \$500. No matter how much PFD checks are they can't  
x buy a teacher, nor buy a ferry, nor buy a city government with utilities, nor  
x buy a swimming pool, nor a new roof for a school, nor a pier repair, nor  
x train our own people to be much needed DOCTORS!

Systems can be unethical to minorities, impoverished, ill, children, indigenious, uneducated, and disenfranchised. Why are these systems being promoted and strengthened.

Transparency.....transparency  
definitely lost with secret/partial meetings ....so assist public radio  
as you insist democracy is maintained in Alaska. KEEP Public RADIO.

SEND a Permanent Fund check and our population of workers  
leaves town!!!! Last year 45 students left school district with their parents who  
told us they couldn't afford to live in (Sitka) rural Alaska. It costs MONEY  
to bring people to Alaska.....we try & have done..so we KNOW!! Upwards  
of \$8,000 per person to bring new people to AK. And AK legislature can  
stop this catastrophe w/o chasing away new business & workers.  
IMPOSE a SCHOOL TAX ...we had one before! Once a year an item  
collected as school tax....\$35-45 per person.....on their 1st paycheck-yearly  
or your choice.....just DO IT!

Administration employees have said state income tax is too difficult to  
implement!

Then hire those CAPABLE of implementation.

**(2)**

**Set policies (Like FORWARD FUNDING) that can't be changed easily with an emergency mentality. Our SCHOOLS need it.**

PRIVATIZATION is gone when companies fail to find good schools and vibrant community members who don't hate living here. Gov. Donleavy said on public radio (Mr, 26) but do not let the politicians get hands on money.

I say ..... So then.....

make sure North Slope communities get OIL tax money...they know best how to use it. Also do same for Rural fishing municipalities get FISH TAXES (In Sitka we use that money for ports & harbors so fleet comes)

LEVY INCOME TAXES we want it! (As long as reasonable- we sent you to work for us-what's the hold up?.....we want a vote only when the legislature is unrealistic, unreasonable, & privately benefitting)

Chaos can hide real intentions.....politicians please get it right.

**FROM -** Marcia Strand, Box 795, Sitka, AK 99835 (907) 752-0438

**NO Permanent Fund supplements!! No Permanent Fund w/o State services included in PFD stream.**

## Head Start Testimony by Kathleen Miller

4/12/19

My name is Kathleen Miller and I have a five year old daughter named Brianna. Here is our journey with Head Start:

I had first moved to Nome 3 years ago from Teller, Alaska. About after a year of living in Nome I heard about Kawerak's Early Head Start Child Care Partnership program. I applied for services and my 2 year old daughter was accepted later that week. We were welcomed into a fun positive learning environment. My child coming into the program did not have many social skills or was still heavily attached to me. Also upon coming into the program I had learned my daughter had a speech delay, to where she wouldn't say words clearly or mumble them together. With this speech delay I was naturally worried about my child and with worries comes anxiety and fear of what will come of it. Kawerak's EHS-CCP program was very assuring and offered the best service to serve my child. My daughter was referred for her speech. Through the whole process the teaching teams and specialists provided nothing but loving support and the right services to help treat my daughter and help her speech improve. I truly am appreciative at the services my daughter received with the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership program. Our journey didn't end there for it was only the beginning.



At 3 years old my daughter Brianna had to re-apply for the Head Start program. Brianna was accepted and she continued receiving service for her speech. All of Brianna's teachers through the years have worked amazing with her. I can NOT see families in our State have this opportunity to receive services taken away. My daughter had so much developmental growth in an organized positive learning setting. I often look back, reflect, and just feel humble and grateful for Head Start. My daughter and I have come a long way as a family and I feel like Head Start was one of the starting healthy foundations for us. Brianna is now 5 years old and will transition to Kindergarten in the fall. I feel such a positive emotion when I heard her speech therapist say she is ready for Kindergarten. When I heard her say that, it brought tears to my eyes. My child has come a long way in Head Start.

We as a community, a region, a State should be investing our help to young children. I've seen first hand how much help it has given to my child. Please don't take away our funding to help our young children.

Taikuu,  
Thank you

Kathleen Miller, Head Start Parent

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Karl and Robyn Hagerman [hagerman92@gmail.com](mailto:hagerman92@gmail.com)  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 2:09 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** budget comments

Thank you for the opportunity to publically testify today. I wanted to submit my full comments to you as well.

My name is Robyn Hagerman and I have been a resident of Petersburg for 30 years. I am a wife, mother of three (the youngest is 17), a journalist by degree, and recently a bookkeeper and a baker as well as a KFSK volunteer.

I do NOT support cuts to our local public radio station KFSK, Alaska Marine Highway ferries, public education and public health. I urge the Governor, his staff and legislators to find solutions that work for all Alaskans living in our vast state as each region has its own complications, resources and needs.

There are more ways to balance the budget than unilaterally destroying many aspects of Alaskans' quality of life by devastating cuts.

I DO support a smaller PFD check.

I DO support a state income tax. An income tax would generate revenue from a lost source. Currently, there is income generated across our state in various industries that leaves our state and benefits others

If you are going to shift the burden from the state to the local municipalities, then do so equitably across the state. I believe communities that do not currently have a local sales tax in place SHOULD be required to do so before receiving funds from the state. More revenue could be generated at a local level easing the state's burden.

I encourage you to revise the state mandate that exempts senior citizens from property tax on the first \$150,000 of assessed value on their primary residence to one based upon financial need. The current law has been in place for more than 30 years, but the state does not reimburse the local communities for this. A revision based upon financial need would allow local communities to recover monies at the local level.

I encourage you to implement additional solutions that would assist in sustaining the quality of life rather than destroying it.

Thank you.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Nicki Shelton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 2:09 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 20 budget appropriations

Good Afternoon, Chairs Stedman and von Imhof, and members of the Committee,

I will call in this afternoon during the offnet testimony to speak. One minute is difficult, so I am submitting my thoughts for your consideration.

Research clearly shows that the quality of experiences in the first 5 years of life has a deep and lasting effect on how the brain develops. The neural pathways and connections literally shape the physical architecture of the brain, forming the strong foundation on which everything else is built. **The early learning programs provide positive activities for children and support for families so all children can develop a sturdy foundation for all of the learning, health, and behavior that follow.**

Children's early exposure to books is a major component of reading readiness. In Hoonah as in many other rural communities, without the early learning programs parents have **no access** to books in their homes until their children enter Kindergarten.

Best Beginnings' Imagination Library provides a monthly book for children based on their age, from birth until age 5. Parents very much appreciate these monthly books, and they are well used. Parents as Teachers, Head Start, and Pre-k feature literacy activities that build essential school readiness skills. There is nothing to replace these resources in small communities.

Early learning programs help plug holes in vital services that were formerly provided by the State. 25 years ago, we had a Public Health Nurse who spent at least a week each month in Hoonah. She conducted screenings and thorough evaluations of children's development. Now, our itinerant Public Health Nurse serves 7 communities and must focus on other health issues in her limited time here.

Similarly, in the past few years, the Infant Learning Program's budget has been severely reduced. The ILP Developmental Specialists visited Hoonah each month to conduct developmental, hearing, and vision assessments as well as to provide early intervention to children from birth to 3 years who had identified delays. Their budget currently allows them to only visit Hoonah **4 times a year**.

**The early learning programs help soften the damage from these reduced services.** Parents as Teachers, Head Start, and Pre-K all conduct developmental screenings to identify problems that may interfere with learning. Children are referred to the specialists as needed to develop early intervention plans. PAT, Head Start, and Pre-K all concentrate on activities that work to remediate the delays and coordinate with the itinerant specialists in Juneau.

The healthy development of children is at risk with the removal of these early learning programs. **Without these programs, problems may not be addressed until Kindergarten, after the most rapid brain development is complete.**



Children's ability to reach their potential is being determined by this budget. Kids only get one shot at their first 5 years. As responsible adults, we owe it to the next generation to support learning so they can be successful in school, complete graduation, and become productive adult Alaskans.

The alternative is to spend much more money in future years to remediate the results of children entering Kindergarten with undetected developmental delays and the lack of school readiness skills. We will hire more remedial reading teachers, more Special Education teachers, more behavioral health staff.

The money spent for early learning programs is a sound investment in the future health of Alaska.

Please restore full funding for Parents as Teachers, Best Beginnings, Head Start, and Pre-K. **I support the implementation of the state income tax to bolster the revenue side of the budget equation.** We cannot balance the budget with solely cutting programs and services.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of my remarks.

Sincerely,

Nicki Shelton

[REDACTED]

Hoonah, AK 99829

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Aubrey Hasick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 2:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Early Education-Head Start

Hello,

I wanted to share how much I find Early Education in Alaska important. I work at a Head Start as the Education Disabilities Specialist. Part of my job is helping identify students who are needing extra services and making sure they are provided them during their time at Head Start. This allows them a positive start to school with a support system in place. These children move to Kindergarten ready and have a plan in place that will set them up for success. If that were not available they would go through Kindergarten struggling until someone was able to provide the services needed, that could be a year or two before needs were identified. Here at Head Start we are able to use developmental screeners, provide interventions, many small group activities addressing the weakness and allow for these children to have every opportunity to succeed. We need Early Education in Alaska.

