

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 25, 2009
9:06 a.m.

9:06:39 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Hoffman called the Senate Finance Committee meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senator Charlie Huggins, Vice-Chair
Senator Johnny Ellis
Senator Donny Olson
Senator Joe Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

JUNEAU:

Jill Dumesnil, University of Alaska; David Means, Director of Administration, Juneau School ; Jim King, University of Alaska Alumni Association, Board Member; Andi Story, Juneau School District Board Member; Connie Munro, advocate for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI); Joy Lyon, Association for Education of Young Children; Candace Winhler, CEO. Alaska Child Care Resource and Referral Network; Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League; Saralyn Tabachnick, Executive Director of AWARE; Stephanie Burglund, Program Manager Childcare Connection; Patricia Dobbins, volunteer, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI); Judy Klein, Secretary, UAF Cooperative Council; Louise Galvin, Polaris House; Darrel Wilkerson, member of the Polaris House; Tina Young, employee of Polaris House.

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

**KENAI, VALDEZ, KETCHIKAN, KODIAK, SEWARD, MATSU,
GLENNALLEN, TOK:**

Michael Jenkins, Fire Chief, Gakona Volunteer Fire Department, Gakona; Megan Hanifen, Women In Safe Homes, Ketchikan; Mimi Eddy, Ruralcap, Women In Safe Homes, Ketchikan; Jerry Kiffer, Ketchikan; Cathy Lecompte, Campus Director, Ua Ketchikan; Hannah Martin, Student, Ua Ketchikan; Karen Eakes, Advisory Board Member, Ketchikan; Wendy Gierard, Assistant Director, Workforce Development, Ua Southeast, Ketchikan; Laurie Booyse, Allen Marine Tours, Ketchikan; Patti Mackey, Executive Director, Ketchikan Visitor's Bureau; Roberta McCreary, Ua Community Advisory Board, Ketchikan Youth Initiative, Ketchikan; Ed Zastrow, President, AARP, Ketchikan; Elizabeth Dunn, Seaview Community Services, Seward; Lauren Jones, Seward; Dennis Brodigan, Director, Emergency Services, Matsu; Vern Rupright, Mayor, Wasilla; Dan Stearns, Communications, City Of Wasilla, Matsu; Jean Woods, Self, Matsu; Noel Woods, Self, Matsu; Jeremy Pike, Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Matsu; Elizabeth Kershner, Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Matsu; Adrian Day, Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Matsu; Denise Oliver, Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Matsu; Teddy Von Scheele, Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Matsu; Shelley Edwards, Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Matsu; Marion Elliot, Self, Matsu; Linda Conover, President, Matsu School Foundation, Matsu; Sadie Updike, Child Care Connection, Kenai.

FAIRBANKS:

Paul W Maki, President Alaska Interior Marksmanship Committee; Tim Beck, Assembly member, Fairbanks Northstar Borough, past President, Alaska Municipal League (AML); Karen Purdue, University of Alaska; Paloma Harbour, University of Alaska; Brenda Stanfill, Interior Alaska Center for Non- Violent Living; Amelia Topkok, University of Alaska; Nancy Wagner, Superintendent Fairbanks Northstar Borough School District FNSB; Scott Reisland, Denali Grizzly Bear resort; Jack Wilbur, President, Design Alaska; Jeff Werner, Director, UAF Future Farmers; Luke Hopkins, Assembly member for Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB); Lillian Ruedrich, Director of the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) for the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital(FMH); Jeannette Grast, President, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI); Taber Rehbaum, Representative for

Arctic Alliance for people; Diane Shoemaker, Alaska Travel Industry; Cheryl Kilgore, Executive Director, Interior Community Health Center (IHC); Jim Lynch, Chief Financial Officer for Fairbanks Memorial Hospital (FMH); Lenetta Colbert, adjunct professor University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), Director, Open Arms Childcare Center; Jeff Tucker, Alaska Land Mobile Radio System Executive Council; Cheryl Keepers, FNSB Early Childhood Commission.

ANCHORAGE:

John Riley Coordinator, Physicians Assistant Program, UAA; Charlene Spadafore Vassar, Executive Director, Anchorage Project Access; Evan Evanson, Student, Physician Assistant Program, UAA; Beth Landon, Director, Alaska Center for Rural Health, UAA; Thomas Wood, MD, Anchorage Project Access; Tom Morgan, Community in Schools, Eagle River; Judy Cordell, AWAIC, Self; Kim Peterson, UAA; Grant Baker, School of Engineering, UAA; Allen Bailey, President, AWAIC; Marsha Barton, Self, Tourism Industry; Patty Ginsburg, Chief of Staff to Mayor of Anchorage; Sheila Wright, Board Member, Alaska Public Health Association; Beth Sirles, Director, School of Social Work, UAA; Jessica Weller, Advocate, STAR; Barbara Brown, Best Beginnings; Terrie Chang, Librarian, Anchorage Public Library Ready to Read Resource Center; Abbie Hensley, Executive Director, Best Beginnings; Lori Zaumseil, CANWIN; Robyn Henry, Rural Human Services, UAF; Arliss Sturgulewski; Karl Wing, Student Body President, UAA.

