

HB

403/404

(File 2)

SFIN

FILE

HB 403

OPERATING
BUDGET

PUBLIC
TESTIMONY



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
Committee Name
 Committee on State Operating Budget Dated April 18, 2002
Bill / Subject

see attached statements from myself and
 my wife, Marsha Knobel

SIGNED: Ronald L. Smith
 Testifier
myself
 Representing
P.O. Box 80272, Fairbanks 479-4644
 Address / Phone Number
3635 Rosie Creek Rd.

To: All members of the Alaska Legislature

From: Ronald L. Smith
P.O. Box 80272
Fairbanks, AK 99708
3635 Rosie Creek Rd.
ffrls@uaf.edu
479-4644

Re: Current status of proposed state operating budget

I am submitting my opinions by FAX because there will be many others who will wish to call in and time will be limited for everyone to register their opinions. I am responding to the general tone of the legislative deliberations so far this session and, more specifically, to the comments made by State Commissioners as reported in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner Wednesday April 17, Section B, pages 1-2.

To say that I am upset and really fed up with the Republican majority-led slashing of the State's operating budgets for the past four or five years would be a massive understatement. It appears that the Republican majority consists primarily of a group of mean-spirited, self-serving reactionaries. Overall, they appear to wish we lived in a third-world country free from the burden of paying for the amenities of civilization. Certainly, we appear to be rapidly moving toward third-world status based on the cuts that appear to be coming at the end of the legislative session. I bet most third-world countries that are interested in attracting tourists have restaurant inspection programs. Inspections are as much a matter of public safety as is appropriate levels of law enforcement. How can anyone honestly tout Alaska as a tourist destination when the State doesn't even inspect its own restaurants? If the restaurant inspection goes away I'm thinking seriously about paying for a large advertisement in the New York Times informing their readers that Alaska doesn't care enough about the safety of tourists to continue restaurant inspections. It is more important that each Alaskan receive a lot of free money, not pay state income taxes or state sales taxes than it is to protect the health of visitors and residents. That should play well in the lower 48!

We don't have appropriate law enforcement either, thanks to cuts to the State of Alaska operating budget made by previous wrong-headed legislators. Now, according to the News Miner, we can look forward to losing four more State Troopers from the interior. Maybe the State Legislators should have their houses broken into, as we did several years ago, and have no trooper ever show up to get our story directly. Maybe the Legislators should have a party at their homes, have someone drive by, put five bullet holes in a guest's car and have overworked, out-of-sorts troopers show up and be rude, arrogant and belligerent to the **VICTIMS** of the crime rather than the perpetrators. This actually happened to me and my friends. We need **more** and **better** law enforcement in Alaska, especially the interior, not less. Further cuts to the Division of Public Safety are **UNACCEPTABLE**.

What is the sense of closing Alaska State Parks? The tourism industry is crying for help and you people want to stop restaurant inspections and close State Parks! Don't bother maintaining state roads either. That way, tourists can destroy their cars hitting chuck holes, tell all their friends and relatives back home and, consequently, tourism will take a real nose-dive. Cutting the restaurant inspection program and closing the state parks is **UNACCEPTABLE**. The only logically consistent thing I've heard so far is cutting the \$2 million to promote tourism. If the state isn't going to insure their safety and enjoyment of Alaska, don't get them up here in the first place.

How about promoting or assisting a forest products industry in the interior? How better to stifle that industry than by cutting back on the Forestry Division, the agency that develops and administers timber sales? Cutting the Division of Forestry is

UNACCEPTABLE. Of course, the stock answer from conservative legislators is that there is so much waste in these State Agencies. In my opinion, the most wasteful aspect of the entire State Government is the State Legislature. Here is an idea for an unfunded mandate that would save the state \$37 million. Quit funding the State Legislature! Legislators shouldn't get a salary, per diem or travel expenses. You can all serve for gratis...like a number of programs or activities you have passed into State Law but for which you provided no funds.

I spent 31 years teaching and doing research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The University system is one of the significant money-makers for the state of Alaska while providing a tremendous^{ly} valuable set of educational services. Not fully funding the University system is shortsighted and costs the state millions of dollars in lost income and economic development. If the legislature were really compelled to cut waste it would direct the UA system to eliminate satellite campuses in rural communities; the cost per credit hour out there is astronomical. What? Not politically expedient to talk about whacking rural communities? Where is your courage; don't you really want to cut the waste? Cutting the UA system budget (by flat funding) is **UNACCEPTABLE.**

All the wrangling in the legislature over the exact type of **inadequate** tax to impose on the citizens of the state has really been tiring. Inadequate because it won't raise enough money to cover the presumed shortfall. Of course, every legislator hears from the most vociferous constituents, all of whom want to pay nothing or next to nothing for all the services they claim they don't really get. There are a lot of us who are ready to pay for the services one would expect to receive while living in a civilized society. I looked at the budget worksheet provided in a recent update letter by Rep. John Davies. I didn't respond then but I am now. I think the PFD should be cut in half, making available revenues of about \$500 million. I think there should be a statewide sales tax of at least 2% and a statewide income tax of at least 2% of the federal tax. Objections about those fat cats who pay no federal income tax getting away without paying state income tax? Levee the state tax as a proportion of the gross adjusted income (1040, page 2, top line) instead of the actual federal tax paid. We need to start thinking out of the box here! These measures would almost completely cover the presumed shortfall. I think there will be a huge outcry from a minority of people. Those people are always free to move to another state...where their tax burden will be much higher than Alaska's with these new measures in place. Their places will be taken by others willing to live in the last frontier, pay their share and have some of the evidences of civilization.

It occurs to me that most of what I've heard from the last five or more legislatures is their desire to promote economic development in the state of Alaska. It also occurs to me that, with the single exception of oil exploration and development, the legislature seems to be behaving in a way to accomplish exactly the opposite. Who would want to move to a state where restaurants aren't inspected, state parks are closed, the streets and roads are not maintained, homes and businesses are unsafe and unprotected, the tourism industry is hamstrung, the forestry products industry is hamstrung, sustained fisheries and hunting opportunities are hamstrung by cuts to ADF&G...Does this sound like an inviting picture? I don't think so. What good is all that free money (PFD check) if you feel someone could walk into your home (or stop your car) and take it and no public safety officers would **EVER** show up?

Finding solutions to our state's problems requires real leadership. Leadership sometimes requires leaders to make agonizing decisions that aren't going to be popular with some of their constituents but which are necessary for the good of all. Finding a long-term budget solution is one of those cases. Putting off or ignoring a long-term solution is **UNACCEPTABLE.**

DATE: April 18, 2002
TO: Alaska State Legislators
FROM: Marsha Knobel
SUBJ: Budget Cuts

P.O. Box 80272
Fairbanks, AK 99708
479-4644

Marsha Knobel

What the heck is wrong with you people?! Wednesday's Daily News-Miner reports that you are cutting state trooper positions, Fish and Wildlife employees, closing state parks, cutting road maintenance, and eliminating food inspection services. This in addition to leaving UAF high and dry. Have you totally lost your minds?

For one thing, I don't believe we have this billion dollar deficit (see Dermot Cole's column enclosed), or at least the state has money to cover a deficit if you would just use it. To better outline my opinions, here's what I think:

1. As I have written to you before, **DO NOT CUT STATE TROOPER POSITIONS, especially in the interior.** We have been short the necessary trooper coverage for several years as the population here has grown. My husband has written in his letter to you about the house theft we suffered four summers ago. Our front door was kicked in, over \$1,000 in property was stolen, (including jewelry belonging to visiting relatives), and no trooper ever responded. The over-worked officer who did get the case finally had no time to properly investigate. My husband even had to buy back his own camera from the pawn shop where we tracked it down--pawned there by a red-headed woman with tattoos all over her arms! There used to be a burglary-suppression unit here but that had to be done away with years ago when staffing was cut. I won't even describe the drive-by shooting at our home. My husband mentioned that too. I do know, what I have to do now is get a Carry and Conceal Permit. I've been shooting guns for 55 years, feel very comfortable with one, and it looks like I'll have to take steps to protect myself and our property since you--the political leaders we count on--don't seem to think law enforcement is important.

2. **DO NOT CUT RESTAURANT INSPECTION FUNDING.** Have you ever had salmonella food poisoning? Believe me, it's not pretty. I contracted that a few years ago from a local restaurant that purchased bad eggs. True, a food inspector might not have been able to determine the eggs were tainted but at least produce sellers and restaurant owners should know that some kind of quality control is in place. It's crazy for Alaska to tout tourism as one of their main economic sources and then entice visitors to come here and eat in uninspected restaurants! And what about us locals who want to patronize our city and borough restaurants? We should have the confidence that these businesses are clean and held to high standards.

3. **DO NOT CUT UNIVERSITY FUNDING.** This just goes on and on--the cutting and lack of acknowledgment of education's vital place. I've written to you before about this. I guess there must be thousands of Alaskans telling you not to fund the university system with one more dime because the voices of us who support funding are not being heard.

4. **DO NOT CUT FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION.** This is a lot like trooper cuts. How can the biggest state in the union, and one of the last places on earth to still have real space with real wildlife, not take care of its responsibilities?

5. **DO NOT CLOSE INTERIOR STATE PARKS.** There goes the tourist market again. How can you possibly think anyone wants to come here when they can't camp in or visit a state park? And, what about those of us who have lived here over 30 years like me and want to enjoy the outdoors. So much for touring around our own state.

Maybe I'm just too simple-minded about this, but it seems obvious where the money is to fund these essentials. I suggest any of all of the following:

1. **CUT THE PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND.** You're probably all shaking in your boots to even think about that because a wailing and moaning will echo throughout the state. Hey! This free money thing is obscene and embarrassing. I was raised on a farm in Nebraska and my

family worked our butts off making a living and were proud of every dollar earned. Alaskans don't have some God-given right to have this dividend and we should rue the day this decision was made. At least, cut the dividend in half and set it at that. Having a couple thousand dollars sent to me will not offset getting mugged because there's no trooper to help me, or I'm in the hospital getting my stomach pumped from food poisoning.

2. INSTITUTE AN INCOME TAX. There must be thousands of selfish, stupid people in this state if they think they can have everything they want for nothing. I cannot possibly conceive of expecting to have a safe place to live, decent roads, a good university, a land with sensibly monitored wildlife programs, clean restaurants, accessible parks--without paying something for the privilege. We citizens have to be willing to fund these things.

3. INSTITUTE A SALES TAX. This seems to be one of the fairest tax methods.

4. TAKE MONEY OUT OF THE PERMANENT FUND. I need to be more educated about this area of government, but I'm sure there's money we can use. As I've said in prior letters, we are told this is the state's "rainy day" money. According to you in Juneau, we are facing a cloudburst of typhoon proportions so why is that fund so sacred and untouchable? I don't get it.

Lastly, DO SOMETHING! Quit being so afraid of everything. Is somebody going to come to your home and shoot you if you vote for an income tax? Well, don't call the troopers if you live in Fairbanks because either nobody will come, or, by the time they get there, you'll be a goner. You've got to start ignoring this whining bunch of people or whoever is controlling your thinking about our funding. I'll bet the people who don't want their dividend reduced, who don't want to pay for anything, are those I see driving down the road pulling their four snow machines, headed for the pull-tab parlor and then to the Silver Spur for a night of partying. Listen to your Commissioners who are saying these cuts are "nonsense" and "embarrassing". This is like a continuing bad dream. I'm sending this plea that you all find the nerve to take action and get the money we need.

Fund's earnings make 'billion

IT WAS GEORGE ORWELL who wrote about the "magical property of names."

"Nearly all human beings feel that a thing becomes different if you call it by a different name," Orwell wrote.

In this regard, whenever you hear a reference to the state "\$1 billion deficit," it's not exactly the right name for Alaska's financial condition.

We need a new budget vocabulary. There is no \$1 billion state deficit because there is not a \$1 billion gap between all revenues and all expenditures.

This is not to say that our political leaders have misrepresented the great downfall in state income that has occurred with the decline of Prudhoe Bay oil production. The decline in direct oil income is undeniably true.

It's just that largely out of force of political habit, we haven't included as income the huge gains in recent years in the

value of stocks held by the permanent fund. It is unrealistic to expect those gains to continue forever, but Alaska's fund has benefited greatly from the bull market.

The names we use to describe the state's financial situation influence our perceptions. They can also influence our opinions about whether our state can afford such things as public television, for example.

Whatever one may believe about what Alaskans and our elected officials should do about state spending, it would be best to first check our addition and subtraction.

If financial analysts from other states were asked to check Alaska's balance sheet, I can't imagine they would agree with the assumptions that have led to what has become in our political and journalistic shorthand, a \$1 billion deficit.

The bean counters would look at the earnings from the

Dermot Cole



state's largest investment account, which are expected to total \$2 billion this year. They would soon grasp the concept that \$999 million of the money is to be paid out in dividends to Alaskans and \$287 million is likely to be deposited back in the fund to help protect the buying power of the principal.

But they would have a hard time accepting the logic that the other \$700 million in income doesn't belong in the final tally. They would want to know why some of that money can't be used to help finance the government.

For guidance they might be directed to the state revenue forecast, which states: "Perma-

dollar deficit' a misnomer

nent fund income may be legally appropriated in the same manner as unrestricted revenue, but the established practice has been to treat Permanent Fund net income as if it were restricted."

That practice grew out of the time when direct oil income paid all the bills for state government in Alaska. But that time has passed because oil production at Prudhoe Bay is half of what it was a decade ago and prices are down.

Even if prices were to rise sharply, the drop in production has been so great that nothing will bring back the era when oil money financed everything.

In this new era, legislators are beginning to look at revising the "established practice" because our options are limited.

"There's now general agreement between the House and Senate on some use of Permanent Fund earnings, but the House is still resisting taxes.

That could change," former Fairbanks legislator Mike Bradner wrote in the latest edition of his newsletter, Alaska Legislative Digest: An Inside View of Alaska Policy.

In planning state budgets, Alaskans have focused almost entirely for 20 years on the price of oil.

While oil income has been on the decline for many years, investment income has been on the rise.

Alaskans still watch the price of oil as if our financial future depended on it, but more and more it is the people's account known as the Permanent Fund that makes up our state's financial foundation.

The action of OPEC is no longer as important as it once was to Alaska, but the action in the stock market, where half of the permanent fund is invested, has become far more critical to Alaska's future.

A RECENT LEGAL OPINION by the law firm of

Morrison & Foerster, requested by the trustees of the permanent fund board, dealt with several important questions.

The legal opinion, which has the concurrence of the attorney general, stated unequivocally that the definition of "principal" includes all money required to be deposited under the constitution, plus additional appropriations by the Legislature. The Alaska Constitution mandates that the principal of the permanent fund can not be spent, but must be invested in ways that produce income.

The constitution further mandates that the permanent fund board is to manage its assets to generate income for distribution as the Legislature directs.

In our vocabulary the earnings ought to be counted as income, a name change that would help frame the budget debate in a more accurate manner.

Dermot Cole is a News-Miner columnist. He can be reached at cole@newsminer.com or at 459-7530.

William Bowler
 P.O. Box 327
 Glennallen, Alaska 99588
 dmbowler@alaska.net.

April 21, 2002

To . Mindy Rowland
 Secretary
 Senate Finance Committee
 Alaska Legislature

Subject - SB 289 RE: EMS/^{Grant}Funding

I've heard this past week that reducing state EMS grant funding is being considered. To the Copper River EMS participate, it will have an immediate effect on EMT training programs, and eventually there will be a lack of certified EMTs much of the time for such a vast area.

President Bush's comment on emergency services being our first line of response to terrorism in this area of investment. I've been an EMT + ambulance driver with Copper River EMS since September 1981. Skill levels, commitment, equipment, and transport capacity have never been better. Much of this has been through the constant recruiting and training at the Basic + ACLS levels.

I trust, the legislative committees to consider the importance of a constant influx of new EMTs to a program as ours. Price? Suggested cuts would amount to \$12,000.00/year for the Copper Basin

Thank you
 Bill Bowler

FAX FROM:

TANANA TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 77130
Tanana, Alaska 99777
(907) 366-7170 phone
(907) 366-7195 facsimile

To: Senate Finance Dept: _____

Fax #: (907) 465-2187 Date: 4-19-02

Re: _____ CC: _____

Pages including cover sheet: _____

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• Comments:

THIS FAX WAS SENT TO YOU BY:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie M. Roberts
Executive Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Carla K. Bonney
Health Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer R. Johnson
Administrative Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Peters-Zuray
Environmental Specialist | <input type="checkbox"/> Gerald D. Nicholia
Realty Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Swenson-Nicholia
Accountant / Bookkeeper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thelma Starr
Tribal Court Clerk | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael L. Andon
Housing Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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Public Testimony at Senate Finance

April 17-18, 2002

In Juneau and at Legislative Information Offices (LIO) statewide.

This is the only opportunity for the public to testify on the Senate version of the operating budget.

Teleconference sites for each time period are listed alphabetically. This does not reflect order in which testimony will be taken. If you have any questions please contact the Juneau LIO at (907) 465-4648.

Emails from the public may be sent to Senate Finance's secretary: mindy_rowland@legis.state.ak.us
Faxes may be sent to Senate Finance at (907) 465-2187

Public Hearing Schedule:

People wishing to testify may want to arrive early in the event testimony from previous LIOs concludes before the scheduled time. Meetings will conclude at the stated time or when all those present have made their comments.

*Testimony will be taken until the time indicated unless there are no testifiers remaining, in which case the testimony will be terminated. Testifiers are advised to be on site at least 30 minutes before the end of the allotted time.

The Legislative Information Office in the communities listed below:

Wednesday, April 17, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.
 Formally adopt committee substitute work draft
 4:00 - 4:45 Dillingham, Homer, Seward, Valdez
 4:45 - 5:30 Cordova, Kenai, Kodiak, Bethel
 5:30 - 6:15 Glennallen, Petersburg, Sitka
 6:15 - 7:00 Break
 7:00 - 9:00 Anchorage

Thursday, April 18, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 9:00 - 10:00 Mat-su, Delta Junction, Ketchikan, Tok
 10:00 - 11:00 Wrangell, Nome, Kotzebue, Barrow

Thursday, April 18, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.
 4:00 - 5:15 Offnet Sites 888-263-1555 (only time for statewide call-in that is not scheduled through the LIO office - line may be busy)
 5:15 - 6:30 Fairbanks
 6:30 - 7:15 Break
 7:15 - 9:00 Juneau

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From-TANANA CHIEFS CONF

Apr-18-2002 03:08pm

of 1

TANANATRIBAL COUNCIL

ID:9073667195

APR 19 '02

8:46 No.001 P.02

Subj: **Public Testimony on Senate Budget Cuts**
Date: 4/18/02 5:00:51 PM Alaskan Daylight Time
From: JULIEMROBERTS55
To: mindyrowland@legis.state.ak.us

I am very concerned about the many different cuts that the Senate is currently contemplating. The one's that I am most concerned with is the cut to the most neediest of all, and that is with the permanent dividend to the low income. Take the most from the most neediest! Especially when many cannot even defend themselves. How cruel can the Legislature be, when there is so many other places that can be cut. The other concern I have is with the cuts to DOT - how can we expand and bring the cost of living down and also how will we be able to increase our opportunities with tourism and access to natural resources. This approach is so backwards!! Lets go forward.

Thank you in advance for your considerations

Julie Roberts
Executive Director
Tanana Tribal Council
Tanana, Alaska 99777

119 N. Grejman St. Suite 101
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: 907-452-4440
Fax: 907-452-3340

**Fairbanks Legislative
Information Office**

Fax

To: Senate Finance Committee **From:** Fran/Fairbanks LIO

Fax: 465-2187 **Date:** April 18, 2002

Phone: 465-4935 **Pages:** ~~20~~ ~~18~~ 19

Re: Written Testimony, Budget Hearings **CC:**

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Comments: Written Testimony for the SFIN teleconference on 04/18/02. The originals will be pouched to the SFIN committee.

**Senate Finance Committee Testimony
Senior Support for Full Funding of the
Human Services Community Matching Grant Program**

My name is Denise Daniello and I reside at 3844 Ullrbahn Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709. I am the executive director of the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center. I, along with 115 registered Alaskan voters, the majority of whom are Fairbanks area seniors, support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program as demonstrated by this petition. The HSCMG provides critical funding for the Meals on Wheels service administered by the North Star Council on Aging.

Meals on Wheels is a vital community service for elderly people. It not only provides hot nutritious food to feed the body, but a caring delivery person who nourishes the soul. For some elderly people, especially those who live outside the city limits, the Meals on Wheels driver may be the only human contact a person will have all day.

The North Star Council on Aging provides the Meals on Wheels service for 143 homebound seniors of the Fairbanks area targeting at-risk elders who are frail, disabled and/or financially in need. Of those individuals, 94% (134 persons) suffer from crippling arthritis, heart disease, Parkinson's disease or Alzheimer's, 66% (95 persons) are low-income earning less than \$1,000 per month, and 63% (90 persons) are categorized as both medically impaired and financially in need. Meals on Wheels enhances the quality of life by providing healthy food and social contact for these individuals.

Meals on Wheels is cost-effective. The home-delivered meal helps the elderly stay healthy and remain in their own homes, where they want to be, as opposed to being placed in a nursing facility for illnesses related to malnutrition. The daily room and board rate at the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital is \$826, as compared to \$9.48 for a MOW meal.

The demand for Meals on Wheels is increasing. Today, we have 21 elderly people on a waitlist for Meals on Wheels. We need more funding for senior services, not less.

Last year, the North Star Council on Aging prepared 41,500 meals, traveled 36,400 miles delivering meals, and used our \$50,000 HSCMG grant to leverage almost \$300,000 in outside funds. The HSCMG is a sound community investment we support. Thank you.

We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Eller	Stella	2178 FAGAN	FBKS	AK	99701	Stella Eller
2	Lockhart	Kowe	P.O. BOX 74408	FBKS	AK	99709	Kowe Lockhart
3	ERICKLOOK	MARTHA	1620 WASHINGTON ST	FBKS	AK	99709	Martha Ericklook
4	Wetbridge	Frances	11807 Washington	FAK	AK	99709	Frances Wetbridge
5	KIMMER	PALE	2451 AUSTON	FBK	AK	2451	Edith Kimmer
6	M. K... ..	Mary	1770 Prudhomme	FBKS	AK	99709	M. K...
7	B. Fisher	Blennie	1512 Palmer	FBK	AK	99709	Blennie Fisher
8	Stevens	Cornie	1005 Oakwood	FBKS	AK	99701	Cornie Stevens
9	Wason	Viola	312 W. ...	FBK	AK	99701	Viola Wason
10	AKPIK	HENREY	101 COLLEGE	FBKS	AK	99701	Henrey Akpiik
11	Grant	Bill & Lyla	410. ...	FBK	AK	99701	Bill & Lyla Grant
12	Braun	Bill & Joan	428 E. ...	FBK	AK	99701	Bill & Joan Braun
13	Johnson	Lessie	525 Craig Ave	FBK	AK	99701	Lessie Johnson
14	Robertson	Joseph	125 3rd Ave	FAK	AK	99701	Joseph Robertson
15	Tremblay	Irma	P.O. Box 7010	FBK	AK	99701	Irma Tremblay
16	Selamanski	Louise	3206 ...	FBK	AK	99701	Louise Selamanski
17	BELESI	CARLINA	321 H. ...	FBK	AK	99701	Carlina Beleksi
18	Bioda	Charles	370 3rd Ave	FBK	AK	99701	Charles Bioda
19							
20	BEHNET	PEARL	333 3RD AVE	FBKS	AK	99701	Pearl Behnet

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We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	ABEL	GLEN	405-BARANOV AVE	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701-3200	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	W. Jiff	Ernest N	P.O. Box 80989	"	"	99708	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Ogden	Krista	3845 Potter Rd.	Fairbanks	AK	99709	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Nottingham	Juanita	PO Box 80946	Fairbanks	AK	99708	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Nottingham	Charles	PO Box 80946	Fairbanks	AK	99708	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	Katherine	Peter	575 Letic Ave Dr.	FBKS	AK	99712	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Turner	George	1235 Fitzgerald	FBKS	AK	99712	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	TURNER	Joseph	702 TURNER CT	"	"	"	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	TURNER	LAVON	702 TURNER CT	"	"	"	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	BISOTTI	LISA	300 HEALAND Ed # 11	"	"	"	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	Goodrich	BETTY	3259 Repp Rd	FAIRBANKS	AK	99705	<i>[Signature]</i>
12	BURNS	MARLENE	P.O. Box 55048	FAIRBANKS	AK	99705	<i>[Signature]</i>
13	LOSL	JUNE	1921 ENDICOTT AVE	FAIRBANKS	AK	99705	<i>[Signature]</i>
14	TARPENING	ALYD	P.O. Box 58217	FAIRBANKS	AK	99711	<i>[Signature]</i>
15							
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We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	SOLE	LARRY	Box R 3066	FBKS	AK	99708	Larry Cole
2	TERMINAL	JAMES	700 Fairbanks St #138	FBKS	AK	99708	James Terminal
3	NEWMAN	Florence	PO Box 7001	FBKS	AK	99708	Florence Newman
4	Grigyan	Susie	1304-24th Ave E-2	Fbks	AK	99701	Susie Grigyan
5	SMITH	CHARLES	P.O. Box 71306	FBKS	AK	99707	Charles Smith
6	METZ	Alice	PO Box 84475	Fbks	AK	99708	Alice Metz
7	METZ	Duane	PO Box 84475	FBKS	AK	99708	Duane Metz
8	Hensley	Ruby B.	2121 Turner St	Fbx	AK	99701	Ruby B Hensley
9	LAWLESS	Sue	PO Box 71734	FBKS	AK	99707	Sue Lawless
10	BURTNESS	Catherine	1418 Turner St.	FBKS	AK	99701	C Burtness
11	WISE	George	1523 Gillan W	Fbx	AK	99701	George Wise
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We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Cynthia Frank	Jack	330 3RD GT.	FBKS	AK	99701	Cynthia Frank
2			330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99701	Barbara Peterson
3	Linda Clark		330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99701	
4	Barbara Peterson		330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99701	
5	Barbara Peterson		330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99701	Barbara Peterson
6	Deanne Flynn		330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99701	Deanne Flynn
7	Maureen Holland		Northwood	FBKS	AK	99701	Maureen Holland
8	Maureen Holland		Northwood	FBKS	AK	99701	
9	Maureen Holland	Kathleen	Northwood	FBKS	AK	99701	Kathleen Holland
10	Maureen Holland		Northwood Bldg	FBKS	AK	99701	
11	Maureen Holland		MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	
12	Maureen Holland	Liane	MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	Liane Holland
13	WALLACE	LOLU	MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	Lolu Wallace
14	TODD	BETTE	1922 Kenai Ave	FBKS	AK	99701	Bette Todd
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We, who have signed our names below, support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund the Meals on Wheels service provided by the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, AK.

Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Tuxgood	DOROTHY	PO Box 60203	FAIRBANKS	AK	99706	Dorothy Tuxgood
2	GEIGER	SILVIA	3246 ADAMS	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Silvia Geiger
3	HUNTER	DIANE	455 AVENUE ^{3rd} apt 323	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Diane Hunter
4	HARDY	WENDY	1805 JACE ST.	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Wendy Hardy
5	SAVOYE	JOE	1420 MOORE ST	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Joe Savoye
6	Doniello	Denise	3844 Ullrich Rd.	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Denise Doniello
7	Bachler	JUDY	PO Box 71538	FAIRBANKS	AK	99707	Judy Bachler
8	Thompson	WILSON	PO Box 60596	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Wilson Thompson
9	Walters	HEATHER	PO Box 72646	FAIRBANKS	AK	99707	Heather Walters
10	Macarone	INSEBRING	105 3rd Ave	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Insebring
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Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Pandell	Hazel	303 W. Cedarwood	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Hazel Pandell
2	Fischer	Melissa	P.O. Box 34032	FAIRBANKS	AK	99707	Melissa Fischer
3	Curry	Julia	310 W. Cedarwood	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Julia Curry
4	Lyons	Guinevere	1187 Kodjak St.	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Guinevere Lyons
5	Thompson	Barbara	1187 Kodjak St.	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Barbara Thompson
6	SYROGROUND	Mary	3303 1st Ave	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Mary Syroground
7	Jackson	Maria Rose	1515 2nd Ave	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Maria Rose Jackson
8	Chappel	GORDON	11456 TURNER	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Gordon K. Chappel
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Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

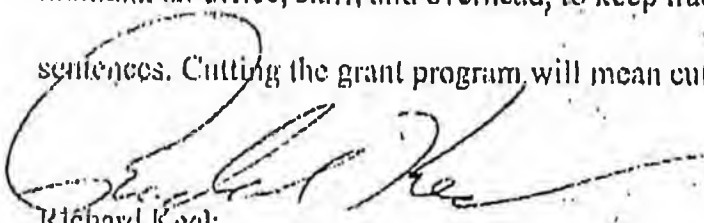
PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	MERCER	DORIS	1790 OLD PIONEER	FBK	AK	99709	<i>Doris C. Mercer</i>
2	Isabel	BEIJNAS	1416 Noble	FBKS	AK	99701	<i>Isabel Beijnas</i>
3	HOWARD	GRACE	330 - 3rd Ave	FBKS	AK	99701	<i>Grace Howard</i>
4	Hale	Sally	862 Spruce Dr	FBKS	AK	99712	<i>Sally Hale</i>
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I oppose the proposed 25% cut to the Human Services Community Matching Grant. As a Board member of the North Star Youth Court, which has received funding from this source, I want to say:

1. The NSYC reduces the burden on the juvenile justice system and the court system by prosecuting juvenile misdemeanors. The NSYC allows teenagers to perform a needed service for the community and to learn about the law and the effects of juvenile crime.
2. The NSYC delivers a message to youthful offenders that crime is wrong. Without the NSYC, young offenders either suffer no consequences or else undergo full formal court proceedings with state attorneys, probation officers, a superior court judge, etc.
3. The NSYC, as all the other youth courts in Alaska, depends on grants such as the Human Services Community block grants. Grant money to the NSYC produces a lot of bang for the buck, since much of our work is done by volunteers. But we have to maintain an office, staff, and overhead, to keep track of court cases and follow up on sentences. Cutting the grant program will mean cutting the services NSYC provides.



Richard Keek
1506 3rd Ave.
Fairbanks AK 99701
(907) 451-2954



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 Committee on TRANSPORTATION Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 4/16TUE/2002

FIRE ABOARD ALASKA FERRY COLUMBIA
 DAMAGE, REPAIRS, LOSS OF SERVICE.

WHO IS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT?

SIGNED:

Rep. KOVALIK

Testifier

Representing

Box 72563, Fair 99101

Address / Phone Number

479-4728

PROFESSIONAL MARINER

Journal of the Maritime Industry

Contents

Issue #63
April/May 2002

Faulty electrical connection,

loose bolt suspected in ferry fire

A faulty connection or a loose bolt falling into a switchboard probably caused the fire aboard the ferry *Columbia*, the National Transportation Safety Board has concluded.

The fire on the flagship of the Alaska Marine Highway System on June 6, 2000, (PM #50) broke out in the engine control room's main switchboard. The NTSB said that the probable cause was "arcing, most likely due to a faulty connection or a conductive object."

Mechanical vibrations and thermal cycling can gradually loosen electrical connections, and although crewmembers had used an infrared thermographic inspection program to search for faulty connections, they had never used it to

inspect the switchboard's internal connections. A faulty connection could have developed and remained undetected for a considerable period of time.

A loose bolt may also have caused the arcing that led to the fire. A bolt fused to two washers was found in the switchboard panel compartment.

A report by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory also concluded that the cause of the fire was most likely a faulty connection or the loose bolt. Analysis of the bolt and its location in the switchboard indicate that it was the probable cause of the initial arcing.

The incident occurred as the 418-foot passenger/car ferry

MARITIME CASUALTIES

was underway in the Chatham Strait, about 30 miles southwest of Juneau, en route to Sitka. The ship has the capacity for 971 passengers; at the time of the accident there were 434 passengers and 63 crew aboard. Three passengers were evacuated by Coast Guard helicopter for medical conditions that existed before the fire, while the remaining passengers and a stowaway were transferred to another AMHS ferry, *Taku*, after the two vessels rendezvoused.

According to the NTSB, the transfer of the passengers to *Taku* "was executed in a timely and effective manner and was well coordinated with shoreside management." The NTSB also noted that the passenger and crew muster was well coordinated. There were no injuries or deaths as a result of the accident, but the cost of repair to the ship is estimated to be \$2 million.

Once the passenger transfer was completed, *Taku* towed *Columbia* away from Admiralty Island so that it would not run aground. Shortly thereafter, two tugs, *Banner* and *Arctic*, arrived on the scene. *Banner* towed *Columbia* to the Auke Bay Terminal.

The manufacturer of *Columbia's* switchboard recommended that an inspection be performed, at minimum, every year or during vessel overhauls. The technical manual states that operators should "physically check the tightness of all electrical connections and parts" and "ascertain that no tools or extraneous materials are afloat." But according to the chief engineer's best recollection, the last switchboard inspection had been performed in 1995, but he was not certain whether it was even done then. Maintenance records showed that none of the connections had been cleaned or tightened during the five-year period preceding the accident.

During the winter lay-up, Alaska Ship and Drydock workers had made some modifications to the switchboard. The Coast Guard approved the modifications to the electrical drawings, and inspected and approved the work.

On three occasions, shipyard electricians entered the enclosure to work on the switchboard. On the first occasion, an AMHS port engineer was present to assure that the work was properly done. On the subsequent two occasions, no crewmember or AMHS representative was present to inspect the work while it was in progress or when it was completed.

The NTSB recommended the AMHS conduct annual switchboard inspections; verify outside contractors' work; develop comprehensive pre-fire plans including procedures for engine-room fires, and provide a backup communications system between the bridge and engine room.

John Snyder

Please explain if I understand this correctly:

At least three layers of management or at least two alternate crews had not done their job for five years — and the ferry system is asking for more money?

What discipline was meted out?

Did they dock the pay of the guy who mops out the boiler room?

FROM : ALASKA PTA EveryChild OneVoice FAX NO. : 1907222401

Apr. 18 2002 08:36AM P1

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Office Phone: 907-273-9348
Fax: 907-222-2401
Email: ak_office@pta.org
Webster: <http://www.akpta.org>

PO Box 201406
Anchorage, AK 99520-1406

Alaska
PTA

everychild.onevoice.

