

HB

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(File 6)

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FILE



OLDER PERSONS ACTION GROUP, Inc.

325 E. 3rd. Ave., #300
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 276-1059 (Toll free 800-478-1059)
FAX (907) 278-6724

RECEIVED

APR 14 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol Rm. 507
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182

April 4, 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

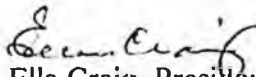
Older Persons Action Group, Inc. (OPAG) appreciated the opportunity to participate in a statewide teleconference March 23.

As individuals and representatives of organizations addressed their concerns, participants in the audience heard the concerns of their individuals and organizations. Several in the audience voiced hope that another teleconference would be scheduled.

Recognizing the myriad of issues addressed at the teleconference, a copy of OPAG's testimony is attached for your convenience.

Thank you for meeting with constituents.

Sincerely,



Ella Craig, President

Older Persons Action Group

Enc ; 1

OPAG TESTIMONY AT TELECONFERENCE

Saturday, March 22, 1997

Older Persons Action Group, Inc. (OPAG) is an organization best known for publication of Senior Voice and we thank you for your on-going support of that publication.

Today, however, we wish to address another program : JOB TRAINING, PLACEMENT, AND EMPLOYMENT. For more than a decade OPAG has conducted Nurse Aide Training classes. Curriculum and program are approved by the Alaska Post secondary Commission. In addition to basic training of Nurse Aide skills, students learn proper hands-on techniques taught in a clinical setting, ways to communicate with patient and family, and other helpful information.

OPAG conducts this training throughout the state with funding from grants, job training, state training and employment assistance, scholarships and individuals.

Unfortunately, many persons eager to pursue careers as a nurse aide have small children and cannot afford child care or transportation. Some are responsible for the care of both children and a frail elderly parent.

OPAG encourages increased funding to cover costs of care for child or other dependents during the hours student is in class; reasonable costs incurred during job search, i.e. dental needs, eyeglasses etc.

Financial assistance during this crucial time will accomplish three goals:

1. Enable persons to enter the fastest growing industry in the state and nation.
2. Provide persons seeking in-home health care to access well trained and certified Nurse Aides for their loved ones.
3. Enable individuals not eligible to access quality care through private pay.

P.O.Box 20424
Juneau, AK 99802

April 11, 1997

Representative Mark S. Hanley
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mark Hanley;

As one of your constituents, I am writing to ask for your support of Adult Basic Education programs around the state. I believe our 20 Adult Education programs will be utilized more and more heavily as welfare reform gathers momentum. Unfortunately, our funding has been cut in the last few years. In conjunction with the Alaska Adult Education Association, I would advocate an increase in funding of \$300,000.

I am fortunate to be a full time employee in this field, but most of the staff teaching for this important segment of our population are only part-time and have little training. We help students who have not succeeded in high school for a wide variety of reasons to get their GED. We also teach resume writing and offer vocational guidance to completers of our program in an effort to help our students become ready for the work place. With additional funding we could offer higher quality instruction and provide students access to current computer technology.

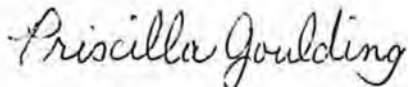
In Southeast we also serve the communities of Ketchikan, Kake, Angoon, Hoonah, Yakutat, Haines and Prince of Wales Island. With increased funding we would be able to serve these communities better with updated materials and technology. Our dedicated teachers in these areas would also have access to additional training.

At the present time 27% of Alaska's high school diplomas are GED's. Already, since the beginning of 1997, I have seen an increase in the number of students wanting to improve their skills either to earn a GED or to enter another training program. Some students who have high school diplomas already are finding that they need stronger skills in math and English to attend UAS. Others come to us as the timber industry dwindles, realizing they need a GED in order to apply to training for mining jobs, construction jobs or nurse's aides. In the field of adult education we see ourselves as helping to put Alaskans back to work.

Please consider this vital need for increased, rather than decreased funding for adult education. I would be happy to give you a tour of our Adult Ed. Center on 400 Willoughby Avenue, if you are interested. I look forward to hearing from you.

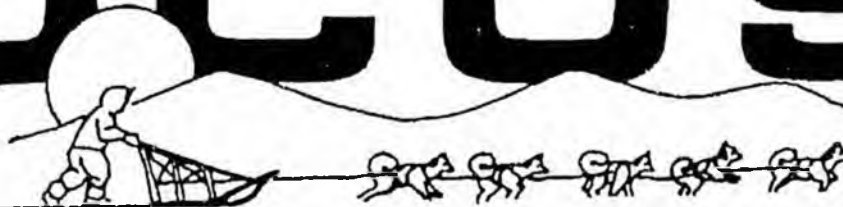
Enclosed is a fact sheet describing Adult Basic Education.

Sincerely,



Priscilla Goulding
Adult Education Coordinator
Southeast Regional Resource Center

FOCUS



Alaska Adult Education Association

Volume 17 Number 2

Winter 1996

1996 ALASKA ADULT EDUCATION FACT SHEET

More than 27% of Alaska's high school diplomas in 1995 were GEDs.

The number of high school early dropouts is higher this year than last.

Cost per student in Alaska public schools is nearly \$7,000 per year.

Each adult education student costs the State of Alaska less than \$300 for the entire year, with centers operating from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

There were 7,906 full time students in Alaska's Adult Basic Education programs last year.

There were over 500 persons on waiting lists to enter some of the larger adult education programs last year.

In the past eight years, Alaska Adult Education program participants have increased by 43% while the funding level has not increased at all. (Half of that increase has occurred in the past three years.)

Last year at least 763 Alaskans obtained jobs and 217 were removed from public assistance as a direct result of their increased education through Alaska's Adult Education programs. (These figures are derived through short term tracking only; long term tracking is not possible due to lack of funding.)

Adult Education programs prepare nearly 1,000 Alaskans each year to enter higher education or training programs.

With impending welfare reform, demand for Adult Basic Education programs statewide is likely to rise dramatically to prepare adults for job readiness.

One of the goals of "Goals 2000" is for a fully literate America by the year 2000. The U.S. currently ranks 49th in literacy among the 158 United Nations member nations.

Instruction in Alaska Adult Education programs was delivered by 148 teachers (most part time) and 550 unpaid volunteers in 1995.



421 West First Avenue,
Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
tel (907) 276-3133
fax (907) 276-2584

International Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia
tel 703 841-5300

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APR 10 1997

April 7, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 507 (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I understand that the University of Alaska Anchorage budget will be up for consideration shortly. I am writing to urge you to consider fully funding UAA's operating and capitol budget requests and furthermore to support an expansion of the university's budget to enable them to better meet the needs of Alaskans. As a member of Commonwealth North's Board of Directors and a participant in the first Economic Summit, I am well aware of the obligation responsible Alaskans have to future generations to live within our budget. I am also aware of our need for a healthy economy, and strongly believe that an educated populace is the foundation on which a diverse economy can be built.

Because I work for a national organization I have opportunities to learn about things going on in other states that affect both the natural and economic environments. I have been impressed by the clear fact that those states which invest seriously in education, especially at the post-secondary level, are states with strong economies. Of particular interest to me are those states that have built diversified economies on a strong knowledge base, e.g., especially California, North Carolina, and Washington. We have extraordinary opportunities here in Alaska to develop high tech industries every bit as good as those in any of other state, but we will lose those opportunities if we don't make a significantly greater commitment to higher education. We will continue to export our "best and brightest" young Alaskans, and we certainly will never attract either students or faculty to support a Silicon Valley, a Research Triangle, or a single company like Microsoft which has spawned a vigorous high tech industry in Seattle, if we continue to dock our University's budget.

More personally, it was distressing to have both of my children choose to attend college Outside, and they did so because even at that time it was impossible to complete basic requirements in an expeditious manner because of too few faculty and therefore too few classes in those core skill areas. As a thirty-plus year Alaskan who cares deeply



April 11, 1997

BY FAX COMMUNICATION (2 PAGES) TO:

| | <u>FAX Number</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| The Hon. Druie Pearce, Senator State of Alaska | 907-465-3872 |
| The Hon. Bert Sharp, Senator, State of Alaska | 907-465-2070 |
| The Hon. Mark Hanley, Representative State of Alaska | 907-465-2418 |
| The Hon. Gene Pherriault, Representative State of Alaska | 907-465-3684 |

RE: SEAFOOD AND SANITATION COMPONENT OF THE PROPOSED STATE OF ALASKA OPERATING BUDGET

Dear Senators Pearce and Sharp; Representatives Hanley and Pherriault

I am writing to express UniSea's support for the Seafood and Sanitation component of ADEC Health Division. I understand that the State of Alaska legislature is considering significant cuts to this component of the Operating Budget, and this is of grave concern to us.

Since 1974, UniSea has owned and operated multiple processing facilities throughout the State of Alaska, under the oversight, of course, of numerous State agencies. Of all the divisions within ADEC, the Seafood and Sanitation division is the one that benefits all Alaskans and industry the most. There can be no more important endeavor than assuring the high quality and safety of Alaskan seafood products. The consequences of a "hollow" ADEC Seafood and Sanitation division, by way of severe budget cuts, will very likely negatively impact the integrity of the industry and compromise the safety and quality of seafood products produced in Alaska and marketed worldwide. In addition, export trade could also very likely be hampered if the vital inspection services provided by ADEC are allowed to diminish in any way.

It would be an absolute mistake to decrease funding for this component in the proposed Operating Budget. Alaskans benefit in more ways than I can describe from being ranked "Number 1" in both volume and value of exported U.S. seafood products. The State of Alaska contains three out of four of the largest U.S. seafood landing port. It must also maintain its leadership status and good reputation as a world provider of safe, high quality seafood products. This can only be maintained by having a strong seafood and sanitation program, fully funded and prepared to help industry.



The Hon. Pearce, Sharp, Hanley, Pherriault
State of Alaska
4/11/97
Page 2

Whether dealing with a large, year-round seafood processor or a small, "native-operated" seafood business, the Seafood division of ADEC has time and again demonstrated its commitment to helping industry produce safe and high quality products. As previously mentioned, I have found the Seafood division of ADEC to be the most helpful of all of the State agencies we have to deal with. They truly provide a *real service* to industry- not just "regulate". This is because our goals are so very similar- quality and safety. These important services- inspection, technical support, and assistance- simply cannot come from a division that cannot, because of budget cuts, maintain a high quality staff committed to the well-being of all Alaskans and industry.

To this end, I urge you to adopt an Operating Budget that maintains the current funding level of the Seafood and Sanitation component of the ADEC Health Division. The proposed House cut of \$82,500.00 to this component must be rejected wholly, and funding for this component restored to its current level by the Senate.

Sincerely,
UNISEA, INC.



Joe Frazier
Director of Quality Assurance

file: jfhealth\Sfdprgm.doc



Budget Comm.
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, AK

R. W. Cranston
Bx 6366
Sitka, AK

4-3-97
RECEIVED

APR 05 1997

Dear Budgeter,

Jerry Bingham of KOAC
is plaintively telling us how
important it is for you fellows
to provide funds for PBS
at previous levels + for us
to hold your feet to the fire.

I certainly don't want to
lose my PBS. It's the only
thing I've got + I think in the

only thing worth watching!

Regards,

A. W. Cranito ●

Budget Committee
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, AK

Men & Women,

R. W. Cranston

P.O. Box 366

Sitka AK 99835

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APR 10 1997

You've got to give
PBS some money. There
isn't anything else worth
listening to. In Sitka
except for unaffordable
cable Alaska 1 is practically
the only thing we have.

You could also raise
the standard of commercial

T.V. like leaving the
commercial message to
8 min / hour & should
not interrupt the program
but at either end of the
program. Advertisements
shouldn't be used over &
over forever but should
be changed & varied
much more frequently.
They should be considerably

less "irritating". Further
They should be honest
and contribute to the
human condition. So
much T.V. advertising is
dishonest & socially indefensible.

Thank

Bob Cranston

March 31, 1997

Dear Legislator:

STOP! LOOK! AND LISTEN! PLEASE!

I am an eighteen year resident of this awesome State of Alaska and I am concerned. I have been a State employee since April 1979 and I am also a faithful voter and, generally, I am a conservative voter.

I do not know what the views of each and every legislator are so as you read this letter you will know if I am talking to you.

I am writing about the majority's adamant tone in regards to cutting the State budget. It seems that, since the decision was made to cut "X" amount of dollars from the State budget last session, an attitude of "we are going to cut the budget that much no matter what" is prevailing on the part of the majority leaders. I can agree that we need to look to the future and plan accordingly; and I know that there are certain areas in the State budget that can be trimmed. However, from what I see and hear in the news media and through other State channels, the predicted budget shortfall has not been as drastic as was originally thought. The main reason being the higher than predicted oil prices that we are now seeing. As a result, I believe that the majority needs to back off their stance and become more in line with current reality.

BEFORE you cut another dollar from the budget, you need to think again about who you are and who you represent. I keep hearing that everyone needs to tighten their belts in light of the shrinking budget. WHY then, do you think that you deserve \$150/day per diem?!? State government, as a whole, has been taking cuts for the past 10 years! Unfortunately, not always where the cuts should have been taken and, yes, there are still areas that need to be looked at. As a faithful, hardworking public servant, I am appalled and irate that you feel you need \$150/day per diem while, at the same time, you cut the employees per diem and failed to honor a contract negotiated in good faith! Now you are doing it again. As representatives of the people of this great State, YOU need to set the tone if you want to cut the budget. YOU need to repeal the \$50/day increase that YOU gave yourselves as you were cutting the compensation of those of us on the street serving the people you represent! YOU need to consider going to "actual cost" for lodging just as the employees of the States' largest union do in the interest of saving dollars.

Now two more bills attacking State employees have been introduced. HB 188 and SB 150 will further eradicate benefits earned by employees, particularly overtime and retirement benefits, and this will most seriously affect the seasonal employees, who make up the BACKBONE of the state workforce. We work overtime as required. It is not always "convenient" and most often interrupts family time. We do it because we are professionals and it is part of our job. Now these bills want to remove overtime from what is considered "compensation" for us. We work it and it

should most definitely be considered toward our three highest years for retirement! I feel it is a low down and two-faced move on the part of those who introduced it!

Budget cuts on the backs of State employees have gone far enough! The vast majority make their homes in Alaska year around. We have families who participate in the local communities and schools. We contribute to the local economies just like everyone else and when we keeping getting cut, the local communities also suffer as a result. I am asking you to vote down these absurd bills and quit trying to balance the budget on the backs of the employees!

A lot of us seasonal employees would rather work year around. However, due to funding, that is not always possible. We keep coming back because we take pride in what we do - serving the people of Alaska. In the Division of Forestry, where I am employed, the seasonal firefighters are highly trained professionals. We manage thousands of dollars on wildland fires and do so under extreme scrutiny. We are part of the state-wide emergency response system. We work with State, local and Federal cooperators to manage multi-risk incidents throughout the State. Our safety record over the last 20 years is impeccable! We are seriously understaffed in many of the geographic Areas. We are highly concerned that more cuts to our budgets will result in the loss of many of these highly trained people. This could result in a lot of new untrained personnel filling these positions and, as a result, could result in serious tragedy.

The fires we experienced last season in Southcentral Alaska were the most disastrous in the history of our State. Over 350 structures were lost in the Big Lake fires alone. We may be facing another fire season as bad or worse than last year due to the lack of snow this winter. We are already having wildfires on the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, and in the Mat-Su Valley. Why hasn't the legislature taken more proactive measures to fill the voids we have. We need more positions and we need an increment to fund them. Please do not turn your backs on the people you represent.

I could go on but I won't. I hope you have gotten the picture by now. I would appreciate hearing from any of you, however, please do not send any canned responses. If you cannot send a personal reply, then save the State's money and don't send anything.

Thank you.

Sincerely concerned,



Tom Marok
HC2 Box 707
Soldotna, AK 99669



April 7, 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

This letter is written out of concern for the future of postsecondary education in the state of Alaska. I am convinced that our elected senators and representatives are not aware of the current trend and certainly not aware of the impact to our communities of recent steps that have been taken by key administrative staff members of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE).

Alaska Computer Institute (ACI) is a private corporation which has served the educational needs of the Anchorage and Fairbanks communities for the last thirteen years. The population of ACI students consists of 30% native Alaskans, 79% women, and 65% other minorities for a total *minority* population of 92%. ACI serves those individuals who are not able to commit to a two- or four-year collegiate program. We train welfare recipients to prepare them for meaningful employment, and we work with both the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation the Job Training and Partnership Act to help people make a new start with their lives.

In March, the management of ACI made the painful decision to begin a teach out in order to close our Fairbanks campus by the end of June. The remaining students were offered the opportunity to participate in teach out classes, transfer to our Anchorage campus with ACI paying transportation costs, get assistance with buying University of Alaska-Fairbanks credits, or negotiating a refund. One student transferred to Anchorage, one student has elected to move out of state, two students remain undecided, and the remaining students are participating in teach out classes.

ACI has diligently tried to work with the administrative staff of ACPE in supplying all necessary documentation in order to proceed with our plan. However, it is not clear what is required by key staff members to prevent the closure of the Anchorage campus of ACI and continue the teach out of the Fairbanks students. We have been led to believe that the closure of ACI-Anchorage is eminent and is to take place at an April 16 Institutional Authorization Committee meeting of ACPE.

The loss of Alaska Computer Institute would affect the whole state as we have many students that come in to Anchorage from outlying villages and communities. Vocational training in the state of Alaska is at risk. Where are these people going to go when federal mandates concerning welfare recipients come into play? What about the dreams of the 82 students currently enrolled at ACI? Where do they turn? Who is representing their interests? The staff, faculty, and students of ACI are asking for your help. We hope that you, as a representative of the people of Alaska, understand the severity of our situation and the far reaching consequences to your constituents.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robb Woodman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. Robb Woodman, Director
ACI Staff and Faculty

701 E. Tudor Rd., Suite 101
Anchorage, AK 99503



(907) 563-2244
FAX (907) 562-1875

TOTAL P.02

CITY OF ANIAK
P.O. BOX 189
ANIAK, ALASKA 99557

April 8, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Chairman Hanley:

The City of Aniak is in dire financial straits. We have \$12,362.00 left in our general account. It costs the City \$14,000.00 a month to operate.

We are at the point of no longer being able to function financially as a 2nd class city. Please do not bring the great State of Alaska into ruin, with a broken down infrastructure and no state control of its resources. Even our federal representative is telling you of the dire consequences of not resolving the Subsistence dilemma. The mayors and other elected officials are warning you also.

Smaller municipalities are going bankrupt with the cutting of State aid. This is jeopardizing the health and safety of the citizens.

If nothing is done, the Federal government will take over Fish & Game management in October. You should be doing whatever it takes to retain Alaska's control of its resources. We Alaskans can solve our problems ourselves!

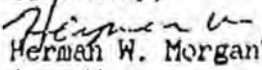
To balance the budget, let the people of Alaska decide if they want a state income tax or not. You are cutting too much too fast in your zest to cut 60 million. It will cause the State of Alaska's resources and citizens a world of hurt.

Look on page 116 of April 1997 National Geographic Magazine. There is no impending budget crisis, the sky is not falling. You are being duped into thinking there is an impending crisis!

Look at how much damage your cuts are causing. How many jobs will be lost? How many children will go hungry? Many unnecessarily. All this is happening in one of the richest states in the union

Think about all the unnecessary pain to Alaska you are causing. You are creating a crisis, of monumental proportions, if you continue with the 60 million dollar cut to the states budget.

Sincerely,


Herman W. Morgan
City Manager

**Distance
Delivery
Consortium**

*Promoting distance education and
communication in Rural Alaska*



P.O. Box 2401 • Bethel, Alaska 99559 • (907) 543-4069 • (907) 543-3130 FAX

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 4-6-97

TO: Alaska State - Senators, House of Representatives.

Governor Tony Knowles, Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer

Senator Ted Stevens, Congressman Don Young

FROM: MARTIN LEONARD III, COORDINATOR, DISTANCE DELIVERY CONSORTIUM, BETHEL ALASKA

**RE: SATELLITE INTERCONNECT PROJECT/PUBLIC BROADCASTING- CONTINUED
FUNDING FOR VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALASKA**

1. **THE FUNDING OF ARCS as the line item in the current State of Alaska's budget is a grave misrepresentation. Almost all of the dollars committed to 'ARCS' are dedicated to paying the majority of the State's 1.5 million transponder/satellite lease. These state funds go to operate the satellite transponder in conjunction with directives of THE SATELLITE INTERCONNECT PROJECT (SIP) which oversees all of the services mentioned below.**
2. **The SIP has developed infrastructure and governance to manage the State's satellite resource in support of: Public Radio, Public Television (rural and urban programming streams), Distance Education, the Emergency Alert System and the possible pipe-line for Computer-Data transmissions (i.e. the INTERNET).**
3. **The upgrade of our satellite delivery system to it's current 'working' standard has increased our capacity to deliver many more services. The Digital upgrade to our system now enable Four Video Channels, 16 Radio links, Emergency Broadcasting, and potential Computer Data Services to reside where once only one video channel previously existed. This has reduced operating expenses for everyone involved creating a cost effective reliable mechanism for the delivery of telecommunications initiatives state-wide.**
4. **The Satellite System is the infrastructure providing for basic telecommunications needs of all Alaskans. The system allows for regional representation. This is not just about entertainment TV any more !**

5. This Satellite system and it's components bring Alaska to the forefront of technology enhanced education and health-care delivery as well as the whole telecommunications arena.
6. This initiative is positively affecting state-wide, national and international interconnectivity for Alaskans and will enhance our possibilities for personal and economic growth.
7. The federal government (NTIA) has provided the funding for the development of much of this vital infrastructure and they demand results. 1) we can de-fund the ARCS/Public Television line item; thereby killing the whole SIP project and negating the hard work and dollars committed by Washington. Equipment in place is on a ten year lien and will revert back to the Federal government if no longer being used for it's original intent. We can be held liable by the granting agencies involved and eliminate any chances we have for future funding or 2) *we can continue to fund the SATELLITE SIP / It's Component Services and move forward with the implementation of one of the most important and worthwhile investments the NTIA , State of Alaska and private partners have ever supported. This 'exemplary project' will ensure future funding opportunities.*

ANY DISCUSSION OF THE ELIMINATION OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING / ARCS TV / FUNDING OF THE SATELLITE TRANSPONDER; HOWEVER IT MAY BE PRESENTED, WILL:

- **KILL ANY OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE AHEAD WITH VITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES WITHIN OUR STATE.**
- **SET STATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS BACK 15 YEARS (THIS INCLUDES: TECHNOLOGY ASSISTED EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE, EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND COMPUTER INTERCONNECTIVITY).**
- **PLACE US IN EXTREME DISFAVOR WITH FUNDING AGENCIES VITAL TO THE GROWTH OF OUR STATE-WIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.**

*** Preserve funding for the Satellite Transponder. Preserve Public TV, ARCS, Public Radio, the Alaska III Education Channel, Gavel to Gavel, Emergency Broadcast Services and State-wide Interconnectivity***

Fund Vital Telecommunications Infrastructure - it's important for all Alaskans.

1

RECEIVED
APR 07 1997

April 3, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

We, the undersigned Department Heads of the UAF College of Liberal Arts (CLA), would like to express our deep concern about the budget cuts being discussed by the Legislature for the University of Alaska system, and, in particular, the negative impact that any budget reduction will have on our College's ability to deliver a quality academic experience for Alaskans.

When the UA budget does not grow in real terms, academic programs bear the brunt of the resulting budget reduction. This trend cannot continue! Over the past five years, CLA has absorbed repeated "administrative taxes" on its budget, and, now, there are no discretionary funds left to cut. In recent years, CLA has lost 27 faculty positions. These missing faculty positions matter--they represent lost specialties creating hollow spaces in degree programs, and they represent an economic loss to the Fairbanks community and the State. Last year the CLA faculty travel money was eliminated altogether, removing this vital opportunity for faculty development. We recently learned that most of the CLA lecturer pool will not be funded next year. Lecturers are adjunct teachers who support degree programs, so many classes that students need will be canceled next semester.

We simply cannot continue to absorb budget reductions at the College level and sustain the high quality academic opportunities that Alaskans deserve from their University experience. We would like to have the CLA budget grow to reflect the need for quality in-state higher education. However, if the Legislature continues to discuss budget reductions for the UA system, then we believe that it is important that you recognize that the administrative structure cannot be relied upon to cut itself, and once again, the reductions will fall disproportionately on the heart of the University--its instructional programs. If past experience is a guide, then any budget reduction will decimate already seriously underfunded academic degree programs, and ultimately the services that Alaskans expect from their University.

We thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>Kenneth Baird</u> | <u>Geography</u> | <u>PO BOX 83289</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>Fairbanks AK 99708</u> |
| <u>Laurence Kaplan</u> | <u>Linguistics</u> | <u>PO BOX 82003</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>Fairbanks AK 99708</u> |
| <u>Dennis Stegals</u> | <u>Lib. Science</u> | <u>3140 Roden Lane</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>Fairbanks AK 99709</u> |
| <u>G.D. (Spur)</u> | <u>Justice</u> | <u>650 Kildyheart Dr.</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>Fairbanks AK 99709-2412</u> |
| <u>Shane</u> | <u>HISTORY</u> | <u>452 SUMMER AVE</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>FAIRBANKS AK 99712</u> |
| <u>Charlotte Leshorn</u> | <u>Linguistics</u> | <u>PO BOX 25078 Ester AK 99725</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>344 Ester Dr.</u> |
| <u>Yli Morrow</u> | <u>Anthropology</u> | <u>Fairbanks AK 99709</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | |
| <u>Maryanne</u> | <u>SSSP</u> | <u>PO BOX 750109</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>Fairbanks AK 99775</u> |
| <u>Travis</u> | <u>AK Native Language Cr.</u> | <u>Box 80123</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>Fairbanks AK 99775</u> |
| <u>THZ</u> | <u>Therapy</u> | <u>3293 Rosie Creek</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>Fairbanks, Alaska 99709</u> |

original to Spitzer

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Johel Sengra</u> | <u>COMMUNICATIONS</u> | <u>1944 Paul Lind Rd</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>FAIRBANKS, AK 99709</u> |

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| <u>DEBRA KANTO</u> | <u>PHIC/HCM</u> | <u>3080 ESTER DOME Rd</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>FAIRBANKS, AK 99709</u> |

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| <u>John H. White</u> | <u>PHIC/HCM</u> | <u>755 Conley Rd</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>Fairbanks, AK 99712</u> |

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>J. Whitehead</u> | <u>Honors Program</u> | <u>PO Box 82042</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>Fairbanks, AK 99708</u> |

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Kubuddy</u> | <u>MIL. SEC</u> | <u>1983 KITTINGRIDE DR.</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>FAIRBANKS, AK 99709</u> |

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Jan Burt</u> | <u>KUAC TV/FM</u> | <u>1286 Summit Drive</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>FAIRBANKS, AK 99709</u> |

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Grand Seaman</u> | <u>Soc. Work</u> | <u>PO Box 81055, 7416 99708</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Grand Seaman</u> | <u>Sec. Work</u> | <u>PO Box 81055, 7416 99708</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---|
| <u>John Y. White</u> | <u>ENGLISH</u> | <u>PO Box 61241 Fairbanks, AK 99709</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Joe Stromo</u> | <u>Political Science</u> | <u>PO Box 756420</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>Fairbanks AK 99775-6420</u> |

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Ch. Ma</u> | <u>Journalism/Broadcasting</u> | <u>P.O. Box 71226</u> |
| Name | Department | Mailing Address |
| | | <u>Fairbanks, AK 99707</u> |

Phyllis A. Frost Alaska Native Studies 3040 Davis Rd A-66
Name Department Mailing Address

Fairbanks AK 99707

Kathleen Lee UAF Elderhostel 831 Chena Hills Dr
Name Department Mailing Address

Fairbanks AK 99709

James Quady RAAF Alaska Native Studies PO Box 10640
Name Department Mailing Address

Fairbanks AK 99710

Jed E. Antonen Education 2111 Central
Name Department Mailing Address

Fairbanks AK 99707

Maddie Adney Music PO Box 750156
Name Department Mailing Address

Fairbanks 99775

Name Department Mailing Address

Name Department Mailing Address

Name Department Mailing Address

Name Department Mailing Address

Name Department Mailing Address

Name Department Mailing Address

P.O. BOX 82100
FAIRBANKS AK 99708
31 MARCH 97

REP. MARK HANLEY
CO-CHAIR, HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
716 W 4TH STE 300
ANCHORAGE AK 99501-2133

RECEIVED

APR 07 1997

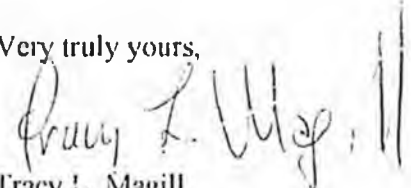
Dear Representative Hanley:

I am writing to express my concern over the House Finance Committee's FY 98 UA operating budget proposal. As a UAF student for several years, I have seen the impact of budget cuts trickle down to my level in the form of increased tuition and user fees. While I don't agree with every fee that has been imposed upon me as a potential user of various services, I can appreciate the need to make these things more self-supporting. For example, I don't use the Health Center, the Recreation Center or Computing Services, yet I pay to support them.

I have learned that this year's budget cuts will likely result in the loss of lecturers to the College of Liberal Arts. I am majoring in History and Political Science, so these cuts will affect me directly, in spite of the fact that I'm supporting things I don't use. CLA lecturers are self-supporting, as their services are paid via student enrollment to their classes. I realize your committee didn't make this decision, but as long as UA's budget continues to be cut, students of "impractical" liberal arts degrees will be the unfortunate beneficiaries.

I wish to hear your opinion on how you think the University of Alaska might continue to provide quality and affordable education to Alaskans and promote economic development. It is becoming increasingly more difficult as each year brings a budget cut. I desire to remain in Alaska and contribute to its growth. As an Alaskan, I am disconcerted by the lack of legislative investment in Alaska's future through support of education for its constituency.

Very truly yours,


Tracy L. Magill



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committed on HB # 76 - Budget, dated 3/27/97
 bill/subject

If you take this away from the people
 and then you get trouble on your hands.

If you take away are medicare & medicare
 and cut down on are APA & take away
 are SSI & SS a lot of us would be on
 the streets where we started and it would
 which would make us either die or to get
 killed because some of us are not strong ^{enough} to
 survive.

Signed: Peter M. Gashin
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

300 S. Spruce drive Apt 4 Wasilla Apt 4

Address

(907) 373-2388

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance committee name

committee on HB # 76 - Budget, dated _____
bill/subject

PLEASE Allow the mental Health Budget
it helps the god praised christian
people to come closer to Jesus and
it helps people to get the relief
of aid that people can't pay
for.

Please don't cut our mental
Health Budget and A.P.A.

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

1-(907) 373 - 2388

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
committee name

committee on HB # 76 - Budget, dated _____
bill/subject

Please allow the mental
Health Budget to stay in
effect to the chryso-
ment, it's very good
for everybody good
the people that even
so allow it, believe
let it go.

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

230 E Paulson # 68
Address Wasilla Alaska 99654

Phone No. 376-2411



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
committee name

committee on HB # 76 - Budget, dated 3/26/97
bill/subject

Please don't cut mental health from the budget! At Life Quest here in Wasilla we have seven case managers for over 200 clients. If the cuts happen, there will only be 2 case managers for everyone of us. I depend on them to give me rides to take me to the food store, get my medications, help me with my finances, take me to the bank, the doctor, just everywhere! They also help fill out important forms that have to be done, taxes forms, mental health forms and many more. I am a paranoid schizophrenic and need all these services! If there are only 2 case managers for all these people, there wouldn't be time for me! I'm scared!

Thankyou, Eric P.S. I am also a registered voter

Signed: Eric M. Smith
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

MAILING ADDRESS- 230 E. Paulson, #68, Wasilla Ak. 99654

Address

1-907-373-3323

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
committee name

committee on HB # 76 - Budget, dated March, 27, 97
bill/subject

With respect to this Committee.

With out support from community mental health. Many patients will be sent to A.P.I. thereby costing the state far more money in the long run.

Then a visit to a counselor?

This does not take into Consideration the devastating effect on the family, life and the welfare of The Children.

Signed: B. Anna J. Sabush
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address
907-373-2084
Phone No.

Representative Mark Hanley
FAX 465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley,

My name is Marg Parsons. I currently work in Public Assistance in Sitka and have been involved in human services for 20 years. I am writing express my concern of the proposed budget for Health and Social Services.

I have felt for many years that the welfare program in both the United States and Alaska desperately needed reform. I fully support the current and proposed reforms of the Food Stamp program and Aid to Families With Dependent Children. I firmly believe that with the present budget the goals of the proposed reforms can be obtained in the projected time line.

Unfortunately, with the projected budget cuts I do not believe the reforms are at all possible and the project is doomed to certain failure.


The projected budget will make it impossible to implement the basic elements of the new welfare delivery system, including the Welfare-to-Work orientation, community referrals, eligibility determination for the Diversion Program and development and monitoring of the Family Self-Sufficiency Plan. I want to point out that those last two were mandated by the State Welfare Reform legislation passed in May 1996.

The welfare case loads will not drop immediately. The information from the other states that have been successful show that permanent drops occur gradually and time is needed to work with the recipients. The resources need to be there for the field workers and the recipients. Cutting child care, Welfare-to-Work programs and the other proposed systems will not allow my department to do the job the legislature have requested of us. And in many cases, federal funding is contingent on a certain success rate.

This should be an exciting time to be involved in welfare. I am aware of the feelings among the workers who will implement the reforms and we are enthusiastic to reduce the welfare roles, to reduce the abuse of the system and to increase the number of productive workers in the state. With the existing budget it can be a success.

Please consider the negative impact upon the whole state, not just the current welfare recipients, of the budget cuts. You have requested the Department to implement reform, we are eager to do the job, now please give us the tools to do the job right.

Sincerely yours.


Marg. Parsons
PO Box 6461
Sitka, AK 99835

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.

March 17, 1996

RECEIVED
APR 05 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

We have reviewed the proposed reductions regarding the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. Although we applaud the efforts of the legislature to trim spending and downsize the state government, we are concerned that the proposed budget reductions will negatively impact the opportunities that will ensure the success of welfare reform.

We are asking the legislature to reinstate the \$6.6 million in reinvestment funds into the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. The reinvestment funding will allow DHHS to increase efforts in assisting AFDC recipients transition into productive employment opportunities. It is essential that the Department of Health and Social Services receive *full appropriation of the \$6.6 million* in reinvestment dollars. These reinvestment dollars will assist in successful transitional services such as; work activities, child care and teen parent support.

To meet newly imposed federal work requirements the state will have to *double* current efforts with regard to work and training programs. Without these reinvestment dollars it will be extremely hard for DHSS to meet the significant challenges proposed by welfare reform. If we do not take a pro-active role in welfare reform and ensure that the needed resources such as, child care and welfare to work services are available to AFDC recipients the costs will only increase and will become even more burdensome upon the state in future years.

Sincerely,


Christine Kashevarof
Cook Inlet Tribal Council

facsimile

TRANSMITTAL

to: All Fairbanks Legislators
fax #: 465-2418
re: Alaska One
date: April 4, 1997
pages: 1, including cover sheet.

I am concerned that once again Public Television has been the object of budget cuts. This seems to me, as usual, "penny wise and dollar dumb." The residents of Fairbanks strongly support their public radio and television, and I hope that the legislature will take into account the benefit that Alaska One provides. Not every Alaskan has a satellite link or cable in order to have an alternative for themselves and especially their children. HOW can we complain about the destructive aspects of commercial television and then choose to give no alternative to those programs. My children have grown up on Nature programs and other educational programs that have been available through public television. Please don't cut the funding to Alaska One!!

From the desk of...

Ann Jamieson

P.O. Box 189
Ester, Alaska 99725

907-479-4673
Fax: 907-479-6227

NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH

P.O. BOX 1110
KOTZEBUE, AK 99752
(907) 442-2500 / FAX 442-2930

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|------------|
| Post-it Fax Note | 7671 | Date | | Adj. pages |
| To | Rep. Hanley | From | Mayor Greene | |
| Co./Dept. | State House | Co. | NAB | |
| Phone # | | Phone # | 442-2500 | |
| Fax # | 442-2412 | Fax # | 442-2930 | |

April 4, 1997

Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Gene Therriault, Co-Chair
State House Finance Committee
Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Messrs. Hanley and Therriault:

On behalf of the Northwest Arctic Borough, and the eleven communities within our boundaries, we ask you to fully support maintenance funding for the University of Alaska.

Based on the level of funds appropriated last year, we ask for your consideration and passage for the same amount during the next fiscal year.

Higher education is important to our residents, and to further erode the gains and access that have been made available to rural populations who have this need for education opportunities is being "pound" foolish.

If there is one avenue of hope into the future that is equally available to all residents throughout the state, it is the opportunity to get an education at the institutions that we can continue to have access to. To further reduce the funding of the university budget is to deny our residents the opportunity to participate and secure long term success by having an education system that doesn't become remote or non-existent in the rural areas.

Letter to House Finance Committee
Page Two
April 4, 1997

I would hope that you see this simple request as your moral guidance to keep education funded at levels adequate for us to participate in from our regional perspective. We cannot expect to become more self-sufficient if we are to be denied funds for an education system if you continue to cut back funding levels. In recent years they have been devastating on a cumulative basis.

Please continue to fund the university system, and restore the proposed \$2.5 million cutback.

Respectfully submitted


Chuck Greene, Mayor

RECEIVED

APR 04 1997



G. M. DeFrancisco
President

AT&T Alascom
210 East Bluff Drive
Anchorage, AK 99501-1100
907 264-7887

April 4, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
The Alaska State House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I was very concerned to learn that the Legislature is discussing the possibility of eliminating funding for public television and the Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS). My concern is based on two issues.

First, as a relative newcomer to the State (nearly two years), I quickly came to appreciate the value placed on public television and ARCS by Alaskans. I have tried to visit as many areas of the state as I could, and have been impressed by the support for these services that exists throughout the state. The public television facility is always one of my stops on my visits in rural Alaska, as I have found that it serves as a real center point for information and issues going on in the community. Communications and bringing people together is my company's business, and in all my career I have never seen a place where public television plays such a vital role in this. That is why AT&T Alascom (and Alascom before it) have been such strong financial supporters of public television. I will not take the time to enumerate all the services provided, because I believe you are very familiar with them.

The second issue goes back to my arrival in Alaska. In the summer of 1995, even before the sale of Alascom to AT&T was official, I was made aware that a funding cut was threatening the survival of public television and ARCS. I was asked to participate in a coalition of public broadcasters and State officials to try to find a solution. What impressed me was that the request was not just for money, but for my professional assistance in finding a solution. Through a combination of technology, creativity, and real give and take negotiations, we found a solution. This solution used a federal grant to purchase state of the art technology, and a creative network configuration that greatly improved service and lowered cost. We are continuing to improve on this solid base. Recent enhancements have enabled us to make ARCS "non-preemptable" for the first time, and work is in progress for the educational portion of the network. Our teams are working together well and we will continue to find more ways to deliver more services more efficiently.

The solution I described, plus the means used to attain it, should serve as a role model for public/private partnership. In addition, it demonstrated how a not for profit entity can help shape its own destiny, without just going to the well for more money. Elimination of funding for this unique enterprise will send the wrong message. Instead, we should be holding public television and ARCS up as an example of how public and private concerns can come together for mutual benefit. My company and I are deeply committed to serving all Alaskans, bringing them closer together, and give them access to each other and the information and services they want and need. We believe that Alaska public television and ARCS is a critical means of accomplishing this. I urge you to consider these facts in your deliberations.

Thank you,

Gerry DeFrancisco



NANA Development Corporation

1001 E. BENSON BOULEVARD, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508 / (907) 265-4001 / FAX (907) 265-4123

RECEIVED

APR 04 1997

April 2, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, AK 99811-1182

VIA FAX
465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley:

I appreciate the difficult place you are at in dealing with the budget cut targets you are now facing.

