

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 2, 2011
1:40 p.m.

1:40:31 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Thomas called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Bill Thomas Jr., Co-Chair
Representative Mia Costello
Representative David Guttenberg

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
Representative Mike Doogan
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Les Gara
Representative Anna Fairclough, Vice-Chair
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Mark Neuman
Representative Tammie Wilson

ALSO PRESENT

Brenda Steinfill; Representative Bob Miller; Chris Bauman, Executive Director, Sitkans Against Family Violence, Sitka; Nicole Songer, Executive Director, Cordova Family Resource Center, Cordova; Rowena Palomar, Executive Director, Advocates for Victims of Violence, Valdez; Ginger Baim, Executive Director, Safe and Fear Free Environment, Dillingham; Representative Peggy Wilson; Rebecca Shields, Executive Director, Kodiak Women's Resource & Crisis Center; Naomi Michaelson, Executive Director, Women in Safe Homes, Ketchikan; Cheri Smith, Executive Director, Leeshore Center, Kenai; Lexie Mizeras, Alaska SeaLife Center, Seward; Michelle Weston, City Manager, City of Seward; Stan Stephens, Stan Stephens Glacier & Wildlife Tours, Valdez; Colleen Stephens, Stan Stephens Glacier Wildlife Tours, Valdez; Sue Gilpatrick, Business Owner, Chitna and Valdez; Brad Ohs, Administrator, Alaska Homes for Children; Matt

Dammeyer, Central Peninsula Hospital, Kenai; Jane Baily, Early Childhood Coordinator, Chugach School District; Sherman Smith, Cooper Landing; Steve Horn, Executive Director, Alaska Behavioral Health Association, Soldotna; Ted Spraker, Board of Game and Big Game Commercial Services Board, Kenai; Sammy Crawford, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District; Fred Sturman, Soldotna; Diane & Roy Minister, Self, Palmer; Alan LeMaster, Glennallen; Park Kriner, Glennallen; Lolita Brache, Families First/Best Beginnings, Homer; Harry Dodge, Self, Kodiak; Don Dumm, Self, Kodiak; Terry Wanzer, Alaska Hotel & Lodging Association, Ketchikan; Shawna Lee, Lumberjack Shoe, Ketchikan; Darlene Morrison, Mother of Traumatic Brain Injury child, Ketchikan; Len Laurence, Spirit of Alaska Tours, Taquan Air, Ketchikan; Loren Karro, Palmer; Don Montgomery, Mat-Su; James Garhart, Wasilla; Mark Lackey, Alaska Head Start Association, Wasilla; Cristen Kolb, Head Start at Meadow Lakes, Mat-Su; Alexis Kwachka, Fisherman, Kodiak; Jan Chatto, Tourism Industry, Kodiak; Kadie Walsh, Tourism Industry, Kodiak; Dake Schmidt, Tourism Industry, Kodiak; Janet Buckingham, Executive Director, Kodiak Convention and Business Bureau; Josh Bell, Kodiak Chamber of Commerce; Kevin Brennan, Kodiak; Gary Byrne, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association; Bryan Ellsworth, Commercial Fisherman, Kodiak; Susan Johnson, Manager, Best Western Inn, Kodiak.

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Arthur S. Hansen; Joe L. Hayes; Sue Hull; Henry Tiffany; Susan Henrichs; Jill Faudree; Phil Osborn; Londa Krull; Taber Rehbaum; Roger Burggraf; Cathy Schultz; Donald Stein; Dr. Doolittle M.D.; Mayor Luke Hopkins; Cheryl Keepers; Jasmine Johnson Kennedy; Jeff Drake; Leslie Hajdukovich; Pete Lewis; Tom Kirstein; Scott Reiland; Carey Mills; Ryan Binkley; Deb Hickok; Kory Eberhardt; Lloyd Huskey; Craig Lingle; Allan Coty; Buzzy Chiu; Larry Paquin; Dr. Danita Koehler; Lynn Osheim, Directors, Parents as Teachers Program, Hoonah; Susan Isaacs, Business Owner, Dillingham; Nicole Ito, Dillingham; Tanna Lewis, Head Start, King Cove; Irene Bentancourt, Head Start, Unalaska; Alyssa Sensky, Executive Director, Unalaska Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Unalaska; Kathy Dirks, Unalaska; Cheryl Parson, Unalaska; Baxter Bond, Sitka; Fred Reeder, Sitka; Tim Fulton, Member, Sitka School Board, Sitka; John Dunlap, Allen Marine, Sitka; Craig Warren, Sitka; Gordon Blue, Sitka Counseling and Prevention Services, Sitka; Lon

