

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
March 19, 2005  
9:06 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Chenault called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at [9:06:18 AM](#).

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

none

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

**KENAI, VALDEZ, KETCHIKAN, KODIAK, SEWARD:**

Sandy Wasillie, Seward; Patrick Hayes, Seward; Steve Horn, Alaska Behavioral Health Association, Soldotna; Tony Lewis, Kaleidoscope Charter School, Soldotna; Barbara Morgan, Soldotna; Vickie Tinker, Frontier Community Services Coordinator, Soldotna; Margaret Parsons-Williams, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Program, Soldotna; Wally Klingelhut, Transitional Living Center, Ketchikan; Patty Fay Hickox, Recovering Alcoholic, Ketchikan; Yeda Hicks, Vice Chair, Women in Safe Homes, Ketchikan; Ed Zastrow, Alaska Association of Retired People (AARP), Ketchikan; Carmen Webb, Meeting the Challenge, Ketchikan; Sherity Kelly, WISH, Ketchikan; Larry Fisher, WISH, Ketchikan; Rosita Teriano, WISH, Ketchikan; Willard Dunham, City Council, Seward; Pat Branson, Kodiak Seniors, Kodiak; Bert Cottle, Advocates for Victims of Violence, Valdez; Alison Gottesman, Soldotna, Kenai; Louie Bencardino, Seward; Alison Gottesman, Soldotna; Jackie Bock, Fetal Alcohol Diagnostic Study, Soldotna

**SITKA, WRANGELL, PETERSBURG, HOMER, DILLINGHAM:**

Julie Decker, SARDFA, Wrangell; Valery McCandless, City of Wrangell, Wrangell; Frank Corgin, Nushagak Coop, Dillingham; Dave Bouker, Dillingham; Linda Muhns, Homer; Lynda Raymond, Homer; Renee Orians, Homer; Catriona Lowe, Katchimak Bay

Family Planning Clinic, Homer; Lora Wilke, Homer; Ginger Baim, SAFE, Dillingham; Linda Rabideau, SAFE, Dillingham; Desa Erica Jacobsson, SAFE, Anchorage; Petla Noden, SAFE, Dillingham; Joan Ribich, BBAGC-Representative Hawker, Dillingham; Scott Wheat, Homer; Jennie Hargrove, South Peninsula Woman's Services, Homer; Bob Kluting, Sitka; Fulton Thompson, Sitka; Shay Hoffman, Kachemak Bay, Family Planning Clinic, Homer; Elizabeth Newmann, Homer

**MATSU, DELTA JUNCTION, TOK, GLENNALLEN, CORDOVA:**

James Garhart, MatSu; Don Zoerb, Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission; MatSu; Roger Gay, MatSu; Gary Hanthorn, MatSu; Cathryn Petrie, MatSu; Nicole Songer, Cordova Family Resource Center; Janet Johnson, Cordova; Sharon Lobaugh, President of JAMI, Juneau

**BETHEL, KOTZEBUE, BARROW, NOME, OFFNETS:**

Mitch Chocknok, New Stoyaldok; Fred Pike, Bristol Bay; Mike Swain, Mayor, Bristol Bay; Mel Coghill, Member, Assembly, Bristol Bay; Jason Nowpakahok, Mayor, Gamble; Suzie Makaily, Pikes Station; Barb Pungowiyi, Bering Straits Women's Group, Nome; Dealy Blackshear, Nome; Ephenia Levi, Bethel; Norman Ayagairia, Bethel; Holly Chaney, Bethel; Bing Santamour, Bethel; Barbara Lewis, Haines; Barbara McManus, Member, Ambler City Council; Jim Wilson, Ambler; Elaine Price, Project Manager, Coffman Cove; Carolyn Duncan, Coffman Cove; Neal George, Barrow; Dr. Bruce Ruttenburg, Deputy Director of Maniilaq, Kotzebue; Ross Schaeffer, Northwest Arctic Borough, Kotzebue; Dick Wyland, Mayor, Seldovia

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

STATEWIDE PUBLIC TESTIMONY  
HB 66 & HB 67

The following overview was taken in log note format. Tapes and handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 24th Legislative Session, contact 465-6814. After the 24th Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

TIME	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
	Co-Chair Chenault	Convened the statewide testimony for HB 66 and HB 67.
		<b>KENAI, VALDEZ, KETCHIKAN, KODIAK, SEWARD</b>
<a href="#">9:07:04 AM</a>	STEVE HORN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Urged full funding of FY07 Medicaid funding. He testified in support of the Governor's request to replace federal funding for diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Mr. Horn added support of the

