

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 18, 2005
1:36 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Chenault called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at [1:36:55 PM](#).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Mike Chenault, Co-Chair
Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Stoltze, Vice-Chair
Representative Richard Foster
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Jim Holm
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Carl Moses
Representative Bruce Weyhrauch

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Eric Croft

ALSO PRESENT

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

HB 66 "An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; and providing for an effective date."

HB 66 was heard and HELD in Committee for further consideration.

HB 67 "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."

HB 66 was heard and HELD in Committee for further consideration.

Public Testimony Operating Budget:

Juneau and Fairbanks

JUNEAU:

Carol Edwards, Alaska Nurses Association; Ric Iannalino, Coordinator, Juneau FASD Diagnostic Clinic; Karen Cashen, Parent; Catherine Reardon, Parent; Barbara Thurston, Parent; Lucy Hudson, Member, Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; Jeannie Monk, Parent; Holly Cockerille, Social Worker; Merle Ritter, Southeast Alaska Independent Living; Cheryl Hull, Southeast Alaska Independent Living; Cathy Johnson, Member, Board of Directors, AWARE; Marc Wheeler; Walter Majoris, Director, Juneau Youth Service; Brian Johnson, Director, Juneau Economic Development Council; Pam Johansen, Parent; Ruth Simpson, National Council on Alcohol and other Drug Dependency; Ruth Simpson, National Council on Alcohol and other Drug Dependency; Elizabeth Ruder, National Council on Alcohol and other Drug Dependency; Chava Lee; Sherrie Wenzlau, Meeting the Challenge Campaign; Barbara Belknap, Board Member, AWARE; Nancy Karacand, Alaska Commission on Aging; Kevin Ritchie, Alaska Municipal League; Karen Sidell, Bethel; Virginia Smiley; Caren Robinson, Alaska Women's Lobby; Lance Miller, Executive Director, Juneau Economic Development

TIME	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
1:38:24 PM	Carol Edwards, Alaska Nurses Association	Spoke in favor of maintaining health care services in the budget, as well as funding for breast and cervical prevention and early detection. She highlighted expenses related to breast cancer compared to preventative costs.
1:44:23 PM	Ric Iannalino, Coordinator, Juneau FASD Diagnostic Clinic	Stressed the importance of continued funding for FASD diagnostic services. Shared expenses related to prevention and treatment.
1:46:47 PM	Karen Cashen, Parent	Spoke of personal experience with expenses related to having an FASD child. Testified in support of the Governor's request to replace federal funding for diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
1:49:40 PM	Catherine Reardon, Parent	Encouraged funding for small public charter schools. She related how they are funded as a separate school if it has an ADM of at least 150 students.
1:53:01 PM	Barbara Thurston, Parent	Explained the inequity in funding of small public charter schools in the Juneau School District. She spoke in favor of adding the charter school grant back into the budget.
1:55:19 PM	Lucy Hudson,	Testified in support of the Governor's

	Member, Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	request to replace federal funding for diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. She related advantages of funding programs for prevention. She also spoke in favor of funding substance abuse programs.
1:58:49 PM	Jeannie Monk, Parent	Spoke in favor of equalizing funding for charter schools because they offer more educational options.
2:01:07 PM	Holly Cockerille, Social Worker	Stressed the importance of continued funding for FASD diagnostic services.
2:02:17 PM	Merle Ritter, Southeast Alaska Independent Living	Related personal experience as a beneficiary of SAIL programs, such as visual aids, which enable her to live at home. She encouraged continued funding.
2:03:56 PM	Cheryl Hull, Southeast Alaska Independent Living	Requested continued funding for independent living centers provided by SAIL.
2:07:29 PM	Cathy Johnson, Member, Board of Directors, AWARE	Shared personal experiences with domestic and sexual violence. She requested additional funds of \$300,000 for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
2:10:19 PM	Marc Wheeler	Stressed the importance of continued funding for FASD diagnostic services. He pointed out the advantages of investing in prevention.
2:12:06 PM	Walter Majoris, Director, Juneau Youth Service	Spoke about the Governor's Bring Youth Home Initiative, and in favor of funding for the Mental Health Grant in Medicaid, FASD and substance abuse prevention.
2:14:56 PM	Brian Johnson, Director, Juneau Economic Development Council	Requested funding for micro-enterprises, 18 percent of all employment in Alaska, to support development of small businesses.
2:18:04 PM	Pam Johansen, Parent	Spoke in favor of supporting small public charter school funding.
2:19:50 PM	Ruth Simpson, National Council on Alcohol and other Drug Dependency	Related reports of drug and alcohol abuse by youth and the need for more prevention programs.
2:22:26 PM	Elizabeth Ruder,	Spoke of her job as a social worker at the Johnson Youth Center and the need

