

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 18, 2006
10:06 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Chenault called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at [10:06:21 AM](#).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Mike Chenault, Co-Chair
Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
Representative Richard Foster
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Beth Kerttula
Representative Carl Moses

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Bill Stoltze, Vice-Chair
Representative Jim Holm
Representative Bruce Weyhrauch

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

KENAI

Margaret Gilman, Assembly Kenai Borough, Kenai; Tony Lewis, Parent, Kaleidoscope School of Sciences, Kenai; Loretta Spalding, TALENTS, Kenai; Cheri Edwards, Independent Living Center, Soldotna; Elijah Stafford, Kenai; Nadine Hatch, Independent Living Center, Soldotna; Debra Mullins, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, Kenai; David Means, Self, Kenai; Kris Moore, Self, Wasilla

VALDEZ

Alan Sorum, Citizen, Valdez; Ruth Knight, Valdez Schools, Valdez; Deanne Porritt, Citizen, Valdez; Stacy Smith, Community Coordinator, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Valdez; Dr. Kathy Todd, Valdez School Board, Valdez; Melissa Reese, Valdez High School, Valdez

KODIAK

Mark Vinsel, Executive Director, United Fisherman of Alaska, Kodiak; Al Burch, Executive Director, Alaska Draggers Association, Kodiak

KETCHIKAN

Ed Zastrow, Chairman, Pioneer Home Advisory Board, Ketchikan; Sarah Gucker, Big Brothers, Big Sisters,

Ketchikan; Cathy Gucker, Big Brothers, Big Sisters,
Ketchikan; Christine Lyshol, Big Brothers, Big Sisters,
Ketchikan; Bruce Wallace, Vice Chair, Alaska Seafood
Marketing Institute, Ketchikan; Robert Sivertsen, Ketchikan;
Rose Walker, Ketchikan

KETCHIKAN PIONEER HOME

Kris Aubertine; Joan Martin; Vanessa Olson on behalf of
Betty Streeper; Doris Bailey; Vanessa Olson, Social Worker

MAT-SU

Linda Menard, Vice President, Matsu Borough School District,
Matsu; Pat Purchell, Matsu Borough School District, Matsu;
Marilyn Muller, Parent, Matsu Borough School District,
Matsu; Ron Rucker, CEA, Matsu; Debby Johnson, Schools,
Matsu; Tammy Smith, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Matsu; Anne
Killkenny, Education, Matsu; John Cannon, Matsu; Don Zoerb,
Alaska Public Broadcasting, Matsu; Donna Swihart,
GCDSE/Parent, Matsu; Mary Geurde, Matsu

DILLINGHAM

Teresa Seybert, Bristol Bay Emergency Medical Services
(EMS), Dillingham; Rachel Muir, Public Radio, Dillingham;
Nels Anderson, Jr., Self, Dillingham; Dorothy Anderson,
Self, Dillingham

WRANGELL

Julie Decker, Executive Director, SARDFSA-Dive Fisheries,
Wrangell; Alice Rooney, Social Worker, Alaska Island
Community Services, Wrangell; Valerie McCandless, Mayor,
Wrangell; Janet Strom, Self, Wrangell; Gig Decker, SE Alaska
Rainforest Wild, Wrangell

CORDOVA

Valerie Covell, Self, Cordova; Kurt Herschleb, Cordova
District Fishermen United, Cordova; Clay Koplin, President,
Chamber of Commerce, Cordova; Ken Gates, CEO, Cordova
Electric Coop, Cordova; Hap Symmonds, Ocean Beauty Seafood
and Cordova Electric Coop, Cordova

SITKA

Scott McAdams, President, Sitka School Board, Sitka; Kelly
Ferguson, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Sitka; Jane Demmert,
Pioneer Home, Sitka; Fredi Young, Pioneer Home, Sitka;
Theresa Pazar, Pioneer Home, Sitka; Dr. Sharon Cox, Big
Brother, Big Sisters, Sitka; Mary Larsen, Pioneer Homes,
Sitka; John Murray, Self-Fisherman, Sitka

