

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
March 2, 2010  
1:36 p.m.

1:36:17 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Hawker called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Mike Hawker, Co-Chair  
Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair  
Representative Bill Thomas Jr., Vice-Chair  
Representative Allan Austerman  
Representative Mike Doogan  
Representative Anna Fairclough  
Representative Neal Foster  
Representative Les Gara  
Representative Reggie Joule  
Representative Mike Kelly

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Woodie Salmon

ALSO PRESENT

Darren Snyder, Cooperative Extension Agent, UAF; Walter Majoros, Executive Director of Juneau Youth Services; Al Dwyer, Mayor of Petersburg; Bob Janes, Gastineau Guiding Company, Juneau; Sheila Wray, Early Learning Services Coordinator, Association for Education of Young Children; Shilo Valle, self; Anthony Barril, self; Sherri Wes, self; Travis Lewis, Vice-Chairman, Elfin Cove Non-profit; A. Mille Schoonover, Mayor of Craig; Linda Snow, Board Member of SE conference and Co-Chair of the Economic Development Committee; Henrich Kadake, City of Kake; Sonja Koukel, Assistant Professor, Extension Program, UAF; Carl Brodersen, President, Juneau Youth Sailing; Andi Story, Juneau School Board; Carl Rose, Executive Director of the Association of Alaska School Boards; Jeremy Geezer, Director of Tours, Gastineau Guiding Company; Patricia Dobbins, Co-President, National Alliance of Mental Illness, (NAMI) Alaska; Maxine Thompson, Angoon, President of the Southeast Conference; Joy Lyon, Executive Director, Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC); Nikki Morris, Family Services Coordinator, AEYC; Laura Haywood, President, Friends of Alaska CASA; Beth Weigel, Director, Discovery Southeast; Gregory Pearce, Freelance Journalist; Jennifer

Card, Governor's Council on Disabilities in Special Education

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Geoff Carroll, Self, Barrow; Marie Carroll, Self, Barrow; Paula Cullenberg, Program Leader, Marine Advisory Program, University of Alaska, Nome; John Bockman, College of Rural and Community Development, University of Alaska, Nome; Rose Fosdick, Natural Resource Division, Kawerak Incorporated, Nome; Eric Osborne, Self, Nome; George Provost, Youth Suicide Prevention, Behavioral Health Department, Maniilag Association, Kotzebue; Calvin Schaeffer, Manager, Kotzebue Airport, Kotzebue; Mike Hoffman, Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Bethel; Tim Andrew, Director of Natural Resources, AVCP, Bethel; Lisa Ellanna, Self, Nome; Margaret Thomas, Self, Nome; Kelly Morgan, Self, Juneau; Herman Morgan, Aniak; John Conwell, Superintendent, City of Unalaska School District, Unalaska; Kerrie Kinison, Self, Haines; Lorie Morris, Executive Director, Alaska Baptist Family Services, Anchorage; Patty Elias, Self, Tanana; Shirley Marquardt, City of Unalaska; Tracey Schaeffer, Best Beginnings; Zoya Johnston, Director of the Museum of the Aleutians, Unalaska; Jeanne Garhardt, Self; Lynne Osheim, Parents as Teachers, Hoonah; Frances Purdy, Director of Alaska Youth and Family Network (AYFN), Anchorage; Jessie Lawrence, Youth Navigator for AYFN; Cathy Taylor, Self, Eagle River; Renee Leyland, Anchorage, Self; Amanda Metivier, Statewide Coordinator, Facing Foster Care in Alaska; Candice Tucker, Self; Mark Fish, Self; Grant Baker, Self, Engineer Professor, UAA; Andy Varner, Executive Director, Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference; Rebecca Shier, Statewide Representative, Facing Foster Care in Alaska; Melinda Myers, Senior Manager, Best Beginnings; Barbara Brown, Best Beginnings; Susan Anderson, Volunteer Chair, Best Beginnings; Kyle Gardner, Denali Family Services; Heather Jackson, Bring Home the Kids; Ramona Duby, Self; Rob Cappuzzo, Early Childhood teacher, UAA; Jennifer O'Neal, Manager, Alaska Children Services

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

The following overview was taken in log note format. Handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 26th Legislative Session, contact 465-6814. After the 26th Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

[1:36:25 PM](#)

#hb300

#hb302

HOUSE BILL NO. 300

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government, for certain programs, and to capitalize funds; making supplemental appropriations; making appropriations under art. IX, sec. 17(c), Constitution of the State of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

HOUSE BILL NO. 302

"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."

<b>TIME</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<a href="#">1:36:25 PM</a>	Co-Chair Hawker	Explained that the testimony will be from the operating budgets HB 300 and HB 302. This meeting was noticed for the public in a timely manner.
<a href="#">1:38:39 PM</a>	DARREN SNYDER, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AGENT, UAF,  <b>JUNEAU</b>	Thanked the finance committee for their continued support of the UAF cooperative extension service programs. The program hosts outreach efforts to youths and community sustainability and economic efforts. Testified in support of the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP). He heard that their funding is in jeopardy or has been cut.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Reported that the MAP program funding has not been cut or taken out of the budget. The only issue is one expiring federal grant.
<a href="#">1:41:51 PM</a>	Representative Munoz	Asked about the university's \$4.5 million in undesignated funds and asked if the MAP program would apply for those funds.
	Co-Chair Hawker	Specified that the university makes its own decisions on their priority programs.
	Vice-Chair Thomas	Understood that the university would absorb the MAP program.
<a href="#">1:43:08 PM</a>	Representative Foster	Concerned about Northwestern Alaska district with positions that may be affected if funding was cut. He wanted to clarify this issue.
<a href="#">1:44:06 PM</a>	WALTER MAJOROS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JUNEAU YOUTH	Thanked the House Finance Committee for the support of the Bring The Kids Home Initiative. He noted the importance of the peer navigator position. Testified in support of community needs based

	SERVICES,	services, outpatient services, transition services, foster care services. Medicaid will not pay for these services. Requested help to finish the job.
<a href="#">1:46:48 PM</a>	AL DWYER, MAYOR OF PETERSBURG,	Talked to the Petersburg MAP position and was concerned about university making this decision. He asked the chair to send a letter to the university in support of this position. He referred to the written document signed by the Southeast Conference of Mayors (copy on file). This was for three positions in DCCED.
<a href="#">1:49:38 PM</a>	Representative Gara	Presented an alternative view of the MAP program. He would be surprised to see any expansion in the MAP program with the present budget.
<a href="#">1:50:45 PM</a>	BOB JANES, GASTINEAU GUIDING COMPANY, JUNEAU,	Introduced his mission to bring science into their tourism mission. The MAP program offered help and support. He spoke in support of the MAP field positions that provided so much help. He added the program could be added to continuing education at the university. This would provide economic opportunity, workforce development, and research.
<a href="#">1:53:06 PM</a>	SHEILA WRAY, EARLY LEARNING SERVICES COORDINATOR, ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN,	Supported early education funding for ages 3 to 5 years old. The quality of care by teachers in the profession is so important.
<a href="#">1:54:48 PM</a>	SHILO VALLE, SELF,	Supported keeping the increments the same in Foster Care in Alaska. He was part of the transitional program and would not be here if not for the program. The program helped him become a contributing member of society.
<a href="#">1:56:23 PM</a>	ANTHONY BARRIL, SELF,	Supported the Foster Care Program in Alaska and keeping the program to Bring The Kids Home.
<a href="#">1:58:35 PM</a>	SHERRI WES, SELF,	Thanked the legislature for funding mental health programs. Spoke to her personal experience with her daughter.
<a href="#">2:01:23 PM</a>	TRAVIS LEWIS, VICE-CHAIRMAN, ELFIN COVE NON-PROFIT,	He spoke for the support of attorney aid for small communities without city attorneys or legal help.
<a href="#">2:02:51 PM</a>	A. MILLE	Supported the funding for training

	SCHOONOVER, MAYOR OF CRAIG,	advisors for newly elected officials in rural communities.
<a href="#">2:04:19 PM</a>	LINDA SNOW, BOARD MEMBER OF SE CONFERENCE AND CO-CHAIR OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,	Spoke for the increase of three government specialist positions. Many small communities are struggling economically and cannot hire a lot of staff. It is important to have expertise and help.
2:06:14 PM	HENRICH KADAKE, CITY OF KAKE,	Supported the Southeast Mayors letter and testified how important these positions are in Kake.
2:07:32 PM	SONJA KOUKEL, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, EXTENSION PROGRAM, UAF,	Thanked the committee for their support of the cooperative extension program. Testified in support of the funding for the six coastal extension agents in MAP. They have been funded in the past by grants and donations, but funding by the legislature is needed so the positions are not lost. The community relies on these programs.
2:09:48 PM	CARL BRODERSEN, PRESIDENT, JUNEAU YOUTH SAILING,	Thanked the committee for the support of 4H, the cooperative extension service. These programs have a positive effect on many lives.
<a href="#">2:11:57 PM</a>	ANDI STORY, JUNEAU SCHOOL BOARD,	Spoke in support of foundation formula increases. She noted that the PERS and TRS funding liability are crucial. Testified in support of the recommendation of the joint legislative task force. Intent on deep professional schooling for teachers.
<a href="#">2:14:26 PM</a>	CARL ROSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS,	Supported and thanked the subcommittee and committee for HB 300. The three top association priorities are funding, innovation, and early childhood development. This budget fully funds the foundation for FY2011. The early childhood pilot funding is especially important and Best Beginnings.
<a href="#">2:16:36 PM</a>	JEREMY GEEZER, DIRECTOR OF TOURS, GASTINEAU GUIDING	Supported the MAP program that has been instrumental within their company for giving cruise ship passengers the opportunity to learn science in Alaska. Spoke of the Cruise with Purpose created by Holland America Line to give

	COMPANY,	passengers a chance to give back to the communities they visit.
<a href="#">2:18:57 PM</a>	PATRICIA DOBBINS, CO-PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS, (NAMI) ALASKA,	Thanked the committee for the addition of \$275,000 of general fund mental health funding for the peer navigation program. Supported this program that trains and teaches others. Suggested a reconsideration to adopt the governor's budget amounts for mental health. She spoke in support of Bring the Kids Home program.
<a href="#">2:20:46 PM</a>	MAXINE THOMPSON, ANGOON, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE,	Spoke on behalf of the Community and Regional Affairs request for additional local government specialists. These programs are necessary for training of newly elected officials in smaller communities. She sees a breakdown and unnecessary frustration when the proper training is not given.
<a href="#">2:23:01 PM</a>	JOY LYON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN (AEYC),	Supported investing in early childhood education. She believed it is cheaper to invest in children when they are young. This results in prevention in crime in the future. The first 5 years of a child's life is so important. She emphasized that money spent now will translate into money saved by the state in the future.
<a href="#">2:25:54 PM</a>	NIKKI MORRIS, FAMILY SERVICES COORDINATOR, AEYC,	Thanked the committee for the increase in the child care reimbursement rates. Asked for an increase in the parent eligibility rates to enable more families to access child care assistance. In Juneau parents of two young children could look at a \$1345 per month in child care. She indicated when child care assistance is not available parents may seek child care that is not regulated or safe.
<a href="#">2:28:03 PM</a>	LAURA HAYWOOD, PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF ALASKA CASA,	Supported basic foster care in Alaska. She supported the volunteer mentorship program for children in state custody. The group advocates for children in state custody. These children have often lost their families or help from stable adults in their lives and need guidance from adults.
<a href="#">2:30:16 PM</a>	BETH WEIGEL, DIRECTOR, DISCOVERY SOUTHEAST,	Supported the MAP programs and the ocean adventures curriculum to small Southeast communities.

<a href="#">2:31:46 PM</a>	GREGORY PEARCE, FREELANCE JOURNALIST,	Supported Mental Health programs for children.
<a href="#">2:33:54 PM</a>	AT EASE	
<a href="#">2:52:13 PM</a>	RECONVENED	
<a href="#">2:52:19 PM</a>	GEOFF CARROLL, SELF, BARROW (via teleconference),	Testified in support of mental health issues in the state. Recently, he had traveled to Juneau to meet with legislators on the issue. He requested adequate funding for the Bring the Kids Home Initiative, in particular; full funding for the Peer Navigation increment. A short time ago, his 15 y/o son had a sudden psychological break, triggered by Dramamine. He told of the challenges faced in finding proper help for his son. The family discovered the Alaska Family and Youth Network, who directed the family in a Wellness Recovery Action Plan, which proved helpful. The family has been able to navigate the challenge through the Peer Navigation program. Co-Chair Hawker replied that the programs would continue to be funded.
<a href="#">2:56:52 PM</a>	MARIE CARROLL, SELF, BARROW (via teleconference),	Urged support for the continued funding of the Peer Navigations program under the Bring the Kids Home Initiative. She reiterated the story told by Mr. Carroll concerning their son's mental challenges. She specifically highlighted the challenges faced in rural communities when seeking resources and help for mental health issues.
<a href="#">3:04:02 PM</a>	PAULA CULLENBERG, PROGRAM LEADER, MARINE ADVISORY PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, NOME (via teleconference),	Testified in support of funding for Marine Advisory Programs (MAP). She opined the closing of the Nome Marine Advisory Office. The office had been funded by private funds from the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, and had initiated successful programs in Nome and 15 villages in the Bering Straits region. The program was in the Board of Regent's request to the governor. The governor removed most of the priority programs from the university budget request, including MAP. She requested funding for 6 positions in Nome, Dillingham, Unalaska, Kodiak, Cordova and Petersburg. She clarified that if

		granted, the funding would be used exclusively for the 6 positions.
<a href="#">3:06:24 PM</a>	JOHN BOCKMAN, COLLEGE OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, NOME (via teleconference),	Urged support for full funding of the University of Alaska budget.
<a href="#">3:07:08 PM</a>	ROSE FOSDICK, NATURAL RESOURCE DIVISION, KAWERAK INCORPORATED, NOME (via teleconference),	Expressed support for full funding of the University of Alaska budget request, specifically for the Marine Advisory Program. She stressed that access to educational services and programs in rural areas should be a priority. The community would like to see the program continue to teach skills, such as; survival skills in the water, near shore fisheries research, coordinating the Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference, and high school summer science programs. She concluded urging support for the university operating request with the budget for FY11: Economic Sustainability; Application of University Research and Response to Community Needs in Costal Alaska- MAP.
<a href="#">3:09:12 PM</a>	ERIC OSBORNE, SELF, NOME (via teleconference),	Spoke in support of the Marine Advisory Program (MAP). He shared his experience as a commercial fisherman and urged funding for the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. He shared that the money generated through commercial fisheries that began as experiments under MAP was exponentially more than the cost of funding the MAP program. He thought that zoning of the seas by the federal government would require knowledge at the local level to protect residential use of the marine environment. Representative Foster requested that Ms. Cullenberg to contact his office for follow up questions. She replied that she would.
<a href="#">3:12:43 PM</a>	GEORGE PROVOST, YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION,	Spoke in favor of funding programs that focus on suicide prevention. He expressed the desire to see more money allocated to combat suicide throughout

	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, MANIILAG ASSOCIATION, KOTZEBUE (via teleconference ),	the state. He expressed particular concern for Alaska Native males as a demographic susceptible to suicide.
<a href="#">3:14:27 PM</a>	CALVIN SCHAEFFER, MANAGER, KOTZEBUE AIRPORT, KOTZEBUE (via teleconference ),	Testified about the extreme difference in the cost of living between rural and urban areas and how that related to the state's geographical differential or subsistence pay scale. People in Kotzebue pay more than double the cost of fuel than in Anchorage. This raises the cost of living by double. A two to three bedroom house costs \$400 per month to heat in the winter. All commodities shipped into the community need to be flown in from October to July, which results in high food and supply costs. For instance, a half gallon of milk in Kotzebue costs over \$6.00. He felt that wage increases for employees in the city, at the airport in particular, should be raised. Co-Chair Hawker asked if the airport employees had union representation. Mr. Schaeffer replied yes. Co-Chair Hawker suggested that the employees talk to their union.
<a href="#">3:19:28 PM</a>	MIKE HOFFMAN, ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS (AVCP), BETHEL (via teleconference ),	Spoke in support of the governor's request to add 15 fully funded Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) positions to the FY11 budget. Approximately two-thirds of the remote villages in the state have no form of local law enforcement. Geographic constraints, inclement weather and heavy case loads contribute to the inability of troopers stationed in the regional hubs to respond to issues for hours, sometimes days. According to a report from the Alaska Native Commission: 30 percent of all child abuse, neglect, and injury reports involve native children. Violence against native women was an epidemic and the native murder rate in the state was 4 times the national average. The suicide rate for native males ages 20-24 is 30 times the national suicide rate. The presence of a village based VPSO deters crime.

		Public safety should be the highest priority to provide for a good quality of life.
<a href="#">3:23:08 PM</a>	TIM ANDREW, DIRECTOR OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AVCP, BETHEL (via teleconference ) ,	Expressed dismay that the ports coordinator position had not been in the budget allocation for the community of Bethel. He felt that there was a great need for assistance with the regulatory process concerning natural resources in Bethel. He said that Bethel had the highest per capita harvest of wild foods in the state, which drives the community interest to navigate the process in order to challenge competing interests in the game resources.
<a href="#">3:25:36 PM</a>	LISA ELLANNA, SELF, NOME (via teleconference ) ,	Expressed concern with the closing of the Alaska Legal Services office in Nome. She felt the service was necessary and gave some examples of cases that Alaska Legal Services had assisted within the community.
<a href="#">3:27:20 PM</a>	MARGARET THOMAS, SELF, NOME (via teleconference ) ,	Testified in support of more funding for the Nome branch of the Alaska Legal Services. She said that an additional \$150,000 appropriation would be helpful to offset the programs expenses. Co-Chair Hawker said the issue would be revisited.
<a href="#">3:30:19 PM</a>	KELLY MORGAN, SELF, JUNEAU (via teleconference ) ,	Spoke in support of the budget for children's services. She pointed out to the committee that the family income and contribution schedule on the application had not been updated since 2002. She urged the increase of childcare assistance funds so that families were able to keep their jobs and pay the high cost of childcare.
<a href="#">3:32:18 PM</a>	HERMAN MORGAN, ANIACK (via teleconference ) ,	Spoke in support of programs that enhance the lives of people living in rural areas. He stressed that food production practices and subsistence living should be supported. He also suggested alternative red meat production; bison, musk ox, reindeer, and arctic cattle. He expressed concern with subsistence living along the Yukon/Kuskoquim. He listed a variety of ways in which Alaskans can grow their own food, raise their own livestock and subsist successfully.
<a href="#">3:39:01 PM</a>	JOHN CONWELL,	Voiced support for funding the Marine

	SUPERINTENDENT , CITY OF UNALASKA SCHOOL DISTRICT, UNALAKSA (via teleconference ) ,	Advisory Program in the university request. The direction and expertise provided by the MAP agent in Unalaska has enriched the lives and education of student for the last 6 years. The MAP agent has also become an endeared member of the community.
<a href="#">3:39:05 PM</a>	KERRIE KINISON, SELF, HAINES (via teleconference ) ,	Urged support for continued funding for the Long Term Care Ombudsman. She relayed her personal struggle with caring for her elderly parents and the help offered by her Long Term Care Ombudsman. She expressed concern for the abuse of the elderly in nursing homes and urged protection for the elderly in the state. Co-Chair Hawker relayed that the base funding remained fully intact in the budget proposal.
<a href="#">3:42:17 PM</a>	LORIE MORRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA BAPTIST FAMILY SERVICES, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference ) ,	Expressed support for funding the Bring the Kids Home program. She requested that the committee fully fund the governor's request to help children with behavioral health needs. Co-Chair Hawker said that the committee would work to support the request.
<a href="#">3:44:32 PM</a>	PATTY ELIAS, SELF, TANANA (via teleconference ) ,	Urged support for full funding of the University of Alaska budget request.
<a href="#">3:45:21 PM</a>	SHIRLEY MARQUARDT, CITY OF UNALASKA (via teleconference ) ,	Urged support for the continued funding of the Marine Advisory Program. She listed the ways in which the advisor had enhanced the education of the children in her community. She said at the Conference of Mayors in 2009, there had been a consensus that the Marine Advisory Program was necessary in the state. She urged support of funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System, especially service enhancements for the Aleutian Islands.
<a href="#">3:50:28 PM</a>	TRACEY SCHAEFFER, BEST BEGINNINGS (via teleconference ) ,	Urges support for funding for early childhood services specifically, Best Beginnings. Co-Chair Hawker said that the governor's request had been doubled by the budget subcommittee.
<a href="#">3:52:50 PM</a>	ZOYA JOHNSTON,	Testified in support of funding for the

	DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM OF THE ALEUTIANS, UNALASKA (via teleconference ),	University of Alaska in the operating budget request, the Marine Advisory Program in particular. She listed the many ways that the program had benefited her community and surrounding communities. She emphasized that the programs were addressing questions from all areas of life. Co-Chair Hawker spoke in appreciation for the Aleutian museum.
<a href="#">3:57:00 PM</a>	JEANNE GARHARDT, SELF (via teleconference ),	Urged support for the Peer Navigation and the Bring the Kids Home programs. She shared her personal experience in dealing with her son's mental illness. She encouraged the maintenance and continuation of services to rural areas. She said that there was a disproportionate amount of Alaska Native Youth falling through the cracks. She said that the funds needed to continue in order to keep the kids in their home communities. Lack of access to support services in rural villages was a serious issue. Co-Chair Hawker said that an additional \$275,000 had been added to the Peer Navigation component of the budget.
<a href="#">4:02:42 PM</a>	LYNNE OSHEIM, PARENTS AS TEACHERS, HOONAH (via teleconference ),	Encouraged the committee to take a holistic view when examining early childhood education. She spoke of the Parents as Teachers program within her community. The group works extensively with parents and teachers to help with the development of healthy children in the community. The community programs are well attended. She believed that this was the golden era for early childhood given all the brain research and other studies that have come to light in the recent years. She believed that paying for quality early childhood education would create children who would be functional members of society.
<a href="#">4:09:35 PM</a>	AT EASE	
<a href="#">4:23:37 PM</a>	RECONVENED	ANCHORAGE
<a href="#">4:24:59 PM</a>	JENNIFER CARD, GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION,	Supported of intervention services that is also supported by the governor's council. This team would respond to children or adults that are unable to stay at home due to behavioral, mental or developmental health issues. These people are often sent out of state. She commented that the financial cost and

		impact on the family is immense.
<a href="#">4:27:22 PM</a>	FRANCES PURDY, DIRECTOR OF ALASKA YOUTH AND FAMILY NETWORK (AYFN), ANCHORAGE (via teleconference ) ,	Thanked the committee for keeping the peer navigation money in the budget. This helps families connect with services. She supported the Bring the Kids Home effort. The program works for families and young people.
<a href="#">4:29:45 PM</a>	JESSIE LAWRENCE, YOUTH NAVIGATOR FOR AYFN (via teleconference ) ,	Supported the peer navigation effort for young people. This allows youth to know that someone is there to support and help them.
<a href="#">4:30:38 PM</a>	CATHY TAYLOR, SELF, EAGLE RIVER (via teleconference ) ,	Supported the governor's budget request for the Bring the Kids Home program. She shared her personal experience of how the program would have benefited her son earlier and how it is helping him now. The costs outside were very expensive.
<a href="#">4:34:19 PM</a>	RENEE LEYLAND, ANCHORAGE, SELF (via teleconference ) ,	Testified in support of the increments in the budgets for Bring the Kids Home program. She applauded the early care for children with mother's who have substance abuse problems. She presented a personal story of the difficulties these children would have in the future. She supported parent navigating education.
<a href="#">4:39:45 PM</a>	AMANDA METIVIER, STATEWIDE COORDINATOR, FACING FOSTER CARE IN ALASKA (via teleconference ) ,	Testified in support of the Foster Care program in Alaska. She supported the budget increments in the Bring the Kids Home program. Thanked the committee for supporting the transportation funding for students to keep them in their schools. She noted that those that age out of foster care have a 30 percent chance of being incarcerated, 40 percent end up homeless in the first year, and 70 percent will rely on some sort of public assistance in their lives. She asked for a doubling of tuition waivers the state provides for children aging out of the foster care system and funding of vocational training.
<a href="#">4:42:38 PM</a>	CANDICE TUCKER, SELF (via	Testified in support of the Foster Care system and the Bring the Kids Home program. She related her personal

	teleconference ) ,	experiences within the system.
<a href="#">4:43:51 PM</a>	MARK FISH, SELF (via teleconference ) ,	Cited a study on personal freedom in the United States and related statistics from that study. This study relates the first comprehensive ranking of American states on public policy affecting individual freedoms in economic, social, and personal spheres. He presented Alaska's ranking.
<a href="#">4:46:19 PM</a>	GRANT BAKER, SELF, ENGINEER PROFESSOR, UAA (via teleconference ) ,	Supported the engineering program in Anchorage. He asked for money to be put in the budget for this program.
<a href="#">4:48:29 PM</a>	ANDY VARNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE (via teleconference ) ,	Testified in support of the Marine Advisory program (MAP). They work with youth and adults in coastal communities to expand educational opportunities, building workforce capacity and enhancing participation by residents in the public processes. The MAP workers are often the face of the university and link local residents to university resources.
<a href="#">4:50:36 PM</a>	REBECCA SHIER, STATEWIDE REPRESENTATIVE , FACING FOSTER CARE IN ALASKA (via teleconference ) ,	Supported funding for the Bring the Kids Home Program. She related her personal experiences within the program. She supported the increments in the governor's budget.
<a href="#">4:51:50 PM</a>	MELINDA MYERS, SENIOR MANAGER, BEST BEGINNINGS (via teleconference ) ,	Testified in support of the early childhood funding. She thanked the committee for supported the \$380,000 currently in the DEED budget for early childhood partnerships and the imagination library. There are communities forming partnerships to advance local problems and discovering funding in early childhood education. Families need this support for the future of Alaska citizens. She explained the workings, goals and services of Best Beginnings. Co-Chair Hawker noted that funding has been doubled by the house. He commented that all need to work on the best route forward to help in early childhood development, Best Beginnings or state sanctioned.

<a href="#">4:56:24 PM</a>	BARBARA BROWN, BEST BEGINNINGS (via teleconference ) ,	Thanked the education budget subcommittee for increased funding provided. She supported the Imagination Library with its growth from 6 communities to 32 communities. She added that these libraries are needed throughout the state. This program provides a year of free books, once a month, for a child's early years to help a child discover the world of books. She also supported Denali Kid Care.
<a href="#">5:00:48 PM</a>	SUSAN ANDERSON, VOLUNTEER CHAIR, BEST BEGINNINGS (via teleconference ) ,	Thanked the budget subcommittee for the increase in funding for Best Beginnings. She commented that the investment in early learning is the best way money can be spent. The return will be great for Alaska. This builds on the good work of the state on this subject. Co-Chair Hawker spoke in praise of Representative Fairclough for her hard work on the education subcommittee.
<a href="#">5:04:18 PM</a>	KYLE GARDNER, DENALI FAMILY SERVICES (via teleconference ) ,	Talked of the Family Value Services that deal with behavioral problems. Supported this initiative for the provision of these services. Also supported the Bring the Kids Home program.
<a href="#">5:06:31 PM</a>	HEATHER JACKSON, BRING HOME THE KIDS (via teleconference ) ,	Related her personal experience with the Bring the Kids Home program and the successes that have evolved in her life. She supported continued funding for this program.
<a href="#">5:09:57 PM</a>	RAMONA DUBY, SELF (via teleconference ) ,	Related personal stories of the difficulties in special treatment and the financial costs to the family. She believed it was the government duty to help and treat those with problems in the state. She testified in support of the Bring the Kids Home program. She also supported the increments in the governor's bill. She appreciated all the hard work done by the committee.
<a href="#">5:12:25 PM</a>	ROB CAPPUOZZO, EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER, UAA (via teleconference ) ,	Supported the early childhood programs. He noted that the return on the investment far exceeds any other return. The first 5 years are the most important in a child's life. He urged support of the Imagination Library funding increase through best Beginnings. Families who have been

		receiving books had far better success story for their children's future. He urged funding for early childhood education teacher's education to keep them in the state and give them higher education degrees.
<a href="#">5:18:00 PM</a>	AT EASE	
<a href="#">5:19:24 PM</a>	RECONVENED	
<a href="#">5:20:49 PM</a>	AT EASE	
<a href="#">5:22:15 PM</a>	RECONVENED	
<a href="#">5:22:19 PM</a>	JENNIFER O'NEAL, MANAGER, ALASKA CHILDREN SERVICES (via teleconference ),	Testified in support of the increments to the Bring the Kids Home and increasing funds for individual aid grants. These children are trying to gain the skills to transition into adulthood. She related personal success stories with additional resources. She related how the resource funding had helped a young woman live independently.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM