Bruce Van Dusen

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

**CBHTR Grants** 

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 9:32:34 AM

#### Greetings,

Please do not cut the Community Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants (CBHTR). These funds help to bring supports and services to people living in poverty, and who have little to no representation.

These grants ensure we can deliver needed supports with no out of pocket expenses to the beneficiary/recipient. These funds provide needed services for housing, education and employment. These funds also ensure we can provide advocacy and referrals to local services as needed.

We provide services to adults living with serious mental illness diagnosis. Many of these individuals consider Polaris House their home, as they have lost contact with family.

At Polaris House we strive to ensure no member is homeless. We provide a complete array of services related to job seekers and maintain employment for our members. We support members as they achieve education goals. We provide a right to assistance as the Polaris House members seek supports from our community partners.

Billing Medicaid is not an option for us. A feasibility study showed we need to increase our annual budget by at least 1.5 million dollars, add 6 to 9 fulltime employees, add new work stations, and buy a new and larger building to house all of these needed resources. We also need to find licensed persons to complete paperwork requirements for the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid.

We provide needed supports and services to 60 individuals each month, with an average of 20 per day. We can only imagine how difficult daily life would be for these individuals with no daily support.

Polaris House is a fully accredited clubhouse with Clubhouse International, Inc. The clubhouse model is a registered Evidenced Based Practice with the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration.

Thank you for all of your work and dedication to the health of all Alaskans. We look forward to being able to continue to serve persons in Juneau.

Sincerely,

Bruce Van Dusen Executive Director Polaris House, Inc. 434 W Willoughby Av Juneau, AK 99801



Jetta Whittaker

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Date:

testimony on proposed FY22 budget Wednesday, March 17, 2021 10:32:56 AM

Because I am unable to call in to the Senate Finance committee meeting, I am providing my objections to planned cuts in writing:

- 1) Communities in Southeast Alaska depend on adequate ferry service. Further cuts to the Marine Highway System's budget means communities that are already hurting will suffer even more. Please do not cut the AMHS's budget but instead, show you understand and support rural communities by adding funds back.
- 2) Similarly but not just affecting Southeast Alaska, flat funding for Alaska's schools will hurt all communities in many ways. High quality public education is an essential service. Costs are increasing, so funding should be increased as well. Are you still earning exactly the same amount that you earned 10 years ago?
- 3) Public broadcasting is another essential service that is vital to all Alaskan communities. You depend on local news, and I bet you get some of that news from public media, which strives to provide unbiased reporting. Please, please, please, restore funding for public broadcasting.
- 4) The importance of the services provided by Alaska Legal Services to people who cannot afford to contribute when seeking legal assistance is immeasurable. ALSC has been scraping by with reduced support for years. Please do not cut any more from the ALSC budget.
- 5) Privatization of DMV offices around the state is foolish. The fees that will be charged by the private sector will just line the pockets of the vendors, and not benefit the State. Please do away with this foolish idea.

To accomplish these funding goals, I fully support the re-institution of a state income tax.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jetta Whittaker

Dixie D. Banner

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Please Cut the Budget Across the Board Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:30:21 AM

Date:

**Attachments:** IMG\_7440.PNG

Please cut the budget across the board and right size government! We can no longer operate like we have for the past 10 years! People are leaving daily while the majority of Alaskans are living on air! Note we have been and currently in a recession and we want change! Time for all in Juneau to come to the plate! The idea of stealing our PFD is totally wrong for it is ours and it is a tool that stimulates our economy in more ways than one!

One first step is to cut the wages of your staff employees and cutting the budget for UAA/UAF: the compensation and benefits are far greater than the average!

Lastly cut the recipients on welfare! Life is not free and having kids is not an excuse to live off the government! Require parents to held accountable for their offspring and respect parental rights (both the father and mother)!

If you have questions please send a note Dixie Banner

Larri Spengler

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Cc:

Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Andi Story

Subject:

budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:34:58 AM

## Greetings, members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I understand that the draft budget currently:

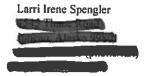
- continues ZERO Funding for public broadcasting
- cuts funding to AK legal services
- cuts funding to AK Marine Highway
- provides for flat funding for schools (which reflects a 12% reduction in purchasing power over the last 10 years when adjusted for inflation)
- provides for privatization of the DMV offices in Haines and other small communities.

I am very opposed to these actions. They are not consistent with the priorities of Alaskans, nor with a direction our state should be moving.

Note: I am perfectly willing to pay income tax.

Sincerely,

Larri spengler



- Thank you Senate Finance Committee for your support of the proposed FY22 operating budget which includes early childhood resources and services such as child care benefits, infant learning and early learning coordination, Pre K, and other family supports. These critical resources play a vital role in our children's future!
- Please remember any cuts to early childhood education means less access to high-quality care throughout Alaska.
- Finally, as new Federal funds make their way to Alaska, please designate additional resources towards early childhood supports and services for our youngest Alaskans.

See attached article as just one example that it is proven quality early childhood education matters!!!

# New Harvard Study Reveals Lasting Benefits of Quality Early Childhood Education

March 23, 2018 | Megan Feldman



new study from the Harvard Graduate School of Education finds medium- and long-term educational outcomes for children who experience early childhood education (ECE) programs.

Researchers from five universities, led by the Harvard Graduate School of Education, analyzed 22 high-quality studies, which were conducted between 1960 and 2016. This meta-analysis found that children who attended high-quality ECE programs were less likely to be placed in special education, less likely to be retained in a grade and more likely to graduate from high school than peers who didn't attend such programs.