Garrison, Sitka School Board, Sitka; Molly Kabler, Member, Sitka School Board, Sitka; Michael Biggers, Petersburg Mental Health, Petersburg; Stephanie Pauwk, Petersburg Mental Health, Petersburg; Jennifer Ray, Petersburg Mental Health, Petersburg; Kim Kilkenny, Petersburg Mental Health, Petersburg; Morgan Falter, Petersburg Mental Health, Petersburg; Susan Ohmer, Director, Petersburg Mental Health, Petersburg; Ken Caulum, Petersburg Mental Health, Petersburg; John Yarrow, Petersburg Mental Health, Petersburg; Julianne Curry, Executive Director, Petersburg Vessel Owners, Petersburg; Jerry Scholand, Kiana Lodging, Homer; Jessica Lawmaster, Haven House, Homer; Tina Day, Executive Director, Homer Chamber of Commerce, Homer; Letha Butts, Fox Run RV Campground and Lodge, Homer; Ken Bergman, Homer; Lance Kronberger, Self, Wasilla; Greg Manskie, TBI, Mat-Su; Robert Wallis, Self; Jennifer Charvet, Alaska Brain Injury Network, Palmer; Susan Payne, Self, Kodiak; Pete Danelski, Self, Kodiak; Laren Lynch, Cape Fox Lodge, Ketchikan; Kaite Montgomery, Self, Ketchikan; Amanda Painter, Allen Marine Tours, Ketchikan; Pat Chapman, AK Brain Injury Network, Ketchikan; Wallace Fields, Self, Kodiak; Dave Kubiak, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Kodiak.

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.

#hb108

#hb109

HOUSE BILL NO. 108

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government, for certain programs, and to capitalize funds; and providing for an effective date."

HOUSE BILL NO. 109

"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."

FAIRBANKS

[1:40:45 PM](#)

Co-Chair Thomas introduced committee members and requested two minute time limit for public testimony.

[1:41:15 PM](#)

ARTHUR S. HANSEN (via teleconference), testified in support of funding for \$500 thousand for traumatic brain injury (TBI) studies. He shared a personal story regarding TBI.

[1:42:40 PM](#)

JOE L. HAYES (via teleconference), spoke in support of the university budget. He mentioned recent cuts for summer programs.

[1:43:24 PM](#)

SUE HULL (via teleconference), testified in support of Best Beginnings and the local school board. She noted the importance of empowering communities to make decisions regarding early childhood education options. She stressed the importance of good graduation rates and career tech opportunities.

[1:46:01 PM](#)

BRENDA STEINFILL, testified in support of funding for emergency travel for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. She noted many requests from people in need of emergency travel funds. The legal advocacy program aids women in the legal process. The program served 500 people last year with only one legal advocate.

[1:48:34 PM](#)

HENRY TIFFANY (via teleconference), spoke in favor of the proposed deletion of the Department of Natural Resources' Mining Land and Water Division guide concession program development request for \$120 thousand and one staff position. He explained many myths regarding the program which will affect hunting guides and prevent overcrowding. The program benefits the game and resources and would not

negatively affect resident hunters. He spoke to the limits stressed by the program.

1:53:04 PM

SUSAN HENRICHS (via teleconference), testified in support of the university's budget requests. She requested restoration of the Math Summer Bridge program. Math skills are crucial to many different occupations. She pointed out that many university students are older and require a review of math skills.

1:56:37 PM

JILL FAUDREE (via teleconference), testified in support of the Math Summer Bridge program, which is a crucial link in the success of college students. Math can be an obstacle for students. Many students avoid math, but the program is successful in educating those students.