April 18, 2002

To members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The annual state PTA convention is happening today in Anchorage concurrently with this opportunity to testify. Thus, many of us are unable to personally testify at our local LIOs. On behalf of the 13,000 strong membership of the Alaska State PTA, we STRONGLY urge you to fund education at the \$190 per student level for FY 03. Increased education funding is consistently one of our most important priorities as we witness the erosion of quality education for our students due to ongoing inflation and other increased costs.

Members of PTA units throughout the state can testify to the fact that we are being called upon more and more to raise funds locally to help meet basic educational needs within our schools. Each year we witness the loss of essential programs that motivate our children to learn and succeed. We are losing the competitive edge in attracting excellent teachers and administrators to come to Alaska. This is happening at a time when we have established higher standards and greater expectations for our students.

We understand the need to solve the state fiscal gap, but not at the expense of your mandated duty to maintain a strong school system statewide. Quality education for Alaska's children must be the #1 priority. Please vote to increase state education funding.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
 Committee on State Operating Budget Committee Name Dated April 18, 2002
Bill / Subject

see attached statements from myself and
 my wife, Marsha Knobel

SIGNED: Ronald L. Smith
 Testifier
myself
 Representing
P.O. Box 80272, Fairbanks 479-4644
 Address / Phone Number
3635 Rusco Creek Rd.

To: All members of the Alaska Legislature

From: Ronald L. Smith
P.O. Box 80272
Fairbanks, AK 99708
3635 Rosie Creek Rd.
frrls@mail.edu
479 4644

Re: Current status of proposed state operating budget

I am submitting my opinions by FAX because there will be many others who will wish to call in and time will be limited for everyone to register their opinions. I am responding to the general tone of the legislative deliberations so far this session and, more specifically, to the comments made by State Commissioners as reported in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner Wednesday April 17, Section B, pages 1-2.

To say that I am upset and really fed up with the Republican majority-led slashing of the State's operating budgets for the past four or five years would be a massive understatement. It appears that the Republican majority consists primarily of a group of mean-spirited, self-serving reactionaries. Overall, they appear to wish we lived in a third-world country free from the burden of paying for the amenities of civilization. Certainly, we appear to be rapidly moving toward third-world status based on the cuts that appear to be coming at the end of the legislative session. I bet most third-world countries that are interested in attracting tourists have restaurant inspection programs. Inspections are as much a matter of public safety as is appropriate levels of law enforcement. How can anyone honestly tout Alaska as a tourist destination when the State doesn't even inspect its own restaurants? If the restaurant inspection goes away I'm thinking seriously about paying for a large advertisement in the New York Times informing their readers that Alaska doesn't care enough about the safety of tourists to continue restaurant inspections. It is more important that each Alaskan receive a lot of free money, not pay state income taxes or state sales taxes than it is to protect the health of visitors and residents. That should play well in the lever 48!

We don't have appropriate law enforcement either, thanks to cuts to the State of Alaska operating budget made by previous wrong-headed legislators. Now, according to the News Miner, we can look forward to losing four more State Troopers from the interior. Maybe the State Legislators should have their houses broken into, as we did several years ago, and have no trooper ever show up to get our story directly. Maybe the Legislators should have a party at their homes, have someone drive by, put five bullet holes in a guest's car and have overworked, out-of-sorts troopers show up and be rude, arrogant and belligerent to the VICTIMS of the crime rather than the perpetrators. This actually happened to me and my friends. We need **more** and **better** law enforcement in Alaska, especially the interior, not less. Further cuts to the Division of Public Safety are **UNACCEPTABLE**.

What is the sense of closing Alaska State Parks? The tourism industry is crying for help and you people want to stop restaurant inspections and close State Parks! Don't bother maintaining state roads either. That way, tourists can destroy their cars hitting chuck holes, tell all their friends and relatives back home and, consequently, tourism will take a real nose dive. Cutting the restaurant inspection program and closing the state parks is **UNACCEPTABLE**. The only logically consistent thing I've heard so far is cutting the \$2 million to promote tourism. If the state isn't going to insure their safety and enjoyment of Alaska, don't get them up here in the first place.

How about promoting or assisting a forest products industry in the interior? How better to stifle that industry than by cutting back on the Forestry Division, the agency that develops and administers timber sales? Cutting the Division of Forestry is

UNACCEPTABLE. Of course, the stock answer from conservative legislators is that there is so much waste in these State Agencies. In my opinion, the most wasteful aspect of the entire State Government is the State Legislature. Here is an idea for an unfunded mandate that would save the state \$37 million. Quit funding the State Legislature! Legislators shouldn't get a salary, per diem or travel expenses. You can all serve for gratis...like a number of programs or activities you have passed into State Law but for which you provided no funds.

I spent 31 years teaching and doing research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The University system is one of the significant money-makers for the state of Alaska while providing a tremendously valuable set of educational services. Not fully funding the University system is shortsighted and costs the state millions of dollars in lost income and economic development. If the legislature were really compelled to cut waste it would direct the UA system to eliminate satellite campuses in rural communities; the cost per credit hour out there is astronomical. What? Not politically expedient to talk about whacking rural communities? Where is your courage; don't you really want to cut the waste? Cutting the UA system budget (by flat funding) is **UNACCEPTABLE.**

All the wrangling in the legislature over the exact type of **inadequate** tax to impose on the citizens of the state has really been tiring. Inadequate because it won't raise enough money to cover the presumed shortfall. Of course, every legislator hears from the most vociferous constituents, all of whom want to pay nothing or next to nothing for all the services they claim they don't really get. There are a lot of us who are ready to pay for the services one would expect to receive while living in a civilized society. I looked at the budget worksheet provided in a recent update letter by Rep. John Davies. I didn't respond then but I am now. I think the PFD should be cut in half, making available revenues of about \$500 million. I think there should be a statewide sales tax of at least 2% and a statewide income tax of at least 2% of the federal tax. Objections about those fat cats who pay no federal income tax getting away without paying state income tax? Levee the state tax as a proportion of the gross adjusted income (1040, page 2, top line) instead of the actual federal tax paid. We need to start thinking out of the box here! These measures would almost completely cover the presumed shortfall. I think there will be a huge outcry from a minority of people. Those people are always free to move to another state...where their tax burden will be much higher than Alaska's with these new measures in place. Their places will be taken by others willing to live in the last frontier, pay their share and have some of the evidences of civilization.

It occurs to me that most of what I've heard from the last five or more legislatures is their desire to promote economic development in the state of Alaska. It also occurs to me that, with the single exception of oil exploration and development, the legislature seems to be behaving in a way to accomplish exactly the opposite. Who would want to move to a state where restaurants aren't inspected, state parks are closed, the streets and roads are not maintained, homes and businesses are unsafe and unprotected, the tourism industry is hamstringed, the forestry products industry is hamstringed, sustained fisheries and hunting opportunities are hamstringed by cuts to ADF&G...Does this sound like an inviting picture? I don't think so. What good is all that free raoney (PFD check) if you feel someone could walk into your home (or stop your car) and take it and no public safety officers would **EVER** show up?

Finding solutions to our state's problems requires real leadership. Leadership sometimes requires leaders to make agonizing decisions that aren't going to be popular with some of their constituents but which are necessary for the good of all. Finding a long-term budget solution is one of those cases. Putting off or ignoring a long-term solution is **UNACCEPTABLE.**

DATE: April 18, 2002
 TO: Alaska State Legislators
 FROM: Marsha Knobel
 SUBJECT: Budget Cuts

P.O. Box 80272
 Fairbanks, AK 99708
 479-4644

Marsha Knobel

What the heck is wrong with you people?! Wednesday's Daily News-Miner reports that you are cutting state trooper positions, Fish and Wildlife employees, closing state parks, cutting road maintenance, and eliminating food inspection services. This in addition to leaving UAF high and dry. Have you totally lost your minds?

For one thing, I don't believe we have this billion dollar deficit (see Dennot Cole's column enclosed); or at least the state has money to cover a deficit if you would just use it. To better outline my opinions, here's what I think:

1. **DO NOT CUT STATE TROOPER POSITIONS, especially in the Interior.** We have been short the necessary trooper coverage for several years as the population here has grown. My husband has written in his letter to you about the house theft we suffered four summers ago. Our front door was kicked in, over \$1,000 in property was stolen, (including jewelry belonging to visiting relatives), and no trooper ever responded. The over-worked officer who did get the case finally had no time to properly investigate. My husband even had to buy back his own camera from the pawn shop where we tracked it down--pawned there by a red-headed woman with tattoos all over her arms! There used to be a burglary-suppression unit here but that had to be done away with years ago when staffing was cut. I won't even describe the drive-by shooting at our home. My husband mentioned that too. I do know, what I have to do now is get a Carry and Conceal Permit. I've been shooting guns for 55 years, feel very comfortable with one, and it looks like I'll have to take steps to protect myself and our property since you--the political leaders we count on--don't seem to think law enforcement is important.

2. **DO NOT CUT RESTAURANT INSPECTION FUNDING.** Have you ever had salmonella food poisoning? Believe me, it's not pretty. I contracted that a few years ago from a local restaurant that purchased bad eggs. True, a food inspector might not have been able to determine the eggs were tainted but at least produce sellers and restaurant owners should know that some kind of quality control is in place. It's crazy for Alaska to tout tourism as one of their main economic sources and then entice visitors to come here and eat in uninspected restaurants! And what about us locals who want to patronize our city and borough restaurants? We should have the confidence that these businesses are clean and held to high standards.

3. **DO NOT CUT UNIVERSITY FUNDING.** This just goes on and on--the cutting and lack of acknowledgment of education's vital place. I've written to you before about this. I guess there must be thousands of Alaskans telling you not to fund the university system with one more illogic because the voices of us who support funding are not being heard.

4. **DO NOT CUT FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION.** This is a lot like trooper cuts. How can the biggest state in the union, and one of the last places on earth to still have real space with real wildlife, not take care of its responsibilities?

5. **DO NOT CLOSE INTERIOR STATE PARKS.** There goes the tourist market again. How can you possibly think anyone wants to come here when they can't camp in or visit a state park? And, what about those of us who have lived here over 30 years like me and want to enjoy the outdoors. So much for touring around our own state.

Maybe I'm just too simple-minded about this, but it seems obvious where the money is to fund these essentials. I suggest any of all of the following:

1. **CUT THE PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND.** You're probably all shaking in your boots to even think about that because a wailing and moaning will echo throughout the state. Hey! This free money thing is obscene and embarrassing. I was raised on a farm in Nebraska and my

Continued on page 20

TRANSACTION REPORT

APR-19-2002 FRI 07:09 AM

FOR: SENATE_FINANCE_SECRETARY 907 465 2187

RECEIVE

DATE	START	SENDER	PAGES	TIME	NOTE	M#
APR-19	07:01 AM	9074563346	19	8'20"	COM. E-10	

Fund's earnings make 'billion

IT WAS GEORGE ORWELL, who wrote about the "magical property of names."

"Nearly all human beings feel that a thing becomes different if you call it by a different name," Orwell wrote.

In this regard, whenever you hear a reference to the state "\$1 billion deficit," it's not exactly the right name for Alaska's financial condition.

We need a new budget vocabulary. There is no \$1 billion state deficit because there is not a \$1 billion gap between all revenues and all expenditures.

This is not to say that our political leaders have misrepresented the great downfall in state income that has occurred with the decline of Prudhoe Bay oil production. The decline in direct oil income is undeniably true.

It's just that largely out of force of political habit, we haven't included as income the huge gains in recent years in the

value of stocks held by the permanent fund. It is unrealistic to expect those gains to continue forever, but Alaska's fund has benefited greatly from the bull market.

The names we use to describe the state's financial situation influence our perceptions. They can also influence our opinions about whether our state can afford such things as public television, for example.

Whatever one may believe about what Alaskans and our elected officials should do about state spending, it would be best to first check our addition and subtraction.

If financial analysts from other states were asked to check Alaska's balance sheet, I can't imagine they would agree with the assumptions that have led to what has become in our political and journalistic shorthand, a \$1 billion deficit.

The bean counters would look at the earnings from the

Dermot Cole



state's largest investment account, which are expected to total \$2 billion this year. They would soon grasp the concept that \$999 million of the money is to be paid out in dividends to Alaskans and \$287 million is likely to be deposited back in the fund to help protect the buying power of the principal.

But they would have a hard time accepting the logic that the other \$700 million in income doesn't belong in the final tally. They would want to know why some of that money can't be used to help finance the government.

For guidance they might be directed to the state revenue forecast, which states: "Perma-

'dollar deficit' a misnomer

nent fund income may be legally appropriated in the same manner as unrestricted revenue, but the established practice has been to treat Permanent Fund net income as if it were restricted."

That practice grew out of the time when direct oil income paid all the bills for state government in Alaska. But that time has passed because oil production at Prudhoe Bay is half of what it was a decade ago and prices are down.

Even if prices were to rise sharply, the drop in production has been so great that nothing will bring back the era when oil money financed everything.

In this new era, legislators are beginning to look at revising the "established practice" because our options are limited.

"There's now general agreement between the House and Senate on some use of Permanent Fund earnings, but the House is still resisting taxes.

That could change," former Fairbanks legislator Mike Strandnor wrote in the latest edition of his newsletter, Alaska Legislative Digest: An Inside View of Alaska Policy.

In planning state budgets, Alaskans have focused almost entirely for 20 years on the price of oil.

While oil income has been on the decline for many years, investment income has been on the rise.

Alaskans still watch the price of oil as if our financial future depended on it, but more and more it is the people's account known as the Permanent Fund that makes up our state's financial foundation.

The action of OPEC is no longer as important as it once was to Alaska, but the action in the stock market, where half of the permanent fund is invested, has become far more critical to Alaska's future.

A RECENT LEGAL OPINION by the law firm of

Morrison & Foerster, requested by the trustees of the permanent fund board, dealt with several important questions.

The legal opinion, which has the concurrence of the attorney general, stated unequivocally that the definition of "principal" includes all money required to be deposited under the constitution, plus additional appropriations by the Legislature. The Alaska Constitution mandates that the principal of the permanent fund can not be spent, but must be invested in ways that produce income.

The constitution further mandates that the permanent fund board is to manage its assets to generate income for distribution as the Legislature directs.

In our vocabulary the earnings ought to be counted as income, a name change that would help frame the budget debate in a more accurate manner.

Dermot Cole is a News-Miner columnist. He can be reached at cole@newsminer.com or at 459-7630.

Subject: Budget Deliberations

Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 17:21:51 -0800

From: "Virginia L. Damron" <vld@mosquionet.com>

To: <Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us>

I am unable to attend the Senate teleconference tonight but do want to reiterate the things I addressed in letters to Senators Wilken and Kelly.

I continually hear about the end of the Budget Reserve Fund and very little addressing the earnings of the permanent fund above inflation proofing and permanent fund dividends. I can not hope to understand all of the workings of the budget process but I do know that for the richest state in the union we seem to have become parsimonious. I am not suggesting that there is not reason for some clear and definitive work to be done to manage our assets however, the present course of cutting restaurant inspections, public safety, Health and Social Service grants and the like are short sighted and will in the end cost us far more than is presently spent to fund those things. Not funding the University system at the level necessary to equip our young people to be effective, useful citizens and to not provide the best quality education we can, will result in our greatest assets leaving and rarely returning. We need to quit looking for how to cut the budget and look at how to use what we have in the most effective way to allow our economy to grow. Even the most dedicated budget cutters cannot possibly believe that removing the constraints and productive elements of our budget will develop a place where we want to live let alone invite new industries or tourists. I don't want to lose my permanent fund or pay taxes but realistically I know that I cannot continue to expect others to pay for my services. I and many like me elected you to do the hard work of keeping Alaska the greatest place in the world to live. Please don't take the easy road because it is expedient. I plead with both parties and both houses to re-evaluate the strategy now being proposed and seek answers in current revenue streams, precise cuts to redundancy, and enhancement of revenues as necessary. Thank you for considering alternatives. Virginia L. Damron, 427 Shannon Drive, Fairbanks, 99701, Phone (907)451-8478.

Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism in Alaska

Alcohol is the most significant contributing factor to crime in Alaska. Alcohol is also the number one public health issue facing Alaska. Excessive drinking is associated with child abuse, domestic violence, and low educational achievement in our state. The FY2003 budget for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse BRU proposes \$8.3 million GF to address problems related to alcohol abuse and alcoholism.

Alaska leads the nation in alcohol abuse. Statistics show that eighty percent of all crimes are committed by individuals under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

--Ted Stevens
U.S. Senator

Alaska ranks first among all states in alcohol mortality. The prevalence of alcohol dependence and alcohol abuse in Alaska is almost twice the national average.

Nationwide, Alaska is the 5th in the nation for severity of alcohol-related problems, but ranks 32nd for treatment services provided per capita.

Enough alcohol was sold in Alaska in FY99 to add up to 516 drinks for every man, woman and child.

What does alcohol abuse and alcoholism cost our state?

Alcoholism is epidemic in Alaska. Historically and currently, the abuse of alcohol is pervasive within our communities and families. Putting a price tag on the impacts of alcohol abuse and alcoholism is extremely difficult. According to a study recently completed by McDowell Group, Inc. for the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the cost of alcohol and other drug dependency on the Alaska economy was estimated to be \$614 million during 1999. Alcohol abuse costs accounted for \$453 million, or 74% of that total. Cost by category includes:

- \$319 million from productivity losses
- \$146 million from criminal justice and protective services
- \$123 million from health care
- \$21 million from traffic crashes
- \$4 million from public assistance

Alcohol Treatment Waitlists

The waiting lists for alcohol treatment recently identified in "Waiting in Line for Treatment" show an average of 302 people in seven Alaskan communities have signed up for treatment in a program that has no space available for them. This includes waiting lists of: 56 for women's or women with children programs, 197 needing adult residential treatment, 4 for youth programs, and 44 needing adult outpatient treatment.

For each type of service offered, the number of days people remain on the waiting list is different. Women waiting for treatment in a program that accepts women and children wait the longest, averaging 107 days. People who sign up to receive general or long-term residential care also tend to wait longer than average (81 and 87 days, respectively). Those waiting for women-only programs average 45 days and those waiting for dual diagnosis residential care wait an average of 43 days.

Elimination of the waiting lists is a good first step, but it would not allow the State to provide treatment to everyone who needs it and who would accept if it were immediately available.

Does treatment work?

Alcoholism is a chronic, progressive, disease. It is treatable. Many people relapse several times before achieving long-term sobriety. But a

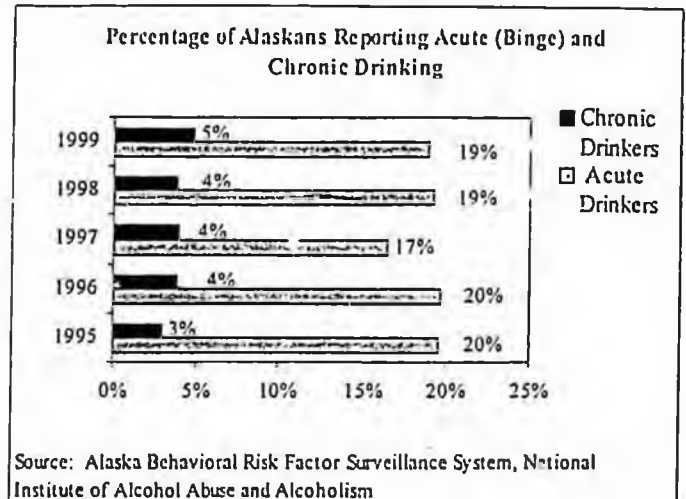
recent study examining the effectiveness of publicly funded treatment programs in Alaska found that 56 percent of outpatient clients and 42 percent of residential clients abstained from alcohol for one year after treatment. The study found a strong association between abstinence and participation in follow-up care and peer support groups such as alcoholics anonymous.

The study also found that, among participants:

- Arrests and motor vehicle accidents decreased;
- Full-time employment increased from 30 percent to 45 percent;
- Unemployment rates dropped from 45 percent to 24 percent;
- Visits to hospital emergency rooms declined.

An indication of the pervasiveness of alcohol abuse is the percentage of Alaskans who report acute (binge) and chronic drinking. In 1999, 19% of Alaskan adults reported binge drinking compared with 15% nationwide.

Alcohol consumption rates illustrate the extent of alcohol-related problems. Alaska has the second highest rate of alcohol consumption in the nation, behind Wisconsin.



What should be done?

1. Increase availability of substance abuse treatment for adults by increasing the number of beds at existing residential facilities for both short term and long term care as well as increasing the availability of dual diagnosis treatment for those individuals with both a substance abuse and a mental health diagnosis. (\$471.8 GF, \$1442.6 GF/MH);
2. Increase treatment in rural Alaska by placing approximately 18 additional professionals trained in mental health and substance abuse counseling in rural communities; providing a minimum level of funding for small community outpatient treatment programs and increasing the funding for transitional housing for substance abusers leaving out-of-town treatment programs (\$1,062.0 GF; \$1,117.7 GF/MH; \$300.0 MHTAAR);
3. Restore the successful Alcohol Safety Action Program to provide more substance abuse screening and monitoring of court-ordered treatment, including drunk drivers (\$470.0 GF);
4. Maintain existing funding for Mental Health Trust programs for Women and Children alcohol programs by replacing MHTAAR funding which is transitioned to GF/MH (\$300.0 GF/MH, -\$300.0 MHTAAR);
5. There are additional alcohol treatment, inhalant abuse prevention and suicide prevention increments that are part of the Children's Health Initiative as well as a fund change from Federal to GF for existing Detox and Dual Diagnosis treatment in Anchorage and annualization costs included in the department's Maintain Services analysis.



CITY OF KENAI

"Oil Capital of Alaska"

210 FIDALGO AVE., SUITE 200 KENAI, ALASKA 99611-7794
TELEPHONE 907-283-7535
FAX 907-283-3014



April 18, 2002

Senate Finance Committee
State of Alaska
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: **STATE BUDGET CUTS AFFECTING THE CITY OF KENAI**

At their regularly scheduled meeting of April 17, 2002, the Kenai City Council discussed their concerns in regard to state budget cuts that will affect the City of Kenai as well as its outlying areas. We have listed those concerns with a brief explanation below:

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation/Captain Cook State Recreational Area

Forcing the closure of the Captain Cook State Park will impact our 7,000 city residents, Nikiski area residents, and residents of other outlying areas of Kenai in two ways:

1. Loss of services offered by our local businesses used for repairs, food, fishing tackle, gifts, etc. of visitors who travel to the City of Kenai and north to the Park. Our businesses depend on summer tourism and many of their clientele come to Kenai as a destination and want to enjoy what the Kenai community has to offer and the camping, beach walks, fishing, boating, swimming, canoeing, hiking, etc. that is offered at the Park.

2. Those same business owners will lose again, along with our residents and residents of the Nikiski area and other surrounding communities, by eliminating their safe and supervised backdoor playground. The forced elimination of supervision, outhouse availability, and fire pits will increase the risk of public health and safety.

Road Maintenance

Road maintenance conditions, year around, are failing and in particular, the Kenai Spur Highway from Kenai to Pickle Hill outside of Soldotna. This stretch of highway receives heavy use every day, all day. It is not just the main road into Kenai directly from Soldotna and Anchorage, but the **only** direct road. This road receives pedestrian, bicycle, personal vehicle, heavy equipment, and tractor-trailer use. It is imperative this road be kept in good traveling condition -- and filling and refilling potholes just is not adequate.

Elimination of Food Health Inspections

Failure of the State to fund oversight and inspection of restaurants, grocery stores, school kitchens, day care centers, tattoo/body piercing parlors, public pools and accommodations will endanger everyone's life who goes to school, eats, swims, wades, and breathes. Additionally, this failure will directly jeopardize millions of federal dollars that pay for school and child/adult

Senate Finance Committee
April 18, 2002
Page 2

care meals. Is it the Legislature's intention to cut even more dollars our school districts depend on to care for our state's children and adult care meals?

Is it the Legislature's intention to force local municipalities to take over inspection responsibilities? If the local municipality does not have the funds available to take on this function, is it the Legislature's intention to turn its back on its citizens, visitors, and itself and endanger all our lives?

Elimination of State Troopers

The Legislature's failure to fund the third year of the negotiated labor contract with the State Troopers and court officers will require cutting three troopers, one court services officer, and one support staff from the Kenai Peninsula, reducing 24-hour coverage in some of our areas. Is this not one more failure by the Legislature to protect its citizens' lives?

The State's failure to protect the Peninsula will create significant impacts to the City of Kenai, not because it would be required, but because we would be morally obligated. Some of those impacts would include:

- Assisting State Parks, Fish & Wildlife, Fish & Game;
- Responding to injury boating accidents (guide and personal use) on the lower twelve miles of the Kenai River;
- Responding to search and rescue incidents on the lower twelve miles of the Kenai River;
- Responding to life-threatening incidents outside of the city, which in turn will put our enforcement officers in life-threatening jeopardy;
- Responding to more and more tasks outside our city limits, pulling our resources away from incidents in the city.

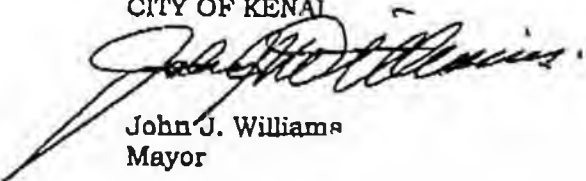
Because the State is refusing to fund its own agencies, it forces the responsibility on the local municipalities who **DO NOT** have the means and abilities to assume those responsibilities.

We fully realize the opportunity for testimony has passed, however we still want to address these issues to everyone of you as members of the Senate Finance Committee.

On behalf of the Kenai City Council, Administration and the citizens of our community, and those of the surrounding area, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

CITY OF KENAI



John J. Williams
Mayor

JJW/clf

cc: Kenai Peninsula Legislators



Sunshine,
Community Health Center

P.O. Box 787 • Mile 4.4 Talkeetna Spur Road • Talkeetna, AK 99676 (ph) (907)733-2273 • (fax) (907)733-1735 • schc@alaska.net

Testimony – Senate Budget Hearings
April 18, 2002

My name is Susan Mason-Bouterse. I am the Executive Director of Sunshine Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center located in Talkeetna, AK. We provide comprehensive primary care and enabling services to residents of the Upper Susitna Valley. These services include primary care, mental health, substance abuse screening, family advocacy, care coordination, home health nursing, dental care, and outreach to families with young infants. We are a safety net provider, providing services to people regardless of ability to pay through utilization of a sliding scale fee.

We have been in operation since 1986 as a small non-profit organization, governed by a community board of directors. This past year, we served approximately 2,000 different individuals, and provided over 6,000 encounter visits with patients. We provide a heavily used after hours emergency service and work very closely with area EMS when needing to transport patients to the nearest ER located in Palmer, approximately 90 minutes away (on a good day!)

The Assistance To Community Health Facilities grant program within the Division of Public Health, has in the past, been our only funding source, other than patient revenues and a small amount of United Way funding. Had we not had this funding, we would have been forced to close our doors, leaving residents of the Upper Susitna Valley extremely under-served. Currently, we are receiving federal community health center funding, but we receive an ACHF grant to help support the salary of our Medical Director. This State funding serves as a cost share to the federal program. Eliminating this grant could result for us in reduced federal funding, which could impact our ability to provide needed services in this rural part of the state.

As a member of the Board of the AK Primary Care Association, I am also testifying on behalf of rural clinics that are not receiving federal CHC funding but are relying on ACHF grant funds to survive. The proposed cuts will devastate these rural clinics and could (and probably will) result in rural clinic closures across the state.

Other proposed cuts to the DHSS budget will cause significant hardships. For example, the Early Infant Learning Program will result in cuts to programs that address prevention. These are programs that can save the state money in the future, not to mention saving incredible hardships for families. Proposed cuts to mental health and substance abuse



"A United Way Participating Agency"

programs will result in severely minimized services, resulting in greater end-run costs, financial, personal, and community.

I understand and appreciate the Legislature's dilemma and challenge in needing to reduce costs and develop a manageable budget for the coming year. However, health care does not need to be on the chopping block! Health care costs are rising. Small businesses and working individuals are struggling to keep up insurance premiums. Currently, the **only** State funding dedicated to primary care is \$315,000. I urge the Senate **NOT** to reduce that amount and not to reduce already minimal funding for other health care and behavioral health care services.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to express these concerns. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate

Committee on Finance Committee Name

Dill / Subject

Dated 4/17/02

I believe that the rising cost of doing business is beyond our control, but that doesn't reduce our responsibility to ensure basic needs in the community are met. Under-funding essential services, particularly education and human services will have cascading effects that could take years to turn around, if at all. People who choose to live here will begin to second-guess their decision to live and raise a family here.

We can not cut our way out of this issue. Rather, we need a fixed plan. I personally am struggling financially to make ends meet, but when asked to choose between a healthy community & some sort of income tax, I would certainly choose the latter!

SIGNED,

Mike Conelton

Testifier

Self

Representing

Box 61214 Fairbanks AK 99706

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Budget Finance
 Committee on Senate budget Dated 4-18-02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

To: Sen. Green of Senate Finance.
 Thank you for asking for clarification regarding my comments on short-funding foster care. A zero increase effectively short-funds this program by diminishing the Department's ability to recruit and retain foster families. The need is growing; there is an anticipated increase in the caseload of children needing foster care; flat funding the foster care base rate is short funding. Thank you for faxing the numbers and for fully funding the bottom project; please help us recruit and retain the essential services of foster families by funding the requested base rate increase.
 Please consider an income tax and use of the earnings reserve to fund these critical state services.

SIGNED: Taber S. Kishbaum
 Testifier Taber S. Kishbaum

Arctic Alliance for People
 Representing

P.O. Box 438, Ester AK 99725 907 452 8118
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Budget Committee Name
 Dated 4-18-02
 Bill / Subject

Cuts in the Alcohol + Drug Abuse budget will cost Alaska much more in the long run. Cuts will reduce Federal matching dollars

Cuts will mean that the system to deal with DWI drivers (ASAP) will be reduced or cut, meaning ~~more~~ a greater burden on the court system.

Cuts mean more people will go to jail - jail is more expensive than treatment.

Cuts mean more people will go to emergency rooms, ERs are more expensive than treatment.

Cuts will mean more impact on DFYS - a system that is also looking at budget cuts. Who is going to protect our children? If they can not get protection at DFYS and other services like foster care, Family Preservation and a reduced State Trooper force, who will protect children exposed to real danger?

Please think about the future of Alaska's children. If the systems that we provide to help people turn their lives around fail - what will our next-generation of adults look like? What will be the quality of life in Alaska? Who will stay to make important decisions?

* Also - PLEASE SUPPORT THE HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT *

Testifier Annelle Finbush

Representing Fairbanks Native Association

Address / Phone Number 201 1st Ave, Ste 200, Fbks 99701
(907) 452-1648 x223



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on: Operating Budget Committee Name Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject

Please support full funding for the University of Alaska system.

The UA system not only produces Ph.D's, Masters Degrees, Bachelors Degrees and Associate Degrees. The UA system produces citizens for our state. Economic Development, an enlightened citizenry and a stronger state are all positive effects of a well-funded university system.

Please preserve the momentum of the UA System by fully funding the \$16.9 million request of our university.

SIGNED: Devil N. Hardbrook Joseph HARDENBROOK
 Testifier

University of Alaska
 Representing

P.O. Box 750362 Fairbanks AK 99775 907-455-4828
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Education / Department of Education Dated 4/18/02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

I would like to ask you to fully fund the university system. The university provides valuable, marketable skills to thousands of graduates every year. Graduates, whether they receive an associate's, bachelor's, or master's are less likely to experience unemployment, less likely to be crime victims, and more likely to be successful in their careers. It seems to me that at this point in our history, we should invest in something that will better serve the state's long-term interests. A more educated workforce.

It was reported on CNN a few weeks ago that Alaska is one of five states that has a public university system that is self-sufficient for its own residents. Self-sufficient means that the people there need a marketable education to get it. If we are self-sufficient, then we are not dependent on federal dollars. Many states are dependent on federal dollars to keep their universities open. People would be excited if the university could be self-sufficient. Fully funding the university is perhaps one of the most important steps to take in creating a healthy Alaska economy.

SIGNED:

Testifier

Representing

Address / Phone Number

April 18, 2002

Alaska State Legislature Senators:

RE: SB 340 Permanent Fund Dividend "HOLD HARMLESS"
PROVISION REPEAL

I strongly oppose SB 340, that directly affects the Alaska Native population served by the Community Services Department of the Fairbanks Native Association. The membership of Fairbanks Native Association serves the Native population of 5000 residing in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The Community Services Department clientele depends on the permanent fund for winter clothing, their children's school supplies and other essential needs not provided by other financial resources. Also, the permanent fund allows families to purchase eyeglasses and medical supplies not provided by the health care system. Again, on behalf the Community Services clientele (approximately 677 clients) and the Native community, I strongly oppose SB 340. Thank you. Sincerely, Freda M. Williams, Director, Community Services Department, phone (907) 452-5225, fax (907) 452-6355



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on: Budget Committee Name Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject

Public Safety, Education, and Public Health indicators are what people and businesses look at when they are considering moving to a state or a community. Maintaining a safety net is essential and deserves our support.

I am willing to contribute through a tax - my preference would be an income tax that could be taken out prior to federal taxes, or a combination of income/sales tax (which would require additional administrative staff). I would like to know that more Alaskan residents who work in our state and contribute nothing, pay their share.

Please ensure that there is a long term plan to address the constitutionally mandated areas of public safety, public health, and education.

SIGNED

JENNIFER G. SCHMIDT
 Testifier

Self
 Representing
 1093 Stock Creek Road
 W. Valley #2944, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
 Address / Phone Number 907-457-2312



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Budget Committee Name
 Dated 4/18/02
 (Bill/Subject)

The School Board in your community has been working proactively to help all students achieve their potential. Our proposed budget maintains class size, retains our summer school, and also includes school meals program to address benchmark concerns, and helps prepare principals to deal with anticipated retirements. There are several items for our school district that can only be addressed if we receive additional funding from the Legislature.

SIGNED:

Jennifer Schmidt

Testifier

[Signature]

FWSB Board of Education Member

Representing

1095 Stone Creek Road

PO Box 82944, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Address / Phone Number 457-2312



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance

Committee on State Operating Budget Dated 4.18.02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

Senator Austerman asked for suggestions on how to increase funds for the operating budget. There are many ideas worth considering:

- increasing taxes on oil
- capping the permanent fund
- using the permanent fund reserve fund
- instituting an income tax
- instituting ~~state~~ or increasing "sin" taxes
- statewide sales taxes

— and probably more..

