

From: [John Klapperich](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: RE: Reduce budget substantially more.
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:23:06 AM

I may have not explained that clearly, Point is, The State of Alaska was providing all that was necessary to its residents and more than needed in 1985, 1986, take that budget in 1985, 86, and divide it by the population in the State of Alaska in that year, take that dollar amount per person and add inflation/cost of living through to 2022, and multiply that individual dollar amount by the population of 2022, there is the budget. Let the department managers tell us where they will make the necessary cuts. If they refuse, there are qualified professionals that will do the job. And those are experts, not career politicians safeguarding their next election cycle.

john

From: John Klapperich
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 5:06 PM
To: finance.committee@akleg.gov
Subject: Reduce budget substantially more.

My wife and raised our three daughters in Palmer/Wasilla, we started our family during \$ 9.00 BBL. Oil. The schools were open, and delivered an excellent education, roads were built, sanded and plowed, adequate troopers, fire, all state offices and services more than adequate, life was good. We started with nothing and worked and never went without, all three daughters graduated from college debt free, working during all phases of education, and are now flourishing because of what Alaska offered from 1985 to 2005. What the legislature has allowed and advocated regarding the expanding budget since then is a tragedy, the LARGESSE, of the State budget is doing an extreme disservice to all residents of Alaska, especially infants to age 18.

Use the 1985 operating budget add cost of living every year, then divide that total by today's population and "LIVE WITH IT". Telling people what they need to hear is leadership, telling them what they want to hear is not only wrong it shows, that you have clearly chosen a career you were not created for. I am a big fan of Governor Dunleavy, but we need the Wally Hickel Mantra;

"It's not what Alaska can do for you, but what can you do for Alaska".

Thank you,

Off to 6:00 PM Susitna Rotary "Service above Self" .

John

John Klapperich
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Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 355-9970
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www.jklapperich.com

From: [Carolyn Morris](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Carolyn Morris](#)
Subject: Fiscal Responsibility
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:24:44 AM

While I appreciate the opportunity to submit comment, I jadedly feel it will 'fall on deaf ears'. For years, Alaska was fiercely independent and was dedicated to "standing on our own two feet" – the last frontier! Over the past few decades, I have seen this independence change to dependency.

I couldn't believe the outcry from the University system when Governor Dunleavy proposed to cut their budget. This bloated and ridiculously mismanaged program deserves to be reined in because they have failed their students. Even after years of warnings, their irresponsibility cost their accreditation and left hundreds of students with student loan debts and no degree. These 'educators' were more interested in keeping their salaries than educating their student population. Adding insult to injury, they double down and raise tuition rates! And for those of us who agreed with the cuts and making the administrators of this system act fiducially responsible, we are labeled 'anti-education' and the governor is subjected to a recall movement. A 9% graduation rate should be rewarded?! What a cop out. Automatically throwing money at something does not mean the result will be better. The Anchorage School District is a another prime example. What a joke. When we first came to Alaska 43 years ago, the ASD was a top rated school district. Now, they spend thousands per student and are so busy being sensitive and indoctrinating kids to be victims instead of independent and so concerned about their next pay raise, they don't really know how to really teach. I know, there are the 'ya buts'. "Ya but, I know a really dedicated 3rd grade teacher and they don't agree with the union." "Ya, but, they have so many federal and state rules...." Blah, blah, blah. You can't have a decent school system when school board members are often former teachers and pro-union and the administrative staff is rife with nepotism and conflicts of interest when they are former teachers and have current family members teaching in the system! Stinks!

As elected officials, you are morally and fiducially responsible for the public trust – not to the whims of your party's philosophies. You chose to be in this job – now do the responsible things for EVERYONE. If there is not money to pay for it, don't approve it. Too many times you are 'borrowing from Peter to pay Paul' or assuming you can get the revenues from proposed bonds or levies – and generally, property owners bare the brunt or a government handout is waiting to be taken – with those pesky strings attached.