	ASSOCIATION, SOLDOTNA	Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening.
<a href="#">9:10:06 AM</a>	TONY LEWIS, KALEIDOSCOPY CHARTER SCHOOL, SOLDOTNA	Requested further funding for charter schools.
<a href="#">9:12:00 AM</a>	BARBARA MORGAN, SOLDOTNA	Spoke in support for further funding for all senior services.
<a href="#">9:13:38 AM</a>	VICKIE TINKER, FRONTIER COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR, SOLDOTNA	Testified in support of the Governor's request to replace federal funding for diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
<a href="#">9:15:01 AM</a>	MARGARET PARSONS- WILLIAMS, FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME PROGRAM, SOLDOTNA	Stressed the importance of continued funding for FASD diagnostic services.
<a href="#">9:17:07 AM</a>	SANDY WASILLIE, VICE PRESIDENT, KENAI SCHOOL BOARD, KENAI	Urged greater funding for the Kenai school systems. She stressed the urgent need as there is pending closure of schools.
<a href="#">9:19:26 AM</a>	PATRICK HAYES, SEWARD	Testified for greater funding for the substance abuse and chemical dependency throughout the State of Alaska.
<a href="#">9:22:00 AM</a>	WILLARD DUNHAM, CITY COUNCIL, SEWARD	Requested further funding for the Allied Health Program and AVTEC. He spoke to the growing need of the health care system in the State. The program has a long wait list. That requested funding takes care of Alaska residents.
<a href="#">9:23:34 AM</a>	WALLY KLINGELHUT, MANAGER, TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER, KETCHIKAN	Urged greater funding for transitional living centers throughout the State. He claimed that cutting the Governor's request out of the budget would be detrimental to all Alaskans. He urged that the Governor's request be restored. Stressed the importance of continued funding for FASD diagnostic services.
<a href="#">9:26:56 AM</a>	PATTY FAY HICKOX, RECOVERING ALCOHOLIC, KETCHIKAN	Stressed the need for continued treatment for alcohol and drug abuse.
<a href="#">9:28:49 AM</a>	YEDA HICKS,	Emphasized the need for greater funding

	VICE CHAIR, WOMEN IN SAFE HOMES, KETCHIKAN	for women suffering from domestic abuse and sexual assault. Costs have increased over the years and the budget has not been increased.
<a href="#">9:30:41 AM</a>	ED ZASTROW, AARP, KETCHIKAN	Commented on cuts to positions for the Pioneer Homes in Fairbanks, Juneau and Ketchikan. He stressed the need of those positions for safety concerns. Urged restoring \$300 thousand dollars for those positions.
<a href="#">9:32:53 AM</a>	CARMEN KEENAN, SAIL, KETCHIKAN	Testified in support for Independent Living Centers and continued funding.
<a href="#">9:34:15 AM</a>	CARL WEBB, CHAIRMAN, MEETING THE CHALLENGE, KETCHIKAN	Spoke in support for further funding for drug and alcohol prevention.
<a href="#">9:35:10 AM</a>	SHERITY KELLY, WISH, KETCHIKAN	Addressed the crucial services that the WISH program provides for women and children. Testified in support of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
<a href="#">9:36:41 AM</a>	LARRY FISHER, BOARD MEMBER, WISH, KETCHIKAN	Echoed concerns voiced by Ms. Kelly. Testified in support of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
<a href="#">9:37:58 AM</a>	ROSITA TERIANO, WISH, KETCHIKAN	Testified in support of the Governor's request to replace federal funding for diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. She worried what would happen to her son without the support offered by these programs. She provided testimony from another parent with children suffering from FASD, Ms. Crystal Herron. She stated that the WISH program support has saved her life.
<a href="#">9:45:03 AM</a>	PAT BRANSON, KODIAK SENIORS, KODIAK	Urged continued funding for all senior services.
<a href="#">9:45:58 AM</a>	BERT COTTLE, ADVOCATES FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, VALDEZ	Testified in support of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
<a href="#">9:47:18 AM</a>	ALISON GOTTESMAN, SOLDOTNA	Commented on the lack of any service on the Kenai Peninsula for the severe mental health services. She urged greater and restored funding for these types of programs.
<a href="#">9:49:01 AM</a>	JACKIE BOCK,	Testified in support of the Governor's