HOMER

Sue Hecks, Kenai Peninsula Emergency Medical Services (EMS),
Anchor Point; Barry Levit, Self, Homer; Deb Germano, Self,
Homer; Scott Wheat, The Center for SEAL, Homer; Kelly Behen,
Self, Homer; Skip Richards, Chugachmuit, Homer; Charlie
Franz, K. Bay Campus Advisory Council, Homer; Joyanna

Geisler, Independent Living Center, Homer; Beth Bowe, Fireweed Academy, Homer; Elise Nacht Boyer, Fireweed Academy, Homer; Meg Mitchell, Self, Homer; Terry Thompson, K. Bay College Advisory Council, Homer; Allen Sagoonick

PALMER PIONEER HOME:

Barbara Hecker; Cathy Christensen; Catherine Cain; Jesse DeVries; Jean Chapman; Karen Steward, Nurse; Maria Strandberg, Resident; Mary McConnell, Social Worker

OFF-NETS

Carol Berger, Bethel; Barbara Lewis, Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS), Haines; Sandy Sanderson, Executive Director, Service for the Blind; Joan McBeen, Tenakee; Gary Hennigh, City Manager, King Cove; Vicky Madsen; Emily Rosebery, Barrow; Alexandria Chartier, Seldovia; Judy Dobbins, Old Harbor; Wanda Baltazar, Kotzebue; Ron Huffman, Adult Basic Education, Nome; Audrey Tate Walunga, Nome; Lee Hagen, Northwest Campus, Nome; Ross Schaeffer, Mayor, Kotzebue; Brad Reeve, KEA, Kotzebue; Lincoln Saito, Educator, Kotzebue; Ben Frantz, Barrow; Barbara Angaiak, Statewide Mentoring Programs, Bethel; Raymond Thor Williams, Mayor, City of Bethel; Kathy Hansen, Adult Basic Education, Bethel; Christy Davis, Department of Corrections, Bethel; Michelle Dewitt, TWC, Bethel; Elizabeth Roll, TWC, Bethel; Jean Gerhardt-Cyrus, Parent, Kiana; Terry Stone, Kodiak; John Stripe, Anchorage; Jan Haines, Ketchikan

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 24th Legislative Session, contact 465-6814. After the 24th Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

#HB365
#HB366

**HB 365-APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS
HB 366-APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET**

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Kenai, Valdez, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Seward, Matsu
Sitka, Wrangell, Petersburg, Homer, Dillingham, Cordova
Bethel, Kotzebue, Barrow, Nome, Delta Junction, Tok
Glennallen, Offnets

TIME	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
10:06:36 AM	Co-Chair Chenault	Convened the House Finance Committee meeting to allow public testimony from

		areas outside of Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.
		KENAI, VALDEZ, KETCHIKAN, KODIAK, SEWARD, MATSU
10:07:03 AM	Margaret Gilman, Assembly Kenai Borough, Kenai	Asked what will happen with the statewide infrastructure during the next 25 years. She encouraged more funding for education and urged that revenue sharing be reinstated.
10:10:58 AM	Tony Lewis, Parent, Kaleidoscope School of Sciences, Kenai	Addressed past year's funding of the charter schools and he applauded that effort. He requested continued funding for that system.
10:12:43 AM	Loretta Spalding, TALENTS, Kenai	Urged continued & full funding for all the youth in transition programs. She concurred for continued full funding for services for the independent living options.
10:14:28 AM	Cheri Edwards, Independent Living Center, Soldotna	Testified in support of Home and Community based waiver services for persons with disabilities.
10:15:13 AM	Elijah Stafford, Kenai	Added his support for the Home and Community based waiver services for persons living with disabilities.
10:16:16 AM	Nadine Hatch, Independent Living Center, Soldotna	Urged greater funding for the youth in transition programs. She testified in support of full funding for the vocational rehabilitation programs and requested that the \$200 thousand dollar increment be restored.
10:17:57 AM	Debra Mullins, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, Kenai	Addressed her support of greater funding for K-12 Education programs.
10:19:53 AM	David Means, Self, Kenai	Addressed the TALENTS program and pointed out the need for funding that productive program. He pointed out that students from the program have proven increased interest for remaining in the school system and being more active in their participation.
10:22:08 AM	Kris Moore, Self, Wasilla	Testified in support of greater funding for K-12 education programs. Greater funding for education is not reaching the kids but rather to the PERS & TRS system deficit. Mr. Moore stressed that the increases need to go into the classrooms.