SITKA, WRANGELL, PETERSBURG, HOMER, DILLINGHAM, CORDOVA:

Peter Hoepfner, Board President, Cordova Family Resource Center, Cordova; Barbara Smith, Vice President, Cordova Family Resource Center, Cordova; Krissy Smith, Krissy's Playland/ ECE, Wrangell; Andy Taylor, Parent, Wrangell; Angela Allen, Parent, Wrangell; Jeremy Maxand, Wrangell Assembly, Wrangell; Toni Carrington, Resident, Sitka; Debbie Reeder, Sitka; Deb Miller, Small Business Owner, Nursing Student, Sitka; Erika Parker, Resident, Sitka; Ellen Trimble, Nurse, Sitka; Chris Bauman, Sitka; Susanne Howey, Sitka; Cornelia Huebsotten, Sitka; Michael Biggers, Petersburg; Kim Kilkenney, Petersburg; John A. Yarbrough, Petersburg; Jennifer A. Ray, Petersburg; Deanna Hardin, Dillingham.

BETHEL, KOTZEBUE, BARROW, NOME, DELTA JUNCTION, OFFNETS:

Jacqueline Hardy, Anchorage; Jordan Nigro, Juneau Youth Services, Juneau; Martha Flores, Physicians Assistance, Bethel; Larry Elarton, Chief of Police, Bethel; Lauri O'Brien, Bethel; Diane McEachern, Rural Human Services Program, UAF, Bethel; Maureen Nolan, Early Learning and Learning Program, Kotzebue; Sarah Saxton, Youth Services Librarian, Barrow; Richard Beneville, Nome; Joy Hewitt, Nome; Janet Ahmasuk, Rural Victims Service Program, Nome; Samaria Ross, Nome; John Bockman, Nome; Lisa Riley, Barrow; Wanda Baltazar, Nikaitchaut; Michelle Dewitt, TWC, Bethel; Dan Leinburger, City of Bethel; Michelle Dakai, Kotzebue; Ginny Walsh, AWIC, Barrow; Eleanor Oyagak, AWIC, Barrow; Mary Pete, Bethel; Michael Paschall, Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department, Delta Junction; Barbara Pardee, Haines School District; Julie Folta, Haines School District; Michelle Byer, Haines School District; Sandy June Degen, Haines School District; Kim Phillips, Self; Amanda Metivier, Foster Care Alaska, Anchorage; Yvonne Chase, CEO, Denali Family Services, Anchorage; Carl Ekstrom, Change Point; Mary Sullivan, Self; Margaret Bauer, Best Beginnings, Anchorage; Doug White, ACS, Director, Community Programs; Rebecca Carlson, Self; Jennifer Yoeman, Foster Parent, Haines; Vide Van Velzor, Foster Parent, Haines; John Warek, Pharmacist, Haines; Judith Renwick, Self; Meg Loomis, Student, UAA; Brad Alexander, Foster Parent; Summer Lefevre, Chair National Association of Social Workers; Unknown, Bethel.

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.

#hb81
 #hb83
 HB 81-APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS
 HB 83-APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET
 Statewide Public Testimony

TIME	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
		JUNEAU
9:10:16 AM	JILL DUMESNIL, ASSOCIATE	Testified in support of the University of Alaska. She spoke in support of

	PROFFESOR, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA	funding for the K-12 education outreach program.
9:12:10 AM	DAVID MEANS, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION , JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT	Testified in support of funding for K-12 education programs. He spoke in support of the acceptance of federal stimulus funds.
9:13:55 AM	CO-CHAIR HOFFMAN	Stated that a decision determining which stimulus funds would be accepted had not yet been made. He noted that a resolution was introduced to allow acceptance of funds.
9:14:48 AM	JIM KING, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, BOARD MEMBER	Urged support for the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska.
9:18:23 AM	ANDREA STORY, JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER	Testified in support of funding for the K-12 education outreach program. She urged support for funding for K-12 education programs.
9:21:41 AM	CONNIE MUNRO, ADVOCATE FOR THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL (NAMI)	Spoke in support of funding for mental health programs. She stated that she was available to help with issues concerning the mentally ill.
9:25:36 AM	SENATOR HUGGINS	Stated that he would appreciate Ms. Munro's contact information.
9:26:08 AM	JOY LYON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN.	Testified in support of funding for the Infant Learning Program. She expressed support for continued funding for child advocacy centers.
9:29:01 AM	CANDACE WINHLER, CEO. ALASKA CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL NETWORK	Spoke in support of funding for the Infant Learning Program. She expressed support for continued funding for child advocacy centers. She requested \$400 thousand for Best Beginnings. She expressed appreciation for the acceptance of the economic stimulus funds. She requested reappropriation of \$3 million for childcare assistance