NANA is one of the state's largest private sector employers, with \$28 million of our payroll last year going to residents in the Anchorage area. We continue to grow as a business, and therefore will have increasing opportunities for employing our state's residents.

In reviewing the welfare recipient numbers for Anchorage, Mat-Su, and Fairbanks, the Division of Public Assistance reports reflect these three areas comprise 65% of the welfare case load. Juneau and Kenai comprise an additional 12% of the case load.

The new welfare reform requirements mandate 25% of these individuals be involved in work activities within the next year.

NANA is committed to continuing its participation in placing welfare recipients in meaningful and good paying jobs. It is hoped the welfare reform legislation passed last year by our state legislature will result in ending the devastating dependency on government. However, during this transition period when many of the "how tos" of making this a successful transition are not yet known, the employing community must have seed monies to provide the support services this hardest to employ group will require.

The federally mandated targets for placements of welfare recipients in work activities will be difficult, if not impossible, to meet without some support dollars for the system to work with. These individuals will need many support services to be successfully placed. As employers, we expect former welfare recipients to be ready to work, and to stay with us once placed. That means careful screening will have taken place, that skills levels will have been measured, pre-employment skills addressed, such as how to interview, an awareness of what skills and behaviors are needed to be productive (dependability, ready to learn, able to work with others, able to make decisions, have basic skills, etc.), that child care, transportation, appropriate clothing and other work supplies are taken care of. These are the very basics if our state is going to try the "work first" approach.





Obviously, even the first steps involved in placing those with employment barriers requires intensive services which translates into dollars. This does not address the dollars that are needed to support more extensive training when necessary, and because the state must have success in rural Alaska, collaboration, staff support, and contracting with local organizations must also occur which will have costs associated.

The welfare reinvestment dollars which are not supplemental monies, are needed by the employing community if we are to see welfare reform work.

We urge you to keep the \$6.6 million in reinvestment monies in the welfare budget. Again, NANA can help our state be successful in placing welfare recipients, the bulk of which are in the urban areas. But, we will need the state's dollars to make this happen.

Thank you again for your help in creating an economic climate which attracts new business to Alaska because we have a trained workforce to meet the ever changing demands of the work place. I would be happy to discuss this with you, and hope you will support our request to keep these old dollars in place.

Sincerely,

Sarah Scanlan
Vice President

SS'sh'92



NANA Development Corporation

1001 E. BENSON BOULEVARD, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508 / (907) 265-4001 / FAX (907) 265-4123

RECEIVED
APR 04 1997

April 2, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, AK 99811-1182

VIA FAX
465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley:

As a private sector employer who, along with others, has been involved in looking at ways in which the State might deliver its services more efficiently, effectively, and is customer oriented, you are to be commended for reinstating the \$7.2 million in C&RA's budget for the One Stop Centers. They are a critical component for consolidating and co-locating services to result in a less fragmented system of public services. We are at a place in time where both financially and service wise, it is imperative the human resource delivery system is focused on the customer.

Alaska is working hard at becoming a state where we can attract new economic development opportunities by having a well-trained work force. The One Stop Centers will be instrumental in helping to identify the skills gaps, training needs, and employment opportunities, without giving the customer the runaround, and who ends up receiving the services needed to become a contributing, productive citizen.

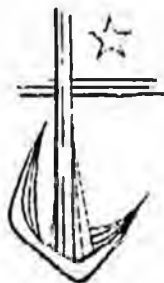
Again, thank you for your foresight on this very important project that has taken many years of hard work to get to. I think you will see the benefits quickly which will be long lasting. Thank you, again, on behalf of Alaska's private sector.

Sincerely,

Sarah Scanlan
Vice President

SS/sh/91





ARCHDIOCESE OF ANCHORAGE

225 COUDOVA STREET • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2409
907/258-7898 • FAX: 907/279-3885

April 4, 1997

Office of the Archbishop

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Alaskan Legislators
FROM: Archbishop Francis T. Hurley *FTH*
RE: Welfare Reform

The Governor and the Legislators have declared themselves on budget cuts. That is what the voters have demanded. The next step is really the critical one: How?

It is axiomatic that it costs money to save money, costs in the short term and saves over the long haul. If that axiom is not honored, then the reach to stop the waste of money can end up wasting people, especially the poor and children.

Can a young single, welfare parent enter the workforce without counseling, without training? Can a single mother at the low end of the pay scale afford child care for her child?

Is it possible to reform the welfare system without spending money to do so? A few years ago Brother Francis Shelter made a major reform in policy; instead of allowing the guests to stay interminably, they were assisted in getting jobs. The change worked but money had to be spent, City money, to provide the self-sufficiency counselor.

Political reality makes most people aware that time is absolutely essential to effect good and reasonable welfare reform that does not put more people, young and old, on the streets. All the Church leaders I deal with, individual churches and Catholic Social Services, are ready to work with the Governor and the Legislators in effecting a system of reform. The State is by no means broke financially, though it must move to real economic swings in the years ahead.

We as a State have the personnel, the time and the financial resources to make the change over a period of years rather than all at once. The fallout from federal legislation has already shown the danger flags of precipitous action. May we in Alaska give an example of reform of welfare that saves wasted money without unwittingly wasting children.

Fax to: Co-Chairs of Senate and House Finance Committees

Please distribute to all Finance Committee Members.

RECEIVED

APR 04 1997

740 5th street
Juneau Alaska.

Dear Legislators,

I really like KTOO. SO ~~that~~ please keep public television funding in the budget. Because there are lots of good shows on public television for children.

Sincerely Rachelle Slaw
age 8

FAX MEMORANDUM, 2 pages**April 3, 1997**

To: All Alaska Legislators

From: Catholic Social Services Board of Trustees:
Joe Moran-Delisio, Moran, Geraghty & Zobel
Chris Swalling-Swalling CPAs
Susan Elliott-Consortium Library, UAA
David Gottstein-Dynamic Capital Management
Ben Barrera-National Bank of Alaska
Fran Marbarger-Office of Dr. Peter Marbarger
Regina DeFrancisco-Community Advocate
Don Stoneburner-Keystone/Keytrans
Lisa Murkowski

We are compelled to write each of you with the following message that outlines why we believe some of your budget reductions to social services will hurt many families in Alaska. We urge you to think carefully about your actions and how they will prevent many people from transitioning from welfare to work.

Let's keep the promise of welfare reform.

In 1996, the legislature passed Senate Bill 98, a bill designed to move public assistance recipients from the welfare roles into the workforce. The basic premise of the bill was admirable - to help those on welfare find jobs and become self-sufficient. Based upon that promise, Senate Bill 98 was adopted by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

The 1996 "helping hand" promised by the legislature included:

- incentives to go to work, graduate from high school or a vocational program;
- eliminating the 100-hour rule that discouraged employment;
- providing for an additional 12 months of Medicaid coverage during the transition from welfare to work, and;
- providing for child care assistance during the transition period.

At the same time, the legislature cracked down on welfare abuse, eliminated eligibility for some recipients and established time limits for all recipients. It was a balanced approach and Alaskans believed it would work.

Yet less than one year later, the promise of a helping hand is turning out to be an illusion. Not because the underlying legislation was wrong, but because the current legislature appears to be cutting the promised helping hand from the budget. These cuts will, in turn, ultimately cripple the successful implementation of welfare reform.

In the spirit of the original legislation, the public and private sector have been cooperating in an unprecedented way in order to meet the federal welfare reform mandates. In Alaska, that means moving thousands of people off the rolls and into the workforce. A formidable task, but possible if the state and private employers continue the work they have started.

But the cuts being implemented by the legislature are hurting this effort. For example, it is anticipated that 2,000 more children will need day care assistance in order for their parent(s) to head off to work. And every employer knows that quality, dependable child care is critical for parents to succeed in the workplace.

The private sector is asking for a return to the commitments of welfare reform. We supported its original intent. And we are committed to seeing it succeed. But we need the legislature to fund the bridge between welfare and work and to stay the course we have set.

In the words of Senator Lyda Green, "Senate Bill 98 is a first step in an effort to break the cycle of welfare dependence and to help welfare recipients become more productive, self-sufficient and financially independent."

Together, let us accomplish the dream of turning society's dependent into the productive. Let us extend to them the hand that was promised.

KIDPAC
A Voice for Children

TO: Senator Miller, President, Alaska State Senate
Senator Pearce, Co-chair, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Sharp, Co-chair, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Wilken, Chair, Senate HESS Committee
Senator Ellis, Senate HESS Committee
✓ Representative Hanley, Co-chair, House Finance Committee
Representative Therriault, Co-chair, House Finance Committee
Representative John Davies, House Finance Committee
Representative Pete Kelly, House Finance Committee

FROM: Carla Timpone, Lobbyist, Kidpac *CT*

DATE: April 3, 1997

I was asked to forward to you the attached copies of a petition circulated at the 13th Annual meeting of the Fairbanks Association for the Education of Young Children, held recently in Fairbanks. The petition requests that careful consideration be given to budget items that impact children and their families, especially child care programs, welfare reform efforts, child support enforcement, Medicaid, and education.

Also attached are copies of letters individually addressed to particular members of the Legislature.

Thank you.

/ct
attachments

DC2

211 Fourth St. Suite 108 Juneau AK 99801

phone: 907-586-1107/463-6755 fax: 586-1097 e-mail: dcc@alaska.net

To

Representatives Gene Therriault and Mark Hanley, Co-chairs of House Finance
and
Senators Bert Sharp and Drue Pearce, Co-chairs of Senate Finance

We, early care and education professionals attending the 13th annual Fairbanks Association for the Education of Young Children, ask that you consider carefully the decisions you make on the state budget, especially those that impact Alaska's children. We, the 300 conference attendees, ask this on behalf of our children, who are too young to speak for themselves.

Children not only deserve the best we can give them, investing in programs that benefit children in their youngest years makes good financial sense. For every one dollar invested early, four are saved later.

With that in mind, we urge you not to cut programs that serve children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

We urge you to restore these cuts, and to fully fund programs that serve children and their families.

Signature

Printed Name

Address

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <u>Deanna Burrows</u> | <u>Deanna Burrows</u> | <u>4894 Paal Veece Fwy</u> |
| <u>Jackie Newell</u> | <u>Jackie Newell</u> | <u>1832 Loose Moose Ln, North Pole</u> |
| <u>Maria C. Higgins</u> | <u>Maria C. Higgins</u> | <u>1139 Stewart Di. Fbks AK 99709</u> |
| <u>Ginger Tobin</u> | <u>Ginger Tobin</u> | <u>2014 Sandvik #103 Fbks. AK 99709</u> |
| <u>Christina Gott</u> | <u>Christina Gott</u> | <u>P.O. BX 83959 Fbx, 99708</u> |
| <u>Monica Scott</u> | <u>Rhonra Scott</u> | <u>P.O. Box 35024 Ft Wainwright AK 99703</u> |
| <u>Stacie Lambert</u> | <u>Stacie Lambert</u> | <u>4022 Boost #1 Ft. Wainwright AK 99703</u> |
| <u>Jean D. Meyer</u> | <u>Jean D. Meyer</u> | <u>1330 At. Ln Dr. H.P. AK 99705</u> |
| <u>Gandra L. Lyons</u> | <u>Gandra L. Lyons</u> | <u>4015-2 601st St. Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703</u> |

To

Representatives Gene Theriault and Mark Hanley, Co-chairs of House Finance and

Senators Bert Sharp and Drue Pearce, Co-chairs of Senate Finance

We, early care and education professionals attending the 13th annual Fairbanks Association for the Education of Young Children, ask that you consider carefully the decisions you make on the state budget, especially those that impact Alaska's children. We, the 300 conference attendees, ask this on behalf of our children, who are too young to speak for themselves.

Children not only deserve the best we can give them, investing in programs that benefit children in their youngest years makes good financial sense. For every one dollar invested early, four are saved later.

With that in mind, we urge you not to cut programs that serve children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

We urge you to restore these cuts, and to fully fund programs that serve children and their families.

Signature

Printed Name

Address

~~J. P. ...~~ Mary Citter 794 Quasar Dr Fbks AK

~~Alicia Berka~~ Alicia Berka 695 Cheng Pump Rd.

~~Susan Isaacson~~ Susan Isaacson 2701 Turner St. Apt 6B, Fbks.

~~Kelly Doughty~~ Kelly Doughty 1427 Gillam Fbks 9970

~~Patricia Prince~~ Patricia Prince 1620 Washington #25

~~Anne Unwin~~ ANNE MARIE MATHENY 1571 GILLIAM FBKS AK 99701

Patty Merritt 4581 Drake St. Fairbanks AK 99709

KARE 1805 Bunker Anchorage 99503-173

Anil Bandopadhyay 4018 Dunlap Ave Fairbanks

AK 99709

To

Representatives Gene Therriault and Mark Hanley, Co-chairs of House Finance
and
Senators Bert Sharp and Drue Pearce, Co-chairs of Senate Finance

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Signature

Printed Name

Address

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <i>Juanita Frazier</i> | Juanita Frazier | 1702 Roberts Rd Fbks, AK 99709 |
| <i>Jill Lindgren</i> | Jill Lindgren | PO Box 7941 Ketchikan, AK 99901 |
| <i>Sherry Coutant</i> | Sherry Coutant | 4380 Bishop Cir FAIRBANKS, AK 99709 |
| <i>Michelle Amundson</i> | Michelle Amundson | 3787 Erickson Ave. Fbks AK 99709 #307 |
| <i>Lynnette Winfrey</i> | Lynnette Winfrey | 2004 Sandvick, FBKS, AK 99709 99711 |
| <i>Syndie Wood</i> | Syndie Wood | PO Box 585917 FBKS AK |
| <i>Jan Semaker</i> | Jan Semaker | P.O. Box 33211 FBKS AK 99708 |
| <i>Kelly Caldwell</i> | Kelly Caldwell | 1841 Che Hom Ln. Fbks, AK 99709 |
| <i>Crake J. Macip</i> | Crake J. Macip | 5286 C.H.S. Rd Fbks AK 99709 |

To
 Representatives Gene Therriault and Mark Hanley, Co-chairs of House Finance
 and
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| Signature | Printed Name | Address |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <i>CK Steiner</i> | Cynthia Steiner | 2148 Nottingham Fbks, AK 99709 |
| <i>Shelissa Reel</i> | Shelissa Reel | 1237 9th Ave Fbks AK 99701 |
| <i>Mary Demet</i> | Mary Demet | 1115 KOUOKU AVE FBK AK 99709 |
| <i>Christina Spring</i> | Christina Spring | ^{P.O. Box} 58627, Fairbanks, AK 99711 |
| <i>Cathy Bulaska</i> | Cathy Bulaska | P.O. Box 74894 Fairbanks, AK 99707 |
| <i>Christina Spring</i> | Christina Spring | Fairbanks AK 99711 |
| <i>Julia Janson</i> | Julia Janson | 3012 Davis Rd Apt 2-3 Fairbanks AK 99709 |
| <i>Claire Chapin</i> | Claire Chapin | 1908 Ad Pioneer Way FBKS AK 99709 |
| <i>Chris Humphrey</i> | Chris Humphrey | P.O. Box 31714 FBKS AK 99708 |
| <i>Sarah Wehr</i> | Sarah Wehr | 4228 599th St. #8 Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703 |
| <i>Tamara Delos Santos</i> | Tamara Delos Santos | p.o. Box 55892 North Pole AK 99705 |
| <i>Beubera</i> | Beubera | 1106a byon chugach 6-27-99 AK 99503 |

To
 Representatives Gene Therriault and Mark Hanley, Co-chairs of House Finance
 and
 Senators Bert Sharp and Drue Pearce, Co-chairs of Senate Finance

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| Signature | Printed Name | Address |
|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| | Niam Pinehart | 3211 Thurgass Blvd JNU AK 99702 |
| | Donna Cole | 1920 Melonie Ln, Fbks, AK 99709 |
| | Stacie R. Dublin | 844 5th Ave. FBKS. AK 99702 |
| | Sherry Bullock | 555 Halvorsen Rd. FBKS AK 99708 |
| | DAVID THOMAS | Box 83688 99708 |
| | Michelle Kates | 1164 Granada Lane 1 st Fairbanks 99709 |
| | Joy Copeland | 1015 25 th Ave FBKS. |
| | CLAUDIA RUSSELL | 4009 ^{#7} 602 nd St FE W.W. |
| | LINDA ALFORD | 4921 DARTMOUTH ^{#4} FBKS, AK 99709 |
| | Barry Lewis | 4205 60 th Street Fairbanks AK 99703 |

Petition to Reps. Therriault & Hanley and Sens. Sharp & Pearce
Cuts to programs for Alaska's children & families have gone too far:
restore to full funding.

Signature

Printed Name

Address

~~Andrea~~ Sofia SWENDELL 541 - 9th
Fairbanks AK. 99709.

Beverly Farrell Ft. Wainwright AK Apt #3
4210 100th St. 99703

~~Victoria~~ Deborah 531 Nebula Way FBKS AK 99709

Naida E. Paneak Naida E. Paneak 132 Trinidad Fairbanks, AK 99709

~~Linda~~ Linda MEKON Ni. 5727 AK 99705

Nancy L. Hbleomb 654 Florence St. North Pole AK 99705

Leslie A. Thompson Leslie A. Thompson 1260 Airport Way #362 FBKS AK 99701

Danielle M. Phillips Danielle Phillips 4159 6th St. #7 Ft. Wainwright AK 99703

~~By~~ Tamaru Bell 1007 #7 Brochnut St FWW 99703

Tressa Golden TRESSA Golden 4227 599th #4, FWW AK 99703

Mashawna Gable Mashawna Gable 4160 6th Street Apt. 8, FWW

Elena Selid Elena Selid 1733 University Ave. F-69 FBKS AK 99704

Tara A. Koloski TARA Koloski 508 Craig Ave FBKS AK 99701

~~Billie~~ Phillip Hulse 4500 107th St. #3 FWW

Suellen Nelles Suellen Nelles 5000 Dartmouth #34 FBKS. 99709

Greg Kvokov Greg Kvokov PO Box 82604 Fairbanks AK 99708

David J. Lazenby David J. Lazenby 1190 Eriophorum FBKS AK 99709

Petition to Reps. Therriault & Hanley and Sens. Sharp & Pearce
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restore to full funding.

Signature Printed Name Address

~~Natalie Mifflin~~ NATALIE MIFFLIN PO. BOX 752452 FBKS 99775

~~Pam Fowler~~ Pam Fowler 1244 Skyline Dr. Hkt. Ak 99712

~~DeVonne Schleicher~~ DeVonne Schleicher 4935 Dartmouth #3 Fairbanks, AK 99709

~~Robert Connell~~ Robert Connell 5131 C Kayuk St Eielson AFB AK 99702

~~Sheri Cummins~~ Sheri Cummins 5078 F Denton. Eielson AFB AK 99702

~~Veronda Funches~~ Veronda Funches 4203 600TH ST Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703

~~Lona Claire Uzueta~~ Lona Claire Uzueta 1392 Benshoof, North Pole, AK 99705

~~Kathy Maydole~~ Kathy Maydole PO. Box 70225 FBKS, AK 99707

~~Lori L. Cantu~~ Lori L. Cantu 4241 599th St #7 Ft. W.W. AK 99703

~~Carie E. Surovich~~ Carie E. Surovich 4223 599th St #5 Ft. W.W. AK 99703

~~Kelly Dines~~ Kelly Dines PO BOX 58529 FBKS. 99711

~~Bianche Vest~~ BIANCHE VEST PO Box 74343 Hkt 99707

~~Kay Hill~~ Kay Hill 1750 Persinger 707th Ave 99705

~~Tressa Golden~~ TRESSA Golden 4227 599th St #4 Ft. W.W. AK 99703

~~Franze Lewis~~ FRANZE LEWIS 1034 Yonetta Ct Fort W.W. AK 99703

~~Roberta Weatherly~~ Roberta Weatherly PO Box 35320 Ft. Wainwright AK. 99703

~~Becky Strudt~~ Becky Strudt 890 Arnold Ct Ft W.W. AK. 99705

~~Marie B. Fichtelman~~ MARIE B. FICHELTMAN 414 HAWK-EYE DOWNS DR. FBKS, AK 99712

~~Jessica Randall~~ Jessica Randall 365 Hawk-Eye Downs Dr FBKS AK 99712

~~Susan Ruff~~ Susan Ruff 300 First Ave # Fairbanks, AK 99701

~~Claudia Essley~~ Claudia Essley 914 Goldmine Tr. Fbks, AK 99712

Petition to Reps. Therriault & Hanley and Sens. Sharp & Pearce
 Cuts to programs for Alaska's children & families have gone too far:
 restore to full funding.

Signature Printed Name Address

~~Lisa Valdez~~ Lisa Valdez 4953 W. Columbia Ave. Eielson AFB 99703
~~Tamara Bay~~ Tamara Bay 1007th Beechnut St. Ft. Wk
 Cherie J Shellard Cherie J Shellard PO Box 57023 North Pole
 Kim Brangth Kim Brangth 6200 E 112th Ave
 Desiree Ryan Desiree Ryan P.O. Bx 71984 FBKS AK 99707
 Syndie Wood Syndie Wood P.O. Box 58597 FBKS. AK. 99711
 Taryn Bryan Taryn Bryan 13150 Old Seaward Hwy #3 Anch. AK 99515
 Nancy Lewis Nancy Lewis 4604 E. 9th Ave Anchorage 99508
 Lisa Lark Lisa Lark 1157 Chaswell Ct Anchorage, AK 99703
 Mary Welby Mary Welby 1031 Stead Creek Rd FBKS AK 99712
 Trina Esaefer Trina Esaefer 4013 Spruce St Ft. Wainwright, AK 99705
 Carmen Del Solar Carmen Del Solar 81 Slater Dr #10 Fairbanks AK 99701
 Alma Fleming Alma Fleming 4119-48th St Ft. Wainwright AK 99703
 Eureka M'Ghee Eureka M'Ghee 4101 Cedar St #2 Ft. Wainwright AK 99703
 Pammi LUSTAFSON Pammi LUSTAFSON 100th 9th Ave B FBKS, AK 99701
 Michele Miles Michele Miles 505 Fairview St Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703
 Lisa M. Lovell Lisa M. Lovell 1843 K. Huddake A. FBKS. AK 99709
 Stephanie Copeland Stephanie Copeland Box 58450 FBKS AK 99711
 Wanda Peterson Wanda Peterson P.O. Bx 58508 FBKS 99711

Petition to Reps. Therriault & Hanley and Sens. Sharp & Pearce
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Signature

Printed Name

Address

Donna Sellers Donna Sellers 109 Dunkel St.

Windy Zahner Windy Zahner 395 H.A. Hor Fairbanks

Genny Shangin Genny Shangin P.O. Box 72096 FBKS

Jacqueline Jefferson Jacqueline Jefferson 778 17th Ave ADT1
Fairbanks AK

Priscilla Smith Priscilla Smith 1315 E. 95th 10th Ave
Anchorage, AK

Sherry Young Sherry Young 4215-7 Neely Ft. Wainwright, AL

Diana Shale Diana Shale 654 Cambridge Rd N Pole 99705

Karen Falk Karen L. Falk 5795 C Kodiak St. Eielson AFB 99702

Pamela Miller Pamela M Walker P.O. Box 83186 Eielson AFB 99705

Gladys Hudbanks Gladys L. Hudbanks P.O. Box 58602 Fairbanks AK 99711

Kathleen Wilson Kathleen Wilson 5425 Sprucewood Fairbanks AK 99709

Lisa Larranaga Lisa Larranaga 4066 Yvonne Ave FBKS 99709

Janet Derickson Janet Derickson 400 N. Beaver Blvd. N.P. AK. 99705

Noleen Keane Noleen Keane 4359 York Ave of FBKS AK 99709

Jill Lindgren Jill Lindgren P.O. Box 7941 Ketchikan AK. 99901

Debbie Gockstetter Debbie Gockstetter 705 CHENA Pump FBKS. AK 99709

Karen Traylor Karen Traylor P.O. Box 14524 Eielson AFB AK. 99702

Timothy Bryant Timothy S Bryant 1819A Smith Creek Drive E.P. AK 99702

Derika Smith Derika Smith 5129C North St EAFB AK 99702

Jillian Culligan Jillian Culligan 4834 Dargard St #40 N.P. AK
99705

Petition to Reps. Therriault & Hanley and Sens. Sharp & Pearce
Cuts to programs for Alaska's children & families have gone too far:
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Signature

Printed Name

Address

Kimberly Seery Kimberly Seery 327 6th Ave. Fairbanks AK 99701

Theresa Miller Theresa Miller 1545 2nd Ave #4 Fairbanks AK 99701

Carol Flores Caroline Boliver-Flores 52310th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701

Mary Richards Mary Richards 1273 Pheasant Dr North Pole

Desiree Ryan Desiree Ryan P.O. Box 71984 Fairbanks AK 99703

Priscilla Smith Priscilla Smith 1313 East 10th Ave Anchorage, AK 99501

Leslie Barrera Leslie Barrera 1000 W 20th Ave Anch.

Gena Birkwell P.O. Box 81235 Fairbanks AK 99703

Chandra Clark Chandra Clark 2303 S. Barnette Fairbanks AK

Lizbeth Taylor Lizbeth Taylor Box 71981 Fairbanks 99707

Tanya Waters Tanya Waters Box 84633 Fairbanks 99708

Fringe McLaughlin Fringe McLaughlin 6716 4th Ave Fairbanks 99701

Amanda Walker Amanda Walker 4851 C Last Frontier, Eielson 99702

Colette Hill Colette Hill PO Box 56768 N. Pole, AK 99705

Carrie Gillmer Carrie Gillmer 1427 Gilliam Way Fairbanks 99701

Kimberly Wicklund Kimberly Wicklund 2745 Newby Rd NP AK 99705

Kathe Boucha-Roberts ^{Kathe} Boucha-Roberts 7200 Biglerville Anchorage AK 99507

Susan Dristy Susan Dristy 2599 18th Ave Fairbanks AK 99709

Alma Fleming Alma Fleming 4119-48th St Ft. Wainwright

Sabrina S. Moore Sabrina S. Moore 1006-6 Apple St Ft Wainwright AK 99703

Petition to Reps. Therriault & Hanley and Sens. Sharp & Pearce
Cuts to programs for Alaska's children & families have gone too far:
restore to full funding.

Signature Printed Name Address

~~Robert Keane~~ Noleen Keane 4389 YORK AVE FBKS 99709

~~Sally Lesser~~ Sally Lesser 1137 Videt Dr FBKS AK 99712

Ann Riley Millard ^{Principal/Teacher} Eagle Community School P.O.B. 168, Eagle, AK 99738

Sara L Jones Sara L. Jones P.O. 750259 Fairbank, AK 99775

Brenda Hoff 407.9-6 Pine St Ft. Wainwright AK 99703

Samuel Gifford Consuelo Gifford 711 Bentley D 99701

Brite Norton 1245 Kennicott H 99701

Edith C. Amos Long 5705 Lader Dr. FBKS. AK. 99701

Renee Allen Renee Allen 5129-D North St Ediston AFB 99702

Chandra Val 4334 79th St Ft. W. W. 99703

Wanda Carter 4230 599th #8 99703

Diana M Ashton 131 Dunbar Ave FBKS 99709

Maria Dybdal Maria Dybdal P.O. Box 75053, FBKS 99775

Petition to Reps. Therriault & Hanley and Sens. Sharp & Pearce
Cuts to programs for Alaska's children & families have gone too far:
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Signature Printed Name Address

Kelly Williams Kelly Williams 5273 D. Broadway Fairbanks AK 99703

Basil Constant Basil Constant 4380 Bishop Circle Fairbanks, AK 99709

CYNTHIA WICKSTED Cynthia Wicksted 3010 River View, FBKS AK 99709

Lynnette Winfrey Lynnette Winfrey 2004 Sandvik #307, FBKS, AK 99709

Sandra McVeigh SANDRA McVEIGH 410 CRAIG FBKS AK 99708

Linda Robertson Linda Robertson 2239 SOLSTICE PO Box 8340 FBKS, AK 99706

Sarah Fagerlee Sarah Fagerlee 4454 Concord Ct. 4 FBKS 99709

Phillip E. Gilbert II Phillip E. Gilbert II 1934 Becker Ave Fairbanks AK 99709

LaVonne Gullickson LaVonne Gullickson 4720 Harvard Cir FBKS, AK 99709

Janice Gamel Janice Gamel 1309 Bambridge Blvd Fairbanks AK 99701

Petition to Reps. Therriault & Hanley and Sens. Sharp & Pearce
Cuts to programs for Alaska's children & families have gone too far:
restore to full funding.

Signature

Printed Name

Address

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <i>Josephine Goodshaw</i> | JOSEPHINE GOODSHAW | P.O. BOX 74312 FBKS, AK 99707 |
| <i>Melissa G. Wilde</i> | Melissa G. Wilde | 5132 F. Kuyuk Eielson AFB, AK 99702 |
| <i>Trista Keith</i> | Trista Keith | 4212-7 Good St Ft WW _{AK} 99703 |

Dear Senator Sharp

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about: all the programs that help and work with special needs with children and take away special programs ~~that~~ for learning disabled and so on.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Thompson
Signature

Name: Leslie Thompson

Address: Rt 100 Airport WY # 362
Fairbanks AK
99701

Dear Best Sharp

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about: Healthy Families and Child Care Assistance, child support, medical and child care programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Theresa Miller
Signature

Name: Theresa Miller

Address: 1545 20th + H

Fairbanks AK
99701

Dear *Bert Sharp,*

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about: *all Alaska's children and families. Please look closely at issues that concern them. They are truly our future! We're counting on you.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathy Balasko
Signature

Name: *Cathy Balasko*

Address: *P.O. Box 74894*

Fairbanks, AK 99707

Dear

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

The public broadcasting, because I feel the other
stations do not support good educational programs.
(Networks)

Our Public broadcasting station work very hard to bring wonderful programs to the public and for our children. Please keep these programs going. My son has autism and Alan tunes in to the programs and learns more than I can do when I work.

Many Thanks

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kates
Signature

Name: Michelle Kates

Address: 1164 Gounion Lane #1
Fairbank AK 99709

Dear

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about: any program that would not let a child grow up to be the best that he or she could be. ~~The~~ The PBS programs which you probably don't think that is very important, sometimes the only education for a child at home especially in the village is the PBS stations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth Paneak
Signature

Name: Beth Paneak

Address: 132 Trinidad
Fairbanks, Alaska
99709

Dear Fred Sharp

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about: I am concerned about all of these cuts, and how the consequences will be to family functions. My son has Down Syndrome - he is medically complex and requires special medical services. Without at least the current level of funding, and emotionally assisted, he has no way to access any special instruction and it is at least a modest program he watch little TV both sides public broadcast the majority of the time and he can have cable. The programs that are being cut are what regular TV has to offer. Except for the news it's the only programs he learn from, in the educational/advocacy field my degree is in the exceptional learner and I say until I see otherwise cut these and other programs being considered for cut my family would have reached that last straw.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christina Spring
Signature

Name: Christina Spring

Address: P.O. Box 58527

Fairbanks, AK 99711

Please do not cut these programs, many families will reach that last straw and fall out. I have much more to say but will leave it to my peers. You'll hear from me again.

Thank You for
Your Time,
Christina Spring

Dear Mr Burt Sharp,

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

I am concerned about all of the above, but I am especially concerned with the health and safety of our children. We all need to work together to support children and the way they grow up. We need to begin now, helping each child to overcome whatever they may be dealing with. We need to be as dedicated to these children, the way we are towards other government issues. Please!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Seery
Signature

Name: Kimberly Seery

Address: 880 Rollage Rd
N.P., AK 99705

Dear Bert Sharp

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about: *the children*. When we ~~cut~~ cut any family program, the children seem to be the ones who are hurt the most. The ~~can~~ children are our future so lets not cut them short.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia S. Mast
Signature

Name: Cynthia S. Mast

Address: 5190 Amherst Dr #25
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear ~~State~~ Bert Sharp

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about: the parents who are really trying hard to work to support themselves without any welfare. They really need to have the professional skills to do so. If these services are cut then they won't have anything to live off of, because they'll have to pay everything and won't have any extra for unexpected family emergencies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Signature

Name: Mary L. Richards

Address: 1273 Pheasant Drive
North Pole Alaska
99705

Dear Bert Sharp

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

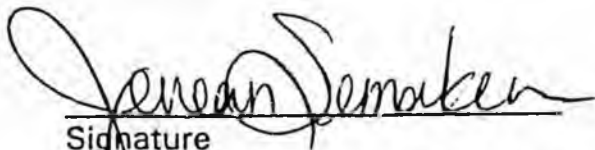
I am especially concerned about: ~~where these~~ cut programs are going to leave me, being a single parent, 27 y.o., working on-call (for 2 yrs), being on AFDC, + already owing the state \$4,000.00 for a loan that was taken in '91. I did finish the school (EST) and haven't accomplished anything w/ the Certificate since '91. I even took a refresher course in Sept. '96 + still working in a total different field than what I went to school for. I'm still paying the interest on the loan so I've been very discouraged about pursuing my education.

I love kids and been on-call at Fairbanks Native Association as a substitute teacher since Oct '95 my son was just a month old when I went back to work. I'm now a single parent and still haven't been hired full or even part-time for FNA.

Therefore, I can't afford (probably like m. + young mothers) to have the programs cut or can't even afford to go to school. I don't want to be stuck on-call forever.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Signature

Name:

Jenean Semaken

Address:

P.O. Box 8332-1

Fairbanks, AK 99708

Dear

Senator

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

Family Child Care Assistance is in a great need! There are so many families who need this assistance or they would not be able to work towards their goals & careers, or even just go to work everyday to support their families. Not only does this help them to better themselves so one day they will be able to support themselves on their own, but it improves the quality of the children's lives! The children learn by example and they will see loving parent striving to make their lives better and not a parent that is living completely on welfare. These children also receive a quality education they greatly deserve & need throughout the day, with the help of child care assistance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Cantu

Signature Lori Cantu

Name: 4241 599th St #7

Address: Fort Wainwright
AK 99703-1011

Dear *Senator Sharp,*

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

*Child care assistance cuts also
welfare cuts in hand w/cuts
in the administrative area.
23 case workers cut when
they will be needed to help
multitudes of families move
from welfare to self-providers.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wanda Peterson - Sara McCoy - Stephanie Copeland
Signature

Name: PRIME TIME FOR KIDS

Address: P.O. Box 58508

FRBKS, AK 99711

Dear Senator Sharp

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

all programs that effect special needs children and their families.

When you are in Fairbanks, your ^{news} paper is delivered by my son, who has been receiving services from agency's such as ACCA, RCPC, child support enforcement and the school district. Because of the help Keith & I have received, he has the hope of being an employed productive citizen.

We deeply appreciate your continued support of these much needed services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joy Copeland
Signature

Name: Joy Copeland

Address: 1015 25th Ave

Fairbanks, AK. 99701

Dear Senator Sharp

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

- Programs that help families in transition from welfare to work
- Day Care Assistance / Child Care Grant
- Training funds for Early Childhood Care-givers

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lona Claire Uzueta
Signature

Name: Lona Claire Uzueta

Address: 1392 Benshoof Drive
North Pole, AK 99705

Dear *Burt Sharp*

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

- I. The sub to the CCEP*
- II Child Care Assistance Program*
- III The sub to the Case Workers and the Public Assistance Program*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Claudia Essley
Signature

Name: *Claudia Essley*

Address: *914 Goldmine Tr.*

Fbks, Ak 99712

Dear Bert Sharp.

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

The proposed cuts to the
Childcare Assistance Programs,
The R & D Grant, any cuts
to these programs should
stop.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debbie Gackstetter
Signature

Name: Debbie Gackstetter

Address: Box 10117

FBKS. AK. 99710

Dear Bert Sharp & Mike Miller

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

Cuts in child care assistance, healthy Families & public television. These programs are very important to children & their families. Interior Alaska can not have a healthy economic growth unless we protect our future. Children ~~are~~ are our future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Shale
Signature

Name: DIANE SHALE

Address: 654 CADORO Rd
North Pole, AK

Dear Senator ²⁻¹⁰⁻⁸² Sharp

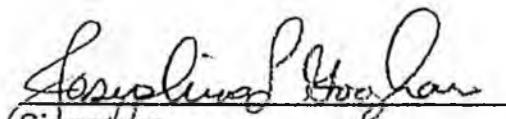
I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

The possible cuts in the Child Care Assistance Program - This is one of the major helpers in making the transition from welfare parent to working parent. If this resource was not available, there would be a great deal of problems and suffering for the children of welfare parents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Signature

Name: JOSEPHINE L. GOOSHAW

Address: P.O. Box 74312

FBKS, AK 99707

Dear Burt Sharp

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about: Child Care Assistance

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Hair
Signature

Name: Sylvia Hair

Address: 1545 20th Ave Apt 2
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear SEN SHARP

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

LOSS OF TRAINING MONEY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING - WE ALL KNOW THE KEY TO QUALITY CARE FOR CHILDREN IS THE QUALITY OF THE STAFF CARING FOR THEM! THE QUALITY OF THE STAFF IS DEPENDENT UPON THEIR EDUCATION & TRAINING.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Signature

Name: Kelly A Dougherty

Address: 2361 SUNFLOWER LP

NORTH POLE, AK 99705

Dear Senator Sharp,

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about: cuts in programs to move parents from welfare to work.

I'm a 19 yearold with no hope of collecting my social security because it is too easy for parents to stay on welfare, and too hard for them to go back to work. I do not mind my social security going to needy families that receive help to find jobs good enough to get off welfare. (they need the help)

I do mind when the families receive my hard earned money with no help to get a job and no encouragement to get off welfare. By cutting the funds of programs like these it destroys ~~the~~ our economy and ensures that my social security will be bankrupt long before I'm eligiable to collect. It also ensures that secure retirements are not possible

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Signature

Name: David Joseph Hazenby

Address: 1190 Eriophorum dr.

FBKS AK 99709

unless one can afford an IRA.

Helping the needy is o.k.

Helping the lazy remain lazy encourages poor morals + standards and devolves productivity.

Poor money management has been the downfall of many countries
(OVER)

~~SENATOR~~ CONGRESSWOMAN
Dear DON YOUNG / SENATOR BOB SHARP

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in Medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

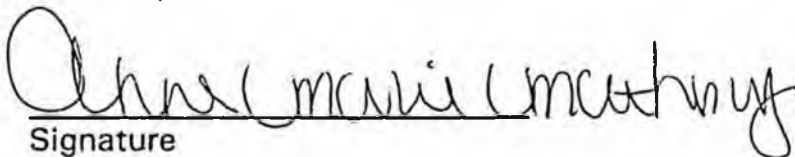
I am especially concerned about:

CUTS PROPOSED TO CHILD CARE SERVICES
STOP!
DON'T!
NO!

IF WE DON'T PAY NOW, WE WILL
PAY 4 X - LATER!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Signature

Name: ANNEMARIE MARTHEN

Address: 1571 WILLIAM WAY
FBIKS AK 99701

Dear Bert Sharp.