2:00:06 PM

PHIL OSBORN (via teleconference), spoke in support of the Alaska Summer Science Research program. The competition for the program is great. He believed that the \$75 thousand request was fair.

2:02:48 PM

LONDA KRULL (via teleconference), spoke in support of the Alaska Psychiatric Residency program.

2:04:18 PM

TABER REHBAUM (via teleconference), testified in support of an increase in the Human Services Community matching grant to a funding level of \$2 million. She also mentioned the Community Initiative grant to \$1 million. She advocated for low government costs and believed that the investment would aid the state.

2:06:25 PM

ROGER BURGGRAF (via teleconference), spoke in support of state investment in instate natural gas. He also advocated for the bridge across the Tanana River.

[2:08:26 PM](#)

CATHY SCHULTZ (via teleconference), spoke in support of the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA). She encouraged the marketing of Alaska. She wished to attract visitors with the advertising program.

[2:10:42 PM](#)

DONALD STEIN (via teleconference), spoke in support of the RS 2477 access trails. He pointed out that Alaska has over 600 trails which constitute 100,000 acres.

[2:14:01 PM](#)

DR. DOOLITTLE M.D. (via teleconference), spoke in favor of the restoration of the \$202 thousand for the Psychiatric Residency Program.

[2:15:40 PM](#)

MAYOR LUKE HOPKINS (via teleconference), spoke about the Human Service Community Matching Block Grant. He noted the increased population and the necessary increase of the grant funding amount to adjust for the increases. He also spoke in favor of increases for Best Beginnings.

[2:18:07 PM](#)

Representative Costello asked the amount requested for the Best Beginning program.

[2:19:05 PM](#)

CHERYL KEEPERS (via teleconference), provided the current year funding level of \$680 thousand. She noted that the grant allowed the commission to educate about needs of families with young children in the community.

[2:21:12 PM](#)

JASMINE JOHNSON KENNEDY (via teleconference), suggested deletion of the proposed cut of \$190 thousand for emergency rural travel and the \$694 thousand cut for the additional legal advocacy coverage. She advocated for action against domestic violence.

[2:23:32 PM](#)

JEFF DRAKE (via teleconference), urged the reinstatement of the \$75 thousand budget request for the Alaska Summer Research Academy. The goal of the program is to offer experiences that the K-12 curriculum cannot.

[2:25:21 PM](#)

LESLIE HAJDUKOVICH (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for K-12 education. She spoke of the education successes seen in Fairbanks. She mentioned Response to Intervention as a valuable method for student retention.

[2:28:03 PM](#)

PETE LEWIS (via teleconference), advocated for the restoration of the Statewide Mentoring Program at \$600 thousand. He added that the school health and safety coordinator position of \$200 thousand and \$150 thousand to the Alaska Autism Research Center. Finally he requested restoration of the \$4 million of cuts to the teaching and learning support services. He urged the need for funding to match the rate of inflation. Energy cost increases cannot be covered with flat funding.

[2:29:41 PM](#)

TOM KIRSTEIN (via teleconference), requested reconsideration of the guide concession development cuts in the operating budget. The program development is widely supported by many corporations and organizations concerned with conservation issues.

[2:32:21 PM](#)

SCOTT REISLAND (via teleconference), testified in support of ATIA and an increase in funding. He stated that advertising costs are too great for small businesses without ATIA.

[2:35:12 PM](#)

CAREY MILLS (via teleconference), spoke in support of thorough scrutiny in all budget items.

[2:36:41 PM](#)

RYAN BINKLEY (via teleconference), spoke in opposition to the operating budget and particularly the matching requirements for the \$9 million ATIA marketing program. Small businesses rely on ATIA and the legislature's appropriations.

[2:39:07 PM](#)

DEB HICKOK (via teleconference), testified in support of ATIA. She relayed support for reinvestment into the long term marketing program. She noted that HB 108 twists the formulas in a method that raises the difficulty level for small businesses to contribute to advertising.

[2:41:09 PM](#)

KORY EBERHARDT (via teleconference), spoke in support of continued funding of Alaska tourism marketing. He expressed disappointment in the recent changes made in HB 108. He pointed out that advertising would cost him \$9 thousand, which he deemed too high for his business.

