

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
April 03, 2003
9:27 A.M.

TAPE HFC 03 - 44, Side A
TAPE HFC 03 - 44, Side B
TAPE HFC 03 - 45, Side A
TAPE HFC 03 - 45, Side B
TAPE HFC 03 - 46, Side A
TAPE HFC 03 - 46, Side B
TAPE HFC 03 - 47, Side A

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Harris called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 9:27 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative John Harris, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Williams, Co-Chair
Representative Kevin Meyer, Vice-Chair
Representative Mike Chenault
Representative Eric Croft
Representative Richard Foster
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Carl Moses
Representative Bill Stoltze
Representative Jim Whitaker

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Representative Beth Kettula; Representative David Guttenberg; Martin Atrops, Psychiatrist; Calib Krepps, Student, North Pole; Tony Mach, Student, Kake; Britni Swindler, Student, North Pole; Chelsey Rand, Student, North Pole, Doug Veit, Rural Mental Health Association of Alaska; Deborah Marshall, Juneau; Nicholas Grasskurth; Paul Douglas, Juneau; David Arnsdorf, President, Alaska Manufacturers' Association; Sandra LeClair, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis; Christina O'Dell, Alaska Women's Resource Center; Earl Clark, Southeast Alaska Independent Living, (SAIL) Juneau; Rosalee Walker, American Association of Retired Persons; Mary Francis, Executive Director, Alaska Council of School Administrators, Juneau; Jennifer Loesch, Student, University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau; Sean Smith, Student, University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau; Mark Graves, Student, University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau; Eric Morrison, Mark Graves, Student, University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau;

John Hargesheimeir, Vice Chair Alaska Science and Technology Foundation; Jonalyn Najera, Juneau; Daniel Peterson, Juneau Board of Education, Juneau; Chadley McVeigh, Bridges Campaign, Juneau; Tracy Barbee, Juneau; Sandra Tagaban, Adult Education, Juneau; Rodger Painter, Alaska Shell Fish Growers, Juneau; Caren Smolin, President, Alaska Adult Education Program, Juneau; McKai Campbell, Alaska Science and Technology Foundation; Jennifer Walker, Juneau; Genia Garcia, Juneau; Tim Morgan, Bus Driver, Anchorage School District; Zak Young, First Student, Eagle River; Paula Arts, Bus Driver, Anchorage School District; Joe Coutrel, First Student, Anchorage; Dave Jones, Director of Finance, Kodiak Island Borough School District; Suzanne Price, Executive Director, Fairbanks Community Mental Health Center; Eleanor Rose Oyagak, NAMI, Barrow; Edward Hotch, student, University of Alaska, Klukwan, Peggy Cowan, Superintendent of Schools, Juneau School District; Douglas Moore, Bridges and NAMI, Wasilla; Carl Royborn, Case Manager, Fairbanks Community Mental Health

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Matsu, Delta Junction, Tok, Glennallen:

Noel Arakelian, Access Alaska, Mat-Su; Bob Doyle, Chief School Administrator, Matanuska School District; Mike Chmiclewski, President, Mat-Su School District; Dan Beck, School District Superintendent, Delta-Greeley School District, Delta Junction; Kevin Curtis, Self, Mat-Su; Linda Minard, Self, Mat-Su; Jeff Lansing, School Counselor, Copper River School District, Glennallen; Debra Dickey, Self, Mat-Su

Kodiak, Bethel, Kotzebue, Barrow:

Don Roberts, Kodiak; Pat Carlson, Manager, Kodiak Island Borough; Dianne Shaeffer, Kotzebue; Valerie Romane, Kotzebue; Hannah Loon, Kotzebue; George Olemaun, Barrow; Jim Vorderstrasse, Barrow; Phil Gutleben, Bethel; Joanna Williams, BCS, Bethel; Walter Sampson, Kotzebue; Lincoln Saito, Chukchi, Kotzebue; Roger Wright, Jr., Kotzebue; Annette Richards, Kotzebue; Mark Buckley, Kodiak; Betty Walters, Kodiak Island School Superintendent; Larry LeDoux, Administrator, Kodiak Island School District, Kodiak; Nancy Kemp, Executive Director, Kodiak Arts Council; Mike Milligan, Kodiak; Jerry Babbit, Kodiak; Patricia Gibbs, Kodiak