		rate increases.
9:32:37 AM	KATHIE WASSERMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	Stated that the municipalities through the Alaska Municipal League (AML) have a representative on the executive group. She stated that AML was surprised to note the language in HB 81 stating that revenue sharing would be garnished if they did not pay bills that they were not yet aware of. She asked that the language be removed. She asked for revenue sharing in HB 81.
9:34:42 AM	CO-CHAIR HOFFMAN	Explained that the Senate budget does include funds for revenue sharing and forward funding of education. He hoped for house minority consideration of revenue sharing.
9:35:03 AM	SENATOR HUGGINS	Clarified that the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) is paid for by the state this year, but next year the municipalities and local governments will be required to pay.
9:35:17 AM	MS. WASSERMAN	Stated that municipalities were not aware of what the cost would be.
9:35:45 AM	SENATOR HUGGINS	Stated that he did not agree with the garnishment either.
9:35:58 AM	SARALYN TABACHNICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ARMING WOMEN AGAINST RAPE AND ENDANGERMENT (AWARE)	Urged support for full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. She expressed her appreciation for the funding.
9:38:15 AM	STEPHANIE BURGLUND, PROGRAM MANAGER CHILDCARE CONNECTION	Expressed support for continued funding for child advocacy centers.
9:39:58 AM	PATRICIA DOBBINS, VOLUNTEER, NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL (NAMI)	Testified in support of funding for mental health programs. She shared a personal story about her mother who suffered from mental illness. She spoke in favor of funding to improve school based mental health services.
9:43:40 AM	JUDY KLEIN, SECRETARY,	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. She testified in support of the Regent's

	UNIVERSITY OF FAIRBANKS (UAF) COOPERATIVE COUNCIL	request for full funding for the University of Alaska.
9:46:48 AM	LOUISE GALVIN, POLARIS HOUSE	Spoke in support of funding for mental health programs.
9:48:06 AM	DARREL WILKERSON, MEMBER OF THE POLARIS HOUSE	Urged support for funding for mental health programs. He stated that the program was responsible for additional services that provided him great benefit. The program helped him to find permanent employment and housing.
9:49:09 AM	TINA YOUNG, EMPLOYEE OF POLARIS HOUSE	Testified in support of funding for mental health programs.
9:50:08 AM	CO-CHAIR HOFFMAN	Thanked the city of Juneau for the testimonies.
9:50:37 AM	AT EASE	
		KENAI, VALDEZ, KETCHIKAN, KODIAK, SEWARD, MATSU, GLENNALLEN, TOK
10:08:24 AM	RECONVENED	
10:09:12 AM	MICHAEL JENKINS, FIRE CHIEF, GAKONA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, GAKONA	Urged support of funds for Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) program. He described the importance of communications for emergency services for volunteer.
10:11:36 AM	MEGAN HANIFEN, WOMEN IN SAFE HOMES, KETCHIKAN	Spoke in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
10:12:32 AM	MIMI EDDY, RURALCAP, WOMEN IN SAFE HOMES, KETCHIKAN	Testified in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
10:13:02 AM	JERRY KIFFER, KETCHIKAN	Urged support for ALMR program.
10:14:59 AM	CATHY LECOMPTE, CAMPUS DIRECTOR, UA KETCHIKAN	Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska.
10:16:46 AM	HANNAH MARTIN, STUDENT, UA	Urged support for the Regent's request for full funding for the University of

	KETCHIKAN	Alaska. She was concerned about tuition increases.
10:17:49 AM	KAREN EAKES, ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER, KETCHIKAN	Testified in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. She stressed the importance of job training in Ketchikan.
10:19:02 AM	WENDY GIERARD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, UA SOUTHEAST, KETCHIKAN	Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. In times of economic downturn, university enrollment increases. She wanted Alaskans to have reasons to stay in the state.
10:20:46 AM	Co-Chair Stedman	Commented on the importance of support from the community for the university.
10:21:07 AM	Laurie BOOYSE, Allen MARINE TOURS, KETCHIKAN	Testified in support for tourism funding.
10:22:03 AM	PATTI MACKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KETCHIKAN VISITOR'S BUREAU	Spoke in support for tourism funding. She said the Ketchikan Visitor's Bureau needs the support for their work. She urged support for the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska.
10:23:29 AM	ROBERTA MCCREARY, UA COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD, KETCHIKAN YOUTH INITIATIVE, KETCHIKAN	Testified in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. She emphasized the importance of educating Alaskan youth for job training in order to keep them in the state. She hoped the allocations would be flexible. She also spoke in support of funding for the K-12 education outreach program.
10:25:29 AM	ED ZASTROW, PRESIDENT, Alaska Association of Retired Persons (AARP), KETCHIKAN	Spoke in support of senior programs, and especially the Pioneer Homes and Veterans' Homes, and Meals on Wheels. He pointed out that those on a fixed income, especially seniors, are affected by the economic downturn.
10:27:07 AM	Co-Chair Stedman	Pointed to stimulus funding for senior meals for Alaskan seniors.
10:28:07 AM	ELIZABETH DUNN, SEAVIEW	Has a child in the individual learning program and spoke in support of education and services for children

