

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 08, 2004
4:08 PM

TAPE HFC 04 - 53, Side A
TAPE HFC 04 - 53, Side B
TAPE HFC 04 - 54, Side A

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Harris called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 4:08 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative John Harris, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Williams, Co-Chair
Representative Kevin Meyer, Vice-Chair
Representative Mike Chenault
Representative Hugh Fate
Representative Richard Foster
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Reggie Joule

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Eric Croft
Representative Carl Moses
Representative Bill Stoltze

ALSO PRESENT

Representative Beth Kerttula; Representative Bruce Weyhrauch; Representative Ethan Berkowitz; Elfrida Nord, Alaska Nursing Association, Juneau; Mary Hakala, Juneau; Joan O'Keefe, Juneau; Jill Sandleben, Catholic Community Services, Juneau; Julie Morris, Juneau School Board, Juneau; Claudia Criss, Juneau; Bill Burk, Juneau; Kathryn Arlen, Juneau; Doris Robbins, Juneau; Randy Magen, National Association of Social Workers, Juneau; Ted Merrell, Juneau; Gail Baker, Juneau; Diane McGachern, National Association of Social Workers, Juneau; Rosemary Hagevig, Executive Director, Catholic Community Services, Juneau; Diane Kruck, Juneau; Suzanne Cortwright-Cohen, Juneau; Jackie Green, Juneau; Ruth Simpson, National Council for Drug Dependence, Juneau; Walter Majoros, Executive Director, Juneau Youth Services; Susan Papps, Juneau; Ernie Mueller, Juneau; Allen Herrick, Juneau; Harold Stepp, Juneau; Bill Legere, KTOO, Juneau; Catherine Reardon, Juneau; Bev Mueller, Juneau; Rosa Gaona, Juneau; Shari Mattingly, Juneau; Cassandra Russell, Juneau; Kyle Curtis, Juneau; Sydney Stradicke, Juneau; Erin Cruz, Juneau; Andy Story, Juneau District School Board, Juneau; Gayle Trivette, Juneau;

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Brain Schutt, Anacortes, Washington; Jan Wrentmore, Skagway
#hb375

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

**HB 375-APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS
HB 377-APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET**

STATEWIDE TESTIMONY: JUNEAU

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.

LOG	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
		TAPE HFC 04 - 53, SIDE A
000	Co-Chair Harris	Convened the House Finance Committee meeting in order to take statewide public testimony on the operating budget and the mental health budget for FY05. (Juneau)
005	ALLEN HERRICK, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services.
075	HAROLD STEPP, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of funding for shelters.
150	BILL LEGERE, KTOO, JUNEAU	Voiced support for continuation of funding for the public broadcasting satellite infrastructure. Testified in support of full funding for public broadcasting.
409	BEV MUELLER, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of funding for behavior health services, which address alcohol and substance abuse. Expressed support for the Percent of Market Value (POMV) plan. Noted support for additional revenue measures. Expressed support for implementation of a statewide income tax.
619	ERNIE MUELLER, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of funding for behavior health services, which address alcohol and substance abuse.
749	WALTER MAJOROS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JUNEAU YOUTH SERVICES	Voiced support for behavior health services, which address alcohol and substance abuse among youth. Spoke in support of funding for mental health programs.
1150	RUTH SIMPSON, NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DRUG DEPENDENCE, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of funding for behavior health services, which address alcohol and substance abuse. Testified in support of the Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP).
1423	SUZANNE CORTWRIGHT- COHEN, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of additional funding for education. Expressed support for

		implementation of a statewide income tax.
1602	Co-Chair Williams	Questioned the optimal class size.
1698	Ms. Cohen	Felt that classes should not be larger than 20 students.
1721	DIANE KRUCK, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of funding for behavior health services, which address alcohol and substance abuse. Spoke in support of funding for mental health programs.
1941	DIANE MCGACHERN, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of funding for mental health programs. She observed that many of their services are not Medicaid eligible. Voiced support for the public health nursing program. Expressed support for implementation of a statewide income tax.
2142	GAIL BAKER, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services. Support of Juneau Youth Services.
2334	TED MERRELL, JUNEAU	Voiced concerns with cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System.
2552	RANDY MAGEN, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, JUNEAU	Thanked the committee for adding social workers to the Division of Occupational Licensing. Suggested that funding could be fund by using funds directed to Arctic Power for lobbying ANWR. Expressed support for implementation of a statewide income tax.
2922	DORIS ROBBINS, JUNEAU	Voiced support for funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs. Testified in support of funding for alcohol treatment programs. Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services.
3256	KATHRYN ARLEN, JUNEAU	Voiced opposition to the cuts in Medicaid Services.
3722	BILL BURK, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of funding for behavior health services, which address alcohol and substance abuse. Spoke in support of funding for mental health programs. Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services.
3934	JILL SANDLEBEN, CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES, JUNEAU	Voiced opposition to the cuts in Medicaid Services. Expressed concern with reductions to senior services. Expressed concern with reductions to programs serving those with disabilities. Expressed support for the POMV plan. Expressed support for implementation of a statewide income tax.
4415	JOAN O'KEEFE, JUNEAU	Expressed concern with reductions to programs serving those with disabilities. Voiced opposition to the cuts in Medicaid

		Services. Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services.
4528		TAPE HFC 04 - 53, Side B
4625	ELFRIDA NORD, ALASKA NURSING ASSOCIATION, JUNEAU	Voiced support for the public health nursing program.
4302	MARY HAKALA, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of additional funding for education. Suggested inflation factor plus for five years, which would be a statement of commitment on the part of the Legislature.
3939	JULIE MORRIS, JUNEAU SCHOOL BOARD, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of additional funding for education. She pleaded the Legislature to look at something "reasonable". Classrooms are approaching a "critical mass".
3732	BRIAN SCHUTT, OFF NET - ANACORTES, WA	Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services.
3614	CLAUDIA CRISS, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services and the many services that have been offered to her with her visual disabilities. She requested that services for the blind not be cut from the proposed budget.
3001	ROSEMARY HAGEVIG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES, JUNEAU	Voiced opposition to the cuts in Medicaid Services. She commented on the damage that those cuts would cause the non-profit infrastructure.
2602	JACKIE GREEN, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services. Spoke in support of funding for behavior health services, which address alcohol and substance abuse.
2244	SUSAN PAPPS, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of funding for mental health programs.
1940	CATHERINE REARDON, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of additional funding for education and inflation proofing. She added concerns to reductions in the Division of Occupational Licensing. She pointed out that [cuts to the Division] would not help to balance the State's budget, but would change the philosophy on investigations throughout the State.
1448	ROSA GAONA, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services. She noted that she uses the services of JAMI. She maintained that these agencies are important and should be continued by the State.
1248	SHARI MATTINGLY, JUNEAU	Spoke against cuts to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for services to women and children. She

		pointed out that one in three women are battered. She urged that the funding not be cut from programs that are helping real people.
858	CASSANDRA RUSSELL, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services. Spoke in support of funding for behavior health services, which address alcohol and substance abuse and the support systems associated with those agencies. She commented on the resources available in Alaska and how supportive they are. She asked that the cuts to these programs be reconsidered.
		TAPE HFC 04 - 54, Side A
044	KYLE CURTIS, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services. He commended legislators for taking a hard path on crime. Investing in Alaska's future would maintain funding for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and increase earning and manufacturing power for the State. Expressed support for implementation of a statewide income tax. He urged compassion.
632	SYDNEY STRADICKE, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of vocational rehabilitation services noting that they have been there for her during her struggle with MS.
1131	ERIN CRUZ, JUNEAU	Expressed concern over cuts to in statewide services. She commented on racism and the manifestation of statewide alcohol problems. She maintained that the Legislature needs to "realize that these concerns are affecting our children and our children's children". The problem is getting "bigger". The State cannot put these concerns off.
1443	JAN WRENTMORE, SKAGWAY	Voiced appreciation for funding for the new fast ferry. She urged that this effort be fully funded. She pointed out that 40% of marine highway revenue is earned in the Lynn Canal, which reduces subsidies statewide. She urged that the ferry system be fully funded. She voiced concern with the Governor's proposed budget and plans to eliminate ferry travel north of Juneau.
1809	ANDY STORY, JUNEAU DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD, JUNEAU	Noted support for additional revenue measures. Spoke in support of additional funding for education. Emphasized the need to pay for PERS and TRS increases.
1924	GAYLE TRIVETTE, JUNEAU	Expressed support for the POMV plan and a payout, which would divide funds between

		state government and dividends. Expressed support for implementation of a statewide income tax. Spoke in support of HB 441, which would increase oil tax revenues. Spoke in support of additional funding for education.
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 PM

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