Offnets:

Carla Sheive, Superintendent Yakutat School District; Frank Kelty, Dutch Harbor; John Napoka, Tuluksak; Jerri Nagaruk, Elim; Chris, Haldick, Unalaska; Ken Langton, School Superintendent, Aniak; Linda Voorhees, Prince of Wales; Ed Lynch, Palmer Pioneer Home; Connie Newman, Chatham School District, Angoon; Pam Fitch, Mayor, Unalaska; Rick Kniazowski, School Board, Unalaska; June Haas, Haines; Ayaire Voorhees, Prince of Wales; Kenneth Eggleston, Nenana City Schools, Nenana; Dorothy Hill, Palmer Pioneer Home

Valdez, Ketchikan, Nome:

Graham Storey, Nome Chamber of Commerce, Nome; Karen Polley, Ketchikan; Dorothy Moore, Valdez; Doug Decorcie, Valdez; Steve Cathers, Superintendent of Schools, Valdez; Harry Martin, Superintendent, Ketchikan Gateway School District, Ketchikan; Mike Harpold, Ketchikan Chair Advisory Committee for the University, Ketchikan; Michael Naab, Ketchikan; Forrest Dobson, Valdez; Amber Clark, Valdez; Nancy Mendenhall, Former Educator, Nome; Stan Lujan, Superintendent Public Schools, Nome; Regina Chappell, Valdez; Ebony Blas, Student, Valdez; Michael Holcombe, Student, Valdez; Jack Shay, Alaska Municipal League, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Ketchikan; Sharon Sherk, Northwest Campus, Nome; Phillip Penetac, Nome

Kenai, Dillingham, Seward, Cordova:

Rose Mary Reeder, Kenai; Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District; Margaret Gilman, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District; John Pothast, Principle, Soldotna High School, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District; Megan O'Neill, PTA, Mountain View Elementary School, Kenai; Wayne Young, Principle, Spring Creek High School, Seward; Candy Norman, Seward; Kris Harris, Seward; Jon Agosti, Seward; Don Ford, Dillingham; John Wensley, Kenai; Dave Knudsen, Kenai; Joel Ribbens, Kenai; Ginny Espenshade, Kenai; Nora Ribbens, Kenai

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

The following overview was taken in log note format. Tapes and handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 23rd Legislative Session, contact 465-2156. After the 23rd Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

#HB75
#HB76

HOUSE BILL NO. 75

An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government, for certain programs, and to capitalize funds; making appropriations under art. IX, sec. 17(c), Constitution of the State of Alaska, from the constitutional budget reserve fund; and providing for an effective date.

HOUSE BILL NO. 76

An Act making appropriations for the operating expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; and providing for an effective date.

LOG	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
		TAPE HFC 03 - 44, SIDE A
000	Co-Chair Harris	Convened the House Finance statewide teleconference meeting at 9:27 A.M.
		JUNEAU
54	Martin Atrops, Mental Creek Correctional Center, Sex Offender Treatment Program	Voiced support for the Mental Creek Correctional Center, Sex Offender Assessment and Treatment Program. He stressed that the program saves state funding through early release and provides protection to the state.
528	Calib Krepps, Student, North Pole	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs.
712	Tony Mach, Student, Kake	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. He noted that music and other programs have been cut.
827	Britni Swindler, North Pole	Voiced support for education funding and extra curricular activities.
940	Chelsey Rand, Student, North Pole	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs.
1140	Co-Chair Harris	Expressed his gratitude to the students that testified before the Committee.
1213	Doug Veit, Rural Mental Health Association of Alaska	Voiced support for treatment programs for chronic mental illness. Testified in support of funding for alcohol treatment programs.
1502	Deborah Marshall, Juneau	Spoke in support of continued state funding for the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation. She emphasized the economic benefits from the Endowment.
1712	Nicholas Grasskurth	Testified in support of Independent Living Grants. He spoke about his personal experiences in the program.
1953	Paul Douglas, Juneau	Testified in support of full funding for Independent Living Grants.
2338	Co-Chair Harris	Observed that the Committee continues to deliberate on the Independent Living