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about the cuts in funds serving the Child Care grant. As an employee in a child care center, it is obvious the benefits of continuing education for staff and for the children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan M. Hannah
Signature

Name: Megan M. Hannah

Address: 1782 Army Rd. #4
FBIS, AK 99709

Dear Bert Sharp,

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

the cuts to public ~~educa~~ television. I am working very hard to get the money in Eagle to rebroadcast KUAC-TV and KUAC-FM. I feel that this is a very important part of education in Alaska. How else can we know what our legislators are doing? I would be willing to pay an income tax, if I thought it would go to education. I think it's very important to create an education trust fund with part of the permanent fund monies. PLEASE support public broadcasting!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Riley Millard

Signature

Principal / Teacher

Name: Eagle Community School

Address: POB 124

Eagle AK. 99738

Dear Bert Sharp,

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

The cuts already proposed in child care programs. I work in a child care center here in Fairbanks, and have worked with children and their families for over 15 years. I have seen the impact that having a stable, licensed environment for parents and children has done. If parents have a safe, loving and nurturing place to leave their children, they are much happier and tend to work harder at making improvements in their lives. In order for us, as childcare providers and teachers, to provide this environment, we need financial support for staff salaries, materials, and education. It's a sad thing when people responsible in part for children's futures are only paid salaries that are equivalent to someone working in (teenagers) fast food services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Alford
Signature

Name: LINDA R ALFORD

Address: 4921 DARTMOUTH #4
FAIRBANKS AK 99709

Dear Senator Sharp,

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

your lack of understanding about what Quality Child Care is! Come visit! We are building our Future. The proposed cuts to programs for children is unthinkable. Quality child care depends on your support. Don't cut the Child Care Grant! Don't cut Resource & Referrals! Don't cut the Food Program. Don't cut the Children's Cabinet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Signature

Name: _____

Address: 1000 W 20th AVE
Anch AK 99507



Dear *Burt Sharp*

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

Cuts in CCR.

Families need this help to support their family.

Where will these children go/do if they (parents) can not afford day care?

We need to support the future, our children!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Windy Zahner
Signature

Name: *Windy Zahner*

Address: *398 Hamilton*

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Gary Wilken

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

Child care grant is THE BEST...
it is a terrific program that
truly benefits children in very
important ways. Please support
full funding for this Gary. The
money is a wise investment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patty Meritt
Signature

Name: Patty Meritt

Address: 4581 Drake St.
Fairbanks Ak 99709

Dear Gary,

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

The department of Public Assistance - their funds need to be increased.

Healthy families program continued & increased.

Education programs - Public Schools & Child care.

Anything that has to do with children

We must take care of our children. I would like to see permanent fund - money used for children & families. If we really can't afford to help our families & children let's reinstitute the income tax.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

LaVonne Gullickson
Signature

Name: LaVonne Gullickson

Address: 4720 Harvard Circle

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Senator Wilkens

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

Childcare Assistance + Medicaid.
Healthy Families Programs are so ~~essential~~
essential for our family + youth. We so
desperately need these preventative programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Lovell

Signature

Name: Lisa Lovell

Address: 1843 KIHWAKE A.

FBIKS, AK. 99709

Dear GARY WILKEN

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about: The cuts in day care Asst.
Single working moms really, really need
this service. It is hard enough to "shuffle"
your children from school to day care or VisuVista.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marlene J Kemp
Signature

Name: Marlene J Kemp

Address: 509 Fairbanks St.

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Honorable Gary Wilcox,

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

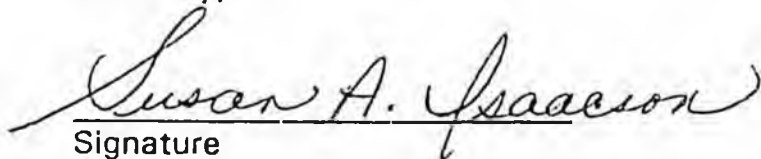
I am especially concerned about:

the cuts in education! We in the field already know that children need good beginnings. How can we look towards the future for the results of excellence in education if there are no resources? Major learning happens during the early childhood phase of development. By providing funds for the education of childcare givers, we are as a community, ensuring a bright future for our children and in turn for us!!

Let's work together -- not make major cuts, disabling those that are in the trenches, pouring ^{out} heart & soul at low wages - for the good of the community!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Signature

Name: Susan A. Isaacson

Address: 2701 Turner St., Apt. 6B

Fairbanks, AK, 99701

Dear Gary Wilken,

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

education. Training programs for teachers at daycare institutions NEED that training. The Individual Reimbursement Fund should not be cut. Money should not be removed from child care grants. If it is, the wages of child care workers go down even more. Simply because people work with young children does not mean that they are not professionals and don't deserve proper compensation and respect.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bonnie E. Bruhn

Signature

Name: Bonnie E. Bruhn

Address: 1717 Tamarack St.

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear *Mike Miller*

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

Cuts in public broadcasting, especially in Alaska we need this quality channel to keep in touch with more than just the "normal" violent junk on the tube.

Besides children's issues I am also concerned about budget cuts in the arts - all of us, especially children, will suffer from this.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Falk

Signature

Name: *Karen Falk*

Address: *5195 C Kodiak St*

Eielson AFB, Alaska
99702

Dear MR. MILLER -

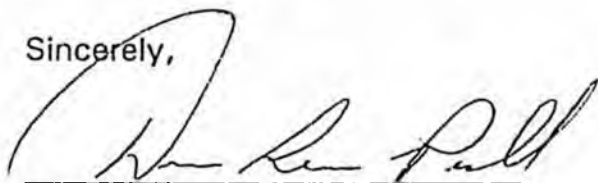
I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

WITH MORE PARENTS WORKING, PLEASE
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDCARE PROGRAMS.
QUALITY DAYCARE NEEDS HELP IN EVERY
ASPECT - TO REDUCE FUNDING IS TO END
AND SENSE OF CARE THAT CHILDREN NEED.
FUNDING CHILDREN PREVENTS FUNDING
PRISONS, FUTURE WELFARE, MENTAL HOSPITALS,
& OTHER STATE SERVICES - ~~THE~~ ~~THE~~

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Signature

Name: DORA POWELL

Address: PO BOX 434

HEALY, AK 99743

Dear Mike Miller

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

I'm concerned about the IRF, which will cut any reimbursements for child development classes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Windy Wicklund
Signature

Name: Windy Wicklund

Address: 2745 Newby Rd.

North Pole AK 99705

March 29, 1997

Dear *Senatora Ellis*

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

the cuts in Education & Training - this leaves the teachers of our young children with no alternatives in rural areas & minimal alternatives in urban areas.

With the massive new information of the brain - it's growth & development - from birth to age 3 years, these teachers must have these opportunities to know

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

LARÉ

Signature

Name:

LARÉ

Address:

1805 Bunker

Anchorage 99503-1730

Dear Rep Hanley

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

- ① The idea of moving child care into the public assistance arena. I believe it should be part of the economic development department - like Headstart. Child care is an essential component of a healthy community. We want employers & businesses to help provide high quality care - they will do it if they see it as economic development. They will never do it as support for welfare.

For years I have wanted this to go economic development - now when it's almost there it's trying to be diverted. I can't believe it!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patty Meritt
Signature

Name: Patty Meritt

Address: 4581 Drake St

Fairbanks AK 99709

Please re-think this terrible idea.

Dear Senator, Tom Kelly

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about: The care that our children get and the special things that will be taken away from these children. Child care is very important to our society these days. I have my job, and cannot afford to be cut off, I search as this. Our parents in these children facilities will be forced to take children out, and not be able to afford these cuts. You know what this means regarding parents, such as some of you, will then either have to stay home off work, or hire people that most likely would be able to give them the special needs to these children, and they need it. These children are very, very, very important. They are our future, society they deserve more than the best.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Smith
Signature

Name: Priscilla Smith

Address: 1315 East 10th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501



Senator Kelly

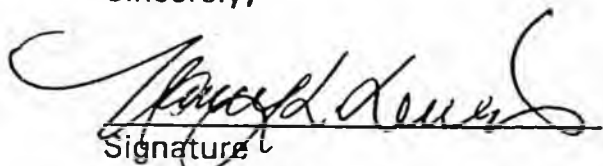
Dear TIM

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

Removal of the resources and Referral agencies The proposal in Anchorage that the MUNI licensing clerks can teach Developmentally Appropriate Practices and are knowledgeable about Quality Child Care is ludicrous. These folks monitor centers with check lists that they don't understand, they make random judgments without consideration of the children or the individual. Please, Quality Child Care Comes from Quality Teachers. Quality Teachers learn from Quality Trainers. MUNI licensers are not teachers.

Sincerely,



Signature

Name:

Nancy Lewis

Address:

4604 E. 9th Ave

Anch. AK 99508

Dear Senator Tim Kelly

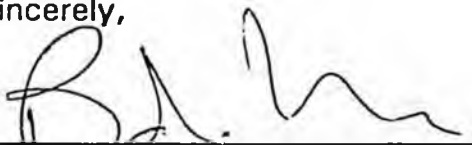
I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

The continued cuts in child care, the professional salaries will weaken which will only hurt the children. Human services are what make us strong, by cutting these we put extra demand on these already out there pushing and pulling to keep things afloat. We need your help.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Signature

Name: Barbara N. Peterson

Address: 1083 Chugach Way #44

Anchorage AK 99503

Dear Senator Tim Kelly

I urge you not to cut programs that serve Alaskan children and their families. The cuts already proposed - in child care programs, in programs to move parents from welfare to work, in child support enforcement, in medicaid, in public broadcasting, in the healthy families program, and in education - go too far. These are needed services, not "too much government".

I am especially concerned about:

Removal of the resources and referral agencies - these give teachers and parents the opportunity to receive fairly inexpensive training which raise the quality of our children's education. It also gives us the use of resources otherwise not available. These are needed services to ensure that our children receive the quality care they deserve.

Please think again about cutting all these needed programs - our children's education is NOT worth it!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Signature

Name: TARYN L BRYAN

Address: 13150 Old Seward Hwy #3
Anchorage, AK 99515

Gene and Kirsten

Representative Mark Hanley
Finance Committee Co-Chair
State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Phone: 800-465-4935
fax: 907-465-2418

The Finance Sub-Committee is considering reducing the amount of the Child Care Grant by ONE MILLION DOLLARS! Please reconsider!

- 1) Quality Child Care is important to me because *Children learn most of their values before the age of 7 to 10. Early learning experiences + skills translate into more skillful children. Teenagers and adults later in life. Responsible + cared for children have fewer problems later in life - it's a form of crime prevention that cannot be underestimated or underfunded.*
- 2) The Child Care Grant is important to Alaska's children because *it keeps standards high while keeping costs to working parents down, esp. for those that do not*
- a. Keeps the cost of child care down for all children by *quality for daycare cost (OCC)*
keeping costs down for those of us who could not qualify for OCA. It also helps to start the quality learning process early, rather than having young children HANG ALONE + discouraged
- b. Improves the quality of care for my children - *I probably couldn't afford to send my child to Puffin Heights w/o the great funding. At the age of three, "Day care" was not enough for him, & he started having problems. The quality child care has been essential in providing him with the teaching + guidance he could not get at a daycare, and to keep me working full time for the state, instead of on welfare!*
- [I would like to know what your actions are regarding Child Care issues]*
Thank you

Kirsten Ballard
4810 CAROUSEL
ANCHORAGE AK
99515
243-4205



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House, Bill 76, dated March 22, 1997.
 bill/subject

I do not want cuts to be made to mental health services - or to the Alaska Court System.
 Mental health services are essential to the well-being and safety of all members of society. These services are already under budgeted. To make further cuts would be devastating to the people who live in this state.

Signed: Mary E. (Miria) Stevens
 Testifier

A concerned citizen
 Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 872231, Wasilla AK 99687
 Address

907-373-6031
 Phone No.

Alaska's
KENAI PENINSULA

March 18, 1997

TO: House Finance Committee Members
FROM: Stefanie Gorder, Executive Director
RE: Proposed cuts on tourism funding



There are some important decisions concerning the future of the Alaska tourism industry in front of you. I urge you to consider the following when making these decisions.

The Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council was founded by small businesses. The perception was that by combining our often limited resources with others, the Kenai Peninsula would have a collective presence in the marketplace which would allow for a strong, consolidated voice. Five full years and over 400 members later, we have turned this perception into a strong reality.

The KPTMC consists of individuals, businesses, and communities who created a Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Marketing Program for the purpose of increasing prosperity and improving the quality of life within the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

We are one organization with over 400 Alaskan members who have a vested interest in the Alaska visitor industry. Each small business would be devastated by a \$3.5 million cut in tourism programs. We must maintain our position in the nationwide market and need a unified statewide message to help pave the way. The small businesses we represent can not afford to market their product to the lower 48, let alone the rest of the world. Nor can our regional council afford to take over Division of Tourism programs which must continue to maintain Alaska's position in the marketplace.

Do not hesitate to contact me at 283-3850 if you have questions regarding our position. I encourage you to think clearly and consider the results of any cut from tourism marketing programs. The future of Alaska's tourism industry is in your hands.

phone (907) 283-3850
fax (907) 283-2838
e-mail kptmc@alaska.net
150 North Willow
Kenai, Alaska 99611



LOGISTICS
315 E Street, Suite # 101
Anchorage, AK 99501
FAX # 907-276-6061

facsimile transmittal

To: Alaska State Legislators

From: Toni Walker Date: March 17, 1997


Re: Tourism Budget and Program Cuts Pages: 2

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

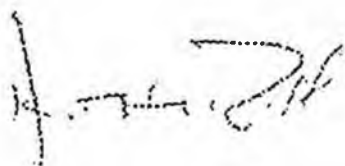
Notes: We have just been notified by the Alaska Visitors Association that the House Finance Subcommittee on Commerce and Economic Development is recommending a budget that will eliminate the Division of Tourism entirely, and effectively cut the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council budget by over \$1 million. A \$3.5 million dollar cut to tourism is outrageous!!! Alaska tourism is a vital and viable industry to this state and it's about time our government recognizes it's importance to the growth of Alaska! While other states continue to increase their tourism marketing budgets, Alaska continue to cut, cut, cut! We are losing out to competing destinations. Small businesses cannot reach a national travel market alone and when is the State of Alaska going to realize this? By eliminating tourism and business development programs, our company will be effected! Logistics is a Destination Management Company whose main livelihood is Alaska Tourism. Without dollars being contribute to the promotion of Alaska and creating the

LOGISTICS

desire to visit our wonderful state we will be out of business. I ask that everyone seriously
reconsider this budget cut and not allow this to happen. Tourism should not be compared to other
expenditures because it is an investment. In fact, it is an investment with an outstanding return
record. A cut in the tourism budget (which has already been significantly cut during every
congressional session for the past 5 years) might reflect a reduction in short term expenditures but
it will also, without question, stifle the fastest growing industry in the state.



Toni Walker
Partner
4021 Tree Circle
Anchorage, AK 99502



Arthur Roraff
Partner
9210 Flintock
Anchorage, AK 99507



Brian Becker
Partner
1008 E. 9th Avenue, #E
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 21, 1997

To The House Finance Committee:

I am writing to you in support of House Bill 75 and would like to have my testimony entered in to the record.

Having lived in Sitka for all of my life I do not recall experiencing the financial struggle to simply exist. For many years our economic base was sound, we had hundreds of federal workers and we were able to live a comfortable life on government property (Japonski Island). Over a period of years (twenty to twenty-five) the government run Mt. Edgecumbe High School was closed, families were given eviction notices and the island life as we knew it was gone.

We had the fishing industry which provided an income for people as well. The fish were abundant and the regulations few. Fishing for the most part is no longer a dependable means of income. The fisherman doesn't get the \$8 - \$10 a pound that consumers are charged unless they have big money permits.

In the 1950's the pulp mill was opened and employed hundreds of people and the economic base was still sound, the timber contracts were long range and we felt safe. The prices of pulp based products would rise and fall, the union employees were very well paid and had excellent benefits. The administration of the mill changed and it was "out with the old". Even with this drastic measure the end of another era was in sight.

I have been a part of the Sitkans Against Family Violence advocates for three years. Our women are homeless, they have no money, some have marketable skills but for the most part this isn't the case. Violence, theft, murder and rape haven't disappeared - if anything the problems have increased. Alcohol, unemployment and cost of living bury them in a feeling of helplessness.

We need funding for programs to help people to obtain jobs, child care, counseling and so much more.

Thank you for your time.

Caym Coleman
SAFV Advocate



Ms. Donna J. Wottlin
P.O. Box 3356
Seward AK 99664
Phone: (907)224-5711

Representative Mark Hanley
Co-Chair House Finance Committee
State Capitol (Interdept. Mail Stop: 3101)
Juneau AK 99810-1182
FAX: 907-465-2418

March 29, 1997

Dear Honorable Mr. Hanley:

I am writing to **ask that you not make** across the board **cuts to Medicaid options which include: 1) rehabilitation services, 2) case management, 3) medical supplies, 4) prosthetics, and 5) mammography.**

I have been a Licensed Practical Nurse for 22 years and have further education which includes 3 semesters short of a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. My nursing experiences are in Long Term Care, Rehabilitation, and Respite Care while living in Seward the past 10 years. I am a registered voter in District D. I am writing because I believe this issue is particularly important to the citizens who reside in Seward that depend on Medicaid.

Many of whom are unable to voice these concerns for themselves because of their disabilities.

I would like to go back to the past and explain **why across the board cuts did not make sense** in Podiatry care when that option was cut a few years ago. One of my clients here in Seward is Diabetic and because of the disease, he has been left with a neuropathy (no feeling) in his feet. This is very common side effect of Diabetes. Another common side effect is poor circulation to the extremities. He/she is dependent upon the Podiatrist and the prescribed orthotics (foot bed inserts for his shoes) for management of these side effect. If he/she becomes unable to afford these services on his/her limited budget they will without question, lose a foot to amputation, due to sores that will not heal and become gangrenous.

This leads to the legislature's consideration of cutting prosthetics. Now, if this person loses their foot because of Medicaid option cuts, he/she will not even be able to get a **prosthetic**, because of this years proposed cuts; to lead a more functional life. This will turn into a **spiraling expense** as this persons health will surely suffer and he/she will require even more Medicaid services.

I can give you a similar story for each of the options you want to consider cutting. It must look like an easy solution from an administration standpoint, but from a medical perspective; to cut preventative, management, and helping services does not make economic sense. **The longer people can be healthy and contribute to the community, (and stay out of a nursing home) the cheaper it will be for Medicaid.**

Moving people out of the nursing homes has already saved Medicaid hundreds of thousands dollars. But these people still need services!

Please do not cut Medicaid services at this time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Donna J. Wottlin, L.P.N.

To the House Finance Committee:

Please enter my testimony into the record for House Bill 75:

I am the Direct Services Coordinator for Sitkans Against Family Violence and have served in this job for nine years. I am asking the House Finance Committee to please fund the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to the maximum extent possible. We desperately need every penny of the \$651,000 that the Council is getting over their FY97 budget.

The Council provides SAFV with approximately 75% of our funding. Domestic Violence continues to be a serious problem in Sitka and the rural communities we serve - Kake, Angoon and Port Alexander. In the first half of FY97 we provided 1504 bednights to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. We provided an additional 923 contacts to victims needing our non-residential services including counseling, advocacy, court accompaniment and referrals. These numbers were an increase over our FY96 first two quarter statistics.

Shelters need funding to be able to maintain well-qualified workers. In my position I supervise all the advocates in our shelter. I am appalled that we can only pay an overnight advocate who has worked here for six years \$5.61/hour. She makes \$5.61/hour to answer crisis calls and deal with late night sexual assaults and domestic violence incidents.

SAFV also needs funding to maintain adequate, healing environments for victims. At SAFV, our residents had no water pressure in the kitchen sink and bathroom because we could not afford to hire a plumber. We had to rely on volunteers tinkering with it over the winter as best they could.

Also, with so many residents in and out of the the shelter there is wear and tear on carpets, walls, and furniture. Things get worn out and tattered quickly and then is rarely money for replacements. We rely on donations and volunteers to help spruce the shelter up but there are certain things we must purchase like vacuums, washers, dryers and materials for repairs.

We manage to do much with very little as it is, but extra money is needed to maintain safety for women and children. Thank you.

Victoria D'Amico
Victoria D'Amico
Direct Services Coordinator, SAFV

Please enter my testimony in the record for HB 75:

My name is Ileana Tabara I am
chairman of the SAFU board in Sitka.
I think it is important for SAFU to
be funded because it provides a
shelter for battered women and children,
better said it provides a shelter for victims
of abuse. It is also an educational
source against all forms of abuse. It
also teaches that abuse is not OK. After
all violence starts at home.

Ileana Tabara

Chair for SAFU Board of
Directors

SITKANS AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

P.O. Box 6136 • Sitka, Alaska 99835
 (907) 747-3370 • Fax 747-3450 • Crisis Line 1-800-478-6511



To the House Finance Committee:

Please enter my testimony into the record for HB 75:

I am the Director of the Sitkans Against Family Violence shelter in Sitka, a program funded through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. I am testifying to ask that the House maintain the funding that has been put in the Council's budget for FY98. As you are well aware, most of the increase in funding from FY98 over FY97 in the Council budget is due to federal funding. Programs like SAFV across the state that work with victims of domestic violence need every penny of this federal funding in addition to the money that we receive from the state to ensure safety for women and children.

The SAFV shelter in Sitka provides housing, counseling, advocacy and education to women and children who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The SAFV shelter has seen dramatic increases in its caseload in the last three years since our town's major industry, the pulp mill, closed down. The depressed economy that Southeast towns have experienced with the decline of the timber industry has created greater family stresses and greater family violence. For women and children who are the victims of that violence in Sitka, Kake, Angoon, and Port Alexander, the SAFV shelter may be their only option for safety. In FY96 we provided 2120 bednights of safety to victims of domestic violence. Without SAFV, these women and children may have been forced to remain in violent homes or live out on the street.

The extra federal dollars in the Council budget will be used to continue to provide the bare necessities to ensure women and children's safety. At SAFV, this money is needed to keep well-trained workers on the job. We pay our overnight advocates \$5.51/hour and day advocates \$10.35/hour. If it were not for the devotion of our employees, it would be impossible to keep a competent staff at these salaries.

Extra federal dollars are needed to buy educational booklets and videos for our children's groups and to expand our Children's program. Children who are victims of domestic violence often become the batterers and adult victims of tomorrow. At SAFV, we currently have one worker whose job it is to work with resident and non-resident children victims and do groups in the schools. This year she could not buy adequate workbooks for her groups because we could not afford it. More counseling and preventative work needs to be done with children but we do not have the funding to currently do it.

Extra dollars are needed to maintain a safe residence for women and children. Our shelter is a 25-bed facility. Routine maintenance problems like broken sinks and dryers arise daily and require funding which we do not have. We rely on volunteers

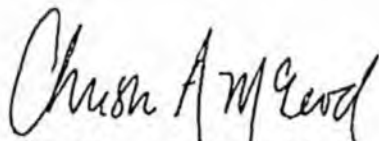


Member of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
 United Way Member Agency

but cannot always find the appropriately skilled volunteers to fix the problem.

The Council is 75% of our funding. The rest of our budget comes from local business and individual donations, fundraising, the City and Borough of Sitka's revenue sharing program, Tlingit and Haida, and small corporate grants. We access every revenue source possible to do our work but rely heavily on the Council's funding and could not survive without it.

I have included with my testimony letters from the Sitka community emphasizing the importance of SAFV. Thank you for your time.



Christine A. McLeod
Executive Director

To the House Finance Committee:

Please enter my testimony into the record for House Bill 75:

I am a resident of Kake who has sought out the services of Sitkans Against Family Violence, a program funded primarily through the Council on Domestic Violence. If it wasn't for the SAFV shelter, I wouldn't be around. What I especially like is the confidentiality factor. Human Services in my village are limited - here at SAFV I get more attention, whenever I need it. It's good to get away from my situation in Kake to come to SAFV for talking, reality checks and time-out. I was glad they could pay for the flight for myself and two children, otherwise I wouldn't have been able to come to SAFV.

SAFV client and
Kake Resident



SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT
 307 Kashevaroff Street
 Sitka, Alaska 99835
 (907)747-8395

"Educating students to be competent, literate,
 and responsible citizens."



Date: March 21, 1997

From: Linda Selvig
 Counselor
 Verstovia Elementary School

To: Christine McLeod
 Director
 Sitkans Against Family Violence

Re: SAFV Small Group Counseling Program at Verstovia

For the past two years I have had the opportunity to work with Donna Kayne-Davis, SAFV Children's Program Coordinator. At the start of every school year, Donna and I meet to discuss students at Verstovia who could benefit from a small group counseling program. Many of the students referred, are ones that Donna has worked with at the SAFV shelter.

Donna spends Tuesdays with fourth and fifth grade girls, Wednesdays with fourth and fifth grade boys and Thursdays with third grade boys and girls. Students meet during their lunch times one day a week.

When we begin the groups, Donna and I discuss what topics will be covered such as self concept, drug and alcohol education, personal safety and conflict resolution.

Parents must sign a permission slip to be a part of the group.

Donna and I meet weekly to update each other on each student's progress in the group.

I am extremely pleased with this program and believe that students in the group benefit tremendously. It is my hope that this program will continue for next year. Donna and I make a great team. We plan to get started earlier next year and spend more time coordinating our programs so that we can meet the needs of more students.

Thank you.

Linda Selvig



SOUTH EAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CORPORATION
222 TONGASS DRIVE • SITKA, ALASKA 99835 • (907) 966-2411

MT. EDGECLIFF HOSPITAL

Date: 3/21/97

To: Christine A. McLeod
Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
Box 6136
Sitka AK 99835

Dear Ms. McLeod

As a community member and mental health worker, I would like to express my appreciation for the good work you and the other staff at SAFV have done over the years. As you may know, the bulk of my case load has been with acute psychiatric cases, and many of my clients have been traumatized by family violence. When setting up aftercare services, I frequently recommend my patients go to SAFV, where they receive sensitive and professional treatment that is the best hope for breaking the circle of violence.

I certainly hope SAFV continues to get the support needed to keep doing this important job.

Good Luck!

Cliff Tincher LCSW

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
3245 HOSPITAL DRIVE
JUNEAU, AK 99801 (907) 465-4000

MEDICAL CENTER (907) 463-4040
DENTAL CENTER (907) 463-4041
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

Angoon Community Association

P.O. BOX 188 - ANGOON, ALASKA 99820 - (907) 788-3411 - FAX (907) 788-3412

March 12, 1997

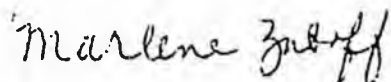
To Whom It May Concern;

Angoon Community Association is pleased to write a letter of support for Sitka Against Family Violence (SAFV).

SAFV has, through the past years, emergency shelter that the Angoon Community can use in cases of abuse and neglect. They also provide some workshops re: Child Abuse, neglect, stress, and women's support, to name a few. For this reason our Tribal Government, in-kind, provides space for the workshop, posts notices of future workshops, and announce on the Citizen Band radio all workshops available.

It is our hope that SAFV receive their needed grants for the much needed services they provide.

Sincerely,



Marlene Zuboff
Executive Director



City and Borough of Sitka

100 LINCOLN STREET • SITKA, ALASKA 99835

Providing for Today ... Preparing for Tomorrow

March 12, 1997

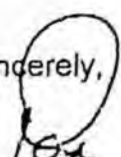
Christine A. McLeod
Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
PO Box 6136
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Ms. McLeod,

The services provided by your organization meet the needs of those persons who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and should be commended. Sitkans Against Family Violence is vital to the well-being of our community.

The City and Borough of Sitka is in full support of the goals and objectives of Sitkans Against Family Violence. The City of Sitka recently gave financial support to Sitkans Against Family Violence by providing a \$100,000. dollar loan at 0% interest for the purchase of its building. The City & Borough of Sitka continues to apply for and pass on to you those funds that are available to you through the State Revenue Sharing Program. Any efforts made by your organization in applying for grants need to be approved.

Sincerely,


Gary L. Paxton
Municipal Administrator

**SOUTH EAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM**

MT. EDGE CUMBE HOSPITAL • 222 TONGASS DRIVE • SITKA, ALASKA 99835 • (907) 966-2411

March 10, 1997

Christine A. McLeod, Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
P.O. Box 6136
Sitka, AK 99835

Dear Ms. McLeod,

I am writing to express the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium's (SEARHC) strong support of the Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) grant application to the State of Alaska.

SAFV is invaluable to the communities of Sitka, Angoon and Kake. SEARHC unequivocally feels that this is an essential program. In addition to being a professional, culturally appropriate operation, it is the only provider in our area of this fundamentally important service. With the rate of domestic violence on the rise, it is imperative that programs, exemplified by SAFV, which effectively address this urgent problem be fully funded.

In closing, please be assured of SEARHC's endorsement of the SAFV application and commitment to future collaboration and support.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Gorman, Vice President
Community Health Services



March 12, 1997

City and Borough of Sitka

POLICE DEPARTMENT

304 Lake Street, Room 102 • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Lynn F. Lamm
Chief of Police

Business 747-3245
Fax 747-1075

Christine MCLEOD, Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
P.O. Box 6136
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Ms. MCLEOD,

I am writing in support of the SAFV Shelter in Sitka. The shelter and staff provide essential services for victims of Domestic Abuse cases and Sexual Assault cases. I have worked for the Sitka Police Department for almost ten years. I have great respect and admiration for the advocates I have worked with during my tenure.

SAFV provides an invaluable service for the Sitka Police Department by providing a shelter for victims in domestic cases. Your counseling and advocacy services give us the ability to provide a direction for a domestic abuse or sexual assault victim to turn.

I support SAFV's efforts to provide advocacy and educational services to teens. Every year I invariably conduct investigations involving teens, alcohol, and sexual abuse. These cases may vary from an alcohol related "date rape" to the young person being victimized by an adult who has been partying with them. These cases are usually difficult to prosecute. The young victim walks away from the situation with a sense that they were not believed and there is no justice for what has happened.

Young persons involved in domestic disputes often feel intense frustration and have very low self esteem. Any services dealing with teen education and awareness in domestics and sexual cases would be beneficial to Sitka. The community has little if any services relating to young persons in these instances.

I would like to offer any support I can to the SAFV shelter staff.

Sincerely,

Barry C. ALLEN
Sergeant, Patrol Div.



City and Borough of Sitka

POLICE DEPARTMENT

304 Lake Street, Room 102 • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Lynn F. Lamm
Chief of Police

Business 747-3245
Fax 747-1075

March 12, 1997

Christine MCLEOD, Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
P.O. Box 6136
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Ms. MCLEOD,

I am writing in support of the SAFV Shelter in Sitka. The shelter and services provided through SAFV have been valuable and essential. SAFV continues to do an outstanding job and is an invaluable asset to the Police Dept. and the persons SAFV serves.

SAFV and the Sitka Police Department are continuing a longstanding cooperative relationship. SAFV becomes an invaluable asset to the Police Dept. during domestic abuse cases. They provide essential services and assistance to victims of domestic violence that cannot be easily or readily provided by officers or other elements of the community.

SAFV provides other services and support for adults and children who have been victims or witnesses to domestic violence or sexual assault.

We are supportive of SAFV's proposal to increase advocacy and education with Sitka's teens.

The Sitka Police Department continues to actively support SAFV and the people SAFV serves.

Sincerely,

Lynn F. LAMM
Chief of Police



SITKA TEEN RESOURCE CENTER

"PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION"
P.O. BOX 1034 SITKA ALASKA 99833
(907) 747 3500 FAX (907) 747 3003

10 Mar 97

To: Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
Department of Public Safety
Box 11200
Juneau, AK 99811-1200

Dear CDVSA,

The Sitka Teen Resource Center (STRC) and Sitka Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) are in complete support of the Sitkans Against Family Violence programs. They are the primary service in Sitka that provides shelter, counseling, advocacy, and support for victims of domestic violence and sexual support.

The two above agencies, STRC and SCAODA, are in the process of merging and have been discussing future collaborations between our services and SAFV. This is an exciting opportunity and the spirit of cooperation shown by SAFV is a needed model here, as well as all over Southeast.

The teen center and SCAODA both utilize the services of SAFV as our primary referral source for abuse situations. Please carefully consider the needs of the SAFV program and its residents who rely on this program.

Sincerely,

Jeff Budd
Executive Director
STRC/SCAODA



Islands Counseling Services

1310-A Sawmill Creek Road ~ Sitka, Alaska 99835

Phone (907)747-3994 ~ Fax (907)747-6801

A Division of Sitka Mental Health Clinic, Inc.

March 21, 1997

Christine McLeod, Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
P. O. Box 6136
Sitka, AK 99835

| | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 | | # of pages = 1 |
| To SAFV | From SMHC | |
| Co. | Co. | |
| Dept. | Phone # 747-8994 | |
| Fax # 747-7450 | Fax # 747-6801 | |

Original Attached

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Ms. McLeod:

Please accept this letter as a statement of support of SAFV on behalf of both Islands Counseling Services, and myself, personally

Islands Counseling Services considers SAFV an invaluable asset to our community. There are many occupancies where a client of Islands Counseling is in need of a place where they feel safe. The shelter has never failed to provide a place to meet that need.

Over the years Islands Counseling staff have participated in cooperative projects with SAFV staff. We have had a strong working relationship with them over the years and we are continually impressed with their ability to deliver outstanding services to a very challenged clientele. Their staff has been very good at accepting referrals from us and have likewise made appropriate referrals back.

My staff and I wholeheartedly support continued funding of SAFV.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Boyd, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 (committee name)
 committee on HB 75, dated 3-22-97
 (bill/subject)

Signed: Corinne Erickson Emery
 Testifier Name

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 472 Cordova Alaska 99574
 Address
(907) 424-3581
 Phone Number

March 22, 1997

To: House Finance

Subject: HB 75

I would like to see funding kept for our social services. If funding is cut for these services we are going to see more problems such as crime domestic violence suicide and homelessness.

Our jails and prisons are already overcrowded with all of these people aren't going to get the help that they need. Also this going to cost the state more money.

Agencies that have reached out to people with problems will not be able to continue there services. This will cause people to turn to alcohol and drugs and this in return is going to cause many problems for our communities and our state as a whole.

Signed
Corina Emilia Enay
Testifier name

Carl and Candy Norman
HCR 64 BOX 391
Seward, ALASKA 99664
(907)224 -3405

March 21, 1997

Dear Honorable Representative,

As I read of the proposed cuts to the State Medicaid Budget for FY98, I wonder just who is being represented by our elected officials in Juneau.

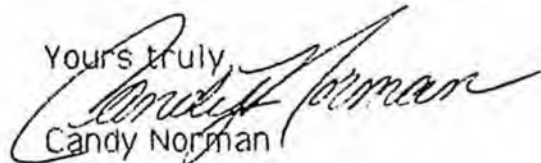
The very people who need these elected officials support are the ones being hit the hardest by the proposed cuts in the Medicaid budget. For these people there will be no getting an extra job to make ends meet; because some are physically and mentally challenged and finding any kind of employment is tough, sometimes impossible. They are desperate for the help the State Medicaid program provides them.

If the proposed cuts are implemented, many of the Medicaid recipients in the State of Alaska will be without even BASIC NEEDS. Is Dental, Visual, Hearing, Rehab, etc. a frivolous request??? If so, can We trust that our representatives will no longer be needing insurance at Our expense??

Please vote not to cut Medicaid to the Developmentally Disabled and restore the Medicaid Options you took away last year.

By the way, a 1996 increase of \$50.00 per day per-diem for legislators? A proposed \$307,000 increase in the legislature's spending budget for FY98? Can we afford this?

Yours truly,


Candy Norman

March 21, 1997

Carla Norman
Box 129
Seward, Alaska 99664
(907)224-7217

Honorable Representative,

I am very concerned about last years Medicaid cuts as they affect my quality of life. Now I am told you are considering more cuts.

I was born in Seward, Ak. in December of 1966. I attended Seward Schools and later went to AVTEC for secretarial training. My daughter was born in Seward, also.

In Jan of 1988, at the age of 21, I was in a car accident resulting in a life-threatening coma which lasted for 6 months. Upon 'awakening' I was unable to do even the simple things on my own. Because I was unable to do for myself, I had to live in a nursing home for 8 years. Imagine that, if you can. Only 21 and I had lost many things we all take for granted--the ability to get out of bed unassisted, to brush my own teeth, go into a bathroom alone, to eat when and what I wanted, to ride the horses I loved to ride, to take a step on my own and the hardest things of all, my ability to speak and to care for my daughter. This year, thanks to the Independent Living Center, Hope Cottage, and The Seward Community Resource Team I am finally out of the nursing home and into a Hope Cottage in Seward which I share with a caretaker and a mentally challenged friend.


I live on Approximately \$850.00 a month. Out of that comes \$400 per month in rent, my food, gas for the car and any other personal needs. I surely cannot afford medical insurance and desperately need Medicaid for my dental, visual and therapy needs. Please restore the options you took last year and help those who can NOT help themselves.

Thank You,


Carla Norman

FY98? Can we afford this?

Yours truly,


Candy Norman

March 18, 1997

To All Members of the
House Finance Committee

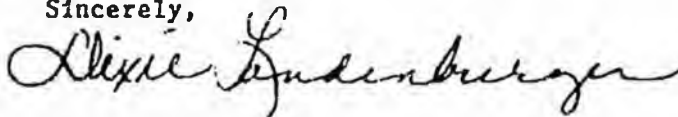
The proposed funding cuts to the Department of Health and Social Services will end up costing the State of Alaska more funds due to the aftermath of what these cuts will mean to communities in Alaska.

The chronically mentally ill are unable to function well independently in their communities and will end up becoming social problems that will place a burden on Police, Hospitals, and the Court system.

Currently, they are able to live as PRODUCTIVE and FUNCTIONAL citizens that contribute to the communities they live in. With management, they are empowered to become a part of the communities and give each other support and assistance and minimize social problems within the communities. This takes financial pressure off of the court system and the department of corrections. The communities are safe and stable.

This proposed cut is going to cost more, not less, to the citizens of Alaska. I strongly urge you to maintain the current level of funding to the Department of Health and Social Services.

Sincerely,



Dixie Landenburger
Box 274
Seward, AK. 99664

TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – REPRESENTATIVES HANLEY, THERRIAULT, MULDER,
DAVIS, FOSTER, GRUSSENDORF, DAVIES, KELLY, KOHRING, MARTIN, AND MOSES

FROM: ALEXIS LANGDON DANIELS

RE: ALASKA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER'S POTENTIAL BUDGET CUTS

I am writing to express concern for the possible budget cuts to Alaska Vocational Technical Center's (AVTEC) budget.

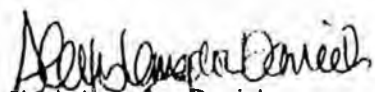
AVTEC has been operating on a budget below their means for several years now, without any capital budget authorization for over 3 years. That in itself is an inherent budget cut, as capital budgets are necessary for technical institutions to keep their training equipment and materials current. As a result of the lack of capital, the facilities are in need of much maintenance and repair, and the dormitories that house the students cannot be utilized to capacity because they are so outdated and inefficient.

AVTEC fills a niche in postsecondary education that badly needs to be filled in Alaska. They train Alaskans to fill Alaskan jobs via "non-traditional" postsecondary education. AVTEC should continue as a going concern in light of the Welfare Reform Act, as they assist in the training necessary for the transition from welfare to work that some current welfare recipients may need, and continue to train a part of the Alaskan population that has the potential to fall back on welfare because of a lack of employability skills.

Additionally, AVTEC has provided retraining over the years for displaced workers in various industries, including the fishing and timber industries. They strive to be flexible to industry, meeting the changing needs of the dynamic Alaskan economy, and continued budget cuts and bureaucratic hoops have made it more and more difficult to meet these needs.

Please reconsider the projected cuts to AVTEC's budget, especially to the General Fund Program Receipts budget. They do what they can to get by on their existing budget, generating as much funds as possible from private industry and other sources. Such a budget cut would be a devastating blow to a very valid and worthwhile state agency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Alexis Langdon Daniels
P.O. Box 1098
Seward, AK 99664
(907) 224-5229

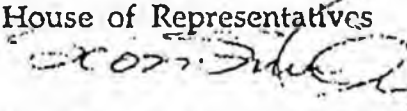
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

SCHOOL OF FISHERIES & OCEAN SCIENCES

FISHERY INDUSTRIAL
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

900 TRIDENT WAY, KODIAK, ALASKA 99615-7401 (907) 486-1500 FAX: (907) 486-1540

MEMORANDUM

To: Finance Committee, Alaska House of Representatives
From: Scott Smiley, Director, FITC 
Date: March 22, 1997
Subject: Abolishing Alaska Science and Technology Foundation.