The lead researcher, Dr. Dana Charles McCoy, believes there are a number of reasons for these gains, however, "there is increasing evidence that social-emotional skills may play a role, as they support children's ability to continuously engage in learning environments, manage their own behaviors, and get along well with others." Nonetheless, the new analysis emphasizes the fact that public funding for ECE has the potential to mitigate the high costs of special education and of dropouts and other poor educational outcomes. Investing in early childhood is a solution that creates upward mobility through opportunity. Instead of costly and marginally successful

)ES),

programs later in life, quality early childhood education helps prevent the achievement gap by building the cognitive and social skills necessary for school readiness.

Alexia Cook-Griffeth
Family Educator- CCS Wasilla EHS
"It is natural leads away distinct than in order hand a resp." I indeed Dearling



Office of the Mayor 491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603

> mayor@ci.homer.ak.us (p) 907-235-3130 (f) 907-235-3143

February 10, 2021

Governor Michael Dunleavy P.O. Box 110001 Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Re: The Critical Importance of the Alaska Marine Highway System to Alaska Coastal Communities

Dear Honorable Governor Dunleavy,

The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) is a critical extension of the state's blacktop highway infrastructure. Coastal communities, like Homer and Seldovia, have relied on this service for more than half a century. The Homer City Council strongly supports a reliable and dependable ferry service that benefits all Alaskans.

As the community at the end of the highway system that connects the Lower 48 to Alaska, Homer provides the launch point for the ferry to Seldovia, the Kodiak Archipelago, and the Alaska Peninsula. This point of transition from state highways to marine highways is very important to Homer, and critical to the physical health and economic resiliency of ferry-connected communities.

The Homer City Council supports the recommendations of the October 2020 "Alaska Marine Highway Reshaping Work Group Report to the Governor" as a method to maintain the essential transportation service provided by the AMHS. In particular, the City Council supports reforming the current board into an operations board tasked with maintaining the sustainability, consistency, and affordability (to the state and to the riders) of the ferry system. The operating board would help eliminate the continuing challenge for AMHS of frequent changes in policy direction coupled with insufficient appreciation of the long-term implications of such changes.

The Reshaping Work Group Report also noted that the current ferry fleet is aged which affects system reliability. Now passing a 50-year service life, the MV Tustumena is a prime example of the aging fleet. Replacing the MV Tustumena with a comparable ocean-capable (SOLAS) ferry

City of Homer AMHS Critical to Alaska Coastal Communities Page 2 of 2

is imperative for the reliability and efficiency of the system for south central and southwest ferry routes. In recent years the MV Tustumena has undergone repairs well into the typical ferry operations season, leaving gaps in service and more extensive use of the MV Kennecott, a much larger ferry.

The Homer City Council supports the needs of the communities serviced by the south central and southwest ferry routes, Seldovia in particular. As Homer's neighbor across Kachemak Bay, residents of Seldovia rely on the ferry system to access the road system with their personal vehicles and travel to Homer for medical appointments, groceries, and other essential needs. Families and friends live on both sides of the bay and use the ferry for visits. Local businesses thrive by providing goods and services and shipping to Seldovia and residents of other communities accessed via the ferry system. The ferry even becomes a music venue for Seldovia's popular solstice music festival which is attended by Alaska residents and visitors far and wide.

The AMHS is important to the City of Homer, and the future of many rural Alaskan communities. We ask you and your administration to recognize the critical value of the AMHS to thriving coastal communities, to implement recommendations of the Reshaping Work Group Report, and work with coastal communities to come up with a solution that provides a reliable, dependable, and sustainable ferry system.

We look forward to, and would accept any invitation, to come to the table in partnership with other coastal communities and assist your Administration in addressing this critical and complex state service.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Rachel Friedlander

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Cc:

Sen. Gary Stevens; Katrina Matheny; Rep. Louise Stutes; Matt Gruening; Heidi Geagel; Jeremiah Campbell

Subject:

Written Testimony concerning the state's operating budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:01:24 PM

Attachments:

COH Letter to Gov Re AMHS Funding 2021-02-10.pdf

Chair Bishop, Chair Steadman, and Senate Finance Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Seldovia, I am requesting that: (1) funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System be held to at minimum the levels approved last year by the Legislature and (2) full funding of the Community Assistance Program.

AMHS: In a letter dated February 25, 2021 to the City of Seldovia, Commissioner MacKinnon stated "As the public and the Alaska Legislature deliberate on Governor Dunleavy's proposed AMHS operating budget for fiscal year 2022, I would encourage all AMHS stakeholders to engage in this legislative process." Seldovia is very willing to come to the table and discuss how to make AMHS operate sustainably and I believe, given past actions, the Legislature is very supportive in having this discussion and making that happen. In 2019, you added \$5 million to vessel operations which was subsequently vetoed by the Governor. In 2020, the Legislature added an additional \$23.5 million, which would have significantly reduced gaps in service, and the Governor vetoed \$15.5 million of that addition — all from vessel operations.

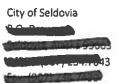
As stated in DOT&PF notices, "The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities oversees 237 airports, 10 ferries serving 35 communities, over 5,600 miles of highway and 776 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to 'Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure.'" We understand DOT&PF serves all communities through various infrastructure/transportation needs and that it's a balancing act. The ferry however is what keeps Seldovia, and neighboring communities like Homer, moving. Please see attached for a letter from the City of Homer, advocating on behalf of Homer and communities like Seldovia, for the state to recognize the critical value of the AMHS to thriving costal communities, implement recommendations of the Reshaping Work Group Report, and work with coastal communities to come up with a solution that provides a reliable, dependable, and sustainably ferry system.