		Grants component.
2411	David Arnsdorf, President, Alaska Manufacturers' Association	Spoke in support of continued state funding for the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation.
2659	Sandra LeClair, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Juneau	Voiced support for the Human Services Matching Grants.
2822	Christina O'Dell, Alaska Women's Resource Center, Juneau	Voiced support for full funding for the Human Services Matching Grants.
3014	Earl Clark, Southeast Alaska Independent Living, (SAIL) Juneau	Testified in support of Independent Living Grants and the SAIL program. He noted his personal experiences with the services.
3838	Rosalee Walker, Older Persons Action Group and American Association of Retired Persons	Testified in support of continued funding for the Longevity Bonus Program. She provided the Committee with written testimony (copy on file).
4128	Mary Francis, Executive Director, Alaska Council of School Administrators, Juneau	Spoke in support of funding for education programs. Testified in support of full funding for pupil transportation, debt retirement and learning disability grants. She warned that many school districts are laying teachers off.
4644	Jennifer Loesch, Student, University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University.
		TAPE HFC 03 - 44, Side B
4452	Sean Smith, Student, University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University.
4415	Mark Graves, Student, University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau	Spoke in support of full funding for the University. He noted that enrollments are up and programs have been added to respond to Alaska's needs. He stressed that it is a critical time in the roll that the University will play in the student's life.
4124	Eric Morrison, Mark Graves, Student, University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University and stressed the opportunities available through the university education.
3745	John Hargesheimeir, Vice Chair, Alaska Science and Technology Foundation	Voiced support for the Alaska Science and Technology Fund.

3552	Tracy Barbee, Juneau	Voiced support for greater funding for mental health and community based services. She warned that without inclusion of these items in the budget, there will be statewide crisis.
3326	Jonalyn Najera, Juneau	Voiced support for greater funding for mental health and community based services. She reiterated the importance of the SEAL grants for that portion of the State's population and urged further support for all mental health services.
3127	Representative Croft	Requested clarification regarding the SEAL grants.
3007	Ms. Barbee	Explained that they act as a support, education and advocacy for the person and their family. SEAL is an advocacy program for other family members with mental health issues.
2937	Daniel Peterson, Juneau Board of Education, Juneau	Voiced support for greater funding for education in the school districts and transportation funding. He added his support for a 10% bond debt reimbursement.
2716	Chadley McVeigh, Bridges Campaign, Juneau	Noted that he was advocating for community based health care. He referenced his personal challenges regarding his own mental illness. Mental health community grants help people with these disabilities to live near their family. He added that the management of treatment is essential.
2433	Rodger Painter, Alaska Shell Fish Growers, Juneau	Voiced support for Alaska Science and Technology Foundation, which has helped the Alaska Shell Fish Growers throughout the State of Alaska.
2249	Caren Smolin, President, Alaska Adult Education Program, Juneau	Voiced support for further funding for Adult Education programs throughout the State and the General Education Diploma (GED) program. The reductions will have a direct effect on services available. She encouraged reconsideration of these funding cuts.
2026	Sandra Tagaban, Adult Education, Juneau	Testified in opposition to funding cuts to Adult Education.
1731	McKai Campbell, Juneau	Spoke in support of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation. He commended the work being done in technical research, provides support for the mining industry. He credited ASTF funding and research for valuable assistance

		statewide.
1338	Jennifer Walker, Juneau	Testified in opposition to cuts in Adult Education.
1151	Genia Garcia, Juneau	Testified in opposition to cuts in Adult Education.
1030	Tim Morgan, Bus Driver, Anchorage School District	Testified in opposition to cuts in Education, specifically transportation cuts. He maintained that safe transportation was essential to all children's well being.
0816	Zak Young, Student, Eagle River	Testified in opposition to cuts in Education and student transportation.
0435	Paula Arts, Bus Driver, Anchorage School District	Testified in support of full funding for pupil transportation. She reminded members of the Governor's commitment to full funding for Education.
0229	Joe Coutrel, Student, Anchorage	Testified in support of full funding for pupil transportation. He suggested that cuts in this essential area would ultimately impact classroom services.
0058	Dave Jones, Director of Finance, Kodiak Island Borough School District, Kodiak	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. He emphasized that funding was needed to address fixed cost increases such as property insurance and fuel. He emphasized that his district had a \$1.4 million deficit, and that he as a parent was willing to pay for education costs through an income tax.
		TAPE HFC 03 - 45, Side A
0442	Suzanne Price, Executive Director, Fairbanks Community Mental Health Center	Testified in support of full funding for Mental Health Services. She noted the success of replacing some granting programs with Medicaid funding. Ms. Price emphasized the huge burden of regulatory mechanisms and suggested greater efficiencies.
0917	Eleanor Rose Oyagak, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), Barrow	Testified in support of continued funding for the Longevity Bonus Program. Recounted family history, respect and need. She spoke in support of funding for Mental Health Services.
1422	Edward Hotch, Student, University of Alaska, Klukwan	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. He noted the University's ten percent increase in tuition as a means of meeting budget.
1642	Peggy Cowan, Superintendent of Schools, Juneau School District	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. She stated that funding cuts would result in program reductions, such as support for homeless and disabled students. She noted the

		need for school debt reimbursement as well as municipal revenue sharing.
2050	Douglas Moore, Bridges and NAMI, Wasilla	Spoke in support of funding for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) and funding for the SAIL grants.
2340	Carl Royborn, Case Manager, Fairbanks Community Mental Health	Spoke in support of full funding for Community Based Support programs, such as the Bridge Program. She maintained that these programs are an investment in the community.
2634	William Toyer, Anchorage School District	Spoke in support of full funding for Education and student transportation. Maintained that the service contributes to pupil safety and family cohesion.
2843	Derek Fyten, Fairbanks Community Mental Center	Testified in support of full funding for Mental Health services, such as the Bridge Program.
3030		MATSU, DELTA JUNCTION, TOK, GLENNALLEN
3150	Noel Arakelian, Access Alaska, Mat-Su	Voiced support for further funding for independent living centers throughout the State (SAIL).
3439	Bob Doyle, Chief School Administrator, Matanuska School District, Mat-Su	Voiced support to the Committee for restoration funding for pupil transportation. He noted that the school board is attempting to help reduce the costs but noted that they continue to need 100% reimbursement for costs. He noted opposition of the area wide cost differential.
3639	Co-Chair Harris	Voiced appreciation for the comments of Mr. Doyle.
3654	Mike Chmiclewski, President, Mat-Su School District	Commented on the purpose of education in the State of Alaska. The interest is to provide an educational system that meets the needs of the students. He indicated the district is lean in their operations.
3850	Dan Beck, School District Superintendent, Delta-Greeley School District, Delta Junction	Voiced concern about reducing any funding for schools. He spoke to the 'everyday' costs of doing business for the school districts. Flat funding will create a 'dangerous' gap for the school districts. He noted that they could not survive any more under funding cuts.
4052	Kevin Curtis, Self, Mat-Su	Testified in opposition to cuts to the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation. Mr. Curtis added his continued support for the forest products industry. He urged funding initiatives that all Alaskans participate in.
4351	Linda Minard, Self, Mat-Su	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs and noted requests for full funding for pupil transportation.