[2:42:35 PM](#)

LLOYD HUSKEY (via teleconference), spoke in support of continued investment in tourism marketing in Alaska.

[2:43:27 PM](#)

CRAIG LINGLE (via teleconference), commented on the Alaska Clear and Equitable Share (ACES) and the hearing in the committee. He argued that ACES is designed to address high oil prices. He stressed the potential disaster that may result in rolling back ACES. He expressed support for renewable energy options in Alaska.

[2:45:59 PM](#)

ALLAN COTY (via teleconference), supported funding for the RS 2477 access trail litigation. He stated that the trails run through state and private land. He required unhindered use of the trails.

[2:47:21 PM](#)

BUZZY CHIU (via teleconference), echoed the support of Ryan Binkley. She requested matching marketing funds remain at 30 percent.

[2:48:17 PM](#)

LARRY PAQUIN (via teleconference), testified in opposition to tax credits for the oil industry.

[2:50:24 PM](#)

DR. DANITA KOEHLER (via teleconference), testified in support of pre-hospital emergency medical providers in Alaska. She advocated closing the gap in funding for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) unit of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). She mentioned that she is the medical director for the Emergency Medical Services in Fairbanks. The EMS unit is responsible for managing air and ground medical services.

[2:53:52 PM](#)

AT EASE

[2:53:59 PM](#)

RECONVENED

SITKA, WRANGELL, PETERSBURG, DILLINGHAM, CORDOVA, UNALASKA

[3:09:23 PM](#)

CHRIS BAUMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SITKANS AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE, SITKA, requested restoration of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) \$550,000 budget increment to assist with rising health care costs, salaries, and emergency travel for victims of violence. Requested funding for legal advocate positions.

[3:11:20 PM](#)

NICOLE SONGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CORDOVA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, CORDOVA, requested restoration of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) \$550,000 budget increment to assist with rising health care costs, salaries, and emergency travel for victims of violence. Requested funding for legal advocate positions.

[3:13:30 PM](#)

ROWENA PALOMAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADVOCATES FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, VALDEZ, requested restoration of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) \$550,000 budget increment to assist with rising health care costs, salaries, and emergency travel for victims of violence. Requested funding for legal advocate positions.

[3:16:24 PM](#)

GINGER BAIM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SAFE AND FEAR FREE ENVIRONMENT, DILLINGHAM, requested restoration of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) \$550,000 budget increment to assist with rising health care costs, salaries, and emergency travel for victims of violence. Requested funding for legal advocate positions.

[3:19:37 PM](#)

LYNN OSHEIM, DIRECTORS, PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM, HOONAH (via teleconference), requested funding for early childhood education; specifically for Head Start, Parents and Teachers, Universal Teachers, and Best Beginnings.

[3:22:49 PM](#)

SUSAN ISAACS, BUSINESS OWNER, DILLINGHAM (via teleconference), requested a return to the original language from FY 11 budget related to tourism marketing. She supported tourism marketing, but opposed an increase the industry's match requirement.

[3:24:47 PM](#)

NICOLE ITO, DILLINGHAM (via teleconference), requested funding for the Alaska Summer Research Program in Fairbanks.

[3:27:31 PM](#)

TANNA LEWIS, HEAD START, KING COVE (via teleconference), spoke in support of Head Start funding.

[3:28:50 PM](#)

IRENE BENTANCOURT, HEAD START, UNALASKA (via teleconference), requested continued funding for Head

Start. Stressed the issue of limited child care in Unalaska.

[3:30:27 PM](#)

ALYSSA SENSKY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNALASKA CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU, UNALASKA (via teleconference), requested maintaining the language in FY 11 funding levels for tourism marketing.

[3:32:23 PM](#)

KATHY DIRKS, UNALASKA (via teleconference), requested funding for Head Start.

[3:33:19 PM](#)

CHERYL PARSON, UNALASKA (via teleconference), spoke in support of Head Start funding.

[3:34:04 PM](#)

BAXTER BOND, SITKA (via teleconference), testified in support of the Alaska Summer Research Academy funding.

[3:35:24 PM](#)

FRED REEDER, SITKA (via teleconference), urged the committee to support tourism marketing based on the FY 11 funding.

[3:37:17 PM](#)

Co-Chair Thomas remarked that he did not change the contribution rate in the tourism marketing budget. He stressed that the Alaska Travel Industry Association lowered the match to 30 percent, and hoped to match it at 50 percent. He stressed that the House Finance committee was not responsible for the change.

[3:39:33 PM](#)

TIM FULTON, MEMBER, SITKA SCHOOL BOARD, SITKA (via teleconference), requested increase in the Base Student Allocation.

[3:40:26 PM](#)

JOHN DUNLAP, ALLEN MARINE, SITKA (via teleconference), requested return to the FY 11 language related to tourism marketing.

[3:41:47 PM](#)

CRAIG WARREN, SITKA (via teleconference), requested funding increase in the Base Student Allocation, and stressed technology education.

[3:42:55 PM](#)

GORDON BLUE, SITKA COUNSELING AND PREVENTION SERVICES, SITKA (via teleconference), recommended \$550,000 to support domestic violence and sexual assault prevention. Urged restoration of \$202,000 to the Alaska Psychiatric Residency Program. Requested \$250,000 for therapeutic courts program.

[3:46:28 PM](#)

LON GARRISON, SITKA SCHOOL BOARD, SITKA (via teleconference), requested an increase of the Base Student Allocation.

[3:48:47 PM](#)

MOLLY KABLER, MEMBER, SITKA SCHOOL BOARD, SITKA (via teleconference), spoke in favor of funding for education. Requested an increase of \$100 in the base student allocation, with added funding for vocational training.

[3:51:05 PM](#)

MICHAEL BIGGERS, PETERSBURG MENTAL HEALTH, PETERSBURG (via teleconference), requested Petersburg Mental Health services funding.

[3:52:29 PM](#)

STEPHANIE PAUWK, PETERSBURG MENTAL HEALTH, PETERSBURG (via teleconference), requested Petersburg Mental Health services funding.

[3:53:52 PM](#)

JENNIFER RAY, PETERSBURG MENTAL HEALTH, PETERSBURG (via teleconference), requested Petersburg Mental Health services funding.

[3:55:05 PM](#)

KIM KILKENNY, PETERSBURG MENTAL HEALTH, PETERSBURG (via teleconference), requested continued Petersburg Mental Health services funding.

[3:55:56 PM](#)

MORGAN FALTER, PETERSBURG MENTAL HEALTH, PETERSBURG (via teleconference), requested continued Petersburg Mental Health services funding.

[3:57:33 PM](#)

SUSAN OHMER, DIRECTOR, PETERSBURG MENTAL HEALTH, PETERSBURG (via teleconference), requested increased funding for Petersburg Mental Health services. She specifically requested funding for more staff members, and better facilities.

[3:59:44 PM](#)

KEN CAULUM, PETERSBURG MENTAL HEALTH, PETERSBURG (via teleconference), requested continued Petersburg Mental Health services funding.

[4:01:45 PM](#)

JOHN YARBOURGH, PETERSBURG MENTAL HEALTH, PETERSBURG (via teleconference), requested further Petersburg Mental Health services funding.

[4:03:56 PM](#)

JULIANNE CURRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PETERSBURG VESSEL OWNERS, PETERSBURG (via teleconference), discussed Department of Fish and Game budgeting items. She specifically requested a \$75,000 increment for the Red King Crab Survey in Southeast Alaska. Supported a \$30,000 increment for stock assessment in Yakutat for Dungeness crab. Requested efforts the legislature might take to decrease Alaska's reliance on federal funding for research,

reporting, and management of the state managed fisheries-
specifically in Southeast Alaska.

[4:05:44 PM](#)

Representative Peggy Wilson commented on the Petersburg Mental Health center, and stated that there was a change in funding. She stressed that funding was based on the amount of emergencies in an area. She remarked that the Mental Health Center was able to prevent the emergency before they even happen. Because of this, the center was penalized based on the funding structure. She encouraged further changes to the funding structure of mental health therapies.