		VALDEZ
10:24:31 AM	Alan Sorum, Citizen, Valdez	Spoke in support of greater funding for K-12 education programs. He noted concern with where past funding has gone within that system. He mentioned paying the fuel costs, the need for municipal revenue sharing when considering education funding.
10:25:53 AM	Ruth Knight, Valdez Schools, Valdez	Stressed that Valdez is experiencing painful times from lack of funding in education. The Governor proposed an increase. She urged that education-funding decisions must be made quickly and that the \$90 million dollars would barely cover the PERS and TRS deficit.
10:28:21 AM	Deanne Porritt, Citizen, Valdez	Addressed education concerns given the decreased funding in that departments budget.
10:31:12 AM	Stacy Smith, Community Coordinator, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Valdez	Advocated support for the Governor's proposed Youth Success Initiative; she spoke to how it would help continued funding for the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Program in Valdez and statewide.
10:35:42 AM	Dr. Kathy Todd, Valdez School Board, Valdez	Stated that every school district in the State is having programs cut and many problems. All the additionally funding for the electricity has gone into PERS and TRS issue. Most of the current school budget is used for personnel. She urged greater funding for education statewide.
10:38:51 AM	Melissa Reese, Valdez High School, Valdez	Testified in support of greater funding for the K-12 education programs. She pointed out a need to have skilled workers within the State of Alaska and testified in support of the vocational rehabilitation programs. She maintained that children should not be held accountable for the PERS and TRS deficit.
		KODIAK
10:40:35 AM	Mark Vinsel, Executive Director, United Fisherman of Alaska, Kodiak	Spoke to the State's investment in the fish and gaming statewide within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. He urged more funding for the United Fishermen of Alaska. He stated they support the funding level recommended by the Governor this year. He noted past returns of the Alaska Seafood Marketing programs and asked consideration of

		further funding.
10:42:40 AM	Al Burch, Executive Director, Alaska Druggers Association, Kodiak	Pointed out that funding has been cut for the Alaska Seafood Marketing programs and urged that the \$2.3 million dollars be placed back into the budget.
		KETCHIKAN
10:44:25 AM	Ed Zastrow, Chairman, Pioneer Home Advisory Board, Ketchikan	Spoke in support of HB 365 and the Governor's recommended increase to the Pioneer Home component.
10:48:54 AM	Sarah Gucker, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Ketchikan	Read a note from a fellow worker that advocated support of the Governor's proposed Youth Success Initiative and how beneficial the BBBS program has been in her life and that of many other children statewide.
10:49:20 AM	Cathy Gucker, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Ketchikan	Advocated greater support of the Governor's proposed Youth Success Initiative, particularly the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program.
10:49:46 AM	Christine Lyshol, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Ketchikan	Advocated in support of the Governor's proposed Youth Success Initiative, particularly the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program.
10:50:47 AM	Bruce Wallace, Vice Chair, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Ketchikan	Requested further funding for Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute. He mentioned how that agency affects the State's resource development philosophy. He urged that sustainability requires full funding for the Department of Fish and Game.
10:52:03 AM	Robert Sivertsen, Ketchikan	Noted his support for more funding for the Alaska State Pioneer Homes and pointed out the need for more staffing of those facilities.
		MATSU
10:53:49 AM	Linda Menard, Vice President, Matsu Borough School District, Matsu	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. She warned about the decline in quality education for all school districts and urged funding to the cap. She added that revenue sharing is a necessary component for education funding.
10:57:59 AM	Pat Purchell, Matsu Borough	Addressed support of full funding for the K-12 education programs. She urged