Will they be popular? Probably not. But that should not be how you make the decision. The options are there, use them.

SIGNED:

Cheryl Keepers

Testifier

self

Representing

Box 74898, Fairbanks, AK 99707

Address / Phone Number

907-459-1287 (w)



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Chair
 Committee on Operating Budget Committee Name
 Dated 4/17/02
Bill / Subject

As an adult board member of the WBYC
 since May 2000 and a social work intern with
 the organization beginning Sept 1999 - May 2000
 I have been given the opportunity to observe &
 participate in a program that serves this
 community with a dual purpose. The money
 from the human services grant has enabled this
 program to provide our youth in the Fairbanks
 community an opportunity to serve as mentors
 to their ~~peer~~ peers by working as youth
 attorneys, judges, & mediators to help alleviate the
 →

SIGNED:

Jennifer Assens
Testifier

Norm Stulljohn Court
Representing

125 8th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701
Address / Phone Number

workload of the juvenile youth facility probation officers which in return cuts down costs for the division of juvenile justice. Our recidivism rate of 8% is an accomplishment the youth volunteers are proud of & could have been only attained w/ the support of the human services grant.

The second function our youth serve the community is the opportunity that youth court provides for youth ages 12-18 years old. They learn valuable skills as attorneys & mediators that will benefit our community for generations.

Thank you for your time

Janet Asher



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
Committee Name
 Committee on Proposed Budget for 2003 Dated 4-18-02
Bill / Subject

The proposed cut to the budget will force us to close our
 62 bed Residential program at Old Minto Family Recovery Camp.
 This program is the only treatment center for families in
 this state. This program serves 125-150 clients yearly. Six
 positions, people who are Fairbanks residents, will be
 eliminated. Closing this program means that 125-150
 clients will not receive treatment. Our substance abuse
 prevention program, which is the Hunt Zoo Newsletter
 This Newsletter ^{which} has a circulation of 10,500 over the
 entire State will be gone from the shore. This newsletter
 focused on substance abuse prevention.

SIGNED: Margaret Wilson
Testifier

Theresa Chute Conference
Representing

548 Agula Fairbanks AK 99712 - 457-7198
Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
Committee Name
Committee on _____ Dated 4-18-02

Bill / Subject

Please fully fund the University of Alaska's
board of Regents budget request.
Our University is the future of Alaska.
During financial downturn, the best
thing we can do is invest in our
Universities.

SIGNED:

Michael Everett

Testifier

Representing

1540 N. Backer

Address / Phone Number

P.O. Box 81213

Fairbanks, AK

99708



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE Comm.
 Committee on: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA Committee Name Dated 18 APR 02
Bill / Subject BUDGET

"THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA IS THE BEST
 IF NOT THE ONLY INSTITUTION WITHIN OUR STATE
 TO IDENTIFY ^{AND DEVELOP} NEW REVENUE SOURCES, ECONOMIC
 OPPORTUNITIES, AND FUTURE ASSETS."

UA ALSO TRAINS AND EDUCATES ^{OUR FUTURE} ~~OF~~ ~~CHANGING~~
 AND LEADERS, EDUCATORS, CRAFTSMAN AND TECHNICIANS
 TO DO THIS THE UNIVERSITY MUST BE FINANCIAL
 FULLY TO ALLOW ~~FOR A LEVEL~~ THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE
 STATE HAS WITNESSED IN THE PAST 3 YEARS.

THE FLAT FUNDING OF UA WILL HAVE A
 DEVASTATING EFFECT AND A LONG TERM ^{IMPACT} ~~EFFECT~~
 ON OUR STATE AND IT'S FUTURE - FUND THE \$16.9 MILLION

SIGNED: JOHN C. POOLE
 Testifier

UAF TRAVEL VOUCHER COMMISSION
 Representing

325 SOWY OWL LANE FAIRBANKS AK 99712
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the financial
 Committee on: budget Committee Name Dated 4.18.02
Bill / Subject

Something that has been missing from this debate has been the question of... assuming we get through this budget crisis, what happens next year?

I suggest opening up a debate regarding the elimination of money while re-examining the values of indigenous cultures that successfully prospered long before capitalism entered and took over.

A culture of greed is destined to consume itself greedily.

Thank you for consideration in this matter.

As a final suggestion... refer to utopianow.cjb.net. It costs nothing & is selling nothing... except freedom for ALL.

SIGNED: David Robles
 Testifier
to myself
 Representing
488.5203 nlm@jgs.net
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 Committee Name
 Committee on BUDGET Dated 4-18-02
 Bill / Subject

In 1979 I enrolled at Virginia Tech. in Blacksburg, VA. It
 was my first experience with a "REAL" education. I was nothing more than
 a young security guard. In January of 1980 I began an
 education at one of the colleges was significant; professors knew
 what they were doing and the quality of the education
 provided was, in my opinion, much better.

However, I am concerned with the legislature's apparent
 attitude over deciding to cut the university. The
 decision is a simple one. Do it not only is the UA system
 one of the largest employers in Alaska, it's a good investment
 for every Alaskan. In the UA, there is general education
 provided for a job opportunity for everyone. Education is key
 to everyone's future. By reducing the funding of the
 university system, the entire state suffers.

SIGNED:

H.J. DERIZ

Testifier

Representing

1155 HESS AVENUE, FAIRBANKS 99709 | 456-5953
Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on: HB 403 - op budget Committee Name Dated 041802
Bill / Subject

As of 041802 The budget is not done. It does not reflect needed investment in our state's future. The UofA needs to be fully funded to fill these goals:

- keep pace with technology developments to make sure graduates are technology savvy.
- attract and retain Alaska high school graduates
- train and educate employees for a changing, diversifying job market.
- develop a plan to move Alaska out of solely a resource based economy.

Fight for our Alaska. Fight for UofA.

Sing forth her glory and fame,

With a spirit bold, fight for the blue and gold.

AMEND THE BUDGET. FUND THE UofA.

SIGNED: MARIA MUELLER. Maria Mueller
Testifier

UAF Student
Representing

516 Auklet Place Fairbanks 99709
Address / Phone Number

~~(907) 479-6780~~ (907) 479-6780

ftmrm@uaf.edu

April 18, 2002

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

We are currently attending our State PTA convention in Anchorage. As members of the Fairbanks community, and representing more than 22 local Parent-Teacher Association, we strongly encourage you to increase education funding by the \$190 per student level for FY 03.

Parent-Teacher Associations in Fairbanks regularly donate funds for numerous reasons to help meet basic educational needs in our schools. Each year we are being asked to do more with less - this at a time when we have established higher standards and greater expectations for both students and teachers.

Quality education is our priority. We believe it is yours too. We hope you will show your support by voting to increase state education funding.

Naomi Walsworth, Fairbanks Council of PTA President
Villette Knight, Alaska PTA Regional II Vice President.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the State Finance

Committee on HB 4103 Committee Name

Bill / Subject

Dated 4/18/02

I am writing to urge full funding for the University of Alaska operating budget. We rely too much on oil and we know where that has gotten us. The university can help diversify our economy. The university has been responsible with spending and you have seen this. To cut an university budget will stop the momentum. We cannot afford to stop. The new programs are creating jobs for Alaskans and responding to the needs of the state. Yes there is a budget shortfall but I think you can find a way to do the right thing & support full funding.

SIGNED:

Cynthia R Branley
Testifier

Representing

725 Cardinal Ct. Fbks
PO Box 73153 Fbks 99701 458-8002

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Budget & Finance Comm.

Committee on full funding for the Univ. Dated 4/18/02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

If time had permitted, I would have introduced my three school age children: Elizabeth (8yrs); Kekuewa (7yrs) and Luana (3yrs). Coincidentally they are the three reasons I urge you to fully fund the Univ. of Alaska.

I returned to Alaska from a state that has wrestled with this very issue: reduced funding for higher ed. That state (Oregon) is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their public system of higher ed. - I hope Alaska can avoid such a fate.

It is not a question of whether my children will go to college - the real question is where they will attend. We cannot expect parents or their children to select a school that does not receive full support of its legislative ^{public} body.

Thank you for this opportunity.

SIGNED: Jaime A. (Saichi T. Oba)
 Testifier Elizabeth Oba
Kekuewa Oba, Luana Oba
 Representing _____
PO Box 750105, Fairbanks, AK 99775 917 4882955
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Finance Subcommittee

Committee on

Cuts/Revenues

Bill / Subject

Committee Name

Dated April 18, 2002

THE TIME HAS COME TO CONCENTRATE ON REVENUE PRODUCING IDEAS AND NOT CONCENTRATING ON HOW WE CAN BALANCE THE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF ALASKA'S POOR. I urge you to walk a mile in the shoes of those in your district who are down on their luck and need a little help finding their way. And if you are in a district full of middle class and high class, remember the biblical quote, "There but for the grace of God go I."

The proposed service cuts of tens of millions in a single year, plus the denial of strategic investments for children and the economy, will force layoffs of troopers and child protection workers, end a program to speed up adoptions and cut back on public health nurses. I ask you to reconsider!

It is time we looked at the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. It has been an awesome gift however, it is time that we started acting like responsible citizens and consider eliminating it or reducing it. I also support the alcohol excise tax: SB 347.

I know you have some very tough decisions and I am confident when you remember we are dealing with people's lives you will have the courage to speak up and make the right decisions.

SIGNED:

Coleen Turner, Coleen Turner

Testifier

Representing

141 Wilgus Ave 99712 479-5176

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate
 Committee on WofA Overhaul Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject Committee Name

The Legislature needs to continue the impetus begun with the increased funding over the last three years. The future of our children and our workforce is in your hands. Invest in our future. Fully fund the University. Continue to support our best research.

SIGNATURE:

Betty (Lupee)
Testifier

University of Alaska
Representing

PO Box 82969, Fairbanks, AK
Address / Phone Number

907-478-4590

**SUBSTANCE
ABUSE
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA, INC**

DATE: April 18, 2002

Total Pages: 2

TO: Senate Finance Committee:

Senator Dave Donley, Co-Chair
Senator Pete Kelly, Co-Chair
Senator Jerry Ward, Vice-Chair
Senator Loren Leman
Senator Lyda Green
Senator Gary Wilken
Senator Alan Austerman
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Donny Olson

FROM: Mary Rosenzweig, Executive Director 

RE: Proposed amendments to the Senate HSS Finance subcommittee recommendation for the Department of Health and Social Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (Component Summary):

Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) component:

Amend subcommittee total of \$1,028.1 (K) by \$500 (K) to total of \$1,528.1 thousand.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Grants component:

Amend subcommittee total of \$19,342.2 (K) by \$4,628.7 (K) to a total of \$23,970.9 thousand.

On behalf of the Substance Abuse Directors Association of Alaska (SADA), which represents 56 directors of substance abuse treatment and prevention agencies statewide, I am writing this letter in lieu of public testimony before the committee on the issue of the FY 03 Operating Budget. While SADA recognizes that you are faced with a most daunting task as you balance state needs with available revenues, we urge you to place as a high priority the maintenance of core services and request that you consider restoration of two line items of particular concern to our organization:

Of particular concern to our organization are the proposed cuts to two line items within the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services BRU: Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Grants. Restoration of these line items to at least FY 2002 funding levels is critical to maintaining any progress made last year on the issue of drunk driving. The ASAP program is the first line of action for DWI offenders and has proven extremely effective in keeping individuals from reoffending. Proposed cuts of \$500 K would effectively eliminate five out of eight adult ASAP programs from a system that is already overtaxed; and would completely eliminate the juvenile ASAP program initiated just this year. Proposed cuts to treatment programs serving those assessed by the ASAP programs as needing intensive drug and alcohol treatment will only serve to lengthen a waitlist that is already prohibitive for the judicial system and individuals wanting treatment from seeing treatment as a viable option.

Further, the sizeable cut to treatment grants, effectively twenty percent from FY 02 levels, coupled with progressively larger cuts from our state's federal treatment block grant due to failure to meet maintenance of effort requirements, would cause massive layoffs, facility closures, reduction in services and lengthening

• Page 2

April 18, 2002

of waitlists for people wanting services. The unfortunate alternative for many of these people will be the corrections system and state custody for their children. Youth assessed as needing residential treatment will be forced to seek resources out-of-state. Treatment is proven to be cost effective when compared to the costs incurred by untreated individuals repeatedly moving through the judicial and corrections system. A state that has neither the resources to expand corrections, nor the desire to incarcerate every drunk driver cannot afford to jeopardize systems proven cost effective.

Specifically, SADA is requesting the following amendments to the Senate HSS Finance subcommittee recommendation for the **Department of Health and Social Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (Component Summary)**:

Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) component:

Amend subcommittee total of \$1,028.1 (K) by \$500 (K) to a total of \$1,528.1 thousand.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Grants component:

Amend subcommittee total of \$19,342.2 (K) by \$4,628.7 (K) to a total of \$23,970.9 thousand.

We respectfully urge you to consider these two requests. As I stated earlier, we realize you are faced with making some tough decisions and we have done our best to identify the most critical of services for restoration of funding.

Thank you for your consideration, I can be reached for questions at (907) 770-2927.

April 18, 2002

To: Senate Finance Subcommittee Members:

Your proposed cuts to social service programs are going to have an extremely detrimental impact on future state budgets. Reducing funding to Medicaid, Denali Kid Care, Foster Parent Programs, Alcohol & Tobacco Use Cessation/Prevention Programs, Power Cost Equalization, Mental Health Programs, AVTEC, General Assistance, Education, Suicide Prevention, Education, Public Health Nurses, Adoption Programs, Family Preservation Programs, Head Start, TANF, and other vital programs will have result in even more calls to Emergency Medical Service providers.

As Health & Safety Educator for Tanana Chiefs Conference, I daily see the combined positive effects of the programs you propose to cut. During my trips to communities throughout the Upper Tanana, I often receive requests for additional social services, especially mental health services. I relay these messages to the Tok Area Counseling Center, but they already have too large a caseload.

Additional funding cuts to social service programs is going to result in even fewer people receiving services, resulting in increases in domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse, sexual assault, violent crimes, alcoholism, drug abuse, and suicide. This is entirely contrary to the goals of Governor Knowles and to the promises you made to your constituents when you ran for State Senate.

Many people who dedicate themselves to social service work countless hours of overtime without asking for, or expecting, compensation. Your proposed cuts are going further overburden these people, cause burnout, and lead to an apathetic work force that can no longer provide the individualized services that their at risk clients require in order to remove themselves from dependency upon social services. The idiocy of your proposed budget cuts is beyond words.

During my volunteer work at the Upper Tanana Aging Program I often hear elders discussing whether to buy necessary medication or to heat their homes. If Power Cost Equalization funding is reduced, they will be forced to discuss whether to buy food, heating oil, or medication. For some elders, the meal they receive from the Upper Tanana Aging Program is the only meal they have that day.

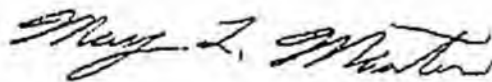
As a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician for Tok Area Emergency Medical Service, I am one of the 28 volunteer medical personnel who cover an area the size of the State of Virginia. One-third of our members are Emergency Medical Technician-III's, the highest training level without moving to attend a paramedic program. Our service has been extremely proactive in training it's members. The result is a high level of care not possible in many rural areas.

As medical training requires re-certification every two years, the loss of training funds will result in advanced care no longer being provided. Being the first medical service on the Alaskan side of the ALCAN, in the summer many of our patients are elderly and require advanced medical procedures. Without continued medical training and equipment funds Alaska will become prohibitive to all visitors except the most hardy. The hardy are often the young with the smallest disposable income. Thus a cut social services will also have a detrimental effect on tourism.

Petroleum, forestry, and commercial fishing operations will also have a smaller pool of Emergency Medical Technician to hire from to provide medical services. This will result in higher death rates in the oil, logging, and fishing industries. These deaths will be a direct result of your actions.

Please do not cut funding to the people who daily are working towards making Alaska a healthier and safer place to raise the next generation of Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Martin
PO Box 434
Tok, AK 99780-0434

Southeast Alaska Avalanche Center

PO Box 20578, Juneau, Alaska 99802 (907)586-5699 o & fax e-mail: seavalanche@gci.net

an educational nonprofit corporation

web: www.avalanche.org; click on Southeast Alaska link

April 18, 2002

Avalanche Safety Funding

* Alaska loses more people every year to avalanches than any other state, regardless of population; but we alone among the snow and mountain states have no government avalanche education and forecasting program.

* This issue affects all Alaskans, not just backcountry recreationists:

+ **Highways:** The Seward, Richardson, Dalton, Klondike, Old Glenn, and Haines Highways; Thane Road, Egan Expressway, Basin Road, and a host of smaller roads and streets all have avalanche problems which impact motorists and our state's economy.

There is no avalanche forecasting at all in Southeast Alaska. This winter, schoolbuses on Thane Road in Juneau were hit twice by avalanche dust clouds; near-misses that illustrate the risk. The legal and human cost of one destroyed schoolbus would pay for many years of avalanche forecasting!

+ **Urban residents:** A number of homes and businesses in Valdez and Cordova were hit and destroyed in the 1999-2000 Southcentral Alaska cycle. Juneau alone has 62 houses, 1 hotel, a freeway, and much of a boat harbor in avalanche zones; other towns with homes in avalanche areas include Anchorage-Eagle River, Girdwood, Moose Pass, and Kennicott.

+ **Workers:** Highway, city, and railroad maintenance crews, powerplant and line workers, loggers, rescue personnel, ski patrollers, and guides are frequently exposed to avalanche danger. Even such normally low-risk jobs as making deliveries involve avalanche risk when houses, highways, and industrial facilities are located in avalanche zones.

* **Prevention is cheaper than rescue:**

+ Avalanches are expensive: a very rough estimate from the state Department of Emergency Services for the cost of the big 1999-2000 avalanche cycle in Southcentral is \$16 million.

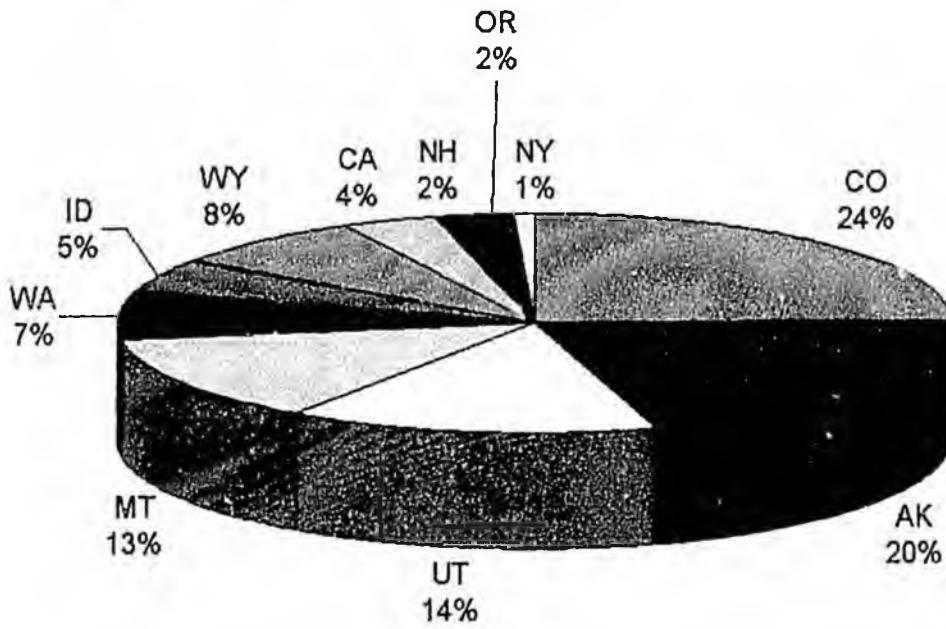
+ Even a fairly simple backcountry avalanche search and rescue effort can cost thousands of dollars and many hours of dangerous volunteer work.

+ **Prevention and forecasting WORKS:** In Switzerland, the avalanche fatality rate has decreased in recent years despite growing numbers of people in the Alps as a result of their government-funded education, forecasting, and mitigation program.

* Please support the remaining Public Safety avalanche funding, and increase the amount if possible! The amount remaining in the budget is nowhere near enough to run a forecasting program, but every little bit WILL help the nonprofits carry out our education work!

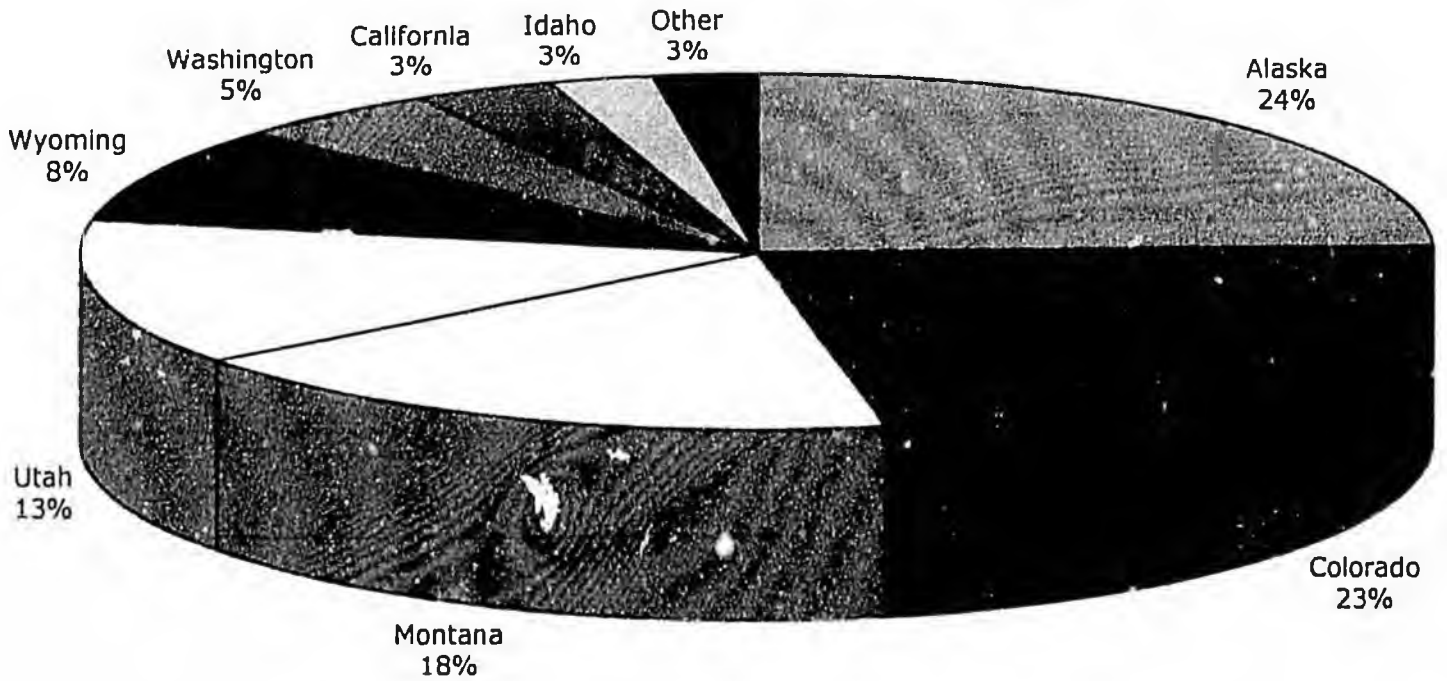
U.S. Avalanche Fatalities by State 1991-2001

(N = 234)

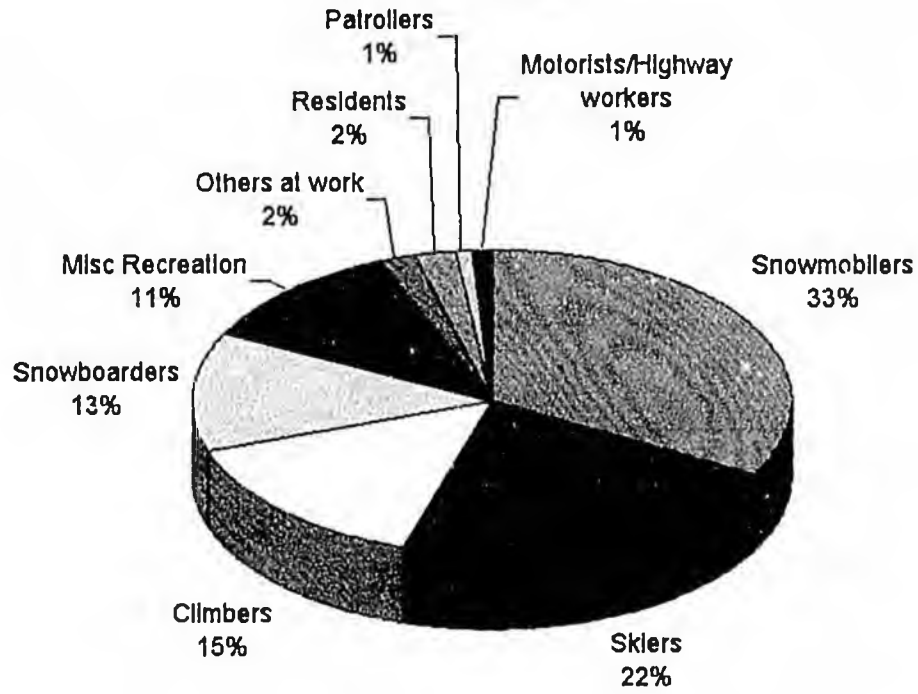


US Avalanche Fatalities by State, 1998-2002

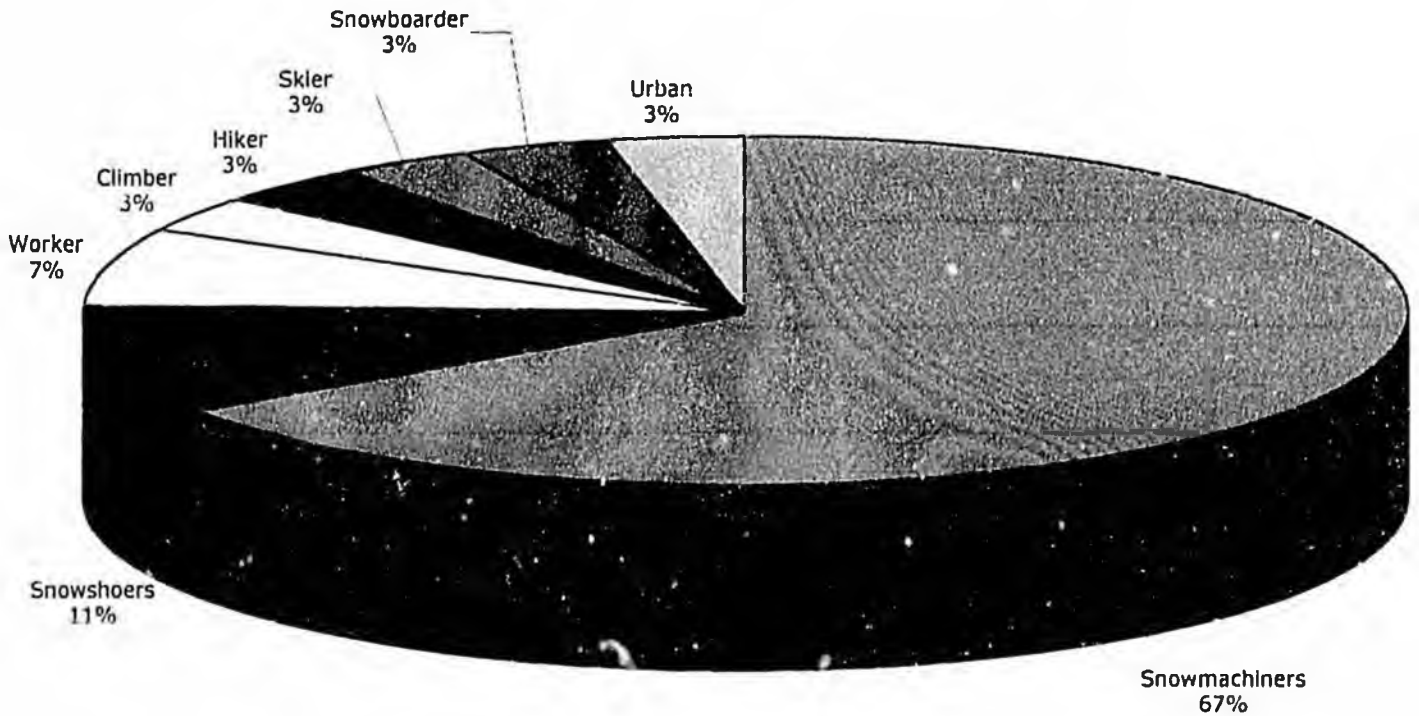
N=119



**U.S. Avalanche Fatalities by Activity
1995-2001
194 Total Fatalities**



**Alaska Avalanche Fatalities by Activity 98-02
N=29**



TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee
Co-Chairs Senator Dave Donley and Senator Pete Kelly
Vice-Chair: Senator Jerry Ward
Members: Senators Loren Leman, Lyda Green, Gary Wilken, Alan
Austerman, Lyman Hoffman, and Donald Olson

RE: Avalanche Awareness Education is Cheaper than
Search and Rescue Missions to Recover Dead Alaskan Bodies

FROM: Aedene L. Arthur, A M.O.M. (Alaska Mom On a Mission)

A DOLLAR SPENT ON PREVENTION AND EDUCATION CAN SAVE
THOUSANDS IN SEARCH AND RESCUE COSTS.

First I would like to thank you for your previous support in avalanche awareness education. Proclaiming November as Alaska Avalanche Awareness Month gives a target month to schedule activities, publicize classes and materials available for public perusal, promote the importance of avalanche awareness, and to urge Alaskans to purchase and learn how to use Basic Avalanche Rescue Gear (beacon, probe, and shovel).

I would also like to thank you for your support in last year's funds of \$50,000 to help with avalanche education. Once Alaskans realize education is an important element in traveling safely in the backcountry where avalanches might occur, there must be classes available for them to attend. Part of the problem in educating people has been that there have been very few avalanche specialists who could offer enough classes to fulfill the need. Part of the \$50,000 implemented a "Reach and Teach" train the trainer program. Avalanche technicians from around the state (Fairbanks, Sitka, Cordova, Girdwood, Wasilla, and Eagle River to name a few sites) were brought together to plan teaching activities and strategies. These teachers then returned to their communities and are giving presentations and teaching classes.

A member of BAART is one of the Reach and Teach participants, and has reached over 1800 individuals (from Boy Scouts to school classes to business groups) since the first Reach and Teach training session. He was able to do this much because he is not employed during the winter season. The very small stipend he received through the Reach and Teach program helped him to buy food to get through the winter. Volunteers can't be expected to do everything,

especially if they work all day. MONIES IN THE BUDGET CAN HELP THE REACH AND TEACH PROGRAM TO CONTINUE.

Education and CONSISTENT, accurate information about weather and snowpack conditions are both necessary factors for informed decisions about traveling in the backcountry. Since Alaska does not have a Forecast Center, education is extremely important. MONIES IN THE BUDGET CAN SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES. Note: Backcountry travelers who cannot access information about conditions before traveling is like taking away pilots' and boaters' ability to access weather conditions before planning a trip.

Alaska has the highest avalanche death rate per capita than any other state. Sixty-nine people have died since 1986; fourteen in 1999 alone. As of April 15, thirty-two Americans have died in avalanches this winter; eight or one-fourth of these deaths have occurred in Alaska.

An avalanche death is not just a statistic, this is an Alaskan citizen. This person is typically a father, husband, sibling, aunt or uncle; an important member of the local community and work place. Each death adversely affects the Alaskan economy: the person is lost from the work force, and the wage-earner who helps support a family can no longer contribute to the family's welfare.

Alaskans have been portrayed by some as independent adventurers who won't listen to warnings, but no Alaskan (no matter how adventurous or independent) enters the backcountry with a death wish. Until a CONSISTENT source of information about conditions in the most-traveled areas in the backcountry is available for easy access by the traveler, EDUCATION IS CRITICAL.

The cost to the Alaskan economy of Search and Rescue missions that recover dead bodies is very high. The Turnagain Pass avalanche where six Alaskans died (two of them service men) cost between \$1 and \$2 million alone. This includes the cost of National Guard, other government agencies involved, and work time lost by volunteer searchers.

The search and body recovery for the father and teen-ager from Fairbanks who died this winter was costly: to the family, to the community, to the Government Agencies involved. Through education, Alaskans get the message about the importance of Avalanche Rescue Gear. If someone is buried, those in the party have the tools to give the person a chance to survive. If a body is found immediately, then a search and rescue mission is not necessary.

Groups such as BAAKT are doing as much as they can to hold classes and get information into the hands of Alaskans. One such project is the placement of Avalanche Awareness Materials Sets of 5 videos and 5 books in middle and high schools, and public libraries around the state. This is being accomplished through tax-deductible \$200 donations from organizations, businesses, and individuals. These materials are often given in memory of a loved one who has died in an avalanche. The goal is to have these materials in all Alaska libraries where people live who can travel to avalanche terrain, by October. (WANT TO HELP PLACE A SET IN A LIBRARY? MY EMAIL IS beth@mtaonline.net, and I do presentations.)

We are hoping that packets can be sent in October to libraries, businesses, and groups around the state promoting Avalanche Awareness Month. These packets can include information about materials available in libraries as well as other educational hand-outs. At this time, there are no Alaska-generated educational hand-outs that can be utilized. MONIES IN THE BUDGET EARMARKED FOR AVALANCE EDUCATION COULD BE USED IN PART TO PRODUCE MATERIALS TO PROMOTE AWARENESS.

I realize this is a long missal to read, and I hope it is all right to have it hand-delivered. I cannot testify via teleconference because I have accompanied my elderly parents to Oregon so they could visit relatives and friends. It is difficult for me to hand-write a letter because I have carpal-tunnel syndrome. But it was important for me to put some of my thoughts on paper for your perusal.

I understand \$35,000 has been added to this year's budget for avalanche education. Thank you to those who moved and supported this effort. I understand the struggles you all have in Juneau this year. My Alaska family consists of four generations, and many of the state programs and other actions you are considering in Juneau have a tremendous effect on all our lives. I could probably spend every day testifying on items in connection with my family and my community service projects.