*Aubrey Cooper*

Education/Disabilities Specialist  
Kawerak, Inc. Head Start

[REDACTED]  
Nome AK 99762  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

" Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." Winston Churchill

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Inga Stromme [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 2:19 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Operating Budget

Dear Finance Committee,

I am writing to you to express my concerns over the proposed closure of Sheldon Jackson Museum and the sale of the collection.

Sheldon Jackson Museum is an extremely important and irreplaceable monument of Alaskan history. Not only is the building itself of great historical importance it houses a priceless collection of indigenous artifacts that need to be preserved and shared.

I visited the museum yesterday with son's preschool class. It's a class of mixed ages from 3 years to 5 years. Regardless of age, ALL the children were amazed and extremely interested in the collection at the museum. They were engaged with the museums staff and all came away very excited about the treasures they got to see. They were most excited to see Chief K'alyaan's (Katlian) battle helmet as they'd only just seen it in a painting. Artifacts like this tell the story of Sitka.

I appreciate that museums need to be able to pay for themselves. I think the admission fee should be increased to fall in line with what other museums around the State are charging.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,  
Inga Stromme  
[REDACTED]

Sitka

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Ariel Starbuck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 2:28 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Govenor's Budget

Thank you for your time, senators. My name is Ariel Starbuck, I have lived in Alaska for 15 years, I am a homeowner, a mother of two young children, and a wife. These comments are my own, I do not represent any group.

I am imploring you, to reject Govenor Dunleavy's proposed cuts to education. Allowing all children to have access to a free and appropriate education is one of the few things that is constitutionally mandated in this state and the governor's current budget proposal undermines that requirement. Education is an investment in the future and is necessary for a productive society. Please protect the constitutional rights of our children and every child in this state.

Please consider passing the State House operating budget. They spent time listening to constituents all over Alaska, paid attention to the cuts that our state can afford to bear, and came up with a realistic budget.

In addition, Alaska Statute clearly states that the earning reserve of the fund can be spent by the governor and legislature to inflation proof the fund, provide for dividends, cover investment losses, and cover the costs of basic government services. Governor Dunleavy and all 60 members of the legislature have sworn an oath to promote and protect the Alaska State Constitution. I urge all of you to use the Permanent fund for it was intended and provide for the States essential services. If additional funds are required, please bring back the State Income Tax, as I would gladly pay it to protect programs like education, ferries, and health care.

Thank you for your time!

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Cheryl Stromme [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 2:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** 2019/2020 budget proposal

April 12, 2019

Co-Chair Stedman, Co-Chair von Imhof and members of the Committee, thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment on the Governor's proposed budget.

I am concerned that the proposed budget cuts will decimate Southeast Alaska.

The 23% cut to K-12 education would barely allow our schools to operate. I have a five year old grandson starting kindergarten in the fall who would end up in a classroom of 44 students. I do not see 44 five and six year old students in one classroom with one teacher getting the attention and help they need to succeed.

The high schools in Sitka utilize the dual enrollment program where students may earn high school and college credit through UAS. These students are better prepared for college by the time they graduate from high school.

The proposed cuts of 44% to the university will gut it. The claim that the university is ineffective is wrong. The measures applied to universities usually track graduates at a bachelor degree or higher. Our campuses around the state are training people for the Alaskan workforce. Most of these degrees are Occupational Endorsements, Certificates, or Associate level degrees that are putting people to work but not measured in the "success story". At UAS the degrees are focused on the Alaskan work force needs: teachers, accountants, nurses, certified nurse aides, welders, medical assistants, carpenters, biologists, fisheries technicians and managers...the list goes on. Many of these people complete their degrees, some take the courses they need to go to work and enter the work force. They are the engine that is running Alaska.

Education in this state has already absorbed 4 years of large budget cuts.

No Ferries? Entirely unrealistic. What is the profit generated by the Seward Highway and the Glenn Highway? Maybe these highways should be closed. At least three communities in SE will be completely isolated; no ferry, no airport, no barge landing. What are they supposed to do after the September shut down of the ferry system?

Selling the Sheldon Jackson Museum is unthinkable and probably illegal. One person likened it to the UK selling off the crown jewels one by one. Do you really want to see this amazing collection sold piece meal to collectors around the world? The SJ Museum reaches out to schools around the state with their hands on collection, visiting native artists study the collection, view work by their ancestors, and teach in our schools and present to the public, tourists learn about our Native peoples and history.

The proposed cuts to Medicaid and the Pioneer Homes are cruel and poorly thought out. The state will be returning money to the federal government that could be used for good in Alaska, leaving thousands of people without medical care.

I do not feel that the lost revenue has been considered. The Ferries provide millions of dollars to Southcentral Alaska as well as SEAK, the university loses tuition and research dollars, communities lose income from people who will be forced to leave the state. States that have poor education systems, poorly trained workers and poor health care do not attract new business, something Alaska desperately needs to do.

I am willing to pay an income tax, take a smaller PFD or none, and see the oil tax revised to reflect a benefit to Alaska rather than the oil companies. They are being paid to not produce. I once worked for a company where retirement benefits were based on profits, surprisingly, there were no profits, though the owners lived a lavish lifestyle.

Gov. Hammond said that the best thing he ever did was to establish the permanent fund. That money is meant to help Alaska get through the lean times. The worst thing he said he did as governor was abolish the income tax and the school tax. He was right. We should help pay for important services. Please leave services to be paid for.

If I sound angry it is because I am. We can't gut the state. It will take longer to recover from the damage this budget cut will cause than it would to develop a sound fiscal policy. You can't fix children who don't receive a good education, people without medical care, elders sent south to nursing homes, loss of population....

Cheryl Stromme

Sitka, Alaska

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Rebecca Poulson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 3:04 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Sheldon Jackson Museum funding

Dear Members of the Alaska State Senate Finance Committee:

I urge you not to sell or close the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Even talking about the possibility does harm and has already cost people's time and stress.

This is a priceless, world-class collection, that pays for its own operation through entrance fees, and is operated by just a couple of people, so the money saved would be ridiculously small, especially relative to the enormous cultural, educational and economic value of the museum's continued operation.

Rebecca Poulson, Sitka

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Carrie Martinsen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 1:20 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget

Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As a business owner in Petersburg, AK I do not support the budget cuts to education, AMHS, Harbors and Transportation. I understand that we have a money shortage an operating without a balanced budget is a ridiculous way to live, however cutting funding so deeply that programs are forced to close is not the answer either. I believe there are creative solutions to grow our state without this emotional turmoil that our governor's budget has created.

Carrie Martinsen  
Vice President  
Tamico, Inc  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Maya Benavente [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 1:37 PM  
**To:** Sen. Peter Micciche; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** VOTE NO to the Governor's budget proposal please

Honorable Senator Micciche and the Finance Committee,

Please vote no to Governor Dunleavy's budget proposal. All I see is a decrease in the quality of life for everyday Alaskans and our future generation. Please say no to:

\* Decrease to education - Our students are already ranked the lowest in the nation and we're taking more away from them. The entire funding process is broken and needs to be fixed. Schools and Districts need the ability to raise revenue themselves through grant writing, creation of foundations, and even grass roots funding. This is done all over the U.S. but Alaska's funding process isn't working and many times results in our best teachers leaving the state because we don't forward fund education. Something needs to change to allow our schools and Districts to have some freedom in raising revenue.

The State could also look at consolidation of District administrative duties and maybe contracting out other things like management of the pools or custodial. I've experienced consolidation in the business world where we went from branch to regional offices and the company was able to save significantly due to economies of scale. Contracting would save in benefits which is a large piece of the expense. We were told that in KPB, over 60% of the budget is for the school district and I know that the pension and other benefits play a big part.

\* Full PFD - we don't need a full payment at the expense of education and other services. Many people argue, and I'm one of them, to put aside a percentage towards education and only education.

\* Marine Highway system cuts - this will isolate those communities and add to their costs in other ways. For example, schools are seeing their budgets cut but now their travel expenses increase because the only way to reach Cordova will be by air. Maybe you can add revenue by creating tolls or a head tax.

\* Public Radio cuts - this system is the lifeline for many especially during flooding, tsunami warnings, and earthquakes. It's also a way that people learn about Alaska news including the budget crisis.

\* Medicaid cuts - Our state unfortunately has a high population of MA recipients and cutting benefits will lead to higher costs in emergency room and acute care. Preventative benefits and education are essential to catching things early and encouraging healthy lifestyles. As a Medicaid provider, the claims process itself is frustrating and inefficient. That's another story though for another committee. However, if reducing provider reimbursements is part of the equation then you will only lose the limited number of providers that you have.

\* WWAMI cuts - this is a program with a very effective rate of return but it's not good enough to the Governor. WWAMI helps train Alaskans in the medical field with over 50% returning to the State. My daughter is currently an undergrad and WWAMI is a program that we've researched as a way to reduce medical school expenses when she reaches that point.