	FETAL ALCOHOL DIAGNOSTIC STUDY, SOLDOTNA	request to replace federal funding for diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
<a href="#">9:51:11 AM</a>	LOUIE BENCARDINO, AVTEC BOARD, SEWARD	Spoke in support for AVTEC. He pointed out the Governor's recommended cut of \$300 thousand dollars. He stated that Alaska needs to produce top quality people and that AVTEC attempts to do that. He urged full funding.
<a href="#">9:53:52 AM</a>	AT EASE	
<a href="#">10:10:43 AM</a>	RECONVENE	
		<b>SITKA, WRANGELL, PETERSBURG, HOMER, DILLINGHAM</b>
<a href="#">10:10:57 AM</a>	LINDA MUHNS, HOMER	Stressed the importance of cervical and breast cancer early detection screening.
<a href="#">10:13:32 AM</a>	LYNDA RAYMOND, HOMER	Spoke to the importance of cervical and breast cancer early detection screening.
<a href="#">10:14:22 AM</a>	RENEE ORIAN, HOMER	Testified regarding the importance of cervical and breast cancer early detection screening.
<a href="#">10:16:56 AM</a>	CATRIONA LOWE, K.BAY FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC, HOMER	Testified in support of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening.
<a href="#">10:18:32 AM</a>	LORA WILKE, HOMER	Spoke in favor of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening.
<a href="#">10:21:02 AM</a>	SCOT WHEAT, HOMER	Urged further funding for the mental health budget so to cover crisis services for the mental health agency.
<a href="#">10:22:39 AM</a>	JENNIE HARGROVE, SOUTH PENINSULA WOMAN'S SERVICES, HOMER	Testified in support of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs. She added support of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening.
<a href="#">10:26:03 AM</a>	FRANK CORBIN, CEO, NUSHAGAK COOP, DILLINGHAM	Addressed concerns with PCE.
<a href="#">10:29:02 AM</a>	DAVE BOUKER, DILLINGHAM	Added his concerns regarding PCE funding. He provided a brief history of hydro services in that area and added that the PCE program helps to level the playing field for the State's utilities.
<a href="#">10:32:12 AM</a>	GINGER BAIM,	Testified in support of funding for

	SAFE, DILLINGHAM	domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
<a href="#">10:38:41 AM</a>	LINDA RABIDEAU, PRESIDENT, SAFE, DILLINGHAM	Noted support of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs. She commented on the "shrinking" that has occurred with the SAFE budget over the years. Funding has been flat over the past five years.
<a href="#">10:40:46 AM</a>	DESA ERICA JACOBSSON, SAFE, ANCHORAGE	Noted that she trains shelter workers in the politics of domestic violence. She testified in support of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
<a href="#">10:42:12 AM</a>	PETLA NODEN, SAFE, DILLINGHAM	Commented on the tragedy happening for the youth of Dillingham. He urged greater funding for drug and alcohol abuse programs. He stressed the need for more programs for the youth. He added that there needs to be parenting classes and mentioned that Dillingham should be reclassified as a second-class city.
<a href="#">10:45:55 AM</a>	JOAN RIBICH, DIRECTOR, BBAGC-MH, DILLINGHAM	Testified in support of restoration of the Human Services Matching Grant of 2.2 million and mental health services. She added supported for further drug and alcohol drug abuse programs.
<a href="#">10:48:28 AM</a>	JULIE DECKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SARDFA, WRANGELL	Spoke to concerns with the urchin fishery. She claimed that fishery is a large economic engine for fisheries in general. SARDFA is requesting temporary relief from the State through general funds to help further develop the fishery. She noted testing for gooey duck fishery and those fee structures.
<a href="#">10:52:10 AM</a>	VALERY MCCANDLESS, MAYOR, CITY OF WRANGELL, WRANGELL	She urged consideration of all the concerns that have been addressed at the meeting and added support for further consideration of the State's retirement system.
<a href="#">10:53:40 AM</a>	BOB KLUTING, SITKA	Strongly recommended funding for the assisted living program and increased funding for the consumer living portion. He added support for independent living services.
<a href="#">10:55:06 AM</a>	SHAY HOFFMAN, KACHEMAK BAY FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC, HOMER	Testified in support of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening.
<a href="#">10:57:08 AM</a>	ELIZABETH NEWMANN, HOMER	Voiced support of the Governor's \$1.8 million dollar request for continuation

