



Amendment # 3

Amendment to CS HB95 (FIN)

Offered by: Rep. Doll, *Edgmon,*
Gruenberg,
Kerttula

Pg. 11	Appropriation Items	General Funds	Other Funds
Line 11:			
Teaching and Learning Support	[209,523,100]	[15,425,500]	194,097,600
	210,153,100	16,055,500	
	Allocation		
Line 20:			
Head Start Grants	[6,329,100]		
	6,959,100		

Purpose:

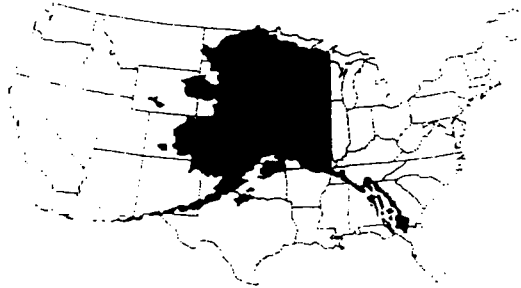
This adds \$630,000 general funds to the Department of Education and Early Development for increased Head Start grants to head start programs around the state. State Head Start funding has remained flat for many years.

National studies show that children who participate in quality preschools are more likely to graduate from high school than other children, are less likely to need expensive special education or remedial services, and are more likely to attend college and be employed later in life.

With the flat funding, Head Start programs have been forced to eliminate service to 361 children, close services in 6 communities, reduce classroom hours, change program options, scale back transportation services, freeze staff wages, defer on-going maintenance and repairs to facilities, among other things. This funding would allow programs to not only maintain services but also expand Head start to address unmet demand.

3600 Children Served

109 Communities

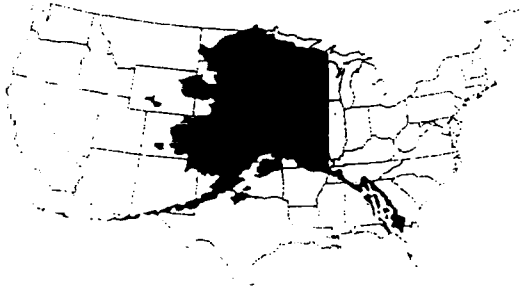


927 Staff

8292 Volunteers

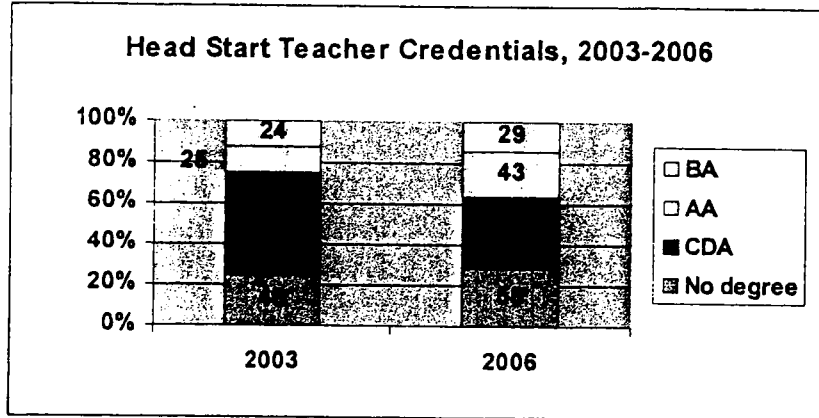
12,000 – 15,000 Children Un-served

102 Communities



800 Children on Head Start
Waitlist

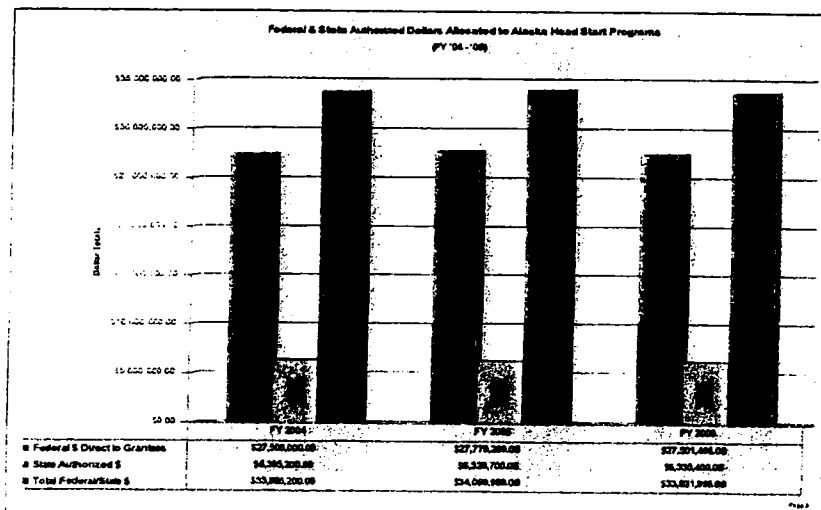
- ❖ **Quality Early Childhood Education Services:** Research shows that well-trained teachers are a key component of high quality child development programs. In spite of funding and distance challenges, Alaska's Head Start grantees have increased the number of teachers with BA degrees in Early Childhood Education and significantly increased the number of teachers with AA degrees since 2003. This achievement not only has raised Head Start program quality but also has helped Alaska address its statewide shortage of trained early childhood educators.



- ❖ **Economic Impact:** In 2006, Head Start programs employed 926 people across the state. If Head Start were a private company, it would be among the top 20 of the state's largest employers. In many smaller communities, the Head Start program is an important source of employment and local economic activity.

What is the challenge?

- ❖ **Federal & State Head Start Funding:** Head Start funding from the state of Alaska has remained static for many years while the cost of providing services has continued to increase. In FY 06, federal funding for the Head Start program was reduced by 1%. This resulted in the reduction of early childhood health and education services for the nation's most at-risk children and families, according to a survey by the National Head Start Association (NHSA). The 2006 cut was imposed in the context of an estimated 11 % real decline (inflation adjusted) in federal funding from fiscal year 2002 through fiscal year 2007, which could grow to even a higher 13 % under the proposed federal budget for 2008.



BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

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March 15, 2007

Representative Les Gara
Juneau, AK 99644

Dear Representative Gara:

I understand that you are soliciting comments from Alaskan Head Start programs regarding the implications of another year of flat funding.

I am the Director of the Bristol Bay Native Association Head Start located in Dillingham. We currently serve 97 children in the communities of Dillingham, Naknek, King Salmon, Togiak, and New Stuyahok.

Due to the flat funding in the State and reduction of federal funding, we have dropped two management positions in the past two years. This has caused existing managers to pull 'double-duty'. Additionally, we have been unable to hire much needed additional help for certain positions. Our Dillingham cook, for instance, puts out 80 meals a day, washes the dishes, makes the menus and cleans the kitchen, all without help, and with minimal compensation.

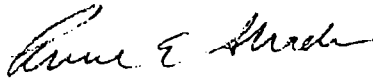
With the skyrocketing prices for utilities and gasoline we are looking at having to discontinue bus services. Some of our communities have gas prices at nearly \$7 / gallon. The population that we serve often has no access to personal transportation and halting this service would have an extremely detrimental effect on our attendance rates.

Another cut that we are considering is to the Family Support personnel. We are currently a Strengthening Families pilot site and strongly believe that providing opportunities for family support is a critical piece to supporting health communities. These half time workers provide parent trainings, workshops and family oriented activities on a regular basis. Because they are not required in the Head Start performance standards, this is a logical place to cut costs if necessary.

We had a program in Manokotak up until about a month ago. We lost the lease in the building two years ago; that, coupled with a small population base made it impossible to continue the center based program out there so we opted to serve the remaining children with a home based model. Because we are required to maintain the funded enrollment level, the funding from this site was used to open a new center in the Bristol Bay Borough School which currently serves 17 children. The community of Manokotak would very much like to have their center based program reinstated and it looks like they will have enough children to justify one but the funding to reopen the center is no longer available.

As you can see, years of flat funding have severely affected our program. We are already out to the bare minimum to provide quality services. We would not be able to serve more children with a 10% increase of State funding but we could continue to provide much needed, quality services to Alaska's most needy population.

Thank you for your interest in Head Start,



Anne Shade

BBNA Head Start Director

Tribal Councils
Served by BBNA:

Aleknagik

Chignik Bay

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake

Clarke Point

Curyung

Egegik

Ekuk

Ekwok

Igiugig

Una

Ivanof Bay

Kanatak

King Salmon

Kokhanok

Koliganek

Levelock

Manokotak

Naknek

New Stuyahok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Pedro Bay

Perryville

Port Heiden

Port Moller

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Totvik

Unalakleet

Ugashik

EARLY START

Significant research establishes benefits of early education

Older long-term studies:

- Perry, Abecedarian, and Chicago-Child Parent Centers Studies showed the following in general terms:
- Showed children who received early ed earned more money, less reliance on welfare and less likely to be imprisoned, higher graduation rates, less likely to repeat a grade or need special education.
- For every \$1 invested in Perry there was a \$17 savings, \$4 savings in the Abecedarian study and a \$7 savings in the CPC study.

Recent studies:

- New York each dollar invested saves .41 to .62 cents
- Wisconsin each dollar invested saves .68 cents
- Savings in lower grade retention, less special ed, and increased classroom efficiency
- NWAB showing children in early ed testing a year above others

Despite budget deficits 15 states increased spending on early education

Fairness issue with exit exam and NCLB. Need to set up our kids for success not failure. This is a good first step based on solid research.