[4:08:08 PM](#)

AT EASE

[4:20:38 PM](#)

RECONVENED

HOMER, KENAI, VALDEZ, KETCHIKAN, KODIAK, MAT-SU,
GLENNALLEN, TOK, SEWARD

[4:21:44 PM](#)

REBECCA SHIELDS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KODIAK WOMEN'S RESOURCE & CRISIS CENTER, spoke in support of funding for sexual assault and domestic violence programs. She detailed that the shelters were full and the cost of travel was increasing. She requested funding for legal advocates for victims of violence and assault.

[4:23:48 PM](#)

NAOMI MICHAELSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WOMEN IN SAFE HOMES, KETCHIKAN, testified in support of the full increment for domestic violence and sexual assault.

[4:26:01 PM](#)

CHERI SMITH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LEESHORE CENTER, KENAI, requested restoration of the governor's increment for domestic violence and sexual assault.

[4:28:56 PM](#)

Representative Costello queried the other communities requesting protective orders.

Ms. Smith listed Juneau, Fairbanks, Bethel and Matsu require the greatest protection order assistance. She emphasized that legal advocacy was key.

[4:30:00 PM](#)

LEXIE MIZERAS, ALASKA SEALIFE CENTER, SEWARD, supported tourism marketing increments.

[4:30:38 PM](#)

MICHELLE WESTON, CITY MANAGER, CITY OF SEWARD, testified in support of funding increments for nursing programs that were recently removed from the governor's budget.

[4:31:22 PM](#)

STAN STEPHENS, STAN STEPHENS GLACIER & WILDLIFE TOURS, VALDEZ, spoke in support of funding for tourism marketing and commercial fishing

[4:33:16 PM](#)

COLLEEN STEPHENS, STAN STEPHENS GLACIER WILDLIFE TOURS, VALDEZ, testified in support of funding for tourism to support Alaskan businesses. She hoped to keep levels where they were in FY 11. She explained that \$11,000 was spent by her company to participate in the ATIA program; she felt the marketing was essential.

[4:35:09 PM](#)

SUE GILPATRICK, BUSINESS OWNER, CHITNA AND VALDEZ, spoke in support of funding for tourism marketing funding. Her business in Chitna employs 14 people in a town of 54. Her greenhouse business in Valdez also benefits from tourism.

[4:37:10 PM](#)

BRAD OHS, ADMINISTRATOR, ALASKA HOMES FOR CHILDREN, testified in support of continued funding \$202,000 for the Alaska Psychiatric Residency Program, which benefits both rural and urban areas.

He also spoke for continued support of therapeutic court participants for \$250,000. He requested funding for the DHSS budget's \$123 million shortfall, to match federal funding levels.

[4:41:05 PM](#)

MATT DAMMEYER, CENTRAL PENINSULA HOSPITAL, KENAI, supported the Alaska Psychiatric Residency Program.

[4:41:50 PM](#)

JANE BAILY, EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATOR, CHUGACH SCHOOL DISTRICT, testified in support of funding for early childhood education

[4:44:39 PM](#)

SHERMAN SMITH, COOPER LANDING, testified in support of RS 2477 access trails.

Representative Costello noted that the request for the RS 2477 litigation increment had been funded at \$599 thousand.

[4:46:17 PM](#)

STEVE HORN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, SOLDOTNA, supported the Alaska Psychiatric Residency program.

[4:47:25 PM](#)

TED SPRAKER, BOARD OF GAME AND BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD, KENAI, testified in support of restoring \$120,000 and one staff member for the big game commercial services board. He detailed that the guide business yielded \$2 million annually.

[4:50:10 PM](#)

SAMMY CRAWFORD, KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, asked for additional funding for education. She spoke about utility rate increases leading to budget difficulty for the school district.

[4:51:30 PM](#)

FRED STURMAN, SOLDOTNA, opined that the budget was too large and listed items he thought should be cut.

[4:53:06 PM](#)

DIANE & ROY MINISTER, SELF, PALMER, stated concerns about the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) and the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) liability. They wanted state spending to be curbed. They did not want a state income tax.

[4:55:20 PM](#)

ALAN LEMASTER, GLENNALLEN, testified in support of funding for tourism marketing. Stated that the 50 percent match was not attainable and urged not to restrict the match.