\* Oil tax credits - I don't know if these are part of the budget but \$15 BILLION dollars?! Really?! Is that how much Dunleavy cut in services and benefits so he could provide \$15 billion in tax credits and pay a full PFD? Who is looking out for the greater good? I hope that you are.

Finally, there has to be some revenue streams. It can't be all about cuts. It might be time for a State lottery, income tax, sales tax, or a variety of things to bring in revenue. The first rule of financial planning is to diversify and not have all of your eggs in one basket. We've done too much of that relying on oil revenues.

We all know that the Governor's budget as a whole will not get passed and he will veto whatever is brought forward. Please have the courage and decency to override his veto.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I don't envy your jobs.

***Maya E.B. Moriarty***

***[REDACTED]***

***Seward, AK 99664***

***[REDACTED]***

# PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: [lio.petersburg@akleg.gov](mailto:lio.petersburg@akleg.gov)  
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

YOUR FULL NAME:

Thomas Edward Abbott

REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF):

Family of 5 in Petersburg

BILL #:

HB39/SB20

Subject

General Operating Budget

COMMITTEE NAME:

Senate Finance

HEARING DATE:

04.12.19

We believe the budget should be balanced in the short term by using PFD earnings and reduced PFD's, for the long term by implementing an income tax.

We support full funding for public broadcasting. Public radio is critical within the public safety network in the state, providing critical information to the public from first responders, so first responders may do their jobs while the public is informed as what to do by listening to public radio. In rural areas, this is critical.

We support funding from Head Start to the University. The ferry system is critical to our economy in Southeast, moving goods, commerce and people among our island communities.

We urge the fish tax revenues to remain in communities.

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 1:38 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Public Media in Alaska

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**From:** J. Gwen Kennedy Ph. D. <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 1:05 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Public Media in Alaska

I am sorry I couldn't provide testimony in person, however, I want to make sure my voice is heard.

We all can find cost savings in our systems and the Alaska public media organizations are working hard to collaborate and find new ways of working together to reduce dependency on state funding. But totally defunding public media in Alaska will eliminate our emergency communications system. This is important not only for the emergency alert system, but also following the emergency to help our citizens connect to services and reconnect and rebuild their community. I know personally what that felt like during our recent 7.1 earthquake in Anchorage.

Defunding the satellite and interconnection system:

- Ends ARCS as an emergency communications platform statewide for all broadcasters.
- Ends use and management of the satellite system to provide statewide distribution of public television and radio content to rural Alaska.

These cuts will result in lost local services:

- Essential local **emergency**, health and safety information.
- Without State funds, the majority of local stations will fail to meet minimum eligibility for federal grants.

Without the ARCS system and rural grants, our rural communities are also missing out on children's education programs. And as we know through research, the early learning years will have a long-term impact on our economy and judicial system.

Put back in the funding for the ARCS system! Put back in the funding for rural grants.

Respectfully,

Jessie Gwen Kennedy

Organizational Development Consultant & Board President for Alaska Public Media

J. Gwen Kennedy, Ph.D.  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99504  
[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Bill Tremblay <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 1:39 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** I support a healthy operating budget

Dear Chairpersons and Committee Members,

I would testify in person but I am currently hosting the afternoon radio show in Petersburg on KFSK. Our station reaches more than 5,000 people regionally and receives support from over 1,000 persons. Since we live - stream on the Internet, our actual support is from around the world. The per - capita giving to our station puts us among the top 10 stations in the nation (not by percent but in actually giving).

That being said, without the State's contribution to maintain our services we are unlikely going to be able to recover the funds necessary to be eligible for our federal grants. (This statement is likely true for most public radio stations across the State.)

Without an alternative in place to provide timely or current information to remote locations in the State you are putting lives at risk. The repeaters used by KFSK reaches three of the main communities on North Prince of Wales Island. If funding is cut by the State it is likely some of the cost savings will be by shutting down these repeaters.

I don't support the Governor's budget. He is attacking our quality of life. HOW do we keep more than a billion dollars in payments to the oil companies the cut education, service to seniors, the ocean ranger program, the State ferries, and other services? I have lived in Alaska since 1980; Alaska is one State and connected as one people. Despite our differences we have always looked out for each other.

I support using part or all of my Permanent Fund Dividend to pay for State services. I also support a graduated income tax.

Thank you,

Bill Tremblay  
[REDACTED]  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
[REDACTED]

# Sitka Legislative Information Office

Email: llo.sitk@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-747-6276 / Fax: 907-5807

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

NAME: Monica L Eastham  
REPRESENTING: myself  
BILL # or SUBJECT: Governor's Operating Budget  
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee DATE: 4/12/19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

Thank you for taking my testimony. I fully support a state income tax. The time has come to face reality. Wild and poorly thought out cuts, massive cuts to education, the Marine Highway, UoFA, & DHSS just to name a few - all for a PFD check! A \$3000 check is about \$8/day before taxes. There is a better way. State Income Tax, repealing the oil company tax credits, for starters - Increase revenues! Don't chop off arms and legs. It's extremely alarming to have this Gov. waltz in and start chopping away so much from so many, when there is another solution. Time to think outside the box - Be strong, listen to the people and make wise decisions. This budget crisis will impact all Alaskans (that choose to stay) for many years to come. These are real lives that matter, not just numbers on paper. My mother lives in the Sitka Pioneer Home. The new proposed rates are beyond the pale. My father (85) pays her monthly bill of \$6,795 Level III with the help of her long term care ins. Under the new rates she would most likely be moved to the newly created Level IV at the rate of \$13,333. How is that even close to affordable? It's double! More than. Her care would not change - How are any pioneers able to afford that? My mom doesn't qualify for assistance. Please know and remember you represent ALL Alaskans. I've lived here my entire life and don't want to see local governments falter, many lose their jobs, the ferry system shut down, all because this Gov. wants to dish out a big PFD. Money is a social must but so are services provided by a strong state infrastructure - Don't worry about giving Alaskans money, worry about giving us strong educations, safe towns to live in, safe highways - including the Marine Highway and support not strip local governments. Please don't allow this Gov. to strip away all that is important to Alaskans and leave this place in ruin. Please don't be hasty because the Gov. wants it <sup>Now</sup>. We trust in you to think things through and to represent the people of this great state.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Mary Chambers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 1:44 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Operating Budget

Hello, my name is Mary Chambers.

I'd like to thank Co-Chair Stedman, Co-Chair Von Imhof and members of the committee for this opportunity to express my concerns over the current proposed budget.

I have been a Sitka resident since 1974. I have raised 2 children here who are currently both working in the state as an engineer and a nurse. They received a good education in Sitka. My deceased husband was a commercial fisherman working out of Sitka for 25 years.

The 23% cuts to K-12 would have a strong impact on the class sizes and the ability to attract young families in choosing Sitka as a place to live and raise their children. Both myself and my children have made use of the University of Alaska to continue our education. I'm apposed to the proposed 44% cuts to this system.

I have used the ferry system to travel year round throughout the state and to the lower 48 as have my friends and family. Throughout the school year my kids traveled by ferry to their sports events. That is the only way we could afford to send our kids to play other teams throughout southeast. My son and his wife live in Juneau. The ferry is an affordable way for us to visit each other. I'm very deeply opposed to the proposed 70% cuts to ferries.

The Pioneer Home rate increase and the raw fish tax are also concerns of mine.

I am willing to accept a smaller PFD or relinquish it all together in order to avoid these cuts!  
I am also in support of state income tax!

Once again, thank you for taking the time to listen.

Sincerely,

Mary Chambers

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** laura schmidt [mailto:lshmidt935@alaska.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 2:58 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** finance committee testimony,

Dear Chairs von Imhof and Stedman and other finance committee members,

I am very concerned with the Dunleavy proposed budget which would gut our state of its infrastructure and cause long-lasting social and economic decline.

I strongly support a reduced PFD roughly a \$300 to 400 amount and think the state should implement an income tax to better pull resources from those who have more. Please implement a budget which allows us to educate our children, run our university, assist our elderly, provide for those in need and keep infrastructure for economic prosperity such as Div of Agriculture, Ak marine Highway etc.. .

Thank you for your time. I have spent my last 50 years in Alaska and care deeply about our state.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Schmidt, [redacted] Sitka, AK 99835.



Dear Senator Bert Stedman,

This Mary Cook from Hoonah, AK and I speaking for myself as a new parent. I'm writing today to show my support for Hoonah Parents As Teachers (PAT) program and various PAT program around the state.

As any parent we dream about providing the best possible future for our children. For myself personally, PAT it has been a resource of good reliable information on my pregnancy and parenthood. It is true that you can do web search for the subject and get hundreds of results but what is myth and what are facts? Who has the time to read through it all and who wants to chance with their child's safety on what could be phony information. Every home visit since I started with PAT, I have been given helpful information for my baby's language and development.