	School District, Matsu	that the Legislative members put youth and education first.
10:59:33 AM	Marilyn Muller, Parent, Matsu Borough School District, Matsu	Pointed out the huge education growth increase in the Matsu Valley and the need for full funding support for education. She recommended separate funding for TRS and PERS costs.
11:01:14 AM	Ron Rucker, CEA, Matsu	Commented that the State should not own any part of the pipeline. He spoke in support for full funding for K-12 education programs and urged full funding for TRS and PERS costs separately from the education funding. Mr. Rucker added support of revenue sharing.
11:04:06 AM	Debby Johnson, Schools, Matsu	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. She pointed out that funding for custodians had been cut and that special education hours might be cut. Ms. Johnson urged that separate full funding for TRS and PERS costs be allocated.
11:05:53 AM	Tammy Smith, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Matsu	Advocated support for the Governor's proposed Youth Success Initiative; emphasizing the importance of the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program.
11:07:24 AM	Anne Killkenny, Education, Matsu	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs, adding support for revenue sharing and how that affects education. She did not support the "bonus proposal". She believes that high-energy staff and parents would gravitate to the higher performing schools, undermining the weaker ones. She felt that funding should be added to the base so that all would benefit.
11:10:21 AM	John Cannon, Matsu	Testified in support of full funding for services for people with disabilities.
11:14:11 AM	Don Zoerb, Alaska Public Broadcasting, Matsu	Encouraged continued support for public broadcasting funding and the increment recommended by the Governor.
11:15:27 AM	Donna Swihart, GCDSE/Parent, Matsu	Testified in support of Home and Community based waiver services for persons with disabilities. She addressed the Home Initiative for kids and how it beneficially affects those children that are developmentally delayed. She voiced concern with out-of-State placements.
11:19:51 AM	Mary Geurde,	Spoke in support of full funding for K-

	Matsu	12 education programs and additionally classroom assistants. She acknowledged how teacher's aids help with the reading and math programs. She urged that the critical education situation be addressed with the State's surplus dollars being spent on the children.
		DILLINGHAM
11:22:24 AM	Teresa Seybert, Bristol Bay Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Dillingham	Urged continued support for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) funding increase through the Department of Health and Social Services proposed budget.
11:24:23 AM	Rachel Muir, Public Radio, Dillingham	Encouraged continued support and full funding for public broadcasting.
11:25:55 AM	Nels Anderson, Jr., Self, Dillingham	Urged full funding to the Department of Fish and Game and the Governor's proposed Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute budget component. He stressed how serious that concern is for Alaskan fishermen, continuing a consumer marketing program and the cost of doing business for Alaska fishermen. Mr. Anderson addressed statewide energy concerns and urged support for Power Cost Equalization. Mr. Anderson added his support for fully funding for K-12 education programs.
11:32:38 AM	Dorothy Anderson, Self, Dillingham	Testified in strong support for full funding of the Governor's recommended increment for FASD programs. She warned it would cost more in the long run if the funding is not placed up front. Ms. Anderson added request for continued funding to address the bootlegging concerns happening in the Village Bush areas.
		WRANGELL
11:35:49 AM	Julie Decker, Executive Director, SARDFA-Dive Fisheries, Wrangell	Urged greater funding for the fisheries throughout the State and full funding for the Department of Fish and Game.
11:36:53 AM	Alice Rooney, Social Worker, Alaska Island Community Services,	Testified continued funding support for the long-term flexible care program within the Division of Senior Services. That program allows seniors to remain in their homes safely.