[4:57:21 PM](#)

PARK KRINER, GLENNALLEN, spoke in support of increments for tourism marketing. He maintained that everything in the state was affected by tourism dollars.

[4:59:08 PM](#)

LOLITA BRACHE, FAMILIES FIRST/BEST BEGINNINGS, HOMER, wanted funding support for early childhood education. She described successes in the area in early childhood education, childcare, preschool, and support to families.

[5:01:08 PM](#)

JERRY SCHOLAND, KIANA LODGING, HOMER (via teleconference), supported the tourism industry and asked that the legislature not penalize the industry. He requested matching funds.

[5:02:15 PM](#)

JESSICA LAWMASTER, HAVEN HOUSE, HOMER (via teleconference), requested the full \$550,000 budget increment for emergency travel for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

[5:04:19 PM](#)

TINA DAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOMER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HOMER (via teleconference), urged the legislature to

support tourism marketing funds. She did not support changes to the industry's matching requirement.

[5:05:26 PM](#)

LETHA BUTTS, FOX RUN RV CAMPGROUND AND LODGE, HOMER (via teleconference), spoke in opposition to changes to tourism marketing funds. Stated support of funding at the level that existed in FY 11.

[5:07:00 PM](#)

KEN BERGMAN, HOMER (via teleconference), supported investing in children and funding for early childhood education.

[5:08:42 PM](#)

LANCE KRONBERGER, SELF, WASILLA (via teleconference), asked for the reconsideration of the deletion of Alaska's land and water provision. Alaska's public would not be allowed to hunt the land. The trophy quality would be increased for hunters and young guides would be able to make a living in the industry.

[5:10:45 PM](#)

GREG MANSKIE, TBI, MAT-SU (via teleconference), stated support of \$550,000 funding for the TBI program.

[5:11:14 PM](#)

ROBERT WALLIS, SELF (via teleconference), spoke for support for \$550,000 for the TBI program. He shared a personal story about an accident and would like to see the funding available for victims and early intervention.

[5:13:13 PM](#)

JENNIFER CHARVET, ALASKA BRAIN INJURY NETWORK, PALMER (via teleconference), highlighted her support for funding related to traumatic brain injury victims.

[5:14:19 PM](#)

SUSAN PAYNE, SELF, KODIAK (via teleconference), supported additional funding for fishermen. She requested extended coverage for outmigration programs on salmon streams and

additional sonar programs that would help to indicate the number of fish in an area.

[5:16:50 PM](#)

PETE DANIELSKI, SELF, KODIAK (via teleconference), spoke in support of the scientifically proven salmon enhancement efforts to speed the natural run recovery process.

[5:19:27 PM](#)

HARRY DODGE, SELF, KODIAK, requested funding for fisheries enhancement for the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). He described what had been lost due to a lack of funding.

[5:21:06 PM](#)

DON DUMM, SELF, KODIAK, spoke in support of increased funding for DFG for salmon management. He echoed the critical importance of salmon for the region.

[5:23:34 PM](#)

TERRY WANZER, ALASKA HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION, KETCHIKAN, testified in support of tourism marketing funding. He opposed the decrease in the state match. He described decreases in bed tax in Ketchikan.

[5:25:24 PM](#)

SHAWNA LEE, LUMBERJACK SHOE, KETCHIKAN, requested tourism marketing funding.

[5:26:17 PM](#)

DARLENE MORRISON, MOTHER OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CHILD, KETCHIKAN, spoke in support of funding for the Alaska Brain Injury Network. She reported that Ketchikan did not have necessary services or education for victims of TBI.

[5:28:06 PM](#)

LEN LAURENCE, SPIRIT OF ALASKA TOURS, TAQUAN AIR, KETCHIKAN, spoke in support of tourism marketing funding. He described the importance of the impact of tourism marketing in the state.

[5:29:46 PM](#)

LOREN KARRO, PALMER, testified in support of funding for professional hunting guides.

[5:32:49 PM](#)

DON MONTGOMERY, MAT-SU, requested restoration of funding for the big-game guiding program.