	COMMUNITY SERVICES, SEWARD	with special needs.
10:30:15 AM	LAUREN JONES, SEWARD	Testified in support for early learning programs, especially the infant learning program, and for programs for children with special needs. She discussed challenges for parents of special needs children in rural areas.
10:31:47 AM	DENNIS BRODIGAN, DIRECTOR, EMERGENCY SERVICES, MATSU	Opposed the garnishment of revenue sharing funds. He supported the ALMR system. He described emergency services in his area. He was concerned about cutting the number of radios.
10:34:58 AM	VERN RUPRIGHT, MAYOR, WASILLA	Urged support for the ALMR program.
10:35:51 AM	DAN STEARNS, COMMUNICATIONS, CITY OF WASILLA, MATSU	Spoke in support of the ALMR program. Assessing a fee would force local and municipal communities off the ALMR system.
10:37:26 AM	JEAN WOODS, SELF, MATSU	Testified in support of a gas tax to raise funds. She urged making reductions.
10:38:50 AM	NOEL WOODS, SELF, MATSU	Stated concerns with the size of the budget. He suggested an efficiency study on state operations.
10:39:40 AM	JEREMY PIKE, ALASKA ADDICTION REHABILITATION SERVICES, MATSU	Advocated for funding for substance abuse grants and treatment programs.
10:41:52 AM	ELIZABETH KERSHNER, ALASKA ADDICTION REHABILITATION SERVICES, MATSU	Advocated for funding for substance abuse grants and treatment programs. She was concerned about the effect of cutting the funding on individuals with addictions.
10:43:06 AM	ADRIAN DAY, ALASKA ADDICTION REHABILITATION SERVICES, MATSU	Advocated for funding for substance abuse grants and treatment programs.
10:43:41 AM	DENISE OLIVER, ALASKA	Advocated for funding for substance abuse grants and treatment programs.

	ADDICTION REHABILITATION SERVICES, MATSU	She stated concerns for people who do not live near a treatment center.
10:45:11 AM	TEDDY VON SCHEELE, ALASKA ADDICTION REHABILITATION SERVICES, MATSU	Advocated for funding for substance abuse grants and treatment programs. He described the Pathways program for homeless and addicted individuals.
10:46:10 AM	SHELLEY EDWARDS, ALASKA ADDICTION REHABILITATION SERVICES, MATSU	Advocated for funding for substance abuse grants and treatment programs. She described changes in her life.
10:47:08 AM	MARION ELLIOT, SELF, MATSU	Spoke in support of a natural refuge in Southcentral Region, especially a need for a refuge manager. She advocated for funding for substance abuse grants and treatment programs.
10:50:48 AM	LINDA CONOVER, PRESIDENT, MATSU SCHOOL FOUNDATION, MATSU	Urged support of early childhood education program. She spoke of the Imagination Library and described impacts for young children.
10:53:00 AM	SADIE UPDIKE, CHILD CARE CONNECTION, KENAI	Testified in support of early childhood education programs, especially Best Beginnings.
10:54:50 AM	RECESS	
1:34:38 PM	RECONVENED	
		FAIRBANKS
1:34:46 PM	PAUL W MAKI, PRESIDENT ALASKA INTERIOR MARKSMANSHIP COMMITTEE	Spoke in regard to HB 81 and a cut in the Department of Fish and Game's budget. The Interior Marksman Committee provides hunter education, bear protection, firearm safety, and the honor education courses required by state regulation. He asked for restoration of the federal funding for the three shooting ranges used for education purposes.
1:39:09 PM	TIM BECK, ASSEMBLY MEMBER,	Testified in favor of revenue sharing for municipalities.

