

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 16, 2006
4:06 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Chenault called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at [4:06:18 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 Beth Kerttula
Representative Carl Moses

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Bruce Weyhrauch

ALSO PRESENT

Representative Sharon Cissna; Meera Kuhler, Alaska Village Electric Association; Alan Budahl, Board Chair, Boys and Girls Club; Cheri Gillian, Volunteer Board Member, Boys and Girls Club; Ira Perman, Ready to Read, Read and Learn Task Force; Suzi Pearson, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Ellen Krasnak, Catholic Social Services; Dave Falsey, Dentist, Key Campaign; Chris Hall; Vern McCorkle; Ronni Sullivan, Director, Southern Region EMS; Jim Udelhoven, CEO, Udelhoven Oil Services; Frank Apple, Pioneer Homes Advisory Board; Steve Lesko, President, Key Coalition; Steve Rollins; Diana Rey, Hope Community Resources; Abigail Nauman, Hope Community Resources; Yvette Wilson, Hope Community Resources; Terry Schoenthal, KSKA/KAKM; Sandy Camery, Mabel T. Caverly Senior Center; Ed Earnhart; Patricia Cochran; Brooke Antonich, VOA of Alaskan KIDS and Families; C.W. Floyd, DHHS-MOA; Tami Eller; Gwen Lee, The Arc of Anchorage; Ellen Paneok, Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Peggy Owens, Executive Director, Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Alex Johnston, Director of Statewide Initiatives, Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Scott Jones, Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Robin Phillips, Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Rosalie Nadeau, Executive Director, AKEELA; Jayson Smart, Parent of Developmental Disabilities, ED, Stone Soup Group; Diane

Ingle, Municipality of Anchorage Health Department; Dan Saddler; Candace Winkler, Childcare Provider & Parent Network; Kalen Saxton, Alaska Family Childcare Association

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

HB 365 "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 366 "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."

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.

Public Testimony: Anchorage

TIME	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
4:07:30 PM	ELLEN KRASNAK, CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES	Spoke in support of reinstating funding for the Human Services Matching Grant. She related services and the facilities served by this grant. She pointed out that Catholic Social Services makes good use of these funds.
4:11:25 PM	DAVE FALSEY, DENTIST, KEY CAMPAIGN	Advocated for funding for the Dental Health Bill. He shared how important dental health care is for everyone.
4:15:23 PM	CHRIS HALL	Spoke of a goal of a workforce trained and employed in Alaska. He advocated for funding the University Budget Request.
4:17:46 PM	VERN MCCORKLE	Testified in support of funding for Alaska Public Radio Network (APRN). He mentioned how valuable public broadcast is to rural Alaska and to the rest of the state.
4:19:50 PM	RONNI SULLIVAN, DIRECTOR, SOUTHERN REGION EMS	Testified in support of funding for Emergency Medical Services programs, which have been flat-funded for several years. She pointed to changes in EMS relating to pandemic flu issues. She mentioned a loss of staff and training.

4:23:02 PM	JIM UDELHOVEN, CEO, UDELHOVEN OIL SERVICES	Spoke in favor of full funding for the Vocational Training Center. He termed it a good investment by reducing future unemployment, cost, and crime.
4:26:26 PM	FRANK APPLE, PIONEER HOMES ADVISORY BOARD	Shared statistics about the high cost of residential care in Pioneer Homes. Staffing levels have not increased and more staffing is needed to deal with increasingly complex problems. He testified in support of increased funding for staffing in Pioneer Homes.
4:28:20 PM	STEVE LESKO, PRESIDENT, KEY COALITION	Advocated for families with disabilities. He shared a personal experience. He discussed problems with wait-listed clients and offered solutions by family support resources. He testified in support of reducing the number of Alaskans who are waiting for services.
4:32:25 PM	STEVE ROLLINS	Testified in support of full funding as proposed in the governor's budget for the University of Alaska Anchorage. He shared the excellent return for dollars invested in the university.
4:34:13 PM	DIANA REY, HOPE COMMUNITY RESOURCES	Shared her background with individualized services with mental health. She described the benefits attained from receiving mental health services. She shared several examples of support received.
4:36:47 PM	MEERA KUHLE, ALASKA VILLAGE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION	Urged the committee's support of Power Cost Equalization, without which, leads to hardship in rural areas.
4:38:21 PM	ALAN BUDAHL, BOARD CHAIR, BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB	Advocated for support for the Youth Success Initiative. He shared the mission of the Boys and Girls Club and listed the benefits of supporting the Club's proposal.
4:41:16 PM	REPRESENTATIVE JOULE	Asked if the Boys and Girls Club is working with other groups. Mr. Budahl replied that four other groups were chosen to work with the initiative.
4:42:28 PM	CHERI GILLIAN, VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBER, BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB	Testified in support of funding the Youth Success Initiative. She described the extent of the initiative. She related the costs of incarcerating one youth. She shared the Club's ability to address and measure the outcomes of the initiative.
4:45:24 PM	IRA PERMAN, READY TO READ, READ AND LEARN	Reported that too many preschool students are unprepared for school. He shared that kids that don't read well