	National Council on Alcohol and other Drug Dependency	for continued prevention services. She related success stories and emphasized the need for continued funding.
2:25:41 PM	Chava Lee	Testified in support of continued funding for positions at the Juneau Pioneer Home. She suggested that Alaska become a leader in the care of the elderly.
2:30:08 PM	Sherrie Wenzlau, Meeting the Challenge Campaign	Shared personal experiences with drug and alcohol abuse and related statistics about drug and alcohol abuse of youth. She emphasized the need for continued funding for drug and alcohol abuse prevention.
2:34:08 PM	Barbara Belknap, Board Member, AWARE	Urged appropriation of additional funds for prevention of domestic violence and prevention programs.
2:36:41 PM	Nancy Karacand, Alaska Commission on Aging	Expressed concern for vulnerable Alaskans, especially the elderly. She urged support for additional staff at the Pioneer Home, and increased funding for the home nursing program, and for adult protective services program.
2:40:32 PM	Kevin Ritchie, Alaska Municipal League	Shared financial information on small communities (copy on file.) and requested assistance for them.
2:42:46 PM	Karen Sidell, Bethel	Spoke about cost containment of Medicaid benefits. She requested continued funding of Medicaid programs.
2:46:50 PM	Virginia Smiley	Testified as a breast cancer survivor in support of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening. She spoke of the benefits of prevention from a personal experience.
2:49:27 PM	Caren Robinson, Alaska Women's Lobby	Spoke to two issues: in support of continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening, in support of additional funding for domestic violence programs. She related personal stories of the women she represents.
2:53:22 PM	At ease.	
3:13:25 PM	Lance Miller, Executive Director, Juneau Economic Development	Spoke in favor of small business development. He shared information about Springboard, a resource for small business projects.

#	RECESSED	The meeting was recessed at 3:16 PM
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Co-Chair Chenault reconvened the House Finance Committee meeting to order at [4:38:41 PM](#).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Mike Chenault, Co-Chair
 Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
 Representative Bill Stoltze, Vice-Chair
 Representative Richard Foster
 Representative Mike Hawker
 Representative Jim Holm
 Representative Reggie Joule
 Representative Mike Kelly

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Eric Croft
 Representative Carl Moses
 Representative Bruce Weyhrauch

FAIRBANKS:

Ruth Prokopowich; Murray Richmond; George Hisamoto; Andy Harrington; Taber Rehbaum; Kimerbly Banderhoof; Webb Phillips; David Jacobson; Brenda Stanfill; Cami Aries; Hadahra Ben-Israel; Deborah Allman Reynolds; Sandy Young; Pam Karalunas; Shayle Hutchison, Stevie's Place, Fairbanks; Annie Hopper, Fairbanks; Mike Powers, Fairbanks; Cheryl Keepers, Fairbanks Borough Health and Social Services Commission; Sandra Bond, Legal Advocate, Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violence Living, Fairbanks; Annette Freiburger, Fairbanks; Karen McLain, Fairbanks; Luke Hopkins, Fairbanks North Star Assembly, Fairbanks; Ruthamae Karr, Fairbanks; Philip, Fairbanks.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>
4:38:53 PM	CO-CHAIR CHENAULT	Convened the House Finance Committee meeting in order to take statewide testimony on the operating budget from the Fairbanks area.
4:43:03 PM	RUTH PROKOPOWHICH, FAIRBANKS	Testified on behalf of continued FAS funding. She spoke to the current programs and the families that they serve. She requested more programs for those people that suffer substance abuse.
4:45:40 PM	MURRAY RICHMOND, FAIRBANKS	Spoke in support of continued funding for public broadcasting.
4:47:17 PM	GEORGE HISAMOTO,	Spoke in support of restoration of independence living grants and capital

	FAIRBANKS	requests to assist those with disabilities.
4:49:44 PM	ANDY HARRINGTON, FAIRBANKS	Spoke in support of continued funding for public broadcasting, Human Services Matching Grant to 2.2 million. Testified in support of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening. Stressed the importance of continued funding for FASD diagnostic services.
4:52:16 PM	TABER REHBAUM, FAIRBANKS	Testified in support of restoration of the Human Services Matching Grant of 2.2 million. Testified in support of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening. Testified in support of the Governor's request to replace federal funding for diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
4:54:17 PM	KIMBERLY BANDERHOOF, FAIRBANKS	Spoke in support of programs to prevent suicide.
4:56:27 PM	WEBB PHILLIPS, FAIRBANKS	Spoke in support of independent living services.
4:58:03 PM	DAVID JACOBSON, FAIRBANKS	Testified in support of full funding for Independent Living Grants and a capital appropriation and transition funds, which help individuals return to their homes.
5:00:06 PM	BRENDA STANFILL, FAIRBANKS	Testified in support of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
5:02:23 PM	HADAHRA BEN-ISRAEL, FAIRBANKS	Testified in support of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
5:04:15 PM	DEBORAH ALLMAN REYNOLDS, INTERIOR ALASKA CENTER FOR NON-VIOLENCE LIVING, FAIRBANKS	Testified in support of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs. She stressed for additional fund.
5:05:20 PM	PAM KARALUNAS, FAIRBANKS	Testified in support of the Governor's request for funding of diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and other substance abuse programs.
5:07:31 PM	SHAYLE HUTCHISON, STEVIE'S	Stressed the importance of continued funding for FASD diagnostic services. She gave examples of parents raising

	PLACE, FAIRBANKS	children with FASD.
5:09:20 PM	ANNIE HOPPER, FAIRBANKS	Spoke in support of continued funding for public broadcasting. Testified in support of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening. Stressed the importance of continued funding for FASD diagnostic services.
5:11:57 PM	MIKE POWERS, FAIRBANKS	Testified in support of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening. Spoke in support of continued funding for public broadcasting.
5:14:08 PM	CHERYL KEEPERS, FAIRBANKS BOROUGH HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION.	Spoke in support of full funding the Human Services Matching Grant of 2.2 million.
5:19:13 PM 5:16:25 PM	SANDRA BOND, LEGAL ADVOCATE, INTERIOR ALASKA CENTER FOR NON- VIOLENCE LIVING, FAIRBANKS	Testified in support of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
5:17:15 PM	ANNETTE FREIBURGER, FAIRBANKS	Testified in support of the Governor's request to replace federal funding for diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
5:19:16 PM	KAREN MCLAIN, FAIRBANKS	Testified in support of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening.
5:21:23 PM	LUKE HOPKINS, FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR ASSEMBLY, FAIRBANKS	Asked the Committee to increase funding for Community Matching Block grants. He observed that these grants help senior transportation, homelessness, and youth at risk. He also spoke in support of reinstating revenue sharing. Spoke in support of continued funding for public broadcasting.
5:24:06 PM	RUTHAMAE KARR, FAIRBANKS	Noted the importance of cancer research and testified in support of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening.

5:25:44 PM	PHILIP, FAIRBANKS	Spoke in support of the Department of Fish and Game, Hunter Education Range.
5:30:29 PM		<u>ADJOURNMENT</u> The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM

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