Alaska is losing population because we have allowed outsiders to dictate to the state the management of our natural resources and jobs are leaving – never to return. The same people who 'beat up' on the oil and mining companies are often the same people who come to them for 'donations' – hypocrisy at it's maximum. The combination of liberal policies, the 2018 earthquake and COVID19, threaten to turn us into a 100% Service State with no development – just folks tending to life wants and/or needs. We could be totally independent if our energy sources were allowed to be developed, and you all know it. Alaska is so vast – I don't think anyone really fathoms how huge we are – with thousands of acres no man or beast will ever set foot on – but, mark a very small portion for development, and it's bye bye Polar Bears or bye bye' choose a critter'.

Additionally, we continue to subsidize villages which should never have been incorporated in the first place because they were 'fish camps' and not intended for year round habitation. Because it is a touchy subject, politicians refuse to recognize how sick the situation is in many villages – child sexual abuse, incest, domestic violence, alcoholism – is absolutely at epidemic proportions. Some law enforcement have tried to talk to administrators and directors, but, it's so taboo because we don't want to offend anyone's 'culture', it continues and fosters more abuse with no relief for the victims. And, law enforcement is not given the necessary funding to visit these areas on a regular basis. Village Public Safety Officer positions are often unfilled and they often have no support network with an Alaska State Trooper station miles away. The Alaska bush communities are unique and we should be able to come up with unique solutions. I think it is well past time for elected 'leaders' to step up and insist that the Native Corporations are required to spend their resources solving these problems and rescuing these children and others instead of looking the other way.

I could go on and on, but, I'm sure you are receiving input from others, too, who wish your attention. We live in Anchorage, and have been dismayed by the changes in this town – none for the better. Shelters overrun, beggars on the street corners, folks trying to make you feel guilty for conservative beliefs.....After working here for 30 years, raising and educating 3 sons here, and now in our 70's, we are looking at leaving. Once proud to say we are from Alaska, sadly, we don't say that so much anymore.

Thank you Governor Dunleavy for attempting to rein in bloated programs and spending, and thank you for being at the top in our nation for providing COVID19 vaccines to your populous.

Carolyn and Ray Morris
3510 W. 31st Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99517
(907)243-0453

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Tyler Watson
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony Regarding Operating Budget
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:40:26 AM

Members of Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Tyler Watson I'm a resident of Anchorage and representing myself.

My number one priority is a sustainable budget and the long term viability of the Permanent Fund. Despite the welcome news of the spring revenue forecast regarding oil prices, and the infusion of cash from the American Rescue Plan, we can't afford to kick the can another year in solving our structural deficit. In fact the increase in revenue buys us much needed time to effectively implement a broad based tax which will take a while to set up.

We must recognize that we're now an investment state, not an oil state and should act accordingly by protecting the Permanent Fund by increasing our revenues and no longer depending on oil. We can protect the Permanent Fund and PFD by passing a broad based tax, either sales or income. The genius of the PFD is that it can act as a partial tax rebate to Alaska residents while the income tax pulls revenue from out of state workers and a sales tax would pull revenue from tourists.

In addition to personal taxes we have to amend our oil taxes. The Legislature must ensure we're getting the maximum benefit for our resources. Ending oil tax credits and changing our corporate income tax structure would go a long way.

We should also consider revising the PFD formula to make sure its sustainable within the POMV.

Finally, regarding cuts, Alaska has been through enough cuts over the past several years. It's not the time to further reduce state services in a pandemic. In fact, if possible I believe we need to spend more money on things like the University of Alaska and infrastructure (AMHS) to spur investment in the state.

If everyone gives a little bit through taxation I believe we can get through this. Thanks for all your work on this vital committee.