[5:35:05 PM](#)

JAMES GARHART, WASILLA, proposed that the legislature use his 1 percent plan to cut the budget. He did not care what programs were cut. He supported forward-funding.

[5:37:25 PM](#)

MARK LACKEY, ALASKA HEAD START ASSOCIATION, WASILLA, testified in support of early childhood funding. He stated concerns about trends, especially federal cuts, reductions for the pre-K pilot program, and lack of funding for the Best Beginnings program.

[5:40:54 PM](#)

CRISTEN KOLB, HEAD START AT MEADOW LAKES, MAT-SU, spoke in support of retaining funding for early childhood education. She advocated for Head Start. She believed the cuts would seriously restrain the programs in her region.

[5:43:21 PM](#)

ALEXUS KWACHKA, FISHERMAN, KODIAK, spoke in support of funding for fisheries through DFG.

[5:44:02 PM](#)

JAN CHATTO, TOURISM INDUSTRY, KODIAK, spoke in support of funding tourism marketing for ATIA. Keep the industry match at an achievable 2.7 percent. She pointed out that tourism was a sustainable resource.

[5:44:50 PM](#)

KADIE WALSH, TOURISM INDUSTRY, KODIAK, testified for funding of tourism marketing. She opined that ATIA's advertising was responsible for increased booking.

[5:46:42 PM](#)

DAKE SCHMIDT, TOURISM INDUSTRY, KODIAK, spoke in support of the television ads for tourism and maintaining marketing funding with the same match.

[5:48:33 PM](#)

JANET BUCKINGHAM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KODIAK CONVENTION AND BUSINESS BUREAU, testified in support of retaining tourism marketing funding. She thought the operating bill as written would jeopardize the entire state tourism system. She urged the continuation of funding at last year's level.

[5:51:25 PM](#)

LAREN LYNCH, CAPE FOX LODGE, KETCHIKAN (via teleconference), spoke against the current budget for tourism.

[5:52:53 PM](#)

KAITE MONTGOMERY, SELF, KETCHIKAN (via teleconference), supported funding for tourism marketing.

[5:53:44 PM](#)

AMANDA PAINTER, ALLEN MARINE TOURS, KETCHIKAN (via teleconference), supported returning to previous funding levels for tourism.

[5:54:20 PM](#)

PAT CHAPMAN, AK BRAIN INJURY NETWORK, KETCHIKAN (via teleconference), urged support for the \$550,000 for the Alaska Brain Injury Network. She advocated for services for those who had experienced traumatic brain injuries. She noted that Alaska was without extensive rehabilitation facilities.

[5:57:48 PM](#)

WALLACE FIELDS, SELF, KODIAK (via teleconference), requested additional funding for Kodiak's Department of Fish and Game. He was alarmed at the cuts that departments were forced to make in the past few years. There were salmon systems at critical levels in Kodiak.

[5:59:35 PM](#)

DAVE KUBIAK, ALASKA MARINE CONSERVATION COUNCIL, KODIAK (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the salmon and fishing industry.

[6:00:59 PM](#)

JOSH BELL, KODIAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, testified in support of funding for tourism marketing. He believed increased funding the previous year had been successful.

Co-Chair Thomas asked a question about fisheries.

[6:02:27 PM](#)

KEVIN BRENNAN, KODIAK, spoke in support for DFG fisheries management and research programs. He reported history of funding and de-funding of projects. He thought the monitoring programs were essential to help managers make good decisions. He spoke to the decline in sockeye runs. Lynchpin for the ecosystem.

[6:04:54 PM](#)

GARY BYRNE, KODIAK REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, Urged support of fisheries management and research programs. He described the results of programs and history of the sockeye production and harvest. He maintained that the situation was at a crisis point.

[6:07:07 PM](#)

BRYAN ELLSWORTH, COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN, KODIAK, spoke in strong support of DFG funding for fisheries management and research.

[6:07:58 PM](#)

SUSAN JOHNSON, MANAGER, BEST WESTERN INN, KODIAK, testified in support of restoring tourism marketing funds and match.

She believed ATIA marketing was essential for small businesses in Alaska.

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ADJOURNMENT

[6:10:33 PM](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.