But I ask you today (in memory of my son, the other 68 Alaskans who have died since 1986, and their families) to continue to support avalanche education efforts to save lives and save the state monies in search and rescuc efforts by (at the very least) retaining (if not increasing) the budgeted amount. Thank you -
Aedene L. Arthur, HCO 2 Box 7300, Palmer 99645 907-745-5374

FROM

(FRI) APR 19 2002 7:19/ST. 7:18/NO. 6305418393 P 1



Fax

O. Box 516 • Northway, Alaska 99764 • (907) 778-2311 • FAX (907) 778-2220

To: _____ From: Mary A. Demit

Fax: 907-465-2187 Pages: 4

Phone: 907- Date: 4-18-02

Re: Pom. (4) CC: _____

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Comments

To hand to appropriate persons

Thank-you

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|---|---|
| Deby Northway, Tribal Administrator Ext. 24 | Maggie Northway, Social Service Administrator Ext. 22 |
| Christine Frank, Bookkeeper Ext. 25 | Alice Nutting, General Assistant Ext. 23 |
| Eleanor David, Secretary Ext. 21 | Crystalene Sam, Indian Child Welfare Act. Ext. 27 |
| Donna Northway, CHR @ 778-2224-226 | Mary Angela Demit, UTAP Counselor Ext. 28 |
| Christine Sam-TWDS Ext. 27 | (907) 778-2250 |

Mary Angela Demit

UTAP

FROM

Public Opinion Message

Tok Legislative Information Office (L.I.O.);
P.O. Box 645, W. First Street Tok, Alaska 99780 Phone (907) 863-5020 Fax (907) 863-5021

This form must be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below. This form must be signed by the sender.

Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc.	First Name	City	Last Name	H., R., E.
	CRYSTAL		SAM	
Mailing Address	Box 414			Zip
Residence (street) address or alternate mail address	NORTHWAY, AK			City
Country telephone number	Circle affiliation (if applicable)	Signature	Date	
752311		Crystal Sam	4.18.02	

To: Put a in the appropriate box(es). **Email Address:**

Committee		House members		Senate members	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> House	Community & Regional Affairs (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jankovitz (dar)	<input type="checkbox"/> Karvula (kar)	<input type="checkbox"/> Austerman (aust)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance (fin)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bunde (bur)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kanning (kon)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cowhey (cow)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health, Ed., & Social Services (has)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chensur (cha)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kookan (koo)	<input type="checkbox"/> Davis (dav)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judiciary (jud)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ciema (cia)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kon (kon)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jorrey (jor)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor & Commerce (lac)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cognli (cog)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lanesar (lan)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kille (kil)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources (res)	<input type="checkbox"/> Crawford (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Meak (mea)	<input type="checkbox"/> Elton (elt)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rules (rul)	<input type="checkbox"/> Croft (cro)	<input type="checkbox"/> McGuire (mcg)	<input type="checkbox"/> Green (gre)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Affairs (sta)	<input type="checkbox"/> Davies (dav)	<input type="checkbox"/> Meyer (mey)	<input type="checkbox"/> Haller (hal)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation (tra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dyson (dys)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moran (mor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hoffman (hof)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Felt (fel)	<input type="checkbox"/> Moses (mos)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly (kelly)	
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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Green (grn)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pankowich (pan)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln (lin)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Guess (gue)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pagan (oga)	<input type="checkbox"/> Olsen (ols)	
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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Jule (jul)	<input type="checkbox"/> Williams (will)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward (war)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Kasper (kas)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson (wil)	<input type="checkbox"/> Weber (web)	

Subject: Fill out the boxes below OR enter a Subject

House #	Bill number	and check one:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend	OR enter a general Subject (L.I.O. staff may modify):
AP	225					

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

I	WOULD	LIKE	TO	HELP
OUR	PEOPLE	TO	STOP	DRINKING
ESPECIALLY	FOR	THE	WOMEN	WHO
ARE	PREGNANT	WITH	THE	BABIES
BECAUSE	THEY	ARE	OUR	FUTURE
GENERATION,	ALSO	THERE	SHOULD	BE
A	PENALTY	FOR	THEM.	AND
TO	HELP	THEM	STOP	PUT
PROGRAMS	FOR	THEM.	WE	HAD
A	COUPLE	PEOPLE	DIE	FROM
ALCOHOL	DON'T	LET	ANY	MORE
DIE.				

Public Opinion Message

Tok Legislative Information Office (L.I.O.);

P.O. Box 246, W. First Street Tok, ALASKA 99780 Phone (907) 853-5020 Fax (907) 853-5021

This form must be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below. This form must be signed by the sender.

MC. No. (L.I.O.)	First Name <i>Christine</i>	MI <i>m</i>	Last Name <i>Sam</i>	Mr., Ms., etc.
Living Address	<i>Box 414, Northway Ak 99764 →</i>			Zip code <i>99764</i>
Residence (if not address of primary residence)	<i>same</i>			Zip code
Ordinary telephone number	Circle affiliation (if applicable)	Signature <i>Christine Sam</i>		Date <i>4-15-02</i>
<i>907-178-2311</i>				

To: Put a ✓ in the appropriate box(es). **Email Address:**

Committees		House members		Senate members	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community & Regional Affairs (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Berkowitz (ber)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Austerman (aue)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance (fin)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bunde (bur)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cowsey (cow)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health, Ed., & Social Services (hes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chensur (che)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Davis (dav)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judiciary (jud)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cizna (ciz)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jonesy (don)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor & Commerce (l&c)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cognell (cog)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stia (stia)
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation (tra)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dyson (dys)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hoffman (hoh)
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster (fos)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leman (lem)
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		<input type="checkbox"/>	Joule (jou)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ward (war)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Kapner (kap)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wilson (wik)

Subject: Fill out the boxes below OR enter a Subject.

Priority LAB	Bill number 225	and check one:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend	<input type="checkbox"/> OR enter a general Subject (L.I.O. staff may modify):
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Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 80 words or contain any vulgar language.

<i>Yes, I wrote</i>	<i>for</i>	<i>Alcoholic</i>		1
<i>Beverage</i>	<i>Tax;</i>	<i>1st - A lot</i>	<i>of under age</i>	11
<i>drinking.</i>	<i>2 - Too</i>	<i>much</i>	<i>alcohol abuse.</i>	12
<i>3 - Put</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>price</i>	<i>on alcohol</i>	13
<i>higher</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>countries.</i>	14
<i>Thank</i>	<i>You!</i>			15
				16
				17
				18
				19
				20

Public Opinion Message

Tok Legislative Information Office (L.I.O.)
P.O. Box 648, W. First Street Tok, Alaska 99780 Phone (907) 853-5020 Fax (907) 853-5021

This form must be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below. This form must be signed by the sender.

Mr./Ms./Mrs.	First Name	MI	Last Name	Jr./Sr./E.
	Mary	A	DEMIT	
Mailing address	P.O. Box 493			Zip code
Home/office (select) address if different from mailing address	P.O. Box 4 Northway, AK 99			99764
Daytime telephone number	Area code (if applicable)	Signature		Date
907-778-2258		Mary A. Demit		4-18-02

To: put a in the appropriate box(es). Email Address:

Committees		House members			Senate members	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H or S	Community & Regional Affairs (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Berkowitz (ber)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kartula (kar)	<input type="checkbox"/> Aarmanen (aar)	<input type="checkbox"/> Aarmanen (aar)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance (fin)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bunde (bur)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kanning (kan)	<input type="checkbox"/> Coweely (cow)	<input type="checkbox"/> Coweely (cow)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health, Ed., & Social Services (hes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chensault (cha)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kookesh (koo)	<input type="checkbox"/> Davis (dav)	<input type="checkbox"/> Davis (dav)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judiciary (jud)	<input type="checkbox"/> Clarna (cla)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kon (kon)	<input type="checkbox"/> Demay (dem)	<input type="checkbox"/> Demay (dem)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor & Commerce (lmc)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cognill (cog)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lancaster (lan)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gila (gila)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gila (gila)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources (res)	<input type="checkbox"/> Crawford (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Meek (mea)	<input type="checkbox"/> Elton (elton)	<input type="checkbox"/> Elton (elton)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rules (rul)	<input type="checkbox"/> Croft (cro)	<input type="checkbox"/> McGuire (mcg)	<input type="checkbox"/> Green (gre)	<input type="checkbox"/> Green (gre)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Affairs (sta)	<input type="checkbox"/> Devier (dev)	<input type="checkbox"/> Meyer (mey)	<input type="checkbox"/> Haller (hal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Haller (hal)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation (tra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dyson (dys)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan (mor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hoffman (hof)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hoffman (hof)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Fale (fal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Vanez (van)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly (kel)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly (kel)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Fester (fes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Munkewald (mun)	<input type="checkbox"/> Leman (lem)	<input type="checkbox"/> Leman (lem)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Green (grn)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ogan (oga)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lincoln (lin)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln (lin)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Guess (gue)	<input type="checkbox"/> Porter (por)	<input type="checkbox"/> Olsen (ols)	<input type="checkbox"/> Olsen (ols)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Haloro (hal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rakeberg (rak)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pearce (pce)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pearce (pce)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Harris (har)	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott (sco)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pimp (pim)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pimp (pim)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Hayes (hay)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stevens (stv)	<input type="checkbox"/> Taylor (tay)	<input type="checkbox"/> Taylor (tay)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Hudson (hud)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tittaker (tit)	<input type="checkbox"/> Theriault (the)	<input type="checkbox"/> Theriault (the)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> James (jam)	<input type="checkbox"/> Williams (wil)	<input type="checkbox"/> Torgerson (tor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Torgerson (tor)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Jude (jud)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson (wil)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward (war)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward (war)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Kaganer (kag)		<input type="checkbox"/> Wilkan (wik)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilkan (wik)	

Subject: Fill out the boxes below OR enter a Subject.

Bill #	Bill number	and check one:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
448	225				

OR enter a general Subject (L.I.O. staff may modify):

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 80 words or contain any vulgar language.

Yes I am in full support of the Alcohol Beverage Tax. Reason: Too many violence + abuse in families. Too many accidents. Very high rate of underage drinking. Too many deaths related from Alcohol Abuse. We all know what Alcohol can do and what happens to the family. It's in our Newspapers everyday all because of Alcohol. Let's work hard together to try to overcome the Devasting effects of Alcohol.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
PO BOX 1189
ROOM 210 JARVIS OFFICE CENTER
DELTA JCT., AK 99737

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	Senate Finance Committee	FROM:	Elizabeth Sarver <i>ES</i>
COMPANY:	Alaska State Legislature	DATE:	April 18, 2002
FAX NUMBER:	465-2187	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	7
PHONE NUMBER:	[Click here and type phone number]	SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:	(907) 895-4236
RE:	Teleconference Testimony for 04/18/02	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:	(907) 895-5017 fax

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:



Alaska State Legislature

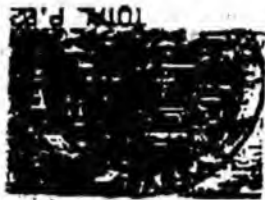
Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
committee name
committee on The Budget, dated 4-18-02
bill/subject

Please take a serious look at the proposed budget cuts. Cutting services like Parks, road maintenance and troopers are ridiculous. These things are vital to the overall "health" of our state.

Find the money for the budget elsewhere - taxes (within reason, of course), permanent fund, etc. We need the services more than we need the over-generous dividend (cap would help) or lack of taxes. Our state has a welfare mentality that needs to stop.

Signed: Maubert Mill
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HC 60 Box 4140 Delta, AK 99737
Address
895-6208
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee on Education Funding, dated 4-17-02
bill/subject committee name

I urge you to increase funding for our schools. Anything less than \$190 per student (\$32.7 million) increase in state funding in FY 03 does not measure up.

Signed:

Whit Aillaud

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

Box 1245 Delta AK 99737

Address

895-4286

Phone No.

①

ALASKA



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance

committee on Education Funding committee name dated 4/17/02

bill/subject

Education has had to limp around with inadequate funding for more than a decade when you mandated unfunded standards. I had to comfort little special needs students who were in tears having to take the tests you mandated before having reasonable intervention and accommodation plans in place. Our constitution has mandated that you establish and maintain a school system. Education funding must be the #1 priority for Alaska's children and our future. Anything less than \$190 per student IN FY03 does not measure up! Our students need and deserve updated materials, textbooks, resources and technology. They deserve learning environments that are conducive to learning, not overcrowded classrooms. They deserve teachers who are trained to teach — not just any warm body. They deserve quality support professionals who do make a difference! Our schools need to be SAFE. These things

Signed:

JACKIE L. Nelson Jackie Nelson

Testifier
President, Delta-Greely Education Support Personnel Assoc.

Representing (Optional)
Special Education Aide, Mother of 3

Address
HC 60 Bx 4180, Delta Jct., AK

Phone No. 99737 895-4817
<jackie@wildak.net>

need to be funded (2) by you
 to make sure that we, "Leave no
 child Behind" the resources need to
 be in the schools to allow our districts,
 administrators, teachers and education
 support professionals to do what they
 do best... teach our children! Your
 job should be clear — increase
 educational funding by NO LESS THAN
 \$190 per STUDENT in FY03. Anything
 less is child neglect! The future
 of our children and our state
 depends on you "stepping up to
 the plate" with adequate funding
 for education.

Signed: JACKIE L. Nelson Jackie Nelson
 President, ^{Testifier} Delta-Greely Education Support
 Special Education Aide, ^{Representing (Optional)} Personnel Assoc.
 Mother of 3
 Address: HC 60 BX 4180, Delta Jct., AK
99737 Phone No. 895-4217



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance committee on Budget, dated April 18, 2002.
committee name
bill/subject

If state budget cuts could specifically be geared for the fat at the top, it would be fine. But the cuts hit the working men + women out clearing the roads, marketing timber sales, policing our highway + cities etc. Our state doesn't have a budget problem, we just have a group of lawmakers that can't make a decision.

Our state's citizens have gotten too used to free money from the state, and free services.

Use of the perm fund is quite reasonable as is a state income tax. We should be getting money from all the outsiders that take our state dollars and give nothing back.

Don't continue cutting the budget at the cost of leaving our highways + cities unsafe and our resources undeveloped. Thank you

Signed:

Scott R Miller
Testifier

Misty Mountain Farm
Representing (Optional)

HC 60 Box 4140, Delta AK 99821
Address

907-895-6208
Phone No.

TOTAL P.07



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senat Finance
 committee on Education dated 4/17/02
 bill/subject committee name

We need to fund our student's education. I am urging you to settle for nothing less than \$190 per child school increase in education funding. We have failed to keep up with inflation for more than a decade. Alaska's children are paying the price. Fund education as a constitutional mandate before other programs are funded. I support the option of funding education with monies from the permanent fund! I am also in favor of taking monies out of each individual pay check once a year for education only. This was done in the past and could be done now. If we set up taxes we need an expensive structure to support that system.

Signed:

Melinda Eggleston
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 722 Delta AK 99737

Address

905-4332

Phone No.

APR 18 2002 14:05



STATE OF ALASKA/ LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

Petersburg Legislative Information office P.O. Box 1470 Petersburg, AK 99833
Phone: 907-772-3741 Fax: 907-772-3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: Senate Finance Committee, Attn Mindy Rowland

FAX: 907-465-2187

DATE: April 18, 2002

RE: Written Testimony/ Budget Bills

FROM: Ellen Sharpsteen

Please enter this written testimony into the record for yesterday's hearing in SFIN on the HB403/404 and SB288/289. Ms Menish-Mucci also requests that Members of the Committee receive a copy of her comments.
Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellen".

FROM : MEUCCI@9077724694TTTTTTTTTT

PHONE NO. : 9077724694

Apr. 18 2002 08:51AM P1

For the Senate Finance Com.

My name is Marilyn Menish-Meucci from Petersburg and I am testifying as a resident of the State of Alaska. I am so baffled by what you are doing in Juneau it is hard to know where to start. You are cutting every thing that helps our state function and be a place that people want to live in and raise a family. If you under fund the Marine Highway System we will have less service than we did in the 1960's. By cutting snow removal the roads will not be plowed on our school bus route. By cutting snow removal at our airport that would mean we in Petersburg will have a hard time getting out of town, especially with the cut in the Marine Highway. Do you understand that 50% of the tourists headed for Anchorage and Fairbanks are traveling on the Marine Highway to get there?? I feel most of you have forgotten why you are in Juneau. You are there for the betterment of our state as a whole, not just for a district here or there. I feel a state income tax would be a way to have those that work in our state seasonally help pay for the services they use. You need to get focused and get a fiscal plan for the years to come. I am opposed to a state sale tax as Petersburg [and many other communities] already has a sales tax in place. I have heard many people in the last hour [from all over the state] testify that they are ready for a state income tax. ARE YOU LISTENING????? Thank you.

Marilyn Menish-Meucci
Box 1086
Petersburg, AK 99833

April 17, 2002

Subject: Senate Committee on the Budget

Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 09:39:13 -0800

From: "Anne Sudkamp (and Tim Walker)" <fnacs1@uaf.edu>

To: Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us

My family and I strongly support implementation of a State income tax. We denounce further budget cuts, especially reducing welfare eligibility for Alaska PFD recipients.

Anne Sudkamp
PO Box 83304
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Residence (not mailing) address:
1729 Flatpick Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Subject: comments for Senate Finance Committee

Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 10:47:53 -0700 (PDT)

From: Lewis Overton <lewy_o@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: lewy@iname.com

To: Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us

09:08 4/18/2002

Senate Committee on the Budget

mindy_rowland@legis.state.ak.us

First, thank you for listening. I write to protest what I see as a short sighted, head-in-the-sand approach to state funding without benefit of a long term financial plan. I object. This is not what I elected my senator and representatives to do.

The house may be "holding the line on spending", but I feel very threatened. The proposed budget endangers both quality of life and public safety. The excuse is to avoid using dividends from the Permanent Fund and to avoid taxing Alaskans in order to provide services to Alaskans. But state provided services are needed. Some things we cannot do for ourselves and must do either collectively or not at all.

I can't provide for myself the state parks that have been developed over the years. I might buy land and build or buy a cabin out Chena Hot Springs Road, or at Harding Lake, or Birch Lake, but I certainly cannot provide my own recreational site at all of these. I am unwilling to carry a gun and go through the training necessary to become my own Alaska State Trooper. I doubt that I could perform a competent food service inspection for every place where I dine. Perhaps Fairbanks could do it for me, but what of those places outside a city? Besides, shifting the burden from state to city saves no money. It increases costs by increasing overhead through redundancy. Cuts causing reduction of timber sales directly cost us all.

So I don't see the point of this incessant cutting. Some services are needed and are best provided on a shared basis, through the state. Using the Permanent Fund dividends is not the horror it is made out to be; that was the original intent of the fund. I was here when it began and I collected that first \$1,000 dividend. Even if the fund would not support our needs, Alaskans are very lightly taxed. We, as a group, can certainly afford to pay our own way, but the idea of "doing it all ourselves" is quaint at best. Anachronistic is a better word.

The last quarter century has seen a steady growth in quality of life. I like the diverse definitions of a high quality of life, but my choice includes some peace of mind from a good public safety and court system, safe places to eat and to visit, outdoor recreation in a clean area, and not too many people. The only thing I see the current budget proposal providing is not too many people. Some will leave. Not a good way to proceed.

Lewis Overton
3281 Edby Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709-2657
907.479.6224
lewy_o@yahoo.com

Do You Yahoo!?

Subject: SB 289

Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 11:14:57 -0800

From: "Dael Devenport" <daeld@hotmail.com>

To: Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us

I am concerned about the reduction in the EMS Grants Program. I am an EMT-II in the Copper River Valley. This summer we are expecting a huge increase in the number of tourists passing through our area due to a new Princess Tours Lodge and a new National Park Service Visitor Center. Even with our current EMS support, we do not have adequate resources to cover the number of people or the large area. If only one tour bus was involved in an accident, we would not be able to provide the care needed even if we pooled all of the EMS resources in the entire Copper River region. If the EMS Grants Program is reduced, our ability to provide adequate medical care to people in our area will be further diminished. This means that people will die for reasons that could be prevented with adequate EMS support. Please reconsider the reduction of the EMS Grants Program.

Thank you,
Dael A. Devenport
EMT-II
Copper River EMS

Chat with friends online, try MSN Messenger: <http://messenger.msn.com>

2001-2003

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Suellen Appellof

2nd VP Membership
Dawn Wenger

3rd VP Legislation
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Technology

Beth Webber
Ways & Means

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Past President

Dawn Cross
Office Manager

Alaska PTA

everychild.onevoice.

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

email address: ak_office@pta.org
Website: akpta@pta.org

To **Senate**
Name: **Finance**

From **465-2187**

Alaska PTA

Organization Name/Dept:
CC:

PO Box 201496
Anchorage, Alaska 99520-1496
907-279-9345 office
907-222-2401 fax

Fax number:

- Urgent
- For Review
- Please Comment
- Please Reply

Date sent:

04-18-02

Time sent:

9:55 am

Number of pages including cover page:

2

Message:

Corrected version of
letter sent to LIOs.

Please share as
testimony with ALL
members of Senate
Finance Committee.

Thank You

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Past President
Dawn Cross Office Manager

Office Phone: 907-279-9345
Fax: 907-222-2401
Email: ak_office@pta.org
Website: <http://www.akpta.org>

PO Box 201496
Anchorage, AK 99520-1496

Alaska
PTA

everychild.one voice.

April 18, 2002

To members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The annual state PTA convention is happening today in Anchorage concurrently with this opportunity to testify. Thus, many of us are unable to personally testify at our local LIOs. On behalf of the 13,000 strong membership of the Alaska State PTA, we STRONGLY urge you to increase education funding by the \$190 per student level for FY 03. Increased education funding is consistently one of our most important priorities as we witness the erosion of quality education for our students due to ongoing inflation and other increased costs.

Members of PTA units throughout the state can testify to the fact that we are being called upon more and more to raise funds locally to help meet basic educational needs within our schools. Each year we witness the loss of essential programs that motivate our children to learn and succeed. We are losing the competitive edge in attracting excellent teachers and administrators to come to Alaska. This is happening at a time when we have established higher standards and greater expectations for our students.

We understand the need to solve the state fiscal gap, but not at the expense of your mandated duty to maintain a strong school system statewide. Quality education for Alaska's children must be the #1 priority. Please vote to increase state education funding.



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 289 / HB 403 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject

Honorable Senators of the Finance Committee:

I ask you to seriously consider not cutting education any further. Education funding has been eroded to the point that that our district is no longer able to offer competitive compensation packages to attract and keep the best and brightest teachers for our kids.

The teachers we have right now, were hired in the days when the Kenai Peninsula School District was able to go down to the lower 48 and pick from the best of the best at every job fair. Those days are gone. Today we are encouraging our most experienced teachers to LEAVE our schools in a sad attempt to make up for the lack of state funding.

Does anyone remember the days when:

There was an income tax.

There was no permanent fund dividend.

Education was a priority.

Today:

There is no income tax.

There is a permanent fund dividend

Education is NOT a priority.

Inflation alone costs our schools \$14.8 million dollars this year alone. Please increase the foundation formula. Our children and our schools deserve to be a priority. Quality schools build strong citizens and strong communities.

Strong public schools prepare children for jobs of the 21st century.

FUND EDUCATION FIRST BEFORE FUNDING ANYTHING ELSE.

Signed: Bill Vedders

Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1484 Kenai, Alaska 99611

Address

283-3472

Phone number

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION FROM THE
ALASKA CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

P. O. Box 201844 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1844

Phone: 907-258-0044 Fax 907-258-0288

Email: akclu@alaska.net

To: SENATOR HOFFMAN Fax No.: 907-465-4523

With: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

From: ROBIN SMITH Date: 4-17-02

Number of Pages in Transmission (Including Cover Sheet): _____

**THIS IS A PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION,
TRANSMITTED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE ADDRESSEE.
SHOULD YOU RECEIVE THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE
CALL ME IMMEDIATELY BY COLLECT PHONE CALL AND MAIL THE
COMMUNICATION TO ME AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS BY FIRST CLASS
MAIL. THANK YOU.**

NOTES:

please enter my testimony into the
public record for the budget

THANK YOU

I am appalled that you are again defunding medically necessary abortions for low-income women. Under the funding scheme proposed by HB 403, women with epilepsy, heart disease, cancer, and many other conditions for whom pregnancy involves severe health consequences, but not death, would be denied abortion coverage. This plan works against families who are living below the poverty line. You are not taking into consideration the woman's health and the impact on her capacity to care for herself or her existing family that probably includes children.

Rather than being a cost saving measure, this act will actually cost Alaska more money. If these women qualify for this medical care then they will qualify for pregnancy coverage. The average public cost of coverage for an unplanned pregnancy and infant care for one year is approximately \$30,000. In addition the State will be forced back into litigation in what is sure to be a losing battle, wasting the State's time and money in an era of severe budget shortfalls.

The Alaska Supreme Court unanimously rejected the defunding last year. Yet the Republican majority in the legislature consistently flout the checks and balances of our government when they persist in trying to override the judicial branch. This is un-American. I question your commitment to the Alaska and US Constitution.

I understand you might not want to pay for this. There are many things the government pays for that I do not support and may abhor. You are making these decisions based on your own religious and moral beliefs. It is not your job to make such moral decisions for the entire state. Just as I would not force any woman to have an abortion how dare you force a woman to carry a problem pregnancy to term.

Robin J. Smith
ROBIN SMITH
14100 JARVI DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
907-345-4407

FROM : ALASKA PTA EveryChild OneVoice FAX NO. : 1907222401

Apr. 18 2002 08:23AM P1

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Parent Involvement/Education
Paula Pawlowaki (Anchorage)
Past President
Dawn Cross Office Manager

Office Phone: 907-279-8345
Fax: 907-222-2401
Email: ak_office@pta.org
Website: <http://www.alaska.org>

PO Box 201406
Anchorage, AK 99520-1406

Alaska PTA

everychild.one voice.

April 18, 2002

To members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The annual state PTA convention is happening today in Anchorage concurrently with this opportunity to testify. Thus, many of us are unable to personally testify at our local LIOs. On behalf of the 13,000 strong membership of the Alaska State PTA, we STRONGLY urge you to fund education at the \$190 per student level for FY 03. Increased education funding is consistently one of our most important priorities as we witness the erosion of quality education for our students due to ongoing inflation and other increased costs.

Members of PTA units throughout the state can testify to the fact that we are being called upon more and more to raise funds locally to help meet basic educational needs within our schools. Each year we witness the loss of essential programs that motivate our children to learn and succeed. We are losing the competitive edge in attracting excellent teachers and administrators to come to Alaska. This is happening at a time when we have established higher standards and greater expectations for our students.

We understand the need to solve the state fiscal gap, but not at the expense of your mandated duty to maintain a strong school system statewide. Quality education for Alaska's children must be the #1 priority. Please vote to increase state education funding.

50 Front Street, Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-9675
Fax: 907-225-8546

STATE OF ALASKA
Legislative Information Office



Fax

To: *Senate Finance* From: *Ketchikan LIO*
Fax: Date: *04.18.02*
Phone: Pages:
Re:

Budget testimony - WRITTEN

Visit our website at: www.legis.state.ak.us/lios/ketchikan/index.htm

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: (907) 225-9675
Fax: (907) 225-8546

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Kasey A. Keller
ADDRESS: 2526 4th Ave
Ketchikan Alaska
PHONE: 907-247-2273 WK, 7-2664 HM

BILL# or SUBJECT: Tobacco Prevention & Control

COMMITTEE: _____
Master Tobacco Settlement Funds.

These funds have provided programs like mine of the fabulous opportunity to enter elementary through high school classrooms to educate our youth on the deadly effects of tobacco use & environmental tobacco smoke. Today I ask the legislature to allot the full 20% of the master tobacco settlement funds to tobacco prevention, education & cessation programs as it is intended. Help protect Alaskas youth & children from the tobacco industry. Help create & maintain healthy schools & communities by ~~allocating the full 20% of settlement funds to these very essential programs.~~ allocating the full 20% of settlement funds to these very essential programs.

Thank you!

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901Phone: (907) 225-9675
Fax: (907) 225-8546**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

NAME: Pat Chapman - KGH Tobacco Cessation Program
ADDRESS: 126 Washington Ave
Ketchikan, AK 99901
PHONE: 907-247-4330

BILL# or SUBJECT: Subcommittee Budget proposalsCOMMITTEE: Senate Finance

Tobacco program in KETCHIKAN provides free
Cessation program to All low income residents of
the Gateway Borough Area, as well as provide
Assistance with the Nicotine Replacement therapy
drugs. As Medicaid is not paying for this service
even though they receive the tobacco funding we
need extra funding to continue to provide this
service to the increased population that is trying
Quit Smoking.

The program in Ketchikan has a very good
track record of 42% of the clients still non-smokers
after one year of finishing the program. This
is in line with the new type of Cessation / NRT
programs started nation wide with the Tobacco
Settlement funds.

I urge you to give the tobacco Prevention
and Control the total amount of the 20% to this
Program so we can expand to serve more
clients, with the funds the tobacco industry is
providing.

This will reduce the Medicaid costs as these clients
will have less medical problems in the future

Pat Chapman

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901Phone: (907) 225-9675
Fax: (907) 225-8546**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**NAME: Rebecca Kleinschmidt
ADDRESS: 7939 S. Dongas
Ketchikan, AK 99901
PHONE: 907-225-5878BILL# or SUBJECT: Tobacco Settlement Funds

COMMITTEE: _____

Tobacco use is the #1 cause of preventable death - killing
more Americans each year than murder, suicide, drug use,
alcohol use, car accidents + AIDS combined. In addition
to these 350,000 deaths yearly, over 100,000 NON-SMOKING
Americans die due to exposure to second hand
smoke.

Further, Alaska has one of the top prevalence rates -
topping a 27% rate of use.

In light of these facts - allocating a near 1/5 - or 20%
of the 25 million dollar tobacco settlement to
tobacco prevention and cessation is a necessity.

I urge you to use these tobacco funds how they were
intended to be used - to treat + prevent tobacco
addiction in the State of Alaska.

Thank you

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: (907) 225-9675
Fax: (907) 225-8546

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Valvee Price
ADDRESS: 2926 Baranof Ave
Ketchikan Alaska 99901
PHONE: 907 247-2926

BILL# or SUBJECT: Tobacco Settlement

COMMITTEE: Rep. Ketchikan Tobacco Alliance - ADFY

The tobacco settlement money gives opportunity ^{to} ~~to~~ educate businesses: Schools on the ~~deadly~~ ^{harmful} effects of tobacco. The allocated 20% will: can continue to counter-market aggressive tobacco companies. This will help us create a firm foundation of prevention of tobacco use in Ketchikan for our youth. We encourage you to allocate the full 20% of the tobacco settlement. With this funding ~~the~~ the prevention: cessation resources will be available -

-Thank you-

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: (907) 225-9675
Fax: (907) 225-8546

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: ED ZASTROW
ADDRESS: 3530 DENALI AVE
KTN, ALASKA
PHONE: 907-225-2814

SANITATION

BILL# or SUBJECT: STATE BUDGET- DEC - FOOD SAFETY & SANITATION

COMMITTEE: SENATE FINANCE SUB.COM. BUDGET PROPOSALS

MY NAME ED ZASTROW - 3530 DENALI - KTN - 48 years
I AM SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE LOCAL
CHAPTER OF AARP - AS THEIR PRESIDENT
AND KTN'S CENTER-SITE COUNCIL PRES.
A LARGE GROUP OF SENIOR CITIZENS

WE ASK THAT THE PROPOSED
REDUCTION OF FOOD SAFETY & SANITATION
PROGRAM OF DEC - NOT BECOME A
REALITY - FULL STATE FUNDING
TO THIS PROGRAM IS REQUESTED
- POSSIBLE CLOSURE & MAJOR
REDUCTION OF FOOD SERVICES TO
OUR SENIORS HERE IN KETCHIKAN
IS UNACCEPTABLE

Sitka Legislative Information Office
Marie Murray, LIO Officer

210 Lake Street
Sitka, AK 99835-7561

907-747-6276
Fax: 907-747-5807
email: Sitka_LIO@legis.state.ak.us



Date: 4-19-02

To: Senate Finance Committee

Fax: 907-465-2187

From: Scott McAdams

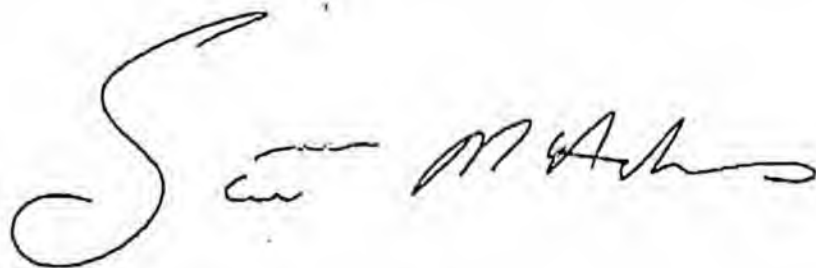
Message:

Mr. McAdams asked that we
fax his testimony, even though he
did verbally testify.

Thank you

I would like to express my support for maintaining and advancing health and human service programs in the new state budget. Sitka is a community that is blessed with several outstanding community and social service agencies. Our community relies heavily not only on the services these agencies provide, but also on the livable income jobs these agencies provide local professionals. I salute and admire agencies such as Center for Community Youth Advocated of Sitka, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Sitkans Against Family Violence, Islands Counseling, SEARHC, Sitka Prevention and Treatment Services, D.F.Y.S. and others for doing their part to help keep our community healthy and safe. Most of these programs survive on either direct funding from the state of Alaska, or grant funds from the state.

Growing up as a kid in Petersburg during the late 70's and early 80's, I have very vivid memories of the family problems and heart ache created in the community by rampant drug and alcohol abuse. I am very happy to say that I believe that the communities in our region are much healthier today. However, there is much work still to be done, and I am afraid that if the mechanisms that provide alcohol and drug treatment and prevention are cut in the budgetary process, it will be our children and families who suffer the most. Please help keep our communities sober and healthy by maintaining Health and Human services funding at it's current levels.