		and expansion for cervical and breast cancer screening.
<a href="#">10:58:47 AM</a>	Ms. Hargrove, Homer	Read a prepared statement from another person regarding living because of funding of the cervical and breast cancer screening.
<a href="#">11:00:21 AM</a>	AT EASE	
<a href="#">11:14:47 AM</a>	RECONVENE	
		<b>MATSU, DELTA JUNCTION, TOK, GLENNALLEN, CORDOVA</b>
<a href="#">11:15:07 AM</a>	JAMES GARHART, MATSU	Explained his forward-funded fiscal plan.
<a href="#">11:19:58 AM</a>	DON ZOERB, MEMBER, PUBLIC BROADCAST COMMISSION, MATSU	Spoke in support of continued funding for public broadcasting.
<a href="#">11:21:58 AM</a>	ROGER GAY, BIG LAKE	Testified in favor of continued funding for mental health services.
<a href="#">11:24:07 AM</a>	GARY HANTHORN, MATSU	Spoke against cutting mental health services.
<a href="#">11:25:41 AM</a>	CATHRYN PETRIE, MATSU	Stressed the importance of continued funding for FASD diagnostic services.
<a href="#">11:28:07 AM</a>	NICOLE SONGER, CORDOVA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER	Testified in support of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs. Stressed the importance of continued funding for FASD diagnostic services.
<a href="#">11:29:36 AM</a>	JANET JOHNSON, CORDOVA	Testified in support of continued funding for Medicaid services.
<a href="#">11:33:20 AM</a>	SHARON LOBAUGH, PRESIDENT OF JAMI, JUNEAU	Related services provided by JAMI and encourage maintenance and increase of the mental health budget. She also spoke in support of continued funding for Medicaid programs.
<a href="#">11:36:54 AM</a>	AT EASE	
<a href="#">12:08:12 PM</a>	RECONVENE	
		<b>BETHEL, KOTZEBUE, BARROW, NOME, OFFNETS:</b>
<a href="#">12:08:38 PM</a>	MITCH CHOCKNOK, NEW STOYALDOK	Spoke of financial difficulties in his community.
<a href="#">12:09:31 PM</a>	FRED PIKE, BRISTOL BAY	Explained a profile-mapping project in his borough. He spoke of tax exemptions and requested reimbursement for them. He requested assistance with high fuel costs.
<a href="#">12:12:17 PM</a>	MIKE SWAIN, MAYOR, BRISTOL BAY	Stressed the importance of funding a test fishery program. He requested relief from mandated tax exemptions.

<a href="#">12:15:15 PM</a>	REPRESENTATIVE CROFT	Requested information about the test fishery.
<a href="#">12:16:23 PM</a>	MEL COGHILL, MEMBER, ASSEMBLY, BRISTOL BAY	Stressed the importance of mapping and difficulty with tax exemptions. He also opined that the school foundation funding is unfair to his school district.
<a href="#">12:18:19 PM</a>	JASON NOWPAKAHOK, MAYOR, GAMBLE	Spoke of high fuel costs, lack of road maintenance and other financial needs of his community.
<a href="#">12:20:56 PM</a>	SUZIE MAKAILY, PIKES STATION	Thanked the legislature for funding women's programs. She requested more funding for the Women and Children's Coalition.
<a href="#">12:22:52 PM</a>	BARB PUNGOWIYI, BERING STRAITS WOMEN'S GROUP, NOME	Shared statistics related to the shelter and mentioned declining services due to flat funding.
<a href="#">12:25:19 PM</a>	DEALY BLACKSHEAR, NOME	Stressed the importance of continued funding for Mental Health services and Medicaid funding.
<a href="#">12:26:42 PM</a>	REPRESENTATIVE HAWKER	Explained the problem with getting certification due to a lawsuit.
<a href="#">12:27:23 PM</a>	EPHENIA LEVI, BETHEL	Spoke of personal experience in the Women's Coalition Shelter and requested continued funding for such programs.
<a href="#">12:29:55 PM</a>	NORMAN AYAGAIRIA, BETHEL	Requested continued funding for the women's shelter.
<a href="#">12:30:51 PM</a>	HOLLY CHANEY, BETHEL	Shared personal experience with the shelter. She testified in support of continued funding for the women's shelter.
<a href="#">12:32:09 PM</a>	BING SANTAMOUR, BETHEL	Encouraged continued funding for education, and the women's shelter, and increased funding for village law enforcement, and recognition of tribal government.
<a href="#">12:35:51 PM</a>	BARBARA LEWIS, HAINES	Testified in support of the Governor's request to replace federal funding for diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
<a href="#">12:38:18 PM</a>	BARBARA MCMANUS, MEMBER, AMBLER CITY COUNCIL	Requested that the revenue sharing program be reinstated. She explained high costs in her community. She also spoke in favor of funding for public broadcasting.
<a href="#">12:40:46 PM</a>	JIM WILSON, AMBLER	Related high costs and the need for financial support to his community.
<a href="#">12:43:14 PM</a>	ELAINE PRICE,	Spoke in favor of reinstating revenue

	PROJECT MANAGER, COFFMAN COVE	sharing and of funding women's shelters.
<a href="#">12:46:06 PM</a>	CAROLYN DUNCAN, COFFMAN COVE	Requested more aid to municipalities.
<a href="#">12:47:02 PM</a>	NEAL GEORGE, BARROW	Encouraged funding for substance abuse programs.
<a href="#">12:48:13 PM</a>	DR. BRUCE RUTTENBURG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MANIILAQ, KOTZEBUE	Spoke of his concern for removal of funds for substance abuse programs.
<a href="#">12:49:57 PM</a>	ROSS SCHAEFFER, NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH, KOTZEBUE	Encouraged funding for high fuel costs and encouraged support of revenue funding and mental health programs. He requested that funding for subsistence continue.
<a href="#">12:53:40 PM</a>	DICK WYLAND, MAYOR, SELDOVIA	Stressed the importance of continued revenue sharing, which would affect many programs in Seldovia.
		<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>  The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM