

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 16, 2007
1:37 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Chenault called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at [1:37:35 PM](#).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Mike Chenault, Co-Chair
Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Stoltze, Vice-Chair
Representative Harry Crawford
Representative Les Gara
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Mary Nelson
Representative Bill Thomas, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Richard Foster

ALSO PRESENT

Representative Andrea Doll; Representative Beth Kerttula; Elizabeth Porter, Love, INC; Julie Morris, Faith Based Church Initiatives; George Briggs, Juneau Coop Christian Ministry; Mary Hakala, Great Alaska Schools; Pamela Mueller-Guy, Southeast Alaska Independent Living; Brian Johnson, Client, Southeast Alaska Independent Living; Mike Zigler, Great Alaska Schools; Brenda Taylor, Great Alaska Schools; Susan Musante, SOTERIA-Alaska; Stephanie Ashley, University of Alaska Southeast; Kevin Skeek, University of Alaska Southeast; Michael Ciri, University of Alaska Southeast; Jai Cary, University of Alaska Southeast; Walter Majorous, Juneau Youth Services; Melinda Cavanaugh, Adult Day Program; Beth Rivest, Juneau Community Charter School; Marianne Mills, Southeast Senior Services; Bev Ingram, Alaska Infant Learning Program; Darryl Tseu, Juneau Community Charter School; Harriet Milks, Juneau Community Charter School; Rosemary Hagevig, Catholic Community Services; Martha Penrose, Juneau; Bob Doll, City and Borough of Juneau; Eva Bennett, Juneau; Kathie Wasserman, Alaska Municipal League; Carl Rose, Alaska Association of Alaska School Boards; Pam Dunker, Juneau; Andy Story, Juneau School Board; Jeff Irwin, Independent Living, Juneau; Harold Stepp, Juneau; Maria Rosales, Juneau

Community Charter School, Lisa Greenough, Juneau Community Charter School; Becky Bear, Alaska Personal Tours

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

None

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

HB 95 "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; and providing for an effective date."

HB 96 "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."

Public Testimony - Juneau
(no action taken)

The following overview was taken in log note format. Handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 25th Legislative Session, contact 465-6814. After the 25th Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

TIME	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
1:40:55 PM	Elizabeth Porter, Love, INC	Testified in support of funding \$414,000 for the Office of Faith Based Initiatives. She related the services provided by Love, INC.
1:42:38 PM	Julie Morris, Faith Based Church Initiatives	Spoke in support of funding for the Office of Faith Based Initiatives. Some of the money would go toward administering a federal grant which would help small social service organizations like Love, INC and the Glory Hole.
1:44:13 PM	George Briggs, Juneau Co-op Christian Ministry	Highlighted Glory Hole services and spoke in favor of funding faith-based organizations. Spoke of the need for increased funding to accommodate the homeless.
1:47:19 PM	Mary Hakala, Great Alaska	Spoke in favor of funding for quality schools. She reminded the committee of

	Schools	the numbers of parents concerned about K-12 education programs.
1:48:50 PM	Pamela Mueller-Guy, Southeast Alaska Independent Living	Testified in favor of funding of independent living grants such as for SAIL. She spoke of personal benefits from these grants.
1:52:25 PM	Brian Johnson, Client, Southeast Alaska Independent Living	Testified in support of funding for interpretative services.
1:53:46 PM	Mike Zigler, Great Alaska Schools	Spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs. He said he would like to see money going to the classrooms, rather than to pay retirement funds.
1:56:04 PM	Susan Musante, SOTERIA-Alaska	Explained that her organization targets the seriously mentally ill. She spoke in support of funding for mental health programs. She requested restoration of funds for SOTERIA.
1:59:11 PM	Brenda Taylor, Great Alaska Schools	Spoke as a parent of a Juneau Charter School student. She testified in support of continued funding for charter school grants. She thanked the committee for past funding.
2:04:15 PM	Stephanie Ashley, University of Alaska Southeast	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University.
2:05:11 PM	Kevin Skeek, University of Alaska Southeast	Testified in favor of full funding for the University.
2:06:05 PM	Michael Ciri, University of Alaska Southeast	Spoke as a student in favor of funding for the university. He related a personal experience with the university system. He requested the adoption of the Board of Regents amended budget request.
2:09:11 PM	Jai Cary, University of Alaska Southeast	Related her personal story as a student and as an employee of the university. She spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University.
2:11:54 PM	Walter Majorous, Juneau Youth Services	Thanked the committee for funding for behavioral health grants, fetal alcohol syndrome, and Bring the Kids Home initiative. He requested the restoration of funding for Bring the Kids Home. He related the history

		behind Denali KidCare funding cuts and requested an expansion of the program.
2:15:41 PM	Melinda Cavanaugh, Adult Day Program	Shared her experience of caring for an aged parent. She requested funding for the Adult Bridge Program.
2:18:04 PM	Beth Rivest, Juneau Community Charter School	Related a personal story as a parent of a child in the charter school. She testified in support of continued funding for charter school grants.
2:19:26 PM	Marianne Mills, Southeast Senior Services	Testified in support of funding for Senior Community Grants. She listed cost savings by funding these grants.
2:24:44 PM	Bev Ingram, Alaska Infant Learning Program	Testified in favor of funding for the Alaska Infant Learning Program. She spoke about the need to fund programs for autism diagnosis. She spoke of federal law regarding early intervention.
2:28:35 PM	Darryl Tseu, Juneau Community Charter School	Testified in support of funding for schools fewer than 150 pupils, such as the Juneau Community Charter School.
2:30:01 PM	Harriet Milks, Juneau Community Charter School	Testified in support of \$250,000 in funding for schools with fewer than 150 pupils, such as the Juneau Community Charter School. She stressed the breadth of educational philosophies and challenges in meeting students' needs.
2:33:39 PM	Rosemary Hagevig, Catholic Community Services	Spoke in support of funding for human services needs of the state such as Keep the Seniors Home, for restoring funding for Denali KidCare to 200 percent of the poverty level, for additional funds for early intervention services, and for an equitable distribution of matching grants (see written remarks). She stressed the importance of the non-profit sector for its contributions to delivering much-needed social services.
2:36:23 PM	Martha Penrose, Juneau	Voiced support for Adult Daycare Bridge program and other senior grant programs that allow seniors to be cared for in their homes or with their families.
2:39:46 PM	Bob Doll, Member, City and Borough of Juneau	Testified in support of the governor's proposal to reinstate municipal revenue sharing and asked that it be divorced from PERS and TRS assistance.
2:43:17 PM	Kathie	Voiced support for the legislative

	Wasserman, Alaska Municipal League	consideration of PERS and TRS stability. Testified in support of the governor's proposal to reinstate \$48.1 million for municipal revenue sharing.
2:45:44 PM	Carl Rose, Alaska Association of Alaska School Boards	Spoke in support of funding for education programs. He pointed out that the PERS and TRS liability is a concern. He referenced the sic-point concern from previous testimony. He testified in support of the governor's proposal to reinstate municipal revenue sharing grants.
2:50:26 PM	Pam Dunker, Juneau	Testified in support of Independent Living Grants. She stressed the need to support the hearing impaired with services.
2:53:58 PM	Andy Story, Juneau School Board	Expressed appreciation for education funding in the previous year. She observed that the governor's proposed funding level would result in a \$1.8 million reduction to the Juneau School District. She asked the Committee to look at district cost factors. She testified in support of full funding for pupil transportation.
2:58:52 PM	Jeff Irwin	Testified in support of Centers for Independent Living. These centers help allow individuals to remain in the work force and to live independently.
3:02:23 PM	Harold Stepp	Testified in support of assisted living support for seniors. He shared his personal story with the committee.
3:05:42 PM	Recessed	
3:36:22 PM	Resumed	
	Maria Rosales, Juneau Community Charter School	Testified as a parent in support of continued funding for charter school grants.
3:38:00 PM	Lisa Greenough, Juneau Community Charter School	Spoke in support of continued funding for charter school grants. She noted the inequity in funding of various sized schools. She brought attention to a new charter school, the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School in Anchorage. She related a positive personal experience with charter schools.
3:45:44 PM	Becky Bear, Alaska Personal Tours	Spoke in favor of funding for tourism, specifically the Alaska Tourism Industry. She described independent tourism activities which sometimes get

		overlooked by the cruise industry.
3:53:05 PM	Adjourned.	