

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 8, 2022

1:01 p.m.

[1:01:19 PM](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Senator von Imhof called the Senate Finance Committee meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Click Bishop, Co-Chair
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Natasha von Imhof
Senator Bill Wielechowski
Senator David Wilson (via teleconference)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senator Donny Olson

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Ian Pitzman, North Pacific Fisheries Association, Homer; Carolyn Venuti, Homer City Council, Homer; Bryan Hawkins, AK Assoc. of Harbor Masters and Port Admin., Homer; Bal Dreyfus, CEO, Matson, Anchorage; Corey Aist, President, Anchorage Education Association, Anchorage; Pam Ventagen, Executive Director, Alaska State Medical Association, Anchorage; Cara Durr, Food Bank of Alaska, Anchorage; Delmonica Williams, President CEO, Shiloh Community Housing, Anchorage; Ron Meehan, Manager, Alaska Food Coalition, Anchorage; Bob Scanlon, CEO, Blood Bank of Alaska, Anchorage; Dr. Felicia Wilson, Blood Bank of Alaska, Anchorage; Eric Engebresten, Owner, Bayweld Boats, Homer; Shannon Martin, Executive Director, Kenai River Sport Fishing Association, Soldotna; Keeley Olson, Standing Together Against Rape (STAR), Anchorage; Mike Coons, Self, Palmer; Greg Meyer, Executive Director, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Soldotna; Rosa Foster, Shallow Community Resource Project, Anchorage; Ann Rappoport, Co-Chair, Community Council Rabbit Creek, Anchorage; Jacqueline Cunningham, Self, Palmer; Captain Ronald Ward, Chairman,

Board of Alaska Port Commission, Anchorage; Alex Hofeling, Tote Maritime Alaska, Anchorage; Cheryl Nugent, All Caregivers / Self, Kodiak; Sara Cheney, ACCESS Alaska, Anchorage; Cathy Giessel, Self, Anchorage; Barbara Waters, Education and Training Coordinator, The Lee Shore Center, Kenai; Joelle Hall, AK AFL CIO, President, Anchorage; Meghan Deaver, Self, Homer; Bert Mattingly, AFSC, Anchorage; Brandi Rathburn, Moose A'la Mode, Anchorage; Donna Aderhold, Homer City Council, Homer; Mike Brown, Manager, Matsu Borough, Palmer; Bruce Bustamante, President and CEO, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, Anchorage; Eric Gurley, Exec Director, ACCESS Alaska Inc., Anchorage; Ric Nelson, Self, Anchorage; Dean Paul, Self, Anchorage; Mayor Dave Bronson, Mayor of Anchorage, Anchorage; Dan Brown, Self, Soldotna; Vared Mares, Owner, Writers Block, Anchorage; Crystal Nygard, City of Wasilla, Wasilla; John Monroe, Program Director, Anchorage Skate Club, Anchorage; Vivica Carr, Self, Anchorage; Nathan Erfurth, President, Kenai Peninsula Education Association, Kenai; Katherine Bacon, Self, Palmer; Brian Ulz, Member, Alaska Mechanical Contractors Association, Anchorage; Tommy Baxter, Self, Fairbanks; Beth Nordlund, Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage; Chelsea Foster, Self, Anchorage; Dan Kennedy, Self, Wasilla; Robin Lydecker, Self, Anchor Point; Suzi Pearson, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Anchorage; Tim Potter, Anchorage Skates, Anchorage; Marni Hartill, Self, Anchorage; Nathan Johnson, Chair Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, Anchorage; Edna DeVries, Mayor, Matsu Borough, Palmer; Dr. Kurt Buchholz, Blood Bank of Alaska, Soldotna; Greg Schomaker, State Director, Consumer Direct Care Network Alaska, Anchorage; Abbe Hensley, Best Beginnings, Anchorage; Emily Anderson, Wild Salmon Center, Anchorage; Ashlyn Luckhurst, Unites States Tribes Bristol Bay, Dillingham; Bridget Maryott, Self, Homer; Marge Stoneking, AARP Alaska, Anchorage; Patrick Fitzgerald, Teamsters 959, Anchorage; Elisabeth Mering, Self, Homer; Sue Mauger, Self, Homer; Trevor Storrs, President and CEO, Alaska Children's Trust Anchorage; Darilyn Yeager, Self, Anchorage; Leslie Rohr, Executive Director, Love Inc. of the Kenai Peninsula, Soldotna; Marie Gomez, Self, Anchorage; Judith Jessen, Self, Anchorage; Bert Houghtaling, Self, Big Lake; Satchel Pondolfino, Self, Homer; Mary Doohar, Self, Wasilla; Michael O'Meara, Self, Anchor Point; Nancy Peafe, Self, Anchorage; Kourtney Bost, Self, Palmer; George Pierce, Self, Kasilof; Kim Hays, Chair, Anchorage Library Foundation, Anchorage; William Reiner, Self, Anchorage; Diane Fielden, Self, Soldotna;

Kelly Lessens, Anchorage School Board, Anchorage; SK Son, Owner, Anchor House, Anchorage; Nicholas Papacostas, Alaska Chapter ACEP, Anchorage.