	Wrangell	
11:38:41 AM	Valerie McCandless, Mayor, Wrangell	Voiced appreciation for proposed funding for Public Health and Public Broadcasting in the budget. She included her support for the rural EMS services. Ms. McCandless added her support for funding increments in the Energy Assistance programs and urged support for Power Cost Equalization.
11:40:21 AM	Janet Strom, Self, Wrangell	Said she would not testify.
11:40:38 AM	Gig Decker, SE Alaska Rainforest Wild, Wrangell	Addressed the urgent need for continued funding of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute. He stated that he supported the Governor's requested amount.
		CORDOVA
11:42:17 AM	Valerie Covell, Self, Cordova	Urged support for Power Cost Equalization and added support for full funding for K-12 education programs.
11:43:12 AM	Kurt Herschleb, Cordova District Fishermen United, Cordova	Urged that the Department of Fish and Game be funded at the level proposed by the Governor.
11:43:58 AM	Clay Koplun, President, Chamber of Commerce, Cordova	Urged support for statewide Power Cost Equalization funding.
11:44:59 AM	Ken Gates, CEO, Cordova Electric Coop, Cordova	Urged support for Power Cost Equalization at the Governor's recommended level.
11:46:44 AM	Hap Symmonds, Ocean Beauty Seafood and Cordova Electric Coop, Cordova	Urged support for stabilized funding for Power Cost Equalization. Mr. Symmonds requested that the Department of Fish and Game budget and the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute program be fully funded. He added support for greater funding for the Home and Community based waiver services for those persons with disabilities.
		SITKA
11:49:34 AM	Scott McAdams, President, Sitka School Board, Sitka	Spoke to full funding for K-12 education programs. He stressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity for Schools • Adequacy for Schools

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity in the school budgeting
11:54:13 AM	Kelly Ferguson, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Sitka	Emphasized the importance of the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program, pointed out support for the Governor's proposed Youth Success Initiative. She asked her Little Sister to voice her support and Darien Scarborough emphasized that the program works.
11:55:57 AM	Jane Demmert, Pioneer Home, Sitka	Stated her mother lives at the Sitka Pioneer Home; she urged continued funding for the statewide pioneer home programs, particularly the one in Sitka.
11:57:41 AM	Fredi Young, Pioneer Home, Sitka	Commented that she lives in the Sitka Pioneer Home and urged further funding those programs, particularly the one in Sitka.
11:59:42 AM	Theresa Pazar, Pioneer Home, Sitka	Noted that she lives in the Sitka Pioneer Home and urged continued funding for the statewide programs, particularly the program in Sitka.
12:00:56 PM	Dr. Sharon Cox, Big Brother, Big Sisters, Sitka	Advocated support for the Governor's proposed Youth Success Initiative; she emphasized the importance of the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program.
12:04:55 PM	Mary Larsen, Pioneer Homes, Sitka	Spoke on behalf of her mother who lives in the Sitka Pioneer Home. She urged continued funding for the statewide Pioneer Home programs, particularly the program in Sitka. She worried about staffing cuts occurring in the homes. She stressed that she does not support any rate increases for those currently living in the Pioneer Homes, considering the existing staffing issues.
12:07:48 PM	John Murray, Self-Fisherman, Sitka	Spoke in support of the Governor's proposed budget increment for the Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries budget. He mentioned the need for the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.
		HOMER
12:09:55 PM	Sue Hecks, Kenai Peninsula EMS, Anchor Point	Urged full funding for the Emergency Medical Services grant in the Department of Health and Social Services. She outlined the sacrifices made by volunteer EMS personnel and urged support.
12:12:43 PM	Barry Levit, Self, Homer,	Testified regarding the need to support programs focusing on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and urged full funding that program, especially for diagnosis. He recounted his experience as a mental