I understand you are considering the abolishment of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF). A reason given was that ASTF expenditures represented "corporate welfare", and that their endowment of some \$100 million would be better spent building roads.

I believe this assessment is wrong. If R&D supported by ASTF is thought of as corporate welfare, then road building is corporate welfare too; it is just more difficult to define the corporate recipients. Either way, government has a responsibility to build the economic infrastructure, like roads, that improves the lives of its citizens. The ASTF endowment represents another kind of economic infrastructure, and an especially important one as we enter the 21st century.

The plan to abolish ASTF also ignores the difficulties challenging our fishing industry, the largest employment sector in the state. Profit margins for processors in Alaska are so low that few could afford R&D without assistance. A major component of the ASTF grant program has been the concept of shared risk. Because ASTF is willing to share some of the risk implicit in R&D, Alaskans have benefited from higher wages and more jobs. The low margins for the Alaskan fishing industry are largely due to a farmed fish industry that has rewritten the relationship between fish producers and consumers over the past 20 years. Only about half of world salmon production is now from wild caught fish. Pen reared fish account for the other half. While per capita consumption of salmon has risen, markets for the higher volume wild caught species, like pink and chum salmon, have often been captured by high quality pen reared fish.

About a third of all ASTF Grants have been in the area of seafood processing. The Fishery Industrial Technology Center (FITC) may be one of the most frequent recipients of ASTF funding in partnership with a large number of processors. Ordinarily, food research in the U.S. is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) however, USDA has a prohibition on funding food research on wild caught fish. They fund fish food research, but it is research on farmed fish. The other venue for funding fish research is the Saltonstall-Kennedy grant fund, but NMFS forgot to request an appropriation for S-K this year and the future of the program seems bleak. With the decline of federal funding, there are precious few other sources for R&D support. If ASTF is abolished, there will be grave consequences for our fishing industry. This industry is the largest employer in Alaska with upwards of 75,000 people involved.

There are several areas where R&D will be required by our industry in the next few years. First among these is the need for the development of new high volume products from salmon. Traditionally Alaskan salmon were canned. Later, with the implementation of the 200 mile limit, the Japanese purchased many Alaskan fish packing plants. Possibly the chief reason for this investment was to guarantee Japanese consumers a stable supply of fish. Today, more than 20 years later, the Japanese have found a number of other sources of high quality, cost effective fish. As Japanese purchases of wild Alaskan salmon dwindle, new markets will have to be found. R&D will be essential for the development of new product lines based on cogent market research, to satisfy these new markets.

R&D will also be required in the area of handling fish offal. The decision that roe stripping is a wanton waste of the salmon resource, coupled with concerns for water quality will likely stimulate demand for more effective ways to handle fish waste. Should a federal agency demand that fish waste not be released into tidal areas of Alaska, many of our fish plants might have to close unless new cost effective methods to handle the waste are developed. These methods could lead to increased income for the plants because of the potentially high value products that can be made from fish waste including omega fatty acids, bone meal, and fish meals - useful in feeding pets, livestock, farmed fish and shellfish, or supplying humans with their daily ration of protein.

Without funding to pursue this R&D, the Alaska Fishing Industry will lose even more ground to the worldwide farmed fish industry. This will translate into lost income and lost jobs for Alaskans. Alaska has considerable differences from the lower 48; that range from population density, to food habits, to weather, to infrastructure. Because Alaska's R&D needs are so radically different from those in the lower 48, we need our own research funding forum if Alaska is to advance economically. The ASTF endowment can fund this R&D within Alaska in perpetuity if managed appropriately. Without ASTF Alaska will fall further behind the lower 48 in applying technology to strengthening our economic well being. The 21st century will be more technologically demanding than the 20th. Alaska needs the ASTF R&D endowment to have a bright and economically viable future.

cc. Representative Alan Austerman, Kodiak
Senator Jerry Mackie, Kodiak

March 21, 1997

Honorable Albert Kookesh
Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol, Room 114
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Proposed funding cuts to DHSS Programs

Dear Representative Kookesh;

We, the citizens of Yakutat are extremely concerned about the proposed budget cuts that affect so many of our children, adolescents and families. We would like to urge you to do everything within your power to make the necessary changes to protect families and elders.

Because Governor Knowles has worked so hard this past year and a half to highlight the needs of young children, adolescents and families through the establishment of the Children's Cabinet and Special programs like COMPASS, Healthy Families, Medical Assistance and Child Care Assistance, we felt as if the State of Alaska's priorities were finally in the right place.

Unfortunately it appears that others do not share the Governor's vision *and* once again the state seems to be renegeing on their promise to ensure a positive change occurs.

If these proposed cuts are passed, and the State of Alaska's continued withdrawal of support for grassroots movements such a COMPASS shall only cause us greater concern as to the states initial commitment.

Please consider this:

In February of 1997, the State of Alaska, in partnership with the Danforth Foundation, brought together 13 community teams, (out of 49 that applied) with State Department Commissioners and out of state presenters to work intensively on developing *model community based* programs across the state.

Our commitments were based on mutual cooperation, collaboration team

building and sharing resources. We developed action plans and modest budgets to implement some very creative and dynamic programs, that were made possible by pooling resources and changing old ineffective ways of doing business.

We would like you to take another look at all the studies that have been done where it was reported and recommended by the State government to the Federal government that the best way to help rural communities in Alaska was to assist them to take it upon themselves to figure out the best programs needed in their communities, because they, the residents, know what is best and needed in their communities. If this many statewide community leaders were willing to collaborate together to work towards identifying and filling the cracks in the present system and did so by respecting their political and racial identities and really worked for the people in their communities in a collaborative effort for the good of all. We fail to see the reason why the house finance subcommittee can't do the same and realize that if we don't have healthy children... we have no future.

The undersigned individuals are respectfully asking you to take another close look at the responsibilities that are carried when making important decisions that affect all of our lives.

Sincerely,

Shelly Bremner

Shelly Bremner
Yakutat/Tlingit Tribe
Social Services

Monica Wolf

Monica Wolf
ANS Grand Sgt.-at-Arms


Signatures:

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Elaine Abraham</i> | <i>Yakutat Tlingit Tribe</i> | <i>Council member</i> |
| <i>Donna Samson</i> | <i>President</i> | <i>Alaska Native Brotherhood</i> |
| <i>Butt Adams</i> | <i>VTT</i> | <i>President</i> |
| <i>Derrick Ford</i> | <i>A.N.S</i> | <i>Council member</i> |
| <i>Henry K. V. d. d.</i> | <i>VTT</i> | |
| <i>Ed. W. W.</i> | <i>Yakutat Tlingit</i> | |
| <i>Therianne Pelland</i> | <i>COMPASS MEMBER</i> | |
| <i>Willie Johnson</i> | <i>COMPASS MEMBER</i> | <i>VTT Soc. Services</i> |
| <i>Paul Warner</i> | <i>COMPASS team member</i> | <i>School Board / Head Start</i> |
| <i>Burke Warner Jr</i> | <i>COMPASS team member</i> | <i>Student Rep.</i> |

Kodiak Area Native Association



3449 Rezanof Dr. East
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Phone (907) 486-9800

To: House Finance Committee
From: Brenda Schwantes 
Date: March 21, 1997
Re: Out of touch with VPSO Program

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|----------|------------|---|
| Post-it® Fax Note | 7671 | Date | 3/21/97 | # of pages | 2 |
| To | Legislature | From | Brenda | | |
| Co./Dept | | Co. | KIADNA | | |
| Phone # | | Phone # | 486-9800 | | |
| Fax # | 465-2418 | Fax # | 486-9898 | | |

Two days ago a VPSO had all his tires slit on his vehicle, several weeks ago a VPSO had to leave his vehicle unattended and while unattended his vehicle was spray painted with "pig" and other language, another VPSO went on leave for a week and when he returned home his home had been broken into and vandalized. This is a small sample of incidents relating to VPSO work.

A VPSO is on call and is expected to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A VPSO's starting salary is \$10.79 per hour. Usually, health care is not available for a non-native VPSO. Airfare to Kodiak ranges from \$60-\$140 round trip. Groceries, housing, and fuel is higher than more urban areas.

Why is the Legislature looking at cutting the VPSO Program? The VPSO Program needs more instead of less support. Unlike the Troopers, there are no supplies line items, there are no equipment line items, there are no phoneline items, there are no funds for operation and maintenance of vehicles, overtime is rare, and the legislature wants to cut the VPSO Program?

The following is a brief income salary survey of the Kodiak area;

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|
| Safeway Courtesy Clerk (grocery bagger) | \$6.00 hr | Age 14 or 15 |
| | 6.50 hr | Age 15 or 16 |
| Safeway Cashier | 7.50 hr | |
| VPSO | 10.79 per hour | |
| Police Dispatcher | 13.71-18.91 | |
| Corrections Officer | 14.27-19.68 | |
| Trooper Dispatcher | 15.84- | |
| Police Officer | 17.56 - 24.22 | |
| State Trooper Recruit | 19.64 | |
| State Trooper | Unavailable | |

As you can see, a VPSO makes just a little over \$4.00 an hour more than a 15 year old grocery bagger, less than a dispatcher, less than a corrections officer, and a State Trooper recruit but is required to deal with what a Trooper deals with. A VPSO would have to be on the job over 17 years to make \$18.04 per hour, still less than what a beginning Trooper recruit makes.

Maybe the Legislature should start talking about what it can do to support the VPSO Program instead of cutting the VPSO Program.

If you have any questions I would be happy to answer them. My home phone number is (907) 486-1015, my work number is (907) 486-9800, and my e-mail address is brendasc@ptialaska.net. Thank you.



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
(committee name)

committee on HB 75 dated March 22, 1997
(bill/subject)

I have ~~no~~ great concern about mental health budget being cut to the extent that it is. I feel that here in Cordova it has been very hard for sound alternatives to do all they can with there being talk now about cuts. I feel that if you do this, it will cost the state more money in the long run, because children and families will not get the help and care they need. So please help us to help ourselves and don't do any cuts.

Also here in Cordova sound alternatives as well as family resources do a wonderful job!

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier Name

Myself and Past President of Sound Alternatives Board for 5 years
Representing (Optional)

P.O. 215 Cordova Alaska
Address

907-424-3507
Phone Number

From: Pete Devaris, Owner

Phone: 907-789-7818

Fax: 907-789-4228

E-Mail: Bears@ptialaska.net

Date: 3-21-97

Pages
including this (1) one
cover page:

Save the Division of Tourism!

As the owner of an Alaskan Tour Company I ask that you consider my concerns and requests:

Do not eliminate the Division of Tourism. The Division of Tourism is critical to the survival of the Alaskan Tourism Industry. Alaska's tourism industry cannot stand any more cuts and remain effective at promoting travel our state.

State tourism marketing funds have decreased by 50% since 1989. The negative effects of these cuts are apparent. Alaska has disappeared from the top ten list of desired vacation destinations for American adult travelers.

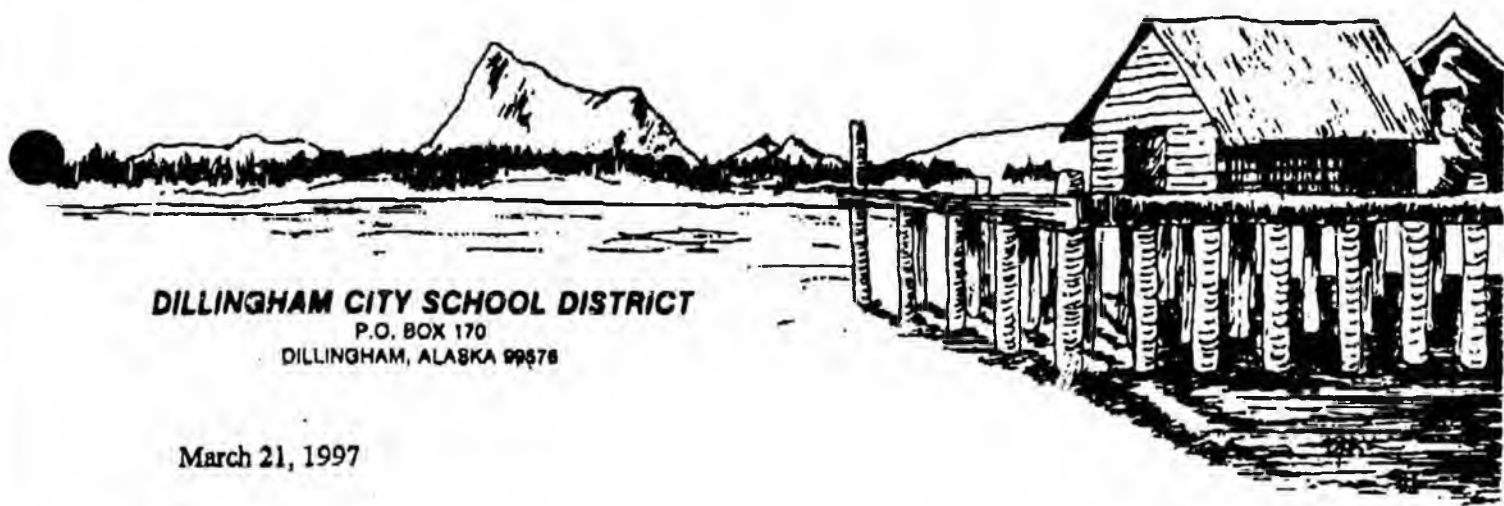
Lets get competitive and stop losing ground due to increased competition from other states, countries, and new destinations.

Alaskans statewide are turning to tourism to replace jobs lost in other industries such as timber.

Please! Lets work together develop Alaska's visitor industry. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Devaris, Owner

**DILLINGHAM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**P.O. BOX 170
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99578

March 21, 1997

The House Majority
Juneau, Alaska**RE: PROPOSED HOUSE MAJORITY BUDGET CUTS FOR FY98**

After spending nine years trying to improve the quality of education for Alaskan's children, I have decided to retire, frustrated because of the lack of support from the legislature. I have listened to many campaign speeches pledging support for educating our children and then watched said pledges become politically buried.

We are currently looking at cutting our budget by \$800,000 out of a \$5,000,000 budget. Our student activities have been supported for the last four years by a local Kids Kount organization, who are now unable to beg enough money to sustain our programs. We have also been told we will lose approximately \$183,000 in Impact Aid for FY98.

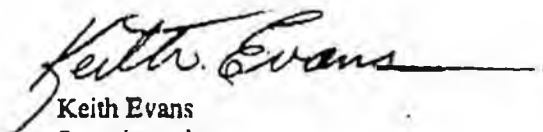
It is my understanding that you are now proposing a \$1,000,000 cut to the Department of Education, which would result in \$13.5 million in federal funds being lost. We at the local level will again be hit with more cuts.

How can a State as rich as Alaska, a State that gives over \$1,000 to each resident just to live here, say they can't afford to keep their Constitutional commitment to education.

We need more classrooms, we have many deferred maintenance projects, but it appears we cannot count on the State for the needed support.

I applaud you for your rhetoric, but deplore your actions.

Sincerely,

Keith Evans
Superintendent

KE:sw

Superintendent
842-5223Central Office
842-5225 Fax 842-5634High/Middle School
842-5221Elementary School
842-5642

AquaFoods

CORPORATION

3006 West 34th Avenue, Suite 1, Anchorage, Alaska 99517-2233
Tel: (907) 243-4533

Fax: (907) 243-8998

March 21, 1997

The Honorable Gail Phillips, Speaker
Alaska House of Representatives
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

3-Pages to Fax: 907-465-3472

Reference: House Proposal to Eliminate the Alaska Science & Technology Foundation

Dear Speaker Phillips:

As reported in the 03/20/97 issue of the Anchorage Daily News, I was quite dismayed by the referenced proposal. Apparently it was developed without considering the crucial role ASTF serves toward diversifying and expanding Alaska's economic base. And, for the record I am a loyal party member; however, in the case of this House majority proposal, being *right* is not synonymous with *correct*.

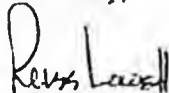
AquaFoods is a recipient of funding by the Alaska Science & Technology Foundation. Not as much as our investment of cash, time and efforts. But, without the additional funding from the Foundation for credible, costly market studies and food science for our line of value-added pink salmon meals, I would still be in my garage -- four years later, conducting crude, unmarketable experiments. Granted, we could have applied for a State assisted loan. However, investigation revealed that only ASTF could provide R&D funding in compliance with our confidentiality requirements. That being the final development of a proprietary pin bone problem solution and the secret ingredient formulas. All of which proved to be successful as illustrated by the document included with this transmittal.

I don't make any claims to being the salvation for Alaska's pink salmon industry crisis. But, by our development of -- with the Foundation's participation -- a consumer-friendly pink salmon product, we can now penetrate a lucrative U.S. market niche. This rapidly growing segment of the U.S. food industry had sales of over \$700 million in 1996. AquaFoods' conservative sales projections show that a five percent U.S. market share (\$35 mil) can be achieved in three years. Add our plans for product line extensions and entering foreign markets to the equation and its simple to figure how much sustained economic growth can be realized by Alaska's salmon community. Not to mention, the stiff grant repayment terms!

Therefore, I urge you and the legislators receiving copies of this transmittal to kill the proposal. Allow the Foundation to continue status quo. Without it, the Legislature will eliminate a valuable source for small business enterprise to succeed in Alaska.

Thank you for re-considering the issue.

Sincerely,



R. Russell Lowell
Chief Executive Officer

cc: attached

1997
SYMPHONY OF SALMON

New Salmon Product Contest
Winner

This is to certify that

Aquafoods Corp.

as a Winner of the Fourth Annual
Symphony of Salmon Contest

Alaska Pink Salmon Pocket Meal

Your new Alaska salmon product was judged to be a superior product by a panel of culinary experts under the sponsorship of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and the Department of Commerce and Economic Development.



Tony Knowles

Governor Tony Knowles



**ARCTIC OIL RESERVE
JOBS AND ENERGY
FOR AMERICA**

4220 B Stuct. Suite 201
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 563-2697
Fax (907) 562-6782
<http://alaskan.com/anwr/>

203 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 544-6355
(202) 544-6655
Fax (202) 544-5763

March 21, 1997

TO: Representative Gail Phillips, Speaker of the House
Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Representative Gene Therriault, Co-Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: *Cam* Cam Toohey, Executive Director, Arctic Power

SUBJECT: FY 98-ANWR Education Funding Needs - \$600,000

As the legislature works to determine the state spending levels for FY 98, it is important that adequate funding be allocated for promotion of ANWR Coastal Plain development. Since Arctic Power's creation in 1992, the legislature has funded Arctic Power projects aimed at educating congressional members and their constituency through ANWR tours, congressional office visits and target states. These programs have proven to be tremendously effective and should be continued.

While great progress was made in 1995 with positive U.S. House and Senate votes, a sustained effort is needed in order to build on the existing base of support to achieve ultimate success. In the coming year, Arctic Power will continue the theme of Energy, Economy and Environment. We will emphasize Environment, by highlighting Alaska's successful and proven track record that oil development can be done safely, detailing advancements in arctic technology, and our protection of caribou and other wildlife.

Arctic Power is proposing a maintenance level education budget for FY 98 of approximately \$600,000. The funding would be used for DC education, target states, ANWR congressional tours, grassroots programs, media/PR activities and production of new written material. The \$600,000 request will cover education expenditures by both Arctic Power and the Governor's Office. State funds appropriated to Arctic Power are used for projects and programs only, private membership contributions are utilized to fund our staffing and office needs. Budget details are still being finalized and I will give you the exact figures soon.

In years past, both Arctic Power and the Governor's Office ANWR education efforts have relied on re-appropriations for funding. At this time, I have not identified a funding source for this request.

I will be in Juneau soon to discuss this request in more detail and answer any questions you might have, or you are welcome to call me at 563-2697. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

**TESTIMONY GIVEN BEFORE THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
VIA STATEWIDE TELECONFERENCE**

March 22, 1997

by

Richard Hebhardt, Superintendent
Skagway City School District
Skagway, AK

Chairmen Hanley and Therriault and Committee members, thank you. Good morning. My name is Richard Hebhardt. I'm the superintendent of the Skagway City School District, representing this morning not only the District but also the municipality. Mayor Plummer sends her regrets for not being able to be here this morning.

On behalf of both entities, allow me to begin by saying that the consideration the 20th Alaska State Legislature is giving to narrowing the state's fiscal gap is understandable. Fiscal responsibility is important, without a doubt.

Adequate and equitable funding for public education is, however, of the *utmost* importance to the future of the State of Alaska; thus we here at home believe the provision of anything less is unacceptable. Quality education, simply, should not be sacrificed in an attempt to balance the budget, in our view. Too much is at stake. Rather, the public debate should transcend political rhetoric and give honest consideration to remedying the

TESTIMONY
Page 2
March 22, 1997

funding inadequacies and inequities that exist, not intensifying them. Regardless of the funding mechanism or system ultimately devised by you or your colleagues, in short, it should take into account the erosive effects of inflation, as the operational costs of Alaskan school systems have increased nearly 30% since 1988 (while additional State support has been less than 2%). Also, it should, we feel, give full recognition to the fact that several municipalities (Skagway being one) *already* make a significant local contribution to public education -- begging the question here at home, "How much is enough? How much more can we give, without further diluting the provision of other necessary community services?" **Currently, the City of Skagway contributes 39% to the school's operating budget; next year, an astonishing 52%! In a word or two, our school/community believes it is absolutely imperative that a fair and more equitable state funding strategy be developed -- a responsible solution that fully acknowledges local *effort* and *capacity*. Necessity, we think, demands it.**

If not, the Skagway City School *core* educational program, for one, will continue to be adversely affected. Further postponement of the installation of a much-needed, long-awaited vocational education program as well as the hiring of essential teaching staff will no doubt occur, with insufficient funding. In short, the educational best interests of the youth of this community will not be addressed.

TESTIMONY
Page 3
March 22, 1997

For your information, the proposed budget reductions to the State Department of Education, which will result in a significant loss of federal funds, will only exacerbate the financial distress the District is experiencing.

In sum, as an alternative mechanism for funding public education is sought and debated in the coming weeks, we, one, look forward to your judicious deliberation of the issues as well as your keen sensitivity to school communities such as ours -- communities that already contribute more than their "fair share." Two, we encourage your support for: (a) the establishment of an *education endowment*, which has tremendous merit, in our view, as it appears to have the potential of fully funding public education within a reasonable time frame without jeopardizing the long-term public interest; as well as (b) measures calling for the establishment of an *education facilities fund* and an *increase in the tobacco tax*. Finally, as public education serves everyone's best interest in the final analysis, we believe legislators and the administration should work together to make the important decisions required in order to balance the state budget. Education is too unique and vital a concern to be addressed in any other way.

Thank you for the time you have given me.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFIN
 committee name
 committee on Budget dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

My name is Sheryl Totelo and am a 6th grade teacher in Kaslof. I am concerned about proposed cuts for Alaska Science and Technology Foundation, which would eliminate funding for direct grants to teachers. This has provided educational opportunities for our students that are not otherwise available. As a teacher I have a small budget of \$500⁰⁰ to purchase all books, supplies ^{for all subjects} for a class of 30 students. These grants are ^{for} up to \$5000 and fund innovative projects through a competitive scoring and award process. These projects make learning relevant, exciting, and provide real-life connections to the community. I have received two of these grants in the past 4 years and can personally testify to the great benefits to the students who have participated in experiences. →

Signed: Sheryl Totelo
 Testifier
 self
 Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 1874 Soldotna, AK
 Address
262-4167
 Phone No.

made possible through grant funds. Students attendance and achievement was significantly, positively impacted! They were engaged learners, motivated with relevant hands-on learning.

As educators, we need to provide our young people with motivating learning experiences that have something to do with what students will need to do in the real world tomorrow. Innovative approaches and projects often require funds to purchase materials and implement new programs. Direct grants for Teachers through Alaska Science and Technology Foundation makes this a possibility for teachers and their students.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed cuts to Alaska Science and Technology Foundation.

Thank you for considering this testimony.
Sincerely, Sheryl Setelo

Testimony for 3/22/97 House Finance Committee Teleconference

Submitted by: Brenda G. Wieffering, representing the Women's Resource & Crisis Center, 325 S. Spruce St, Kenai, AK 99611. Telephone: 283-9479.

* Thank you to Representative Davis and the committee for recognizing the importance of continuing funding for victims' services! Thank you also for recognizing that Batterers Intervention Programs serve an important role in providing for victim safety. We strongly support this type of integrated approach in our efforts to eliminate domestic violence.

* We do, however, request that the legislature allocate one pool of funds to the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, and allow them to determine where those dollars could be most effectively allocated. We trust that the Council will allocate that funding in accordance with legislative intent.

* We would also like for you to know that we still have needs which are not being met. For instance, our advocate staff earn \$19,000 per year — could you support yourself, with or without children, on that salary? We utilize 7.75 full-time-equivalent (FTE) positions for: staffing a 24-hour emergency shelter which services nearly 400 residents/4300 bednights annually; servicing 300- 400 walk-in clients annually (does not include shelter residents); accompanying clients to appointments and court appearances; making 3500+ follow-up calls and safety checks with victims; transporting victims to more than 200 appointments; providing 6800 individual sessions with victims; facilitating community support groups 3-4 nights per week; presenting educational sessions to school children and other community groups; providing 3100+ individual sessions with child victims; and, numerous other activities relating to victim services. Needless to say, staff exhaustion is a fact of life here. That, coupled with the low pay, results in a rather steady staff turnover rate. We need *at least* one additional position in order to keep up with the

Brenda G. Wieffering 3/22/97

workload, and also the means to pay our extremely hardworking advocates a salary they can support themselves on — \$25,000 per year is the average salary for these positions around the state and a reasonable expectation. That equates to an increase in funding of \$40,000 for bringing salaries up to par with colleagues, and an additional \$25,000 for adding one staff position, for a total increase of \$65,000. We would very much appreciate your consideration of these circumstances when appropriating the budget.

* Also, we urge you to maintain funding for the Department of Corrections to keep violent misdemeanants in jail. Most domestic violence offenders are charged with Assault in the 4th degree, a misdemeanor. These crimes are often quite violent. For example, a victim could be beaten severely enough to cause extensive internal injuries, multiple broken bones, and unrecognizable facial features. The perpetrator threatens to "finish the job." When a *first arrest* occurs for domestic violence it is rarely the *first occurrence of violence*, but simply the *first occurrence of law enforcement intervention*. Victims need to know that when their abusers are arrested there will be absolutely no chance the abuser will have the opportunity to "finish the job." Victims need time to make plans for safety. Halfway houses are not the answer — walkaway rates are high (Department of Corrections data indicate 6-7 walkaway/escapes per month). Please take action to ensure that victims are not placed in further jeopardy by the very system which is supposed to protect them. Support the mandatory arrest law by leaving the teeth (money) in it.

** Thank you for your past and continued support of victim safety. We appreciate your hard work! If you should have any questions, please feel free to call me.*

Brenda G. Wieffering 3/22/97
Brenda G. Wieffering, Executive Director, Women's Resource & Crisis Center, Kenai

3/22/97

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

An unnamed theologian said "the righteous will lead us to hell", which prompts an analogy that random dismantling of Alaska's structures, i.e., DEC change, repeal Coastal Zone statutes, could send us down the road to a stagnant economy and social hell. It almost appears to be a revolutionary "smash it, and let's see what happens".

Does the economic/social climate alluded to, cause our southern U.S. neighbors to view us as fools for whining about a fiscal gap, when there's no statewide tax and billions are received from oil & interest income?

We have heard over and over that Alaska will not grow, or cut its way out of the perceived fiscal gap. Why then, does the Legislature seem fixed on just such improbabilities?

Does this constant repetition about "fiscal gap" look like mass ignorance, or worse foolishness, when we as individual citizens pay little or nothing for state services?

Even worse we are not insistent that the Legislature provide resources to un-crowd schoolrooms, assure sufficient supplies, and repair disintegrating school buildings. All this inaction on our part, while we pay little, or nothing, for essential educational needs and fail to demand our government spend some, only a part, of its/our huge income for such basic needs.

Now Economist Reaume has cautioned that our failure to have a statewide tax, on individual citizens for essential public needs, can cause business investment to shy away from Alaska (Anchorage News, 3/16/97). Additionally, failure to maintain schools, and other quality of life infrastructure, can cause potential business to avoid such miser swamps.

Do we despair, or will my Alaskan neighbors and I come to our collective senses and insist more be spent on education and other essential, publicly financed services - and that all Alaska's citizens share the costs, responsibility and advantages.

James E. Fisher
James E. Fisher
171 Farnsworth, 99669
Phone: 262-9601 - fax: 262-9641

(\$\$32297.ltr)

Kenai LIO 3/22/97
Please fax this to House Finance as my testimony.
I couldn't come to LIO this AM since I must stay with Helen who is recovering from surgery.
J.E.F.

City of Nunapitchuk
P.O. Box 190
Nunapitchuk, Alaska 99641
(907) 527-5327
Fax (907) 527-5011

March 22, 1997

House Finance
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
FAX 465-2418

Re: RUBA Program

The Rural Utility Business Advisor program (RUBA) under the Dept. of community and Regional Affairs is a valuable asset of rural villages such as ours because they experiment and pave the way of managing rural utility systems such as water and sewer developments in each Community. Their monitoring of utilities to make sure they operate as infrastructures is an accomplishment and must continue to help small communities or else they will bust and go bankrupt and or fail without leadership. RUBA provides that leadership and show examples for a system that will support the financial viability of a project. Funding RUBA enables small communities a much needed support system
Thank-you.

Sincerely yours,


Ivan N. Wassillie/Mayor

INW:cjw

CC: files



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HI FINANCE
(committee name)

committee on HB 75, dated 3/22/97
(bill/subject)

Life in rural Alaska is difficult at best. To take away the supports that allow our citizens to deal with mental illness, developmental disabilities, vocational training opportunities, homelessness, domestic violence, alcoholism and drug addiction, youth at risk is a travesty. This is not responsible government. You are the voice of the people of Alaska - the people of Alaska whom I am acquainted with believed in you, our representatives to act responsibly.

Signed: Virginia B. Rhodes
Testifier Name

Sound Alternatives
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 160, Cordova, Ak 99574
Address

907-424-8300
Phone Number

March 22, 1997
Barclay Jones-Kopchak
Box 1126
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907) 424-7178

TO: The Alaska State Legislature

RE: Opposition to Proposed Social Services Cuts

I am deeply concerned over the proposed budget cuts to Alaska's social service programs. I am a long-time member of the Cordova Family Resource Center, willing to 'put my money where my mouth is'. The Alaska Legislature should hold itself to a similar standard. I know that it is not enough to mouth platitudes about supporting the family: it's community caring and actual dollar expenditures that make the difference. Volunteers give mightily to the Center but they can't do it all. The Center responded to 365 calls last year and reached out to many more. The Cordova Family Resource Center has been a decidedly positive influence in town because of the local and governmental support. Don't make their good works a thing of the past. Help them to continue to be dynamic agents for social health and well-being; support them with your voice and your vote for continued funding.

*Barclay Jones-
Kopchak*



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
(committee name)

committee on _____, dated _____
(bill/subject)

Budget cuts may be necessary but enough is enough! What the House Majority is proposing is irresponsible.

To cut the Healthy Families Program, jeopardize programs that solve childrens health & education programs and take away \$13.5 million of Federal funds by eliminating \$750,000 from D.O.E. is ~~irresponsible~~ irresponsible. Our school district is seeing an increase in special needs students. We are mandated to service these children and do so with less & less. For the House majority to propose the \$750,000 in quality schools & special services, including setting standards & assessing results is dangerous to

Signed: Julie Justice
Testifier Name

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 991, Cordova
Address

907-424-7303
Phone Number

the health & economy of the State of Alaska
Support the Governors Budget!

Mary Lauer
510 Kinhead
Sitka, Alaska 99835
907-747-5752 home; 907-747-7728 work
TFMFL@acad1.alaska.edu

PLEASE ENTER THESE COMMENTS AS TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE
FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON MARCH 22, 1997 @ 9:30

Alaska Vocational Technical Center is facing budget cuts of \$77,000 in its general fund budget. This cut will deeply affect delivery of programs at a time when the state faces an increased need for vocational training.

Through one program alone, the state mandated welfare-to-work program, demand for vocational training could increase dramatically. AVTEC is researching new areas of vocational training to meet these demands in areas not presently served, such as computer network maintenance training.

In addition to meeting the need for new areas of service, there is an ongoing need to meet the vocational needs of heavy industry, such as the Red Dog Mine. AVTEC is responsive to the training needs of industries needing short-term training, and is especially able to respond rapidly to industry's short-term special-interest training needs.

AVTEC served 1762 students during FY96. Of the students who enrolled in FY96, 84.4% graduated (1345) or completed their skills upgrade program. Based on previous years data the graduation rate is expected to be approximately 72% for full-term and 91% for short-term.

I am employed in continuing education full-time at the University and recognize that this is a phenomenal record of success. I believe that AVTEC's record of success will be greatly affected by any budget cuts at a time when training needs in the state are increasing—needs that they are perfectly positioned to fulfill.

Mary Lauer
AVTEC Advisory Board Member

Thanks, Mary Lauer

Representative Mark Hanley
Finance Committee Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature

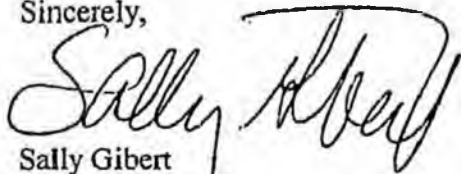
fax 907-465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley:

I understand you are considering a major reduction in the Child Care Grant Program. I believe this is a mistake. High quality child care benefits every child by better preparing them for the rigors of school and growing up as confident, productive individuals. Based on experience with my two children, age 5 and 8, the value of their preschool experiences in those precious early years cannot be overstated. Child care should not be reduced to child warehousing. Reducing or eliminating these funds will reduce the overall quality of child care and/or significantly increase individual child care costs. These two funds work well together and should remain intact.

Thank you for your consideration. I'd appreciate being kept apprised of the status of funding for Day Care programs.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
3018 Alder Circle
Anchorage, AK 99508

E-mail: sgibert@aol.com

ALASKA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Box 889

Seward, AK 99664

21 March 1997

Representative Mark Hanley, Chairman
House Finance Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

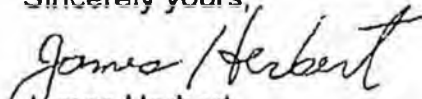
Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Teacher's Association urges you to maintain the budget of Alaska Vocational Technical Center at the current 1996-7 levels. As an organization of 34 teachers, we have worked hard at providing maximum service to our customers, the Alaskan vocational education student. The school has been creative in expanding education opportunities with partnerships with industry, Community Development Quota Associations, and other businesses. Staff has responded by delivering more services and putting in more voluntary time. Our union contract ratified last year reflect your strong efforts to limit financial expenditures and growth.

AVTEC's mission is to provide vocational training for employment in established and emerging fields in Alaska. We continue, in spite of budget limitations, to deliver trained, employable workers to businesses and industry all over the state. Investment in Alaska's future and her people requires concern and attention to economic viability. A trained and educated work force is the first and essential step on that path.

Our Association members are dedicated and supportive of AVTEC's mission. Without sustained funding at current levels program cuts and loss of services are inevitable. Please show your support for vocational education and Alaska's economic future by maintaining AVTEC's budget at existing levels.

Sincerely yours,


James Herbert
President, AVTECTA



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
committee name

committee on Health + Social Services dated Mar 22, 97
bill/subject

With the recent medicaid cuts, I can see that all the legislators in the sub-finance committee had a deaf ear to the KEY coalition. Please do not include cuts that will adversely affect people with severe disabilities. Families will be unable to care for their children and adults at home. The cost will be enormous. Please reconsider. Mr. Hanley - please pay attention!

Signed: Lynnette Hoas
Testifier

Health + Social Services
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 2434 Soldotna
Address

262 7577
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on Health & Social Services, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

*Our residents of this state
 with disabilities can not stand
 cuts in their medicare.*

Signed: Fritz W. Miller - Fritz Miller
 Testifier

My Children
 Representing (Optional)

43750 Ross Dr. Soldotna, AK 99669
 Address

262-9695
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on ASTF, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

ASTF has given the MV Corp.
 erroneous information and cost a small
 Alaska Company \$0,000.00. Their advice
 was bad! And have made no
 communication or corrections

Please DO NOT Fund
 ASTF

Signed: Fritz Miller -- Fritz Miller
 Testifier

MV Corp.
 Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 826 Soldotna, AK 99669
 Address

262-9695
 Phone No.

Mary Lauer
510 Kinkead
Sitka, Alaska 99835
907-747-5752 home; 907-747-7728 work
TFMFL@acad1.alaska.edu

PLEASE ENTER THESE COMMENTS AS TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE
FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON MARCH 22, 1997 @ 9:30

Alaska Vocational Technical Center is facing budget cuts of \$77,000 in its general fund budget. This cut will deeply affect delivery of programs at a time when the state faces an increased need for vocational training.

Through one program alone, the state mandated welfare-to-work program, demand for vocational training could increase dramatically. AVTEC is researching new areas of vocational training to meet these demands in areas not presently served, such as computer network maintenance training.

In addition to meeting the need for new areas of service, there is an ongoing need to meet the vocational needs of heavy industry, such as the Red Dog Mine. AVTEC is responsive to the training needs of industries needing short-term training, and is especially able to respond rapidly to industry's short-term special-interest training needs.

AVTEC served 1762 students during FY96. Of the students who enrolled in FY96, 84.4% graduated (1345) or completed their skills upgrade program. Based on previous years data the graduation rate is expected to be approximately 72% for full-term and 91% for short-term.

I am employed in continuing education full-time at the University and recognize that this is a phenomenal record of success. I believe that AVTEC's record of success will be greatly affected by any budget cuts at a time when training needs in the state are increasing—needs that they are perfectly positioned to fulfill.

Mary Lauer
AVTEC Advosiry Board Member

Thanks, Mary Lauer



TELECOPY COVER SHEET
Ketchikan Legislative Information Office
Office - (907) 225-9675 Fax - (907) 225-8546

TO: House Finance Comm.

ATTN: _____ FAX: 465-2418 PHONE: _____

FROM: ~~Rice~~ Fran Feinerman + Aaire Stanton PHONE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Written testimony for TCN 70416b.

SENT: Date 3-22-97 Time _____

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL: Discard _____ Hold for Pickup _____

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2 (NOT counting cover sheet)

TRANSMITTED BY: Rice

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Subcommittee
 (committee name)
 committee on budget dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject:

As Chair of The Ketchikan Area State Parks
 Advisory Board, I'd like to register
 on board's dismay at the funding
 cut for the operating budget of State Parks.

The peculiarity of the cut is that it's
 in authorized budget & in amount
 of money we're allowed to collect.

Closing toilets and eliminating
 volunteers will take away
 income from St Parks, create
 user unfriendly message for
 visitors and reduce availability
 for locals. And does not increase
 general fund for other needed services.

Signed:

Frances Feinerman Phone: 225-6177

Testifier

Ketchikan Area State Parks

Representing (Optional)

1266 Muller St

Address

Ketchikan

Fax transmitted from Ketchikan Legislative Information Office

Phone: 225-9675 Fax: 225-8546

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
(committee name)
committee on Budget bill/subject: _____, dated 3-22-97

I am strongly opposed to proposed cuts in services to families in need. Please do not cut dollars for Healthy Families program, Child Support Enforcement efforts or for Juvenile Probation efforts. I am also opposed to cuts in state funds which match federal dollars for special services & School Districts or which provide federal funds for innovative community programs for children's health & education problems.

It is also ludicrous to cut revenue assistance to municipalities again. The municipalities are already facing tax increases to provide necessary services. It will be particularly painful in Ketchikan this year.

Signed: Wilbur Shator Phone: 225-3406
Testify
Representing (Optional)
Address



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Budget
 (committee name)

committee on Budget, dated 3-22/97
 (bill/subject)

Signed: Patience Andersen Faulkner
 Testifier Name

Self + Family Resource Center
 Representing (Optional)

Box 2574
 Address

424-7535
 Phone Number

governor Tony Knowles
Office of the Governor
To: State Legislature
State of Alaska
Re: Patricia Anderson Faulkner
Cordova, Alaska

On: 22 March 1997

Re: Budget Proposal

The Budget is important to properly and fiscally operate the state agencies.

Healthy, employed residents feel very few increases or decreases in state, federal, or local government funding. But, statistics support that those residents are in a minority.

Many villages need clean, safe water; sanitary disposal of sewage and water; employment positions to stabilize community populations; education for youth to ensure adult employment; training for young adults and displaced adults (from industry closures and shifts); safe, healthy days for abused and neglected children; safe, healthy days & nights for women who are victims of domestic violence; financial support for families in need; affordable housing to include utility costs for all Alaskans. We need safe roads, safe communities, and safe homes.

Funding must be at a level that

reflects the response to the needs
of the citizens and residents of
Alaska.

Budget cuts that do not address
social issues will only plummet
the state into one of fear, disorder,
lensess, and violence.



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
(committee name)

committee on Operating Budget, dated 3/22/97
(bill/subject)

The cuts as stated are probably necessary and are not wished to have happen and it is with hope all cuts are made totally across all areas even within funding at the administrative level. Not just on the backs of the support and services area.

It has been proven thru early intervention, whether in the area of health, education, mental or physical it saves many dollars in the long run. Small businesses effect many more individuals than the large ones when only one business is effected. vs whole communities.

To maintain the wisdom of the state to make this or to continue this to be a safe and secure place to raise and bring up our future. Citizens it would not be reflective from slashing all the funding of these services

These cuts may at this point seem needed but if you reflect the future there would be an impossible task to reach what we as Alaskans have lost because of quick fixes to a dollar crunch today. If needed the restructuring of income sources may be at this time appropriate ie in tax, re-organizing priorities (making them joint or personal) having a community ownership along w/ state support.

Signed: Kris Stehman

Testifier Name
Adv Council on Deaf & Spec Ed

Representing (Optional)

Po 1729 Cordova Ak
Address

907 424 3145
Phone Number

Ted Howard

319 Peterson St.
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-5482
jstoh@ptialaska.net

March 21, 1997

Please enter my testimony into the record for House Bill 75.

I support wholeheartedly the proposed increase in budgeted funds for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

I have lived in Sitka for 11 years and for the past 4, have been a member of the Board of Directors for Sitkans Against Family Violence, the only local service for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Each year, we have seen the number of cases rise and felt the increased need for the services of the shelter. The price of "doing business" has gone up. Supplies and food have risen in cost, heating costs have escalated and insurance fees for our employees and for liability have swollen. Funding has not kept pace.

The Council has done a marvelous job parceling out the funds it has been given but each year the need has risen and the Council has found itself having to say no to deserving programs.

Please give the Council enough ammunition to fight this war on domestic violence. Please support House Bill 75.

Thank You,
Ted Howard

March 22, 1997

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I wish to address the "Special Projects Budget", specifically the matching funds the state provides the the Alaska Geographic Alliance.

I am aware that there is a possibility that the Alaska Geographic Alliance may not be funded for next year. This program is very instrumental in keeping Alaska, Geographic literate with the rest of the United States and the World. The partnership that it has with the National Geographic Society is critical. The \$50,000 that the state matches with NGS goes directly to education of our students. It also is instrumental in helping develop the Goals 2000 that the state is very busy in adopting.

At present, every state participates and supports this partnership. The networking that exists between participants and states is on going. For us to be out of this loop would be devastating to Geography Education.

I am a teacher for the Craig City School District. Our district has been actively involved with using the textbook: Alaska: a Land in Motion, a book written by members of the AGA. All districts in the state were able to participate in Geography Awareness Week because of the materials generated by this partnership. I have also been able to connect with the Girl Scouts and held inservices to help with their activities because of AGA. The AGA also is a driving force in The Alaska Geography Bee held annually.

I could go on and on but please, re consider this possible cut in education support!

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Lund
P.O. Box 155
Klawock, Alaska 99925

CITY OF ST. MARY'S

P.O. Box 163
St. Mary's, AK 99658
(907) 438-2515

March 22, 1997

To: The House Finance Committee

From: Walton Smith, City Manager of St. Mary's

Gentlemen, due to time constraints I was not satisfied with my brief comments to you by telephone a short time ago. I wanted to elaborate my concerns.

All of the proposed health, social services, legal system and tourism cuts have an impact upon our village and the villages of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. We lack the majority of basic services locally that your cuts will impact. But we will feel the effects as local residents have even greater difficulty in receiving these scarce services.

As you cut programs that serve individuals as well as cut programs to small communities, our village budgets are further restricted. At the same time, we have greater pleas for assistance from local residents. I cannot cut 30% of my manpower from a department that has only one worker.

My major goal has been to keep our water and sewer services funded and functioning. This task becomes more difficult each year. As you make cuts to other basic services, disposable income drops, and local people can no longer pay the city for water and sewer. As you cut other programs to villages, we cannot continue to subsidize the operation of these services.

I have a commitment to these services not only for us, but for the other communities of the Y-K Delta. Many of our villages do not have the benefit of flush toilets and circulating water systems. This is one of the most basic of human services. Most of the increase in life expectancy that has occurred in the world this century has been a consequence of the provision of good sanitation and the public health movement, not of sophisticated medical procedures. Yet these basic services seem to be the first that are cut when the budgets get tight.

You have indicated that you will cut the DCRA budget, particularly in the area of the RUBA program. While I know we cannot demonstrate with this program that we have "saved a system"; the program has provided invaluable services to villagers as well as State and Federal agencies. These services improve the planning, development, and management of village sanitation systems. This helps to insure that the State will be able to reduce assistance in the future that might otherwise be necessary to keep a system running. Your additional direct cuts to DCRA will eliminate some LGS positions that represent some of the most productive workers within DCRA-- a further cut to our villages.

I hope the House Finance Committee can review their current decisions on budget cuts and pursue alternatives to the gap between spending and revenue. We are few in number in the Bush, so we do not represent a great deal of power with our votes. We can only hope that our representatives collectively act from a stance of concern for residents rather than a concern for the votes of individual interests from their respective constituencies.

Thank you for your consideration.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name

committee on House Bill 75, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

My name is Catherine Vaara & I am the Direct Services Coord for Advocates for Victims of Violence, (A.V.V.). Here in Alaska, many of our communities are geographically isolated. In Valdez, as in other communities, people have moved here with the dream of landing a well paid job. The reality is that families find themselves socially isolated from their traditional support groups. A.V.V., like its sister organizations was established to aide victims of domestic & sexual violence. We work to prevent future violence through trainings & presentations. Our organizations are often the ONLY place where victims of domestic & sexual violence can find safety, where they can re-group, & really look for viable options. Our shelter at A.V.V. is 100 years old, and is falling apart. It is too small to provide the shelter needed for the population of Valdez, Tatitlek & the Copper River Basin, which is our service areas.

- * We like other shelters for battered women & their children have been struggling with a budget that is 5% less than what it was in 1989.
 - * We are the REAL life-line for many victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
 - * We are dedicated to ending such violence
 - * We are active in preventative programs
 - * Our communities are doing their best to create & maintain shelters for victims BUT we need State help.
- I would like to add the Dept of Corrections also needs to do its part in getting the message across - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A CRIME. - Offenders need to be made accountable for their violent actions. They also need to go to jail, where they are prevented from terrifying or harming their victims further.
- * Give victims the resources and time (often life saving time) to look at options, to be able to help themselves.

Thank you.

Signed: Catherine Vaara
Testifier

Advocates for Victims of Violence for the CDUSA
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 524, Valdez AK 99686
Address

(907) 835-2780
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance committee name

committee on HB 75, dated 3-22-97
bill/subject

Good morning, my name is Vickie Williams in Valdez. I ask you to fully fund the Governor's budget request for the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault. Working as Advocates for Victims of Violence in Valdez, my principle job is to work with children who come from violent homes where there is no safety. We offer them that safety to help them heal & become strong. Without this safety & support our state funding gives those children, where will they go? Where will their safety be? The children of our society are our future. What will that future be? We're already beginning to see what inadequate intervention in children's lives can bring us. Increased crime, gang activity & numbing of feelings with drugs & alcohol to name a few.

This trend must stop, but to stop it can only be accomplished with adequate funding to provide the services that can help them & their families.

Thank you for listening -

Signed: [Signature] Vickie L. Williams
Testifier

Advocates for Victims of Violence
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 524, Valdez, Alaska 99686
Address

907-835-2980
Phone No.



O.T. KIDS, Inc.

PO Box 1118
Homer, Alaska 99603
U.S.A.

SUSIE AMUNDSON, MS, OTR/L
Executive Director

MARTIN ZELLER, J.D.
Business Manager

March 22, 1997

~~Dear~~ Members of the Alaskan House and Senate, *FINANCE Committee*

Thank you for allowing we Alaskans to have a voice today. *on HB 75 and HB 76-*

My name is Susie Amundson -- I own two small businesses in the Homer area and am an occupational therapist. In a nutshell, occupational therapy is a profession who serves individuals with disabilities and different-abilities to allow them to function more competently within their environment and with others. Our concern is people functioning as competently and as independently as possible.

I come to you to discuss the proposed Medicaid/ Medicare cuts in the Fiscal Year 98 Operating Budget. I have no Medicaid/Medicare clients on my professional caseload so I do not suck off the proverbial Medicare teat. My testimony serves as an advocacy for people on Medicaid.

I challenge each one of you to be forward thinking when you consider cuts to Medicaid and Medicare. ~~As many of us know the reduction of service for visual, dental and hearing needs occurred a couple years ago. For people to function in the every day world, these are not extravagant necessities. If you don't see how these services can impact an individual's functioning in every day life, pop out your contacts or take off your glasses for 24 hours; or in the pretense that your teeth or mouth are too sore to chew, drink your breakfast, lunch, and dinner for a day; or better yet, place those foam ear plugs in your ears during your own fundraiser. Visual, dental and hearing services are not an option for a functional life.~~ *next*

The proposed cuts to mammography, prosthetics, and rehabilitative services are disconcerting. If we use a forward thinking, cost-effective approach....

re: mammography: A lumpectomy is cheaper than a mastectomy?
Mammography is the number one best detector of ~~this~~ breast cancer.

re: prosthetics: If someone receives a prosthetic arm after a fishing accident, the likelihood of that individual returning to work and adding to the economic gains of Alaska are much greater.

re: rehabilitative services for substance abuse and mental health: Which of us here wants one of our loved ones, (a child, a spouse, a friend) to be an accident

fatality because someone who needed help with alcohol addiction didn't receive it? *This becomes a public safety issue.*

These services are necessities and they allow individuals to be more independent in the world so health care and assistance funds are not needed later. Again I ask each of you be forward thinking for the future of us Alaskans!

I propose no cuts to the ~~Medicare~~/Medicaid program -- only a reinstatement of visual, dental, and hearing services. If we need more money for this program, I fully support a state income tax.

I want the commerical fishers from Washington, Oregon, and other states who come to Alaskan waters for their livelihood to make a year round contribution to our state. As well as the many seasonal employees who smile carrying paychecks from our state at the end of summer. And I want the workers in the oil industry who live in the Lower 48 ~~and other countries~~ to contribute to the economic development of our state with more than just a commerical airline ticket out of here. Let them help us with our economic development and social responsibilities.

Thank you.

*Susan Arnold
15, 01R/L*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Commit.
committee name
 committee on FY98 Budget cuts dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

I'm asking you to reconsider the proposed medicare cuts. I work with the chronically mentally ill as a skills trainer and I'm reminded daily of how essential our support is to the consumers stability and recovery. Without our support they risk jail, suicide, homelessness, institutionalization, or maybe all of the above. With the proposed cuts the current support services will be eliminated. I urge you to think in terms of human needs and not simply in terms of money. Thank you.

Signed: Judy Rozzell Flora (Judy Rozzell-Flora)
Testifier

34710 Moonrise St, Homer, AK 99603
Address
907 235 6437
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
COMMITTEE NAME

committee on Medicaid Cuts dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

My NAME is Rhonda Lanier. I currently work for the Community Support Program here in Homer. The Proposed Budget cuts in Medicaid are Targeting the Poorest and most Venerable of our citizens. The loss of Case management and Rehabilitative Services will be devastating to these individuals.

Many People struggling with developmental disabilities and Chronic mental illness are able, with the support of case management and Rehab services, to live independently in our communities. The loss of these services will force many into crisis resulting in hospitalization and jail if not suicide.

The money saved this year on Medicaid cuts will have to be spent in much higher proportions later, to house these individuals in state institutions, to create solutions for the increases in crisis that will result by robbing these people of the support systems they so desperately need.

In short the Proposed Medicaid cuts are short sighted and offer no solution in the long term. If the budget is in such bad shape that such human services must be cut perhaps it is time to seriously consider a state income tax.

Signed:

Testifier

Rhonda J. Lanier
Rhonda J. Lanier

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 1064 Homer AK. 99603

Address

(907) 235-8124

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name

committee on Medicaid cuts, dated 3/27/97
bill/subject

Proposed cuts in the 1997 budget for Medicaid concerns me in the statement it makes about our values. I, for one, do not support further cuts be made to social services or to the education of our youth. I believe we are already operating on a bare bones budget for these programs. Further cuts would only result in cost shifting to emergency response programs in my opinion. Cuts have been made every year for the last several and I now believe the effects will drastically impact the welfare of all Alaskan citizens by increasing homelessness, suicide, hospitalizations and illiteracy as well as the violence that intense need met by indifference breeds. I fear for our future if such cuts are made. I believe in looking at instituting a state income tax as a possible solution. I support programs that create work incentives. I do not support cuts that indicate a decision moving Alaska toward an

Signed: Chris Loring unemployed
Testifier Chris Loring society

Representing (Optional):
35035 Lowbush St. Homer AK 99603
Address
(907) 235-7475
Phone No.

APR-01-1996 10:24

GLN LIO

19076235591 P.01



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House ^{finance} ~~resource~~ committee
committee name

committee on Education dated 3-27-97
bill/subject

I am currently a student at the Homer high school. I am on student council. Most recently we have been discussing proposed school budget cuts. It seems to be the consensus of the student body, that further cuts would ^{adversely} affect us by a loss of teachers, larger classes, and a loss of the art education classes. I would appreciate you considering what I have to say. Thank you

Signed: Abby Leing
Testifier
Abby Leing

Representing (Optional)

35035 Lawton St. Homer AK 99603

Address

(907) 235-7475

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Tourism Information committee name

committee on House Bill 75, dated MARCH 22, 1997
bill/subject

COPIES AVAILABLE

(I have seen Harley and Thernault and members of the House Finance Committee. My name is Wanetta Ayers)

I urge you to reconsider the proposed cuts and program realignments to the Alaska Division of Tourism

I am the Executive Director of the Kodiak Island Conventions & Visitors Bureau, a non profit destination marketing organization with 140 small business members in Kodiak, Kodiak, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Queenie, and Perseus.

I am not surprised at the magnitude of the proposed cuts. The Visitor Industry has been on notice for some time that these kinds of cuts would be inevitable w/o some form of industry taxation.

Perhaps by design the proposed cuts and program realignments between, Division of Tourism and ATML functions put the Visitor Industry in a "Sword-in-the-Road" position. - Choosing between two

Signed:

Wanetta Ayers
Testifier

Kodiak Island (Conventions) & Visitors Bureau
Representing (Optional)

100 Marine Way Kodiak, AK 99585
Address

907-486-4787
Phone No.

Alaska Testimony
Been raised in
Alaska, name
found in the
to name in Kodiak
Wanetta Ayers
UPP for travel
marketing report
Lived in AK for
3/22/97

Valuable programs, + a number of other things in course - ...

If a choice has to be made, I would choose maintaining the Division of Tourism. The Division has a proven track record in providing technical assistance and training, and working with communities trying to develop their tourism potential by providing a variety of cooperative marketing opportunities, that small communities could not achieve on their own.

All of the communities in the Kodiak Island Borough (KIB) are working together to overcome declining opportunities in the commercial fishing industry. Out of necessity many KIB residents are establishing new visitor industry businesses. Villagers are feeling the long-term impacts of limited entry, IFAs & new welfare reform - and are targeting tourism development to create business opportunities and jobs.

A viable State Division of Tourism is necessary to aid communities in the tourism development process, coordinate the many state agencies that are directly or indirectly involved in tourism, and ^{leverage} the efforts of communities to promote themselves through dollars raised from small business contributions and local taxes.

In the overall scheme of things Alaska is a piker when it comes to tourism promotion, the paltry amount we spend on tourism promotion is akin to "a cry in the wilderness," the proposed cuts & program realignments will make us the proverbial "tree falling in the woods" we may be making a sound, but nobody will be around to hear it. Thank you.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance committee name

committee on HB 75 - Budget, dated March 22, 1997.
bill/subject

I support your proposed increase to DCRA Day Care Assistance; funds that will be available to directly provide child care for eligible parents while they work or train for employment. With the implementation of welfare reform these additional funds will be greatly needed to assure parent access to safe and healthy child care homes and centers.

I would ask you to reconsider your action to eliminate funding for the One-Stop program. This funding is essential for the development and implementation of systems that will bring increased coordination of multiagency programs & services to the residents of Alaska. This coordination will result in efficiency of resources including space, staff, supplies & equipment. One Stop is an idea whose time has come.

Signed: _____

Jeri J. Jensen
Testifier

Child Care Assistance Programs

Representing (Optional)

R1B - 710 Mile Bay Rd, Kodiak AK 99615

Address

486-9375

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the H FIN
(committee name)

committee on HB 75, dated 3/22/95
(bill/subject)

Signed: Loren Pallas
Testifier Name

Children's Pallas
Representing (Optional)

Box 2008, Cordova, AK, 99574
Address

907 424-4323
Phone Number

March 22, 1997

To Whom it may concern:

I understand that steps are being taken to cut certain child care grants. Since I operate an established day care, I do see the need to keep these grants in existence. Many people who work simply cannot afford to pay for childcare. These grants which are now being provided enable myself to stay in operation. Without grant money to help fill the gap, it would be more difficult as a child care provider to provide good quality child care to the community of Cordova.

Sincerely
Joan E. Pallos
Children's Pallos
Box 2008
Cordova, AK
99574



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
(committee name)

committee on HB 71, dated 3-22-97
(bill/subject)

I would prefer to see the state find ways to increase revenues rather than ways to cut Program funding. All programs to assist those in need, and our young people and elderly are worthy of full funding - Please change the focus to ensure that education, Health + welfare Programs will be continued and improved. "Quality of life" is critical to Alaskans.

Signed: R Charlene Saunders
Testifier Name

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 451, Cordova, AK 99574
Address

(907) 424-7339
Phone Number



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Com.
(committee name)

committee on HB 75, dated 22 March 97.
(bill/subject)

To remove DEC's Solid Waste Disposal Program from DEC would effect every community in Alaska. To eliminate those people who know our systems and work with communities and allow the Federal EPA to regulate is distress. EPA does not know Alaska, EPA writes regulations and then finds communities with out even looking into the matters.

Getting water & Sewer tech training from DCRA is also distress to communities. DCRA works with our community on a daily basis. Not just water & sewer, to cut this funding will effect health & safety of

Signed: George R Keene
Testifier Name

City of Cordova & VFD - EMT 3
Representing (Optional)

PoBox 151 Cordova
Address

907-424-7627
Phone Number

thousand of community members.
 Please fund the RUBA program. It works
 to keep systems working & people safe.

Fire fighting training - fund this program
 what is the value on life.

As an EMT for 22 yrs, I know & have
 see villages with great fire trucks and
 no one knows how to use the truck & eq.
 To reduce this dept will cost lives not
 money.

Summary:

1. Don't remove Solid Waste Disposal
 from DEC!
2. Fund DERA - they help all
Communities.
3. Fund Fire training - it saves lives.

George R Keesey



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Budget
 committee name
 committee on Mental Health, dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I understand that Mental health in Alaska has plenty of money yet each year the budget gets cut. I would be interested in where all their money is.

My daughter has been Mentally Ill for 17 years I have had to fight for everything she gets, and that seems to be the case all over the country. API was cut to the breaking point and every year its cut more. The mentally ill are not able to fight for themselves so they are easy to ignore, they end up on the streets or worse and then they are invissable & everyone can pretend the problem doesn't exist but they do & most of them have families who love them, We give up on the system because the courts & laws make it so hard for us to get anything done for them.

We need more money for Mentally Ill not less.

I don't know how you ~~can~~ sleep at night knowing 3/4 of the street people are mentally ill, & when its 2 o'clock they are ~~asleep~~ sleeping & dying on the streets!

I love my daughter & I want her taken care of, we cannot cut what personell & facilities we have left. if you do cut Medicare why dont you just admit you dont care & shut the whole thing down. Life Quest & the police are the only help I get

Signed: Carol Bragg
 Testifier

~~2222~~ Mental Health

Representing (Optional)

HC 33 Box 2998 AB Wasilla Alaska 99654

Address

907-373-2991

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name

committee on DHSS/Healthy Families , dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

I am opposed to cuts in the budget that will negatively impact the most vulnerable families in our state. The Healthy Families program provides homevisiting support to families who are expecting or who have new infants. It is well established that if money is spent on preventative services, the long term savings is astounding. We provide education and hands on assistance to families in an effort to increase their success + self-sufficiency. It works!

When people have the tools they need to provide for their families, the family is so much more likely to remain together, be stable and productive. Supporting children + families is critical for the future. For every \$3 spent on Healthy Families, \$6 will be saved on special education, corrections, medical and foster care needs at a later date. Prevention is cost effective. Funding for WIC, domestic violence shelters and medicaid, as well as mental health funding can not be cut if we want to avoid future crises.

All Alaskans have rights and most want to be productive members of society ~ women, children and people who have disabilities or mental health challenges must not be further stressed by budget cuts.

Signed: Kristin Vernola
Testifier

Mat-Su Community Families
Representing (Optional)

Hc 32 Box 3480 Wasilla, Ak. 99654
Address

907-373-7716
Phone No.

Please -
support the
Governor's
Budget !!!



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Rules Committee
 committee name
 committee on 786, dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I do not believe cuts to budget as far as mental health are in the best interest of the state of Alaska. I would not have the limited services that now exist. The quality of life would change for me and those people like me. Case management and other services are important in keeping the quality of life for me at present levels.

Signed: Christopher J. Woodard
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 1107 Palmer 99645
 Address

746-1922
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
committee name

committee on 75 / 76, dated 3 22 97
bill/subject

I have waited 2 hours this morning to testify before you concerning the budget proposals. Our LIO is overflowing and listening to others on line, I realize how many folks are affected by the harsh cuts, to essential services, that are being made. I hesitate to write this because I truly believe it won't be read - but my voice is this: when Medicaid is cut it affects many areas - the Developmental Disabled as well. Folks that, for some reason, are missing a limb now be able to have access to a basic need to be independent through prosthetics. I am a mother of 5 sons - 2 have disabilities. We don't qualify for Medicaid services because my husband chooses to work. We PAY, in huge lumps, into the welfare system through taxation, I want you to be conservative BUT - remember these folks are people with feelings - dreams - & joys. To keep basic care from these folks is not your job as our elected representative. →

Signed: Susan K. Gilbert
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 872414 Wasilla AK
Address
907 376 2599
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name

My name is _____ committee on Budget cuts, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

I am a middle manager in a social service agency for families in the Mat-Su Borough and a formerly homeless mother of 5. Cutting prevention services is not financial wisdom. Cutting monies with matching federal funds is counter productive in the profoundest sense. Before getting my present job - I was homeless with 4 small kids and a newborn. Without the WIC program - my kids would never have tasted juice or cheese. Without child care assistance I would have paid ~~7~~ over my hourly wage for childcare. Now, I own my home, am 3 credits from a Bachelor of Social Work degree, and have 3 children in college. Without Alaska Works + childcare programs, you will be releasing families into a stream of poverty as if they were catch and release trout. Without preventative medical assistance and public health services - we pay increased costs in treatment of disease and disabilities. Without child protection services at DFYS Healthy Families + youth probation - social costs will rise. Social Service workers in Mat-Su are already swamped.

Signed: Kelli Mahoney
Testifier

Mat-Su resident
Representing (Optional)

925 Lone Air Way, Wasilla, AK 99654
Address

376-8486
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
committee name

committee on Bill #75, dated March 22, 1997
bill/subject

On behalf of the Palmer Senior Citizens Center I would like to voice our opposition to a proposal to cut an additional \$50,000 from the Department of Senior Services budget component for Protection and Community Services. This cut would likely result in a position reduction of an Adult Protective Social Worker or an Assisted Living Licensing Worker. Currently, there are not enough workers to adequately perform these vital services to the most vulnerable adults.

Case loads and responsibility for these programs has risen dramatically. Alaska has the second most rapidly growing senior population in the Nation and this trend is projected to continue each year.

A reduction of a Protective Services or Licensing Worker will result in programs such as the Palmer Senior Center being inundated with adults living in abusive or high-risk situations. We already experience this on a regular basis. Because we have no authority to act in these situations, we rely heavily on Protective Services and Licensing to resolve the crisis in the best interest of these vulnerable adults. If these cases are not investigated in a timely manner, one institutionalized person will cost the State more than \$50,000.

Please reconsider the proposed cut and fund OSS at an amount adequate to preserve the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable adults.

Signed: Jill Eblen, Care Coordination Supervisor
Testifier

Palmer Senior Citizens Center, Inc.

Representing (Optional)

8315 Chugach Palmer, AK 99645

Address

(907) 745-5454

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 committee name
 committee on MEDICAID - MENTAL HEALTH, dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I wish to share my concerns regarding the cuts proposed for Medicaid funding which will directly impact services to the mentally ill, severely emotionally disturbed, disadvantaged & disabled. Alaskans, all Alaskans, have a State Constitutional right to basic care. The proposed cuts will negate those rights for some specific individuals.

Mentally ill and/or severely emotionally disturbed children, adolescents, and adults "do not choose" to be such. Community resources and services need to be increased not decreased. Case Management and Rehab services are vital to supporting the progress and success toward self-reliance.

Please reconsider the cuts to mental health.

Signed: *James H. Stute*
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 874275 Wasilla, AK 99687
 Address
376-3609
 Phone No.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE *House Finance Subcommittee*
Closouts - Budget Impact
 COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON 131 DATED 3-22-97
 BILL/SUBJECT

If you cut Tourism Marketing you are directly as indirectly effects everyone in the state of alaska.

Our community as well as other communities would be affected drastically.

My job is directly related to tourism if I don't have this job I can't come to Anchorage to spend my money. Whether related to business or for pleasure.

Along with Tourism is our State Parks. our Parks are directly related to Tourism. Tourism directly as well as indirectly effects everyone in the State of Alaska.

SIGNED Candy Thoyse
 TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

P.O. Box 44 TOK, AK 99780, 907-883-4511
 ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill #76, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

The proposed medicaid cuts will be a grave detriment to the mental health services I receive. Without these funds my quality of life will suffer greatly. Please reconsider your recommendations!

Signature: 

Testifier
Bill Missoff
 Representing (Optional)
Charles Boarding Home
 Address Old Glenn Hwy Palmer, AK 99675
745-3412
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
committee name

committee on HOUSE BILL 76, dated MARCH 22 1997
bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made
to the mental health monies.
I am already suffering
from previous cuts (glasses,
+ fee + h) I am concerned that further
cuts would remove the services I
receive to treat my mental illness.
I believe the result would be
API

Signed: Martin Hesper
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address BB
424 E DODD WOOD ST PALMER AK 99645

Phone No. 746 5012



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCES
 committee name
 committee on House Bill # 76, dated MARCH 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies because of the great need for these funds.

I speak because I represent those who have difficulty expressing themselves.

Signed: Rachel Hanson
 Testifier
Life Quest
 Representing (Optional)
230 West Park
 Address
376-2411
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill # 76, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies because of the great need for these funds. Many of the people I represent would have a lesser quality of life, without the supports these funds provide.

Signed: Elizabeth Gabriel
 Testifier
Life Threat
 Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 873841
 Address
352-3324
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill #76, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I Do not want to cut
 To Be made to the mental Health money's
 Because of the Great ~~Need~~ Need for These
 funds I am a consumer of
 these funds

Signed: Billy Nick
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
230 East Paulson

Address
378.7964

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill #76 . dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies because of the great need of these funds.

I am a consumer of the services

Signed: [Signature]
 Testifier
Like a guest
 Representing (Optional)
230 E. Paulson W. Sitka AK 99854
 Address
376-2411
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on # 76 , dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

Please reconsider cuts to substance abuse
 rehab. services which would eliminate services
 to addicted both mothers and their children.
 Thousands of Alaska children and adults
 are affected by alcohol related defects. The
 prevention and support for fine healthy
 beginning of each child's life (reducing
 fetal alcohol syndrome and child abuse/neglect)
 will ultimately increase the productivity
 of our state's citizens. Pay for prevention
 now or pay millions later.

Signed: Charles K. Himsin
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 3693 Palmer AK 99645
 Address
(907) 746-3921
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Wasilla-Big Lake Area
committee name

committee on Mental Illness . dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

Please. Please and more please - Do not
cut any \$'s for Medicare, Medicaid, Mental
illness - We are living with out median,
dental care & vision, and much more
housing cut. I can go on and on. I'm a
working full time person. I don't apply for
many benefits. But what comes out of my
very small pay check hurts more. I help
many mental ill & senior citizens out of my
own pocket. Because some can't afford median
look for monies else where like out of your personal
pay check. Most of these people live from day to
day month to hand. always a dollar short always
owing. Don't cut are benefits.

Signed: Dianne Huckstep
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 521455 Big Lake AK 99652

Address

376-7822

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on HB 26 Budget, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I am adamantly opposed to the proposed cuts in Community Mental Health Grants and Community Developmental Disabilities Grants, as well as, Institutions and Administration.

While you have willingly funded the deinstitutionalization of many of Alaska's citizens from Harborview Developmental Center and Alaska Psychiatric Institute, you are now pulling the rug out from under long term supports for these individuals. You have misled and lied to many parents and advocates who suspected this would happen after "safety nets" such as HDC and API were closed and downsized. These actions are unethical and I strongly advise reconsideration of this budget.

Signed: Melissa Saunders
 Testifier

Melissa Saunders

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 874505 Wasilla AK 99687

Address

745-4211

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill 76, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies because of the great need of these funds.

I am a consumer of these funds

Signed: *William Minoff*
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
230 E. Paulton / HCO3 Box 5588 Palmer
 Address
745 3412
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Rep. Vic Kohring
committee name
 committee on House Bill No. 76, dated 03-22-97
bill/subject

This written statement is another
 reminder of a written submitted
 statement dated 03-20-97.

This is to please up keep out
 neoptics prescribed drug, psychiatrists
 apps and/or at least psychosists.
 Again a solution to reinstate for
 final form a grant for ~~development~~
 for hearing aids

Signed: Grace A. Lundeberg
Testifier

private citizen
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 088, Palmer, AK 99545-3881
Address

1-907-746-0757
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
committee name

committee on HB 716, dated March 22, 1997.
bill/subject

I am strongly opposed to the proposed budget cuts for community mental health services, as well as, medical services. These cuts will have a severely detrimental effect on the quality of my life.

Signed: Charlene Janulek
Testifier

Nadezda Janulek
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 521059
Address

Big Lake, AK

Phone No. 882-9006



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
committee name
 committee on HB 75/76 , dated 3-22-97
bill/subject

Please restore cuts to medicaid, welfare and mental health services, as recommended by the finance subcommittee, I came to this hearing with 4 others mentally ill to testify. I recognized the faces of many mentally ill in the hearing room whom I have seen previously in the psychiatrists waiting room. Wish we could ha

Signed: Martin Hopkins
Testifier
VALLEY ALLIANCE FOR Mentally Ill
Representing (Optional)
P.O. BOX 1107 Palmer, AK 99645
Address
745-1551
Phone No.

MAHAY'S RIVERBOAT SERVICE

March 19, 1997

I own and operate a business in the upper Matanuska Valley, in the town of Talkeetna. I have operated this business for over 20 years and I am one of the largest employers in Talkeetna, with 32 employees. Without tourists my business would not be so successful.

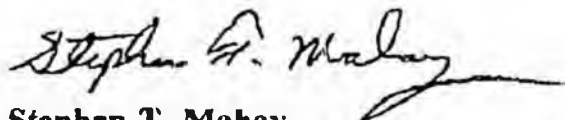
I am appalled that the Finance Committee would even consider cutting funding for the Alaska Department of Tourism. Many other states and countries are increasing their marketing budgets for tourism, so they can compete as destinations (Hawaii spends 30 million a year on tourism marketing). The Department of Tourism can reach places I, and many other small business owners, can only dream about. They are an important resource for many small business owners throughout the state.

Tourism is one of the largest economic resources that Alaska has. Why would you risk losing the 1.6 billion in tourism dollars, last year's tourism revenue, to save 3.5 million now? All business owners know that you have to spend money to make money. Sounds like you need to go back to school and learn business basics.

Small business owners are the backbone of our state's, and also the nation's, economy. They have worked long and hard to make Alaska a choice destination. You are in effect saying that all that hard work doesn't matter, small business doesn't matter. Small business owners are your constituents.

Climb down from your glass towers and take a good look at your state, the state that you are supposed to be representing. What you will find is a bunch of people, real people, who love this state and can see a future for her without oil. This cannot happen if the Legislature keeps cutting funding for tourism.

Sincerely,



Stephen T. Mahay
President/CEO

"Serving Sportfishermen Since 1977"

Box 705 • Talkeetna, Alaska 99676 • (907) 733-2223 • Fax (907) 733-2712



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Operating Mental Health
 committee name Appropriation
 committee on HB 75, dated March 21, 1997
 bill/subject

I am outraged at the large monthly rent increases being anticipated by our Pioneer Home residents, especially since their level of care is being reduced. These residents entered the Pioneer Homes in good faith that they would be able to afford to live out their lives there. Now they are facing unrealistic charges that most are unable to afford. Surely we can afford to take care of our senior citizens to the extent that we don't make paupers out of them. Please reconsider the implementation of these large rent increases.

Signed: Carol M. Atrouse
 Testifier
Myself
 Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 354, Palmer, AK 99645
 Address
(907) 745-3532
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Operating + Mental Health
 committee on 75, dated 3-20-97
committee name
appropriations
 bill/subject

As a long term resident of the State of Alaska and a Senior Citizen I am concerned as to the future of the Palmer Pioneer Homes. I am also a spokesman for a resident there. A schedule has been already put into action to increase the rates of residency - No doubt an increase is warranted, but several hundred dollars per month!! - What is confusing and very puzzling - is that the increases don't match the service provided - In fact services are being cut! - It doesn't make sense. It is unsettling to think that this will be the pattern to be followed - I think it is only fair that an explanation be given to each resident - detailing exactly what they are getting for their dollar - when financial straits are stable along with how much care will be given - their emotional well being is undermined - and they are made to feel like second-class citizens. Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings.

Signed: Love C. Hermon

Testifier

Hilda Hermon

Representing (Optional)

325 E. Coergreen

Address

Palmer, Alaska

Phone No. 907-745-3788

1998 Legislative Information Office

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 | | # of pages > 1 |
| To | Mat-Su Legislative Exec C HERMON | |
| Co. | Information Office | |
| From | Love C Hermon | |
| Phone # | 907-745-3788 | |
| Fax # | 907-746-1036 | |



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on HSS Budget , dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject:

I strongly urge you to reconsider the Medicaid cuts which have been proposed.

If implemented, these cuts will devastate people with disabilities. You need to exclude them at the least. The humane action would be to make NO cuts & allow people with disabilities to retain some quality of life.

Signed: Shawn Hawbold-Harrison

Testifier

My Children - Mike, Katie + Billy

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 2777 Soldotna AK 99669

Address

907-262-5370

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE Finance
committee name

committee on Health + Social Serv. dated Mar. 22, 97
bill/subject

I strongly oppose the Medicaid cuts proposed by the sub-finance comm. I am the grandmother of a severely disabled little girl, who's life hangs in the balance of these cuts. Also my son-in-law is disabled and is the father of the little girl. Their family relies on the benefits of Medicaid. If these cuts take place, how can they survive?? You need to separate the disabled from the rest of the Medicaid/welfare population.

Please do not support these cuts.

Signed: Marilyn Smith
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
2845 WAINWRIGHT WAY KENAI 99611
Address
283-0789
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name

committee on Health Social Service dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

I am very concerned with your recent proposed cuts to Medicaid. My husband and daughter will be adversely affected with these cuts. If we cannot maintain the care at home due to these extreme cuts - it will cost the State of Alaska much, much more.

I personally brought my disabled husband and daughter to speak - but this system to speak to you is very ineffective.

Please do not support these cuts.

Signed: Laura Jaul
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
3410 S Kobuk Soldotna 2 99669
Address

262-3236
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee on Health + Social Services , dated Mar 22, 97
 committee name
 bill/subject

As a Grandmother of a severely disabled child - I request that you not support these radical cuts made to the disabled population. It is clearly inhumane to show such little regard for the disabled. Should families be unable to cope with these proposed cuts - the outcome will be obvious in a short period of time. The cost to the State of Alaska will be unbearable and you certainly be warned. Should this happen - we will hold you responsible. Do not support these cuts to balance the budget.

Signed: [Signature]
 Testifier

Health + Social Services
 Representing (Optional)

190 W. Park Ave - Soldotna AK
 Address

262-7939
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on Health + Social Ser. dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I wish to address the proposed cuts in Medicaid. I work with & are friends with many people who experience substantial disabilities. These individuals are least able to advocate for themselves or bridge the gap in services created by continuing cuts in service. 2 years ago a co-pay was added. Last year dental, vision & hearing services were eliminated. These new cuts will be devastating. \$800-\$850 per month does not allow you to purchase these necessary, high cost services.

Please reconsider these devastating cuts.

Signed:

Wendi Crosby

Testifier

Myself, and Frontier Community Services
 Representing (Optional)

PO Box 2110 Soldotna, AK 99669

Address

907-262-6331

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name
 committee on HSS Budget, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

The proposed Medicaid cuts would destroy whatever chance my children have to have a normal life. They have severe disabilities & will not be able to stay at home in the community. These cuts are leading to the destruction of the weak members of our society. My ex-wife will not be able to care for the children & they will have to be institutionalized. Do you care enough to find other ways to cut the budget?

Signed: Avery G. Hawbold
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

HC 3-4973 Soldotna AK 99669

Address

262-4778

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on HSS Budget , dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I object strongly to the proposed cuts in Medicaid. My brothers + Sister who are disabled will not be able to have any kind of a life. It's been hard enough with the cuts to date, Even more cuts will destroy whatever chance they have of living in the community + staying at home.

Signed: Jennifer J. Hawbold
 Testifier

Katie, Billy + Mike Hawbold
 Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 674 Soldotna
 Address

262-8528
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on Health, Social Service Budget dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed cuts in the Medicaid Budget. Cuts in the areas of Medicaid and Disabled programs will serve only to further the struggle these people face daily.

Signed: Daniel Vail
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

340 S. Kobuk St. Soldotna AK, 99669
 Address

262-9481
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
committee name
 committee on the Budget , dated 22 March 1997
bill/subject:

I urge you to support the Governor's Budget for State Parks. I'm concerned about your proposed cuts, particularly the direction to cut staff.

~~I~~ I'm a member of the Kenai River Special Management Area board. The Kenai River is 82 miles long and is served by only 3 rangers who are on the water to watch over thousands of anglers each summer. In July, there can be 500 boats in the 11 miles between Soldotna and Brown creek - and only one ranger. The ranger's day begins at 4 am, the guides are on the river at 6 am, and the rangers are off the river by 2 pm. Just 10 years ago there were 4 rangers and 4 temporary hires who worked May - September. What we ^{need} this summer are 3 more rangers so the river can be patrolled in the afternoon and evening hours, as well. We are ill-prepared for this year's onslaught of anglers (I enclose p.12 of the latest Newsweek)

every year you have been "cutting the fat" out of the →

Signed: Peggy Mullen
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
355 Lunghoberry Soldotna AK 99669
 Address
262.9225
 Phone No.

budget. The state now runs the risk of being "penny-wise and pound foolish."

As you have heard this morning, we risk the loss of salmon resources / long term economic resources, in addition to human resources lost by cuts to education, women & children and disabled programs.

Rather than continue to cut 8-10% from budgets every year and risk loss of essential government services, I urge you to show some political courage and begin discussions of revenue enhancement options such as:

- the establishment of a second permanent fund such as is being suggested by Dave Rose
- and/or a ^{progressive} state income tax with a credit for local taxes paid, so that we can begin to capture some of the oil and fishing wages that leave this state without paying for any of our state infrastructure.

Thank you!

Peggy Mullen



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE
committee name

committee on BUDGET , dated 18 MAR 97
bill/subject

THE ATTEMPT TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE A.S. SCIENCE & TECH. FOUNDATION & DELIVER IT TO A STATE AGENCY IS A BAD IDEA. WE HEAR ABOUT NOW WE NEED TO DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMY & REDUCE STATE SPENDING. THIS PROPOSAL IS DOING JUST THE OPPOSITE. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO TAKE FUNDS FROM A FOUNDATION DEDICATED TO PROVIDE FUNDING & ASSISTANCE TO THE NEW & INNOVATIVE BUSINESS PROJECTS & PUT IT BACK INTO A STATE AGENCY ADMINISTERED BY BUREAUCRATS. THIS IS NOT WHAT THE MAJORITY IN JUNBER SAID THEY WOULD DO WHEN ELECTED. PLEASE DROP THIS PROPOSAL FROM COMMITTEE DISCUSSION -

Thank you -

Signed: HARRY H. ALA
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1863 Soldotna, AK. 99669
Address

907-283-9166
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance committee name

committee on Budget dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

Why do we need to cut the Budget? We live in the richest state in the Union. We hear that the Budget must be cut so all state agencies or the state. Some the Legislature is increasing their own funding. Last session the Legislature was not funding state contractors at the same time that the Legislators were drastically increasing their personal incomes via per diem etc.

This session the cuts continue to all parts of state Government except the Legislature which is increasing its funding by more than \$300,000,000. What kind of a message is this sending.

It is time to reauthorize the state Income Tax. We had one in the past and it worked. We have many workers in Extraterritorial and Tourism who come to Alaska and either bring their supplies with them or import them (over)

Signed: William R. Dauter (William R. Dauter)

Testifier

SD/

Representing (Optional)

Hot Box 1412 Soldotna AK 99609

Address

907 362 7077

Phone No.

From co'side. They spend no money here, pay no taxes
and extract money from the state. It is time to
let all of those who earn their livings here to

● Help support the state and its infrastructure.

The current "Veto Proof" Legislature could easily
pass a fair and equitable income tax that would

fund all necessary services. This is not an election
year. I fear though that the Majority's agenda
is that of a cowardly bully. It has its own

personal agenda and no social conscience and
no concern about what happens to the less fortunate
poor and children. They don't vote with the
same power that VECO, Alyeska and other

● Large employers do.

Lets Please support the Governor's

Budget.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance

committee name

committee on

D.S. 498

dated

3-22-97

bill/subject

I have a SEIZURE disorder brought on from a permanent BRAIN DISORDER suffered 34 yrs. ago at age 16. Medication is needed to avoid EMERGENCY hosp. visits. Catch 22.

I also REQUIRE GLASSES, & MY EYES ARE AT THE AGE WHERE THE CHANGES ARE CLOSER & MORE FREQUENT.

Rental Assistance is on the block & 7.4% (Rent) can't be far behind.

I'm buying my home. What then?

Signed:

Christina [Signature]

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

363 Aspen Sokolom

Address

262-7199

Phone No.

**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE AND
THE ALASKA CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**
Testimony to the House Finance Committee 3/22/97
by Rosemary Hagevig, President AML

The Alaska Municipal League and the Alaska Conference of Mayors represent **135 municipalities and nearly 100% of Alaska's taxpayers**

Municipalities have the same job as state in providing basic services:

- education
- public safety - police/troopers
- roads, harbors, airports
- many other services are either half and half, or if the state doesn't do them munis are the provider of last resort. Roads for example.

Municipalities are about 50% or more funded by combination of property, sales taxes and user fees for water, sewer and other direct muni services.

The other part, comes largely from the state, and that comes largely from Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing, school funding, school debt reimbursement, and municipal Capital Matching Grants.

A lot of people still think their property taxes finance municipal government. **Actually, if you took away state support to municipalities, taxes in every large municipality would at least double or triple from today's levels.** Some small ones will collapse. That is why municipal governments and your constituents who pay municipal taxes are so vulnerable to cuts to programs like Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing.

Sharing revenues with municipalities is not an Alaskan idea, in fact every municipality in the U.S. does it. As of figures that are two years old, Alaska shared less than the average in the western states. Municipal revenue sharing programs are so critical because we would literally halt economic development in many areas because **property taxes would make Alaska a poor investment for business.** Alaska's great wealth is meant to keep

taxes low for residents of our state and that obviously includes municipal taxes.

The attached chart shows the \$ to \$ relationship between local property taxes and state funding of major municipal programs, specifically MARS, education, and Senior exemption.

- As you see from 1988 to 1991 munis were able to keep property taxes stable even in the face of growing state cuts. **This is great testimony to the efficiency and rightsizing of many munis who face state/fed mandates/ regs, cuts in state/fed programs, transfers of state services, inflation, rising crime rates, additional demand for other services.** All without raising property taxes.
- After 1991 you see a steady rise in property taxes, but still somewhat less than the direct impact of state budget actions on MA/RS, education.

Second, chart shows MARS against the overall state budget. MARS has been cut over 60% while the overall state budget has remained about the same.

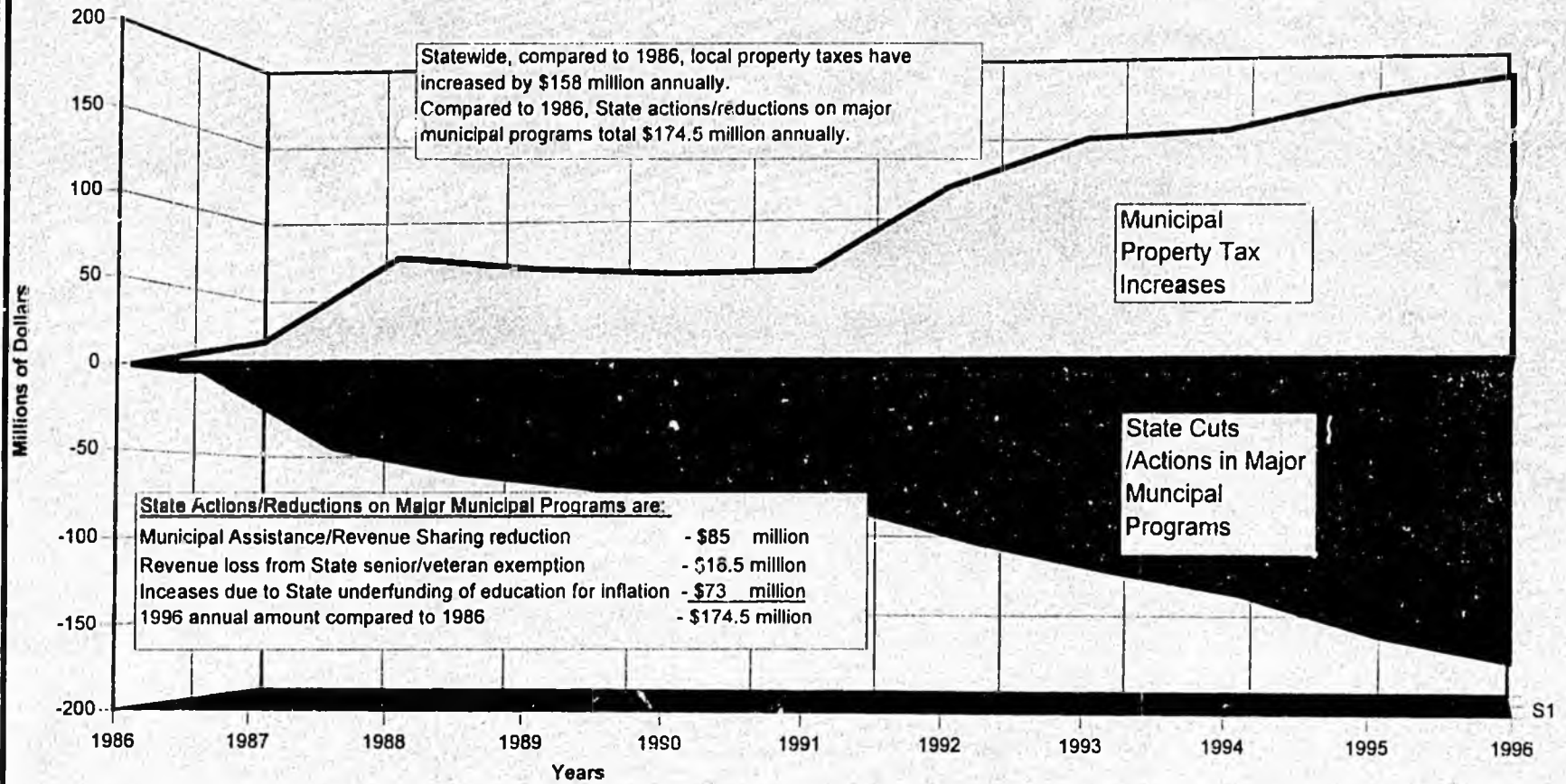
The municipalities and the municipal taxpayers of Alaska have one critical request to the legislature. **Please evaluate each budget cut or budget action you make to avoid putting more pressure on local property taxpayers.** Even though some communities have instituted property tax caps, they cannot stem the tide if state budget reductions continue to impact munis. If property taxes cannot be raised, then some other potentially equally unpalatable form of local taxation must be found or munis will have to put up with overcrowded schools, crumbling roads, and an inability to meet new challenges.

The five year plan to balance the state budget does not include increases in local property taxes. And the commitment has been made to exclude tax increases from the proposed \$60 million in budget reductions.

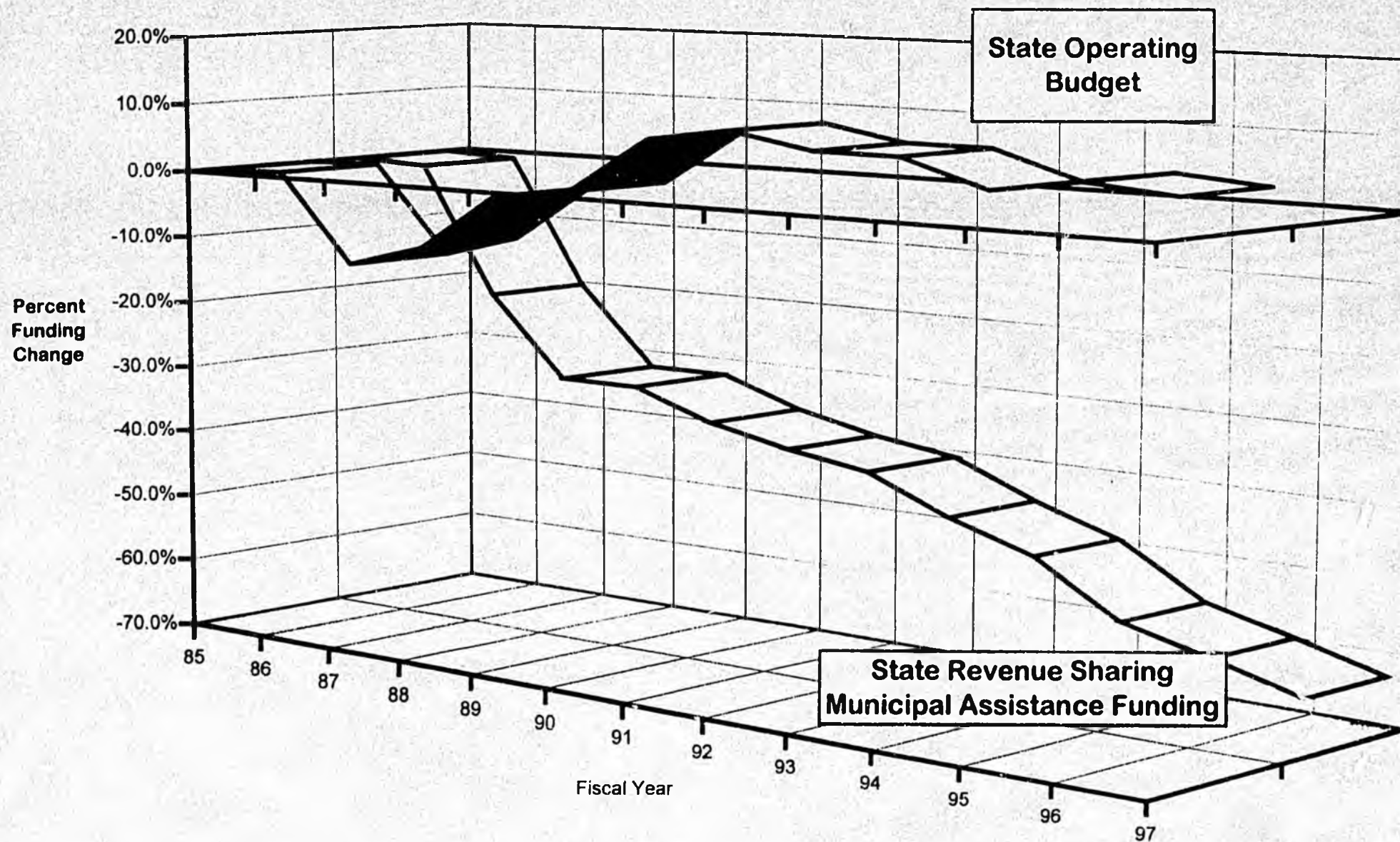
Thank you!

State Actions on Major Municipal Programs are the Primary Factor in Local Property Tax Increases

(Increase in Property Taxes vs State Actions/ Reductions on Major Municipal Programs)



**Comparison of State Operating Budget vs.
State Revenue Sharing/Municipal Assistance Funding
FY 85 - FY 97**





Four Reasons Why Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing Should NOT be Cut this Year

- 1.** According to legislative leaders, the \$60 million reduction in state spending this year will “NOT include new taxes or revenues”. **Cuts to Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing simply pass on higher taxes to local taxpayers.** Therefore, reductions to Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing should not be considered as part of the \$60 million budget cut.
- 2.** Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing has been cut far more than any other major state program. It has already been cut by nearly 70% in the past ten years, and 15% in the last two years. **Due to past cuts to Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing, municipal taxpayers are already contributing over \$80 million per year in local property taxes to balance the state budget.**
- 3.** Reductions to Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing will ensure that there will be more dissolutions of small rural municipalities, loss of basic public services, and **may lead to a breakdown of municipal government in rural areas.**
- 4.** Accelerating local sales and property taxes, and reduced maintenance of local public infrastructure, fueled primarily by cuts in municipal programs, are already **discouraging long term business investments in Alaska’s communities and local economies.**

**Thank you for your consideration of local taxpayers
and your support for Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing.**

The Alaska Municipal League and the
Alaska Conference of Mayors.

Bill Legere

Mr. Chairman, over the past few years the proposed cuts to public broadcasting have been so extreme that these hearings you've heard from ^{50 or more} dozens of public broadcasting supporters. I'm grateful that the administration and the subcommittee has adopted a more reasonable approach, ^{good faith} and ~~but~~ we don't have to take up your time with dozens of people testifying, but I hope you realize that the proposed reduction will have consequences. Taken on top of 41% in state funding reductions over the past three years, this additional cut will further weaken local stations and jeopardize our offers to consolidate and restructure public radio and TV. There are ^{3 brief} ~~five~~ points that I'd hope you'll consider:

As a result of the state cuts, we've taken a steep loss of federal matching funds. Many stations are now right on the edge of losing all federal funding. Even the reduction proposed by the subcommittee may mean that some stations will lose their federal grants; any larger cuts will mean that many or most of the stations will lose the federal share.

The system has survived the large cuts of the past three years only because new technology came along at the right time to allow us to maintain service more economically. There aren't any more technological miracles out there to save the system from further dramatic cuts.

Before the big reductions in state support, public radio, public TV and RATNET were separate institutions. Now, in response to the cuts, we've merged organizations to the point that the whole system will collapse if any one of the legs are pulled out. The best example: we're all sharing the new satellite technology, and we depend on each other to fund it. If one of the satellite partners is forced to pull out, the other services will go down too.

I applaud Rep. Davis's subcommittee¹⁵ interest in learning about how the system operates today. As you know, public broadcasting is famous¹⁶ for our pledge drives. I'd like to renew the pledge we've made to the legislature every year for the past decade. I know that most of you don't want to see stations go off the air, but that most of you do want to make sure that we're doing everything possible to maintain service and attract new, private sources of funding, So I'll renew our pledge to work with you on a reasonable, responsible plan for assuring that the state dollars are invested wisely and that the system survives.

Finally, I'd like to note that our Senate subcommittee met this morning, and the Chairman proposed a reduction similar to the house number, but he warned that, quote, "public television isn't out of the woods..." If that means that ^{elimination} a large reduction to public television is being contemplated, you should know that it WILL force an end to Alaskan public television ^{by the Senate} service. If it is the intent of the legislature to kill public broadcasting, we're an easy target --- ^{stations BTOA, ARCS, and our stations in Anchorage, JUNO, PBY} just cut another couple of hundred thousand, and we'll be off the air in most communities by July 1. But if your intent is to work with us and ^{40 billion as most Alaskans} ~~most Alaskans~~, ^{I hope} than you'll adopt the subcommittee's recommendation....

(Name)

Rep Henry & Norton Cummings in DNR's Parks Management Component in the Division of State Parks and to

Name Ted Marvell
3240 Fritz Cove Rd
Juneau

Represent (Myself) - Testifying to restore the budget ~~and~~ ^{revenue} ~~restoration~~
Lived in Juneau 40 years - retired fish biologist
Member Juneau and State Parks Advisory Board

My family has ~~had~~ traveled and camped
throughout Alaska in ~~most~~ ^{many} of Alaska's state parks
in tents, and recently ~~by~~ ^{by} RV.

~~I understand that the House Finance~~
The Committee is proposing a \$184 k cut in
the State Parks ^{Management} budget, of which 1/2 (92k)
must be staff cuts.
~~This~~ ^{This} ~~cut~~ would cripple the State

Parks system. The proposed dollar cut is
bad enough, but a requirement for 1/2 the
cut to be in staff reduction, would ~~reduce~~ ^{hamstring}
the ability of State Parks to allocate
its resources ~~more~~ efficiently.

(2)

This draconian reduction in State

Park funds would result in:

* A 25% reduction in summer temporary

help who maintain parks and collect

Monies ~~and~~ (collected by those employees

user fees. ~~These~~ ~~provide~~ provide about 1/2 the

operating funds for the State Park system.

* Closure of 18 existing park units, 4 of

which are in Southeast Alaska at Sitka,

5 new park facilities, including the

* Not opening ~~the~~ ~~new~~ Southeast Alaska

Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve viewing platform,

nature trail and parking lot — a major

attraction for out-of-state tourists.

* Not opening 10 new roadside outhouses that have already
~~Not opening~~ ~~already~~ been purchased and are ready for
use in 1987.

* Loss of \$ 132,000 in revenue fees resulting

from closed facilities — which, with

the \$184. K reduction in state funding,

would result in an overall loss of

\$315,000 in park management funding.

Alaska's State Parks are among the

best in the nation, heavily used by

residents, and a major attraction

to out-of-state visitors who benefit

Alaska's economy.

I urge you to restore the projected

cuts, and ~~especially~~ especially to eliminate

a ~~the~~ requirement that 1/2 of any cuts be

~~this~~ ^{requirement} ~~provision~~ would deny ~~the~~

for staff personnel, ~~depleting~~ ~~the~~ ~~Parks~~

the Parks Division the flexibility ^{to deploy personnel} ~~to manage the parks~~

~~efficiently~~ most efficiently ~~and~~ ~~responsibly~~ ~~to~~ ~~ensure~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~possible~~ ~~results~~

~~to~~ ~~ensure~~ efficiency in ~~attending~~

~~to~~ ~~ensure~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~possible~~ ~~results~~

Thank you

Testimony before the House Finance Committee on March 22, 1997

Comments by Christine L Parce (a 30 year resident of the State of Alaska)

My phone # is 586-1267

I read, with dismay, in the Friday night Juneau Empire that you are taking Public Comment on the House Version of the FY98 budget Proposal.

I would like to state for the record that I am dismayed at the extremely short amount of time you allow us, the citizens of the state, to provide public comment.

This is ridiculous, unless of course, you do not intend to pay any attention to our comments anyway and this is just a facade to appease the public.

Having said that I would now like to enter my comments into the public record. I do so as a private citizen; however, I would inform you that I have, just this past November, retired from the State Department of Administration where I held the position of Department Finance Officer for 10 years: My comments will be made by department.

Public TV: It is a shame that this type of cut is required but I do understand that the budget
& radio: needs to be trimmed where possible without harm to the citizens and I think the citizens want this service enough to come up with private funding to fill this gap. I know I am a contributor now and will continue to contribute.

Page -2-

Rural Communications: I think this is increase is required

DEC: Solid waste is a health issue and if the Department receives 1.2 Million cut the Legislators should make certain it is not this program that takes the hit but that it comes out of surplus staff department-wide... or in some other areas rather than an area that deals with a serious health issue.

Court System: I agree with this cut to the degree that it may increase the States current Security Service as that service is as near as totally useless as any group that has ever contracted with the State of Alaska. I don't know who monitors their work but it needs more attention.

They seem to think their main job is to write parking tickets. They appear to be unable to deal with any serious issues. I have personally been involved with them on several different issues and they provide a nearly worthless service.

If the Governor's proposed Increase has to deal with an upgrade of those types of services plus technical services then that increase is most probably legitimate, we are far to insecure in most of our state facilities during these times of terrorist

activities across the nation and we should protect our public officials and employees from suffering a disaster before one does happen rather than be sorry we didn't after the fact.

Department of Labor: No Comment

Department of Revenue: The Department is absolutely right ! Someone must ensure that parents be made to support their children, frankly most citizens are sick and tired of paying to keep people on AFDC because the parents have not been made to provide for their children.. Cost savings to the State of Alaska would come about through more enforcement of child support collections not less

I do not understand what thought process you must go thru to come to the conclusion that cutting enforcement of child support collections will save the state money. That is an amazing conclusion!

Page -4-

If the Legislature is serious about trying to save serious money - Like 60 Million this year- then you must quit nibbling at this process and quit chipping away a little here and a little there.

It is time for some Serious Streamlining. The following is one very serious suggestion that will knock out a large chunk of dollars being spent on duplicate Administrative cost.....which by the way is where the Citizens of the State of Alaska want those cuts to come from.....They want cuts in what they perceive as excess administrative costs.....They do not want their services cut.

The entire Department of Revenue should be eliminated! It is true they perform many services that are necessary & must still be performed but those services should be reshuffled in order to eliminate a High burden of unnecessary overhead cost such as the Office of the Commission and the Administrative Services group.

I would move Child Enforcement Services to H&SSwhere AFDC resides now and these two functions are really linked.

Many functions performed in Revenue should be performed in DOA, Division of Finance.

Some functions could be privatized.

Page -5-

The PFD function needs a total overhaul to make it more efficient. DOA Commissioner Boyer had several great ideas about redesigning that system and I hope some of those ideas have been put in place. The DOA, Division of Information Services could be doing this job through some computerized system that does not require so much key punching and the volume of paper that both goes out and comes back in to perform that Service

The PFD Investments should be handled by the Board of Trustee through Privatization with a Brokerage Firm.

The Investments that occur in Revenue on behalf of the DOA , Division of Retirement and Benefits should be handled by the Boards of those bodies through privatization.

I am sure there are many other types of efficiencies that can take place but this type of thinking will require you, the Legislators to "think outside of the box" and invest your time in the bigger picture of the budget rather than concentrate on these little cuts here and there which mostly result in taking away services from the Citizens of the State of Alaska rather than reducing the bureaucracy which is what they want.

Please consider the Combination of the DOA & Revenue to eliminate a large cost of duplicate Commissioner and Division of Administrative Groups. There is no need in this effort to reduce the services to the citizens of the State.

H&SS: Cutting this Department really hurts the neediest of the States Citizens. Cuts here cost the State many dollars in Federal Funding. These services will have to be provided some how to these needy people.

Cutting Welfare to the truly needy recipients is crazy. We need to reform welfare and, I hope, we are in that process. That might not mean savings right away in that process.

We need to Privatize other functions of Government so there are more private jobs available and put dollars into training our welfare recipients (those that can be) and enable them to get jobs and get off the welfare system so as to cut that cycle of need for the long term.

We must learn to be strong to accomplish welfare reform but we must not be "mean" to the neediest amongst us.

Division of Tourism: This is one Division that we absolutely must to Keep!
I believe they will provide the best service by being kept together to share their skills & information so as to avoid duplication of efforts.
They have developed a very competent Profession staff that does great work on behalf of the Citizen of Alaska, this is attested to, in

part, by the Huge increases of Tourist and the dollars they bring to our state every year. These services really need to be continued in support of all those folks that work in this industry in the private sector. Especially now when our timber and fishing industries are on the ropes.

These Services are best provided by a group of top notch professionals that work together to accomplish their mission, not by being spread out to various departments.

ASTF Program:

Elimination of this function is crazy! The world is becoming ever more technologically advanced.....Alaska needs to keep up and create new concepts and ideas to insulate our citizens from the effects of falling behind in these technical areas.

Our citizens need to be come up with ways in which to use , what is becoming more limited daily, our timber resources and find ways to add value to this resource. This could mean more JOBS.

Likewise in seafood, aerospace and agriculture

We certainly do need road maintenance and building maintenance but part of that money can be found I suspect if one would really review DOT, a Department that is the most inefficient in the entire state system with regard to it's administrative functions and most probably in the delivery of services.

Law:

While not mentioned in the Juneau Empire article I have a few comments to make about the Department of Law also.

My comments apply specifically to the Attorney General's Office & its role in Consumer Protection Enforcement.

I have been led to believe by the Assistant AG in Anchorage, an office of one, that he is the only person assigned to cover this extremely important area for the Citizens of the State. The reason for this is the "Lack of Funds" for such services.

This is ridiculous in an affluent state such as ours.

I have been personally involved with a Hugh "class action type case" and am trying to help a group of 40 Alaskan Citizens in a fraudulent case involving a telephone company scam. Remember I said I was working with a group of 40, but let me tell you there are hundreds of Alaskan citizens involved and they will become financially harmed by this company when it files for bankruptcy sometime in the very near future. These citizens have not been able to get any assistance to get their hundreds of thousands of dollars back that was taken from them in deceptive practices and through direct fraud. This is an actual ongoing case that I am having to fight daily, right now, without the aid of our Consumer Protection Arm of the Attorney General's office.

I only tell you this as an introduction to my comments, If I thought I could get any assistance from my State Officials I would go on.. buthaving written to The Governor, my local legislators and the Attorney General, and having received no assistance from them, it is clear my problem falls on deaf ears.. The attorney general's office has the details if anyone is interested.

What should be important to you and to the public as it was to me when faced with need of assistance. I learned the AG's office is unable to provide the kind of protection we the citizens believe we have available to us..

The AG Consumer Protection section is unable to provide this assistance due

to lack of funds.

In the distant past the AG's office did provide some assistance through their effort to combine forces with the Better Business Bureau but the BBB has been forced to close its doors due to lack of funds.

The citizens of the State of Alaska are being taken advantage of every day by lower 48... and perhaps even some local... unscrupulous business enterprises that enter our state with the knowledge they will have it easy because the State of Alaska is not willing to provide funding to protect our Citizens from these fraudulent business practices.

The case I mentioned above is a case that will be going National as a class action. Many other States are going to take up this case and defend their citizens however the Great State of Alaska apparently will not be standing up for their citizens due to lack of funding of their consumer protection legal office.

Nationwide states fund their Consumer Protection Services Legal Offices because they realize it is one of the important needs of citizens... ..to help them if they have been victimized by Fraudulent Business Practices

This Unit of our Government needs to be adequately funded for the balance of FY97, for FY98 and in the future.

CAPITAL BUDGET

1. Introduce self... on CBJ--ADA, IL Specialist with SAIL, Board member and Local M.S. Chapter support service representative, and Partners Project (explain what that is).

TABS on committee

PROBLEMS

1. Over 1000 Alaskans will lose services and remain on public assistance.
2. State ADA compliance will be limited.
3. Independent Living Services will become limited around the state. Especially rural areas just when the concept is catching on.
4. Impact on client services from DVR who will lose an equal share of federal matching dollars. **ALL THESE ARE IN FRENCH'S LETTER (READ FRENCH'S LETTER)**

*Do This
1st*

OTHER PROBLEMS

1. Impact on children and families: (READ MAJORITY CUTS).



MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska
Department of Education

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation *

Anchorage Admin Office

To: Representative Reggie Joule

Date: March 14, 1997

From: Duane M. French

Phone: (907) 274-5606
Fax: (907) 274-5605

Subject: Impact of House
Budget Reductions

DRAFT

I am writing in response to your request for information on the proposed reductions made by the House of Representatives to the budget of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).

The reduction of \$10,100 to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) component would further limit the State of Alaska's ADA compliance efforts. The ADA component has already been reduced by 39% with the reductions made in FY 97 and those proposed in the Governor's FY 98 budget. The reductions proposed by the House of Representatives would blunt the State's ability to fully comply with the ADA and will leave the State vulnerable to being sued under the ADA.

The reduction of \$20,400 to the Independent Living component will limit the ability for staff of private non-profit Independent Living Centers around the State to travel to rural and remote areas to provide services to Alaskans with significant disabilities. By not making Independent Living Services available to rural and remote residents of Alaska, the chances of them facing costly institutionalization is increased.

The most devastating reductions and resulting impact is on the Client Services component of the DVR budget. With the House reduction of \$378,400, the Division will lose an equal reduction of Federal funds being reduced because of the Division's Maintenance of Effort requirements. The net loss of funds to DVR would be \$758,400. The only way the Division could cope with such a reduction is to invoke the Order of Selection process which will limit services to only those Alaskans with the most significant disabilities.

Over one thousand Alaskans with disabilities would lose services and remain on Public Assistance, at a far greater cost to the State, rather than moving to meaningful jobs and paying taxes.

The proposed reductions to the travel line item of \$43,500 directly impacts the ability of DVR to send staff to rural and remote areas of Alaska. Reducing the travel of the Client Services component will make it extremely difficult to get needed vocational training and services.

The rollback of the Contractual line item of \$45,400 will cut job placement services and other training made available through private sector vendors. Private sector vendors are a critical part of delivering rehabilitation services to Alaskans with disabilities.

In summary, the proposed reductions of the House of Representatives will have a dramatic and negative impact upon the lives of Alaskans with disabilities.

Reggie Joules Fax 465-4586

Proposed House Majority Budget Cuts for FY98: *Impact on Children and Families*

Governor Knowles' proposed FY98 budget made more than \$40 million of cuts to agencies and programs in order to absorb increases in school enrollment, other formula programs, inflation and labor contracts. This meets his commitment to help close the budget gap by cutting the budget \$100 million over three years. **Budget cuts are necessary, but the House Majority is proposing large cuts on top of cuts already made by the governor, many of which are irresponsible and dangerous to the health and economy of Alaska.**

What challenges does the Governor's budget address?

- More children in our public schools, requiring \$12 million more in state funds.
- Graduates who lack adequate skills for the workplace.
- Highest child abuse rate in the nation and rapid increase in juvenile crime.
- Lack of access to basic health care for poor, elderly, disabled and other adults.
- Second-fastest growing senior population in the nation.

How would Majority budget cuts hurt Alaska's children and families?

- 1 • Cuts out medical supplies and equipment, artificial limbs, rehabilitation and mammograms for poor, elderly and disabled Alaskans.
- 2 • Risks school districts losing \$13.5 million in federal funds by having \$750,000 cut in quality schools and special services, including setting standards and assessing results.
- 3 • Eliminates all rental assistance for the very poorest Alaskans, a program in place since territorial days.
- 4 • Completely eliminates grants that help keep child care safe and affordable and hurts welfare reform by cutting \$1.7 million from child care programs.
- 5 • Eliminates job training for welfare recipients even though training investments are necessary for families to shift from welfare to economic self-sufficiency.
- 6 • Cuts \$2.5 million from the University. *How I got my degree and went to work*
- 7 • Hurts child abuse prevention efforts of the highly successful Healthy Families program.
- 8 • Reduces the governor's budget for juvenile probation services by almost \$600,000 which was targeted for innovative community-based programs to reduce juvenile crime.
- 9 • Cuts over \$600,000 from Child Support Enforcement efforts.
- 10 • Jeopardizes our most vulnerable seniors by reducing Adult Protective Services and licensing of assisted living programs.
- 11 • Eliminates federal funds for innovative community programs to solve children's health and education problems with local solutions.

*11 impacts on families and children
will talk about 4*

Proposed House Majority Budget Cuts for FY98: *Impact on Rural Alaska*

Governor Knowles' proposed FY98 budget made more than \$40 million of cuts to agencies and programs in order to absorb increases in school enrollment, other formula programs, inflation and labor contracts. This meets his commitment to help close the budget gap by cutting the budget \$100 million over three years. Budget cuts are necessary, but the House Majority is proposing large cuts on top of cuts already made by the governor, many of which are irresponsible and dangerous to the health and economy of Alaska.

What challenges does the Governor's budget address?

- Need to diversify community economies with jobs in tourism, fisheries, timber, etc.
- Lack of safe sanitation and solid waste disposal in many communities.
- Inadequate child care and job training so families can get off welfare and become economically self-sufficient.
- No Village Public Safety Officers in many communities.

How would Majority budget cuts hurt Rural Alaska?

1. • Eliminates funding for Village Public Safety Officers in at least seven communities that don't have any officers now.
2. • Jeopardizes the safety and economic viability of rural utility systems by reducing training and business management services.
3. • Cuts the Fish & Game Subsistence Division by \$115,000 and divides it into separate "subsistence" and "rural subsistence" programs.
4. • ~~Disrupts rural energy projects and increases likelihood of power and heating emergencies due to severe reductions in the Division of Energy.~~
5. • Leaves landfills and industrial wastes completely unregulated by the state (including oil field and mining wastes), threatens public health and removes regulatory options unique to rural Alaska.

— Mike Butler

To: Area Superintendents and District Rangers
From: Jim Stratton
Re: Budget cuts

The House Finance committee has proposed a \$183.9 budget cut to Parks and have directed that \$92.0 of that be staff. This means a 25% reduction in summer ACC employees. As a result, we are proposing to close 18 park units, not open the new facilities, and will mothball 10 new roadside outhouses. Not having these facilities open will exacerbate our funding cut by an additional \$132.0 for a total budget impact of \$315.9.

There is a Teleconference schedule for this Saturday, March 22, from 9:30 to 5 at your local Legislative Information Center to hear public testimony. I have communicated with all the advisory board chairs, but I imagine there are other user groups for parks in your area that I don't know about. Feel free to share this information far and wide.

There are many horrid budget cuts proposed, so these hearing will be packed. They have identified a schedule so people don't have to sit at the hearings all day waiting to talk, but I strongly suggest that those that want to testify arrive early to get their name on the list. There is a 2 minute limit on testimony.

9:30 to noon - everywhere but Anchorage, Fairbanks, & Juneau

1 to 3 - Anchorage and Fairbanks

3 to 5 - Juneau

Capital Rm 519

With this memo are materials that include the areas proposed for closure. Remember, this is the first cut on the budget and I expect some changes to our benefit, but only if the Finance Committee members hear from the public. And if we were to have to swallow this cut, we would make some changes to lessen the impact on closures though we would close units. We've all cut our budgets enough over the years, its now time to wake up the public with closures.

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS — LAND

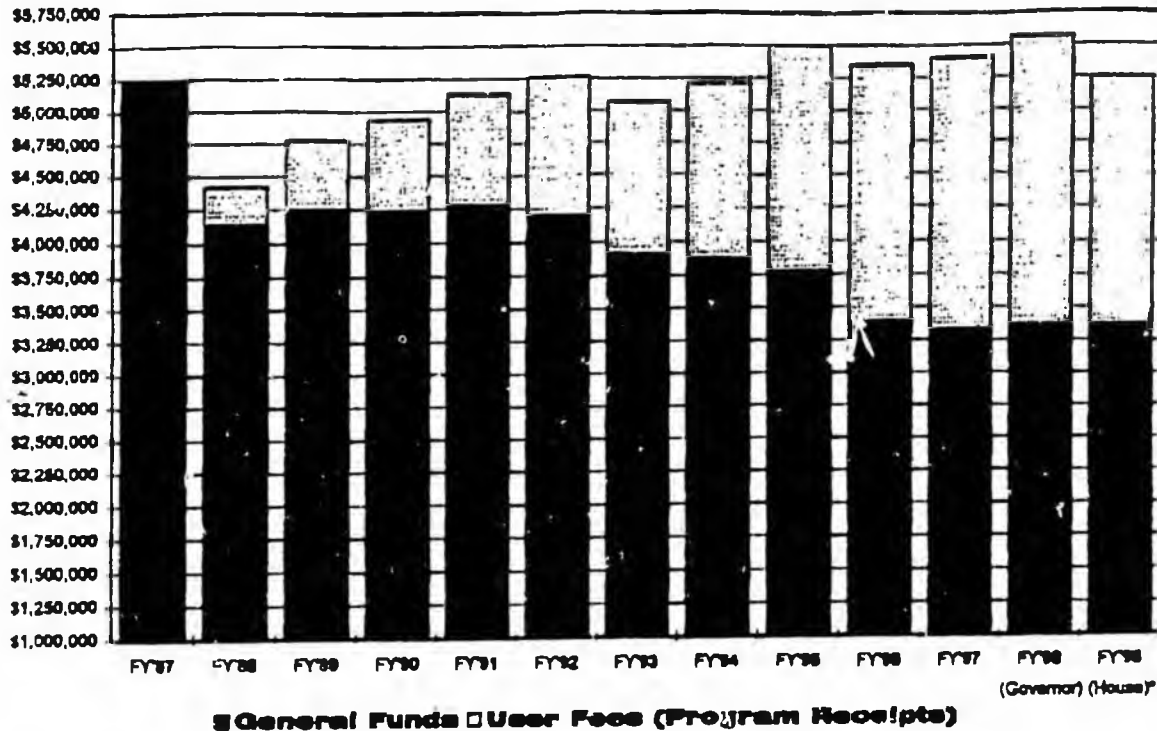
Tourism # 2 — # 1 Resource Focus -
Investing

~~The End of~~

① Budget has been cut for Ten years.
Replaced with user fees

② Budget Cuts — 1987 - state Budget

**House Finance Sub-Committee Proposal
Alaska State Parks
Operating Budget
FY87 - FY98**



* Showing \$132.0 lost fee revenues due to staffing reductions and park closures.

The FY98 House Finance proposal cuts the Parks budget \$183.9 with no recognition that these funds are necessary to maintain basic park operations. This approach is unnecessary, since user fees could be used to maintain campgrounds, outhouses, boat launches, and other park facilities. Parks has the ability, should the legislature authorize it, to fund increased expenses from higher visitation and new facilities which further reducing its dependence on the General Fund.

This chart illustrates almost \$2 million in General Fund cuts to the state parks budget over the past ten years and increasing reliance on user fees (Program Receipts). Starting in FY88, user fees have enabled the parks to stay open while still reducing the General Fund. The park system has coped with increasing visitation and brought new facilities on line through slow growth in fee authorizations. Even the additional costs of collecting more user fees have been absorbed entirely within the existing Parks budget.

**House Finance Committee proposed budget cuts to the
Alaska State Park Management budget for FY98**

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Proposed Finance Committee reduction | \$183.9 |
| Lost fee revenues from closed facilities | 132.0 |
| Real reduction to Park Management | \$315.9 |

Impact overview:

6% reduction in operating monies
Close 18 park units
Not open 10 new roadside outhouses
Not open 5 new park facilities
Redeploy permanent staff to 4 parks/clusters of parks

- The Finance Committee has directed that Parks cut \$91.6 from its personnel expenses. This translates into a 25% reduction in temporary summer seasonal hires, the Alaska Conservation Corp (ACC). This reduction in ACC help has caused parks to propose closing certain of its facilities and redeploy its permanent staff, Rangers and Natural Resource Technicians, to other facilities to compensate for the loss of summer ACC staff. A list of 18 facilities that are proposed to be closed is attached.
- Permanent staff at the 18 park closures will be redeployed to Chena River State Recreation Area, Nancy Lake/Willow Creek, Haines area parks, and Deep Creek/Ninilchik parks to compensate for loss of the ACC support at these operations.
- The closing of 18 facilities exacerbates the budget cut by \$132.0 in foregone revenue. An emphasis was placed on maintaining ACC fee collectors at those units that remain open and for administrative assistance in processing fees at area offices.
- Parks has 10 new roadside outhouses that will be mothballed pending eventual restoration of funds to operate these facilities. A list of those facilities is attached.
- Parks was planning to open five new facilities (which include some of the 10 mothballed outhouses) in summer 98. These facilities will not be opened. Two facilities recently underwent an upgrade that required increased operational support - Alaska Veteran's Memorial and Bird Creek. A priority was made to fully operate these previously existing facilities and not open those that are new. A list of new facilities not opening is attached.

Attachment

FY98 Proposed Park Closures

The 18 state park units listed below will be closed, passively managed or proposed for transfer to other management as a result of the general fund budget reductions in FY'98. To close a unit means to cancel refuse removal service, board up the restrooms, eliminate park staff patrols of the facilities, and to close and lock gates where they exist. Passive management means park access will be allowed but there will be no refuse service, restrooms will be closed and park staff will not patrol the area. Some units will be proposed for transfer to local jurisdictions or managed on a limited basis by non-profit organizations.

Northern Area

Lower Chatanika SRS
Upper Chatanika SRS
Chena River SRS

Management Status

Close campground, passively manage day use
Close campground
Close campground, possible contract option

Mat-Su Area

Big Lake North SRS
Big Lake South SRS
Hatcher Pass/Independence Mine

Close campground and boat launch
Close campground and boat launch
Passive and transfer of Visitor Center to operation by Friends organization

Kepler-Bradley SRA
King Mountain SRS
Long Lake SRS
Matanuska Glacier SRS
Rocky Lake SRS
Wolf Lake SRS

Close day use area
Close campground
Passive
Passive
Close campground
Close campground

Kenai Area

Anchor River SRA
Stariski SRS

Close campgrounds, passively manage day use
Close campground

Southeast

Sitka State Park Units (4)

Transfer to City of Sitka

New park units that will not open:

The Pillars (Kenai River)
Cooper Landing Boat Launch (Sterling Highway)
Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve viewing platform/nature trail/parking lot
Lake Aleknagik Boat Launch (Wood-Tikchik State Park)
Denali View North (Parks Highway)

Attachment

FY98 Proposed Park Outhouse Closures

These are new or relatively new outhouses along the highway system that will be closed under the proposed House Finance Committee budget. Funding is needed for janitorial and pumping. Parks simply does not have the money to maintain these additional facilities on top of those it already manages.

Kenai River - Pillars boat launch

Kenai River - Cooper Landing boat launch and scenic overlook

Haines Highway - Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve

Seward Highway - Indian Creek, Potter Creek

Alaska Highway - Harding Lake, Salcha boat launch ramp

Chena Hot Springs Road - Chena Rec Area

Aleknagik Road - Aleknagik boat launch

① Encourage you to ~~write~~ ^{convene} the statutory effort by
Mr. ^{Jim} Merrill

② To Add to those and suggest the General
Course of Alaska State Parks. I would like
you to be mindful of the ~~perspective~~
perspective of the budget of State Parks. ^{Historical}

Ⓐ Flat since 1987

- State operating has all most doubled

Ⓑ → State Budget has double.

③ The ^{use fees} public perception is that we
have this large state park system
- Fact - most ~~state~~ park land in Alaska
is Federal land.

- 100 of Alaska is State Parks.

④ projected cuts → Reduce Public Access -

8255 Aspen Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801-8904
(907)789-3686

Subcommittee on Community and Regional Affairs
Alaska State Legislature

My name is Michelle Zeiger. I have been a licensed Family Child Care Provider here in Juneau for over two years. I am a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Southeast chapter of the Alaska Family Child Care Association. I have a Bachelors Degree in Psychology and Sociology and I am currently working on my Child Development Associate Credential.

Four years ago when I was expecting my daughter I knew little about professional child care. My husband and I got referrals from friends and visited some of the local child care centers. We placed our six week old infant in a family child care home run by a very loving and nurturing woman. After less than a year I knew my heart was not in my job at a brokerage firm, but at home with my daughter, so I took the steps to begin a licensed family child care. This was a chance to run my own business, be my own boss, and to be with my child as she grows and develops.

I soon realized I needed to learn more about how children learn and develop in order to do I good job caring for them. I had been to trainings given by Child Care and Family Resource and learned about the possibility of earning a Child Development Credential. I enrolled in the CDA courses through UAS and got the foundation of knowledge that every quality child care provider needs. Education and Training funds administered through Child Care and Family Resources paid my tuition.

If it weren't for this training I probably would not be doing child care today. I wouldn't understand how to listen to children's needs or how to provide a nutritionally balanced meal. I would not be aware of the methods of maintaining a safe, healthy learning environment or how to advance physical and intellectual competence in children. I would not know what supporting social and emotional development and providing positive guidance means. I would not have positive and productive relationships with families or have a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs. I would not have a commitment to professionalism.

Child care professionals care for the children of those who must work and those who want to work during the most dynamic years of the child's development. If you vote to

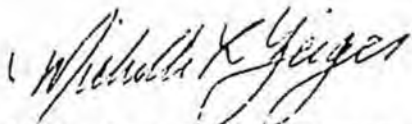
eliminate funding for child care resource and referral and education and training of providers, new providers will not have the opportunities to develop themselves and the support network that is essential to this type of business.

Child care providers, like school teachers, need continual training to keep up with the vast amount of information on child development. More individual development occurs between birth and age 6, than in the rest of one's life. During this time a person develops one's view of the world, and how one fits into it. Adults caring for children during these years need to know what they are doing or we will end up with a state full of people who have no social skills and who are not adequately prepared to be productive citizens.

The upcoming Welfare Reform will create a very large need for additional child care homes and centers. Continuing this funding will help to ensure that they are quality, developmentally appropriate programs.

As I understand it, your job is to channel funds to programs that develop our state. The money will best be spent on the programs that develop our youngest citizens into decent, law-abiding workers and tax payers. This will cost the state less now than paying later for problems associated with child neglect: truancy, vandalism, and substance abuse in the teen years. I often tell children not to be foolish, meaning, don't do something wrong when you know how to do it right. Please don't be foolish with our money.

Yours,



Michelle L. Zeiger, Owner
Small Wonders Childcare

8255 Aspen Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801-8904

Subcommittee on Community and Regional Affairs
Alaska State Legislature

Honorable Legislators:

You are considering proposed cuts to Alaska childcare and education. I am writing to oppose these cuts. I am not doing so because my wife operates a childcare. She is perfectly capable of finding work at higher pay and better security with much less personal sacrifice. I am more concerned with the quality of care provided to my daughter, and to the sons and daughters of my fellow Alaskans. I am also appalled by your complete disregard—contempt even—for Alaskans, implied by these proposed cuts.

Cuts to Alaskan childcare and education doubly betray the children of this great state. If these cuts are approved, today's children face detriment to their development which will seriously impact their ability to become productive members of our society. Those who escape the condemnation you are proposing today will be left to pay much higher costs to correct your short-sightedness. These costs will come from increased need for physical and mental health services, welfare, and other social programs necessary to correct character flaws developed in early stages of development—the very stages currently shaped and guided by trained, informed, and funded childcare providers.

These providers are not baby-sitters. Aside from holding our society's highest trust—the care and nurturing of our children—they are business owners, playing an important, even vital role in our state's economy. You cannot claim to be pro-business or pro-development while ignoring the very industry that enables citizens who are parents to work in all other industries in Alaska.

Everyone talks about family values. These are the real family values: caring for our children; helping and guiding them when they need it most, in their formative years; providing education necessary to reach their full potential. Endangering this to reduce state costs is morally reprehensible. If you approve these funding cuts, you will not be able to recall this with pride. No one will remember you for saving money in the short-term. Instead, you will be remembered for negatively altering the future of Alaska.

You are entrusted with the power to make this choice: will you betray the citizens you serve, or will you choose wisely for the future of Alaska? The people whom you represent are watching and waiting.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Zeiger

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. My name is Jennifer Dunker. I am an 18 yr. old senior at JDHS here in Juneau. I am sorry that I did not have time to speak to you like many of the others ~~do~~ but I feel what I have to say is important. I came to this meeting because my mom, Pamela Dunker, brought it to my attention. (Not to mention I need 10 hrs. of community service to graduate, so which must be government related for my American Gov. Class.) My mom is a deaf educational interpreter. She works in the school district with deaf children and many other children with various disabilities so although I have no disabled people in my family I have been thoroughly exposed: ~~to people with disabilities.~~

I came here knowing ~~nothing~~ ^{basically nothing} about ~~the bill~~ that you, as representatives of the people, ~~are~~ trying to pass except that you would take privileges and rights away from disabled persons, ~~such as~~ in areas such as medicare and ADA. I learned a lot today about ~~the~~ the feelings of the community and how ~~it is~~ ~~important~~ ~~to~~ ~~legislators~~ ~~to~~ ~~listen~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~people~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~community~~ ~~and~~ ~~not~~ ~~just~~ ~~the~~ ~~legislators~~.

I am ~~am~~ impressed with the people of Alaska ~~being~~ strong in their hearts and minds in opposing the cuts in funding in many of the areas mentioned

today? Things such as child care and
Medical. But I am thoroughly disappointed
in our Rep. for proposing these cuts.
I do agree w/ someone cutting the budget because,
although AK is a very rich state, we
should not take it for granted because
then ~~the~~ the richness of our state
will soon deteriorate, but I disagree
in the ways you are going about it.
Attacking the poor & powerless, as ~~Mr. Constantine~~
Mr. Constantine said earlier, is a heartless
act. As I looked at each and every one
of ~~the~~ the faces ~~on~~ in ~~those~~ chairs,
all of the reps, I was a little angered.
The people speaking do you ~~really~~ genuinely
concerned ~~but~~ some of you could show no
concern for their feelings. Taking away things
such as child care ^{funding} is in no way going to help
cut costs. Single parents or disabled parents
who cannot ~~support~~ ~~support~~ ~~support~~ income to
support ~~themselves~~ ~~themselves~~ ~~themselves~~ on their own
will not be able to afford child care which
can lead to ~~many~~ ~~many~~ ~~many~~ problems, all ^{sorts} of homelessness,
suicide and others just as severe. These
cuts ~~will~~ also lead to higher costs ~~than~~
there is now. Maybe some of these things aren't
making sense because I tend to babble when
frustrated, but I needed to let you know
that from ~~my~~ ~~my~~ ~~my~~ view of ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ legislature
in AK, I am very unimpressed and
disappointed. I hope you take this into
consideration in making your decision today
and in the future. Thank you.

P.O. Box 10224
Fairbanks, (Two Rivers) Alaska 99710
phone/fax 488-3746
18 March 1997

Mr. Mark Hanley,
Alaska State House, Finance Budget Committee
re: current budget considerations

Dear Mr. Hanley:

In 1968, the year after I came to Alaska, the state budget was about 150 million dollars. 270,000 Alaska residents derived enough benefits from those monies to let them keep the roads plowed all winter and teachers in the classroom. Though I lived north of Bettles then, everyone I knew in town made their monthly mortgage payments, sent their kids onto college and once in a while took a vacation. Life was quiet, content and enough.

Today, with little more than twice the population, the cost of state government - almost 2.5 billion dollars, yields almost eight times per resident in state spending more than what kept everyone happy 30 years ago. Life isn't as simple as it used to be, but I shake my head when too many greedy Alaskans cry they now can't do with less.

Most of those 30 years, I've worn only a few hats. I haven't had a wage-paying job in 15 years, as I make my living from Alaska's wildlife and wilderness. I've always been a hunting guide. But I've changed with the times and today make more money from birdwatchers than bear hunters. I've filled in as a consulting wildlife biologist during the early days of the oil industry, and later as an ecotour consultant for mainstream tourism.

With this diverse, independent background, two governors, including the incumbent, asked me to sit on the game board. I declined both. It's a winless job and there are other ways to give something back to Alaska's wildlife and wilderness that have been so good to me. As an Alaskan, I feel obligated to make some contribution. As a businessman, I must also meet my obligations, and have learned to survive and even thrive in lean times.

The State of Alaska can do as well. But perhaps achieving that simple goal is more difficult than I realize.

What we can live without

If it was my budget, I would cut those things we got along fine without in 1967. Breaking the budget into blocks, Health and Social Services eg, has grown like a virus. We haven't instilled a sense of self-reliance and pride in Alaskans: we have taught them instead to expect something for nothing.

One-third of the budget is for education - our sacred cow. But sacred cow's leave a mess. We have teachers of 11 years (one-third of a working career) working September-June making \$49,000. A friend's daughter took a home ec class at North Pole High. There were five fully-equipped kitchens, but only one in use at any one time.

If you reading the help-wanted ads, you'll find the damndest list of State jobs imaginable, and all paying not only whopping wages, but benefits that will pull your teeth as well. Who knows why we need a \$50,000 counselor for people who are victims of violent crimes. The medical community should be providing this, not the State.

Government does not need to be the benefactor of every social need. When people give government that mandate, they lose their sense of personal responsibility and expect someone else to pay for it.

Last summer I saw two DOTPF workers filling a pot-hole, while five others stood around doing nothing. Walking through their offices is the same scene. Dick Randolph had it figured right. Take every state job, chop 25% off the salary, put these jobs out on the street and you'll still have qualified people lined up three-deep for them.

Real cuts in the budget? Go after jobs and entitlements. How many are filled by people who came here after the Prudhoe Bay sugar cube? If eliminated, how many state jobs and programs would keep the sun from coming up tomorrow? The State has a billion-dollar backlog of deferred maintenance in state buildings, but proposed to spend 35-million dollars for a un-needed intertie to Glenallen. Are there no priorities? As a businessman, I face them daily. We can all live with less. However large the vacuum, it rises to the top.

What to support

I support government where it achieves what individual citizens cannot. Where it engenders programs that generate new monies. The Division of Tourism eg. Most of our economy is service-oriented. We have no trade to speak of. Except for oil and fisheries, we produce little. Timber is subsidized to the crown. Oil, our #1 revenue producer, is declining every year. Yet, we subsidize it at all cost. Look at the Northstar lawsuit.

Tourism is Alaska's #2 revenue producer. It is sustainable. Unlike oil, growing 7% annually.

As a businessman, I'm a poor advocate for state subsidies, or the state being in business. Except where state government does what I cannot. DOT has proven to me that some programs are making all of us new monies. These programs are an asset. I have direct and personal knowledge they work for me, and others like me. The heart and soul of Alaska's tourism industry are small operators little myself. Why? Our money stays at home!!!

DOT's marketing programs and travel workshops to international markets have opened new doors I could not. Their contribution at ITB, NTA and Pow Wow eg, realize a return that make any businessman take note. And for the poor traveler we are all squeezing, at least the APLIC offices give them something useful for their money.

As a consultant to Princess Tours and Holland America, I would have to say their 30-million dollar budgets function great without any state programs. None of this makes much real difference to them. Just like the wasted monies I have spent with ATMC and the vacation planner doesn't make any difference to me. Yet, you propose to transfer the few remaining DOT functions to ATMC and Trade/Development.

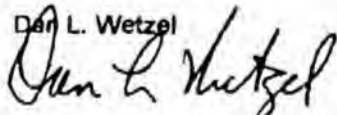
The state subsidizes a declining oil industry, yet proposes to eliminate the fastest growing segment of our economy - tourism. It doesn't make sense to me. For 30 years I have signed my own paychecks, paid my own dental bills and alone contributed to my retirement, all based on my own wise choices and sound business decisions rendered useful from the hard school of life. I know what works when I have to balance my budget.

Governor Knowles proposes huge corporate tax credits to subsidize a profligate educational system, but Gail Phillips doesn't think we as a society with two billion bucks a year can find a few for public broadcasting, the only decent channel on TV. I'll be damned if I can figure it out. We have too much money, and too little good sense.

Like too many other choices and decisions in Alaska today, not much of all this makes sense. Least of all killing a goose that lays a few golden eggs, while a lot of fat foxes "stand around doing nothing." Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Dan L. Wetzel



329 Katlian Street

Sitka, Alaska 99835



March 22, 1997

Members of the House Finance Committee:

This letter is written to provide strong, continuing support for the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF). Over the past years, ASTF has been an integral part in assisting Alaskan industries develop and implement new technologies that benefitted the Alaskan economy. A prime example would be the "Pouched Pink Salmon" project.

The "Pouched Pink Salmon" project was conceived by Arctic Alaska Seafoods, Inc. (AASI) and North Pacific Processors, Inc. (NPPI) and based on the canned salmon market assessment. The advent and continual development of farmed fish has nearly doubled the world's salmon production; increasing inventory while decreasing retail prices. More importantly, the technology in canned salmon has not changed since the turn of the century. Consumers were left with a limiting, antiquated product.

With the funding through ASTF, Arctic Alaska and North Pacific processors developed a viable, high quality alternative to the can. The "Pouched Pink Salmon" or PFS became and continues to be a success. In 1996, Alaska Pacific Seafoods (APS), a division of NPPI, became the largest buyer of pink salmon in Kodiak. The food service industry has bestowed praise, accolades, and purchases of the pouch product. The possibility of additional pouch production lines with other companies is real. Most importantly, year round employment was created for Kodiak with the possibilities for other coastal communities.

The "Pouched Pink Salmon" project continues to be well worth the initial \$500,000 investment. The returns have been multifold: revitalization of a diminishing salmon canning industry, creation of permanent employment, and economic benefits for a number of businesses. The lack of ASTF funding will impede new technology and developments in Alaska's industries, greatly lessening the chances of innovative projects like the "Pouched Pink Salmon" to germinate from idea to reality.

Sincerely,

John Sevier
General Manager, South East Region

(907) 747-6662

FAX (907) 747-6268

FRESH AND FROZEN SALMON, COD, SABLEFISH, HALIBUT, ROCK FISH, CRAB, HERRING



FAX TO HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE, 465-~~2278~~ 2418

FROM Karen Parr 479-6779
Finance Chairman
Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly

I was signed up to testify at the teleconference today, but was advised my turn would not come up before the 3:00 p.m. deadline, so I left. Did not realize the time would be extended. So I will write what I was going to tell you.

First, I'd like to comment on the continued decline in education funding of the past several years. While the nominal amount per instructional unit has remained unchanged, the purchasing power of that amount has declined, and the net result is that local taxpayers have had to fund a larger chunk of the education bill each year. We are told we must trim our education costs. The school board has cut out much of the administration and nearly all special programs requiring staff, such as special reading teachers, in order to maintain a reasonable pupil/teacher ratio. We have one of the lowest administrator/pupil ratios in the country. The only way to cut now is to increase the number of students per class.

The "basic education" required by the Alaska Constitution as a responsibility of the state, has been defined by the Legislature as "the amount we are willing to spend for basic education". If we tried to operate our schools on the amount given us by the state, we'd have classes of 50 students or so -- a slap to our children we could not tolerate.

The result of short-funding education every year, plus annual decreases in revenue sharing and aid to municipalities, plus non-funded mandates like property tax exemptions, has been an 18.6% increase in local property taxes over the last five years.

Some of the proposed departmental caps will make this far worse. As an example, zeroing out the solid waste program from DEC will force us to deal directly with EPA, whose rules are more stringent and more unreasonable. It will cost us \$1 million more, for example, just to cover the landfill we are now closing, because the EPA requires one grade less permeability on the material, which would then have to be hauled from far away, instead of next door. Other EPA requirements will cost us \$14 million more. This is only one community; think of the costs to cities and boroughs state-wide, all just to save \$1 million at the state level. Local taxpayers are willing to pay for local services, but why force up the price like that?

We have not heard what you plan to cut from education and funding to municipalities, but we are apprehensive. Please consider the costs to local taxpayers, when you cut state programs, and consider who is actually paying those taxes.

**ALYESKA RESORT****Facsimile Cover Sheet**

- To:**
- STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR, MARK HANLEY
 - SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR DREW PEARCE
 - REP. CON BUNDE

Company:**Phone:****Fax:**

(907) 465 - 2418, 3872, 3871

From: LARRY DANIELS,
GENERAL MANAGER 

Company: ALYESKA SKI RESORT**Phone:** (907) 754-2262**Fax:** (907) 754-2296**Date:** 03/23/97

**Pages including this
cover page:** 1

Comments:

I would urge you to reconsider the proposed budget cut which would eliminate the State Department of Tourism.

I would liken such a move to elimination of the Department of Natural Resources, Gas & Oil Leasing Department, or the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. These are all departments which help the State exploit it's natural resources.

The Department of Tourism is able to undertake pilot projects to promote the "Alaska" private industry cannot explore. The Department also provides organization and direction for the many and varied opportunities available to both prospective visitors as well as to the private sector.

On the other hand, if we would rather see the tourism industry's historic growth slow down or even start to shrink with our would-be visitors siphoned off to other destinations such as Hawaii or Canada, then elimination of Department of Tourism would be right on target.

329 Katlian Street

Sitka, Alaska 99835



March 23, 1997

page 1 of 2

Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing in response to the proposed house budget cuts to the Division of Trade and Development within the Department of Commerce and Economic Development. I am not in support of these cuts.

The Alaska Seafood industry is in the midst of a salmon crisis. We have lost our world market share through increased wild salmon stocks and the availability of farmed salmon which has significantly reduced the price of salmon. The Division of Trade and Development staff- through Governor Knowles' Salmon Industry Response Cabinet (SIRC) - has been instrumental in the development of various strategies for the implementation of many new and innovative projects for increasing Alaska's salmon marketability.

If the legislature persists in it's current impetus to delete necessary positions in the Division of Trade and Development, my company will be seriously affected. Specifically, I am concerned with my company's ability to market my seafood product in the foreign market. I depend on the Division of Trade and Development to provide foreign market information, trade contacts, the ability to meet buyers face to face, i.e., the Taiwanese trade mission, Chinese market contacts, made through the "Chinese Markets for Alaska Seafood" manual, and the availability of foreign market reports from Taiwan, Korea, China and Japan.

Loss of international trade staff will be reduced by 50%. This cripples the state's ability to maintain effective trade and governmental relations with key partners in Asia. These people handle protocol, government-to-government relations, advocacy and policy issues. Alaska's efforts to strengthen seafood exports- both in a crucial existing market such as Japan and in a previously untapped market such as Taiwan- will be undercut. (In 1996, Japan imported nearly 80% of all the state's seafood exports. Taiwan, as a new market, saw its seafood imports leap nearly 38% to almost \$20 million.) My company, as well as the rest of the seafood industry, will lose in-state contacts for Japan and Taiwan, as well as trade show and trade mission assistance receiving cut backs.

(907) 747-6662

FAX (907) 747-6268

FRESH AND FROZEN SALMON, COD, SABLEFISH, HALIBUT, ROCK FISH, CRAB, HERRING

329 Kortliam Street



Sitka, Alaska 99835

page 2 of 2

The elimination of the Fisheries Assistant position (Administrative Clerk 1) causes the loss of the ability to effectively organize industry meetings, fisheries conferences, business travel, informational mail-outs, the preparation of fisheries related manuals and all efforts to assist the seafood industry. There will be greater difficulty in the implementation of the work plan by the SIRC, the expansion of the CDQ program, and Alaska's participation in the annual International Boston Seafood Show. A clerical position is a necessary part of any team, as without this staff person the Fisheries Development Specialist will be severely limited in her ability to provide the services necessary for the advancement of the Alaska Seafood Industry.

Additionally, the loss of this position will throw a significant clerical burden to a decimated administrative unit, as well as to the professional level staff, reducing productivity, and provide no savings to the General Fund as it is funded through the Commercial Fisheries Loan Program.

Sincerely,

John Sevier
General Manager, Southeast Region

(907) 747-6662

FAX (907) 747-6268

FRESH AND FROZEN SALMON, COD, SABLEFISH, HALIBUT, ROCK FISH, CRAB, HERRING



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE House Finance
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Budget Cuts DATED 3-22-97

BILL SUBJECT

Re: Cuts to the Dept. of Tourism

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I regret I had to leave the public testimony session today before being able to testify in person. I represent the Alaska Hotel/Motel Assoc & I am a small BUSINESS OWNER. As a small business owner I have had the opportunity to MAKE MANY MISTAKES & benefit from the lessons learned from those mistakes. One classic mistake is when times are tough ~~and~~ financially — then cut the marketing budget. Results can be devastating when this approach is taken — this action can cut off the very life blood of business —

Similarly — the drastic cuts proposed for the Dept of Tourism will devastate small businesses that rely on tourism for their survival. That means loss of jobs & economic development for our GREAT STATE

SIGNED Martha Wilson

TESTIFIER

Alaska Hotel/Motel Assoc & Alaska Lodging Mgt Inc.
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

POB 72478 FB 99707 907 488-4400
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS AS BUDGET CUTS ARE REVIEWED

790 Pelican WY
FAIRBANKS, AK
99709

To: House Finance Committee
Senate Finance Committee

479-0823

Date: March 22, 1997

From: Charles (Chick) Hartman



Subject: Written Testimony on Proposed Budget Cuts,
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

I am writing you this letter as a proponent of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. I am a proponent because like most Alaskans I use the state parks many times during the year, both in summer and winter. I also should tell you that I am an advisory board member of the northern area state parks, but my testimony is as a private citizen.

In FY 87 the general fund budget for state parks was approximately \$5.25 million. In FY 97 it is approximately \$3.4 million, a 35% cut in ten years. This cut has partially been made up by gradually increasing state parks ability to budget for and collect user fees (program receipts). Today the total parks budget is approximately \$5.3 million, including program receipts.

The house finance committee's recommendation to cut \$183,900 from the program receipts budget makes absolutely no sense at all. These are funds that would be collected from users of the parks system, and do not cost the state any revenues. The only reason I can see to cut them would be so that certain politicians could posture that they cut the budget, even though no real money was saved; I hope no members of these committees would stoop to this type of "smoke and mirrors."

As a boardmember, I am familiar with the staffing levels and funding for the state parks in the northern area. You might not know that presently there is only one seasonally funded ranger in the whole Chena Hot Springs Recreational Area. I believe that there is only one seasonal ranger in the Harding Lake to Delta area. The division of parks does a great job of extending these employees' usefulness by hiring seasonal help consisting of the Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC), and by utilizing a very large volunteer force. Cutting their budget will reduce their ability to make use of these efficient ways to run the state parks system.

Alaska's state parks are the largest in acreage of all the states. In visitation numbers, they are approximately 35th. In staffing levels, they are 49th, and they would be by far the lowest, if Hawaii had not almost completely privatized their state park system. This is the situation that you as legislators are promulgating when you consider more budget cuts to the Division of Parks. Instead of proposing mindless cuts, please support a modest increase in the Program Receipts portion of the parks budget, as is requested in the governor's budget. This small increase is to fund maintenance items such as sewage pumping for additional roadside outhouses that the legislature funded last year. Hardly glamorous items, but also of vital importance to anyone who does much traveling on Alaska's road system.

As a citizen of Alaska, I believe that there are cuts needed in our state budget. What I don't believe is that Alaska's citizens want wholesale budget cutting of every state program. There are agencies that have already been cut to the bone; the Division of Parks is one of them. I strongly believe that most people in Alaska would support a moderate increase in the budget for state parks. Please listen to these people. Please do not continue with these wholesale cuts without thinking of the results.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE Finance Committee
Mark Hanley/Pete Kelly
 COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Childcare/ Jobs Program DATED 3-22-97

BILL/SUBJECT

My name is Karla Lomax. I am a client in the JOBS Program. You want people to get out and get jobs, I hope, to support their own families. And you expect them to do that with no skills and no education. You cut childcare, and the JOBS program and in a short time you will need to figure out how to decrease the levels in child abuse, alcoholism, homelessness and many others. Do you want that?

The JOBS Program enabled ^{me} to get my GED in December because the GED program waived the fee as I was a JOBS client.

JOBS has enabled my Husband to attend classes to obtain his GED.

JOBS has given me hope for the future and the knowledge I can truly do anything I put my mind to. ~~It~~ Fortunately for you, my plans do not include taking your job in the future. I'd rather be a police officer, which JOBS has also helped me to take action on. Unlike you I will serve and protect this community.

SIGNED

Karla D. Lomax

TESTIFIER

Karla D. Lomax / Sheila Kivi (NASW)

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1120 Washington Dr. #7 FBKS, AK 99709 (907) 456-2702

ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

Attn: House Finance Committee
Rep. Gene Therriault
Rep. Pete Kelly
Rep. John Davies

Dear Representatives:

I am writing to voice my concern regarding the House Finance Subcommittee's proposed cuts to the FY 98 Operating Budget.

I am a single parent of two small children, I am proud to say I have never experienced such a hardship in which I had to rely on welfare, and I would like to be able to continue to provide for my children in such a manner.

I would like to say I support welfare reform, and think it is a positive step for our country. But in order to successfully move people off welfare, there must be assistance available to insure quality care for their children. Most recipients of welfare have limited skills, which means low paying jobs. How can a family of a low to moderate income cover all expenses such as food, clothing, shelter and childcare. I know first hand child care is expensive, my daycare bill is \$840.00 per month. If child care assistance was not available to me, I too would be a welfare recipient!

I am greatly opposed to the proposed cut to eliminate the Child Care Grant Program. This grant makes it possible for Child Care Providers to continue education in early childhood development. Enables them to gain resources and materials to enhance a child's learning skills. Quality care is already hard to find, please do not make it impossible for providers who truly care for children, to teach them. This is a cut that will effect every family that uses Day Care Facilities. Early childhood development is extremely important in the nurturing of our children into productive, successful adults. As a Tax Payer I would much rather see our tax money spent developing a child's mind at an early age, and guide them to become responsible adults. When trying to rehabilitate a juvenile when it may be too late.

I am thankful I can work, pay my bills, feed my family and support my children. I am thankful for the Child Care Assistance that I receive. Please do not cut funding from this vital program, without it I truly believe you will see More of the working poor on Welfare.

Respectfully Yours,

Milissa Ackels
830 5th Ave #A
Fairbank, Ak 99701





ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE Finance Committee
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Childcare cuts / job program DATED 3-22-97
BILL SUBJECT / #

To whom it may concern,

I believe the deep cuts in the job program + childcare will do a great deal more damage than what is apparent on the surface.

I know that people on welfare must work, yet we want to cut childcare + the job program. Several serious consequence may follow. People may be forced to leave children alone, have inadequate people watch their children etc... I am sure when people are pushed so hard, then given no opportunities to win; the incidents of child neglect + abuse will rise. I say lets atleast provide for the children, they are our future. It appears to me that we will have a great influx of people needing assistance. For instance, the working poor. By cutting child care benefits this puts them in a position to not work or succeed.

~~With~~ as far as medical care, I believe a state like Alaska should provide care for all children. Actually even the poor deserve health care. I believe it would shame our state to allow people to die because of lack of funding for medical care.

With the proposed cuts we will have more problems economically. I believe I would rather leave a state that does next case, rather than support middle class predators.

SIGNED

Shaila Kivi

TESTIFIER

NASW

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

3142 Lawrence Rd N. Anchorage AK 99705 498-7993
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE WAFSS
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON _____ DATED 3-21-97
BILL/SUBJECT

Once again the attack begins on the poor, disabled, and children. How can welfare reform possibly work without sufficient child care, housing, medical care, or adequately staffed assistance programs. Please reconsider. I would like to challenge the legislators to spend some time in the real world ~~are~~ of those people who rely on rental assistance, child care, medicaid & related programs and see what it's like.

SIGNED Luis Bush
TESTIFIER

Single Parents & Displaced Homemaker's
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

510 2nd Ave Flks AK 99701
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

WAF
TVC



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE DHRS
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON Budget DATED 3
BILL/SUBJECT

I want to express my concern and disbelief at the recommended budget cuts to child care assistance and rental assistance. The common ground that the majority and minority and people like me was that welfare reform was necessary. For welfare reform to work these programs need to be increased, not cut. Moving from welfare to work takes increasing child care assistance. More families on welfare will need more child care for the required work or volunteer time required by the w regulations. Volunteer work is unpaid entry level jobs to support \$700-800/mo child care costs. You need to support the efforts required within welfare reform to make it successful. Child care costs + rental assistance are a necessary parts in this complex plan of reforming the welfare system. The goal is to get more people into the working world, supporting their families. Please consider leaving the budget for these programs at current levels, or provide for increases. Thank you for your consideration.

SIGNED

Green Cummings
TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1267 Jacquelyn Lane, North Pole Ak 99705
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

My name is Cheryl Keepers, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I oppose cuts in child care programs: child care grant, education & training, resource and referral programs are all small but important pieces of state support for child care.

In this state we have learned the importance of quality education through our schools, we have learned the value of quality education through programs like Head Start, yet we have trouble seeing that child care is at least as important to the learning and growth and development of our youngest children. Cuts that decrease the quality of care are very short sighted.

I oppose the cuts to the Department of Health & Social Services, especially to the programs that might make it possible to actually achieve welfare reform: cuts to staff levels within Public Assistance; cuts to supports for parents as they try to achieve self-sufficiency, such as child care assistance and Medicaid; and refusal to use available federal dollars to improve state services through one-stop efforts.

I also oppose cuts to child support enforcement. All children deserve the support of two parents. If one parent chooses to be irresponsible, the state is better served in calling that parent to task than having to provide assistance out of our tax dollars. CSED caseworkers bring in half a million dollars each per year: eliminating 7 positions would be penny-wise and pound foolish.

There are other cuts I question, and increases that seem ill advised if we are truly in need of trimming the budget. Increasing legislative spending while cutting funds for wheelchairs is just plain tacky.

I have heard it said that families ⁱⁿ our state are in better shape now than 5 years ago. Then why is Alaska still suffering from the highest rate of domestic violence? Why did one out of three Fairbanks residents turn to charity, the local Food Bank, for supplemental food last year? Let's not fool ourselves: some of us are better off, but many are not.

I realize you have hard choices to make: but I urge you to not make hard-hearted ones.

Cheryl Keepers
Box 7489B
Fairbanks, AK 99707

March 21, 1997

Representative Gene Therriault
State Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Therriault,

As Executive Director for Fairbanks Native Association, I am writing to express my concern regarding the recommended budget cuts in Medicaid. As the Department of Health and Social Services portrays the Medicaid situation, a reduction of the governor's proposed Medicaid non-facility budget line item of \$3 million would result in cuts that would significantly impact several of our substance abuse treatment programs, two of which provide essential services for women with children and expectant mothers. The greatest impact will be on our Women and Children's Residential Treatment Program. A loss of benefits to cover substance abuse/mental health and targeted case management/rehabilitation services means a loss of approximately \$180,000 annually in client pay which comes from Medicaid payments.

FNA's Women and Children's Program is the only one of its kind in the state. Its outstanding reputation has been instrumental in promoting the health and well-being of women and children from throughout Alaska. Funding for this program comes primarily from the federal government (annual budget of approximately \$900,000) with all the benefit going to the state at a minimal cost of approximately \$90,000 by way of Medicaid billings.

If the situation is other than that portrayed by the Administration with the current house budget, please advise me. However, if the potential for the cuts are correct I would request that you take action to avoid these reductions or direct the Administration not to allocate the reductions as they have indicated because they would negatively impact treatment programs for women and children.

If you or your staff have any questions whatsoever regarding this matter, please give me a call at 452-1648 ext. 223. FNA will be testifying via teleconference on Saturday, March 22.

Sincerely,

John W. Regitano
Executive Director

cc: corr out excc
Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Representative Pete Kelly
Representative John Davies

3-2297

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

I am writing of my support in funding ALL Childcare Assistance programs and grants.

Being a single parent of two, I rely on the daycare assistance program. This program helps me with the costs of childcare enabling me to support my two children WITHOUT being on welfare.

I work, pay rent and I am able to give my children a quality life. I can support their needs.

Without the childcare assistance program BOTH of my paychecks would have to be used to pay childcare costs, leaving nothing leftover to for food or rent. ~~Eliminating~~ the childcare assistance program would literally FORCE me to stay home and turn other assistance programs to feed and support my family.

I NEED my job and my children rely on the income from my job. Without the help from daycare assistance I couldn't afford to work.

Having a child with a disability raises the cost of care for this child. Thus childcare costs for me would Double

MARK-22-91 SAI 11:58
Monica McLeod
611 E. 41st St. Anch 98504
1-907-337-9608

ANCHORAGE LTU

FAX NO. 9072581201

3-22-97

~~SENATOR~~ Hanley,

Thank S for listening
to me today. I hope
that you won't cut medica

DENTAL VISION

and Physical
Therapy
Vision

If you can't figure out
what I mean then write
me at 611 East 41st #1

CITY OF ST. MARY'S

P.O. Box 163
St. Mary's, AK 99658
(907) 438-2515

March 22, 1997

To: The House Finance Committee

From: Walton Smith, City Manager of St. Mary's

Gentlemen, due to time constraints I was not satisfied with my brief comments to you by telephone a short time ago. I wanted to elaborate my concerns.

All of the proposed health, social services, legal system and tourism cuts have an impact upon our village and the villages of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. We lack the majority of basic services locally that your cuts will impact. But we will feel the effects as local residents have even greater difficulty in receiving these scarce services.

As you cut programs that serve individuals as well as cut programs to small communities, our village budgets are further restricted. At the same time, we have greater pleas for assistance from local residents. I cannot cut 30% of my manpower from a department that has only one worker.

My major goal has been to keep our water and sewer services funded and functioning. This task becomes more difficult each year. As you make cuts to other basic services, disposable income drops, and local people can no longer pay the city for water and sewer. As you cut other programs to villages, we cannot continue to subsidize the operation of these services.

I have a commitment to these services not only for us, but for the other communities of the Y-K Delta. Many of our villages do not have the benefit of flush toilets and circulating water systems. This is one of the most basic of human services. Most of the increase in life expectancy that has occurred in the world this century has been a consequence of the provision of good sanitation and the public health movement, not of sophisticated medical procedures. Yet these basic services seem to be the first that are cut when the budgets get tight.

You have indicated that you will cut the DCRA budget, particularly in the area of the RUBA program. While I know we cannot demonstrate with this program that we have "saved a system"; the program has provided invaluable services to villagers as well as State and Federal agencies. These services improve the planning, development, and management of village sanitation systems. This helps to insure that the State will be able to reduce assistance in the future that might otherwise be necessary to keep a system running. Your additional direct cuts to DCRA will eliminate some LGS positions that represent some of the most productive workers within DCRA-- a further cut to our villages.

I hope the House Finance Committee can review their current decisions on budget cuts and pursue alternatives to the gap between spending and revenue. We are few in number in the Bush, so we do not represent a great deal of power with our votes. We can only hope that our representatives collectively act from a stance of concern for residents rather than a concern for the votes of individual interests from their respective constituencies.

Thank you for your consideration.

RECEIVED

March 18, 1997

MAR 22 1997

To: Mark Hanley

It seems strange that our government considers our disabled citizens so unimportant!!! I have a granddaughter who is severely disabled and has been since she was six weeks old. She needs constant care and gets it at home, but if her benefits are cut, it will be a tremendous burden on her family. I'm not writing just for her. There are a lot of children, teens and adults on the Kenai Peninsula who will be very "Hard Hit" by the proposed cuts.

The cuts made back in 1987 to the department of developmental disabilities of 19% was never regained. Programs have been expanded to meet more service demands with no additional funding made available. What do you expect??? I have been directly asked by legislators on where to cut in all of Alaska's budget, and after careful consideration, I consider the following to be areas that could substantially be cut.

1. salary cuts of all teachers
2. the arts-- drama society, music, dancing, drawing and painting. Let people pay for these pleasures themselves rather than getting support from our government.
3. Sports--this should not be a part of any government grants.
4. Expensive trips and dinners of our government officials.

I also understand that there was illegal selling of land in past years by the State of Alaska that belonged to the Mental Health Trust. Had all the properties disposed of been left to the mental health trust, as was the original intent, the income would have covered all the needs of our disabled citizens.

All the disabled citizens I have met, are first class, NOT fourth class as you have designated them.

Do not support the cuts to the Medicaid program.

Elizabeth J. Bartlett
Soldotna grandmother



Ms. Elizabeth Bartlett
190 W. Park Avenue Apt. 4
Soldotna, AK 99669-7565

3700 McGinnis
Juneau, Alaska 99801
789-9370
March 24, 1997

Dear Legislator:

I have just read the EMPIRE (3/21/97) article which purports to summarize the proposed cuts in the state budget and their "potential" impacts. I am agitated by the doom sayers who pronounce that such reduction in government services (intrusion) may or could hurt individuals. The editor headlined an accompanying article, "Budget cuts would mean drastic change for many Alaskans" (accents mine).

The proposed reduction in level of funding for public broadcast is warranted on a values base as much as an economic one. The folly of extensive security measures for government buildings is expensive. It would have taken unusual security measures which would violate commonly accepted freedom of movement to prevent the Oklahoma City tragedy. This move seems to be more a "make work" program.

I believe tourism, fishing, and other industries should fund their own promotion. The same is true of using government funds to subsidize the construction and/or operation of housing. Why should a private property owner have to compete with such unreasonable competition? Why not established with state funds "The Mother of All Tourist Shops" enterprise?

Medicaid has outgrown its proper bounds. I know of cases in which goods and/or services were provided which had little if any lasting benefit to the recipient. Much press is given to the extravagant number of heart bypass, joint replacement, and other surgeries which occur. It often seems to benefit the medical establishment more than the patient. The bureaucracy is implicated, also.

The Alaska Science and Technology Fund is another "boondoggle" pushed by those who seek to be "on the edge" of new development. The recent participation by ASTF in the governor's push to place Internet access into all our schools smacks of "political paybacks".

I personally believe Senior Services could be reduced. I recently became a senior, though still employed. I have long argued that the Longevity Bonus is based on an invalid argument. I can receive only \$100 per month because of my birth year, though some whose children brought them here in old age get \$250; perhaps having spent only one year in Alaska. If an Alaskan senior needs help to stay in their home or community, let's seek to help them. BUT to aid in building an estate is not worthy.

I propose education funding be rethought. I believe the state has an obligation to seek some equity in opportunity. This does NOT infer everyone will graduate from high school having met specific test objectives, regardless of how long it takes. I know that some have been funded for over SIX YEARS in their high school career alone. I say, "That's too much".

I suggest the state legislature consider funding a maximum 14 years education, adjusted for out of state time. Our youth and their families and probably our society may gain even more if we can open our thinking to allow more parental choice. Charter schools may be a start.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

Bill Elkinton


FAX: March 22, 1997
465-2418
Public Testimony re: House Majority Budget Plan

From: Taber Rehbaum, President, Arctic Alliance for People, Fairbanks
P.O. Box 438, Ester AK 99725 458-0423

Arctic Alliance for People strenuously opposes the proposed cuts in the Health and Social Services budget. As the Department endeavors to implement last year's agreed upon Welfare Reform plan, it is critical that the resources with which to enact meaningful reform be available. Budget reductions in Health and Social Services would be shortsighted and illogical, a recipe for failure for the painstakingly crafted Welfare Reform plan. In order to reduce future Welfare costs to the State, people must be properly prepared for work. This means funding Jobs Training and Child Care, both of which are targeted for drastic reduction in the House Majority recommendations. Proposed cuts would also cost the State of Alaska an additional \$4 million in Federal dollars. Medical assistance, including prosthetic devices and rehabilitative services, is also targeted for massive cuts, as well as prevention programs (Healthy Families), Youth Probation Services, and General Relief Assistance (which has been in place since territorial days). The proposed reductions in the HSS budget would be devastating for all Alaskans.

We hope that our legislators will carefully review the impact of these proposed cuts, maintain current levels of funding for the Department of Health and Social Services, and make sure that the essential components of Welfare Reform (Jobs Training, Child Care, Public Assistance Field Services, ATAP, General Relief, Medical Assistance) are funded to the levels projected to be necessary by the Department.

Let this be a legislature remembered for allowing more Alaskans to become independent and productive citizens rather than one whose actions create new legions of the hungry and homeless in our fine state.

Thank you.
Taber Rehbaum 

ALASKA CHAPTER

national electrical contractors association, inc.

712 West 36th Avenue • Anchorage, Alaska 98503
(907) 561-1858 • FAX (907) 561-8633

March 22, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

VIA FAX TO (907) 465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley:

I just left the Legislative Information Office in Anchorage so I could fax some testimony to your committee for consideration in your budget deliberations. Our organization represents electrical contractors throughout the State of Alaska. We are concerned with the proposed cuts in the Department of Labor's budget for FY 98, especially following the cuts made last year.

The Department of Labor is charged with several responsibilities, including enforcement of Wage and Hour requirements, Mechanical Inspection (including electrical inspections) and Occupational Safety and Health. As an employer-association representing employers in the construction industry, we are concerned with maintaining responsible levels of wages, benefits and working conditions for the employees of not only the firms we represent, but all employees in the industry. Maintaining a level playing field for all who compete in our industry is important to our employers and their employees. Adequate and consistent enforcement of existing wage and hour requirements, safety regulations and installation standards is vital to that level playing field. At current levels of funding, enforcement activity is at a minimum. In fact, two inspector positions were eliminated last year due to budget cuts (one electrical inspector and one boiler inspector), leaving the northern portion of the State without an electrical inspector.

THE TOP OF THE WORLD CHAPTER



Representative Hanley
March 22, 1997
Page 2

Active inspection of electrical, plumbing and boiler and pressure vessel installations is an important public safety function. Rural areas that cannot support building safety departments depend on State inspectors to provide at least a minimal amount of inspection activity which combined with the licensing requirements that Labor also enforces gives some assurance that installations meet the minimum code requirements adopted by the State. We urge you and your committee to not reduce the level of these activities any further.

I would like to point out that employees working for our contractor members pay the Department of Labor fees for certificates of fitness for their classifications. These fees were increased substantially in the recent past to \$80 per year which is more than double the fees paid in other northwest states. It only seems fair that a minimum level of service could be provided in light of their willingness to help support the program.

Recent comparisons of bid estimates put together by our contractors made against the reported hours of competitors' wage and hour reports have revealed significant and consistent differences in the amount of hours estimated by our contractors versus those actually reported by the successful bidders. Certainly not all contractors will have the same amount of hours estimated to perform a project, but the differences are significant enough to cause concern. Without adequate enforcement of the wage and hour requirements and even education of the employers and employees as to the requirements, the playing field tilts in favor of those employers not meeting the requirements.

We realize that your committee has a difficult job and judging by the testimony I heard and the large number of people present to testify, I can see what you're up against. We are asking for your consideration on behalf of responsible and active employers and the people they employ to fund an adequate Department of Labor budget.

Sincerely,
Alaska Chapter, NECA

Steven F. Boyd
Steven F. Boyd
Chapter Manager

To House Finance
TC # 70466/Budget
10 pgs
465-2418

To: House Finance Subcommittee for Health and Social Services
From: Concerned Citizen, Margaret J. Grasse
RE: Medicaid Cuts to Medicaid Options

Restoration of Vision, Dental, and Hearing Services.

Mammography

Prosthetic Devises

Medical Supplies & Equipment

Targeted Case Management

Rehabilitation Services

Alaska Work Program, ATAP Program, General Relief

Childcare Benefits, Cuts to Public Assistance Staff

Mammograms:

Cost 85.00 at 35 years for baseline

recommended on annual or biannual depending on age

Preventive medicine costs are less expensive

Early detection reduces the need for invasive treatment.

Medicaid should cover the cost of a preventive treatment

Medicaid options are preventive and maintenance items

and are more cost effective than crisis management of

progressive disease.

**Do Not Cut Medicaid Options
They are the Most Cost Effective
Medical Treatment**

Margaret Grasse
24251 Hamann Rd.
Eagle River, Ak. 99577

TESTIMONY BEFORE LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE / RALLY

My name is Charlie Johanson-Adams and I am here as a member to the Eagle River - Chugiak Community, a director of a local non-profit, (that provides Head Start and early childhood services) an advocate for children and families, and a member of the state team for revising child care through welfare reform.

The proposed budget cuts to the welfare reform act are premature. We have been given a rare opportunity as a state to design and implement one of the most monumental movements of our time. The promotion of individuals and families to increase independence and decrease dependence on the government system

There have been statewide efforts to assist in the design of our state plan for welfare reform. Program managers, non-profit directors, private, licensed child care owners, campfire (before and after school care) program leaders, children's recreational program directors, state and local officials, public assistance personnel, and consumers (our parents) are to name just a few of the dedicated, grass-roots, community level people willing to make a difference.

The Child Care plan will be complete mid-April. Within its contents there lies strategies which strengthen collaboration, encourage consolidation, increase partnerships with private corporations and broaden the relationship with tribal groups. The plan emphasizes growth, independence and an all out streamlined effort to simplify the system so that parents can easily access the program for their child care needs.

Without this plan, without the budgetary support from legislature, without these options for families working themselves off welfare, we are endangering our children. Their safety is at stake when their parents are forced to choose between work and care.

Give this plan a chance to prove it's value. Allow the state departments and local authorities to proactively support community programs which provide options of child care while parents are at work or in training. Let's not make this yet another reactionary way to meet the needs of families and children.

CHILDREN DESERVE OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY. That should go without an explanation.

March 22, 1997

Charlie Johanson-Adams

PO Box 671891

Chugiak, Alaska

99567

907-688-1499

Barbara Dubovich
phone 279-3551
fax 278-9829

I am Barb Dubovich and I represent the Alliance of Child Care Professionals. This group focuses on issues concerning children, families and providers of child care.

We are alarmed by the proposed budget cuts to child care and the resources for those who provide care for children.

The four specific areas of most concern are -Welfare Reform, -Families, -Training for low income caregivers and the fact that Resource and Referral agencies weave all these pieces together.

These cuts will devastate the only hope our state has of having an integrated child care system for families needing care. I have served on 2 subcommittees of the State Welfare Reform Child Care Team and know that plans for the future of our state depend heavily on Resource and Referral Agencies providing linkages for families, communities and providers. This plan will greatly enhance a parent's ability to access child care services **necessary** to enable parents to go to work!

The training program provided by R & R's is vital for child care staff who most often are part of the working poor of this state. It provides them with accessible and affordable training to improve their ability to work with children and helps to insure the safety of kids.

Ask any parent if they feel that is satisfactory for their child to be cared for by an individual who **lacks** training? Are parents willing to accept child care options where substandard care is being provided due to lack of training and funding? Are parents able to pay additional costs for child care?

Imagine a structure that has a platform which holds thousands of young children who receive care. Through Welfare Reform, we have said that thousands of additional children need to be added to that structure. We cannot dismantle the foundation that this platform sits on without creating unsafe and unstable conditions for children. We must be looking for ways to guarantee that this foundation is safe and secure!

I urge you to maintain the Child Care Grant Program, Resource and Referral Agencies and the Education and Training program! Anything less will be detrimental to children's safety and their parent's ability to go to work!

The Republican Party of Alaska

Pete Hallgren, Chairman



March 22, 1997

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Public Hearing on State Operating Budget
Legislative Information Office
Anchorage, Alaska

ATTENTION:

Rep. Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Rep. Eldon Mulder, Vice Chair
Rep. Pete Kelly
Rep. Terry Martin

Rep. Gene Theriault, Co-Chair
Rep. Gary Davis
Rep. Vic Kohring

Members of the House Finance Committee:

I wholeheartedly support the Republican Legislative Majority's plan to reduce the Alaska state operating by \$ 60.0 million during this session. It is vital that the state continues along a path of fiscal responsibility to ensure that we do not plunge over the financial cliff when our reserves run out. It is also crucial that elected officials NOT BREAK THEIR CAMPAIGN PROMISES, otherwise, voter confidence in our democratic form of government is seriously weakened.

Remember how the voters rewarded Republicans in the last election when they kept their promises?

The voters of Alaska have sent a resounding mandate in electing the strongest Republican Majority to the Legislature since statehood last November. As the President himself has admitted, the era of BIG GOVERNMENT IS OVER!

We must continue to work to re-new investment confidence in Alaska by reducing the insatiable appetite for government to consume our tax dollars. Industry will be reluctant to invest here unless we reign in our runaway state government. Alaskans are strangled by a maze of bureaucracy and regulations which stifle and smother enterprise and individual initiative.

We have the unbelievable situation where government agencies use our tax dollars to lobby and publicly advertise to milk more tax dollars from the Legislature in Juneau.

We have the unbelievable situation where state workers in Alaska make approximately eight percent (8% MORE THAN THEIR PRIVATE SECTOR COUNTERPARTS!) This is backwards from what it should be.

We have the unbelievable situation where Alaska spends nearly FOUR (4) TIMES AS MUCH MONEY PER CAPITA than the national average (see attached statistics).

We have the unbelievable situation where lobbyists swarm the halls in Juneau to suck more money from state coffers into pet projects and programs for the special interest groups.

But who speaks for the little guy? Who speaks for the working man who doesn't have the time nor the money to fly to Juneau and express his opinions? I ask you to not forget the silent majority who sent you to Juneau to do a job, AND THAT JOB WAS TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT!

YOUR MANDATE WAS NOT TO RAISE TAXES!

1001 W Fireweed Lane, Anchorage AK 99503 • 907-276-4467 • 907-276-0423 (fax)

No doubt you will hearing the endless shrill cries from the liberal special interest groups who seem to have more vocal cords than numbers, and you must not flinch at this crucial time in our state's history. If you flinch, and do not stand firm **AND JUST SAY NO** to these special interests, our opportunity to finally reign in the bloated state budget to a sustainable level may be lost for a long time.

I would venture to say that 9 out of 10 people who complain to you not to cut government did not vote for you, and never will. Please don't forget that crucial point.

Alaska voters are an impatient bunch, we will not get another chance at this. Republicans who squander this chance may imperil our future opportunities to elect fiscally responsible legislators. The liberals know this, and are trying to crack your resolve on the budget. They know that if you cave in, they win. They win because Republican core supporters will abandon us, and either move to a third party, or just "stay home" during future elections.

The liberals are also running an all out assault to pass a tobacco tax. This is simply a Trojan horse to generate more revenue to feed government. You must understand that liberals routinely must **"PRACTICE" RAISING TAXES**. That's right, they practice raising taxes. One year it will be alcohol, the next year the oil industry, next tobacco, next tourism. **THERE'S NO END TO IT.**

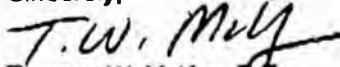
Who will be the next to be taxed? You and I? Our children? Our parents? Your business? My business?

In closing, I urge you to stay on track with the plan to cut \$ 60.0 million this session. I am convinced the voters will richly reward us in the next election. Remember, we represent thousands of Alaskan voters who are not represented by any lobbyist or special interest groups.

WE CANNOT AND MUST NOT LET THEM DOWN!

Thank for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. McKay, P.E.
Vice Chairman
Republican Party of Alaska

(907) 265-6890 (work)
(907) 276-4467 (RPA office)
(907) 276-0425 (RPA fax)
(907) 522-9218 (home)

cc: Representative Gail Phillips
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100), Room 208
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 485-2689

Senator Mike Miller
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4978

RPA State Central Committee

Promises made... Promises kept

Thank you Republican Legislators!

*"Reduce government spending
No new taxes"*

The Republican Party of Alaska hereby salutes the 19th Alaska Legislature for their government reform, economic development and anti-crime accomplishments and for standing firm against Gov. Tony Knowles' "higher taxes, increased spending" special session.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Senate President Drue Pearce House Speaker Gail Phillips
Senate Majority Leader Rick Halford House Majority Leader Al Verrey

REPUBLICAN SENATORS

Senator Steve Frank Senator Lyda Green
Senator Tim Kelly Senator Loren Leman
Senator Mike Miller Senator Randy Phillips
Senator Steve Rieger Senator Bert Sharp
Senator Robin Taylor Senator John Torgc. r.

REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVES

Honorable Alan Austerman Honorable Ramona Barnes
Honorable Con Bunde Honorable Gary Davis
Honorable Joe Green Honorable Mark Hanley
Honorable Jeanette James Honorable Pete Kelly
Honorable Vic Kohring Honorable Pete Kott
Honorable Terry Martin Honorable Beverly Mueck
Honorable Elton Mulder Honorable Scott Ojars
Honorable Sean Parnell Honorable Brian Porter
Honorable Norm Rokeberg Honorable Jerry Sanders
Honorable Gene Therrault Honorable Cynthia Tinkley

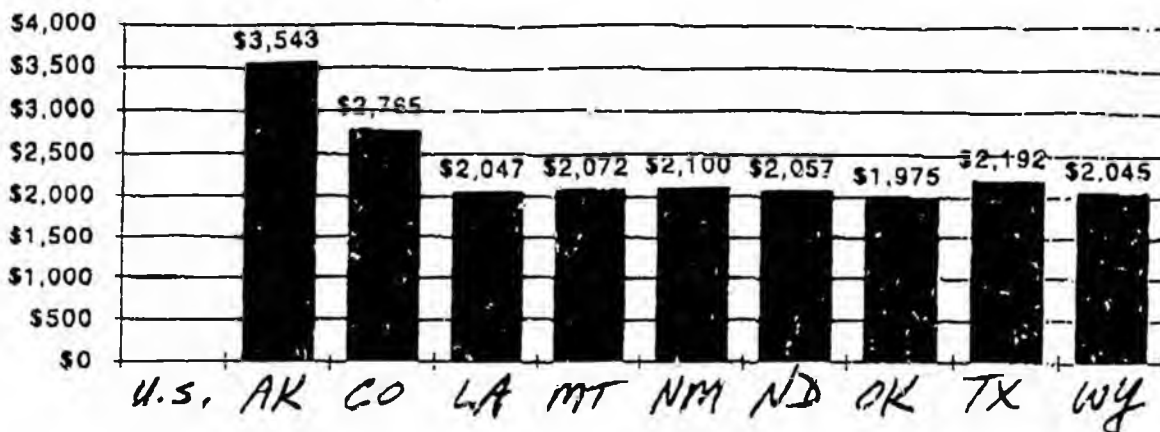
Proximately Signed by the Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Alaska

Pete Hallegren *Tom McKay* *Shelby Anthony Reese* *Edna DeVries* *Sandy King* *Rockie Connor*
Chairman Vice Chairman National Commissioner National Commissioner Secretary Address Secretary
Robert K. Shisley *Greg Gussard* *Patrick R. Martin* *Larry Baker* *Ken Jacobson*
Treasurer Alaska Treasurer AFRW President Finance Chairman Local Council
Don Thompson *George Martin* *Robert Wilder* *Mark Wright* *Mark Campbell* *Pat Fogarty*
Region 1 Chairman Region 2 Chairman Region 3 Chairman Region 4 Chairman Region 5 Chairman Region 6 Chairman

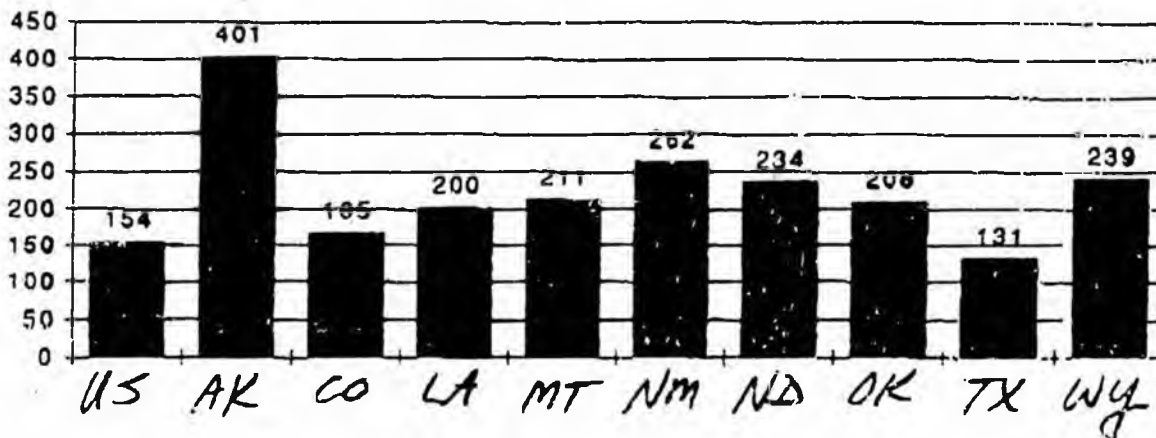
Alaska State Spending Facts

- 1) Alaska spends \$ 8,523 per person overall, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 2,306, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 2,430, Alaska being 3.5 times higher than our peers.
- 2) Alaska spends \$ 1,921 per person on Education, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 744, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 853, Alaska being 2.3 times higher than our peers.
- 3) Alaska spends \$ 689 per person on Welfare, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 423, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 302, Alaska being 2.2 times higher than our peers.
- 4) Alaska spends \$ 844 per person on Highways, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 178, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 272, Alaska being 3.1 times higher than our peers.
- 5) Alaska spends \$ 71 per person on Police, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 21, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 20, Alaska being 3.3 times higher than our peers.
- 6) Alaska spends \$ 10,648 per person on Debt, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 1,193, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 1,474, Alaska being 7.2 times higher than our peers.
- 7) Alaska has 431 State Employees per 10,000 people, as opposed to the U.S. average of 154, while our peer states have 102 State Employees per 10,000 people, Alaska having 3.9 times more State Employees than our peers.
- 8) Alaska State expenditures for salaries and wages is \$ 1,510 per capita, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 408, while our peer states average \$ 492, Alaska paying out 3.1 times as much money as our peers for salaries and wages.
- 9) Alaska's per pupil school expenditures are \$ 8,374 per student, while the national average is \$ 4,960, and our peer states' average is \$ 4,282, with Alaska spending 1.96 times as much on education per student. Quantity but not quality???

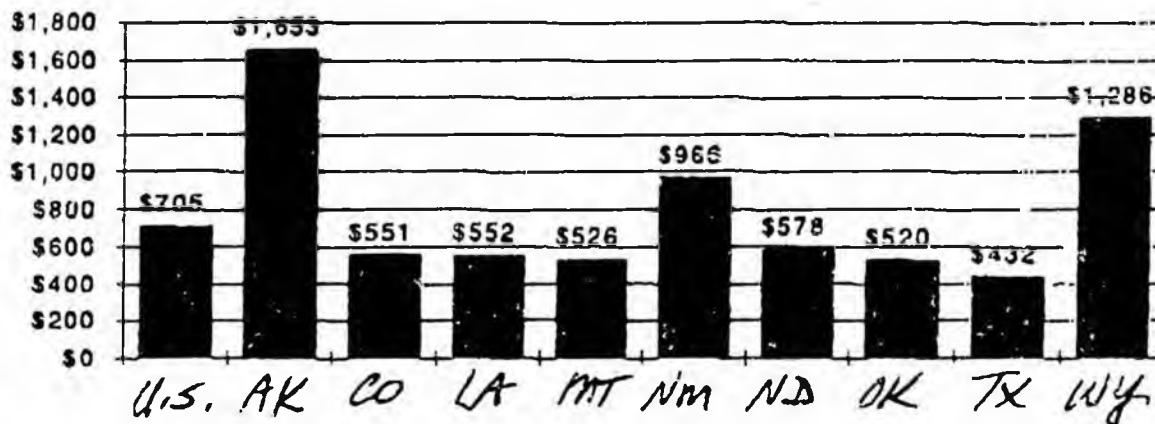
Average Monthly Earnings -- State Employees



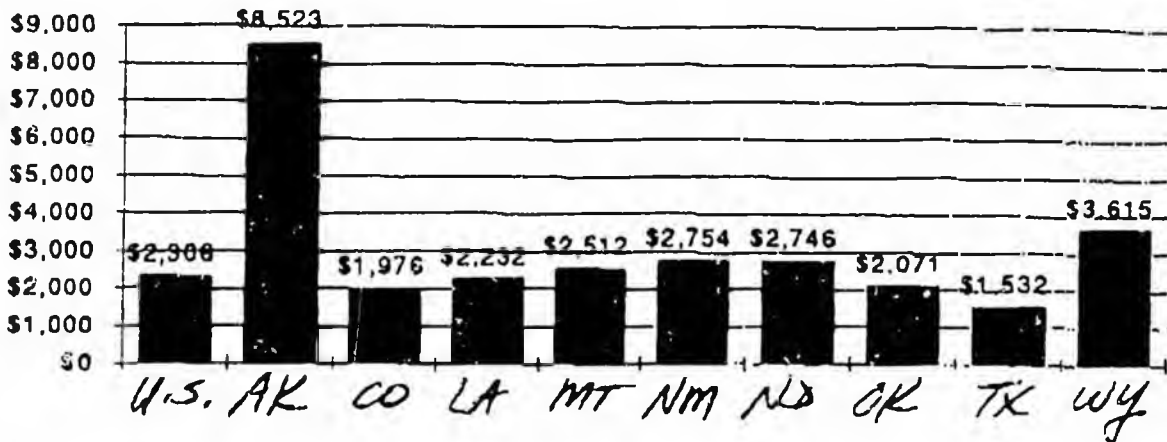
State Employees per 10,000 Population



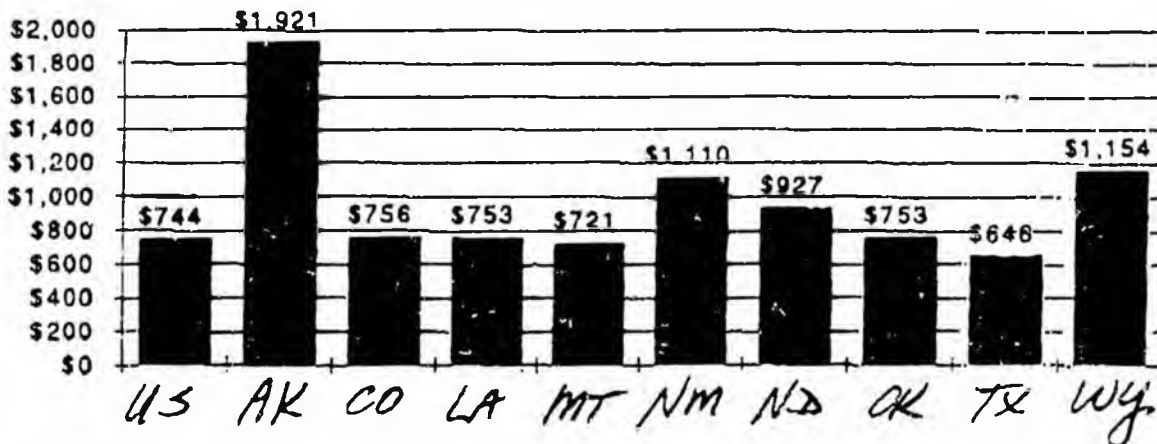
Per Capita State Expenditures -- Intergovernmental Expenditures



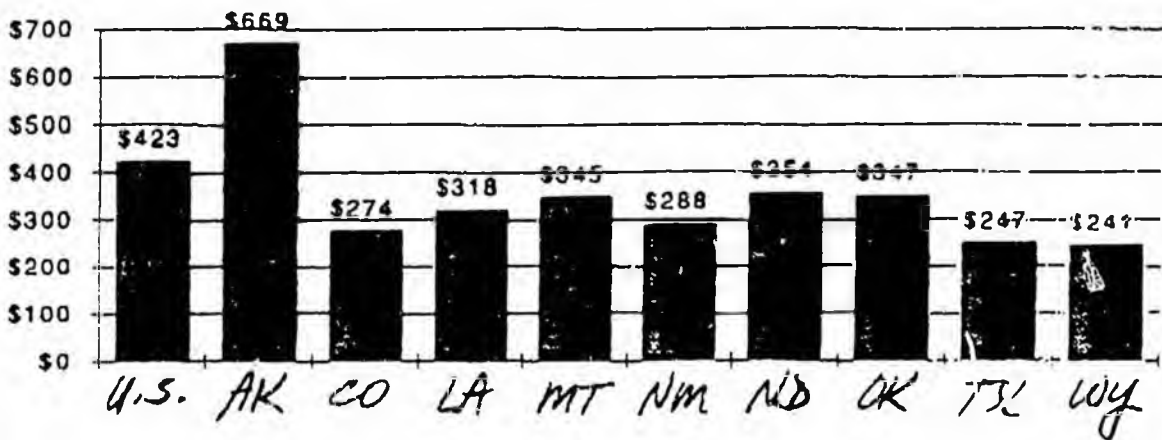
Per Capita State Expenditures -- Total



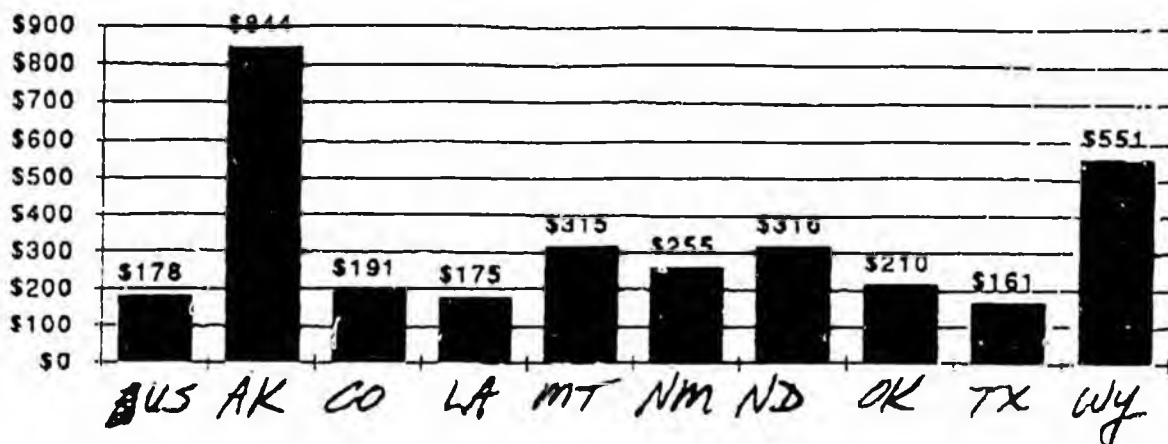
Per Capita State Expenditures -- Education



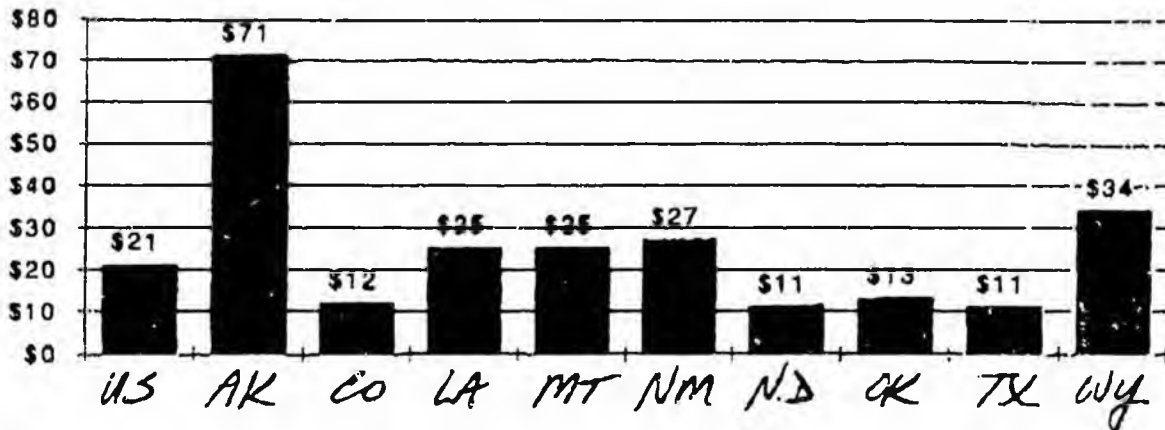
Per Capita State Expenditures -- Public Welfare



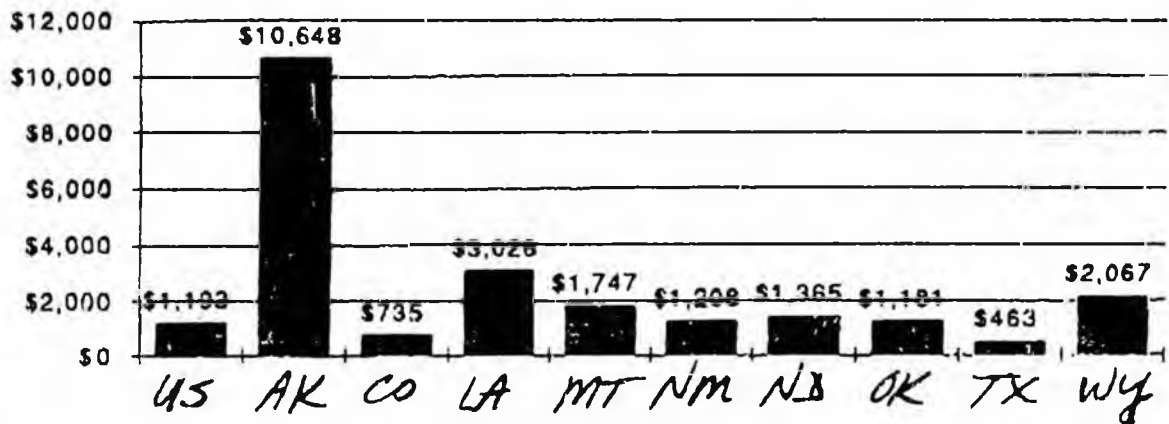
Per Capita State Expenditures -- Highways



Per Capita State Expenditures -- Police



Per Capita State Expenditures -- Outstanding Debt



**FROM: Johann Hamerski
P.O. Box 110371
Anchorage, AK 99511
(907) 345-2056**

**TO: House Finance
907-465-2418**

I wish to comment on how important it is to support the funding for National Geographic Society Programs for home schooling. I was home schooled and National Geographic played a pivotal role in my education. I read about runestones in National Geographic and was able to use that knowledge to create the theme for Anchorage using a runestone. I designed and coordinated the construction of the "Anchorage Welcomes You" theme park on the Glenn Highway and Airport Heights Road. I read all about the Antarctic in National Geographic and was inspired to travel there myself. Because I knew how important the history was on the Falkland Islands from reading about them in National Geographic I was able to save Shackleton's grave site and several other historic sites in the Antarctic. These are only a few of the ways I've used knowledge gained from National Geographic. In essence I consider I use some of it daily in my business life and as a home schooling family we are perpetuating the National Geographic tradition in our home. We have greatly appreciated the programs put on by National Geographic. We have attended several workshops the most recent one was this past fall put on by Debbie Chalmers. Her enthusiasm helped to light the spark of interest for our daughter in her world and we came home with various projects, maps and information. We have incorporated these materials into our daily work and get invaluable use out of the large world map. Please continue to fund and support National Geographic in the home schooling program. It is our link to the world.

**Ear
Nose
Throat**
CLINIC

Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery
Richard P. Raugust, M.D.
Eric M. Tallan, M.D.
Bruce G. Whipple, M.D.

Audiology
Arthur F. Larson, M.S., CCC-A

March 17, 1997

Rep. Mark Hanley
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am writing this letter as a concerned physician on behalf of Alaskan Medicaid recipients. I have been informed that the legislature is currently considering modifications to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services budget that would eliminate 4.65 million dollars from the current Medicaid budget. As you know, this results in an additional cut of 4.65 million dollars of federal matching funds, resulting in a total cut of 9.3 million dollars. The cost of providing patient care is ever increasing, as technology advances and new treatments become available. Thus, in an environment of increasing medical costs, not only is the Medicaid budget not being increased or maintained, but is facing further cuts.

I would like to bring to your attention certain features of health care in Alaska, which are unlike any other state in the union:

- 1) Alaska has a large subsistence and seasonal population that cannot afford, or do not receive health care benefits.
- 2) There are no so-called charity hospitals that receive state monies to provide care to the indigent.
- 3) There are no teaching hospitals staffed by resident or student physicians to provide care to the uninsured population.
- 4) Alaska's Medicaid population consists primarily of children. As a result, the private sector is called upon to provide care to all uninsured and Medicaid patients without the assistance of government subsidy or the use of resident physicians or medical students. Moreover, if further cuts are made, the majority of those beneficiaries who will be affected are children.

Finally, I would like to point out my concern that lobbyists of nursing homes, hospitals, and other well-organized institutions

Representative Mark Hanley
March 17, 1997

Page 2

will likely protect their portion of the Medicaid budget, forcing these cuts onto the physicians who provide the actual care, and the administrators that oversee and regulate hospital and nursing home services. I thus hope that you will reconsider the Medicaid cuts that have been proposed and the way in which these cuts are to be made.

Sincerely,



Eric M. Tallan, M.D.

EMT:ecr

cc: Bob Labbe
P.O. Box 110660
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0660

ATTENTION: Representative Mark Hanley

1743 Willow Street
Fairbanks, AK 99709
March 21, 1997

| | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------|------|---------|---------------|------------|---|
| Post# | Fax Note | 7871 | Date | 3/21/97 | # of pages | 1 |
| To | State Legislature | | From | Robin Randall | | |
| Co./Fax | Mark Hanley | | Co. | | | |
| Phone # | | | Phone # | | | |
| Fax # | 465-2418 | | Fax # | | | |

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am extremely concerned that services for people with disabilities are under consideration to be slashed. This can't be possible again!

The proposed cut that concerns me the most is the \$4 million Medicaid cut. Medicaid has recently taken some major hits to dental, vision and occupational therapy services, all of which are necessary for good health and quality of life. Now preventative medicine ie. mammograms and pap smears; and substance abuse and mental health rehab services are being scrutinized. Unbelievable! It's as our representatives in Juneau are making the statement that low income people including those with disabilities just aren't worth keeping alive! Someone needs to inform them that breast cancer is one of the leading causes of death in women in our state.

People with disabilities must have adaptive equipment in order to survive. Big ticket items such as wheelchairs and hospital beds are out of the reach for even the middle class, let alone the poorest of our citizens. This latest attack that will hinder the quality of life for people with disabilities has got to be stopped! Why is it so difficult to comprehend that allowing people to live at home costs our state about **ONE THIRD** the cost of institutionalization? That's a 66% savings; now that's what should be making sense. Medical and adaptive equipment are essential to achieve these results!

I will be at the hearing tomorrow, (Saturday) and hopefully get the opportunity to scream bloody murder!

Sincerely,

Robin Randall