SUMMARY

SB 162 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS

SB 162 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

SB 163 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET

SB 163 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

SB 164 APPROP: CAP; REAPPROP; SUPP

SB 164 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

#sb162

#sb163

#sb164

SENATE BILL NO. 162

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs; capitalizing funds; amending appropriations; making reappropriations; making supplemental appropriations; making appropriations under art. IX, sec. 17(c), Constitution of the State of Alaska, from the constitutional budget reserve fund; and providing for an effective date."

SENATE BILL NO. 163

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; making capital appropriations and supplemental appropriations; and providing for an effective date."

SENATE BILL NO. 164

"An Act making appropriations, including capital appropriations, reappropriations, and other

appropriations; making supplemental appropriations; and providing for an effective date."

[1:02:43 PM](#)

IAN PITZMAN, NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES ASSOCIATION, HOMER (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the state's match of the Homer Large Vessel Harbor project. He stated that the harbor assists many aspects of the community and its economy.

[1:05:33 PM](#)

CAROLYN VENUTI, HOMER CITY COUNCIL, HOMER (via teleconference), spoke in support of the community assistance program, and community jails. She spoke in support of full funding of the harbor grants program. She also testified in support of funding for the Homer Large Vessel Harbor project.

[1:07:30 PM](#)

BRYAN HAWKINS, AK ASSOC. OF HARBOR MASTERS AND PORT ADMIN., HOMER (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Homer Large Vessel Harbor project. He also spoke in support of the harbor grants program. He shared that many communities in the state had submitted projects with approval from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT).

[1:09:47 PM](#)

BAL DREYFUS, CEO, MATSON, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Port of Alaska. He felt that the port was the cornerstone of industry in the state. He stressed that many communities in the region relied on the port to meet their needs.

[1:11:52 PM](#)

COREY AIST, PRESIDENT, ANCHORAGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for schools, specifically with a focus on teacher retention. He testified in support of funding for forward funding education. He spoke in support of creating a more secure retirement for educators.

[1:14:35 PM](#)

PAM VENTAGEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), testified in support of funding for Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (WWAMI).

[1:15:39 PM](#)

CARA DURR, FOOD BANK OF ALASKA, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Food Bank of Alaska. She testified in support to fund efforts for local food sources.

[1:17:12 PM](#)

DELMONICA WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT CEO, SHILOH COMMUNITY HOUSING, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for Shiloh Community Housing.

[1:19:11 PM](#)

RON MEEHAN, MANAGER, ALASKA FOOD COALITION, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for food security.

[1:20:12 PM](#)

BOB SCANLON, CEO, BLOOD BANK OF ALASKA, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Blood Bank of Alaska. He shared that currently donor testing that took place outside of Alaska was currently an unnecessary bottleneck. He stressed that there were many issues that caused an issue, so it was important for the Blood Bank of Alaska to have self-sufficiency.

[1:22:33 PM](#)

DR. FELICIA WILSON, BLOOD BANK OF ALASKA, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Blood Bank of Alaska. She stated that the money would be used to complete the donor testing lab. She gave some of her work history.

[1:24:50 PM](#)

ERIC ENGBRETTEN, OWNER, BAYWELD BOATS, HOMER (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Homer Large Vessel Harbor expansion project. He shared that the state funding would be matched by both municipal and federal funds. He remarked that the money would be used for an engineering examination, which was required to begin building the project.

[1:26:53 PM](#)

SHANNON MARTIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KENAI RIVER SPORT FISHING ASSOCIATION, SOLDOTNA (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Sport Fish Division. She stressed that the lack of funding would result in the inability to conduct in season monitoring, which would impact fisheries across the state.

[1:28:46 PM](#)

KEELEY OLSON, STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST RAPE (STAR), ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for crisis lines for those experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

[1:30:35 PM](#)

MIKE COONS, SELF, PALMER (via teleconference), spoke against the budget. He expressed that he would like a full Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD).