PAT provides a safe place for young kids and infants to play and interact with each other. My baby's father and I have taken our daughter to a few PAT playgroups and she had chances to spend time with other children close to her age group. It has given us a chance as well as new parents to talk with other parents who struggle through the same parenting issues.

I could spend more of your time giving more examples of how has PAT helped but I know your time is important so I thank you for your valuable time and consider funding Parents as Teachers and passing the Senate Bill 20.

Sincerely,  
Mary Cook

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Mike Vieira <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 3:01 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State operating Budget

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing today to express my requests for you to consider approaching this year's budget and the proposed cuts to the state budget with caution and a tempered approach. I do not argue the fact that as a state we should be looking to make efficiencies and cuts where we can, but I do believe that we should approach the solutions to our budget situation from both ends. I would hope you would phase in any massive cuts over a 4 year period with no more than 7% cut per year. I would also hope that you would approach the financial plan from both a cutting solution and a revenue solution. I would like to see revenue solutions approached with a portion of the PFD, an adjustment to oil tax credits and a reasonable statewide tax of some type. Thanks for your service. I hope more then anything you give us a long range vision so that we can avoid this heartburn and fear driving people out of our state.

Mike Vieira  
Sitka

Mike V

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: JAMES R. HAWKINS  
REPRESENTING: \_\_\_\_\_  
BILL # or SUBJECT: SB 20 & SB 21  
COMMITTEE: SENATE FINANCE DATE: 041119

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

- THERE SHOULD BE A STATE INCOME TAX. IF YOU HAD ONE A LONG TIME AGO, WE WOULDN'T BE WHERE WE ARE TODAY.
- TO MUCH REVENUE IS GOING OUT OF THE STATE VIA OUT OF STATE WORKERS. THEY TAKE A LOT OUT OF THE STATE.
- ALASKA STATE GOVERNMENT IS THE LARGEST PER/CAPITA THAT I KNOW OF.
- THE LIO OFFICE HERE IN KENAI IS VITAL TO RESIDENTS FOR INFORMATION, AS JUNEAU IS TO FAR AWAY FOR THE GENERAL POPULATION TO ACCESS THE GOV. FACE TO FACE.
- THE PFD HAS HELPED TO CREATE A BIGGER WELFARE STATE
- IN REGARDS TO THE PEBBLE MINE. THEY, THE PRO-PONENTS STATE THAT IT WILL BRING JOBS TO THE STATE; BUT THE QUESTION I HAVE IS, HOW MANY OF THESE JOBS WILL BE FILLED BY OUT OF STATE WORKERS,

## KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

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

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Sharon Brower  
REPRESENTING: Myself as an Alaskan  
BILL # or SUBJECT: Funding for Public Broadcasting  
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee DATE: 4-11-19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

It is my belief that the public broadcasting programs are the only statewide communication services. Those of us on the road system are not as dependant on PBS, but those off the road and ferry system rely on PBS to keep us all informed and connected. Between the local fundamirers and membership, the federal matching funds and the state support, we benefit collectively statewide. Please do not limit nor isolate the major portion of our state by removing the state contribution.

Sharon M. Brower

Kenai, Alaska 99611

April 4, 2019

Dear Finance Committee Member,

I have attended the following events concerning Alaska's 2020 proposed budget: Kenai Peninsula Borough meeting on February 23, 2019 with Senator Micciche and Representative Carpenter; Soldotna Sport's Center open budget meeting with Representative Knopp, House Speaker- Bryce Edgmon and Vice Chair of House Finance Committee- Jennifer Johnston on March 23, 2019, attached is the form I was given to provide public comment; and Governor Dunleavy's budget roadshow at the Cannery Lodge in Kenai on March 25, 2019. I have also read through the Governor's proposed "An Honest Budget Fiscal Year 2020." In my opinion, sustainability, predictability and affordability is not what is depicted in this proposed budget.

I am a resident of the Kenai Peninsula and have spent over 30 years living in Alaska. I attended elementary and secondary education in Soldotna. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from University of Alaska, Anchorage after attending most classes at Kenai Peninsula Community College. I graduated with a Master of Arts in Organizational Management from Wayland Baptist after attending classes at their Anchorage and Wasilla sites. I have worked in the field of Human Services for over two decades working with families through Child Protections, Juvenile Justice and provider agencies that serve individuals that are on Home and Community Based Medicaid Waivers. I started my own business in 2015, providing care coordination. I am a guardian of an individual that is served on an Intellectual and Developmental Disability waiver that receives Social Security, Adult Public Assistance and Alaska Medicaid. I have raised three sons in Alaska, with my youngest still in high school. The governor's proposed budget harmfully impacts my loved ones, my community and friends across the State.

Many people used the term draconian to describe the budget at the meetings I attended. One person compared the plan to a surgeon operating to stop the bleeding but cutting blindly and not saving the person. I believe the proposed cuts are impulsive, ignorant and discriminate against Alaska's most vulnerable. It has created unnecessary chaos and confusion for so many. The governor's promise to protect and pay out full dividends without new taxes or tax increases is disingenuous. It is dishonest, and the consequences would be devastating if enacted, leading to significant sales and property taxes in my community.

Please review carefully the following proposed cuts that will impact the Kenai Peninsula Borough:

- The closing of Wildwood Correctional Facility (one of the lowest costs to run in the state), to send 500 inmates out of state is a step backwards. There was a reason we brought the inmates home. Please explore in depth the "true savings." Loss of these jobs are loss of families and contributors to Alaska;
- The cuts dramatically impact the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District-closures of schools, cuts to extracurricular activities, arts, music and loss of teaching positions; and

- Our community resources such as Love Inc., Women's Resource Shelter and Independent Living Center testified how many people they currently assist and how the proposed cuts will dramatically reduce their ability to help families in crisis and the homeless.

The following cuts to Department of Health and Social Services are going to exacerbate the ongoing issues to vulnerable individuals that experience disabilities and our elderly:

- Dental cuts for adults-there is a reason the Key Coalition fought to have dental added for adults on Medicaid. There were increased medical costs as people were being seen in emergency rooms and extreme health issues result from poor dental hygiene;
- The budget for Senior and Disability Services Medicaid Services needs to be its own appropriation instead of mixed in with the general fund. This way funding will not run out before the fiscal year as it has in the past two years;
- Removing the hold harmless impact for people on Public Assistance will put them over the income guidelines every permanent dividend- creating needless work for others to reinstate benefits once money is spent down;
- Reduction of Adult Public Assistance because the state can not match federal funds will make the most impoverished people more impoverished;
- The reduction to TANF will leave families with children in crisis with a shortage of community resources;
- Repealing Senior benefits while increasing costs to Pioneer Homes will devastate an already overwhelmed and underserved population. There is a 3 to 4 year waitlist for these homes. Alaska has a shortage of space in Nursing Homes as well as Assisted Living Homes. There are many challenges this state has with obtaining housing for seniors, disabled and individuals with mental health;
- A five percent decrease to Medicaid providers already working at or above capacity is discouraging. My business will be hit with a 5% rate decrease when the increase of duties for care coordinators has exponentially risen to facilitate the roll out of new Medicaid waivers that increase Federal percentage of funds; and
- The latest request of Governor Dunleavy to be the first state to accept a Block Medicaid payment is discouraging and unnerving. It tells me he has not spent any time really learning about the health care costs to individuals in Alaska (across the board-people on Medicaid and people on private insurance). He has not reviewed nor looked at the hard work the Department of Health and Social Services has done to lower our percentage funding rates to the federal percentages. Nor has he looked at the numbers prior to Medicaid expansion and the decrease of costs over the course of 5 years. The fact that 28% of Alaskans receive Medicaid should cause everyone to pay attention to the reasons why and look towards prevention.

The following cuts to Education will not improve our "test scores" but cause more harm to Alaskan's children:

- Higher student to teacher ratio is not safe;
- Schools are the number one reporters of children being abused; and
- Removal of Headstart and PreK programs will deter primary care givers from working. It will not improve our already low number of children reading.

Governor Dunleavy has made his values clear in this budget. We spend our time and money on the things we value. Healthcare, education and our most vulnerable are not valued in the proposed budget. I am concerned at the direction of our state and the uncertainty this proposed budget has caused. I believe it is demolishing a lot of hard work that people have spent trying to identify ways to generate new revenue streams and present creative solutions to solving the real problems that create an increase in services. It is premature, drastic and will come at a great price. Governor Dunleavy believes our budget crises discourages private sectors and industries from coming to Alaska, but where were they when the state was flush with funds? Why don't they stay? The costs of living in Alaska and running a business are exorbitant. Why do we continue to allow so many people to work in our state (roughly 25-35% of oil and gas workers) and live elsewhere without paying into the state where they receive their livelihood? Along with the other percentages of fisherman and other workers that come and make money and invest it in other states to live (latest # 20.9% of our workforce lives out of state, earning \$2.5 billion in wages, which is 15% of all wages earned in Alaska cited from Department of Labor and Workforce Development).