	TASK FORCE	often get into trouble. He noted that the task force is in the process of putting together a plan to remedy this situation. He asked that a dollar amount be returned to the governor's budget in order to support the Ready to Read initiative.
4:49:19 PM	SUZI PEARSON, ABUSED WOMEN'S AID IN CRISIS	Spoke to the importance of the funding \$3 million for HSMG.
4:50:42 PM	ABIGAIL NAUMAN, HOPE COMMUNITY RESOURCES	Testified in favor of CCFC waivers. She shared a personal experience of a client in the program who did not have to remain on the wait list. She encouraged reinstatement of the funding the governor proposed.
4:53:40 PM	YVETTE WILSON, HOPE COMMUNITY RESOURCES	Shared her experience as a parent with support from these services. She encouraged reinstatement of the wait-list funding in the governor's proposal.
4:55:29 PM	REPRESENTATIVE HAWKER	Clarified the wait-list funding was not proposed in the governor's budget. He pointed out that the funds were added by the legislature.
4:56:51 PM	TERRY SCHOENTHAL, KSKA/KAKM	Encouraged the committee to accept the recommendation for funding for public radio.
4:58:18 PM	SANDY CAMERY, MABEL T. CAVERLY SENIOR CENTER	Encouraged further funding for the matching grants for seniors. She asked for all recipients for preventive dental work that would save Medicaid dollars.
5:00:30 PM	ED EARNHART	Testified in favor of greater funding for education and the University of Alaska.
5:02:09 PM	PATRICIA COCHRAN	Urged further funding for substance abuse prevention. 25% of Alaska children are victims of alcohol disorders. Research has shown the greatest factors in secondary activity such as FASD are early diagnosis and living in stable home environment.
5:05:33 PM	BROOKE ANTONICH, VOA OF ALASKAN KIDS AND FAMILIES	Testified on behalf of greater funding for prevention services. She addressed the services that are taxed without prevention.
5:08:00 PM	C.W. FLOYD, DHHS-MOA	Noted support for Health and Human Service line item for the City of Anchorage in the amount of \$500,000. He mentioned addressing collateral services statewide for social

		detoification system.
5:11:54 PM	TAMI ELLER	Requested youth treatment funding at the Governor's requested amount. Children are at risk for meeting their full potential.
5:14:18 PM	GWEN LEE, THE ARC OF ANCHORAGE	Urged support for the HESS subcommittee for the wait list to support the work of that group waiting for services.
5:16:30 PM	ELLEN PANEOK, BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS	Requested full funding of the Governor's Youth Initiative. Big Brothers Big Sisters receives a portion of that grant funding.
5:18:14 PM	PEGGY OWENS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS	Expressed support for the Governor's Youth Initiative. In Anchorage, there are more than 16,000 youths that could benefit from a quality mentoring relationship. She spoke to the success of the BBBS programs helping children leading happier and more productive lives.
5:20:15 PM	ALEX JOHNSTON, DIRECTOR OF STATEWIDE INITIATIVES, BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS	Urged support for the Governor's Youth Initiative.
5:22:38 PM	SCOTT JONES, BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS	Spoke about his Little Match, Dante, and urged full funding for the Governor's Youth Initiative.
5:25:22 PM	ROBIN PHILLIPS, BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS	Requested support for the Governor's Youth Initiative. The partners for the program have proven their success across the State.
5:27:39 PM	ROSALIE NADEAU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AKEELA	Urged reconsideration of the reduction to prevention programs for substance abuse. Those programs pay for themselves. The state is not meeting the needs. She stressed the need to look at priorities for progress for the state. She mentioned how the state pays for overcrowded prisons, etc.
5:32:19 PM	JAYSON SMART, PARENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, ED, STONE SOUP GROUP	Spoke in favor of full funding for the Department of Health and Social Service programs for FASD. He urged support for the \$506,000 general fund dollars and the increment that the governor proposed, an addition of \$500,000. In previous years, Alaska received money from the federal government. He urged those funding increments, a minimal investment for this important work. Testified for further funding for the DD wait list.

5:37:10 PM	DIANE INGLE, MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE HEALTH DEPARTMENT	Requested for support to continue funding of the infrastructure for public health nursing support in the amount of the governor's request. Urged full funding for the immunization registry.
5:41:09 PM	DAN SADDLER	Testified in support of Home and Community based waiver services for those with disabilities. He shared that he had twins, one with autism. There are special stresses on parents who have children with disabilities. He urged that the governor's proposal be accepted.
5:44:05 PM	CANDACE WINKLER, CHILDCARE PROVIDER & PARENT NETWORK	Asked to reinstate the funding of \$750,000 that was in the governor's proposed budget for early childhood development. She mentioned the Ready to Read Task Force. The investment will help many children in the State of Alaska to be all that they can be.
5:47:56 PM	KALEN SAXTON, ALASKA FAMILY CHILDCARE ASSOCIATION	Urged that the \$750,000 be replaced into the legislative proposed budget. She added concerns for those children with FAS and FAE. She urged diagnosis for those conditions.
		<u>ADJOURNMENT</u> The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 PM