Regards,

Tyler Watson
Anchorage, AK
Senate District H
House District 16

From: Brittany
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fiscal Year 2022
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 11:05:55 AM

To whom this may concern:

Please listen to the voices of Alaskans. As a resident with children I am appalled by the government's spending compared to the services we are receiving. This year alone we have decimated our savings, cut into our children's savings and still are barely staying afloat. We are a more fortunate family so I can't even imagine what less fortunate families are experiencing. We need our full PFD's and the unconstitutional kept portions from previous years, we need less taxes, but most importantly we need less bureaucratic wasteful nonsense. As a former State of Alaska employee I'm discouraged by the blatant disregard to balancing a budget and basic economics. When the economy is thriving is the time to fund special programs and projects. When the economy is in shambles is not the time to create more government funded programs, capital projects, or positions. It all needs trimmed and it needs trimmed rapidly. I can personally say we pay astronomical taxes and are seeing less and less services; my children aren't in school, my roads aren't well maintained, my property taxes keep rising, my sales taxes keep rising, my PFD's have been stolen... something is wrong here? Government is operating at what they believe is an untouchable level, you all keep doing what you want without listening to 'We The People' and at some point it's all going to crash, so DO BETTER, take your cuts (we all are), work for the people, become part of the change that desperately needs to happen. Cut spending and compensate your residents or you won't hold a position to be a part of these decisions any longer.

Sincerely,
Brittany Miller

Sent from my iPhone

From: [bernice.hansen](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Fwd: Pfd
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 11:46:29 AM

Just give us our pfd as promised.

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

Subject: Pfd
From: bernice hansen <ravencave22@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 2:05 PM
To: finance.committee@akleg.gov
CC:

Just give us our pre as promised.

From: santaak@yahoo.com
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Fw: It's Your Chance to Comment on the Budget
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:01:12 PM

I would like to say I believe we can not continue to cut the states budgets and maintain service's everyone expects. I belive it is time to reinstate the states income tax, and possibly a seasonal income tax, where every one contributes their fair share to help all residents. Our marine highway system, and the Alaska university can not survive further reductions. Just this week my wife had a Dr. Appointment in Juneau. The ferry break down caused us to miss her appointment. I very much dislike the use of the perminent fund as a political weapon.

Thank you
Richmond Tolles
Haines Ak.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Office of the Governor <governor@alaska.gov>
To: Rich Tolles <santaak@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 01:07:25 PM AKDT
Subject: It's Your Chance to Comment on the Budget



Dear Rich,

The Senate Finance Committee is taking public testimony on the Operating and Capital budget this week. Beginning today and continuing until Thursday the 18th, they will hear from Alaskans across our state.

Now is your chance to weigh in and encourage the Legislature to adopt my 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.

It is vital that Alaskans participate in the public process and voice your beliefs to your elected officials. To testify, simply call into the correct number below based on where you live. Written testimony may also be submitted at finance.committee@akleg.gov.



Sincerely,



Governor Mike Dunleavy

Stay up to date by following Governor Dunleavy on social media.



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Courtesy of the Governor's Communications Office

Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 110001

Juneau, AK 99811-0001

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From: D Hales
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Keep firing deadweight...
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:25:08 PM

Thank you for your kind attention to this message.

Please forward it to legislative budget committees as appropriate, if you would.

As a parent and citizen, I know that every State of Alaska office insists upon its vital role... even so, there is still room for cost-cutting.

Core services that need seeing to, though would be DPA, DEC, main road route maintenance via DOT (but not new construction), generous AMHS subsidies (comparable to what the State dedicates to roads) for reliable and affordable ferry service (particularly the trunk routes), and the administration of other vital and federally-subsidized social services (e.g. Denali Care, SNAP).

We have quite enough State law enforcement as it is now (Troopers), though, and actually could stand to see cutting there.

Also, the prison system seems to have grown just a wee bit large as it becomes the tail that wags the State of Alaska dog, don't you think? Maybe we should be warehousing people ONLY for violent crimes and adopt less expensive and more productive ways of dealing with non-violent property crimes, and abolish altogether drug crimes? (As to the latter, I hear there are some pretty reliable alternative approaches to drugS and addiction out there that have proven track records. Cheaper than prisons, too.)

If COVID has taught us anything, it has taught us that Alaskans are quite able to adopt a completely different education delivery model than the large Factory School system which has grown up and become the fashion over the past decades. (This is so, no matter what urban Mommy and Daddy protest in urging we return to State-sponsored baby-sitting services). Money needs to flow accurately and far more efficiently away from the public school system as we now know it, and toward a 21st-century distributed model. (Also, if Mommy and Daddy want their little athlete to compete all over the State, let them pay for the costs of that, instead of foisting these costs off onto burgeoning and imbalanced school athletic programs.)

Also, as nice as some imagine it to be for Alaska to be funding bullshit jobs at the State and State-subsidized local level in things like promoting Alaska seafood and Alaska tourism (and these are but two examples among many), it's time for the State of jettison crap like that, no matter which friend of what legislator has been rewarded with such patronage.

Maybe for you folks closely tied to State government and Oil contracts, the PFD is a luxury (and a free trip to Hawaii), but for many of us, taking home \$20k in a good year, it's not like that at all. So, please stop stealing the PFD.

Lastly, do keep cutting the funding of that poor starving University of the North impoverished so painfully that it's simply unable (Unable!) to undertake its annual building construction projects. (Also: How many Vice-chancellors does an aspiring "world class" university need? Clearly, not enough! And this, too! If the statewide administrative-staff-to-full-time-student ratio isn't nearly 1:1, what's the point? What's the damn point?)

Thank you, again, for your kind attention to this message.

From: Mary Kehrhahn-Stark
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Dunleavy's Operating and Capital Budget
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:25:34 PM

My name is Mary Elizabeth Kehrhahn-Stark. I live in Senate District B, and I am representing myself. I oppose Governor Dunleavy's Operating and Capital Budget.

In my opinion, Dunleavy's Budget is a shameful indicator of how he values things,...people, and why they live here and consider this great land their home. It's patent, he doesn't care.

The funds pertaining to education and early development are stagnant, no additional funds were added to assist with the disruption the pandemic caused throughout the system. All children will need intensive assistance after this year's lack of a sustained educational process; who knows what will happen to those children that are below average in reading, writing, and arithmetic...because there are NO extra funds for a supplementary programs that will be absolutely required. In addition, Dunleavy's funding of the School Bond Reimbursement Program is at half of the state's historical obligation.

I don't see in his budget where he has prioritized the horrible problem of sexual violence against children and women we have in our state. Our state has the worst rate in the country; what more information does he need to make it an issue to fit in the budget? Our state absolutely needs to take responsibility for this problem, it is part of us, just as this state takes responsibility for the oil and gas industry. Our Governor refuses to take responsibility for his own people.

Lastly, this year Dunleavy proposes to withdraw \$3 billion from the Permanent Fund, without proposing an ongoing process of generating revenue. The Permanent Fund is our state's nest egg, not our revenue. Taxes are such a mechanism. Many possibilities exist that could be tapped. There are many industries in our state that get away with minimal taxation. There is an income tax that is nonexistent as well. A little could do a lot.

Once again, I oppose Governor Dunleavy's Operating and Capital Budget. Governor Dunleavy would like all families away from Alaska, because in the long run, taking care of people in his state is not on his immediate agenda, and never will be.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Mary Elizabeth Kehrhahn-Stark
PO Box 80543
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

From: Kris Hutchin
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: 2022 Budget Concerns & Potential Solutions
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:32:20 PM

There are definitely issues of the need for new revenue and PFD distribution allocated funds for which fiduciary responsibility to the State of Alaska really should dictate or be prioritized to State services for the benefit of all Alaskans.

The State has a deficit! We all know that. I do NOT believe more money should be taken from the Permanent Fund Earnings beyond the agreed upon POMV amount. Therefore more revenue is needed.

I think a State income tax should be reinstated. Also, PFDs should go to people who really **NEED** the additional money. Many people **DO NOT need** the PFD to pay for their living expenses.

Both of these issues can be resolved by a determination by income.

By law, all eligible Alaska residents receive a PFD. If there was a State Income tax, tax amounts owed could be reduced by that person or household's PFD amount. In essence, the PFD becomes credit on taxes owed. Those who owe no taxes due to their income level, would receive a full PFD. For some people, loss of a PFD could force them to turn to Public Assistance which comes from State coffers. Therefore, distributing a full PFD to them is the correct and proper action to take.

I worked for almost 13 years for the Department of Revenue software development and maintenance for financials. Therefore, I know that software can be written to determine/calculate the tax amount owed as compared to the distributed PFD amount, reducing State taxes by all or part of an individual or household's PFD amount. Or an amount after the PFD credit may still be owed to the State. Yes, infrastructure and software design to "marry" State taxes and PFD amounts would need the funding to accomplish this seamlessly.

I believe this is a fair and equitable way to increase State revenue yet continue to distribute PFDs to those who REALLY need them.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Tab®4

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Tab®4

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Firstly, I hope that this message reaches all of you well, and that you and your families are prospering! At the end of the day, we are all still one team seeking to represent, assist, and build up our fellow Alaskans, and we should seek to act as such. Please know this message comes from a place of earnest interest in the betterment of my fellow Alaskan's lives. I write to this body today in opposition of the Governor's plan to cut approximately 130 positions for the Division of Public Assistance. As an Eligibility Technician II (ET II) for the Division, I see firsthand the results of policy decisions made by this body on our fellow Alaskans. As of 12/20 staffing counts, I calculated that on average there is one Eligibility Technician II per about 1,400 people on assistance from the State of Alaska and given the nature of this ongoing pandemic and it's affects on our neighbors, I would argue that number is only increasing. Eligibility Technician II's like me are the actual case processors on the ground that approve or deny benefits for Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (aka SNAP/Food Stamps), General Relief Assistance, Senior Benefits, Heating Assistance, Temporary Assistance, Adult Public Assistance, and Burial Assistance. Reducing the actual case processors for our fellow Alaskans will only further reduce our ability to keep up with the growing case load, reduce our ability to maintain federal policy violation fines at a low rate, and place more productivity demand on the staff that currently remains. The nature of this reality is hugely demoralizing for the staff based on interactions with my coworkers. I do realize that our State currently faces a budget crisis. I do realize that changes need to take place so that our State can financially function, but I again argue this is the incorrect action to take. For every position removed from the staffing roll, that's one less person to assist with authorizing the mother of three who's homeless Medicaid case. It's one less person authorizing SNAP benefits for the disabled neighbor who can't work. It's one less position who can ensure your neighbor has heating fuel so they don't freeze to death in -30 degree temperatures in Fairbanks. It's not only just the sensibility of this decision that is questionable based solely on the proposition. It's also questionable because this agency has already undergone review as to why we remain not efficient via the State Ombudsman investigation through public report J2018-0001. This report summarizes the issue this Division faces and has underlined that one of the main issues for this Division is staffing (summarization section). The Ombudsman office has already provided the State guidance on corrective action to take to address the inefficiencies that the Division still faces head on. It addresses these staffing change suggestions and reinforces in the report that it is more important to properly staff the agency, and that the State would recoup these personnel costs through reduced fines in time. At the end of the day, it all boils down to bodies. This Division needs frontline worker bodies to process cases. There are not enough of us, and productivity demand is only increasing. On average, based on what I see at work, we are processing applications approximately two months behind and then some. In the past, this Division has sought to correct this issue by seeking waivers from the Federal government for things such as interviews, or the ability to just extend cases out to avoid entering huge backlog. This is only a temporary solution and cannot be sustained in my opinion. I respectfully ask this body to reconsider allowing these cuts to remain. I ask this body to have the Division review this Ombudsman report, and maybe a possible follow up Ombudsman report is in order so that we can better understand a path forward that works for all Alaskans. Please do not allow our impoverished neighbors to fall by the wayside on this issue.

Once again, I thank you all for the time to address this group, and I truly wish you all the best. I appreciate your willingness to serve the public interest like myself, and I always will consider us a team. Let's build an Alaska that works for all Alaskans!

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh R. Morgan", followed by a long horizontal flourish line extending to the right.

Joshua R. Morgan

From: A.Z
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Testimony for the Senate Finance Committee
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:37:14 PM

Public Testimony

March 18,

2021

Senate Finance Committee

Dear Chairperson and members of the committee. My name is Anna Zierfuss and I have lived in Fairbanks for 36 years. I am representing myself and the families and children I serve in my job. My lived experience includes learning disabilities in myself and my son, a nephew with developmental disabilities, and serving families who care for children and adults with disabilities.

The science surrounding learning disabilities shows that many educators and medical providers lack an understanding of what learning disabilities can look like, especially in girls, and what the current science recommends for support. This can lead to a resistance to refer children and adults for testing so it comes too late to be of use in the early years, which is a critical time for learning. This happened to me. I struggled through school and was not diagnosed until I was 17. I was lucky that a friend encouraged me to try college and then even luckier that a counselor recommended I take a college success skills class my first semester at UAF because this was ESSENTIAL to my journey. School was still hard, but once I knew HOW to learn I was successful in graduating from college with a GPA of 3.2. This is amazing considering my high school GPA was far under a 2.0 and the current high school dropout rate for kids with learning disabilities is between 64 – 68%.

My experiences taught me how to fight for my son. I attended all of the meetings, had the conflicts with schools to recognize the testing from A DOCTOR and to get the educators and administrators to realize that disabilities look different for every child. We need more money for MANDATORY training for educators to give them an understanding of what a learning disability, like dyslexia or dysgraphia, and

what a physiological lifetime disability that AFFECTS learning like Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder can look like, and have that training based on current science so they can support our children in achieving better outcomes.

Now, multiply this by 1000 for parents who don't know how to navigate this system and have children who experience disabilities that need even MORE services and support. They are fighting for the school support their children need but they are also fighting to get through the strenuous and complicated waiver system in Alaska. Once they achieve that major milestone they are then told they have to WAIT because only 50 people are pulled for the IDD waiver each fiscal year. Then YAY, they get picked (sometimes YEARS later) but find out there are no providers for support, there are not enough group homes or therapeutic homes for them to live in, or there is no assistance in exiting the criminal justice system which they wouldn't be in if they had just received the critical early educational interventions.

Our system is chronically underfunded, incredibly difficult to get through, places tremendous stress on the families and has a ridiculous structure that devalues a large number of Alaskans who could be contributing to our society, which is ironic considering Alaska is an Employment First state. We are in DESPERATE need of more money at the front end to simplify the system, to increase the number of people pulled for waivers, provide more education for parents and professionals to navigate this road and give people who experience disabilities a better life. This could create positive economic and physical ripples in our state that would last for generations.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Anna C. Zierfuss

From: Mike & Jenni Remillard
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: The Budget and the Permanent Fund
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:53:55 PM

Dear Finance Committee,

Thank you for taking my written testimony on the issue of the budget and the permanent fund. I want to emphatically state that I do not want a large permanent fund dividend that will drain the savings of our state. I don't want to be given the money and then have to return the money in the form of taxes. Save the expense of taxing us by giving us smaller PFDs. Keep the money to run the state well. I do not approve of huge cuts to government services. We need good education opportunities for our children and young people, services for the destitute, courts for those in conflict, and roads and public safety for our communities.