Where we put the funding/budget demonstrates what we consider important, and at times, essential. Thank you for working with Commissioner MacKinnon and Governor Dunleavy to find a sustainable solution to Seldovia's transportation lifeline.

**CAP**: Recapitalizing the Community Assistance Fund to its full amount of \$90M will provide funding stability for local governments like Seldovia during these uncertain times.

Best regards, Rachel

Rachel Friedlander City Manager



From: To: Subject: Heidi McCroskey Heimerl Senate Finance Committee FY22 State Operating Budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:09:53 PM

Hello,

Thank you for your support of the proposed FY22 operating budget. I am particularly thankful that you have included resources and services for early childhood education including child care benefits, infant learning and early learning coordination, pre-K and other family supports as these are critical resources in our community.

Cuts to early childhood education means less access to high-quality care throughout Alaska. Early childhood education is primary prevention. If you cut these necessary services and resources, Alaska will have to pay later down the road for remedial or secondary prevention efforts.

As a mother to three young children under the age of 6, I know the importance of these services to my children and children all over our great state. It is time we prioritize our children! All of our children deserve a more just future.

I also encourage you as new Federal funds make their way to Alaska, to designate additional resources towards early childhood supports and services for our youngest kiddos. My children's child care center (as I'm sure most centers and providers) is struggling with Covid restrictions. Our care providers are some of the most underpaid and hardest working people I know.

Thank you for your time, Heidi Heimerl 99502

Heidi McCroskey Heimerl, LMSW

"All that you touch you change. All that you change changes you. The only lasting truth is change." - Octavia Butler

Helena Fagan

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:17:57 PM

#### Dear Committee Members:

I would like to share my concerns about the current budget under discussion. These are my top concerns:

- The budget contains ZERO Funding for public broadcasting. Public broadcasting is an essential piece of our democracy and something that is available to everybody within listening range. I generously support our public radio stations, but I know that is not possible for everybody who listens and that it takes more than the community can offer to keep them viable. Please add funding.
- Cuts to AK Marine Highway. The Marine Highway is incredibly important to those of us living along its path. I live in Juneau, have family in Haines and use the ferries to not only visit but to support family members through illness and death and to share celebrations. I have often traveled to other Southeast communities on the ferries for both work and pleasure, as well as traveled with my vehicle to Bellingham. I know the villages and smaller towns count on the Marine Highway to bring them needed food and other necessary commodities. The Marine Highway is a lifeline here. Please fund it at a high enough level to sustain it and make it viable.
- Flat funding for schools (which reflects a 12% reduction in purchasing power over the last 10 years when adjusted for inflation). This is not the time to flat fund our schools. They are going to need more help than ever as they work to function through this pandemic and to begin again as the pandemic eases. As a retired educator, I beg you not to make our children pay the price of trying to cut your way out of financial difficulties rather than looking for other sources of income.
- Privatization of the DMV offices in Haines and other small communities. This
  makes no sense. Our DMV offices are functioning well, self-sustaining financially, and
  even bringing in money. Please do not make it more difficult for Alaskans to deal with
  the DMV. I tried to use the privatized office here in Juneau this past summer and
  discovered there are additional fees involved. Also, they were not able to provide the
  service I needed, so after standing in line there, I had to make an online appointment
  at the primary DMV and wait again. Closing these offices is of no benefit to Alaskans,
  other than the very few who will run the private offices.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely, Helena Fagan

warren foster

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

I support Gov. Dunleavy's proposed budget cuts.

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:18:41 PM

My only concern about Governor Dunlevy's proposed budget cuts, is that they do not go far enough. Alaska's budget has been unreasonably bloated for over 20 years. It is unsustainable. The budget should be cut to where it will have to be cut when they have drained the permanent fund dry to pay for bloated government spending. You will have to make drastic cuts then. So why not make less drastic cuts now and not have to do so later? And follow the law when it comes to the permanent fund and the dividend. It belongs to the people of Alaska and you have no right to steal it from us.

Sincerely,

Warren Foster

Sent from my iPhone

Sandra Heffern

To: Subject: Senate Finance Committee 2022 operating budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:19:45 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the FY2022 operating budget. I have over 25 years of Alaskan health and human service experience, a PhD in healthcare administration, and am a private business owner. I agreed with the Governor's decision to withdraw EO 119. While the Governor's decision allows for broader and more thorough stakeholder engagement, it does not negate the fact that Department of Health and Social Services is asked to perform an enormous amount of service for our state while being good stewards of state resources. They have the dubious task of not only trying to responsibly manage the day-to-day operations of this very large and diverse department, but they are also expected to stay on top of what's happening at a federal level, control costs but maintain service levels, and provide policy recommendations and direction based on evidence from data that has been verified and analyzed. The current resources available to the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services makes this an unenviable and untenable situation. Without even considering such things as earthquakes or pandemics.

I don't know what the best structure for the Department might be. But I do know if we want to effectuate change in the Alaskan healthcare system there is a need for a focus on healthcare policy, healthcare data analysis, and research to promote developments for improved care. These specific functions cannot be a part of someone's job, they need to be that person's job. Last session, Commissioner Crum requested high level support positions within his offices. My understanding is that this appropriation did not occur. I believe the Commissioner and the Governor want to see improvements in the Alaskan healthcare system, but they find this difficult with the current level of resources available to them. At a minimum I support providing the Commissioner with the resources he needs to effectively manage the divisions under his charge, establish policy recommendations based on evidence-based practices, resulting in improving Alaskan's health while also enhancing patient and health professional's experience of care, and lowering the per capita healthcare growth rate.