4525	Jeff Lansing, School Counselor, Copper River School District, Glennallen	Spoke in continued funding support for school counseling issues very prevalent and present within statewide school districts. He noted that many children are at risk from problems related to fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS).
		TAPE HFC 03 - 45, Side B
4634	Mr. Lansing	Urged that the Legislature look more closely at mental health services and professional counseling issues.
4457	Debra Dickey, Self, Mat-Su	Voiced support for further funding for the University. She urged that accreditation concerns be addressed.
4245	Co-Chair Harris	Stated that testimony would be closed in the areas of Mat-Su, Delta Junction, Tok, and Glennallen.
		Lunch break 11:55 A.M. Reconvened: 1:35 P.M.
		KODIAK, BETHEL, KOTZEBUE, BARROW
4207	Co-Chair Harris	Indicated that testimony would now be taken from Kodiak, Bethel, Kotzebue and Barrow.
4132	Don Roberts, Kodiak	Testified in support of full funding for Independent Living Grants.
3933	Pat Carlson, Manager, Kodiak Island Borough	Testified in opposition to cuts for municipal revenue sharing. He expressed concern for how that will impact the small villages. He requested better communication between local and state government.
3718	Dianne Shaeffer, Kotzebue	Testified in support of continued funding for the Longevity Bonus Program. She also testified in support for full funding for Adult Education.
3530	Valerie Romane, Kotzebue	Testified in support of continued funding for the Longevity Bonus Program.
3417	Hannah Loon, Kotzebue	Testified in support of continued funding for the Longevity Bonus Program. She noted that the funding provides for basic needs for the elders in her community especially during the colder months of the year. She also testified in opposition to cuts in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to the Adult Education and all education cuts.
3204	George Olemaun, Barrow	Testified in opposition to cuts in municipal revenue sharing. Also testified in support of continued funding for the Longevity Bonus Program.
3102	Jim Vorderstrasse,	Testified in opposition to reducing

	Barrow	funding for road enhancement and revenue sharing.
2943	Phil Gutleben, Bethel	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. He noted that flat funding is not and will not be effective.
2656	Joanna Williams, Bethel Community Services, Bethel	Testified in opposition to reducing services for children and adults with disabilities.
2456	Walter Sampson, Kotzebue	Testified regarding the effects on rural communities of budget reductions. He noted the high cost of heating fuel and gasoline in some areas. He testified in support of the PCE program and discussed its' great value to rural Alaskan residents.
2212	Lincoln Saito, Chukchi, Kotzebue	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. He discussed the benefits of the rural service program provided by the University, and he particularly commended the Tech Support Center.
2014	Roger Wright, Jr., Kotzebue	Testified in support of Independent Living Grants. He noted that cuts in that program would close access to services for many rural Alaskans.
1837	Annette Richards, Kotzebue	Testified in opposition to cuts in Maniilaq and programs that serve individuals with disabilities. She mentioned that she was a mother of a child with disabilities.
1627	Mark Buckley, Kodiak	Spoke in support of continued state funding for the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation. He pointed out that the foundation has earned \$125 million dollars over fourteen years. He commended ASTF on its assistance for the seafood industry as well as non-profit organizations.
1417	Betty Walters, Kodiak Island School Superintendent	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. Ms. Walters testified in support of full funding for pupil transportation. She noted the impact of cuts in revenue sharing on the borough's ability to pay for education costs.
1222	Larry LeDoux, Administrator, Kodiak Island School District, Kodiak	Spoke in support of continued state funding for the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation and the impact it has on the quality of education making technology available.
0952	Nancy Kemp, Executive Director, Kodiak Arts Council	Testified in support of continued funding for the Community Schools Program. She noted that the \$10 thousand dollars

		funding made available to the schools for the arts.
0901	Betty Odell, Kodiak	Noted that she would send in her written testimony.
0837	Mike Milligan, Kodiak	Testified in support of enhanced revenue production for the state, including increased taxation.
0610	Jerry Babbitt, Kodiak	Spoke in support of continued state funding for the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation, referencing the benefit to the seafood industry.
0232	Patricia Gibbs, Kodiak	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. She encouraged funding of not only the foundation levels but other programs, such as debt reimbursement. She requested increases to the foundation formula.
0123	Co-Chair Harris	Stated that testimony had concluded in Kodiak, Bethel, Kotzebue and Barrow. The Committee recessed at 2:20 p.m.
		RECESS: 2:20 P.M.
		RECONVENE: 2:45 P.M.
		OFFNETS
111	Carla Sheive, Superintendent Yakutat School District	Spoke in support of funding for education programs. She emphasized the need to fund for inflation.
		TAPE HFC 03 - 46, Side A
215	Frank Kelty, Dutch Harbor	Voiced support for public safety programs. He emphasized the importance of the fishing industry to that area of the State.
530	John Napoka, Tuluksak	Voiced support for water conservation. He pointed out that new roads are needed in that area.
851	Jerri Nagaruk, Elim	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. Spoke in support of funding for education programs.
1337	Tim Bourcy, Mayor, Skaqway	Spoke in support of funding for education programs. Voiced support for funding to support the tourism industry and expressed concern with proposed taxes that would affect the tourism industry.
1539	Chris, Haldick, Unalaska	Voiced support for funding to support fisheries.
1743	Ken Langton, School Superintendent, Aniak	Voiced support for the restoration of learning grants and pupil transportation. He pointed out that the proposed full funding is actually flat funding, since inflation has not been included into the foundation formula.

2118	Paula Williams, Mount Susitna	Spoke in support of continued funding for the Alyeska Correspondence School.
2350	Arthur Heckman, Pilot Station	Voiced support for funding to support rural communities and programs such as the village public safety officers.
2706	Linda Voorhees, Prince of Wales	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. She reminded legislators of the remote populations that do not have access to traditional schools. She stressed that Alyeska Central School provided services unavailable anywhere else in the state, and urged full funding of the program.
2900	Co-Chair Harris	Asked if any other schools could provide those services. Ms. Voorhees responded that no one else could offer them.
3042	Ed Lynch, Palmer Pioneer Home	Testified in support of continued funding for the Longevity Bonus Program. He recounted his long history in the state of Alaska. He emphasized that the money was needed to meet his living expenses.
3314	Connie Newman, Chatham School District, Angoon	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. She discussed severe personnel losses already experienced in her school district and subsequent loss of service. She supports funding for Alaska Teacher Placement services, as well as special education services, and updated textbooks.
3718	Thane Humphrey, Wasilla	Spoke in support of continued state funding for the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation. He noted the great number of jobs created by the Foundation and its enhancement of the State's natural resources.
4026	Co-Chair Harris	Clarified a statement made by Mr. Humphrey indicating that the Governor had promised not to cut ASTF.
4114	Co-Chair Harris	Stated that the Committee would recess from 3:40 until 4:00 p.m.
		RECESS: 3:40 P.M. RECONVENE: 4:05 P.M.
4116	Pam Fitch, Mayor, Unalaska	Testified in support of keeping the Control Vessel Simpson in their community and also noted their fisheries and search and rescue service need enhanced funding.
4451	Rick Kniaziowski, School Board, Unalaska	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. He referenced the financial needs of federal mandates and standardized testing. He encouraged an increase in foundation funding. He noted support for a statewide income tax.

TAPE HFC 03 - 46, Side B		
4706	June Haas, Haines	Testified in support of continued funding for the Longevity Bonus Program. She noted that seniors use the bonus to pay for needed utilities. She proposed to cap the Permanent Fund dividend at \$1,000.
4351	Representative Joule	Noted that written testimony had also been provided from some citizens in Kotzebue.
4152	Ayair Voorhees, Alyeska Central School Student, Prince of Wales	Spoke in support of continued funding for the Alyeska Correspondence School. She contended that cutting the program would increase costs rather than save funding. She noted that ACS provided unique services not offered elsewhere in the state.
3852	Kenneth Eggleston, Nenana City Schools, Nenana	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. He noted that increased costs had caused a drop in student enrollment and a loss of teaching personnel as well as program elimination. He also spoke in opposition to cuts in municipal revenue sharing as well as cuts in debt reimbursement.
3348	Dorothy Hill, Palmer Pioneer Home	Testified in support of continued funding for the Longevity Bonus Program. She noted that seniors need the bonus to pay basic needs like rent, personal care and medical expenses. She stated that seniors were not eligible for Medicaid.
2950	Co-Chair Harris	Indicated that the Committee would recess until 5 P.M.
	Co-Chair Harris	Concluded off net testimony. Stated that the Committee would remain in recess until 6:30 P.M.
		Recess: 4:55 P.M. Reconvene: 6:35 P.M.
2832		Valdez, Ketchikan, Nome
2800	Graham Storey, Nome Chamber of Commerce, Nome	Voiced support for the University and that support system. He stressed that it is an important outreach service and connects rural Alaska with the rest of the State.
2539	Karen Polley, Ketchikan	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. Ketchikan has dramatic need for nurses, teachers, technicians and managers. She voiced support for full funding for the University system, urging full funding support for all statewide education systems.

2209	Doug Decorcie, Valdez	Voiced support for the University budget and the K-12 educational system. He urged full support for all education systems throughout the State.
2107	Dorothy Moore, Valdez	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs and full funding for the University request.
1938	Steve Cathers, Superintendent of Schools, Valdez	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. He emphasized that education in Alaska had already been trimmed to the bone. He requested that all cuts to education be restored. He maintained that every dollar cut in education equals money taken from each child in the system. Economic growth requires strong educational skills; he noted that economic growth was the key to the Republican platform. Mr. Cathers urged the Committee to please keep the campaign promises.
1625	Harry Martin, Superintendent, Ketchikan Gateway School District, Ketchikan	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs and the University. He added support for full funding for student transportation. He addressed the high school qualification tests.
1433	Mike Harpold, Ketchikan Chair Advisory Committee for the University, Ketchikan	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University.
1030	Michael Naab, Ketchikan	Stressed the importance for fully funding both the University and K-12. He warned about the indications of 'trading off' funding for one of those entities for the other. Additionally, he addressed funding cuts occurring to the State museums and State libraries. He claimed that cuts would cut back public access to museums, libraries and archives.
750	Forrest Dobson, Valdez	Commented on the tuition increase to the students at the University of Alaska. He urged full funding for the University.
651	Amber Clark, Valdez	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University.
558	Regina Chappell, Valdez	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University and K-12 education concerns.
518	Nancy Mendenhall, Former Educator, Nome	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs.
346	Stan Lujan,	Spoke in support of funding for K-12

	Superintendent Public Schools, Nome	education programs and University full funding.
117	Jack Shay, Alaska Municipal League, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Ketchikan	Requested greater support for local governments and revenue municipal sharing.
		TAPE HFC 03 - 47, Side A
51	Mr. Shay	Voiced support for an increase to gas tax.
116	Ebony Blas, Student, Valdez	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs.
213	Michael Holcombe, Valdez	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs.
419	Sharon Sherk, Northwest Campus, Nome	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. She urged continued computer technology services for the rural communities.
526	Phillip Penetac, Self, Student, Nome	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. He stressed how essential education is for the people that want alternatives to alcohol that live in the village areas.
826		At Ease: 7:13 P.M. Reconvened: 7:28 P.M.
		KENAI, DILLINGHAM, SEWARD, CORDOVA
042	Rose Mary Reeder, Kenai	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. Testified in support of continued funding for the Community Schools Program.
218	Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	Spoke in support of funding for education programs. She pointed out that Kenai has reached its cap in local contribution.
501	Margaret Gilman, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs.
616	John Pothast, Principle, Soldotna High School, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	Spoke in support of funding education programs. He pointed out that his high school has lost a number of teachers due to a lack of funding.
838	Megan O'Neill, PTA, Mountain View Elementary School, Kenai	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. She pointed out that there is a direct correlation between the teacher/pupil ratio and the success of the student.
1015	Wayne Young, Principle, Spring Creek High School,	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. He noted that he was facing a 50 percent cut in certificated

	Seward	staff for the upcoming year.
1112	Candy Norman, Seward	Testified in support of Independent Living Grants. She shared her personal experiences with these services.
1256	Kris Harris, Seward	Testified in support of Independent Living Grants.
1459	Jon Agosti, Seward	Spoke in support of continued state funding for the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation.
1824	Don Ford, Dillingham	Testified in support of full funding for pupil transportation and educational programs. Testified in support of Independent Living Grants.
2328	John Wensley, Kenai	Testified in opposition to reductions in education.
2641	Dave Knudsen, Kenai	Spoke in support of funding for education programs.
2601	Joel Ribbens, Student, Kenai	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs.
2920	Ginny Espenshade, Kenai	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. She stressed that the quality of education is being degraded.
3207	Dr. Peterson	In response to a question by Co-Chair Harris, she advised that language is not part of the required curriculum. She explained that the districts were lucky to be able to offer one language and that each school district had to choose which one to offer.
3323	Nora Ribbens, Kenai	voiced support of fully funding for K-12 education programs.
		<u>ADJOURNMENT</u> The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

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