I would gladly pay a state tax and give up my permanent fund (or see a progressive reduction of pfd so the brunt of monetary impact is not harming those that truly rely on the funds from pfd), to see those I love and work with receive quality healthcare and education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Holly Scott', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Holly Scott

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Linda Leveque

REPRESENTING:

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Governor's BUDGET

COMMITTEE:

SFIN

DATE:

4/12/19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

★ Harmful to Alaska Residents

- Reverse reduction to Medicaid
- Reverse reduction to Medicaid Adult Preventive Dental.
- Reverse reduction to Homeless Assist. Program
- Reverse elimination of Senior programs

Please maintain support for Senior  
& Disabilities Community-Based Grants



KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai\_LIO@akleg.gov

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Amanda Faulkner

REPRESENTING:

Frontier Community Services

BILL # or SUBJECT:

FY20 Operating Budget

COMMITTEE:

SFIN

DATE: 4.12.19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

The \$12 million cut (25% of the grant line) that the Governor is proposing to behavioral health grants based on anticipated savings from the 1115 waiver, is premature.

If the senate adopts the Governor's proposed 5% cut to Medicaid reimbursement rates, they should hold BtH <sup>SDS</sup> providers harmless.

• BtH are primary care provide

BtH access problems while in an opioid crisis

• Alaskans have problems accessing the behavioral health treatment services they need;

• Treatment services delivered by community behavioral health providers help prevent people with behavioral health problems from ending up in emergency rooms, API, in our prison system and out of state for the care they need (more costly and detrimental escalation)

Kenai Legislative Information Office

April 12, 2019

Sharon Brower  
Representing Myself  
Governors Budget  
Senate Finance Committee

Thank you for broadcasting this morning.

I am against the Governors budget. I am willing to use 50% of the PFD this year! I sincerely ask you to reintroduce the progressive income tax by the begining of 2020. I believe that those who are setting on the legislative body have not been part of the state long enough to have paid income tax and do not recognize the ownership that paying taxes give each of us. As I watch the diminishing numbers of registered voters participating in that responsibility, I believe we need to remind each of us that they own that responsibility. Taxes to pay for the Education that we were mandated by state hood to provide is our main obligation. It has been proven by numerous researchers that limited education is the quickest way to need greater prisons. We need greater preschool ability to off set the rising number of children raised by substance abusing parents.

I also believe that we are responsible for the roads, ferries and airports to cover our minimal ground transportation. And last but not least, we need healthcare that includes mental health. I have advocated an income tax for the last 4 years and not seen any acknowledgement from either legislative body. Please consider both the income tax and continuing the Permanent Fund.

Sincerely  
Sharon Brower  
North Kenai, Alaska

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** dollynda Phelps <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 9:42 AM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Chris Birch; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Rep. Sharon Jackson; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Chuck Kopp; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Bart LeBon; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. John Lincoln; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Rep. George Rauscher; Rep. Joshua Revak; Rep. Laddie Shaw; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; House Education; House Finance; House Health and Social Services; House Judiciary; House Labor and Commerce; House Resources; House Rules; House State Affairs; House Transportation; Senate Community and Regional Affairs; Senate Education; Senate Finance Committee; Senate Health and Social Services; Senate Judiciary; Senate Labor and Commerce; Senate Resources; Senate Rules; Senate State Affairs; Senate Transportation Committee; Arctic Policy Economic Dev and Tourism; House Energy; House Fisheries; House Military and Veterans Affairs; Ethics Committee; House Community and Regional Affairs  
**Subject:** Please do NOT confirm Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board

Greetings,

Next week you will be considering Vivian Stiver for the Marijuana Control Board. Mrs. Stiver is a staunch prohibitionist, contrary to what she may say. Her actions speak much louder than her words, just look at her tract record over the last 4 years. Some call her a Trojan Horse, now having an opportunity to weaken and destroy this industry from the inside. It seems she will say whatever you want to hear, truth or not, in order to be confirmed.

During her last confirmation hearing many public comments brought to light the fact that she is uneducated about cannabis and the functionality of the cannabis industry. She has, for a very long time, spread mis-information and untruths about cannabis to the public. Mrs. Stiver responded to these allegations saying that she had taken the time to educate herself, that she had read Washington and Colorado state marijuana regulations. What I find absolutely appalling is the fact that she tried multiple times to put people out of business without even reading her own state of Alaskas marijuana regulations. She didn't bother to even look at those until just a few weeks ago,

admittedly so. She is certainly singing a different tune now that she has the possibility of being appointed to a board and doing some real harm to this new industry.

The Cannabis industry deserves industry representation on the regulatory board, we currently have 1 industry member on the board and 80% of the board knows little to nothing about cannabis or the functionality of the industry. This certainly creates a very unbalanced board. Considering Mrs. Stivers personal vendetta to see the industry fail, and her blatant lack of knowledge that she willingly shares to the public, she just is not qualified to be in a rule making position.

I strongly urge you to deny the appointment of Vivian Stiver and request a member of the industry be placed on the board.

Thank you for your careful consideration,

Dollynda Phelps

[REDACTED]

Dollynda Phelps

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Cushing [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 10:08 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** budget

Dear Committee Members,

The Governor's proposed budget will have a devastating impact on our coastal communities, and all the communities outside the rail belt. It will put then in a deadly downward spiral.

Our past leaders wisely created the permanent fund to provide for our state as oil revenues dwindled. We need to use some of these earnings now for government operations, which provide vital services and assure that Alaska has a strong future. We need to limit the dividend checks to allow for this. We are also in favor of a state income tax, which will capture income from those who earn their money in Alaska but don't live here. We need to have the oil companies pay their fair share as well, and not pay excessive tax credits to them. Fish taxes need to be shared with local governments so they can pay for harbors and other services.

We are in favor of providing adequate funding for K to college education, health care and mental health care, the Alaska Marine Highway and public radio.

We know your job is difficult, and thank you for looking out for the welfare of all Alaskans. We are counting on you.

Sincerely,

David and Marlene Cushing  
Petersburg, Alaska

## April 12, 2019 Testimony for Senate Finance

Thanks to all the Alaska State Legislators for their hard work in trying to create a workable budget for the state this year.

My name is Rosemary Carlton. I have lived in Alaska for 50 years. Through those 50 years, I have never been as stunned with a proposed state budget as I have this year. In 1969, before the “oil boom” the people of Alaska helped support the State budget by paying a small income tax and an even smaller school tax and we did not receive a PFD. I strongly support both these means of raising revenue while maintaining a moderate PFD for the state if it means small class sizes in our schools, fairly paid teachers, a reliable ferry system, strong healthcare assistance for those who need it, reasonable Pioneer Home fees and the termination of **excessive tax breaks for oil companies**. Of utmost importance to me is the continued **protection and full operation** of the Sheldon Jackson Museum with improvements to the Stratton Library allowing parts of the building to be leased providing revenue.

The Sheldon Jackson Museum is part of a National Historic Landmark District and is on the National Register for Historic Places. It has been suggested this part of Alaska’s heritage be “investigated” for the potential of sale of it to the highest bidder. How divesting itself of an iconic part of Alaska’s history that in the overall picture of State spending is like the proverbial, “drop in a very large bucket,” is beyond my comprehension. The museum contains objects that represent all of Alaska’s Native cultures. It has a professional staff that cares for the artifacts. The Museum is one of the States top tourist attractions with over 14,000 people coming through last year bringing in \$42,175 in revenue which is enough to help maintain the building.

Museums are not created to be money makers, that is not their purpose, they are created to preserve and protect in the public trust. The state of Alaska holds the collection of the Sheldon

Jackson Museum in the public trust in perpetuity. These strong words are backed with laws and ethics to back them up. I wonder what the State's reaction would be if the investigation to sell the museum actually recommended its sale and then it found itself embroiled in never ending litigation. If the Governor thinks he would be saving money by selling our history, he needs to be reminded of the high cost of lawyers and the pace at which litigations move. The contract signed between Sheldon Jackson College and the State of Alaska clearly states "The State will maintain the integrity of real and personal property conveyed to the State under this agreement as a single collection...."

Please, before taking these drastic actions of even considering the sale of Sheldon Jackson Museum or taking crippling amounts of money from any essential State services, bring back money to the state that is now being giving to oil companies, reinstate an income tax, a school tax and yes, share some of the "oil wealth" with the people of the state with a moderate PFD, but don't make us the first state to sell its history and culture.

Thank you for your time.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** linda [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 10:31 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Dunleavy's Budget

Dear Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose the Governor's proposed state budget. The cuts to education and the ferry system are particularly egregious. I have two sons in the Sitka school system who participate in music, sports as well as drama/debate and forensics; both are also taking AP or independent study classes. These extra-curricula activities and advanced placement courses are enriching their education and keeping them engaged in learning. Music creates connections to other students and inspires growth. All of these opportunities would be eliminated under the Governor's proposed budget. If Alaska will not invest in education, then Alaska is jeopardizing its future.

The ferry system is the most affordable means of transportation for students traveling between towns; the ferries also provide rural Alaskans with access to health care, more affordable shopping, and recreation. The ferry systems connects families and communities across the many miles of SE Alaska. Eliminating the ferries is punitive to coastal Alaskans.