Thank you,

Sandra J. Heffern, PhD

Confidentiality Notice: This email, including attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, or disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and destroy all copies of the original.

shorner@email.is

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Reduce spending!

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:20:38 PM

The Alaska Legislature must adopt proposals that would reduce spending by nearly \$300 million in Fiscal Year 2022. We can't let the special interests and big government defenders get their way, while they continue to take your PFD.

Common sense must prevail in our great state of Alaska!

Plus, we may well be destined for less revenue from the oil industry if the newly confirmed Sect'y of the Interior gets her way.

Submitted by-Colonel Sue Horner USAF Retired

Arcticangler

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Pfd

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:23:40 PM

Please do the appropriate thing and follow the guidelines set for the PFD years ago! Especially now days with jobs and businesses failing. People need this money. Villages rely on this. We gave up our mineral rights for this it wasn't just free money

Thank you

Kevin

Sent from my iPhone

<u>Camille</u>

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Save our pfd!

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:24:29 PM

As a lifelong Alaskan and voter

I want to send in my 2 cents in for cutting the state budget and giving the people of this great state there pfd back in full! Most of us need our pfd for multiple reasons #1 filling up our fuel tanks for winter! Stocking up on food, paying extra bills!

Just want my voice heard!

Camille Belt

Sent from my iPhone

From: To: Diane Shellenbaum Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

State Budget input

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:25:35 PM

#### Dear Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work on the State budget. I urge you to approve a budget that stays within our revenue streams, without overdrawing the permanent fund savings accounts.

I am strongly against paying out large dividends, especially dividends for past years.

I support additional taxes if necessary.

Our economy is very important and the new COVID relief bill will stimulate our economy. Additional input from a dividend we cannot afford and threatens the PFD for future generations is not prudent at this time.

Please consider sustainability in your decisions, and recognizing all our responsibility to future Alaskans.

Thank you,

Diane Shellenbaum



From: To: sohara@aknss.com Senate Finance Committee Fiscal Year Budget

Subject: Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:28:28 PM

We need leadership that makes changes and adjust in a manner that does not take from our resources. I support Governor Dunleavy's efforts to make a change. I am disappointed in our representation on the PFD, and using this as a means to adjust as a resource of funding. When our legislature has repeatedly wasted our funds in poor efforts for resolution. Unfortunately we as a state will have less with the new administration in place and owe considerably more in taxes to come. It is time that you represent the state and the people who are conservative state. I as a business owner have enough trouble trying to find resources and technical skills, people who want to make the effort. I am tire of my PFD, community resources (Ice Rinks, Community centers and other resources being used to fix a broken problem). The problem fix starts with less handouts. We are going to have to prepare as a state for this to eventually come with less opportunity to develop our resources. Stop utilizing the PFD, it is not part of the budget. Start reducing frivolous overtime and cost on per diems we know are wasted money. Do what is right. You can count I will be watching and becoming more active as elections are coming.

The right thing is a change and Dunleavy has offered a start. If you want other solutions to homeless, unemployment or other freebies I have lots of good answers to reduce the budget. Rather then increase it.

Fill the soul, feed the body...

Steve O'Hara

Northern Support Services, Inc. | 3911 Turnagain Blvd East | Anchorage, AK 99517 | 907.952.4964 www.aknss.com



Robert Bundtzen

To: Subject: Senate Finance Committee
Operating and capital budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:29:01 PM

I am of the firm opinion that all the major cuts have been accomplished that are possible and still have a livable functional state of Alaska. It is time for taxes, especially increased taxes on oil and if need be income tax and even sales taxes needed. We have to be fiscally responsible and we have to pay our own way. It is time.

Robert W Bundtzen, M.D., FACP.

Christine Heller

To: Subject: Senate Finance Committee operating and capital budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:30:10 PM

#### Good afternoon,

I strongly believe in Govenor Dunleavy's plan for our state. Starting with full PFD payout for eligible recipients. With the financial troubles brought on by the last year it is time to look out for our residents and help everyone back on their feet. With the PFD account at it's all time high there is absolutely no reason not too. That money is not for government programs it is for the people.

Secondly, I support his budget program as well. We have been tightening our belts and living in our means. It is time for our government to do the same. Enough over spending on programs that are redundant and not audited as to how they function and where the money goes.

Please do what is right for us Alaska residents. Help restore our faith in government.

Sincerely, Christine Heller Glennallen Alaska

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10e, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

Lucas Smith

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Cc:

Rep. Thomas McKay; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof

Subject:

Senate Finance, 2022 Operating and Capital Budget Input

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:32:29 PM

Dear Honorable Senate Finance Committee Members:

I request that the Legislature adopt Governor Dunleavy's 2022 Operating and Capital Budget proposals that would reduce spending by nearly \$300 million in Fiscal Year 2022. I also encourage adoption of the Governor's PFD distribution plan as it is not welfare, but a dividend on the resources collectively owned by the people of Alaska.

Alaska is experiencing a tsunami of economic welfare. To avoid the creation of permanent mass dependency on streams of welfare, we should be extremely cautious about inciting increased public demand and expectations for more of the same lest it eventually lead to insurrection among the general population.

As a first measure, I propose that appropriations be contingent upon outlawing the kinds of socialist, liberty squelching COVID health mandates and restrictions we've seen and recently experienced (ie. mask wearing, social distancing, and proof of vaccination). Should we mistakenly allow these federal funds to be appropriated, encumbered, and obligated without this guarantee, we incur a litany of risks including wasted financial resources, the potential inability to recoup a return on investment, further damage to private industry, and in the worst cases, an epidemic of insolvency. This is an opportunity to strengthen States' rights and our constitutional republic by legislating away the existing vulnerability to these socialist-communist mass population control methods.

A spending plan should be firmly anchored to the immediate reality of Alaska's need for increasing revenue streams and reducing operating costs, with an eye toward supporting and encouraging widespread natural resource development and private industry. As no proposal has been submitted to generate revenue from green infrastructure – except almost exclusively through income taxes – I suspect the final plan to invest in revenue generating industries will be with the industries which have traditionally generated significant and substantial revenue streams for this state. Additionally, these industries could include those which, in the absence of onerous permitting and environmental obstructionism, have an unrealized potential for revenue generation and return on investment. Collectively these industries include petroleum and other traditional natural resource industries like mining, logging, and potentially even commercial fishing. Like petroleum resources, green infrastructure generally offers the opportunity to generate energy. Accordingly, I would expect that any plan to invest in green infrastructure will likewise incorporate the kinds of royalties, fees, and taxes traditionally associated with petroleum and other natural resource industries.

Compromise has become somewhat of a four-letter word in my dictionary as it has also become, in my view, primarily a one-way street benefiting the left. However, should the left agree to outlawing egregious socialist population control methods as I suggest, a potential option to reach agreement on a spending plan may lie in a tiered spending plan. Such a plan might include a large pot of money for major State (Dunleavy administration) based infrastructure and resource development priorities

(with the understanding that any attempts by federal agencies to obstruct execution of the plan will be deflected), a medium sized pot of money for local and municipal spending, and another much, much smaller pot of money for the most extreme cases of welfare need.

Sincerely, Lucas Smith Senate District L House District 24

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: To: Linda Morrison Goss Senate Finance Committee Budget Testimony

Subject: Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:33:43 PM

My name is Linda Morrison Goss. I am a lifelong resident of Fairbanks, Alaska. I would like to see our budget reduced and all the excessive spending on special interest projects reigned in.

We are going through the worst time in most of our lives with the pandemic and now more than ever Alaskans need their PFD monies that rightly belongs to them..

You cannot justify taking the PFD to support a bloated government.

I have watched several legislators over the years push and push to take the PFD and tax every man, woman and child in our State. You don't listen to what Alaskans want.

Budget cuts are hard. We have all had to reduce our budgets at one time or another just to raise our families in a state where everything costs more. But guess what, it hurt at first but we all survived.

Leave our PFD alone. Follow the law, like the rest of us have to. Stop taxing us by taking the PFD, Stop deciding what you think the people of Alaska should get. Remove the PFD from your budget equation. The 50 50 split should be enough and the most fair. If people don't like it then they should not apply.

This used to be a state that loved its residents. I haven't seen that for a long time. I've just seen government greed and to hell with people.

Let's start putting Alaskans first again and not government greed.

Linda Morrison Goss

<u>Laura</u>

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Opinion

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:34:49 PM

I'd like our pfd to stop being stolen from us.

I'd also like to see our oil companies stop getting the tax breaks they receive at the cost of hurting every normal citizen in Alaska.

Also ketchikan needs more road maintenance. They discussed this at a city council meeting and the issue really needs to be addressed further. I'm surprised I haven't poped a tire on a pothole yet.

LIII Misel

To: Subject: Senate Finance Committee Comments for budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:36:30 PM

Dear Finance Committee,

Thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska.

I encourage all of you to work with Alaska in mind -not the governor and his slash and burn attitude toward Alaska and bigger PFDs - but to really consider what Alaskans need from their government to continue to prosper. Investment in education at all levels helps children become better citizens and train them for higher paying jobs. We need to find ways to invest in our children and families so they can support themselves and live better lives.

Please also do not support paying out past dividends and full size ones. If anything, decide to make one last payout and then use the rest of the funds to support state government in a way that is sustainable. Too many people cry that the PFD is a right - it's not, it's a handout. Use that money to help all Alaskans. Stop the PFD or maintain it at its current level. There is no reason to increase it to satisfy those who are not thinking about the future of Alaska.

Sincerely, Lili Misel Fairbanks From: To: rockycoastreellic@hotmail.com Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Date: Please Reduce Spending Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:36:45 PM

## Hello Legislative Body,

I would like to encourage you to adopt Governor Dunleavy's proposals to reduce spending. Alaskans are tough...we can do this and survive!

Monique Wilkinson Rocky Coast Reel, LLC.

Carolyn Haggard

To: Subject: Senate Finance Committee
Operating and Capital budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:36:50 PM

I believe that with the ferry system in tatters, and numerous programs lost at the universities, cuts to the budget have already trimmed the fat and are into the meat. What kind of state do we want to live in? It's time to look at new revenue instead of more cuts, and consider a state sales tax, state income tax, or a combination of the two.

Carolyn Haggard

Elizabeth Kiddle

To: Subject: Senate Finance Committee
Operating Budget concerns

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:37:17 PM

#### To the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Kiddle. I was born and raised in Alaska, attending public school and ultimately graduating from UAA before starting my family. I love this state and its people! I'm concerned about where Alaska is going and the future my children and I will be shouldering. For years the budget has been excessive. There are complaints about our high school graduates not being prepared for the real world and yet their parents and mentors continue to show them the example of overspending in government.

I personally know the benefits of saving for a rainy day and living within a budget. I graduated debt free and my husband and I continue to make that a priority. We are good tax payers and appreciate the work of many of our government workers, but you are in control of OUR money. We want you to use it wisely and live within a reasonable budget.

Thank you for your time, Liz Kiddle

Patricia Kehoe

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:39:13 PM

I would gladly give up MY PFD to protect services for the citizens of our state but I think there are people to whom it is critical support. We need an income tax and we need to adequately tax the oil and gas industries. Maybe at the same time, we could give them tax credits for investing in alternative energy strategies. And the Senate needs to bite the bullet and find the ways to pay for services rather than depleting the PFD fund and/or cutting services. Thank you, Sincerely, Pat Kehoe,

From: To: fishin griffin@hotmail.com Senate Finance Committee Cut back on spending

Subject: Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:40:13 PM

# Dear Legislative Members,

Please adopt Governor Dunleavy's proposals to reduce spending, it's time to tighten our belts!

Ken Wilkinson

<u>valerie see</u>

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

The governors proposal for budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:41:16 PM

I am in full support of governor Dunleavy's proposals. I was born and raised in Anchorage Alaska. I do not appreciate people trying to dictate what happens where I live; especially if they are not from here. Please respect this sourdough's wishes.

Sincerely,

Val A. McKay

Sent from my iPhone

John Dittrich

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:43:08 PM

### Hello

We need to have a reasonable, balanced budget and ONLY pay a PFD if there is excess revenues after expenses are paid. We need working ferries, solid roads, decent class sizes, a solid police force, etc.

Do not put PFDs first - put them last. In this way we have plenty of money for the necessities of government.

Thank you,

John Dittrich District 25

Katie Rooks

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Date: Testimony re. OMB finance plan 2021 Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:43:25 PM

Hello,

I am writing testimony regarding the Operating and Capital budget for Alaska for 2021.

As a small business owner and near twenty-year resident of Alaska, I understand and support measures designed not only to cut certain State spending, but also measures designed to encourage and support diverse forms of revenue for the State.

After a disastrous year, following a State recession due, in part, to excessive spending in some misplaced areas of focus, we also need to explore new forms of revenue.

Specifically, I am testifying to support the proposed gasoline tax, proposed by my own Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, as a way to boost revenue for vital infrastructure projects, among other areas of focus. At the same time, I wish to voice my ongoing and strong opposition to such taxes as a State income tax. This kind of tax would burden working Alaskans such as myself beyond our capacity. It is already very costly to live and work in Alaska; the cost of goods and services, of healthcare and infrastructure, far outpaces that in most other States, in part because of unalterable factors like State geography and topography.

While I generally support efforts to reign in costly Big Government spending, I am also open-minded and observant enough to realize that new sources of revenue must also be sought to continue to provide quality of life and competitive State services to those who need them most. I support sales taxes of various kinds, such as luxury taxes on non-necessities (alcohol, tobacco, and certain other items), or other types of taxes less likely to hurt the very people that help Alaska thrive; small business owners like me and so many of my friends and community members.

I support these taxes in part because of my complete lack of support for further efforts to use the Permanent Fund to support State spending, which may or may not be transparent to the residents of this State. State revenue cannot come from the PFD. It should not come from that source. It can come from other places, and the gasoline tax is one such appropriate place.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my Representative, Mr. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, for proposing a common-sense method to help resolve State financial issues.

Thank you. Respectfully, Katie Rooks

Katie Rooks



Aaron Bean

To: Cc: Senate Finance Committee governor@alaska.gov Much needed cuts for

Subject: Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:46:17 PM

Hello all,

As a lifelong Alaskan I'm concerned about the amount of government that's has become part of the day-to-day life of Alaskans. We need to cut government not grow it!

Please consider this email as my request this committee to adopt the Governors proposals that would reduce spending nearly \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

Thank you,

Aaron Bean

# **Doniece Gott**

From:

Justin ross <skidoo800mod@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:48 PM

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Concerned Alaskan citizen.

I'm in support of Governor dunleavy's proposal for the budget!

AJ Wilkinson

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Reduce Spending

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:48:09 PM

## Dear Legislative Members,

It is time we step up to the plate and balance the budget for this great state and its people. Please adopt Governor Dunleavy's proposals to reduce spending, reduce the debt now for future generations to come.

Cordially,

Ardel Wilkinson

Eddie Ezelle

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

State Finance

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:48:19 PM

# Ladies and Gentlemen;

I work in the social services arena, but this is my opinion, not from the MatSu Food Bank.

I am encouraging you to consider all reductions to the budget.

If I could figure out how I can spend more than I take in on a consistent basis and have someone else pay for it, I would, but I have no one to tax!

Please look carefully at our population and consider whether we really need some of the programs and the people needed to manage it in this day and age.

Depending on the Federals to keep printing more money is foolish. We must change.

Our great grand children will still be paying for the decisions made today.

Support those who are trying to bring good changes to the situation. Listen to all ideas. Do not just blindly follow the "norm".

You all have a tough job and I'm glad you have taken it on! Thanks,

Eddie Ezelle

E.D. MatSu Food Bank 357-3769 Office Work Cell 355-5830

### www.matsufoodbank.org

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:
This email is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521 and is legally privileged. This message (and any associated files) is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that you have received this document in error and distributing, copying or disclosure is unauthorized. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and then deleting the message.