[1:32:36 PM](#)

GREG MEYER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KENAI PENINSULA FOOD BANK, SOLDOTNA (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for food security in the state, and the Alaska Food Bank.

[1:34:20 PM](#)

ROSA FOSTER, SHALLOW COMMUNITY RESOURCE PROJECT, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Shallow Community Resource Project. She shared that she was a retired teacher and principal. She stated that the project provided housing, employment support, and a learning center.

[1:36:12 PM](#)

ANN RAPPOPORT, CO-CHAIR, COMMUNITY COUNCIL RABBIT CREEK, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of increased funding the Chugach State Park Access Project. // She spoke in support of funding for disaster evacuation routes in Anchorage.

[1:38:40 PM](#)

JACQUELINE CUNNINGHAM, SELF, PALMER (via teleconference), spoke in support of forward funding education. She stressed that the forward funding enhances teacher retention and planning. She remarked that she was a teacher.

[1:40:03 PM](#)

CAPTAIN RONALD WARD, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF ALASKA PORT COMMISSION, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Port of Alaska modernization. He shared that he had seen the structural decline of the infrastructure of the port. He shared that the port handled thousands of tons of cargo and oil. He stressed that the port was essential to many communities in the state.

[1:43:23 PM](#)

ALEX HOFELING, TOTE MARITIME ALASKA, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), testified in support of funding for the Port of Alaska modernization.

[1:45:19 PM](#)

CHERYL NUGENT, SELF, KODIAK (via teleconference), testified in support for additional funding for care providers.

[1:47:29 PM](#)

SARA CHENEY, ACCESS ALASKA, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), testified in support for care provider services.

[1:48:45 PM](#)

CATHY GIESSEL, SELF, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), testified in support of behavioral health treatment and recovery grants. She lamented the increase in fentanyl overdoses in the state. She stressed that the need for the grants was important to the state.

[1:50:38 PM](#)

BARBARA WATERS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING COORDINATOR, THE LEE SHORE CENTER, KENAI (via teleconference), testified in support for funding services and emergency shelters for domestic violence and sexual assault.

[1:52:39 PM](#)

JOELLE HALL, AK AFL CIO, PRESIDENT, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of a larger capital budget to rebuild infrastructure in her community and the state. She supported the work at the Port of Alaska.

[1:55:00 PM](#)

MEGHAN DEEVER, SELF, HOMER (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for hazard pay for care providers.

[1:56:27 PM](#)

BERT MATTINGLY, AFSC, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Port of Alaska modernization program.

[1:58:30 PM](#)

BRANDI RATHBURN, MOOSE A'LA MODE, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), testified in support of funding for the Restaurant and Hunger Relief Partnership.

[2:00:00 PM](#)

DONNA ADERHOLD, HOMER CITY COUNCIL, HOMER (via teleconference), testified in support of the community assistance program and community jails. She supported funds for the municipal grant program. She spoke in support of funding for the study for the Homer Large Vessel Harbor Project.

[2:02:11 PM](#)

MIKE BROWN, MANAGER, MATSU BOROUGH, PALMER (via teleconference), spoke in support of school bond debt reimbursement. He testified in support of funding for various transportation projects in the Matsu Borough. He spoke in support of funding for the Arctic Winter Games.

Co-Chair Bishop wondered whether the \$10 million appropriation from the year prior for roads and paving had been spent.

Mr. Brown replied in the affirmative.

Senator Wielechowski recalled that the year prior had seen significant requests from the Matsu, and wondered whether the current request was fair to the other communities in the state.

Mr. Brown replied that the requests had been coupled with a local match.

[2:05:07 PM](#)

BRUCE BUSTAMANTE, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ANCHORAGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Port of Alaska Modernization Project. He remarked that port repairs had been conducted over the years, but modernization was essential to safety of the port. He echoed the comments of the earlier testifiers regarding the importance of the port to the entire state.

[2:08:56 PM](#)

ERIC GURLEY, EXEC DIRECTOR, ACCESS ALASKA INC., ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Center for Independent Living. He recalled the funding for the program that had been appropriated in prior years.

[2:10:49 PM](#)

RIC NELSON, SELF, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of drawing down the waitlist for the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Waiver. He advocated for a 20-person drawdown increase.

[2:13:34 PM](#)

DEAN PAUL, SELF, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of more work to drawdown the IDD Waiver waitlist. He echoed the comments of Mr. Nelson.

[2:15:06 PM](#)

MAYOR DAVE BRONSON, MAYOR OF ANCHORAGE, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of the Port of Alaska Modernization Project. He pointed out the essential nature of the port. He remarked that there was extreme corrosion on the port, and was currently seismically unstable.

[2:16:56 PM](#)

DAN BROWN, SELF, SOLDOTNA (via teleconference), testified in support of forward funding for education. He stressed that the funding would enhance planning and retention in schools. He relayed that he had a daughter who was currently in college, and the idea of forward funding education would encourage her to return to Alaska after college.

[2:17:58 PM](#)

VARED MARES, OWNER, WRITERS BLOCK, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of the Restaurant and Hunger Relief Program. She stated that the program allowed for many restaurants to provide meals to people in need. She stressed that the program allowed for staff retention and connection to the community. She stressed that the program allowed for her business to stay in business during the pandemic.

[2:21:00 PM](#)

CRYSTAL NYGARD, CITY OF WASILLA, WASILLA (via teleconference), spoke in support of the Wasilla Airport Expansion. She shared that Wasilla was the fastest growing city in the state. She stressed that the airport enhanced food security and safety in the area. She remarked that Wasilla was a vital piece of commerce. She shared that the City of Wasilla would also support the airport.

[2:22:52 PM](#)

JOHN MONROE, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ANCHORAGE SKATE CLUB, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for Alaska Community Foundation Midtown Park Chalet Fund for a warming facility.

[2:25:07 PM](#)

VIVICA CARR, SELF, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), testified in support of funding for the Shadow Community Resource Center. She felt that the community would be necessary for everyone statewide.

[2:26:34 PM](#)

NATHAN ERFURTH, PRESIDENT, KENAI PENINSULA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, KENAI (via teleconference), spoke in support of forward funding for education and increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

[2:28:47 PM](#)

KATHERINE BACON, SELF, PALMER (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for hazard pay wage increases for home care providers. She shared that she was the sole provider for her grandson. She stressed that providing care for someone was a very rewarding job, but it was also stressful.

[2:30:42 PM](#)

BRIAN ULZ, MEMBER, ALASKA MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), remarked that there was a severe workforce shortage. He spoke in support of workforce development in order to fill the required jobs for the proposed projects. He testified in support of funding for deferred maintenance.

[2:33:45 PM](#)

TOMMY BAXTER, SELF, FAIRBANKS (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for education. He stressed that the funding for education would enhance teacher retention and planning in schools.

[2:35:17 PM](#)

BETH NORDLUND, ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for Anchorage park requests. She stated that the projects included the Alaska Long Trail Project. She testified in support of the Anchorage Moose Loop.

[2:37:15 PM](#)

CHELSEA FOSTER, SELF, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for hazard pay wage increases for caregivers. She stressed that her pay had recently decreased, and her family was also affected by inflation.

[2:37:59 PM](#)

DAN KENNEDY, SELF, WASILLA (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the expansion of the Wasilla Regional Airport. He stated that the airport would help with the supply line for the state. He remarked that there was a large demand to diversify the economy in the state. He remarked that the Matsu has several thousand more people than Fairbanks, but no airport passenger service.

[2:39:32 PM](#)

ROBIN LYDECKER, SELF, ANCHOR POINT (via teleconference), spoke in support of hazard pay wage increases for home care providers. She remarked that she loved her job, because she was able to provide dignity to a person living in her own home. She stressed that there had not been any wage increases for five years.

[2:40:37 PM](#)

SUZI PEARSON, ABUSED WOMEN'S AID IN CRISIS, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), testified in support of funding for victims services through the State Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

[2:41:47 PM](#)

TIM POTTER, ANCHORAGE SKATES, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the warming facility in the midtown Anchorage Skating Oval.

[2:45:12 PM](#)

MARNI HARTILL, SELF, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for K-12 public education. She shared that she had been a teacher for fifteen years, and felt that there needed to be a permanent increase in education funding. She pointed out that teacher retention and education burnout were major issues in schools.

[2:48:07 PM](#)

NATHAN JOHNSON, CHAIR ANCHORAGE COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), testified in support of funding for the establishment of a statewide housing trust. He noted that Alaska was one of only three states without a statewide housing trust.

[2:50:50 PM](#)

EDNA DEVRIES, MAYOR, MATSU BOROUGH, PALMER (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for Arctic Winter Games.

[2:52:44 PM](#)

DR. KURT BUCHHOLZ, BLOOD BANK OF ALASKA, SOLDOTNA (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the donor testing lab for the Blood Bank of Alaska.

[2:55:31 PM](#)

GREG SCHOMAKER, STATE DIRECTOR, CONSUMER DIRECT CARE NETWORK ALASKA, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for hazard pay wage increases for caregivers.

Senator von Imhof handed the gavel to Senator Wielechowski.

[2:57:47 PM](#)

ABBE HENSLEY, BEST BEGINNINGS, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for Best Beginnings, Imagination Library, and other early education programs.

[2:59:53 PM](#)

EMILY ANDERSON, WILD SALMON CENTER, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in opposition of the \$4.9 million to advance the state's takeover of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

[3:01:50 PM](#)

ASHLYN LUCKHURST, UNITES STATES TRIBES BRISTOL BAY, DILLINGHAM (via teleconference), testified in opposition of

the \$4.9 million to advance the state's takeover of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

[3:02:32 PM](#)

BRIDGET MARYOTT, SELF, HOMER (via teleconference), spoke in opposition of the \$4.9 million to advance the state's takeover of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

[3:03:32 PM](#)

MARGE STONEKING, AARP ALASKA, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for senior centers, public assistance, and assisted living centers. She also requested additional funds to adjust wage reimbursement rates for home care providers. She also spoke in support of funding for deferred maintenance for the Pioneer Homes.

[3:05:39 PM](#)

PATRICK FITZGERALD, TEAMSTERS 959, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for the Port of Alaska Modernization Project.

[3:07:17 PM](#)

ELISABETH MERING, SELF, HOMER (via teleconference), spoke against the 404 permitting funding.

[3:09:16 PM](#)

SUE MAUGER, SELF, HOMER (via teleconference), spoke against the 404 permitting funding of \$4.9 million for Clean Water Act permitting.

[3:10:52 PM](#)

TREVOR STORRS, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ALASKA CHILDREN'S TRUST ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for workforce retention bonuses for the Office of Children's Services (OCS). He also spoke in support of the Tribal Child Welfare Compact.

[3:12:16 PM](#)

DARILYN YEAGER, SELF, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), testified in support of funding for increased wages for caregivers.

[3:13:47 PM](#)

LESLIE ROHR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LOVE INC. OF THE KENAI PENINSULA, SOLDOTNA (via teleconference), testified in support of funding for a statewide housing trust. She shared that there was a major housing crisis in the state.

[3:15:57 PM](#)

MARIE GOMEZ, SELF, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for hazard pay and higher wages for caregivers.

[3:17:24 PM](#)

JUDITH JESSEN, SELF, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for hazard pay and higher wages for caregivers.

[3:19:50 PM](#)

BERT HOUGHTALING, SELF, BIG LAKE (via teleconference), testified in opposition all three budgets.

[3:21:59 PM](#)

SATCHEL PONDOLFINO, SELF, HOMER (via teleconference), spoke against the 404 permitting funding of \$4.9 million for Clean Water Act permitting.

[3:23:39 PM](#)

MARY DOOHER, SELF, WASILLA (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for education. She stressed that forward funding and reliable funding was critical for teacher retention and school planning.

[3:25:15 PM](#)

MICHAEL O'MEARA, SELF, ANCHOR POINT (via teleconference), spoke in opposition to the 404 permitting state primacy.

[3:26:25 PM](#)

NANCY PEAFE, SELF, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of the Chugach State Park Access; the Alaska Long Trail; and the South Potter Marsh pullout.

[3:28:31 PM](#)

KOURTNEY BOST, SELF, PALMER (via teleconference), testified in support of increased wages and hazard pay for caregivers. She noted that she had not had any pay increases since 2015.

[3:30:44 PM](#)

GEORGE PIERCE, SELF, KASILOF (via teleconference), spoke against the spending in the budget.

[3:33:26 PM](#)

KIM HAYS, CHAIR, ANCHORAGE LIBRARY FOUNDATION, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of the Anchorage Downtown Library Project.

[3:35:01 PM](#)

WILLIAM REINER, SELF, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for caregivers. He relayed his personal story about caring for his mother.

[3:37:31 PM](#)

DIANE FIELDEN, SELF, SOLDOTNA (via teleconference), testified in support of the recovery aspects of mental health funding. She shared that she had personal experience with her son losing his life to addiction.

[3:39:55 PM](#)

KELLY LESSENS, ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of increasing and inflation-proofing the BSA. She also spoke in favor of school bond debt reimbursement.

[3:42:37 PM](#)

SK SON, OWNER, ANCHOR HOUSE, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for Anchor House.

[3:44:37 PM](#)

NICHOLAS PAPACOSTAS, ALASKA CHAPTER ACEP, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), spoke in support of funding for WWAMI.

[3:46:11 PM](#)

Senator Wielechowski noted Senator Wilson's presence via teleconference.

SB 162 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

SB 163 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

SB 164 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

#

ADJOURNMENT

[3:46:56 PM](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.