		health clinician working with juveniles in rural areas.
12:15:10 PM	Deb Germano, Self, Homer	Testified in support of full funding for K-12 education and in support of revenue sharing. She noted the need for fully funding vocational training and other borough expenses and programs. She also urged funding for Public Broadcasting. Finally, she spoke to the need for greater funding of the Public Defender's office.
12:18:14 PM	Scott Wheat, The Center for SEAL, Homer	Testified in support of full funding for Mental Health Services, including 'Bring the Kids Home Initiative'. He noted the need for a higher level of community service support for youth.
12:20:10 PM	Kelly Behen, Self, Homer	Scott Wheat read the Kids Home Initiative a statement on Ms. Behen's behalf in support of the Bring. She requested that prevention and intervention programs also be fully funded.
12:21:07 PM	Skip Richards, Chugachmuit, Homer	Testified in favor of the 20% increase to the EMS regional budget. He expressed his appreciation of past funding, and spoke to his experiences as an EMS trainer. He explained that in rural areas, Native non-profits have provided additional funding to complete EMS services.
12:25:02 PM	Charlie Franz, K. Bay Campus Advisory Council, Homer	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. He noted that funding the full budget request would provide programs that supported the health care systems in Alaska.
12:26:45 PM	Joyanna Geisler, Independent Living Center, Homer	Testified in support of replacement of the \$200 thousand increment in the Department of Labor, Independent Living component. She thought the increment would provide transitional services for high-risk youth in Southeast Alaska, as well as for sign language interpreter referral services.
12:28:27 PM	Beth Bowe, Fireweed Academy, Homer	Testified in support of continued funding for charter schools, stating that funding would allow schools to remain in operation.
12:29:23 PM	Elise Nacht Boyer, Fireweed Academy, Homer	Testified in support of funding for charter schools. She emphasized the need for that option within the school system and the communities.

12:31:18 PM	Meg Mitchell, Self, Homer	Testified in support of Home and Community based waiver services for persons with disabilities. She also testified in support of funding for Mental Health Services as well as the University of Alaska. Ms. Mitchell urged support for other bills, which support Medicaid dental services. She added her support for the continued funding for diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FASD).
12:35:18 PM	Terry Thompson, K. Bay College Advisory Council, Homer	Emphasized the importance of the University for Alaska and urged full funding support. He noted the benefit of providing excellent higher education within the State to help retain students, as well as to provide needed health care professionals.
12:37:39 PM	Chairman Chenault	AT EASE.
12:47:23 PM	Allen Sagoonick	Testified regarding the importance of fully funding schools throughout the rural communities.
		OFFNETS
12:49:26 PM	Rose Walker, Ketchikan	Testified in support of the Pioneer Homes of Alaska. She noted the shortage of staff at facilities and urged full funding.
12:53:38 PM	PALMER PIONEER HOME: Barbara Hecker	Testified in support of Pioneer Homes of Alaska, and recounted the generations of her family that has relied on those services. She expressed concern over the need for more specialized care for residents with dementia.
12:58:33 PM	Cathy Christenson	Testified in support of funding for the Pioneer Homes of Alaska. She noted that the level of care for patients has increased and that more caregivers are needed.
12:59:44 PM	Catherine Cain	Testified in support of greater funding for the statewide Pioneers Homes.
1:00:32 PM	Jesse DeVries	As a resident of the Pioneer Home, and a former nurse, she testified in support to fully fund the Pioneer Homes and mentioned the need for adequate staffing.
1:01:46 PM	Jean Chapman	Testified in support of the Pioneer Homes of Alaska and expressed concern over the need for more adequate staffing.

1:03:13 PM	Karen Steward, Nurse	Testified in support of full funding for Pioneer Homes. She outlined the number of patients in the Palmer Pioneer Home that require specialized care, and emphasized the need for more trained staff to support them.
1:05:08 PM	Maria Strandberg, Resident	Testified in support of funding for the Pioneer Homes and for adequate staffing.
1:06:02 PM	Mary McConnell, Social Worker	Advocated support of full funding for the Pioneer Homes of Alaska. She pointed out that residents currently appear to have more physical needs, emphasizing the need for increased staffing.
1:09:12 PM	Carol Berger, Bethel	Spoke to the need for entrepreneurship in rural Alaska; she testified in support of the Power Cost Equalization. She emphasized the need to lower fuel costs in the rural areas. She added support for funding for Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and Public Broadcasting.
1:11:40 PM	Barbara Lewis, Alaska Native Sisterhood, Haines	Testified in support of funding for the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fetal Alcohol Syndrome • K-12 Education • Alcohol education counseling • Power Cost Equalization • Pioneer Homes • Increases in nursing salaries • Bring the Kids Home, Youth Success Initiative • Public Broadcasting • Alaska Marine Highway System • Mental Health Services. She urged the Legislature to use oil revenues to provide those services.
1:15:57 PM	Sandy Sanderson, Exec Director, Service for the Blind	Testified in support of funding for Interpreter Referral Services.
1:17:34 PM	Joan McBeen, Tenakee	Testified in support of funding for the Marine Highway System. She emphasized the dependence of remote communities upon the ferry system. Ms. McBeen urged support for Power Cost Equalization and Public Broadcasting.
1:19:41 PM	Gary Hennigh, City Manager,	As a coastal community, he noted the economic impact of federal fisheries

	King Cove	changes. He emphasized that their municipal revenues offset challenges, and urged support of Revenue Sharing equal to \$150 per resident, as well as full Power Cost Equalization funding and full funding for the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Highway and Aviation and Department of Fish and Game.
1:22:48 PM	Vicky Madsen, ANC	Testified in support of vocational rehabilitation programs. She noted the impact of those programs have on her life as a victim suffering from a disabling disease, and her ability now to contribute to the local economy.
1:24:52 PM	Emily Rosebery, Barrow	Urged support for Power Cost Equalization. She requested that the Governor's original budget be reinstated. She pointed to the high impact level on rural areas resulting from the high fuel costs.
1:26:23 PM	Alexandria Chartier, Seldovia	Spoke in support of funding for EMS services, emphasizing the importance to rural areas. She noted the efforts of regional volunteers in education and training.
1:27:42 PM	Judy Dobbins, Old Harbor	Testified in support of proposed increases to EMS programs. She spoke to her experience as an EMS volunteer, and noted efforts in fund raising, education and training. She emphasized the importance of small clinics to remote, village areas.
1:30:14 PM	Wanda Baltazar, Kotzebue	Testified in support of funding for substance abuse and treatment programs. Spoke in favor of full funding the Governor's proposed increment to the FASD programs.
1:31:28 PM	Ron Huffman, Adult Basic Education, Nome	Testified in support of adult basic education programs.
1:33:38 PM	Audrey Tate Walunga, Nome	Testified in support of adult basic education programs. She acknowledged the benefit she received from earning her GED, which resulted in higher education and her current career.
1:36:00 PM	Lee Hagen, Northwest Campus, Nome	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. She spoke to the need for increased funding in specific programs, such as teacher