I support a reasonable limit on Alaska's permanent fund dividend of \$1000. I oppose all retrospective PFD issuance. I also support a modest income tax. Right now, far too many people are earning their livelihood in Alaska then leaving the State to spend what they have made elsewhere. Alaska provides services to these people during their time in state; those who earn a living here should contribute to maintaining those services. An income tax makes sense.

I am also strongly opposed to redirecting raw fish tax from coastal communities to state coffers. Coastal communities provide essential services to their fishing fleets, and local fishermen depend on those services. Raw fish tax not only supports local fishermen but by funding harbor department personnel and staff, raw fish tax also provides community benefits to commercial, charter, sport and subsistence fishermen.

In sum, I ask you to reject the Governor's budget and to instead develop a budget that prioritizes education, supports coastal residents, and invests in Alaska's future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.  
Linda Behnken



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Lyle Sparrowgrove <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 11:08 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Operating Budget

Hello Co-Chair Stedman, Co-Chair von Imhof and members of the Finance Committee,

I know these are challenging times in Alaska and I appreciate your committee taking on the task of coming up with a realistic operating budget.

The proposed budget by Governor Dunleavy would decimate education in Alaska, grades K-16. We already struggle to get graduating high school students to stay for post secondary education in Alaska now. The cuts would make it difficult to recommend that students in the future remain in Alaska with limited program choices, faculty, and offerings. In all reality, we would probably have to look at a few more boarding schools throughout the state for many of the small to midland communities.

The proposed ferry cuts in Southeast will cause a large equity issue with students and parents. For travel of any kind, but especially school activities, all participants will have to fly. This would cause students in low income families to probably not be able to participate because of the additional costs above and beyond a ferry ticket plus the cost to participate in many programs. We are already seeing a lack of participants in some activities because of costs and the drop in school enrollment with the struggling economies throughout Alaska. We already know what the research says about students involved in activities and the positive correlation with their success after high school

This is a time that we need all of you to look at a lower than maximum PFD to pay for services that are at the heart of our lives here in Alaska, that is why we chose to become Alaskans. If is time we paid more for the services we need and I say we need to implement that immediately with taxes. Let's put these in place and then work as a state to brainstorm other revenue sources to balance the budget not totally reliant on oil revenues.

Looking at the finance committee member make-up and knowing some about most of you, we have the right people with a broad range of problem solving skills working on this issue.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Respectfully,

Lyle Sparrowgrove  
Grandparent, Educator, Administrator, Coach, Milken Awardee, and now School Bus Driver  
Sitka, Alaska

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Alberta Laktonen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 11:08 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Dunleavy Budget

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The solution to the budget "crisis" is simple:

1. Junk the Governor's proposals.
2. Eliminate the oil industry tax credits.
3. Let the oil industry actually pay taxes, as they used to.
4. Then, and only then, ask Alaskans to pay a steeply graduated income tax.
5. Continue full funding for essential services.

Not a penny of cuts while we are subsidizing the wealthiest corporations in human history! This is the elephant in the room that you folks are not talking about; the industry has totally failed to deliver on the promised jobs and production increases that were the rationale for the credits; we are being played for fools!

Sincerely,

Alberta Laktonen, M.D.

Juneau, AK

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Teri Toland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 11:13 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support for schools and ferry

To he Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support forward funding for education for FY20. This was signed into legislation and signed by Governor Walker, as was the one-time \$30 million, and stable forward funding for fiscal year 21. I also urge you to support the school bond debt reimbursement program. Additionally, I am requesting your support to our ferry service. This is an absolute necessity for a healthy way of life for Southeast Alaskans. These costs should not be given to local municipalities.

Respectfully,  
Teri Toland

--

Teri Toland, Principal  
Stedman Elementary  
[REDACTED]

<http://www.pcsd.us>

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## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Lauren Wild [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 11:20 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FY2020 Operating Budget

Dear Co-Chair Stedman, Co-Chair von Imhof, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Lauren Wild, I was born and raised in Sitka, AK.

I have a BA in International Relations from Brandeis University in Boston, Massachusetts, and a MS in Marine Mammal Science from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. I currently live here in Sitka as PhD candidate with UAF College of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences where I study sperm whale interactions with commercial longline fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

I am disheartened by the Governor's proposed 41% reduction in the UA budget from the state's budget for FY2020. I know UA receives 42% of their overall budget from the state, so that 41% reduction from the state's budget will have drastic and far-reaching impacts on higher education in Alaska.

To me, education is one of the highest priorities to our great state, and our ability to remain such a pioneer in innovation, technology, fisheries, engineering, arts, and sciences. Education is the foundation for progressing as a society, it is the foundation for being leaders in the nation and in the world. We MUST invest in our youth (including k-12 education, which I also strongly oppose cuts to in the budget), because they are the future of this state and we need an educated workforce. Both blue-collar and white-collar work-forces need education (k-12) and higher education should be affordable and attainable to all of our people if they so choose. It should be a right, not only reserved to the wealthy that can afford it.

I would also like to stress how important our ferry system is here in Southeast Alaska. It IS our highway. We can't have roads to connect communities, so we have ferries. There is no business model in the world in which a ferry system MAKES money. Highways also cost money: to build, to maintain, and then to rebuild every 10 years or so. So does the marine highway, and people need to start thinking of it that way. It is our lifeline here.

For example, when my brother's car died a few weeks ago, he found a good deal on a car in Seattle. He then drove it up to Prince Rupert and put it on the ferry to Sitka. The ferry is the only way to get a car to Sitka - it's on an island. And that is the same issue with EVERY SINGLE CITY IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA except Haines and Skagway (which are on the road system). So, you see, we need ferries to get a new car, or if we buy a skiff in Ketchikan and need to get it to where we live in Juneau. I could go on, but please do not let the ferry system die because the Governor wants it to be privatized. We all know that won't work, because ferries don't make money.

Lastly, I wanted to touch upon the Alaska Pioneer's Home, and our elderly. I feel like the younger generations have stopped caring for their elderly, and it is so important to value the older generations. My mother is in the Pioneer's home in Sitka. She is currently Tier 3 (highest care) as she has Alzheimer's disease. My father cared for her at home as long as he could because they are not rich, but eventually had to get more help. Her monthly bill is about \$6800 per month. About \$4400 comes from her long-term care insurance, and her social security and retirement almost covers the rest. My dad adds in the remaining \$1000 per month from his own retirement, but they are doing ok.

A week after the Governor's FY2020 budget was released, my father received a letter in the mail from the Alaska Pioneer's Home. The letter informed my father that due to the Governor's proposed budget cuts to the AK Pioneer's Home system, they will be implementing a new system and my mother's cost of care will go from \$6800 per month to just over \$15,400. PER MONTH.

Obviously, that is unaffordable. My dad was a maintenance worker and my mom was a pool manager, they aren't rich, but they always had enough, and saved as much as they could. My mother still has the long-term care insurance that

covers about \$4400 per month, so really my dad will be responsible for about \$11,000 per month. For a year, that's \$132,000. A six-figure salary! When he was working, his salary was half of that. So how can he pay for her care? Apparently what happens now is he goes broke paying for her care until she qualifies for medicaid. So because he is her spouse the state will take all of his personal retirement with the feds, their joint retirement money, both her IRA account and his IRA accounts he put money into every month for nearly 40 years, social security, all assets etc. and everything he has worked his whole life to save. On top of all that my mom worked her whole life to save.

What Medicaid will allow him to keep is:

- A primary residence
- A primary vehicle
- up to approximately \$90,000 in the bank
- A \$3,000 per month living stipend for the living spouse

Everything else he has will be taken by Medicaid. And they look back 5 years, so he can't transfer any of his retirement savings into an account in the name of one of my brothers or I. Then, when my mom passes away, he'll have no retirement savings, and nothing! Just what he makes per month from his retirement and social security.

You can imagine how stressful and frustrating this situation is for us, and WE ARE NOT ALONE. People are dealing with these decisions all over the state. We do not have options here in rural Alaska, unless we live in Anchorage.

PLEASE do not allow the pioneer's home system to get budget cuts.

I know this is a lot, and I know our state is in need of some hard decisions.

I support a reduced PFD, of \$680.

In the future, what if you all made it a needs based PFD? You only get it if you apply. That would help save money. Or if it is based on income - we do a state income tax, that is income-based so those that don't make much, don't pay much. And the state income tax also informs the PFD office of your income and that determines how much you get for your PFD - a tiered system.

Also, I believe in repealing the state's oil tax credit system. You can look up Conoco Phillips and BP's quarterly and yearly statements. Alaska is their LARGEST PROFIT REGION. They pull in BILLIONS of dollars of profit in Alaska. So no way will they pull out of here if we remove some of those tax credits.

I could go on, but you've got work to do. Good luck, and PLEASE think of the average rural Alaskan's that are living on a low income and want their kids to have good education, access to health care, and elderly care when you vote on things. Put yourself in our shoes.

Sincerely,

Lauren Wild, Sitka.