Jeanne Laurie

To:

Date:

Senate Finance Committee Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:50:59 PM

Reduce spending and leave our permanent fund alone. Jeanne Laurie



Susan Braden

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Control spending

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:51:23 PM

To the ones this concerns,

Our Alaskan Governor Dunleavy has a proposal that would reduce spending by \$300 million dollars in a fiscal year!!! This proposal is for our benefit and not for big government spenders who will steal from our PFD. Please hear my voice through this email and through my governor. Susan

Sent from my Huawei Mobile

Paula Savler

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

State Budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:52:48 PM

Hello, I am a constituent who resides in Anchorage. My priority for achieving a balanced state budget is to maintain state services such as health & social services, education, public safety, infrastructure, allowing for inflationary increases. I do not need the PFD to live a comfortable life, donating most of it to non-profits. However, there are those who do depend upon it. Perhaps a needs-based criteria could be established in qualifying for the PFD, not just a give away to those who have established state residency. Please consider this as a compromise/ middle ground position due to the contentious atmosphere in how to manage the PFD.

Thank you, Paula Sayler

brock harrison

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:53:00 PM

We need to cut the budget and make the Alaskan government work of the people that work. We don't have money for handouts.

Balance the budget. Quit the special interest projects. Us common since on projects.

Thanks Brock harrison

Sent from my iPhone

Ruby Hill

To: Subject: Date:

Senate Finance Committee
Budget
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:53:16 PM

I support the Governor 100% in his efforts to control spending.

Darrell & Ruby Hill

Sent from my iPhone

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

## MIKE DUNLEAVY, GOVERNOR

Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

3745 Community Park Loop. Suite 200 Anchorage AK 99508 Phone (907) 334-4480 Fax (907) 334-4486

March 17, 2021

Senator Click Bishop, Co-Chair Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair Senate Finance Committee Alaska State Capital Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senators Bishop and Stedman:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Governor's proposed FY 22 Operating (SB 49), Mental Health (SB 51), and Capital Budget (SB 50).

The mission of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's (LTCO) office is to provide resident-centered advocacy designed to protect the rights, health, safety, and welfare of Elders in Alaska.

#### Please consider the following input:

- Medicaid Program Reduction: A \$35 million reduction is proposed for FY22 with plans to back-fill this reduction with federal Cares Act funding. Stakeholders are concerned that a detailed plan outlining the proposed cost shifts and efficiencies and impacts to programs and services of the Medicaid program, has not been developed. In the absence of a plan and timeline for implementation, it is unrealistic that by FY 23 the predicted efficiencies will be in place. Seniors will be impacted by a reduction of this program.
- Public Assistance Field Services: The proposed \$3.4 million reduction in general fund match to federal funds
  could result in delays in processing applications and access to benefits. Stakeholders are concerned that the
  full array of proposed efficiencies will not be implemented before July 2021 which may impact the division's
  ability to process claims in a timely manner causing hardship for individuals receiving these services.
- Civil Legal Services Funds: A \$450,000 general fund reduction of the state's contribution to this fund will
  result in a -2.5 million loss of matching fund capacity. The Alaska Legal Services Corporation provides
  services to Alaskans, including seniors. This service aids in protecting seniors against challenges to their
  rights, independence, choice, and financial security. Alaska Legal Services helps clients resolve problems
  before they escalate thereby, reducing the burden on the court system. This is truly a valuable resource!
- Mental Health Trust Reserve Fund: The proposed FY 22 budget replaces board of trustee-approved general
  fund recommendations with \$4.29 million in Trust Budget Resources. An overdraw on the Trust's Reserves
  could have negative impacts on current and future spending and support for Trust beneficiaries including
  seniors who experience dementia or mental illness.

Thank you for your review of this input and for your hard work during this challenging time!

Sincerely,

\*\*Stephanie Wheeler\*\*
Stephanie Wheeler, PhD
State of Alaska, Long-Term Ombudsman Program

Gary Miller

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:58:34 PM

We need an income tax so that the governor's proposed cuts to service don't happen. The PFD should not be tapped so heavily, it will threaten our future payments.

We in SE depend on our Marine Transportation System. The governor has cut our service.





twilighttrees

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

2022 budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:59:55 PM

# Hello,

I am sending this email to urge our legislators to support Governor Dunleavys 2022 fiscal plan.

Thank you, Reba Murphy

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

William Brown

To: Subject: Senate Finance Committee
Stop the spending spree

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:00:55 PM

Now is the time to cut/reduce our state spending! We must not continue with the spending as usual approach. Please enact a 20% reduction in our spending when compared to your last budget. The cuts should be seen in every department. Let's put the state on a sound fiscal footing.

William

bernice hansen Senate Finance Committee Pfd

To: Subject: Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:05:11 PM

Just give us our pre as promised.

Daniel Tompkins

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Spending alerti

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:05:20 PM

Greetings my fellow Alaskans... STOP the fiscal hemorrhage that is going on in Juneau! This money grab is ridiculous...if Alaskans ran their household budgets the way that is being demonstrated, we would be broke and under indictment for theft...

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Tompkins

--

Fireinstdan

Ed Zehrung

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Lets try it the Governor"s way this time!!! Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:15:28 PM

Date: Importance:

High

Please! Let's try it the Governor's way this year!

Ed Zehrung

eagle.h49

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Cc:

Gary Kuhn
Budget Concerns

Subject: Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:29:30 PM

I am very concerned that those of you in the legislature are still not hearing us everyday Alaskans.. let me be very clear..BALANCE THE BUDGET!!!

This continued sham of a budget that continues to spend more than we take in has got to stop. The arrogance of this continued behavior is contrary to ethical, moral, and constitutional principles established in 1959 when I was just a boy. What will it take to expose your hypocrisy? We are looking for your vulnerabilities for exposing this truth; will you be part of the solution or part of the reckoning??

Sincerly, Harry Kuhn Constituent

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8 Active, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

CP W

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Public testimony to be read aloud - Fiscal year 2022 Budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:32:49 PM

Lam Catherine Goodwin of Ketchikan Alaska.