		education. She noted the service of the University in training the Alaskan workforce.
1:38:32 PM	Ross Schaeffer, Mayor, Kotzebue	Testified in support of support of funding for borough services, such as K-12 education. He expressed concern over the elimination of the mentor program for teachers. He noted support for the University scholars program, as well Revenue Sharing for municipal governments and Power Cost Equalization. He expressed support for the Youth Success Initiative and substance abuse treatment, while solving the PRS/TRS challenges.
1:43:08 PM	Brad Reeve, KEA, Kotzebue	Urged support for Power Cost Equalization. He pointed out the 100% cost increase in fuel over the past year in his community.
1:45:53 PM	Lincoln Saito, Educator, Kotzebue	Testified in support of full funding for Power Cost Equalization. He noted current cost savings measures in electricity. He also expressed support for full funding for the University of Alaska, especially for rural campuses, pointing out the number of older students attending classes and commitment to village life enabled by that education.
1:51:03 PM	Ben Frantz, Barrow	Testified in support of the Governor's proposed \$25 million funding for Power Cost Equalization. He emphasized the importance of that funding to the rural communities. He indicated efforts those areas were already making in energy cost savings.
1:53:36 PM	Barbara Angaiak, Statewide Mentoring Programs, Bethel	Testified in support of reinstating funding to the Mentoring Program; she spoke to the benefits she witnessed working as a mentor.
1:57:31 PM	Raymond Thor Williams, Mayor, City of Bethel	Urged support for Power Cost Equalization. He noted the importance of that funding in offsetting the high cost of living in rural areas, and the ability to retain community members. He also encouraged full separate funding for PERS and TRS, which currently draws municipal revenues away from community needs.

2:00:15 PM	Kathy Hansen, Adult Basic Education, Bethel	Testified in support of adult basic education programs. She noted the importance of GED programs to rural Alaskans.
2:02:35 PM	Christy Davis, Department of Corrections, Bethel	Testified in support of adult basic education programs. She noted the correlation between illiteracy and crime and the importance of obtaining a GED and how it affect the students ability to re-enter society.
2:03:57 PM	Michelle Dewitt, TWC, Bethel	Urged support for Power Cost Equalization. She noted support for the special appropriation for the Kotzebue shelter, Revenue Sharing for non-profits as well as an increased funding for the Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO).
2:06:01 PM	Elizabeth Roll, TWC	Testified in support for funding to support Domestic Violence shelters statewide and urged support for great funding for VPSO's.
2:07:15 PM	Jean Gerhardt- Cyrus, Parent, Kiana	Testified to request restoration of funding for support of programs for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder, especially for the diagnostic services. She noted the successful prevention campaign in her community as a result of funding. Ms. Gerhardt-Cyrus suggested that to not fund prevention results in larger cost to the State.
2:11:23 PM	Terry Stone, Kodiak	Testified in support of fully funding EMS services, which is especially important to the rural areas. She noted the use of those funds in providing equipment and training.
2:16:04 PM	John Stripe, Anchorage	Testified in support of reinstating the \$200 thousand increment for Independent Living. He emphasized the benefit of those services in preventing more costly assisted services. He expressed support of Representative Hawker's amendment adding funds.
2:19:59 PM	Jan Haines, Ketchikan Pioneer Home	Testified in support of full funding for the Alaska Pioneer Homes. She spoke to the support given to her family by those services. She pointed out the need for adequate salaries for nurses and adequate staffing.
2:23:28 PM	Kris Aubertine	Testified in support of full funding for the Alaska Pioneer Homes. She expressed the increasing needs of her family as a resident and stressed the need for

		adequate staffing.
2:24:18 PM	Joan Martin	Testified in support of full funding for the Alaska Pioneer Homes. She spoke to the support provided to her family and urged further funding for care positions.
2:25:26 PM	Vanessa Olson on behalf of Betty Streeper	Testified in support of full funding for the Alaska Pioneer Homes. She stressed the need for increased staffing and discussed the danger to fragile residents in the absence of adequate nurses.
2:27:05 PM	Doris Bailey	Testified in support of full funding for the Alaska Pioneer Homes. A resident for a number of years, she emphasized the need for continuing care. She noted the increased needs of the residents, and the decreased staffing. She spoke to the need for specialized care, especially for conditions such as dementia.
2:31:19 PM	Vanessa Olson, Social Worker	Testified in support of full funding for the Alaska Pioneer Homes. She noted that the majority of admissions to the homes are residents in their 80's; there exists a lack of room in the more supervised areas. Ms. Olson emphasized the lack of staffing positions and urged funding to increase salaries and positions.
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 P.M.

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