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Lauren Wild  
PhD Candidate - Fisheries  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

[www.seaswap.info](http://www.seaswap.info)  
(907)747-7789

## **Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 11:22 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Public Broadcasting

**From:** Briana Sullivan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 11:18 AM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Broadcasting

Public Broadcasting is my daily essential source of news and current events. Alaska needs to support this outlet of communication and radio news throughout the state. We have remote locations and connecting all communities in case of normalcy and emergency is paramount. Losing funding to this remarkable and intelligent network is a foolish and lacks vision for any kind of self sufficient future in Alaska.

Girdwood Resident,  
Briana Sullivan

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 11:26 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget hearing

As a 26 year Alaska resident I strongly plead with the Senate Finance Committee to remember that the Constitution mandates you represent the welfare of its citizens, not the companies which extract our natural resources. Words are cheap. Budgets reveal genuine priorities. Reject the slash and sink budget of Governor Dunleavy: Education from pre-school through university; Cost equalization for the Villages (image the mass social migration and problems, let alone cultural loss this would mean); Alaska ferry system, and on and on. Instead, drastically lower all payments to the oil companies. It is ridiculous what the state pays oil companies to extract our oil. However we cannot continue to operate on reserves. NOW is the time to also gain new revenue streams: Inaugurate a graduated income tax; Eliminate PFD back-pay; and decrease present and future PFD's. As you listen to many voices, please also listen to your conscience as you look within. Then do it. Act on it with courage.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Paul D. Beran, Doctor of Ministry  
15935 Glacier Hwy.,  
Juneau, AK 99801

907 789 1347

**Testimony of Rebecca Knight**  
**SB 20: APPROP:OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS**  
**April 12, 2019**

Gov. Mike Dunleavy claims that state expenditures must get in line with revenues in order to make government more efficient and balance the budget. He asserts that steep budget cuts are the best method to achieve that goal. Gov. Dunleavy should heed his own advice.

For instance, a common-sense State spending reduction, should include cancellation of the March 19 contract award for the Sitka Katlian Bay Road project on North Baranof Island in SE Alaska. The easy-rider for the project was neatly tucked into a larger, must pass \$454 million general obligation bond in 2012. However, the project was postponed for several years, likely due to serious financial considerations and of no real benefit. The Dunleavy administration just quietly reversed that hold and awarded the road construction contract to an Oregon based company with an office in Sitka.

This project is the epitome of wasteful government spending which Mr. Dunleavy so publicly scorns. As voters approved, construction costs for this road-to-nowhere were to be \$14 million; however the successful 2019 bid came in at \$32 million—more than double the authorized price tag—not including maintenance! Reportedly, the extra required construction funds were freed up from a Fairbanks project that was federalized, and those funds were shifted to the Katlian project.

As approved by the voters, the road was originally intended to access “materials” at the road’s end for future development. But when a multi-span bridge in the area proved too costly, the road was rerouted, its length extended, and the project’s Purpose and Need was changed to include access to a rudimentary trailhead. This trailhead destination was apparently invented after the fact in order to justify the 9-mile, single lane gravel road. So why is this foolish and shamelessly exorbitant project being pursued in this time of fiscal austerity?

During a recent APRN “Talk of Alaska,” segment when asked if funds for the project could be better spent on more worthy needs, Mr. Dunleavy seemed unfamiliar with the project, but claimed the road “helped with the transportation issue”. He distanced himself from accountability since its funding was “in the hopper” before he became governor.

This dead end road does nothing to help with transportation issues. Moreover, there was no mention in the project’s Purpose and Need statement of that goal. Mr. Dunleavy clearly has the power to reinstate the previous hold put in place on the project, whether or not the funds were secured during a previous budgetary cycle. They should be reallocated to other genuine, qualifying transportation needs-not this foolish venture. Earthquake damaged roadways around Anchorage come to mind or the ferry system, if qualified for the funding. Even if the contract has been finalized, the State would still be money ahead by paying out any cancellation penalties and cutting its losses.

I call on Governor Dunleavy to walk his talk and do the right thing for all Alaskans by using the \$32 MM for other needy transportation projects instead of this boondoggle.

Sincerely, *Rebecca Knight*

Rebecca Knight  
Petersburg



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Lori Gregory [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 11:52 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State Operating Budget testimony

I am writing from Unalaska / Dutch Harbor to address the Senate Finance Committee about the FY20 State Operating Budget.

I understand the fiscal pressure the State is feeling, and I believe the first step in healing this pain is to STOP GIVING TAX BREAKS TO OIL COMPANIES!

We obviously can't afford to continue this practice when the Ferry System, Public Broadcasting and the future of our Students is at stake!

The amount money given away to the most profitable business sector in the United States is beyond ridiculous when looking at our fiscal situation.

Those tax breaks will not make or break any oil company and they will continue to invest in Alaska with or without them.

I say, let them operate without them!

I understand that many of you may feel beholden to these companies due to the high level of money influencing political decisions, and I suggest you be on notice that your constituency is aware of this and will be voting accordingly.

Public Broadcasting is vital to the rural citizens of this state.

It is how we get information in the event of an emergency and the cost of this life saving service is a pittance compared to other programs.

Please do not cut funding for Public Broadcasting!

Please do not cut funding for Education, including Head Start.

If we want our children to be successful, we need to start when they are young and provide them with healthy meals and safe learning environments.

Please do not cut funding for the Ferry System!

This is a vital link to many communities off the road system and necessary for citizens and tourists, alike.

If additional revenue is needed above eliminating oil company handouts, I suggest a statewide sales tax, income tax and increasing "sin taxes" on alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, and instituting a lottery.

Raiding the Permanent Fund goes against the spirit of the idea under which it has been created.

I don't need a huge payout as promised by our trump clone governor.

We need to care for our citizens by providing emergency broadcasting services, education and transportation infrastructure, not by giving away our revenue to campaign donors.

I'm willing to do my part by paying more taxes and taking a limited dividend.

Please do your part and put the needs of the constituency ahead of any other need, real or perceived.

The Citizens of this country are paying more attention to what goes on in government.

Please heed my advice.

Thank you,

Lori Gregory

P.O. Box 177  
[REDACTED]  
333 Steward Road  
Unalaska, AK 99685

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 12:10 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Dunleavy's intent to stop ALL Funding doe Public Broadcasting

**From:** Sylvia Maiellaro <[sylvia.maiellaro@gmail.com](mailto:sylvia.maiellaro@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 12:03 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <[Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov](mailto:Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Dunleavy's intent to stop ALL Funding doe Public Broadcasting

Senate Finance Committee: this act of Gov. Dunleavy would be a true disservice to the entire State of Alaska!!  
Funding for this is essential!!

As you know without State funding the majority of local stations will fail to me minimal eligibility for Gov't grants and would result in lost local services as in—local emergency, health and safety information.

Not funding the Satellite system would result in NO Public T.V. or Radio for Rural Alaska; just a couple of the ramifications of his proposed budget cuts

What is he thinking with his proposed Budget?????? Seems as though he is getting rid of all aspects of Public service and Assistance  
Thank you

**Sylvia Maiellaro, Anchorage, AK**  
**Alaska, not just a place to live - but a Life Style**



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## **Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Beth Short-Rhoads [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 12:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Senate operating budget testimony -- Please ensure the rights of all citizens

Dear Co-Chair von Imhof, Co-Chair Stedman and members of the Committee,

I believe it's time review the basic responsibility of government—namely, to protect the rights of all citizens including the right to education, safety, and an adequate level of services.

I understand there are Alaskans who believe in smaller government. But when this belief results in the collapse of economies, the dismantling of our educational system, insufficient public safety and infrastructure, and the death of citizens due to lack of medical care then such a mindset is no longer merely a belief. It's an ideology that threatens the rights of the majority.

As our elected lawmakers, you have the responsibility to ensure the basic functions of government remain intact. If the revenue to do so is not available in the general fund, you must find it elsewhere—in the permanent fund, in the elimination of oil tax credits, in an income tax.

Protecting all Alaskans is your privilege and your duty. Thank you for your service to our great state.

Beth Short-Rhoads  
Sitka

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Alan Marasigan  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 12:18 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: KAKM & public broadcasting

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 12:15 PM  
**To:** LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** KAKM & public broadcasting

We want the state to continue support for public broadcasting. We watch & try to support our Anchorage radio & tv. In fact, we watch KAKM programming every day. Public tv & radio are high quality, educational, & a valuable part of our Alaskan communities & provide for an educated & informed community. We learn from high quality local as well as national & worldwide programming.

The tv on regular channels is entertainment & talk opinion. It doesn't fit the bill for us: way too much violence & not enough quality entertainment & news.

Please, we strongly urge you to continue to prioritize continued support for our public broadcasting. Thank you, Jo & Archie Gottschalk, [REDACTED].



April 12, 2019

Co-Chairs Senator Stedman and Senator von Imhof and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Dr. Mary Wegner and I am the Superintendent for the Sitka School District and I am a Trustee on the Alaska State Council on the Arts. I am testifying on SB20 in support of funding for Early Learning, K-12 Public Education, the University of Alaska, and the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

High-quality preschool makes a positive difference for children and the communities where they live, and provides lasting human and financial value. I can state this unequivocally because it was documented through a longitudinal study called the Perry Preschool Project that followed 123 students from preschool age through age 40. All of the students involved lived in poverty and were identified as being at risk of school failure, and all 123 had similar background characteristics. The study randomly divided the students into 2 groups where students in 1 group participated in a high-quality preschool program while students in the other group did not.

The results of the Perry Preschool Project are staggering. From IQ scores at age 5 to homework completion at age 15 to high school graduation to salary earnings at age 40, all indicators of success show that students who participated in a quality preschool scored from 17% to 39% higher than their study peers who did not participate in a quality preschool. Additionally, involvement with the criminal justice system was lower with the students who participated in preschool than those who did not.

The return on investment after 40 years of data collection and research in the Perry Preschool Project showed that for every \$1 spent on providing high-quality preschool realized \$12.90 in value. The Mills Foundation invests in quality early childhood education and they found their return on investment to be \$16 for every \$1 invested. There is clearly a business case that supports investing in early learning.

The Perry Preschool Project was not the only study where the findings support high-quality preschool. Another 20-year study of New Jersey's Abbott Preschool Program found that 2 years in a high-quality preschool program almost cuts the achievement gap between low-income students and peers in half!

So what does this mean for Alaska? In 2015 the Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children (CEAAC) conducted a study of preschool-aged children in Alaska. A few of the many positive findings showed that children who attended a preschool were more likely to have higher achievement test scores and higher rates of graduating from high school. The study also showed that a staggering fewer percentage of 4-year old children in Alaska attended a state-funded preschool than the national average (3% and 28% respectively). The Pre-Elementary Grants recently offered by the Department of Education and Early Development have helped to move the needle in support of high-quality preschool throughout the state, which includes the Sitka School District. We all want to see improved student achievement, and it begins with high-quality preschool for all students regardless of economic status.

The Pre-Elementary Grant funding has been instrumental to our ability to evolve our Wooncheen Yei Jigaxtoonei - We are Working Together - Preschool Program, which is a partnership with Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's Head Start. In Sitka Schools, 40% of our students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Our student enrollment is made up of 30% of students who identify as Alaska Native, and 57% of those students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Clearly, we have a disproportional number of Alaska

Native students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch, and we wanted to see similar impacts to the Perry Preschool Project, the Mills Foundation, and New Jersey's Abbott Preschool Program. Woonch.een Preschool started in the 2013-14 school year; however, it wasn't until we received a Pre-Elementary Planning Grant in the 2016-17 school year that our preschool program evolved into a high-quality program, which is due specifically to the ability afforded by the Pre-Elementary Planning Grant and subsequent multi-year Pre-Elementary Grant that we were able to provide the professional learning that was needed to evolve.

We will only close the achievement gap if we have quality early learning programs throughout the state. Please consider the impact on the whole of a child's life when you consider funding for the Pre-Elementary Grants and all early learning programs. Of note is the fact that the Pre-Elementary Grants were never designed to be long-term. Rather, they provide capacity building within a school district so high-quality preschool programs can exist. Once the capacity has been built, then the grants go away.

As a superintendent of a public school district in Alaska, you expect me to testify in support of fully-funding the Base Student Allocation and the two supplemental \$20 million for FY19 and \$30 million for FY20 funding that was passed in the last Legislative Session, and I will not disappoint. The FY19 \$20 million equates to \$187,000 for Sitka Schools, and was used to offer teacher contracts to 2 teachers who have performed exemplary service to our students and community this school year. I need the funding released from the Department of Education and Early Development in order to pay my bills this fiscal year. The FY20 \$30 million equates to \$309,000 for Sitka Schools, and without this funding I will have to reduce the number of teachers I have serving our learning community. We will always cut anything we can except for teachers, but it must be said that we cannot meet the deficits we are looking at without cutting teachers and thus increasing class sizes and impacting the programs we can offer students. We only get 1 chance to offer the best education possible for every student every year. Please let us do this.

If you are sensing a theme to my testimony, it is that financial investment in Alaska's public education opportunities at all levels has a positive economic impact on individuals, a community, and a larger system, such as a state. Austerity has never worked, whereas investing in education has worked. Alaska's Education Challenge identified 3 commitments that we in Sitka Schools, as well as many other districts around the state, have embraced; our School Board even passed a Resolution. We are working diligently to implement promising programs that are showing positive outcomes, as we *Increase Student Success, Cultivate Safety and Well-Being, and Support Responsible and Reflective Learners*. We need stable, quality teachers and administrators to realize our goals in Sitka Schools and around the state.

Investment in the arts is also an economic driver. In Alaska, 9,700 individuals are employed in the arts and creative industries, and the Alaska State Council on the Arts leverages Federal and foundation funding to support Alaskan artists, as well as provide support for arts education throughout the state. Without the State match, we lose the Federal match. Currently, 19% of the funding to support the Arts Council comes from the State of Alaska, whereas 21% comes from the Federal government and 60% comes from foundations. The arts are not aligned with any political party, and strong supporters come from both sides of the aisle. Please do not make the arts a political causality now by eliminating or reducing State support for the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your dedication to Alaska. The relatively new state funding for early learning is critical for our ability to close the achievement gap, as is funding to adequately support public education. We are making progress in Sitka Schools in closing the achievement gap, and need stable, adequate funding to continue our efforts. Additionally, the University of Alaska and the Alaska State Council on the Arts have always been important for the future of our great state. Please continue full State funding for education.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Mary Wegner, Superintendent

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 12:35 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Senate Finance Committee

Senators,

I am deeply concerned over the drastic cuts proposed to education at all levels. Most of my life I have been involved in the education of young children, as a preschool teacher and director, a parent educator, a mother and ESL preschool teacher. The first 5 years of a child's life and learning are so critical to the health and success of children. We presently have a serious situation in our state where so many of our children are struggling with abuse, neglect and often insufficient food. Assessments by the State Department of Education and Early Development indicate that only one out of three children are developmentally ready to enter kindergarten so many quickly fall behind never to catch up. How can we cut the programs in place to help our youngest Alaskans? The future of this state depends on having a healthy, educated workforce. We need adults who become good parents and contributing members of their communities and our state. Education at all levels is one of the ways to help insure these outcomes! I encourage you to be creative in your budget process by cutting our PFD, not paying back past PFD's, an income tax and changes in the way oil companies are taxed. Please keep the needs of our children, youth and the elderly in mind as you make your recommendations.

Respectfully submitted, Philis Beran Juneau, Alaska

## **Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Support [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 12:52 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Laura Bonner  
**Subject:** Reject SB 20 as proposed by the Governor

Co-chair Senator Stedman  
Co-chair Senator Von Imhof  
Senate Finance Committee Members

The Governor's proposed budget would be devastating for Alaska. You have the power to save our state from more jobs lost and pushing Alaska into a deeper recession, protecting vulnerable Alaskans, and keeping Alaska open for business for more than just the oil industry. The Governor's plan is more cost shifting than meaningful cuts. Alaska has a revenue problem not a spending problem. You can find new revenue by eliminating the per barrel oil tax credits or at least reducing them so that more money goes into the State coffers. We cannot continue to subsidize wealthy corporations at the expense of needed services. The most important ones are listed below.

API - must fund to the level that those who need to be evaluated don't have to be housed in emergency rooms and jails. Under-staffing has meant unsafe conditions for patients and employees. Fund for professional positions like psychologists and psychiatrists. Privatization is not the answer.

### Education

Pre-K education is a long term investment in improving long term outcomes.

K-12 schools need to be forward funded.

Repeal of debt-reimbursement puts too much on local districts and local communities.

University puts \$6 into the economy for every dollar put into it. Research is important to every part of Alaska. Recent cuts have put UA in a downward spiral.

### Medicaid

Medicaid cuts alone would cost 8000 jobs resulting in less access to care.

5% reductions in payments to providers will make it more difficult to find care as fewer will accept Medicaid.

Cost containment means reducing needed services.

Preventive dental for adults should be funded. Some of these adults are non-verbal or are unable to let you know they have pain.

Collapse of Medicaid services to a single allocation means less analysis of services and what the impact is for those who need them.

### DOT

Fund the AMHS - Coastal communities depend on it. That is their highway. Privatization is not the answer.

Replacement or maintenance on the ferries is no different than resurfacing highways or fixing the glaciation on the Dalton Highway.

No sailings or bookings after October signals Coastal Alaska and the Inside Passage is closed for business.



Seniors

Keep the Senior Benefits Program.

Fund the Pioneer and Veterans Homes.

PFDs

Now is not the time for super-sized PFDs

You have some very difficult decisions but I hope you are looking at what is best for Alaska for the long term. To me, that means a comprehensive fiscal plan.

I am retired and represent myself. Alaska has been my home for 47 years.

Respectfully,  
Laura Bonner  
Anchorage, AK 99516