I do not support Governor Dunleavy's proposal to reduce spending by \$300 million in Fiscal year 2022.

With the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, we see the need of social safety nets and job security. Governor Dunleavy's proposal will affect the livelihoods of Coastal Alaskans and threaten the affordable food supply that AMHS brings in.

The promise of a \$1600 PFD check is not worth the wellbeing of the Alaskan population. \$1600 does not cover the \$20000 of loss income that comes from the cuts. Also, the \$1600 PFD is not guaranteed. I remember the grand promises of Dunleavy about a big PFD payout that never came. But what did come was less jobs and a skeleton AMHS schedule.

I will not encourage my legislature to adopt your proposal. Your proposal will hurt Alaskans.

#### What Alaskans need:

- 1. Access to affordable healthcare.
- 2. Access to reproductive health
- 3. Access to dental care
- 4. A reliable ferry system for coastal Alaskans.
- 5. Safety and security for rural villages
- 6. Access to rehabilitation for drugs and alcohol.
- 7. Education
- 8. Public radio and TV stations.
- 9. Investments in our youth.
- 10. Civil air patrol that have the resources to quickly respond to search and rescue missions.
- 11. Rural airport maintenance.
- 12. Social safety net.
- 13. Job security

#### What Alaskans do not need:

- 1. A Governor who dangles the carrot of instant gratification and tempt our population to take it over the long term betterment of Alaskans.
- 2. A Governor who pits Alaskans against each other.
- 3. A Governor who uses divisive language and demonizes those who do not agree with him.

I am not interested in Dunleavy's false promise of \$1600. I do not support his cuts.

Janet Gene Coffin

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

new budget

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:37:16 PM

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

The soa can save lots of money if they completed the session in a timely fashion and NOT have extra sessions.

Janet coffin-juneau

From: To: Anne Dennis-Choi Senate Finance Committee Public Testimony FY22 Budget

Subject: Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:39:46 PM

#### Good afternoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the FY22 budgets. My name is Anne Dennis-Choi and I'm the CEO at Alaska Child & Family, a nonprofit that serves some of the highest risk children and their families in our state. I'm very concerned about the proposed \$35M Medicaid Program Reduction that is to be temporarily backfilled with federal CARES Act Funding with no plan in place to address this significant gap in funding once CARES Funds end. Continued cuts are not sustainable. Of note our agency, like others, did receive COVID Payroll Protection funds that helped us to continue to provide essential services throughout the pandemic. The COVID funds weren't a windfall, instead they helped many to simply keep their doors open. The finance committee should not be comforted that CARES Act Funding, especially if there cuts to Medicaid and grants, is sufficient to meet the needs of behavioral health patients. Additionally workforce challenges are significant in part due to the inability to pay adequate wages to direct care staff in community based nonprofit programs.

Our state's behavioral health system is already fragile and underfunded. In FY 2020, the inflation adjusted value of the departmental operating portion of the Children's Budget was smaller than at any point in the past decade (Alaska Children's Trust). Our state continues to fall behind in national child wellbeing ranking. COVID-19 has upended lives. Children and families who were struggling before the pandemic are at even higher risk now. It's important to make sure that services aren't disrupted through funding cuts.

There is irony in reducing funding for behavioral health services at the same time we are seeing an increased need during the pandemic. This is not the time to reduce Medicaid funding or Community Treatment and Recovery grants. I am requesting that there are no cuts to behavioral health Medicaid and flat funding for behavioral health grants. Money spent for prevention and treatment intervention is money well spent. Research is clear that trauma faced in childhood and adolescence has long term consequences across the lifespan. If we don't adequately fund behavioral health prevention and treatment, we will pay for it later through the prisons, criminal justice and much higher cost hospital systems like API. The success of our communities is founded on the health and success of our families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anne Dennis-Choi President & CEO



AK Child & Family 4600 Abbott Road • Anchorage, AK • 99507 Call (907) 346-2101 • Fax (907) 348-9230 This message, including any attachments, is intended solely for the use of the named recipient(s) and may contain confidential and I or privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution of this communications is expressly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply Email and destroy any and all copies of the original message.

This document may contain information covered under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and its various implementing regulations and must be protected in accordance with those provisions. Healthcare information is personal and sensitive and must be treated accordingly. If this correspondence contains healthcare information it is being provided to you after appropriate authorization from the patient or under circumstances that don't require patient authorization. You, the recipient, are obligated to maintain it in a safe, secure and confidential manner. Re-disclosure without additional patient consent or as permitted by law is prohibited. Unauthorized re-disclosure or failure to maintain confidentiality subjects you to application of appropriate sanction. If you have received this correspondence in error, please notify the sender at once and destroy any copies you have made.

A. Jahnke Robert

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

Ferries

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:39:59 PM

Please financially support the residents ferry system [AMHS] even if you have to take money away from the funding of the tourist industry. We should come first, if nothing else the main-liners need to run year round. I've lived here over 50 y'rs, my folks are buried here, my children live here along with my grand children. None of us have anything to do with the tourist industry, it has put a burden on many of us. Thank you for allowing me to vent, Bob

Tyson Kroon

To:

Senate Finance Committee

Subject:

I support the Governors Budget Proposals

Date:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:40:33 PM

I urge you all to put politics aside and take care of Alaskans. Pay out a full PFD, pay back the stolen PFD's, and once you pass this budget come back a fix the broken oil tax credits.

# Tyson Kroon

Hall Quality Homes | Gathering Place Real Estate 907.223.0404 | www.hallqualityhomes.com | www.alaskabestrealty.com





kw