Scott McAclams

4/19/02



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject

FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS I HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE GOAL OF BUDGET CUTTING BY THE MAJORITY UNTIL THE HEARD PEOPLE CRY "UNCLE." WELL, I HAVE BEEN CRYING & CRYING UNCLE ABOUT THE CUTS, TAX ME, CAP THE PERM. FUND, REDUCE THE PERM FUND DIVIDEND. — THIS IS SO WRONG. WE CANNOT CUT OUR WAY TO ECONOMIC HEALTH. EDUCATION MUST BE INCREASED. AS A 39 YEAR VOTING RESIDENT I HAVE SEEN THE UPS & DOWN — BUT RECALL WHEN WE WERE A 1st CLASS STATE

Signed: MARION NELSON
Testifier

SELF
Representing (optional)

PO Box 1535
Address

907-283-4632
Phone number

WHEN IT CAME TO EDUCATION, WE ARE A
LONG WAY FROM IT NOW. I PERSONALLY
GIVE MY PFD CHECK TO THE TWO ELEM-
ENTARY CLASSROOMS OF MY YOUNGEST
GRANDKIDS FOR BASIC SUPPLIES.

STOP THIS MADNESS.

- FUND ^{RAISE FUNDING} THE SCHOOLS & ^{RAISE FUNDING} EDUCATORS SALARIES
- CHANGE THE FUNDING FORMULA -
- CHANGE THE DESIGNATION OF THE HOUSING -
(WE ARE NOT AN ANCHORAGE COMPARABLE)
- FUND PARKS
- FUND HWAY MAINTENANCE/FERRIES.
- FUND TROOPERS
- FUND CHILDRENS SERVICES
- FUND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR OUR
DISABLED.
- FUND TOURISM

Marion Nelson

3/17/02

TO: Senate Finance Committee

Re: Budget hearings – SB 289

From: James E. Fisher, 171 Farnsworth Blvd., Solodtna, AK 99669
Fax: 262-9641 phone: 262-9601

Will you be able look the Alaska public in the eye to explain how you have failed to institute reasonable financial support for their essential state services?

Since the Senate has apparently approximated the General Fund budget proposed by the House, even more moderate Senate changes would result in painful slashes for essential education, public health and safety. I ask will those cuts:

1. In any way enhance the overall lives of all Alaskan residents, even those who only must worry about the safety of such a simple matter as eating in a restaurant?
2. How can the estimated reductions of 19-23, or more, fewer State Troopers adequately respond to death, disaster and critical search and rescue for any one, or all, of us?
3. How can our children receive even the level of education now available, under our presently stressed financial school systems?

Answering the apparent factual situation of these questions, challenges the Senate to explain the multiple adverse impacts that will affect your constituents and our neighbors.

Won't failure to avoid the adverse impacts outlined above, look like a failure of nerve of the Senate?

(SenFin31702 tele-hearing)

*Confirmation
of testimony - 4/17/02
J.E.F.*



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
Bill # / subject

I support HB 403 and SB 289. Please don't forget \$190 dollars per student (32.7 million) Increase State funding in FY 03. This funding is important if you want productive children. I urge you to increase funding for schools. Alaska's Children / Alaska's future.

Signed: Ms. Priscilla J. Byers
Testifier

Representing (optional)
P.O. Box 805, Soldotna, Alaska 99669
Address

407 / 262 6188
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject

Please understand that when you cut financial support for child protection, public safety, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and prevention, and medical care, you increase the cost to the State, the community, and our society in the future. Much of what is done in the areas outlined above is prevention work. Child protection services focus much of the resources on preventing child abuse and neglect. Public safety personnel help to prevent crime, domestic violence, child abuse, etc. The list goes on. Please do not be short-sighted. The cuts you make on the backs of the children & poor today will cost all of us in the future. ~~the future.~~ Please support these services and put the funds back in the budget.

Signed: Voter Margit Cox

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 4137 Soldotna, AK 99689
Address

202-6365
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject general Mental Health fund

I think that this cut is targeting the most vulnerable population who are not the majority of the voting population - I urge you to consider what an impact this will have on the local community and AK as a whole -

Please consider to put money back into family preservation ^{grant} - Also ^{the} reduction in foster care ^{payments} - ~~the~~ the families that foster our children are a vital part of our resources
Thank-you for your time

Signed: A. J. [Signature]
Testifier

Voter

Representing (optional)

Box 1388 Soldotna AK 99669
Address

760-3860
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

DILLINGHAM
Legislative Information Office

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance ⁴⁶⁵⁻²¹⁸⁷
(committee name)

committee on budget, dated 4-17-02
(bill# / subject)

Signed:

Jeanifa Jones-Molina
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 857, Dillingham Ak 99576
Address

907-842-3863
Telephone

Alaska's Children, Alaska's Future

Give our schools your FULL support

WHEREAS, our Alaska Constitution mandates that the state provide an education system that offers all our children the opportunity to succeed in life.

WHEREAS, providing an adequate education is not a rural or an urban issue. It's an *Alaskan* issue.

WHEREAS, research shows that quality teachers are the most significant factor in student achievement, and that teachers get the job done better with a qualified team of support staff and administrators.

WHEREAS, quality educators are linked to competitive compensation; and in this time of nationwide shortages, school districts must have the ability to attract and retain quality education professionals.

WHEREAS, each public school is expected to implement new standards for teaching and learning, however the State of Alaska has failed to fund the total costs associated with successful implementation of new school standards.

WHEREAS, from fiscal year 1990 to 2000, inflation has eroded the school foundation funding program by 25%, some \$200 million.

WHEREAS, Alaska ranks dead last among the states in K-12 education spending as a percentage of total net spending, and the percentage decline in per pupil spending over the past two decades is the highest in the country.

WHEREAS, this prolonged decline in school funding has occurred while the state is asking educators to raise student standards.

WHEREAS, educators are increasingly being expected to solve many of the problems of our larger society.

WHEREAS, each child is entitled to a first class opportunity to learn. However, in too many schools instructional materials are inadequate, textbooks are out-of-date, class sizes are too large, the needs of many special needs students are unmet and school districts lack the resources to attract and retain quality teachers, administrators and education support professionals.

WHEREAS, good schools are essential to a vibrant quality of life in Alaska. The quality of our schools will affect our ability as a state to attract quality business and commerce and the jobs collateral to this development.

Now, therefore

I

Proclaim my support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and adequate funding for every Alaskan student.

Signed this 17 day of April, 2002.

PO Box 170
99576

Alaska's Children, Alaska's Future

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Now, therefore,

I *Wesley Duncan*

Proclaim my support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and adequate funding for every Alaskan student.

Signed this *17th* day of *April*, 2002.

*P.O. Box 170
Billingsham
99570*

Alaska's Children, Alaska's Future
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Now, therefore,

I, Ina B. Baker *Ina B. Baker*

Proclaim my support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and adequate funding for every Alaskan student.

Signed this 17th day of April, 2002.

Alaska's Children, Alaska's Future

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WHEREAS, good schools are essential to a vibrant quality of life in Alaska. The quality of our schools will affect our ability as a state to attract quality business and commerce and the jobs collateral to this development.

Now, therefore,

I, Denise Lisac,

Proclaim my support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and adequate funding for every Alaskan student.

Signed this 17 day of April, 2002.

P.O. Box 170
Dillingham, Ak 99576

Alaska's Children, Alaska's Future

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Now, therefore,

I

Leanne Goetchius

Proclaim my support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and adequate funding for every Alaskan student.

Signed this 17th day of April, 2002.

*P.O. Box 170
Dillingham, Ak 99576*

To whom it may concern,

As an elementary teacher I am given a set amount to purchase materials for my classroom for the following year. In this purchase I am required to purchase any consumable workbook items, art supplies, classroom decorations, educational resource guides and any other materials that I might need for my students. This amount this year was \$750. Which is a lot of money, however it allows me to spend approximately \$41.67 per student in a classroom of 18 students. That might seem like a sufficient amount if you have not priced classroom materials recently.

Per student: Spelling workbook \$11

Handwriting workbook \$7

Reading workbooks \$27 (3 books @\$9).

Those three items alone equals \$45 and that does not include 20% for shipping.

Where am I supposed to find the necessary money for math manipulatives, literature, writing program, art materials, computer software, science experiments, maps, or office supplies? If you can answer that, you will be earning your salary.

Sincerely,

Amy Riggan

Amy Riggan

Elementary Teacher

Dillingham, Alaska

P.O. BOX 170
99576

To the legislators of the state of Alaska,

I live and teach in the community of Dillingham. This small community has a sales tax, property tax, and federal income tax along with many other taxes. I realize that it is difficult to fund all needs of Alaska's citizens equitably, but that is your responsibility. Our rural schools need money to help recruit and keep teachers, maintain school buildings, and supply children with textbooks and materials. The children of our communities are our future. Please provide the means to educate them well.

Sincerely,

Nancy Westanmo-Head
Nancy Westanmo-Head

P.O. Box 170

Dillingham 99576

4-17-02

Alaska's Children, Alaska's Future

Give our schools your FULL support

WHEREAS, our Alaska Constitution mandates that the state provide an education system that offers all our children the opportunity to succeed in life.

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WHEREAS, good schools are essential to a vibrant quality of life in Alaska. The quality of our schools will affect our ability as a state to attract quality business and commerce and the jobs collateral to this development.

Now, therefore,

I, Bridget McArthur, B. McArthur

President of *Give our schools your FULL support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future*, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and *adequate* funding for every Alaskan student.

Signed this 17 day of April, 2002.

P.O. Box 170
Dillingham, Ak 99576



Alaska State Legislature
Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Fin Committee on
SB 289 dated 4/17/02
(bill/sub) (Committee Name)

I would like to say that I am strongly opposed to this Bill. 20% may not seem like alot ~~across~~ the Board, but to small rural agencies it could mean the closing of that agency. Cutting Family Preservation Grants along with Alcohol, mental Health, & ILP are going to have a huge impact going on Rural Communities that have limited resources already. Please consider these cuts, and the impacts they will have.

Testifier Signature

Representing: (Optional)

Address

Phone Number

Nicole Sanger

Cordeaux Family Resource Center

Box 2116 Cordeaux AK 99574

907-424-5674



Alaska State Legislature
Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate FIN Committee on
(Committee Name)
Senate Bill 289, dated April 17 - 2002
(bill/subj)

I want to enter my testimony on Senate Bill 289

I want to see our alcohol and drug abuse programs kept going. If there are cuts I feel that is going to hurt the people who need the services from the counselors who are helping them with these problems.

If you cut back now I'm concerned about more cuts taking place in the future.

If people can't get help there is going to be more problems and this in the long run is going to cost the state more money.

Testifier Signature

Gerrine Erickson Emroy

Representing: (Optional)

Salvation Army and other service agencies

Address

P.O. Box 2401 Cordova Alaska 99574

Phone Number

1-907-424-3134



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

committee on Emergency Services/Drug + Alcohol dated 4/17/02
(Bill/subject)

I am asking you to not cut Emergency Services. This is such an important service for our community and our people.

Please do not cut funding for mental Health Services and Drug/Alcohol services. We need to be able to work in our communities to support families and treat Substance Abuse so that our community and the people who live here live a better life.
Thank You!

Signed: Elizabeth Hill, MEd, LPI
(testifier)

Various Community Services
(Representing / Original)

P.O. Box 1842
(Address)

Seward, AK 99664
(Phone No.)



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Justice
 (committee name)
 committee on drug/alcohol, dated 4-17-02
 (bill/subject)

Cutting the drug and alcohol funding will directly affect families I work with and many people in our community who are working hard to make positive improvements in themselves and their families. The support systems are very important for them as these groups and counselors are there for help and guidance, to help them achieve their goals to become drug and alcohol independence and healthy families.

Signed:

Carilyn Tanner
 (Testifier)

local business owner, Sea View Community Services
 (Representing / Optional) parent/grandparent

 (Address)

 (Phone No.)

Subject: SB 289

Date: Wed, 17 Apr 2002 15:00:03 -0800

From: "Greg Smith" <gsmith@cvinternet.net>

To: <Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us>

To whom it may concern:

I was recently made aware of the state's intention to cut funding for the statewide EMS system. It is difficult for me to understand, following the events of September 11th, how any state government could justify funding reductions to emergency services. Being a volunteer EMT-I and firefighter, it pains me to think that our elected officials regard the sacrifices we make daily as not important enough for full funding. This reduction will not be felt as harshly in larger cities, but in areas such as ours where there is no tax base to support EMS, it would be a dagger to the heart. I'm positive that reductions in funding for statewide EMS would hit our area extremely hard, hard enough to ensure degraded service and the deadly consequences that result. There are many unexplored alternatives to balancing the budget that this state has not even bothered to explore. Case in point, increasing the tax levied on oil producers operating in the State of Alaska. These organizations have vested interests in this state. They are unwilling to provide corporate contributions to support essential services like EMS when requested and pay sub-standard tax percentages on the oil they pump from this state daily. If September 11th has taught us anything, it's to respect and support emergency services for the risks they take and the sacrifices they make every day. Any legislator that supports the reduction of funding for statewide EMS services does not respect what I do, the risks I take and the sacrifices I make in providing emergency services to my community. As a result, any legislator supporting such action will not see respect from me in the form of my vote on election day. Please find another way to balance the budget and leave essential, life saving services like EMS fully funded.

Sincerely;

Gregory L Smith
Gakona, Alaska 99586

Subject: State - EMS Funding

Date: Wed, 17 Apr 2002 16:35:35 -0800

From: Ken & Vera Roberson <owlkrvr@alaska.net>

To: Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us

Hello: I am Ken Roberson, Vice Chairman of Copper River EMS Council, Inc. in Glennallen, AK. I have served as a volunteer with our service for over 19 years. We serve an area of about 24,000 square miles (the size of West Virginia) with 40 volunteer EMT, ETT and Drivers plus one paid administrator position. Our road service area is in excess of 500 miles and we make 130 to 150 runs per year with distances up to over 100 miles one-way! We receive from the State, through Southern Region EMS Council, Inc. approximately \$48,000 annually which covers part of operations, part of salary and etc. The remainder comes from "run" (ambulance run) revenue. We have had to increase our fees nearly 30% in the past year due to reduced numbers of road accidents (certainly in part due to air bags and seat belts plus improved roads). Medicaid/Medicare does not pay our full charge rate due to their set fee system which literally "rips our ambulance system off" thus another loss of funding.

We understand that the FY 03 budget proposes to reduce EMS funding by 25%. This is simply not acceptable! We can not charge Medicaid/Medicare more since they won't pay it. We have already raised our rates 30% in the past year and we are almost entirely a volunteer service! We earnestly request that "cuts" if needed be made in smaller increments and in places that are not critical to care of the injured and sick that we provide at the absolute minimum cost. There is no alternative to our volunteer service and the cuts proposed will threaten the very existence of our service.

Please do not cut EMS funding!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Roberson, Vice Chairman
Copper River EMS

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in regards to the proposed funding cuts to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse programs. These cuts would have a significant impact on Seward and other small communities throughout the state.

Without local prevention and treatment services, our clients and community could experience the following situations:

- 1) escalating behavior that could possibly cause harm to themselves and others through assault
- 2) there would be increased homeless situations without continued case management
- 3) there would be an increase in DWI and related accidents
- 4) increased use of API in rural areas
- 5) local law enforcement agencies will be doing a "bandaid effect" on problems by simply putting people into protective custody

Please consider how these cuts will impact our community and the residents of the state of Alaska.

Thank you.

Sandy Turley
PO Box 1669
Seward, AK. 99664

From: Linda Fouts
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2002 3:24 AM
To: Sandra Turley
Subject: To Marianna – Seward LIO

Please consider the impact of reducing services to people in local communities who need substance abuse and mental health treatment. It is far wiser to fund these programs than to have a dramatic increase in spending for corrections and law enforcement. Why put a strain on these expensive systems when prevention and treatment issues can keep people working in the community and out of institutions.

Linda Fouts

Written testimony for FY 03 budget by:

**Denny Kay Weathers
Third Judicial District
c/o P.O. Box 1791
Cordova, Alaska
Zip Exempt**

Mr. Chairman;

I am glad to see the Legislature attempting to balance the budget and at the same time trying to cut the costs.

Alaska is a Republican Form of government. One in which the powers of the sovereignty are vested in the people and are exercised by the people, either directly, or through representatives chosen by the people, to whom the powers are specially delegated. In re Duncan, 139 U.S. 449, 11 S. Ct. 573, 35 L.Ed. 219.

Remember the chain of command, God created man, Man created the constitution, the constitution created government and then the government created the public servants, such as the agencies. The people are to be in control.

Government is NOT suppose to take over where the private sector is available and many of the functions within government are not mandated government functions. Many agencies have usurped the powers that rightfully belongs to the people, and this is wrong.

I will now address the agencies one by one;

***Administration... still could have more cuts. As I've said in the past, Public radio for one is not a necessity and it competes directly with the private sector.**

***Commerce and Economic development... should not be funding things that are handled in the private sector, such as Tourism, Fishing, logging, trapping, mining ect. This all belongs in the private sector, not government.**

***Courts... until these court systems start operating according to and under the Constitution of the united states of America and the principles of the Declaration of Independence their funds should be cut. Remember in 1789 Thomas Jefferson warned that the judiciary if given too much power might ruin our REPUBLIC, and destroy our RIGHTS!**

***Education/Early development... totally over paid and a blatant misuse of funds, Cut to the core. If you plan to fund education, fund each child at the same rate no matter what their background or where they live within the State. Remember what Thomas Jefferson said "The course of history shows that as a government grows, liberty decreases."**

***Environmental Conservation... not only should this department not be funded it should be disbanded for it's past unethical actions. One the Commissioners of DEC told us in writing "that there are statutes, regulations and then we have our policies." DEC let us know that if we did not bow down to their unwritten policies, we would not get a DEC approval.**

***Fish and Game... has gotten to big, needs to be reduced. ADF&G has to many unnecessary job duplications, such as shellfish biologist in PWS and Homer both handle the same fisheries, and most of those fisheries are closed. Any funding for EVOS should be stopped as it is not a government entity or program.**

***Office of the Governor... I think there could be more cuts made there.**

***Health and Social Services... cut, cut, and cut some more. This department is way out of hand. "Remember that any government which gets so big that it can give you everything you want will also be so big that it can take everything you've got!" by William Miller.**

***Department of Labor... needs to be cut more.**

***Department of Law... unfortunately some of these are unable to be cut, but there are still a few that can be trimmed a little more.**

***Public Safety... I would like to see this department cut. This department is no longer a public servant, it is a monster out of control. This is not supposed to be a police state, we are to have peace officers. Note, "Unnecessary laws are not good laws, but traps for money." by Thomas Hobbes, 1651.**

***Revenue... they have areas that also need cutting.**

***Transportation and Public Facilities... I'd like to see more cuts and anything that can be put into the private sector put there.**

***AK Housing/Finance Corp... I do not believe that the government should be in the housing business.**

***University of Alaska... Doesn't the the University have lands and resources to help fund their costs? I think there could be a lot of cuts here to save the State money.**

There are people, who profit from corrupt and oppressive governments, they are the employees and beneficiaries of such governments, and they will defend that corrupt system even if it is self destructing.

This budget process is one way the legislature can bring the unruly, oversized government back under control. Good luck.

*Dwight
Went
April 17, 2002*

IMPACT STATEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Developed by the Emergency Medical Services Regional Directors and Coordinators on April 16, 2002 in response to proposed budget cuts to the DHSS / Community Health and EMS, Grants to Regions line item in SB 289.

- Six of the seven EMS Regions statewide will lay off one to two critical staff positions in programs already suffering from chronic understaffing.
The loss of these key positions will lead to the following:
 - Reduction in the ability to generate revenue and provide critical resources
 - Drastic reduction of support to EMS services in remote and rural areas
 - Inability to provide necessary training to maintain service levels
 - Loss of the ability to participate in essential programs, e.g. Code Blue
 - Loss of programs, e.g. injury prevention, public information and education
- Elimination or reduction of service levels in the rural ambulance and First Responder services in all seven EMS Regions.
- The mini-grants to volunteer services program will be eliminated in Interior Region and Southeast Regions. Southern Region will be required to drastically cut or eliminate its mini-grant program. The other four EMS Regions have eliminated their mini-grant programs in previous fiscal years as a result of flat funding. Mini-grants are used by volunteer ambulance and first responder services to pay for their vehicle insurance, gasoline, supplies, equipment and core training needs.
- EMT exam and coordination of state testing will be effected in all seven EMS Regions
- EMS Training in outlying communities in all seven EMS Regions will decrease or be completely eliminated.
- Remote and rural areas statewide will see the most drastic impacts of these budget cuts.
- This applies also to the DHSS -CHEMS General Fund Budget. The proposed cut to this office negatively impacts the EMS system statewide. The EMS system has been documented to be a System in Crisis and this will set the program back at least a decade. It is imperative that this budget be restored at least to the FY 02 level.

Patricia Seybert
Dillingham

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

BEYOND SHELTER
3710 E. 20TH AVE., SUITE 1
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508-3418
907-276-3046 • Fax 276-2472

April 17, 2002

Senate Finance Committee

Thank you for allowing me to provide input into the proposed budget cuts to the Department of Health and Social Services. I think this process is imperative so that you have a broad perspective on how the budget cuts could impact our communities and the individuals that live in our communities.

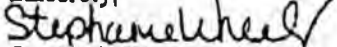
Although I am truly concerned about your overall budget cuts; I will focus on the DHSS budget cuts that would have severe impact on my program. I am the program director for the Catholic Social Services-Beyond Shelter Program. Since 1993, the Beyond Shelter program has assisted more than 700 households transition from homelessness to permanent independent living. We provide case management, life skills and other supportive services to assist these individuals to move toward self-sufficiency. Many of our referrals are received from other social service providers such as the Division of Public Assistance, the local shelters, medical facilities, and mental health agencies. We also work closely with landlords and provide household and money management skills to help individuals maintain housing. With the current tight rental market, housing stability has become a major issue for lower income families. This program minimizes the "musical chair" effect of housing for many of these households, thus creating more of a stable environment for families and especially the children.

For the last six years, our program was funded through HUD funds, which will end on March 31, 2002. We have been exploring other opportunities so that we may continue to provide services to homeless individuals and families. We were recently informed that the Beyond Shelter program was rated number one for the Human Service Matching Grant (Municipality of Anchorage) for FY 03 and FY 04. If these funds are eliminated, we would have to reduce our level of services to the community. This means that over 80 homeless households would not receive services necessary to move them from homelessness to permanent independent living. Our services are especially important as we enter into the five-year time limit for families who are on ATAP. We currently are working with a mother of five (three of her children have special needs) whose five year benefits have ended and her case recently closed. Although job seeking, she is not sure how to pay April's rent. I am certain that we will be serving more families like this one during the upcoming fiscal year.

Additionally, budget cuts to the Division of Public Assistance may adversely impact our program as well. Family Pathfinders, a mentoring project that recruits and trains mentors from the local churches to work one on one with ATAP families to assist them with developing work related goals and move them toward working and self-sufficiency, may also be eliminated. This would be a loss for the collaborative effort of Division of Public Assistance, Catholic Social Services Lutheran Social Services of Alaska, local area churches and the 17 participants currently involved in the project.

Again, thank you for allowing me to share my input. I hope that you would reconsider your options and avoid making drastic cuts to the DHSS budget that would significantly impact the communities in Alaska and the people who live in them.

Sincerely,


Stephanie Wheeler
Program Director



A United Way Agency

SCATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

225 Cordova St., Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 277-2554 • Fax (907) 272-7370

Fax

To: Senate Finance Committee From: Sherry Hill

Fax: 465-2187 Pages: 2

Phone: _____ Date: 4/17/02

Re: Op. Budget testimony CC: _____

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please recycle

Here is my written testimony
on the budget for the Senate
Finance Committee - I am unable
to attend the hearing tonight.

Thank you!
Sherry Hill

Adoption
Beyond Shelter
Brother Francis Shelter/Kodiak
Special Needs Services
Immigration & Refugee Services



Clare House
McAuley Manor
St. Francis House
Charlie Elder House
Pregnancy Support Services
Brother Francis Shelter/Anchorage

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

April 17, 2002

225 CORDOVA STREET • ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

907-277-2554 • FAX 272-7370

email: catholicsocialservices@css-ak.org

website: ossalaska.org

Senate Finance Committee

State Senate

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Human Services Matching Grant, DHSS operating budget

Dear Senators:

I have some concerns to address on the recommended operating budget for the Department of Health and Social Services. I am unable to attend the budget hearing, so this is my written testimony.

Anchorage and Fairbanks are facing a potential 25 percent cut of the Human Services Matching Grant from the DHSS budget for next fiscal year.

Every year the state (through DHSS) funds a Human Services Matching Grant to Anchorage and Fairbanks, which is matched by those cities and distributed to nonprofits. This year, the DHSS request was for \$1.7 million – \$1.3 to the Municipality of Anchorage and \$400,000 to Fairbanks Northstar Borough. In the House proposed DHSS budget, the cut to the grant was 10 percent. However, the House also gave DHSS an Unallocated Reduction of \$7.2 million, which DHSS in turn cut a handful of programs, including the Human Services Matching Grant.

We realize that even if the Senate restores more of the funding for this grant, the budget will need to be reconciled between the two legislative bodies.

The 25 percent cut, although better than a 100 percent cut, will impact Anchorage and Fairbanks nonprofits. Any cut will impact agencies who help those most vulnerable in our communities – homeless women and children; women experiencing domestic violence; families; children; the elderly; the hungry; the poor; those needing in-home respite care and health services. If you wonder about the statewide benefit, many of these organizations help people from outside of our respective areas, as they travel to us, write or call for assistance.

If there is a 25 percent loss of this grant, Catholic Social Services will probably not lose funding. However, health and human service providers in Anchorage rely on each other's services to deliver a continuum of care with services to people in need; from emergency shelter, to health services, to transitional housing, and more. If any of these services are cut, it hinders the remainder of the service providers from helping those who are most vulnerable in our community.

Should the grant be completely eliminated, Catholic Social Services would face a significant shortfall to our Beyond Shelter, St. Francis House, and Clare House programs. These programs help families in their struggles with homelessness – either helping them after they have been homeless (Beyond Shelter), to avoid homelessness (St. Francis House) or while they are homeless – and in crisis (Clare House).



A United Way Agency

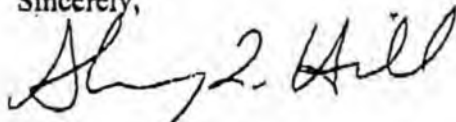
Adoption • Beyond Shelter • Brother Francis Shelter /Anchorage • Brother Francis Shelter /Kodiak
Clare House • Elder House • Immigration & Refugee Services • McAuley Manor • Pregnancy
Support Services • Special Needs Respite • St. Francis House

Catholic Social Services/Page 2

I am asking you to either restore this grant in full, or at the least, maintain the current amount recommended by the HESS Finance Subcommittee. Any assistance you can provide to make sure this important grant program is not cut substantially or eliminated would be greatly appreciated by Anchorage and Fairbanks nonprofits, but most importantly, by the clients we serve.

On the larger picture, please reconsider the cuts which impact those most vulnerable in our communities: the poor, the disabled, the mentally ill, those suffering from alcohol and drug addictions, the children stuck in foster care and waiting for a permanent home. Catholic Social Services serves many of these people directly and indirectly and we must advocate on their behalf. Please remember this budget impacts people – the most vulnerable in our Alaskan communities – they are not just a line item on the budget page.

Sincerely,



Sherry L. Hill, M.Sc.
Director of Community Relations

 FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
CO-CHAIR: Senator Dave Donley, CO-CHAIR: Senator Pete Kelly, VICE-CHAIR: Senator Jerry Ward, Senator Loren Leman, Senator Lyda Green, Senator Gary Wilken, Senator Alan Austerman, Senator Lyman Hoffman Senator Donny Olson	Anna K. Sappah
COMPANY:	DATE:
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE	4/17/02
FAX NUMBER:	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:
(907) 465-2187	1
PHONE NUMBER:	SENDER'S PHONE NUMBER:
	907-277-8796
RE	SENDER'S FAX NUMBER:
SUBSTANCE ABUSE BUDGET	907-258-7198

NOTES/COMMENTS:

I am writing to ask that the finance committee please not cut 20% from the budget for substance abuse treatment. I am a member of the Meeting the Challenge Program. Our group was in Juneau at the end of March to help you, the legislature, put a face to the issue of substance abuse and treatment.

I am a recovering heroin addict. I was in active addiction for over 22 years. I am a 2nd generation addict. In 1995 I became ready to change my life. I was able to participate in a drug treatment program. I completed that program and aftercare. I learned basic life skills. I was given the information I needed to reach out to additional resources to help me with mental & physical health issues. I was given the tools to help me in my recovery. Most importantly, I was given the opportunity to STOP using long enough to learn how to stay clean. I celebrated 7 years clean on April 2, 2002.

I am now a productive member of society. I am employed full time. I am also self-employed in the summer as a fishing guide on the Kenai. I am able to be a parent to my children. I am active in community service and in cultural events. I am no longer a drain to State resources in terms of AFDC, food stamps, food banks, Medicaid, unpaid bills, domestic violence, unemployment, on and on ad nauseum.

Substance abuse treatment DOES WORK. Please help to make it available when people reach out for help. It costs less to send 4 people to treatment than it does to house one inmate for 1 year. There are over 300 people per day on waiting list trying to get into treatment. Many of these will get into a jail bed while they wait for treatment. Worse yet, many will die while they wait because they cannot face another day of the hellish life of an addict.

Respectfully
Anna Sappah



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SENATE FINANCE
Committee name

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated March 27, 2002
Bill # / subject

I am very concerned about the possible closure of the Ninilchik DOT.

These men do a fantastic job of keeping our highways safe for our community, especially the ones of us who depend on using the roads to travel to our work every day. My husband commutes 84 miles to Kenai every weekday, my son and daughter-in-law commute to Soldotna, 72 miles a day. I only have to drive five miles but my grandson travels 14 miles a day to school. To close our DOT and add our roads to Homer and Soldotna DOT is a very, very bad and irresponsible idea. They have trouble maintaining their own road miles as all of us who have to travel in both areas already know. To add ours to their area is just asking for many more accidents and deaths both in the winter and summer. WHY on earth do you want to cut so many essential services? My husband and I earn over \$70,000 a year and we are willing to pay our fair share of taxes. Bring back the income tax...PLEASE.

I urge you to reconsider and not close the Ninilchik DOT.

Signed:

Jackie Bear
Testifier

Jackie Bear

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 39283 Ninilchik, Alaska 99639

Address

907-567-3344

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated March 27, 2002
bill # / subject

Do not close our DOT! Our roads
would never get plowed...

Pass an income tax!! I'll
gladly pay my share.

P.S. - I'm going to be really
unhappy if they close Johnson
Lake campground.

Signed: Patsy Bushnell
Testifier

Representing (optional)
Box 126 Nenilchik, Ak. 99639
Address
567-3322
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated 04-01-2002
Bill # / subject

Subject: Proposed Elimination Of The Ninilchik D.O.T. Station

How long will it take for a Homer or Soldotna based grader to plow Oil Well Road which is 40 miles from either direction?

Will our State maintained side roads, traveled by school buses, be cleared prior to our children being picked up?

Will the middle of the Sterling Highway, from Anchorage Point to Kaslof, be left unplowed, until Homer and Soldotna areas have been plowed first, present a danger to commuters traveling North and South?

Will plow trucks from Homer and Soldotna try to arrive in Ninilchik at the same time to facilitate traffic flow?

Will the business communities in Homer and Soldotna/Kenai discriminate against residents, looking for work in these areas, in the Clam Gulch, Ninilchik, and Happy Valley areas because of potential travel delays to work due to unplowed roads?

Are you closing the Ninilchik D.O.T. Station because we are a political "weak link" unlike Nikiski?

Signed: Elmer Schaezle / [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (optional)

65055 Chamberlain, P.O. Box 78, Ninilchik Alaska 99639
Address

907-567-3327
Phone number

From: Ninilchik Community Ambulance Association Board of Directors.
Subject: HB 403 Operating Budget

We have a serious concern about the possible closing of the Ninilchik Dept. of Transportation Facility.

First is the fact that we responded to 17 motor vehicle accidents last year between mile 119 & 144 of the Sterling Highway. This represents 19.3% of our runs. We feel this number will only increase if our D.O.T is closed. This section of highway will be the last area cleared of snow if either Homer or Soldotna D.O.T is assigned the task.

Second: Because the Caribou Hills is a major snow machine recreational area. Our only access to the hills for our ambulance service is Oil Well road. Ninilchik D.O.T keeps this road clear. We responded to eight snow machine related accidents last year. This represents 10% of our runs. We can only think that Oil Well road will be near the bottom of the list for road maintenance if either Homer or Soldotna is assigned the task.

As these two sections of highway will be the farthest from Homer or Soldotna D.O.T facility it is our opinion that less time will be spent keeping the roads maintained in the summer & cleared of snow in the winter.

As you can see we count on the Ninilchik D.O.T to keep these roads maintained & cleared of snow. As 29.3% of last year's runs counted on these roads being accessible we are deeply concerned that our response time to accident victims will increase.

We would like you to know we feel strongly about keeping the Ninilchik D.O.T open.

We feel that the public safety would be better served if the Ninilchik D.O.T were fully funded.

We hope you will keep our concerns in mind when funding HB 403.
Thanks for your time. NCAA.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
Committee name

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated 4/8/02
bill # / subject

I have worked in Soldotna for the past 6 1/2 years, it has been necessary to work up there to support my family. I drive approximately 75 miles each day. If the Ninilchik Station is shut down, how am I supposed to continue working full-time? I will not jeopardize my life driving to work on unsafe roads. I will not jeopardize my son's life letting him ride buses on unsafe roads. (next)
1 of 2

Signed: Tammy L. BEAR Jay LB
Testifier

Representing (optional)
10450 Sterling Hwy, Ninilchik, AK 99639
Address
907-567-7340
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated _____
bill # / subject

The roads will be unsafe. Right now, where the Soldotna station takes over from Ninilchik, I consider myself lucky if the roads are cleared of snow or sanded. Our station must remain open. Our livelihood, our safety depend on it.

2 of 2

Signed: TAMMY L. BEAR
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
Committee name

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated 4/8/02
bill # / subject

The Ninilchik Dist. has been short on employees and equipment for the past two years. It will not be possible to provide the Ninilchik area satisfactory maintenance from Homer and Soldotna. Please Do Not Support HB 403.