Please reject Governor Dunleavy's outrageous PFD proposals and do what is fiscally prudent: save some of our resources for the future, spend what's needed to keep our state strong, and give a reasonable PFD. The PFD was never intended to be considered necessary income for the residents of the state. The more we adopt that mentality the more we all become wards of the state. That does not fit with the independent spirit of Alaska.

Again, thank for taking my testimony.

Sincerely,
Jenni Remillard

Jenni Remillard
h: 907-696-8213 c: 907-854-8215
22830 Eagle Glacier Loop
Eagle River, AK 99577
email: jen.rem@outlook.com

From: Megan Weston
To: Senate Finance Committee; Senate Finance
Cc: Irene Tresser; Denise Wike
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Testimony
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:58:02 PM

Members of Senate Finance Committee,

I ask you to restore the funding for Youth Courts in the DJJ FY22 Budget. These programs save the state money by performing state government functions such as juvenile probation services, judicial services, prosecution and victim services, law enforcement investigations and civic education and engagement of Alaskan youth. Not only do Youth Courts perform these functions more efficiently than government agencies, but they have also done so more effectively. (Youth Court recidivism rates are half those of similarly situated youth that do not go through Youth Court.) Every youth diverted from a future of crime by involvement with Youth Court represents future savings to the state and private sector alike, including the direct damages caused by criminal behavior plus the costs of investigating, prosecuting, defending, judging, sentencing, supervising probation, detaining, incarcerating and rehabilitation of the criminals.

As a former Anchorage Youth Court member and the current AYC Case Coordinator I have been able to work with our youth volunteers and our defendants both in and out of the courtroom. Anchorage is a city of incredible diversity in which people from all walks of life and all parts of the world can be found, and our youth court reflects that. I found that through youth court I was able to form connections with fellow volunteers, provide a "second chance" for our defendants and be leader and role model within my community. As an alum AYC has also offered me employment options, community engagement opportunities, and the ability to work with defendants as they complete their sentences and move past their mistakes. Furthermore, AYC has continued to demonstrate leadership in both our community and in our judicial system by staying focused and committed to offering our services to volunteers and defendants throughout the pandemic, while remaining conscientious of our youths' health and safety. Youth Court opens doors for all the youth who come through our program, and our use of restorative justice has a positive impact on the community starting on the level of each individual student.

For these reasons, if you are serious about addressing the current budget challenge with actual and sustainable savings, you will restore the Youth Court funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Megan Leilua Weston
AYC Case Coordinator
mweston@anchorageyouthcourt.org
Main Office: 907-274-5986
Case Coordinator Cell: 907-632-0966

From: Mike Remillard
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Mike Remillard
Subject: Small PFD, NO State Tax System
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:34:53 PM

PLEASE do not raise the PFD to high amounts, just to turn around and tax us.
That makes no sense.

The overhead alone, to set up, administrate and maintain a State Tax System would be a huge cost and waste of everybody's time.
I thought Governor Dunleavy was against "big government", but here he intends to implement a State Tax System???
BAD IDEA!

Please keep the PFD small and reasonable as in past years, protecting it for future generations, and using it to continue to provide important services in our state, such as the University of Alaska, State Parks, and so many other essential services.

Please do NOT implement a State tax system.

We're Alaskans.
We don't need huge handouts.
And don't need a State tax system.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Remillard

Michael Remillard
h: 907-696-8213 c: 907-854-8214
22830 Eagle Glacier Loop
Eagle River, AK 99577
email: mik.rem@outlook.com

From: Laura Sanfacon
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:21:58 PM

Good afternoon Ladies/Gentleman.

As a resident of Anchorage, AK I wanted to encourage you to cut the budget to match the revenue coming in.

Thank you,
Laura Sanfacon

Sent from my iPhone

From: Roy Syren Jr
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: budget
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:27:21 PM

Please support governor Dunleavy's budget. Also please try to identify further cuts to get us to a balanced budget. The State of Alaska has a spending problem along with too much welfare , and Medicaid benefits.

Thank You

Roy Syren Jr.