	FAIRBANKS NORTHSTAR BOROUGH, PAST PRESIDENT, ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (AML)	
1:40:25 PM	KAREN PURDUE, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA	Urged support for the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. She spoke in support of funding a physician assistant program.
1:42:56 PM	PALOMA HARBOUR, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA	Testified in support of funding for the University of Alaska. She spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University.
1:44:46 PM	BRENDA STANFILL, INTERIOR ALASKA CENTER FOR NON- VIOLENT LIVING	Testified in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
1:46:13 PM	AMELIA TOPKOK, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA	Urged support for the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. She spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. She spoke in favor of funding for culturally appropriate training programs.
1:48:29 PM	NANCY WAGNER, SUPERINTENDENT FAIRBANKS NORTHSTAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	Testified in support of funding for the Infant Learning Program. She spoke in favor of books in the home to accelerate and promote early reading for children. She spoke on behalf of Best Beginnings.
1:51:55 PM	CO-CHAIR HOFFMAN	Stated that a \$2 million increment over the funding for Head Start last year is included in the budget. He stated that the legislature had also included \$1.6 million for Pre-K. He asked if Best Beginnings is a better program. He wondered if the legislature should consider Best Beginnings over the Head Start and Pre-K programs.
1:52:37 PM	MS. WAGNER	Suggested that a combination of the existing programs and Best Beginnings is the ideal solution. She stated that most Head Start programs begin at age three. She informed that Best Beginnings program would allow parents and guardians to have resources

		available during the early years prior to age three.
1:53:25 PM	CO-CHAIR HOFFMAN	Clarified that the appropriations for Head Start and Pre-K should be reduced in order to contribute to Best Beginnings.
1:53:34 PM	MS. WAGNER	Understood the challenge the committee faces. She suggested that the ideal is for all three programs to receive funding. She stated that each program was important.
1:54:07 PM	SCOTT REISLAND, DENALI GRIZZLY BEAR RESORT	Testified in support of tourism funding. He stated that tourism is down 80 percent this year with independent travelers. He spoke in support of HB 147.
1:56:35 PM	JACK WILBUR, PRESIDENT, DESIGN ALASKA	Urged support for the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. He spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University.
1:58:30 PM	JEFF WERNER, DIRECTOR, UAF FUTURE FARMERS	Testified in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. He spoke in favor of funding for the cooperative extension program. He spoke in support of funding for K-12 education programs.
2:00:40 PM	LUKE HOPKINS, ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH (FNSB)	Testified in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. He urged support for the Governor's increments for the University. He spoke in favor of the ALMR program and the funding of maintenance costs.
2:02:30 PM	LILLIAN RUEDRICH, DIRECTOR OF THE AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER (AHEC) FOR THE FAIRBANKS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (FMH)	Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. She Urged support for the Governor's increments for the University. The AHEC program receives the bulk of its funding from a federal grant that runs through the UAA school of nursing.
2:05:37 PM	JEANNETTE GRAST, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY	Testified in support of funding for mental health programs. She testified in support of funding for alcohol treatment programs. She shared professional stories about the mentally ill. She urged continued support for

	ILL (NAMI)	the Bring the Kids Home program. She advocated for funding for substance abuse grants and treatment programs.
2:08:47 PM	TABER REHBAUM, REPRESENTATIVE FOR ARCTIC ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE	Spoke in appreciation for maintaining funding for the human services community matching grant and the community initiative grant. She stated that these grants allow communities to provide essential human services.
2:10:55 PM	DIANE SHOEMAKER, ALASKA TRAVEL INDUSTRY	Spoke in favor of HB 147 and SB 138. She spoke in support of tourism funding. She stated that support is needed due to the economic downturn. She stated that Fairbanks is competing with other destinations that are easier to access.
2:13:57 PM	CHERYL KILGORE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTERIOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (ICHC)	Urged support for the Governor's increment for behavioral health services grants. She spoke in support of HB 26 and the Denali Kid Care (DKC) expansion to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
2:17:18 PM	JIM LYNCH, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR FAIRBANKS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (FMH)	Testified in support of reinstatement of funding for the University of Alaska statewide health program. He Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. He urged the legislature to restore funding eliminated by the Senate subcommittee that relates to the University of Alaska expanded health training programs.
2:19:46 PM	LENETTA COLBERT, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS (UAF), DIRECTOR, OPEN ARMS CHILDCARE CENTER	Urged support for funding for the Infant Learning Program. She expressed support for continued funding for child advocacy centers. She suggested using the economic stimulus money to benefit children.
2:22:32 PM	JEFF TUCKER, ALASKA LAND MOBILE RADIO SYSTEM EXECUTIVE	Testified in favor of full funding for local municipal users as submitted in the budget on behalf of the Department of Administrations (DOA) budget. He stated that this funding will allow

	COUNCIL	local municipal users to continue to work with the DOA to determine the local share of the operations of maintenance.
2:23:41 PM	CHERYL KEEPERS, FNSB EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION	Expressed support for continued funding for child advocacy centers. She spoke in support of funding for the Infant Learning Program. She stated that the best use of the economic stimulus dollars is not for childcare assistance.
2:26:17 PM	Senator Thomas	Expressed appreciation for the testimony.
2:31:04 PM	RECONVENED	
		ANCHORAGE
2:32:03 PM	JOHN RILEY COORDINATOR, PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT PROGRAM, UAA	Supports full funding of health care learning for the University of Alaska. He described a new program with a mission to train Physicians Assistants to work with the underserved in rural areas.
2:35:24 PM	CHARLENE SPADAFOR VASSAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANCHORAGE PROJECT ACCESS	Supported increments for health care and described needs for primary care. Anchorage Project Access would like to be reinstated in the current budget.
2:38:26 PM	EVAN EVANSON, STUDENT, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM, UAA	Supports funding for health care education programs. He does not want to leave the state to be educated. He urged supporting quality healthcare.
2:39:56 PM	BETH LANDON, DIRECTOR, ALASKA CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH, UAA	Supports full funding for the university health care learning program. She emphasized that there is a large Alaskan workforce in healthcare.
2:43:32 PM	THOMAS WOOD, MD, ANCHORAGE PROJECT ACCESS	Expressed concerns about \$250,000 budget decrease for the project. He described needs for people without health insurance. Anchorage Project Access serves many that are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid.
2:44:25 PM	TOM MORGAN, COMMUNITY IN SCHOOLS, EAGLE RIVER	Urged support for funding for K-12 education programs. He described programs that are effective and need funding.
2:46:04 PM	JUDY CORDELL,	Testified in support of full funding

	AWAIC, SELF	for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. She spoke in support of the amendment to add \$30,000 general fund for foster homes services.
2:49:18 PM	KIM PETERSON, UAA	Spoke in support of the Governor's request for funding of the Integrated Science Building. He noted that operating costs would be required for the facility.
2:51:50 PM	GRANT BAKER, SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, UAA	Testified in support of the Governor's request for funding of the Integrated Science Building. He reported that enrollment is high and the program prepares many Alaskans from all over the state for jobs. He referred to a \$750,000 cut to the program's budget.
2:54:32 PM	SENATOR ELLIS	Reported that the petitions had been received.
2:54:54 PM	ALLEN BAILEY, PRESIDENT, ABUSED WOMEN'S AID IN CRISIS (AWAIC)	Urged support for full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The shelter is the largest in Alaska but has been up to over 50 percent over capacity for past months.
2:56:23 PM	MARSHA BARTON, SELF, TOURISM INDUSTRY	Spoke in support for tourism funding. She pointed out that other states were competing for limited business.
2:57:37 PM	PATTY GINSBURG, CHIEF OF STAFF TO MAYOR OF ANCHORAGE	Testified in support of the Governor's request for funding of the Integrated Science Building. The facility will be the background for education at UAA. She also supports funding to expand health programs state-wide.
2:59:39 PM	SHEILA WRIGHT, BOARD MEMBER, ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION	Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska, especially the Physicians Assistant program. She emphasized the importance of health care workforce training in the state.
3:01:32 PM	BETH SIRLES, DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, UAA	Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska, particularly health care training program. She stated that Masters of Social Work degree is important in Alaska for health care.
3:03:54 PM	JESSICA WELLER, ADVOCATE, STAR	Testified in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
3:04:38 PM	BARBARA BROWN, BEST BEGINNINGS	Urged support for funding for the libraries and the Infant Learning Program. She stressed the importance of

		reading to young children. She asked for the full funding of \$400,000.
3:07:20 PM	TERRIE CHANG, LIBRARIAN, ANCHORAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY READY TO READ RESOURCE CENTER	Supported full funding of \$400,000 for Best Beginnings and early learning programs. She described experiences with success with reading programs and early childhood programs. She encouraged a coordination of efforts.
3:09:16 PM	ABBIE HENSLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BEST BEGINNINGS	Testified in support of early learning education. She supported funding for Head Start and other programs. She requested the full funding of \$400,000 and matching funds for an early childhood program.
3:14:35 PM	LORI ZAUMSEIL, CANWIN	Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. She described experience with support from the university cooperative extension in addressing invasive plants issues.
3:17:05 PM	ROBYN HENRY, RURAL HUMAN SERVICES, UAF	Testified in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. Urged support for funding for mental health programs, especially programs for training counselors.
3:19:35 PM	ARLISS STURGULEWSKI	Supported the legislature's approach to the economic stimulus funds. She spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska, especially health care training. She spoke in support of the Governor's request for funding of the Integrated Science Building.
3:21:08 PM	KARL WING, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, UAA	Testified in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. He spoke in support of the Governor's request for funding of the Integrated Science Building. He also supported the incentive program to give students alternative ways to fund education.
3:28:09 PM	RECESS	
4:05:06 PM	RECONVENED	
		SITKA, WRANGELL, PETERSBURG, HOMER, DILLINGHAM, CORDOVA
4:06:11 PM	PETER HOEPFNER, BOARD PRESIDENT,	Testified in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

	CORDOVA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, CORDOVA	
4:07:21 PM	BARBARA SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT, CORDOVA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, CORDOVA	Urged support for full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
4:08:10 PM	KRISSY SMITH, KRISSY'S PLAYLAND/ ECE, WRANGELL	Spoke in support of funding for the Infant Learning Program. She cited specifically Best Beginnings. She also mentioned examining the childcare co-pay guidelines. She felt the current guidelines are too high.
4:10:14 PM	ANDY TAYLOR, PARENT, WRANGELL	Testified in favor of lowering qualification guidelines for childcare co-pay.
4:11:30 PM	ANGELA ALLEN, PARENT, WRANGELL	Shared concern for Denali Kid Care eligibility requirements. She stressed that expenses paid out by her family should not be considered as income when filling out the Denali Kid Care application. She urged further examination of Denali Kid Care guidelines.
4:13:32 PM	JEREMY MAXAND, WRANGELL ASSEMBLY, WRANGELL	Spoke in favor examining guidelines for Denali Kid Care. He also mentioned the importance of energy conservation within the state.
4:15:06 PM	CO-CHAIR STEDMAN	Stated that the issues were being discussed.
4:15:32 PM	TONI CARRINGTON, RESIDENT, SITKA	Asked for support of full funding for the University of Alaska, Sitka. Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska.
4:16:33 PM	DEBBIE REEDER	Testified in support for tourism funding.
4:17:34 PM	DEB MILLER, SMALL BUSINESS OWNER, NURSING STUDENT, SITKA	Urged support for the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska.
4:18:32 PM	ERIKA PARKER, RESIDENT,	Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the

	SITKA	University of Alaska. She especially encouraged full funding for healthcare programs.
4:19:43 PM	ELLEN TRIMBLE, NURSE, SITKA	Testified in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska.
4:20:40 PM	CHRIS BAUMAN, SITKA	Spoke in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
4:21:19 PM	SUSANNE HOWEY, SITKA	Urged support for the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. Testified in support of the Governor's increments for the University.
4:23:08 PM	CORNELIA HUEBSOTTEN, SITKA	Spoke in support of funding for mental health programs. Spoke in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
4:25:03 PM	MICHAEL BIGGERS, PETERSBURG	Testified in favor of HB 83. Urged support for funding for mental health programs. Urged support for the Governor's increment for behavioral health services grants.
4:27:07 PM	KIM KILKENNY, PETERSBURG	Urged support for the Governor's increment for behavioral health services grants. Testified in support of funding for mental health programs. Spoke of the great expense in health care.
4:28:50 PM	JOHN A. YARBROUGH, PETERSBURG	Urged support for the Governor's increment for behavioral health services grants. Spoke in support of funding for mental health programs.
4:30:04 PM	JENNIFER A. RAY, PETERSBURG	Testified in support of funding for mental health programs. Urged support for the Governor's increment for behavioral health services grants.
4:31:01 PM	DEANNA HARDIN, DILLINGHAM	Spoke in support of the Governor's increments for the University. Urged support for the distance program degree.
4:35:32 PM	RECESS	
5:02:57 PM	RECONVENED	
		Bethel, Kotzebue, Barrow, Nome, Delta Junction, Offnets
5:04:11 PM	JACQUELINE HARDY, ANCHORAGE	Testified in support of funding for foster care.
5:05:39 PM	JORDAN NIGRO, JUNEAU YOUTH	Supports funding for youth programs.

	SERVICES, JUNEAU	
5:06:24 PM	MARTHA FLORES, PHYSICIANS ASSISTANCE, BETHEL	Asked for restoration of health education funding, especially the Physicians Assistance program. She reported the difficulty of getting medical personnel.
5:07:46 PM	LARRY ELARTON, CHIEF OF POLICE, BETHEL	Supported a civilian service patrol program. He supported a sleep-off center.
5:09:25 PM	LAURI O'BRIEN, BETHEL	Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. She supported UAA health professional development programs. She also Urged support for the Governor's increment for behavioral health services grants.
5:11:12 PM	DIANE MCEACHERN, RURAL HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM, UAF, BETHEL	Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska, especially for educational services in rural areas. She noted there are over 100 students currently enrolled. Retention and graduation are at 95 percent.
5:14:11 PM	MAUREEN NOLAN, EARLY LEARNING AND LEARNING PROGRAM, KOTZEBUE	Testified in support of Child Care Assistance Funding, and early learning programs.
5:15:32 PM	SARAH SAXTON, YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN, BARROW	Supported the Best Beginnings in the Department of Education and Early Development's early development program. She described the results from early reading.
5:17:40 PM	RICHARD BENEVILLE, NOME	Urged support of state tourism. He pointed out how important the industry is in the state.
5:18:18 PM	JOY HEWITT, NOME	Testified in support of Best Beginnings. She talked about the Imagination Library which distributes books to children under five.
5:19:18 PM	JANET AHMASUK, RURAL VICTIMS SERVICE PROGRAM, NOME	Testified in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
5:20:19 PM	SAMARIA ROSS, NOME	Urged support for full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

5:20:50 PM	JOHN BOCKMAN, NOME	Testified in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska.
5:21:33 PM	LISA RILEY, BARROW	Spoke in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. She expressed her gratitude for the committees support in the matter.
5:22:40 PM	WANDA BALTAZAR, NIKAITCHAUT	Spoke in full support of the Best Beginnings program. Testified in support of funding for the Infant Learning Program.
5:24:05 PM	MICHELLE DEWITT, TWC, BETHEL	Urged support for the Rural Community Services Program.
5:25:29 PM	DAN LEINBURGER, CITY OF BETHEL	Voiced concern regarding troubling intent language concerning cuts in the ALMR program.
5:26:36 PM	MICHELLE DAKAI, KOTZEBUE	Testified in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Spoke in support of funding for the Infant Learning Program. She cited Best Beginnings. She supported the amendment of HB126 for foster parent recruitment PSAs, specifically for native children.
5:28:24 PM	GINNY WALSH, AWIC, BARROW	Testified in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
5:29:15 PM	ELEANOR OYAGAK, AWIC, BARROW	Spoke in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
5:29:41 PM	MARY PETE, BETHEL	Testified in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska.
5:31:07 PM	MICHAEL PASCHALL, RURAL DELTANA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, DELTA JUNCTION	Urged support for the ALMR program.
5:32:14 PM	BARBARA PARDEE, HAINES SCHOOL DISTRICT	Testified in support of the Best Beginnings program and the Imagination Library.
5:33:32 PM	JULIE FOLTA,	Spoke in support of the Best Beginnings

	HAINES SCHOOL DISTRICT	Program and the Imagination Library.
5:34:08 PM	MICHELLE BYER, HAINES SCHOOL DISTRICT	Spoke in support of the Bright Beginnings program and the Imagination Library.
5:34:43 PM	SANDY JUNE DEGEN, HAINES SCHOOL DISTRICT	Testified in support of the Best Beginnings program and the Imagination Library.
5:35:42 PM	KIM PHILLIPS, SELF	Urged support for funding for the Infant Learning Program. She specifically cited the importance of the Best Beginnings Program.
5:37:40 PM	AMANDA METIVIER, FOSTER CARE ALASKA, ANCHORAGE	Spoke in support of \$30,000 for foster parents and children.
5:38:32 PM	YVONNE CHASE, CEO, DENALI FAMILY SERVICES, ANCHORAGE	Testified in support of HB126 which pertains to advertisements for foster care program PSAs. Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska.
5:40:25 PM	CARL EKSTROM, CHANGE POINT	Testified in support of \$30,000 for Office of Children's Services.
5:41:26 PM	MARY SULLIVAN, SELF	Urged support for \$30,000 for the Office of Children's Services.
5:42:20 PM	MARGARET BAUER, BEST BEGINNINGS, ANCHORAGE	Spoke in support for Best Beginnings and Early Childhood Education. She requested that the \$30,000 no come for the stimulus funds.
5:43:43 PM	DOUG WHITE, ACS, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	Testified in support of funding of \$30,000 for foster care program advertising.
5:45:21 PM	REBECCA CARLSON, SELF	Spoke in support of funding for foster care programs. She stressed that more foster parents need to be recruited.
5:46:50 PM	JENNIFER YOEMAN, FOSTER PARENT, HAINES	Spoke in support or \$30,000 in funding for foster parent PSAs.
5:47:50 PM	VIDE VAN VELZOR, FOSTER PARENT, HAINES	Testified in support of \$30,000 in funding for foster care PSAs.
5:48:35 PM	JOHN WAREK, PHARMACIST, HAINES	Spoke in support of the Regent's request for full funding for the University of Alaska. He stressed support for pharmacist programs. He

		felt that Alaska has special needs and would benefit from training pharmacists in-state.
5:50:27 PM	JUDITH RENWICK, SELF	Urged support for \$30,000 in funding for foster care PSAs or foster parent recruitment ads.
5:51:40 PM	MEG LOOMIS, STUDENT, UAA	Testified in support of the \$30,000 in funding for statewide foster parent recruitment ads.
5:52:27 PM	BRAD ALEXANDER, FOSTER PARENT	Spoke in support for the \$30,000 in funding for statewide foster parent recruitment ads.
5:54:10 PM	SUMMER LEFEVRE, CHAIR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS	Spoke in support of \$30,000 in funding for statewide foster parent recruitment ads.
5:56:06 PM	UNKNOWN, BETHEL	Testified in support of full funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. She said the additional of funds are greatly appreciated.
#	ADJOURNMENT	The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.