Signed: Michael J. Schuster
Testifier

Representing (optional)
64460 Oilwell Rd., Ninilchik, Alaska 99639
Address
(907) 567-1050
Phone number

"Hi. I'd like a large order of salmonella and a side of E. coli" That is practically what you'd be ordering if there were no health inspectors. The state plans to do a budget cut and in this budget cut they want to lay off all the health inspectors. These health inspectors are the people that make sure the food you are buying in the store is packaged safely. They are making sure the restaurants you dine in meet the health expectations. They make sure that the meals your child is receiving at school were prepared correctly and even more than that.

Without these health inspectors who would make sure that what you are eating is safe? Who would enforce the standards that keep your food safe?

Think about it. Having no health inspectors is like having no police. There would be no one to enforce the rules and regulations and no one to take care of those that don't meet expectations. Think about it. Would you really want to live in a town with no police? No. You wouldn't. And neither would you want to live in a town with no health inspectors.

Health inspectors make sure that food borne illnesses like; Staphylococcus, C. perfringens, Salmonella, C. botulinum, B. cereus, Campylobacter, E.coli and other potentially serious illnesses don't get into your food.

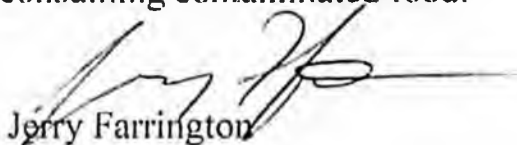
Here is the question. Will we allow the state to take our health safety away from us? Our answer is no. We can't decide for you but we hope you say no too.

Sincerely,

Halfrek and Anyanka VD
154 Riverview
Soldotna AK, 99669

262-6650

Note: a 13-year-old girl, the grand daughter of a state health officer and her friend wrote this. The idea and content was theirs. The only assistance given was to provide information as to what illnesses one could get from consuming contaminated food.


Jerry Farrington



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name

Committee on HB 403, dated _____
bill # / subject

SEE 1 PAGE ATTACHED

Signed: TERRY FARRINGTON; HALFREY & ANYANKA VD
Testifier

SELF
Representing (optional)

154 RIVERVIEW SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Address

262-6650
Phone number



Talkeetna Historical Society Museum

P.O. Box 76
Talkeetna, AK 99676

April 15, 2002

907-733-2487
Fax 907-733-2484

State of Alaska
Senate
Senator Dave Donley
Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Donley,

The Talkeetna Historical Society respectfully requests reinstatement of the funding for the State's Retail Food and Sanitation Program. I understand funds from this program will not be available in the FY 03 Operating Budget.

Talkeetna is unable to provide the essential environmental health services that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) currently provides. Loss of these services will impact the Moose Dropping Festival, which is an opportunity for food vendors to sell their products. Currently we work with DEC to ensure that food vendors meet the State requirements for our July festival that attracts thousands of visitors annually.

The Society's Moose Dropping Festival is the chief fundraiser for restoration of historic properties in the Historic District, and operating costs of the Museum. Since we do not charge for admittance or parking to the festival, an important source of income is booth rental space. Insurance cost for the festival has risen steadily, and we understand that it will rise considerably more if we allow food vendors who have not passed DEC inspection. We cannot absorb this cost.

Please re-think the impact removing these funds will have on the health and safety of communities outside of Anchorage.

Sincerely,

Karon L. Jahm
President,
Talkeetna Historical Society

CC: Janice Adair, Director, Division Environmental Health

April 18, 2002

To: Senate Finance Subcommittee Members:

Your proposed cuts to social service programs are going to have an extremely detrimental impact on future state budgets. Reducing funding to Medicaid, Denali Kid Care, Foster Parent Programs, Alcohol & Tobacco Use Cessation/Prevention Programs, Power Cost Equalization, Mental Health Programs, AVTEC, General Assistance, Education, Suicide Prevention, Education, Public Health Nurses, Adoption Programs, Family Preservation Programs, Head Start, TANF, and other vital programs will have result in even more calls to Emergency Medical Service providers.

As Health & Safety Educator for Tanana Chiefs Conference, I daily see the combined positive effects of the programs you propose to cut. During my trips to communities throughout the Upper Tanana, I often receive requests for additional social services, especially mental health services. I relay these messages to the Tok Area Counseling Center, but they already have too large a caseload.

Additional funding cuts to social service programs is going to result in even fewer people receiving services, resulting in increases in domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse, sexual assault, violent crimes, alcoholism, drug abuse, and suicide. This is entirely contrary to the goals of Governor Knowles and to the promises you made to your constituents when you ran for State Senate.

Many people who dedicate themselves to social service work countless hours of overtime without asking for, or expecting, compensation. Your proposed cuts are going further overburden these people, cause burnout, and lead to an apathetic work force that can no longer provide the individualized services that their at risk clients require in order to remove themselves from dependency upon social services. The idiocy of your proposed budget cuts is beyond words.

During my volunteer work at the Upper Tanana Aging Program I often hear elders discussing whether to buy necessary medication or to heat their homes. If Power Cost Equalization funding is reduced, they will be forced to discuss whether to buy food, heating oil, or medication. For some elders, the meal they receive from the Upper Tanana Aging Program is the only meal they have that day.

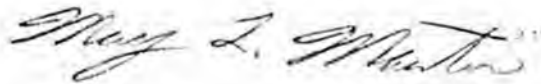
As a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician for Tok Area Emergency Medical Service, I am one of the 28 volunteer medical personnel who cover an area the size of the State of Virginia. One-third of our members are Emergency Medical Technician-III's, the highest training level without moving to attend a paramedic program. Our service has been extremely proactive in training it's members. The result is a high level of care not possible in many rural areas.

As medical training requires re-certification every two years, the loss of training funds will result in advanced care no longer being provided. Being the first medical service on the Alaskan side of the ALCAN, in the summer many of our patients are elderly and require advanced medical procedures. Without continued medical training and equipment funds Alaska will become prohibitive to all visitors except the most hardy. The hardy are often the young with the smallest disposable income. Thus a cut social services will also have a detrimental effect on tourism.

Petroleum, forestry, and commercial fishing operations will also have a smaller pool of Emergency Medical Technician to hire from to provide medical services. This will result in higher death rates in the oil, logging, and fishing industries. These deaths will be a direct result of your actions.

Please do not cut funding to the people who daily are working towards making Alaska a healthier and safer place to raise the next generation of Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Martin
PO Box 434
Tok, AK 99780-0434

April 24, 2002

Senator Donley
Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senator:

This letter is in response to the proposed cut to the EMS and BRU grants. This cut is a substantial cut to programs already in crisis.

I am appalled at the apparent political gaming that is going on. I am constantly reminded of "the fiscal gap" by the media and the Legislature. I understand that the Legislature needs to find ways to cut spending. What I see happening is the Legislature making cuts to programs like EMS, education and other programs that are a necessity for the public to have access to.

Do you think that your proposed cuts to these areas will sway the public on the State income tax proposal or State sales tax proposal. Do you think we will just roll over and tell you-go ahead and tax us even more, we need these services, we will pay even more?

This is what I see coming from our elected officials. Why don't you listen to your constituents? There are excesses in our government spending. Look closer to the problem for the solutions. Look at the areas of "fluff", not the public safety or education areas to cut.

Please do not make these cuts. It would be devastating. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jodi K. Zufelt
4121 Edinburgh Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502



LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

PO Box 1189

Room 221, Jarvis Office Center

Delta Jct., AK 99737

Phone: 895-4236 Fax: 895-5017

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 18, 2002
TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Elizabeth A. Sarver *EAS*
Legislative Information Officer

SUBJECT: Testimony for Senate Finance Committee Hearing

Please accept the enclosed original(s) of written testimony for the Senate Finance Committee hearing that was scheduled for 04/18/02.

Copies of this testimony were transmitted by fax on 04/18/02.

Thank you.

Enclosures: 5



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
 committee on The Budget, dated 4-18-02
 bill/subject _____, committee name _____

Please take a serious look at the proposed budget cuts. Cutting services like Parks, road maintenance and troopers are ridiculous. These things are vital to the overall "health" of our state.

Find the money for the budget elsewhere - taxes (within reason, of course), permanent fund, etc. We need the services more than we need the over-generous dividend (cap would help) or lack of taxes. Our state has a welfare mentality that needs to stop.

Signed: Maurice Miller
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HC 60 Box 4141 Delta, AK 99737
 Address
895-6208
 Phone No.

10191 P. 02



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee on Education Funding, dated 4-17-02
 bill/subject committee name

I urge you to increase funding for our schools. Anything less than \$190 per student (\$32.7 million) increase in state funding in FY 03 does not measure up.

Signed:

Whit Aillaud

Testifier

self

Representing (Optional)

Box 12415 Delta AK 99737

Address

895-4286

Phone No.

①

TOTAL P. 02



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee on Education Funding dated 4/17/02
committee name

bill/subject
Education has had to limp around with inadequate funding for more than a decade when you mandated unfunded standards. I had to comfort little special needs students who were in tears having to take the tests you mandated before having reasonable intervention and accommodation plans in place. Our constitution has mandated that you establish and maintain a school system. Education funding must be the #1 priority for Alaska's children and our future. Anything less than \$190 per student INCREASE IN STATE FUNDING IN FY03 does not measure up! Our students need and deserve updated materials, textbooks, resources and technology. They deserve learning environments that are conducive to learning, not overcrowded classrooms. They deserve teachers who are trained to teach — not just any warm body. They deserve quality support professionals who do make a difference! Our schools need to be SAFE. These things

Signed: JACKIE L. Nelson Jackie Nelson

Testifier
President, Delta-Greely Education Support Personnel Assoc.
Representing (Optional)
Special Education Aide, Mother of 3

Address
HC 60 Bx 4180, Delta Jct., AK

99737 Phone No. 895-4817
L.jackie@wildak.net >

eed to be funded (2) by you
 o make sure that we, "Leave no
 child Behind", the resources need to
 be in the schools to allow our districts
 administrators, teachers and education
 support professionals to do what they
 do best... teach our children! Your
 job should be clear — increase
 educational funding by NO LESS THAN
 \$190 per STUDENT in FY03. Anything
 less is child neglect! The future
 of our children and our state
 depends on you "stepping up to
 the plate." with adequate funding
 for education.

Signed:

JACKIE L. Nelson

Jackie Nelson
 Delta-Greely Education Support
 Personnel Assoc.

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

President, Delta-Greely Education Support
 Special Education Aide, Mother of 3

Address

HC 60 Bx 4180, Delta Jct., AK

Phone No.

99737 895-4217



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee on Budget, dated April 18, 2002.
bill/subject committee name

If state budget cuts could specifically be geared for the fat at the top, it would be fine. But the cuts hit the working men + women out clearing the roads, marketing timber sales, policing our highways + cities etc. Our state doesn't have a budget problem, we just have a group of lawmakers that can't make a decision. Our state's citizens have gotten too used to free money from the state, and free services. Use of the perm fund is quite reasonable as is a state income tax. We should be getting money from all the outsiders that take our state dollars and give nothing back. Don't continue cutting the budget at the cost of leaving our highways + cities unsafe. and our resources undeveloped. Thank you

Signed:

Scott R Miller
Testifier

Misty Mountain Farm
Representing (Optional)

HC 60 Box 4140, Delta Act AK
Address

907-895-6208
Phone No.

TOTAL P. 02



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee on Education, dated 4/17/02
 bill/subject committee name

We need to fund our student's education. I am urging you to settle for nothing less than \$190 per child school increase in education funding. We have failed to keep up with inflation for more than a decade. Alaska's children are paying the price. Fund education as a constitutional mandate before other programs are funded. I support the option of funding education with monies from the permanent fund! I am also in favor of taking monies out of each individual pay check once a year for education only. This was done in the past and could be done now. If we set up taxes we need an expensive structure to support that system.

Signed:

Malinda Eggleston
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 722 Delta AK 99737
 Address
905-4332
 Phone No.

April 23, 2002,

Senator Dave Donley
Finance Committee co-Chairman
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Donley,

As a 23-year resident of the Great State of Alaska, I have had many memorable outdoor experiences in the Alaska State Parks. I cannot imagine this state without the access to the country that these parks provide. The ability to fish the Kenai Peninsula's rivers and lakes, ski through the quiet of winter, and to sit quietly watching wildlife is so vital to an Alaskan. It all happens almost exclusively in the state parks of this state.

We need our State Park System intact to live the life that brought so many of us here and to sustain the future of our state through tourism. The business of tourism is thriving in Alaska- and it is a renewable resource that we must preserve.

Please support our parks by eliminating or severely limiting cuts to the lifeblood of Alaska-Our State Park budget.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Rykaczewski
POB 3853
Homer, Alaska 99603
r-ski@xyz.net

April 22, 2002

Dave Donley, Co-chair
Senate Finance Committee
Fax: 907-465-6595

Dear Senator Donley:

I am writing to express my concern for the future of the Alaska State Parks, and urge you to support the transfer of park user fees to "Receipt Supported Services" and restore the proposed budget cut.

Closure of the parks would be a disaster for Alaskans and visitors alike. Without maintenance, garbage collection or rest rooms, these treasures will be vandalized, become filthy and present a health hazard as well. Closing the parks does not protect the investment the state has in these parks, and restoring them later will be far more costly.

Here in Sitka, Castle Hill is visited by thousands of tourists from all over the world, coming here on the cruise ships. Rich in history, it is one of our featured attractions. Imagine how disgusting it will be for visitors to find it unkempt and dirty. It will be an embarrassment for Sitka and Alaska.

Local residents use Halibut Point Recreation Area and Old Sitka extensively. Their shoreline locations, forest, and trails are outstanding. The Halibut Point Rec. area is not only a favorite spot for group gatherings and picnics, but because of the unique combination of rocky shore, island, beach, stream and rainforest, is also used by students of Natural History and Biology. An isolated community, Sitka has only 14 miles of road system; there are no other comparable lands available to the public. I don't know where we will go if we can't use these parks.

Please vote to support the State Parks.

Sincerely,



Orval S. Weckel III
P.O. Box 6311
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-4522



State Of Alaska
Legislative Affairs Agency
Kenai LIO
145 Main St Lp, Ste 217
Kenai, AK 99611
907-283-2030

Date: 4/18/02

Please accept the enclosed original(s) of written testimony
for the SEIN teleconference hearing that
was scheduled on 4/17/02.

A copy of this testimony was transmitted to your committee
via fax on 4/17/02.

Thank You,

Kenai LIO

3/17/02

TO: Senate Finance Committee

Re: Budget hearings – SB 289

From: James E. Fisher, 171 Farnsworth Blvd., Solodtna, AK 99669
Fax: 262-9641 phone: 262-9601

Will you be able look the Alaska public in the eye to explain how you have failed to institute reasonable financial support for their essential state services?

Since the Senate has apparently approximated the General Fund budget proposed by the House, even more moderate Senate changes would result in painful slashes for essential education, public health and safety. I ask will those cuts:

1. In any way enhance the overall lives of all Alaskan residents, even those who only must worry about the safety of such a simple matter as eating in a restaurant?
2. How can the estimated reductions of 19-23, or more, fewer State Troopers adequately respond to death, disaster and critical search and rescue for any one, or all, of us?
3. How can our children receive even the level of education now available, under our presently stressed financial school systems?

Answering the apparent factual situation of these questions, challenges the Senate to explain the multiple adverse impacts that will affect your constituents and our neighbors.

Won't failure to avoid the adverse impacts outlined above, look like a failure of nerve of the Senate?

(SenFin31702.tele-hearing)

*Confirmation
of testimony - 4/17/02
J.E.F.*



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject

I support HB 403 and SB 289. Please don't forget \$190 dollars per student (32.7 million) increase state funding in FY 03. This funding is important if you want productive children. I urge you to increase funding for schools. Alaska's Children / Alaska's Future.

Signed: Ms. Anita J. Byers
Testifier

Representing (optional)
P.O. Box 865, Soldotna, Alaska 99669
Address

907/2626188
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____

Senate Finance
committee name

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated _____
bill # / subject

April 17, 2002

Please understand that when you cut financial support for child protection, public safety, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and prevention, and medical care, you increase the cost to the State, the community, and our society in the future. Much of what is done in the areas outlined above is prevention work. Child protection services focus much of the resources on preventing child abuse and neglect. Public safety personnel help to prevent crime, domestic violence, child abuse, etc. The list goes on. Please do not be short-sighted. The cuts you make on the backs of the children & poor today will cost all of us in the future. ~~the~~ Please support these services and put the funds back in the budget.

Signed: _____

Testifier

Voter

Margit Cox

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 4137 Soldotna, AK 99669

Address

262-6365

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject general mental health fund

I think that this cut is targeting the most vulnerable population who are not the majority of the voting population - I urge you to consider what an impact this will have on the local community and AK as a whole -

Please consider to put money back into family preservation ^{grant} - Also ^{the} reduction in foster care ^{payments} - ~~the~~ the families that foster our children are a vital part of our resources
Thank-you for your time

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Voter

Representing (optional)

Box 1388 Soldotna AK 99669
Address

260-3860
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Finance
committee name

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated
bill # / subject

April 17, 2002

FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS I HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE GOAL OF BUDGET CUTTING BY THE MAJORITY UNTIL THE HEARD PEOPLE CRY "UNCLE." WELL, I HAVE BEEN CRYING & CRYING UNCLE ABOUT THE CUTS, TAX ME, CAP THE PERM. FUND, REDUCE THE PERM FUND DIVIDEND. - THIS IS SO WRONG. WE CANNOT CUT OUR WAY TO ECONOMIC HEALTH. EDUCATION MUST BE INCREASED. AS A 39 YEAR VOTING RESIDENT I HAVE SEEN THE UPS & DOWN - BUT RECALL WHEN WE WERE A 1st CLASS STATE

Signed:

MARION NELSON
Testifier

SELF
Representing (optional)

PO BOX 1535
Address

907-253-4632
Phone number

WHEN IT CAME TO EDUCATION, WE ARE A
LONG WAY FROM IT NOW. I PERSONALLY
GIVE MY PFD CHECK TO THE TWO ELEM-
ENTARY CLASSROOMS OF MY YOUNGEST
GRANDKIDS FOR BASIC SUPPLIES.

STOP THIS MADNESS.

- FUND ^{RAISE FUNDING} THE SCHOOLS & ^{RAISE FUNDING} EDUCATORS SALARIES
- CHANGE THE FUNDING FORMULA -
- CHANGE THE DESIGNATION OF THE REVENUE. -
(WE ARE NOT AN ANCHORAGE COMPARABLE)
- FUND PARKS
- FUND HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE/FERRIES.
- FUND TROOPERS
- FUND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
- FUND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR OUR
DISABLED.
- FUND TOURISM

Marion Nelson



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 289 / HB 403 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject

Honorable Senators of the Finance Committee:

I ask you to seriously consider not cutting education any further. Education funding has been eroded to the point that that our district is no longer able to offer competitive compensation packages to attract and keep the best and brightest teachers for our kids.

The teachers we have right now, were hired in the days when the Kenai Peninsula School District was able to go down to the lower 48 and pick from the best of the best at every job fair. Those days are gone. Today we are encouraging our most experienced teachers to LEAVE our schools in a sad attempt to make up for the lack of state funding.

Does anyone remember the days when:

- There was an income tax.
- There was no permanent fund dividend.
- Education was a priority.

Today:

- There is no income tax.
- There is a permanent fund dividend
- Education is NOT a priority.

Inflation alone costs our schools \$14.8 million dollars this year alone. Please increase the foundation formula. Our children and our schools deserve to be a priority. Quality schools build strong citizens and strong communities.

Strong public schools prepare children for jobs of the 21st century.
FUND EDUCATION FIRST BEFORE FUNDING ANYTHING ELSE.

Signed: Bill Vedders
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1484 Kenai, Alaska 99611
Address

283-3472
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the S FINANCE
committee name
committee on BUDGET, dated 04-18-02
bill/subject

I cannot understand why the Legislature wants to cut the State Parks Budget when these facilities help the second largest economy in the State, tourism. It is not as if it's a budget of billions or even tens of millions of dollars! We are talking of cutting a budget that has been small, too small for all the years I can recall (35+). I enjoy and use these parks all year long and want them to be open and their facilities available to us residents and the visitors that come here and add jobs and work to our State. Please do not vote to cut their funds.

Rick Ernst
Box 13172
Trapper Creek 99683 ph (907) 733-2721

4/17/02



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
Committee name
Committee on BUDGET, dated 4-16-02
Bill/Subject

4-17-2002

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this letter in support of the treatment programs in Alaska. Over the years I have seen many people benefit from these programs. I personally know people who have come into these programs with no hope of living a clean sober life, with the help they have received they are living clean and sober lives; with years of sobriety. Something that they did not think possible and many other people did not think possible. They have become parents and have trained for new jobs and bought homes, but most important they have respect for themselves and other people; they also have serenity and a peace of mind. I would like to see no money cut from these programs. It is very important to many people to keep these programs going.

Signed: Brenda Winders
Testifier

Treatment Facilities
Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 20696 Juneau, AK. 99802
Address

907-586-3992
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name
committee on BUDGET, dated 4-18-02
bill/subject

Hello,

My name is Cheryl Brummer, Administrative Assistant for Mat-Su College. I am in support of the budget for FY/03 for the University of Alaska, Anchorage. The college is based upon a multitude of educational avenues which this funding supports. By denying these allocations you will be denying the growth of our state through very vital means. Our state needs to approve the funding request to help educate the people of Alaska. We need to encourage these people to make the state of Alaska their choice to live and work in, instead of allowing them to leave our fine state to spend there money and lives elsewhere.

Thank you

Cheryl Brummer
Administrative Assistant
Mat-Su College
pnclb@matsu.alaska.edu

April 17, 2002

To the Senate Finance Committee:


I apologize for not being able to be present this evening, but I wanted to give you the chance to consider my concerns. As I have worked for the Division of Family and Youth Services since 1999, I am hoping that you can utilize my expertise in considering the impacts of the budget cuts on Alaska's children. I spend every day protecting children and working for their best interests, therefore it is my responsibility to speak for them now. I am specifically referring to the cuts in foster care, subsidized adoption programs and alcohol programs.

Many children are removed from their unsafe homes every year, many of which never return home. Those that do not return home rely on foster homes to adequately care for them and protect them. You must keep in mind that the majority of these children are affected by a lifetime of trauma, dating back to in utero. Therefore, they have special needs and the caregivers need special skills to fulfill those needs. There are many families with wonderful intentions and big hearts that are willing to take in these children, but they need financial assistance in doing so. Even now, the funds for foster homes is understated and I fear the repercussions of cutting those funds even further. As a result, there will be less available homes and substantially less that are willing to adopt. Overall, permanency for children will decrease and children lingering in the system will increase. We have developed laws to address these issues, but those laws cannot be upheld without the necessary resources. In essence, we will all be working against our own goals. Why would we do that?

As for cutting funding for the alcohol programs, the consequences seem clear. If we take away the resources which allow parents to rehabilitate themselves, children will be unable to return home (with less available foster homes.) Alcohol abuse is a substantial problem in Alaska, and our state needs the resources to match the magnitude of the problem. I don't understand how we can decrease the resolution while the problem continues to increase. Alaska is known for its alcohol problems, and we will then be known for ignoring it. The future of our state would be held in the hands of a large population of children diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

There are consequences to every choice we make. Social services has a history of being underfunded, despite the effects on human beings. Those effects are easy to ignore if you are not the foster child needing a home and needing love. Just put yourself in that child's shoes for a moment, and I am certain you would reconsider the options.

Thank you for your time and understanding.


Sara Childress, MSW
722 Sunset Drive, Apt. C
Anchorage, AK 99501



FAIRBANKS LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
119 N. CUSHMAN ST. SUITE 101
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
SFIN	Fran/Fbx LIO
COMPANY:	DATE:
	4/19/2002
FAX NUMBER:	
465-2187	
PHONE NUMBER:	FAXED ON:
465-4935	04/19/2002
RE:	TELECONFERENCED ON:
Written Testimony: Budget Hearings	04-18-02

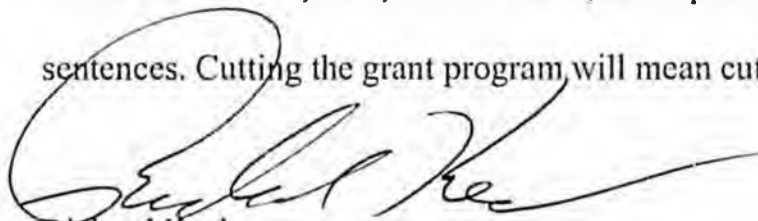
URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Enclosed please find the originals of the written testimony for the budget hearings.

I oppose the proposed 25% cut to the Human Services Community Matching Grant. As a Board member of the North Star Youth Court, which has received funding from this source, I want to say:

1. The NSYC reduces the burden on the juvenile justice system and the court system by prosecuting juvenile misdemeanors. The NSYC allows teenagers to perform a needed service for the community and to learn about the law and the effects of juvenile crime.
2. The NSYC delivers a message to youthful offenders that crime is wrong. Without the NSYC, young offenders either suffer no consequences or else undergo full formal court proceedings with state attorneys, probation officers, a superior court judge, etc.
3. The NSYC, as all the other youth courts in Alaska, depends on grants such as the Human Services Community block grants. Grant money to the NSYC produces a lot of bang for the buck, since much of our work is done by volunteers. But we have to maintain an office, staff, and overhead, to keep track of court cases and follow up on sentences. Cutting the grant program will mean cutting the services NSYC provides.



Richard Keck
1506 3rd Ave.
Fairbanks AK 99701
(907) 451-2954



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 Committee on TRANSPORTATION Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 4/16TUE/2002

FIRE ABOARD ALASKA FERRY COLUMBIA
 DAMAGE, REPAIRS, LOSS OF SERVICE.

WHO IS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT?

SIGNED: Ron KOVALIK
 Testifier
 Representing
Box 72563, FAI. 99707 / 479-4728
 Address / Phone Number

PROFESSIONAL MARINER

Journal of the Maritime Industry

Contents

Issue #63

April/May 2002

Faulty electrical connection, loose bolt suspected in ferry fire

A faulty connection or a loose bolt falling into a switchboard probably caused the fire aboard the ferry *Columbia*, the National Transportation Safety Board has concluded.

The fire on the flagship of the Alaska Marine Highway System on June 6, 2000, (PM #50) broke out in the engine control room's main switchboard. The NTSB said that the probable cause was "arcing, most likely due to a faulty connection or a conductive object."

Mechanical vibrations and thermal cycling can gradually loosen electrical connections, and although crewmembers had used an infrared thermographic inspection program to search for faulty connections, they had never used it to

inspect the switchboard's internal connections. A faulty connection could have developed and remained undetected for a considerable period of time.

A loose bolt may also have caused the arcing that led to the fire. A bolt fused to two washers was found in the switchboard panel compartment.

A report by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory also concluded that the cause of the fire was most likely a faulty connection or the loose bolt. Analysis of the bolt and its location in the switchboard indicate that it was the probable cause of the initial arcing.

The incident occurred as the 418-foot passenger/car ferry

MARITIME CASUALTIES

was underway in the Chatham Strait, about 30 miles southwest of Juneau, en route to Sitka. The ship has the capacity for 971 passengers; at the time of the accident there were 434 passengers and 63 crew aboard. Three passengers were evacuated by Coast Guard helicopter for medical conditions that existed before the fire, while the remaining passengers and a stowaway were transferred to another AMHS ferry, *Taku*, after the two vessels rendezvoused.

According to the NTSB, the transfer of the passengers to *Taku* "was executed in a timely and effective manner and was well coordinated with shoreside management." The NTSB also noted that the passenger and crew muster was well coordinated. There were no injuries or deaths as a result of the accident, but the cost of repair to the ship is estimated to be \$2 million.

Once the passenger transfer was completed, *Taku* towed *Columbia* away from Admiralty Island so that it would not run aground. Shortly thereafter, two tugs, *Banner* and *Ardie*, arrived on the scene. *Banner* towed *Columbia* to the Auke Bay Terminal.

The manufacturer of *Columbia's* switchboard recommended that an inspection be performed, at minimum, every year or during vessel overhauls. The technical manual states that operators should "physically check the tightness of all electrical connections and parts" and "ascertain that no tools or extraneous materials are afloat." But according to the chief engineer's best recollection, the last switchboard inspection had been performed in 1995, but he was not certain whether it was even done then. Maintenance records showed that none of the connections had been cleaned or tightened during the five-year period preceding the accident.

During the winter lay-up, Alaska Ship and Drydock workers had made some modifications to the switchboard. The Coast Guard approved the modifications to the electrical drawings, and inspected and approved the work.

On three occasions, shipyard electricians entered the enclosure to work on the switchboard. On the first occasion, an AMHS port engineer was present to assure that the work was properly done. On the subsequent two occasions, no rewmember or AMHS representative was present to inspect the work while it was in progress or when it was completed.

The NTSB recommended the AMHS conduct annual switchboard inspections, verify outside contractors' work, develop comprehensive pre-fire plans including procedures for engine-room fires, and provide a backup communications system between the bridge and engine room.

John Snyder

Please explain if I understand this correctly:

At least three layers of management or at least two alternate crews had not done their job for five years — and the ferry system is asking for more money?

What discipline was meted out?

Did they dock the pay of the guy who mops out the boiler room?

PROFESSIONAL MARINER

Journal of the Maritime Industry

Contents

Issue #63

April/May 2002

Faulty electrical connection, loose bolt suspected in ferry fire

A faulty connection or a loose bolt falling into a switchboard probably caused the fire aboard the ferry *Columbia*, the National Transportation Safety Board has concluded.

The fire on the flagship of the Alaska Marine Highway System on June 6, 2000, (PM #50) broke out in the engine control room's main switchboard. The NTSB said that the probable cause was "arcing, most likely due to a faulty connection or a conductive object."

Mechanical vibrations and thermal cycling can gradually loosen electrical connections, and although crewmembers had used an infrared thermographic inspection program to search for faulty connections, they had never used it to

inspect the switchboard's internal connections. A faulty connection could have developed and remained undetected for a considerable period of time.

A loose bolt may also have caused the arcing that led to the fire. A bolt fused to two washers was found in the switchboard panel compartment.

A report by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory also concluded that the cause of the fire was most likely a faulty connection or the loose bolt. Analysis of the bolt and its location in the switchboard indicate that it was the probable cause of the initial arcing.

The incident occurred as the 418-foot passenger/car ferry

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 Website: <http://www.akpta.org>

PO Box 201496
 Anchorage, AK 99520-1496



everychild.one voice.

April 18, 2002

To members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The annual state PTA convention is happening today in Anchorage concurrently with this opportunity to testify. Thus, many of us are unable to personally testify at our local LIOs. On behalf of the 13,000 strong membership of the Alaska State PTA, we STRONGLY urge you to fund education at the \$190 per student level for FY 03. Increased education funding is consistently one of our most important priorities as we witness the erosion of quality education for our students due to ongoing inflation and other increased costs.

Members of PTA units throughout the state can testify to the fact that we are being called upon more and more to raise funds locally to help meet basic educational needs within our schools. Each year we witness the loss of essential programs that motivate our children to learn and succeed. We are losing the competitive edge in attracting excellent teachers and administrators to come to Alaska. This is happening at a time when we have established higher standards and greater expectations for our students.

We understand the need to solve the state fiscal gap, but not at the expense of your mandated duty to maintain a strong school system statewide. Quality education for Alaska's children must be the #1 priority. Please vote to increase state education funding.

**Senate Finance Committee Testimony
Senior Support for Full Funding of the
Human Services Community Matching Grant Program**

My name is Denise Daniello and I reside at 3844 Ullrbahn Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709. I am the executive director of the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center. I, along with 115 registered Alaskan voters, the majority of whom are Fairbanks area seniors, support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program as demonstrated by this petition. The HSCMG provides critical funding for the Meals on Wheels service administered by the North Star Council on Aging.

Meals on Wheels is a vital community service for elderly people. It not only provides hot nutritious food to feed the body, but a caring delivery person who nourishes the soul. For some elderly people, especially those who live outside the city limits, the Meals on Wheels driver may be the only human contact a person will have all day.

The North Star Council on Aging provides the Meals on Wheels service for 143 homebound seniors of the Fairbanks area targeting at-risk elders who are frail, disabled and/or financially in need. Of those individuals, 94% (134 persons) suffer from crippling arthritis, heart disease, Parkinson's disease or Alzheimer's, 66% (95 persons) are low-income earning less than \$1,000 per month, and 63% (90 persons) are categorized as both medically impaired and financially in need. Meals on Wheels enhances the quality of life by providing healthy food and social contact for these individuals.

Meals on Wheels is cost-effective. The home-delivered meal helps the elderly stay healthy and remain in their own homes, where they want to be, as opposed to being placed in a nursing facility for illnesses related to malnutrition. The daily room and board rate at the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital is \$826, as compared to \$9.48 for a MOW meal.

The demand for Meals on Wheels is increasing. Today, we have 21 elderly people on a waitlist for Meals on Wheels. We need more funding for senior services, not less.

Last year, the North Star Council on Aging prepared 41,500 meals, traveled 36,400 miles delivering meals, and used our \$50,000 HSCMG grant to leverage almost \$300,000 in outside funds. The HSCMG is a sound community investment we support. Thank you.

We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Stella	Stella	2178 FAGAN	FBKS	AK	99701	Stella Stella
2	Lockhart	Rowe	P.O. BOX 74408	FBKS	AK	99709	Rowe Lockhart
3	ERICKLOCK	MARTHA	1620 WASHINGTON ^{#55}	FBKS	AK	99701	Martha Ericklock
4	DeBride	Tracy	11207 Washington	F. AK	AK	99709	Tracy DeBride
5	BRIMMER	PALE	2451 ALSTON	FBKS	AK	2451	Sally Brimmer
6	m. Raapana	Mary	1770 Bridgeway	FBKS	AK	99709	m. Raapana
7	B. Brooks	Glenn	1512 E. Sengreen	FBKS	AK	99709	Glenn Brooks
8	Stevens	Connie	1005 O'Connor Rd	FBKS		99701	Connie Stevens
9	Wass	Phyllis	312 Wedgewood	FBKS	AK	99701	Phyllis Wass
10	AKPIK	HENRIEY	101 COLLEGE	FBKS	AK	99701	Henriey Akpik
11	Grant	Bill + Lyla	410 Papill	FBKS	AK	99701	Lyla Grant
12	Bradley	Bill + Joan	428 E. Umba Ave	F. AK	AK	99701	Joan Bradley
13	Shelton	Larry	525 Craig Ave	F. AK	AK	99701	Larry Shelton
14	Reinhardt	Joseph	125 3rd Ave F. AK	F. AK	AK	99701	Joseph Reinhardt
15	Tresselt	Irwin	P.O. Box 7012 FBKS				Irwin Tresselt
16	Seclaman	Louise	306-6th Ave	FBKS		99701	Louise Seclaman
17	BAGLEY	CAROLINE	321 4th	FBKS	AK	99701	C. Bagley
18	Biddle	Charles	330 3rd Ave 161			99701	C. Biddle
19							
20	SENNET	PEARL	333 BRO AVE	FBKS	AK	99701	Pearl Bennett

We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	ABEL	GLEN	405-BARANOF AVE	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701-3200	[Signature]
2	WOLFF	Ernest N	PO. Box 80989	"	"	99708	Ernest N Wolff
3	Ogden	Krista	3845 Potter Rd.	Fairbanks	AK	99709	Krista Ogden
4	Nottingham	Juanita	PO Box 80946	Fairbanks	AK	99708	Juanita Nottingham
5	Nottingham	Charles	PO Box 80946	Fairbanks	AK	99708	Charles E. Nottingham
6	Katherine	Peter	575 Echo Ave Dr.	FBKS	AK	99712	Katherine Peter
7	Dornath	George	1035 Federal	FBKS	AK	99712	George Dornath
8	Turney	Joseph	702 Turney CT	"	"	"	Joseph Turney
9	Turney	LAVON	702 Turney CT	"	"	"	Lavon Turney
10	BESSOTTI	LISA	300 Newland Rd # 11	"	"	"	Lisa Bessotti
11	Goodrich	BETTY	3259 Repp Rd	N. POB	"	99705	Betty Goodrich
12	Bivens	MABLE	P.O. Box 55048	N. POB	"	99705	MABLE BIVENS
13	LASK	JUNE	1921 Endyovitz Ave	N. POB	AK	99705	June K. Lask
14	TARPERRING	loyd	P.O. Box 58217	FAIRBANKS	AK	99711	Floyd Tarperring
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PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	COLI	LARRY	Box 83066	FBKS	AK	99708	Larry Cole
2	TEMMALT	JAMES	700 Fairbanks #139	FBKS	AK	99708	James O. Temmalt
3	Newman	Florence	PO Box 71001	FBKS	AK	99707	Florence Newman
4	Gabayon	Susie	1304-24th Apt C-2	Fbks	AK	99701	Susie Gabayon
5	SMITH	CHARLES	P.O. Box 71366	FBKS	AK	99707	Charles Smith
6	METZ	Alice	PO Box 84475	Fbks	AK	99708	Alice Metz
7	METZ	Duane	P.O. Box 84475	FBKS	AK	99708	Duane Metz
8	Hensley	Ruby B.	2121 Turner St	Fbx	AK	99701	Ruby B. Hensley
9	LAWLESS	Sue	PO Box 71734	FBKS	AK	99707	Sue Lawless
10	BURTNESS	Catherine	1418 Turner St.	FBKS	AK	99701	C. Burtness
11	WISE	George	1523 Gillan W.	Fbx	AK	99701	George Wise
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We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Kynthia Frank	Barbara	330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99709	Cynthia Frank
2			330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99709	Sarah Benoit
3	Rosalyn Clark		330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99709	
4	Barbara	Frederica	330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99709	
5	Norothy	Peters	330 3RD GT	FBS	AK	99701	Norothy Peters
6	Deanne	Flynn	330 3RD GT	FBS	AK	99701	Deanne Flynn
7	Mary	Hollander	Northwood	FBKS	AK	99701	M. Hollander
8	Ted	Kane	Northwood	FBKS	AK	99701	
9	Marionette	Kathleen	Northwood	FBC	AK	99701	Kathleen Marquette
10	Harry	Estewart	Northward BLDG	FBKS	AK	99701	
11	Nancy	Paul	MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	
12	Russ	Laura	MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	Russ & Laura
13	WALLACE	LULU	MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	Lulu Wallace
14	TODD	BETTE	1223 Kennicott	FBKS	AK	99701	Bette M. Todd
15	Tracy	Pitterson					
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We, who have signed our names below, support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund the Meals on Wheels service provided by the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, AK.

Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Turogova	Dorothy	PO Box 60203	FAIRBANKS	AK	99706	Dorothy Turogova
2	GEIGER	SILVIA	3246 ADAMS	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Silvia Geiger
3	HUNTER	DIANE	455 ^{3rd} AVENUE APT 323	Fairbank	AK	99701	Diane Hunter
4	HARDY	Wendy	1805 JACK ST.	Fairbanks	AK	99709	Wendy Hardy
5	SAVOYE	JOE	1420 MOORE ST	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Joe Savoye
6	Daniello	Denise	3844 Ullrich Rd.	Fairbanks	AK	99709	Denise Daniello
7	Bohner	Judy	PO Box 71538	Fairbanks	AK	99707	Judy Bohner
8	Rogers	Debra	PO Box 60596	Fairbanks	AK	99707	Debra Rogers
9	Walker	Stephen	PO Box 72646	Fairbanks	AK	99707	Stephen Walker
10	Marsden	Josephine	125 3rd Ave	Fairbanks	AK	99701	Josephine Marsden
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We, who have signed our names below, support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund the Meals on Wheels service provided by the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, AK.

Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Randell	Hazel	307 Wedge wood	DR	AK	99701	1606
2	Fischer	Melissa	P.O. Box 34032	FBK	AK	99707	Michelle Fischer
3	Curry	Julie	310 Wedge wood	D	AK	99701	1606
4	Lungstiff	Jacqueline	1187 Kodiak St.	FBK	AK	99709	Janie Lungstiff
5	Thompson	Darlene	350 3rd Ave #41	FBK	AK	99701	Darlene Thompson
6	SYNOGROUND	Mary	1515 2nd Ave	FBKS	AK	99701	Mary Synoground
7	Jackson	Mary Alice	665 10th Ave #301	FBK	AK	99701	Mary Alice Jackson
8	Gordon K. Chappel	GORDON	11456 TURNER	FBKS	AK	99701	Gordon K. Chappel
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Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	MERCER	DORIS	1990 OLDPIONEERR	FBK	AK	99709	Doris C. Mercer
2	Jabel	GELINAS	1414 Noble	FBKS	AK	99701	Jabel Gelinas
3	HOWARD	GRACE	330-3RD AVE	FBKS	AK	99701	Grace Howard
4	Hale	Sully	862 Senate Dr	FBKS	AK	99712	J. Hale
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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate
 Committee on Finance Committee Name
 Dated 4/17/02
 Bill / Subject

I believe that the rising cost of doing business is beyond our control, but that doesn't reduce our responsibility to ensure basic needs in the community are met. Under-funding essential services, particularly education and human services will have cascading effects that could take years to turn around, if at all. People who choose to live here will begin to second-guess their decision to live and raise a family here.

We cannot cut our way out of this issue. Rather, we need a fixed plan. I personally am struggling financially to make ends meet, but when asked to choose between a healthy community + some sort of income tax I would certainly choose the latter!

SIGNED: Mike Donaldson
 Testifier
Self
 Representing
Box 61214 Fairbanks, AK 99706
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate ~~budget~~ Finance
 Committee on Senate budget Committee Name Dated 4-18-02
Bill / Subject

To: Sen. Green & Senate Finance.

Thank you for asking for clarification regarding my comments on short-funding foster care.

A zero increase effectively short-funds this program by diminishing the Department's ability to recruit and retain foster families. The need is growing, there is an anticipated

increase in the caseload of children needing foster care; flat funding the foster care base rate is short funding. Thank you for fixing the numbers and for fully funding the bottom project; please help us recruit & retain the essential services of foster families by funding the requested base rate increase.

Please consider an income tax and use of the earnings reserve to fund these critical state services.

SIGNED:

Teber S Rihbaum
 Testifier Teber S Rihbaum

Arctic Alliance for People
 Representing

PO Box 438 Ester AK 99725 907 452 8118
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on: Budget Committee Name
 Dated 4-18-02
 Bill / Subject

Cuts in the Alcohol + Drug Abuse budget will cost Alaska much more in the long run. Cuts will reduce Federal matching dollars

Cuts will mean that the system to deal with DWI drivers (ASAP) will be reduced or cut, meaning ~~more~~ a greater burden on the court system.

Cuts mean more people will go to jail - jail is more expensive than treatment.

Cuts mean more people will go to emergency rooms, ERs are more expensive than treatment.

Cuts will mean more impact on DFYS - a system that is also looking at budget cuts. Who is going to protect our children? If they can not get protection at DFYS and other services like foster care, Family Preservation and a reduced State Trooper force, who will protect children exposed to real danger?

Please think about the future of Alaska's children. If the systems that we provide to help people turn their lives around fail - what will our next generation of adults look like?

What will be the quality of life in Alaska? Who will stay to make important decisions?

* ALSO - PLEASE SUPPORT THE HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT *

SIGNED:

Testifier Annette Frubinger

Fairbanks Native Association

Representing

201 1st Ave, Ste 200, Fbks 99701
 Address / Phone Number (907) 452-1648 x223



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Operating Budget Committee Name Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject

Please support Full Funding For the University of Alaska System.

The UA system not only produces PhD's, Masters Degrees, Bachelors Degrees and Associate Degrees. The UA system produces citizens for our state. Economic Development, an enlightened citizenry and a stronger state are all positive effects of a well-funded university system.

Please preserve the momentum of the UA System by fully funding the \$16.9 million request of our university.

SIGNED: Joseph Hardenbrook Joseph HARDENBROOK
 Testifier

University of Alaska
 Representing

P.O. Box 750362 FAIRBANKS AK 99775 907-455-4820
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate, Finance
 Committee Name
 Committee on SB 403 / University of Alaska Dated 4/18/02
 Bill / Subject

I would like to ask you to fully fund the university system. The university provides valuable, marketable skills to thousands of Alaskans a year. University graduates, whether they receive an associates, bachelors or above are less likely to spend time in prison, less likely to be on welfare, and make, on average twice as much as those people without a degree. It seems to me that at this point in our state's history, we should invest in something that will both save the state money and create a healthier economy.

It was reported on CNN a few weeks ago that Alaska is one of five states that has a public university system that is affordable for low income residents. This means that the people that need a marketable skill are able to get it. If we are flat-funded, there may be tuition increases, which will leave many Alaskans unable to obtain a degree. Needless to say, over time, state assistance to those people would increase, the economy would suffer even more. Fully funding the UA system is perhaps one of the most important steps to take

In having a healthy, Alaskan economy

SIGNED:

Denise Spencer
 Testifier

Representing

PO Box 750936, Fairbanks AK 99775 / (907) 455-3614
 Address / Phone Number

April 18, 2002

Alaska State Legislature Senators:

RE: SB 340 Permanent Fund Dividend 'HOLD HARMLESS'
PROVISION REPEAL

I strongly oppose SB 340, that directly affects the Alaska Native population served by the Community Services Department of the Fairbanks Native Association. The membership of Fairbanks Native Association serves the Native population of 5000 residing in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The Community Services Department clientele depends on the permanent fund for winter clothing, their children's school supplies and other essential needs not provided by other financial resources. Also, the permanent fund allows families to purchase eyeglasses and medical supplies not provided by the health care system. Again, on behalf the Community Services clientele (approximately 677 clients) and the Native community, I strongly oppose SB 340. Thank you.
Sincerely, Freda M. Williams, Director, Community Services Department, phone (907) 452-5225, fax (907) 452-6355



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN
 Committee on Budget Committee Name SFIN
 Dated 4/18/02
 Bill / Subject

I think too many cuts may be happening to all kinds of organizations, and that can hurt us all - especially us Alaskans. Alaska is one state that is supporting alot of states with oil, etc... There is alot of alcohol and drug abuse that is already visible, that leads to jobs, hospitals, DFGs, suicides, etc... Now there talking about cutting dividends, subsidies that ^{have} been a battle for years, there five been involved with all these mentioned above, ~~from~~ ~~there~~ Now we have to fly into the city to go to treatment centers, be away from families. Maybe it would be easier if we all had everything in our village communities. If we supporting drug and alcohol abuse centers.

SIGNED:

Marilyn J. Anderson
Testifier

WCCIA
Representing

PO- Box 71048, Fairbanks, AK 99707
Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Budget Committee Name Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject

Public Safety, Education, and Public Health indicators are what people and businesses look at when they are considering moving to a state or a community. Maintaining a safety net is essential and deserves our support.

I am willing to contribute through a tax - my preference would be an income tax that could be taken out prior to federal taxes, or a combination of income/sales tax (which would require additional administrative staff.) I would like to ensure that non-Alaskan residents who work in our state and contribute nothing, pay their share.

Please ensure that there is a long term plan to address the constitutionally mandated areas of public safety, public health, and education.

SIGNED:

Testifier

J. Schmidt
self

JENNIFER G. SCHMIDT

Representing

1893 Steele Creek Road,
P.O. Box 82944, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99708

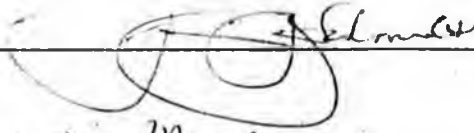
Address / Phone Number 907-457-2312



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Budget Committee Name
 Dated 4/18/02
Bill Subject

The School Board in your community has been working proactively to help all students achieve their potential. Our proposed budget maintains class size, retains our summer school, adds a middle school math program to address benchmark concerns, and helps prepare principals to deal with anticipated retirements. These are essential items for our school district that can only be addressed if we receive additional funding from the Legislature.

SIGNED: Jennifer Schmidt
 Testifier 
FRSB Board of Education Member
 Representing
1093 Stook Creek Road
PO Box 82944, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
 Address / Phone Number 4572312



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on State Operating Budget Dated 4.18.02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

Senator Austerman asked for suggestions on how to increase funds for the operating budget. There are many ideas worth considering:

- increasing taxes on oil
- capping the permanent fund
- using the permanent fund reserve fund
- instituting an income tax
- instituting ~~SIT~~ or increasing "sin" taxes
- statewide sales taxes

— and probably more.

Will they be popular? Probably not. But that should not be how you make the decision. The options are there, use them.

SIGNED: Cheryl Keepers
 Testifier
self
 Representing
Box 74898, Fairbanks, AK 99707
 Address / Phone Number 907-459-1287 (W)



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Affairs
 Committee on Operating Budget Dated 4/17/02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

As an adult board member of the WBYC since May 2000 and a social work intern with the organization beginning Sept 1999 - May 2000 I have been given the opportunity to observe & participate in a program that serves this community with a dual purpose. The money from the human services grant has enabled this program to provide our youth in the Fairbanks community an opportunity to serve as mentors to their ~~peers~~ peers by working as youth attorneys, judges, & mediators to help alleviate the

SIGNED: Jennifer Asmens
 Testifier
North Star Youth Court
 Representing
125 8th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701
 Address / Phone Number

workload of the Jambanke youth facility probation officers
which in return cuts down costs for the division of
juvenile justice. Our recidivism rate of 8% is
an accomplishment the youth volunteers are proud of
& could have been only attained w/ the support
of the human services grant.

The second function our youth serve the
community is the opportunity that youth
court provides for youth ages 12-18 years old.
They learn valuable skills as attorneys & mediators
that will benefit our community for generations.

Thank you for your time

Janet Atkins



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Proposed Budget for 2003 Dated 4-18-02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

The proposed cut to the budget will force us to close our 12 bed Residential program at Old Minto Family Recovery Camp. This program is the only treatment center for families in this state. This program serves 125-150 clients nearly. Six positions, people who are Fairbanks residents, will be eliminated. Closing this program means that 125-150 clients will not receive treatment. Our substance abuse prevention program, which is the Think Zoo Newsletter. This newsletter ^{which} has a circulation of 10,500 over the entire state will be gone from the school. This newsletter focused on substance abuse prevention.

SIGNED: Margaret Wilson
 Testifier

~~Thomas Wilson~~ Thomas Wilson Fairbanks Chiefs Conference
 Representing

348 Aquila Fairbanks AK 99712 - 457-7798
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
Committee Name
Committee on _____ Dated 4-18-02

Bill / Subject

Please fully fund the University of Alaska's board of Regents budget request. Our University is the future of Alaska. During financial downturn the best thing we can do is invest in our Universities.

SIGNED:

Michael Everett

Testifier

Representing

1540 N. Backer

Address / Phone Number

P.O. Box 81213

Fairbanks AK

99708



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE Comm.
 Committee on: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA Dated 18 APR 92
 Bill / Subject BUDGET

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA IS THE BEST
 IF NOT THE ONLY INSTITUTION WITHIN OUR STATE
 TO IDENTIFY, ^{AND DEVELOP} NEW REVENUE SOURCES, ECONOMIC
 OPPORTUNITIES, AND FUTURE ASSETS. ~~BE~~

UA ALSO TRAINS AND EDUCATES ^{OUR FUTURE} ~~OUR FUTURE~~
~~AND~~ LEADERS, EDUCATORS, CRAFTSMEN AND TECHNICIANS
 TO DO THIS THE UNIVERSITY MUST BE FINANCED
 FULLY TO ALLOW ~~TO A CONTINUED~~ THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE
 STATE HAS WITNESSED IN THE PAST 3 YEARS.

THE FURTHER FUNDING OF UA WILL HAVE A
 DEVASTATING EFFECT AND A LONG TERM ^{IMPACT} ~~EFFECT~~
 ON OUR STATE AND IT'S FUTURE - FUND THE \$16.9 MILLION.

SIGNED:

JOHN C. POOLE

Testifier

UAF TEACHER + VOLUNTARY COMRADE.

Representing

325 SPOWY OWLI LANE FORT BAKER AK 99712

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the financial
 Committee on budget Committee Name Dated 4.18.22
Bill / Subject

Something that has been missing from this debate has been the question of... assuming we get through this budget crisis, what happens next year?

I suggest opening up a debate regarding the elimination of money while re-examining the values of indigenous cultures that successfully prospered long before capitalism entered and took over.

A culture of greed is destined to consume itself greedily

Thank you for consideration in this matter.

As a final suggestion... refer to utopianow.cjb.net.
 It costs nothing & is selling nothing... except freedom for ALL

SIGNED: David Roblee
 Testifier
by myself
 Representing
488 5203 nlm@gei.net
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE

Committee on BUDGET Dated 4-18-02
Bill / Subject Committee Name

IN 1998 I ENROLLED AT VIRGINIA TECH. IN BLACKSBURG, VA. IT SOON BECAME APPARENT THAT I WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER. IN JANUARY OF 2001 I BEGAN AN EDUCATION AT VAF. THE CHANGE WAS SIGNIFICANT; PROFESSORS' KNOWLEDGE AND THE QUALITY OF THE EDUCATION RECEIVED WAS, IN MY OPINION, MUCH BETTER.

HOWEVER, I AM CONCERNED WITH THE LEGISLATURE'S APPARENT UNEASE OVER DECIDING TO FULLY FUND THE UNIVERSITY. THE DECISION IS A SIMPLE ONE. DO IT. NOT ONLY IS THE UA SYSTEM ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN ALASKA, IT'S A GOOD INVESTMENT FOR EVERY \$100 PUT INTO UA, \$450 IS GENERATED. EDUCATION SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY FOR EVERYONE. EDUCATION IS KEY TO EVERYONE'S FUTURE. BY REDUCING THE FUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, THE ENTIRE STATE SUFFERS.

SIGNED:

Testifier

H.J. DERIZ

Representing

1155 LIES AVENUE FAIRBANKS 99709 | 456-5903
Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on HB 403 - op budget Committee Name Dated 041802
Bill / Subject

As of 041802 The budget is not done. It does not reflect needed investment in our state's future. The Uof A needs to be fully funded to fill these goals:

- keep pace with technology developments to make sure graduates are technology savvy.
- attract and retain Alaska high school graduates
- train and educate employees for a changing, diversifying job market
- develop a plan to move Alaska out of solely a resource based economy.

Fight for our Alaska. Fight for Uof A.

Sing forth her glory and fame,

With a spirit bold, fight for the blue and gold.

AMEND THE BUDGET. FUND THE Uof A.

SIGNED:

MARTA MUELLER *Marta Mueller*
 Testifier

UAF Student
 Representing

516 Auklet Place Fairbanks 99709
 Address / Phone Number

~~(907) 479-6780~~ (907) 479-6780

ftmrm@uaf.edu

April 18, 2002

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

We are currently attending our State PTA convention in Anchorage. As members of the Fairbanks community, and representing more than 22 local Parent-Teacher Association, we strongly encourage you to increase education. Funding by the \$190 per student level for FY 03.

Parent-Teacher Associations in Fairbanks regularly donate funds for numerous reasons to help meet basic educational needs in our schools. Each year we are being asked to do more with less – this at a time when we have established higher standards and greater expectations for both students and teachers.

Quality education is our priority. We believe it is yours too. We hope you will show your support by voting to increase state education funding.

Naomi Walsworth, Fairbanks Council of PTA President
Viletta Knight, Alaska PTA Regional II Vice President.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on HB 403 Committee Name Dated 4/11/02
Bill / Subject

I am writing to urge full funding for the University of Alaska operating budget. We rely too much on oil and we know where that has gotten us. The university can help diversify our ~~economy~~ ^{economy}. The university has been responsible with spending and you have seen this. To cut an university budget will stop the momentum. ~~stopping~~ We cannot afford to stop. The new programs are creating jobs for Alaskans and responding to the needs of the state. Yes there is a budget shortfall but I think you can find a way to do the right thing & support full funding.

SIGNED: Cynthia R Brinkley
 Testifier

Representing
 725 Cardinal Ct. Fbks
 PO Box 73453 Fbks 99707 458-8002
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Budget & Finance Comm.
 Committee on full funding for the Univ. Dated 4/18/02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

If time had permitted I would have introduced my three school age children: Elizabeth (8yrs); Kekuewa (7yrs) and Lupu (3yrs). Coincidentally they are the three reasons I urge you to fully fund the Univ. of Alaska.

I returned to Alaska from a state that has wrestled with this very issue: reduced funding for higher ed. That State (Oregon) is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their public system of higher ed. - I hope Alaska can avoid such a fate.

It is not a question of whether my children will go to college - the real question is where they will attend. We cannot expect parents or their children to select a school that does not receive full support of its legislative ^{public} body.

Thank you for this opportunity.

SIGNED: Saichi T. Oba (Saichi T. Oba)

Testifier Elizabeth Oba
Kekuewa Oba, Lupu Oba

Representing PO Box 750105, Fairbanks, AK 99775 907 4882955
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Subcommittee
 Committee on Cuts/Revenues Committee Name
 Dated April 18, 2002
Bill / Subject

THE TIME HAS COME TO CONCENTRATE ON REVENUE PRODUCING IDEAS AND NOT CONCENTRATING ON HOW WE CAN BALANCE THE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF ALASKA'S POOR. I urge you to walk a mile in the shoes of those in your district who are down on their luck and need a little help finding their way. And if you are in a district full of middle class and high class, remember the biblical quote, "There but for the grace of God go I."

The proposed service cuts of tens of millions in a single year, plus the denial of strategic investments for children and the economy, will force layoffs of troopers and child protection workers, end a program to speed up adoptions and cut back on public health nurses. I ask you to reconsider!

It is time we looked at the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. It has been an awesome gift however, it is time that we started acting like responsible citizens and consider eliminating it or reducing it. I also support the alcohol excise tax: SB 347.

I know you have some very tough decisions and I am confident when you remember we are dealing with people's lives you will have the courage to speak up and make the right decisions.

SIGNED: Coleen Turner, Coleen Turner
 Testifier

Representing
141 Nilgrub Ave 99712 479-5176
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance

Committee on HOJA Open Bud Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject Committee Name

The Legislature needs to continue the impetus begun with the increased funding over the last three years. The future of our children and our workforce is in your hands. Invest in our future. Fully fund the University. Continue to support our best interests.

SIGNED:

Betty Kump
Testifier

University of Alaska
Representing

PO Box 82969, Fairbanks, AK
Address / Phone Number

907-479-4590



Provided by David Hull
AK Council of Emergency Services Bd.

April 15, 2002

Southeast Region Emergency Medical Services Council
P.O. Box 259 100 Clothilde Bahovec Way Sitka, Alaska 99835 907-747-8005

Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

Dear Sir or Madam:

As the governing body of the Southeast Region EMS Council, we are writing to protest any cuts to the State EMS office or the Regional EMS Councils. Any cuts to these programs erode the infrastructure of support that has been meticulously built over the past 25 years. These cuts would effect the VOLUNTEER EMS systems around the state.

Many of our services are no longer in existence or have decreased their level of training because of depleted funds for training and equipping these volunteers. Many systems depend on the local municipality or governing board for support and since the municipal revenue sharing funds have been slashed, there is less money than ever to provide for basic needs.

Cuts to the EMS program will translate in elimination of the mini-grant program. These funds usually provided through the State EMS Operating grant allows for the purchase of disposable supplies, ambulance insurance, training needs, gas and equipment. The scholarship program also established by SEREMS to help with costs associated with training will no longer be available to volunteers, greatly impacting the finances of the services.

Cuts may also translate in loss of staff at the regional level, which in turn will eliminate programs such as our pediatric injury prevention program and our CPR/First Aid program. That in turn translates into more children improperly seat-belted or helmeted and fewer people trained to provide bystander CPR. ***Cuts to EMS funds will mean increases in potential injury and a decrease of survivability. This is too high a price to pay!***

Last year the Governor proposed and the legislature provided for 'seed' money with the Code Blue project. That small investment from the state was combined with four other funding sources to provide almost \$6million in EMS capital equipment throughout the state. Although this funding was put to good use replacing aging ambulances and outdated equipment, more is needed to continue improving our system.

At a time that increases to the EMS grants is desperately needed, please consider carefully any cuts to our operating and capital budgets as the volunteer EMS systems who serve Alaska may no longer exist. The Alaska EMS motto is Neighbor Helping Neighbor. Please help them do their jobs!

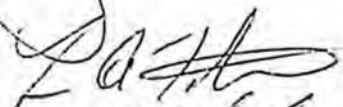
Respectfully submitted,

The Southeast Region Emergency Medical Council

Melita Cavanaugh, RN Bartlett Regional Hospital
Danava-Jacobson MD Petersburg Medical Center
Qui to Welby MD Bartlett Regional Hospital
Tom Meacham Kake EMS

Sandra K. Dixon Petersburg
James Kleinschmitt Ketchikan FIRE/EMS

Doug A. Cromwell 2nd Lt, Petersburg VFD
D. Thompson Agam EMS Training Coordinator

 HAWES VOL FIRE DEPT.
Bill G. Mett S.E.A.R.H.C.

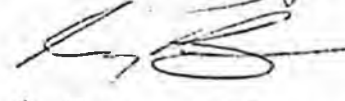
Allen Street Pelican Volunteer Fire & EMS

Elaine Caskey Ketchikan General Hospital

Cynthia L. Jones Harris Volunteer Fire Dept.

Keith R. Walker Capital City Fire/Rescue

Sam Bunge, Volunteer Fire Chief, Petersburg

 ASST. FIRE CHIEF Wrangell Fire Dept

Yvonne Norman RN Sitka Community Hospital

Beatrice S. Johnson RN Wrangell Medical Center

Dave McCandless MD Wrangell AK

Michael K. Ass^{MS}

HAWES VOL FIRE DEPT.
BILL METT



April 15, 2002

Southeast Region Emergency Medical Services Council
P.O. Box 259 100 Clothilde Bahovec Way Sitka, Alaska 99835 907-747-8005

Governor Tony Knowles
Commissioner Jay Livey
State of Alaska Legislators

Dear Sir/Madam:

As the Executive Director of the Southeast Region EMS Council, I would like to protest any budget cuts being considered to the State EMS office or to the Regional EMS Councils.

Our EMS system is built on the volunteers of this state. Currently, EMS systems statewide are suffering from the lack of local support due to cuts to the municipal revenue sharing, downturns in local economies and the tremendous costs of training. The services are also being decimated by the inability to recruit and retain prehospital providers.

Many services no longer exist in communities such as Port Protection, Coffman Cove, Pt. Baker, Port Alexander, Edna Bay, Meyers Chuck, Naukati, Hyder to name just a few. Many others, such as Klawock, Hollis, Craig, Petersburg, Skagway, Kake, Hoonah and Yakutat are struggling to maintain their current levels of certification. Even larger services such as Sitka, Ketchikan and Juneau depend on volunteers to keep the costs of providing prehospital services at a minimum.

With the demands placed on EMS by the tourism, fishing and mining industries and the lack of available funds to help these volunteers offset the skyrocketing costs of training, many will cease to exist. This means that there will be no EMS response to cries for help.

Funding for the Regional EMS offices has been comparatively flat for the past 8 years. The Regional offices have cut programs, been unable to provide management assistance, reduced employee benefits and have been unable to provide for basic training needs in rural Alaska. This has affected our infrastructure. Cuts to the SE Region EMS budget will be reflected in the loss of mini-grant funds to the communities. These mini-grants are sometimes the ONLY source of revenue these EMS have, except for the local bake sales. They are used to pay for insurance on their ambulances, gas, disposable supplies, and the filling of oxygen tanks. It would also mean the scholarship fund that was established to help reduce the costs of training for volunteers would cease to be available.

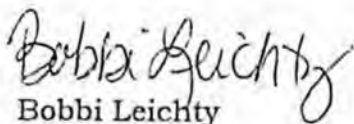
In light of the events of September 11, 2001, it does not make much sense to cut the support to our first line of defenders - the volunteer EMS providers. At a time when more funding is desperately needed to re-build whole systems, it seems ludicrous to slash the small amount of funding that remains.

Funds allocated by the Legislature last year for the Code Blue project allowed for the partnership of five different funding sources that totaled approximately \$6 million. More 'seed' money is needed to replace aging ambulances, outdated equipment and improving training.

With the constant threat of natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, avalanches, and destructive storms) and the more recent threat of weapons of mass destruction, building a solid foundation of basic responders is essential. They must be recruited, trained, equipped and supported if we expect their help in times of need.

Please find enclosed many letters protesting the potential cuts to the EMS budget. These are the people who will be on the receiving end of these cuts. They may or may not be there when you need them.

Sincerely,



Bobbi Leichty
Executive Director
Southeast Region EMS Council

APRIL 14, 2002

TO: GOVERNOR TONY KNOWLES
COMMISSIONER LIVEY
ALASKA LEGISLATORS


FRAN'S TERRY BUSINESS
BOX 681
WRANGELL ALASKA 99929

DEAR SIRS/MADAM:

I'M WRITING TO ADDRESS MY CONCERN ABOUT THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL TO CRITICALLY CUT THE BUDGETS ON BOTH THE EMS STATE OFFICE AND THE GRANTS TO ~~THE~~ ^{THE} EMS REGIONAL COUNCILS. I'VE BEEN AN EMT WITH MY FIRE DEPT. FOR OVER 25 YEARS AND HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH EMS STATEWIDE SERVING BOTH ON THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL BOARD (SEREMS) AND GOVERNOR'S ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMS FOR OVER 15 YEARS. FUNDING FOR THE REGIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE HAS REMAINED FLAT FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS IN SPITE OF INCREASED EXPENSES, (IE. INSURANCE, TRAVEL COSTS, RENT INCREASES, WAGES, RENT LIKES, EQUIPMENT FAILURE). THE CORE BLUE PROJECT THAT HAS TAKEN ALMOST 8 YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH MAY BE A WASTE IF THESE CUTS ARE MADE. THE REGIONS ARE STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN BAREBONE OPERATIONS NOW. ANY FURTHER CUTS WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF ESSENTIAL CORE PROGRAMS, & OR POTENTIAL

COMPLETE LOSS OF ~~EMERGENCY~~ SERVICES IN CERTAIN
AREAS. TRAINING IS REQUIRED MORE AND MORE
BECAUSE OF INCREASED REGULATIONS, MORE OBJECTIVES
THAT NEED TO BE MET FOR CERTIFICATION,
INCREASED REQUESTS FOR SERVICE. PLEASE CORRECT
THIS ILL THOUGHT PROPOSAL AND RETURN FUNDING
BACK TO AT LEAST WHERE IT HAS BEEN. THANKS
FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT OF EMS.

SINCERELY,



TERRY BUNESS

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators


FROM: LYNN PRYUNKA, MD
Physician Sponsor, Udon

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am very concerned that the state is focusing its funding cuts on the EMS organization. Alaska has an EMS organization that through geographic necessity is leaps ahead of most states in the US in terms of its global organization, standards, and support to small communities. The citizens in these small communities benefit hugely from the influence the state EMS organization has on the practices + procedures of their local + often voluntary EMS departments. Without the state leadership, these small departments would no longer be able to maintain their current standards + the citizens in these communities would be the ultimate victims.

I encourage you to carefully consider the longterm ramifications of your proposed funding cuts. The State EMS Organization is remarkable in what it has achieved, however it needs continued funding to continue with the high standards + performance it + Alaskans most enjoy.

Sincerely


A. Sysunha MD
Wrangell EMS Physician Sponsor
Chief of Staff Wrangell
Medical Center

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I do not believe you realize what these proposed funding cuts would do to our State's EMS program; especially in rural communities. Currently, in my community the members of the Volunteers EMS and Fire Department Squads have just begun rebuilding after losing nearly all of their more experienced members. The volunteers who have come forward to fill in the gaps of the Squads need training and are looking forward to serving our community. Without this training, their ability to help our community is limited by law, and the chances are that they would withdraw from the Squad.

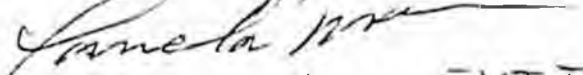
The training required for an EMT/ETT to serve a rural community's EMS needs is a very important need. The proposed funding cuts will eliminate our community's source of volunteer EMS members. Without this funding, keeping my current level of certification and/or

moving up a level, will be impossible,

~~level~~ ^(Certified) At this time, I am the highest ~~level~~ EMT on the Squad. Our higher level EMTs have either expired or moved away. We need New Volunteers, without SEREMS, our ability to serve our community's needs is severely hampered. Without funding and SEREMS, keeping our experienced members or bringing in new volunteers becomes impossible. Without funding, EMS in our community will probably die & so will people.

In closing I ask that you reconsider the cuts to EMS services. Without EMS, the lives of people in rural communities will be put at risk. The long-term & short-term effects of such cuts, follow on top of other funding changes & economic blows to communities already struggling to just survive. Please reconsider this.

Sincerely,



Pamela Nelson, EMT I

Box 144E7

Thorne Bay, AK 99919

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: DALE ERICKSON RN
BARTLETT REGIONAL HOSPITAL
EMERGENCY DEPT
SITKA ALASKA 99781

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am writing to request your reconsideration of any proposed cuts to the state and Regional EMS programs. I would strongly urge the Alaska legislature to at least maintain current funding levels, and to consider increasing the EMS funding to S.E. Region.

S.E. EMS provides essential training, equipment, supplies to communities whose isolation significantly delays the delivery of hospital-based health care services. It is the first and often EMS provides health care that are able to provide life-sustaining care to the citizens of these communities until appropriate transport arrangements are made.

Timely care and interventions greatly influence the outcome of trauma/injury/illness/care victims. By providing immediate timely support for EMS services and citizens in particular, we show a regard for the health and well-being of the citizens of the State of Alaska.



What is expected of a government by its people.

Do not cut funding, consider increasing the appropriation,
and make these decisions knowing you are doing the right
thing for the people of this state.

Respectfully,

David G. Wilson, M.D.

Chief of Cardiology

Cardiology Dept., Parkland Regional Hospital

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Pat Chapman
PO Box 7674
Ken, AK 99541

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I encourage you to not cut the Grants to the EMS regions. Small communities rely upon these to provide certification, training and guidance to keep, train and equip the volunteers in the villages.

Many of the small communities the basic funding is the mini grants the regions provide. The preceptorship provided with the funding to the regions is what helps bring that isolated volunteer to a place to help keep it's (volunteer) skill up.

Without the EMS Regions S.F. Alaska Communities exist have equipment and NO trained volunteers to use the equipment.

The Tourist the State is enticing up here will have no EMS to assist in an emergency. The

Citizens and they will have no trained
volunteers to help them in an emergency.

The funds from the State to the
EMS Regions is vital life Blood of the
EMS System in Alaska. Please Keep
the funding at the level we have had
the last few years.

Help us help our neighbors.

Pat Chapman.

President of Meyers Creek
Since 1967

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: John N. Madsen, EMT II
P.O. BOX 447
CRAIG AK 99721

Dear Sirs/Madam:

It has come recently to my attention that the State Finance Subcommittee is currently proposing cuts to State and Regional EMS program budgets. As an active member of a small rural EMS service I strongly oppose this action. I feel that it is not in the communities, regions, or states financial best interest to support flatly or even increase budgets for EMS.

The reasons I oppose cuts to State and Regional EMS budgets are many. First and foremost is that small rural services use grants from these organizations to provide basic training and equipment. Small sites like mine do not have funds to make up the lack of grants as revenue sharing and other sources of income such as our 5% sales tax have declined. We do bill all patients using our service but with the economy as it currently is in South East we average about 50% payment. Also trained personnel have had to relocate to find jobs causing an extreme shortage of trained members. Our only hope to acquire replacements is to provide training locally. To do this State and regional offices need to have money to send instructors and testing officers to the communities.

A final point that I would like to bring up is if economic conditions remain the same in South East local EMS will be seeing sicker patients. People will not see Doctors or go to clinics and hospitals until problems become acute. This means that local resources will be further stretched and require increased equipment and training.

(cont on back)

In conclusion, admittedly it is time to watch
the state budget but it is not time to cut
funding that supports such a valuable service to
so many ~~for~~ people. If support is not
continued people in small communities might
call 911 and find no one is there.

Yours truly

John N. Moots

John N. Moots

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Jerry Dean Gullstrand

Pelican
Volunteer Fire & EMT I

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I recently was made aware of legislatures proposed Budget Cuts, and this one on my regional EMS System will have a very devastating affect on ~~and~~ all Rural Bush EMS systems such as the one I belong. Pelican Volunteer Fire & EMS Our Department is all Volunteer except one minimal paying position, ~~and~~ I have been an EMT I since 1996. without the (Grants to Region) program I would have never been able to even afford the training needed to become a certified EMT I, nor would any other of the EMT's in my Department, Remember most All of the EMT's in S.E. Alaska are all volunteers If the ~~Re-~~(Grants to Region) money is cut, there are going to be a lot of EMT's including myself, that can't afford to stay certified. we all volunteer a lot of hours to help others, but without govt. help. we are in trouble. So I urge legislature to reconsider this Budget Cut. or

This is one Volunteer EMT I This State will lose

Thank you

Jerry Gullstrand

DS →

If you do cut this from the Budget,
I pray you ^{all} if you Ever need an EMT in
the Bush smsh as pelican Ak, Because here
probably wont Be any
Thank again

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: *Hortitude S. Johnson*

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I have been working as an RN in Wrangell for 31 years. In fact I was born & raised in Wrangell. I have closely followed SEREMS since its inception in the late 70's both as a clinician & citizen interested in EMS, & as a Bd. member. I have lived through the years of ample monies as well as the lean years.

I know that all of you are faced with difficult decisions as you ~~work~~ another budget year, but please consider the following:

- 1) The volunteers in EMS are the backbone of Alaska's EMS system, & it's a tiered system.
- 2) We at the clinical level cannot always see good outcomes if the lower levels (bystander ^{1st} ~~responders~~ CPR, 1st Aid, ETT, EMT I, II, III's) are not - there to do their part and they do it very well!
- 3) SEREMS staff & Bd meticulously prepare grant applications & capital request lists with a great deal of scrutiny as to fiscal responsibility & appropriateness of request.
- 4) Both the state & regional offices are also involved in injury prevention as well as care of the injured.
- 5) Our paid staff at SEREMS ~~are~~ enthusiastically volunteered in their communities as well.

(over)

6. Volunteers burn out & move away & constantly need to be replaced by newly trained volunteers.

Please take a moment to imagine the following scenario because it could possibly happen. You are campaigning or vacationing on a small island in SE Alaska & you've brought your 2 year old child or grandchild with you to show him/her the special beauty of the island. He/she falls off the dock as you're getting set to put on ~~his/her~~ PFD, but before you were able to do so. He/she is floating face down in the water. You haven't taken time out of your busy schedule to learn CPR & the only people with you do not know CPR. The community members say: What should we do? Joe Doe would have known what to do but he's the only one on the island who has taken the training & he's out for medical care of his wife. So? Would you know what to do? Someone probably would if you ~~hadn't~~ ^{haven't} cut our EMS funds. We have taken 5-10% cuts for the last 8 years by virtue of ~~that~~ no increases in grant funding & increased costs. With the threat of terrorism in our present world, now is not the time to do any cuts to EMS funding. I urge you to do the right thing! Make your cuts elsewhere. EMS funding cuts can affect all citizens! Thank you for your time & efforts.

Sincerely,
H. Trude S. Johnson RA!

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Rose Irisby

Dear Sirs/Madam:

This letter is in reference to the recommendation by the State Finance Committee to cut approximately \$37,000.00 from the State and Regional EMS Programs for the State of AK.

As it is now - the "little people" are the ones who will feel the effects of these cuts most. It is hard enough to keep disposable stock on hand so the rural EMT can provide the necessary care to community members.

We hear a lot about communities asking for funding to replace "unsafe" ambulances throughout the state - what about the community that does not have a road system to drive on and they cannot afford a little wheel to attach to the one stoker litter they use to transport patients to their clinic for treatment.

The EMT is critical to each community - they are required to get at least 24 hrs of continuing medical education every 2 yrs to recertify. That doesn't sound like much but when you have to spend \$20.00 (usually out of pocket) to take an 8 hr class that costs \$100.00, not including loss of wage because jobs in these places don't have any benefits. - This

is another cause of burnout/turnover with EMS squads

We are going backward in budgeting - Everybody says - use the resources in the community - what are they? You have cut every funding source there is to tap in to

I hope EMS budgets are not cut so drastically that services disappear in rural settings.

I ~~wish~~ hope that all Senate Finance Subcommittee members feel strongly about responders in the communities - especially after Senator Ojens AMI in Palmer. This funding to provide the training and supplies to keep the service up and running is more important than the per diem another member of the AK State Legislature was getting to visit his family out of state and found the loophole to account for the expenses as business.

I started in rural AK as an EMT & I have continued with my training - mostly out of my own pocket - and 2 yrs ago got certified nationally as a paramedic. Why? Because I believe in the system. It is needed in every community in AK.

Rox Dinsby - MICP

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Sandy Tackett RN
Director, Nursing Petersburg Medical Center
PO Box 589 Petersburg, AK 99833

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I currently have the privilege of representing the Petersburg Medical Center on the South East Region EMS Board. Over the past 10 years I have seen the improvement in quality of Emergency care & educational opportunities emphasized by the SEREMS Organization.

Our unique rural communities depend on highly functioning EMS systems to meet the needs in our communities.

Petersburg has worked very hard to establish a working relationship between EMS & hospital personnel. Continued educational offerings offered through SEREMS & EMS Symposiums have helped in this effort.

SEREMS has worked for many years to stretch grant funding & improve the quality of services & coordination of education within our region. Staff is highly motivated & dedicated to Emergency medical care in our region.

Decrease in funding will greatly impact our region. The proposed cuts in funding would mean the elimination of one full time

employee. Decreases in scholarship funding,
travel + courses offered would also occur.
These types of cuts impact all Southeast
communities on a very basic level. Many
small communities depend on grant funding
from SEREMS for basic operating costs,
insurance, etc.

I would like to strongly recommend
maintaining current funding levels to
SEREMS.

Stop to consider what cuts you are
willing to risk in our communities.

I appreciate your continued support
of Emergency Medical Services in Alaska.

Pamela Jachett

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: SAM BUNGE, E.M.T.
VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF
PETERSBURG, ALASKA

Dear Sirs/Madam:

GOVERNMENTS EXIST FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CITIZENS. IN TERMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE, THE VOLUNTEER & CARER SYSTEM OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE THAT IS ALREADY IN PLACE WITHIN THE STATE OF ALASKA IS THE BIGGEST BARGAIN THIS STATE PROVIDES. MOST PRE-HOSPITAL E.M.S. IS PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEERS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT OUR E.M.S. SYSTEM IS FREE. THERE ARE STANDARDS & PROTOCOLS OF CARE THAT MUST BE KEPT UP TO DATE, EQUIPMENT WEARS OUT, SUPPLIES ARE CONSUMED, SKILLS MUST BE DRILLED & REVISED, AMBULANCES NEED TO BE ACQUIRED & MAINTAINED. IN MANY OF THE SMALL TOWNS OF ALASKA, ALREADY STRIPPED OF STATE AID TO LOCAL GOVTS, THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH FINANCIAL RESOURCES, & E.M.S. IS DISAPPEARING. THIS IS A WASTE & A DANGER TO THE PUBLIC.

MOST CITIZENS & LEGISLATORS RARELY, IF EVER, NEED TO CALL 9-1-1. BUT ALL OF US COUNT ON A PROMPT, EFFECTIVE, WELL-TRAINED RESPONSE. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ALASKANS CALL 9-1-1 & NOBODY COMES?

STATE FUNDING FOR E.M.S. GRANTS & FOR REGIONAL E.M.S. COUNCILS IS A VITAL PROGRAM THAT DESERVES TO BE INCREASED - CERTAINLY NOT CUT.

Sam Bunge
VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF

Gail Tharpe-Lucero
SEREMS Board Member
P O Box 9
Angoon, AK 99820
April 15, 2002

Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

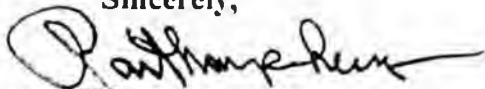
Dear Servants of Alaska,

At a time when the legislature is looking for a place to reduce its fiscal expenditures, it is important to emphasize the importance of fully funding emergency medical services in Alaska. The interactions that I have been privileged to have with Southeast Regional Emergency Medical Services has shown them to be a dedicated group of people who work tirelessly to assist rural communities and volunteers to provide critical services.

Money SEREMS receives from grants and appropriations are allocated to provide communities with training, equipment and information that these communities would not have access to otherwise. The SEREMS staff works diligently to stay in touch with the communities that they serve. They do this in order to have realistic information about problems and needs that exist. This is a high priority to the SEREMS staff to ensure that the financial assistance they distribute is done so in a manner to best serve the needs of a very diverse region.

I am asking the legislature to fully support EMS services. I hope that the legislature realizes that at this time of increased concern for need of emergency response capabilities increased support would be a more appropriate response.

Sincerely,



Gail Tharpe-Lucero
EMT III, SEREMS Board Member

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Willie Matikan
PO Box 5285
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Dear Sirs/Madam:

It has come to my attention that the STATE OF ALASKA is planning a reduction of about \$1,537,000.00 to the regional E.M.S. office. In the Southeast region alone, would be devastating. The duty to provide patients and victims with emergency medical care in the field is very important. The initial response time of field trained personnel to provide appropriate and quality medical care is CRITICAL to the patients outcome.

Since the legislature slashed the municipal revenue sharing a couple of years ago, EMS systems have struggled to keep up the level of training and equipment.

These reductions would result in fewer trained personnel and training programs, longer waits for training and certifications, and erosion of high level of care we have all worked so hard to maintain.

Sincerely

Willie Matikan

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: David Matlecin FF/EMT
P.O. Box 5285
KETCHIKAN, AK.

Dear Sirs/Madam: 99901

It has come to my attention that the STATE OF ALASKA is planning a reduction of about \$1,537,000.00 to the regional E.M.S. office. In the Southeast region alone, would be devastating. The duty to provide patients and victims with emergency medical care in the field is very important. The initial response time of field trained personnel to provide appropriate and quality medical care is CRITICAL to the patients outcome.

Since the legislature slashed the municipal revenue sharing a couple of years ago, EMS systems have struggled to keep up the level of training and equipment.

These reductions would result in fewer trained personnel and training programs, longer waits for training and certifications, and erosion of high level of care we have all worked so hard to maintain.

Sincerely



April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Haines Vol Fire Dept
Al Badger (Training Officer)
Box 848

Dear Sirs/Madam: Haines, AK 99827

I urge you to fund EMS in Alaska to last years level. The amount of volunteer time & effort of EMTs in our small communities needs support to keep trained & prepared. Communities are finding difficulty funding services and with state cuts many may just become non-existent. The regional offices are vital for keeping ambulance services going. please support them fully.

Thank you

Al Badger

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

K. G. Lewis

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Please don't reduce EMS funding in Alaska. In fact more funds are needed.

Our people have less money from small municipalities for training and/or travel for training.

EMS trained people numbers are getting smaller as people can't get monies for training.

Communities are hurting.

Thank you

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Jackie Labuire, RN
Sitka Community Hosp, Sitka, AK 99835

Dear Sirs/Madam:

EMS money should be at the absolute bottom of the list of budget cuts. I have been a nurse in Alaska for more than 30 years, and have seen first-hand the difference in outcome that occurs when emergency personnel are appropriately trained and have the proper equipment with which to practice. Dollars cut are lives lost! Please leave EMS dollars alone!

Jackie Labuire
P.O. Box 6369
Sitka AK 99835

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Throughout the State of Alaska budget-cutting seems to be the rallying cry, while agencies of all kinds implore that theirs not be among the budgets that are cut.

So how is E.M.S. any different? Off-hand, I can think of three reasons:

- EMS is already minimally funded. Using volunteer workers, EMS has long been on a bare-bones budget with the small amount allotted by the state being spread around in an effort to make it serve all.
- The consequences are potentially so severe if underfunding of educational and support services reduce the efficacy of EMS.
- EMS provides its service to all Alaskans. The impact of any reduction of funding here will be felt very broadly indeed.

Sincerely,

Bill Riechelt

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: THOMAS H. LAURENT JR.

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I HAVE NOTICED A DISTURBING TRENDS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WITH THE WAY THE BUDGETS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES HAS BEEN GOING IN THIS STATE. FIRST THE FMT WAS CUT. I AGREE WITH THAT. BUT, FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS THE LEGISLATURE IS INSISTING ON CUTTING THE MEAT. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES HAS HAD THE SAME BUDGET FOR FIVE YEARS. FLAT FUNDING IS A DECREASE IN ACTUAL DOLLARS SPENT FOR IMPROVING PROTOCOLS AND SERVICE AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS. IN ADDITION TO THE LOSS OF DOLLARS FROM THE STATE, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES HAS BEGUN CHARGING A FEE TO TAKE THE STATE EXAM. THIS FURTHER REDUCES THE MONEY AVAILABLE AT A LOCAL LEVEL FOR BOTH TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT. IT ALSO SEEMS TO BE ABSURD TO REQUIRE PEOPLE TO PAY TO VOLUNTEER. ALSO, DUE TO THE HIGH COST IN BOTH TIME AND MONEY REQUIRED FOR INITIAL AND RECURRENT TRAINING, SOME SERVICES HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CLOSE. THE LATEST EXAMPLE IS THE POND REEF FIRE DEPT. IN KETCHIKAN WHICH RAN THE FIRST VOLUNTEER AIR MEDICAL SERVICE IN SOUTHEAST. I URGE YOU STRONGLY TO NOT CUT ANY FUNDS FOR EMS AT THE STATE LEVEL! IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE BE ABLE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE IN THE BUSH AND SMALLER TOWNS OF THE SAME QUALITY THAT EXISTS IN ANCHORAGE AND FAIRBANKS. FULLY FUNDING THE PROGRAM AT THE STATE LEVEL HELPS IMMENSELY WITH THAT GOAL.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Laurent Jr.

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: KEITH F. WALKER
JUNEAU, AK

Dear Sirs/Madam:

While I understand the need to reduce state spending in today's economy, I am concerned about the proposed cuts to the already low EMS budgets. The smaller communities, ^{and} throughout the state are barely existing due to lack of volunteers, adequate training and equipment. Any further reductions to those entities who train and support those communities' EMS squads will cripple them even more.

The "grants to regions" monies are relied upon by these smaller communities to provide medical care to their friends and neighbors. Without this money they may well not have the basic supplies to help. If the truth were told these budget items need to be increased not decreased!

The State EMS office is responsible to ensure that care providers are properly trained and certified. This should be a concern to all of us as one day it could be us that need the care of an EMS provider.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed cuts.
Sincerely,

Keith F. Walker

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I AM NEW TO THE FIELD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES. I WAS CERTIFIED LAST YEAR AS AN EMT-1. IN THE TIME I HAVE SPENT WITHIN THE EMS SYSTEM I HAVE FOUND THAT MOST OF THE SOUTH EAST IS RUNNING AT OR NEAR A MINIMUM FOR THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE.

REDUCTION OF THE BUDGET WOULD SEVERLY CRIPPLE THE HEALTH CARE WE PROVIDE.

I LIVE IN SKAGWAY, IF THERE WERE A REDUCTION IN FUNDS TO OUR COMMUNITY DIRECTLY, OR A REDUCTION THAT IMPACTS TRAINING/RE-CERTIFICATION OF OUR EMT'S OUR SMALL COMMUNITY WOULD SUFFER IMMENSELY.

IN SHORT DO NOT CUT FUNDING.

THOMAS LUX EMT-1/EMT-B SKAGWAY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
P.O. BOX 662
SKAGWAY, AK 99840

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Gregory Wong
206 Marine Street
Sitka, AK 99835

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Thank you for taking the time to consider my appeal for re-consideration of Senate Finance Subcommittee's proposed budget cuts for EMS in Alaska.

I have recently become involved with the Sitka Volunteer Fire Department's divisions of Ambulance service, and Search & Rescue (SAR). I arrived at the department fresh out of my EMT class. I knew the material and felt confident in what we had practiced and learned. Joining the department in Sitka has allowed me practice my skills, and learn on an incredible amount through other volunteers. Our teachers are volunteers, and we run the departments because we like to help others. But, the departments at the city, and state level do not run themselves. To operate, there need to be paid staff that can devote themselves to organizing departments, education events for the community, and training for us volunteers.

Thank you again

Sincerely,
Gregory Wong
Sitka Volunteer Fire Department

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am very concerned about the slashing of funds for the EMS programs. These programs are vital to the health of our communities. I urge you not to cut funding.

Pia Randall

Pia Randall-Gnutter
801 Sirstad St.
Sitka, AK 99835

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

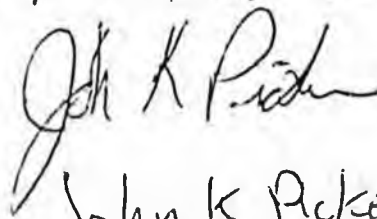
FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am a volunteer, along with everyone, except 2 employees at the Fire Department. Members of our Volunteer Fire Department contribute thousands of hours annually to our community, as do many others throughout Alaska. We work for free to protect the lives and property of our friends & neighbors.

If you cut our budgets by the drastic amounts proposed, it will make it that much more difficult for us to perform our volunteer labor for the public good.

I urge you not to decrease any funding to Alaska Emergency Medical Services



John K Picken

PO Box 1478

Petersburg, AK 99933

johnk@alaska.net

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Few people realize the work that is done on a daily basis to respond to emergency situations. Most people assume that if 'they' are having a crisis a highly trained, overly paid professional fire crew and or medic crew will quickly respond to assist them. The truth is different. The majority - vast majority - of emergency responders in Alaska are volunteers. There is no other occupation with such an elaborate network of training and service. The small amount of money the state spends on EMS is channelled into groups that then propagate a much larger volunteer effort. A giant pyramid scheme. Any cuts to these programs incurs a disproportionate loss to our numbers of responders.

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Amy Blanchette, PhD (CORA)
PO Box 76
Sata, AK 99835

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am writing this letter in support of EMS in Alaska. The past (recent) history of EMS funding remaining without increases has essentially resulted in annual cuts of 5-10%. This is going to ultimately result in decreased education of primary care providers particularly in rural, small community EMS services. This will then cascade into fewer no providers to be there when someone dials 911.

I have worked with SEREMS during my previous year residence in Alaska. Having worked with various EMS organizations in Wyoming, Nevada, Texas & Pennsylvania I can assure you first hand of the quality of the people who provide you services.

The legislature must consider what the voting public considers important — and the health & welfare of our citizens are paramount.

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: JOHN NORTON ; HAINES AK

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am writing you to implore you to continue the full support of our Emergency Medical System. For the past year and a half I have volunteered as an EMT in the Haines Volunteer Fire Dept. and I have found that we provide the support for those who are injured or ill in our community. We educated our communities members, on fire, safety and medical issues. We are the basis for care of our young, our elderly and all those in between. We serve visitors on the cruise ships, friends and visitors from Canada, family members ~~from~~ visiting from far away.

With all of these responsibilities, providing for the health and safety of so many, it is difficult to envision meeting these needs without your full support. Please do not fail us - our communities rely upon us.

Sincerely yours,

John Norton

Box 421 Haines

99827

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Cynthia L. Jones, Haines, AK

VOLUNTEER EMT 2, Haines Volunteer Fire Dept

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I have just been informed of the proposed cut $\begin{matrix} \$537,000 \\ + 66,000 \\ \hline \$603,000 \end{matrix}$ to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the state of Alaska. I implore you to reconsider this devastating blow to the state & Regional offices that train thousands of dedicated VOLUNTEERS - the front line that SERVES nearly every resident & visitor to the state of Alaska. It took years of hard work by staff & volunteers to create well-run, professional ambulance services in the state, and it takes many hours & hard work to maintain skills & keep current with new medical developments. It also takes equipment, highly specialized equipment, to operate ambulance/EMS services. The communities can provide neither training nor all equipment on their own. We need our State & Regional Offices!

Consider the return on every dollar you appropriate to EMS. As only 1 person, I have donated 17.5 years to EMS plus I have taught hundreds of people CPR, 1st Aid, EIT, & EMT. There is absolutely no way I could have maintained my certifications or trained others without the guidance & support of the state & Regional offices... and there are many others who have donated so much more of their time, energy & lives.

The next time you or a family member has a medical emergency (say at 2am, or the middle of Thanksgiving dinner) and you pick up the phone to call the ambulance, what if we weren't there. -2-

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Linda Bunge RN, EMT II
Box 288
Petersburg AK 99833
Dear Sirs/Madam:

Our communities are small and isolated. Transportation can be difficult to impossible. Like many Southeast communities, Petersburg does not have surgery capabilities. If we have a serious trauma from logging or fishing (both industries with high accident rates) we need to be able to stabilize & maintain the patient for the 2-4 hours (if the weather is good) that it takes to get a Medevac team to town. This stabilization starts with the EMTs and must continue in the hospital.

As health care providers we all work very hard & give up much of our own time to maintain our skills & learn new ones. It is expensive to get this training as well as time consuming. Much of the locally (that is within Southeast) available training is planned & sponsored by the Southeast Regional EMS Council. The state EMS office provides vital organization & administrative services. Without these offices training would not only be more expensive; in many cases it just wouldn't be available at all.

For the EMTs, who are volunteers, this lack of support would be especially hard. We are already. We all ready must take time off from work for training as well as responding to emergencies. Please don't destroy the support of the state & Regional EMS offices to our communities by cutting the funding.

I am quite willing to pay an Income Tax to help improve our state's financial picture. Sincerely, Linda Bunge - RN, EMT II
Box 288

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: David Hull
827 BROWN DEER ROAD
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901

Firefighter, MIEP, Instructor, ACEMS member
Citizen of Alaska

Dear Sirs/Madam:

In an effort to cut state spending, The Emergency Medical Services, in fact, all emergency services, face a dismal future if recently proposed budget cuts are put into place. For the last eight years, EMS in Alaska has been faced with a flat budget process that has shown no funding increases in spite of rising costs in everything from ambulance supplies to fuel & lighting just to name a few.

For these last eight years this enterprising group has faced the challenge of doing more with less money while maintaining an ever increasing level of high quality medical care for our invited guests, our friends, and our families. This level of care is the envy of all state EMS organizations in the nation. This level of care is in serious jeopardy if the proposed cuts are implemented.

The "flat" budget process notwithstanding, EMS has enjoyed the strong support of the legislature and the citizens of Alaska. With the horrific images of September 11th came the realization that we as a people are no longer impervious to the dangers of terrorism. President Bush recognized the need to fund emergency services and provided billions of dollars to ensure this country is ready to respond to the threats that an increasingly violent world presents. Alaska must not allow our services to fall behind. Our state is threatened also. The tourism industry is a prime target. Money must be found to fund the training, travel, and other costs associated with the most basic of needs for the people you were elected to represent.

PLEASE, do not tie the hands of the personnel that are doing an excellent job of preparing all of us for the next emergency. The next emergency will happen. Will we be ready?
David Hull

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

As an Emergency Physician in Juneau, I have only experience with how crucial it is to have well-trained emergency medical personnel in the far flung reaches of Southeast Alaska. What happens "in the field" strongly influences the condition of injured or ill people when they arrive at the hospital. It can be the difference between life and death, or between disability and no disability.

Please consider the public health and safety in your budget deliberations, and do not cut the Emergency Medical Services budget. Your friends and neighbors are counting on you to make our efforts rapid and effective.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Tolan MD

P.O. Box 33578

Juneau, AK 99803

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Debra Brushster M.D.
Sitka Community Clinic

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am deeply concerned about the Senate Finance subcommittee's recommendation of slashing the State and Regional EMS program. I have been a rural physician in Alaska for ten years. Our community depends on our EMS System. The excellent work and care of our EMS team has saved many lives in our community. Like many small town Alaska communities, we are isolated from major road systems and our closest tertiary care center is 500 miles away. The survival of patients depends greatly on what care they receive prior to arriving at the hospital. This care is provided by our EMS team. We have a variety of terrain including mountains, ocean and forests compounded by a versatile weather pattern of rain, snow and wind. Our EMS team needs the appropriate funding to keep trained and staffed to meet the many local challenges that both our community + tourist population provides. They also provide education to the public which has also prevented many disasters. Slashing the funding to the State and Regional EMS Program is cutting the main artery to basic emergency care to Alaskan Residents.

Sincerely

Debra Brushster

DEBRA L. BRUSHSTER M.D.
SITKA COMMUNITY CLINIC
209 HOLLAR DR. SITKA AK 99835
907 202-1722

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: PAUL WESCOTT, P.E.
PLANNER; LEPC COORDINATOR
C/B OF YAKUTAT

Dear Sirs/Madam:

FOR A VILLAGE THE SIZE OF YAKUTAT, ANY
REDUCTION IN EMS FUNDING OR ^{IN} OTHER EMS
RESOURCES SUCH AS THOSE PROVIDED REGIONALLY,
IS BAD NEWS. YAKUTAT'S ^{UN} VOLUNTEER
SERVICES OPERATES
ON A SHOESTRING - AS IT IS YET IT PROVIDES
A SERVICE VALUED BY ALL WHO LIVE THERE.

KINDLY RETHINK REDUCTIONS IN EMS
SUPPORT, IN PARTICULAR, CONSIDER THE
LONG-TERM FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF
PROVIDED FOR LESS HEALTH CARE SUPPORT
TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

Sincerely,



April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Bill Sharpes
Craig & Hollis EMS

Dear Sirs/Madam:

We need this funding to stay at the level it is now
to keep the service level we have in Alaska if not higher.

We already have trouble keeping volunteers on our Squads
not in just one or two communities but Alaska.

The money that comes now is just keeping a base in training
we need to give the volunteers something as in training at
very little cost to them to give them some kind of benefit for
the service they give to the sick & injured in these communities

Need to keep the funds so more instructors can train
more people, or so there can be more instructors trained.

So we can train locally.

I'm afraid of cuts (Budget) less training means less people
to provide service in the EMS & Firefighter Squads

which will lead into not much or no service in the small
communities that need funding, just to keep these services
going.

I protest of any cuts to the EMS Grants & the State EMS office

2-11-11

EMS

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: John R. Linn ^{Volunteer}
ETT

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I run with K/Awack EMS and SAR. These organizations are entirely volunteer. All systems we work with are marginal at best.

The proposed cuts in the budget would be our death knell,

So, not only for our community, but for the tourists who enjoy our great state, I beg you to protect our budget, even in these lean times. Without your support, for our education & equipment we will cease existence. This will eventually cost human lives, and thus state money.

Sincerely



April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Lively
Alaska Legislators

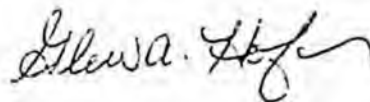
FROM: GLEN HOFMANN, MICP
KETCHIKAN FIRE DEPT.

Dear Sirs/Madam:

THE POSSIBILITY OF SLASHING THE STATE EMS OFFICE BUDGET WOULD BE DEVASTATING FOR THE FUTURE OF EMS IN ALASKA.. IF ANYTHING, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE MADE TO INCREASE THE BUDGET. THE STATE IS ALREADY HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING THE TRAINING NEEDS OF EMS PROVIDERS THROUGHOUT ALASKA. BY CUTTING THE BUDGET YOU WILL BE HAMSTRINGING THE ENTIRE PROCESS BY WHICH WE RECIEVE TRAINING. THIS WOULD BE A HUGE MISTAKE. EMS PROVIDES A VITAL SERVICE TO THE WELL-BEING OF ALL ALASKA RESIDENTS.

Sincerely -

GLEN A. HOFMANN, MICP



April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Penny Black
PO Box 19103
Thorne Bay, AK 99919

Thorne Bay EMS

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Without certified trainers there would virtually be no EMS in small towns or villages. We have no way to get trained & updated. Many of us are unemployed or underemployed but are willing to volunteer 'Community Service' to our communities. In my town it is more than responding to car wrecks & major accidents. It is also responding to minor incidents like monitoring blood pressures of chronic pts. The money you slash from the EMS budget will cost you far more in the long run. EMS service will diminish or disappear in places. Then you will pay for more to transport these folks to larger towns for treatment. As well as transport cost they will be sicker. State aid costs will go up in other areas!! Sending one trainer to train several of us is far more financially responsible than sending several of us to Sitka. Coordination of EMS services is essential. You simply can't have each town acting independently. Grant funds enabled me to attend 2002 EMS Symposium. Invaluable instruction & information was provided. I can ^{share this information} ~~share this~~ with family, neighbors, friends, EMS volunteer squad, Fire Squad, School, City Council, Forest Service... That is a little bit of money going a long way. My town has less than 500 people. It is run on volunteers without training (Mayor & City Council); we need help.

Thank you.

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Randy Churchill
WVFD

Dear Sirs/Madam:

My name is Randy Churchill, EMS Coordinator for the Wrangell Vol. Fire Dept, rumor has it that funding is going to be cut for SEREMS, I use SEREMS almost on a daily basis, for questions on patient care, scholarships funding for training for our volunteers, which is very important. Southeast is very fortunate to have SEREMS because of there expertise in every aspect. Please reconsider in not cutting there funding.

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Lively
Alaska Legislators

FROM: BOB TROTTER, PA-C
Box 57
Kluwuk, AK 99925

Dear Sirs/Madam:

IT CAME TO MY ATTENTION TODAY OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO THE STATE & REGIONAL EMS PROGRAMS. I VERY WELL UNDERSTAND THAT THE CUTS HAVE TO COME FROM SOMEWHERE AND ANYONE AFFECTED WILL SAY, "BUT NOT FROM MY PROGRAM". PLEASE RECONSIDER THESE PROPOSED CUTS. AS YOU KNOW, DELIVERING HEALTH CARE IN ALASKA IS A UNIQUE CHALLENGE AND HAS DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED OVER THE YEARS. THESE PROPOSED CUTS WOULD BE DEVASTATING TO, ESPECIALLY THE SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH OUT THE TAX PAID TO HAVE PAID EMS / FIRST RESPONDERS. HAVING MYSELF LIVED IN RURAL ALASKA FOR 27 YEARS AND BEING IN RURAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE PAST 17 YEARS I AM ACUTELY AWARE OF THE FICKENLSS / STRESS & HARDSHIP OF MAINTAINING AN ACTUAL EMT SQUAD. WE DEPEN ON STATE & REGIONAL EMS OFFICES TO ASSIST IN MANY WAYS TO KEEP OUR SYSTEMS FUNCTIONAL. PLEASE DON'T SET US BACK 20 YEARS BY THIS DRAMATIC BUDGET CUT. THANK ~~FOR~~ YOU FOR YOUR RECONSIDERATION,

Sincerely,

Bob Trotter

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Judy Carbaugh
510 3rd St.

Dear Sirs/Madam: Denaau, AK 99801

Please do not cut funding for EMS. It provides such value to small communities and larger throughout the state. As a RN at Bartlett Hospital, we depend on the paid & volunteer staff of EMS personnel to stabilize and transport patients to us. As the Trauma Nurse Coordinator for BSH, the value of good care of our patients from the time of injury to transport to the hospital and their care once in hospital is so vital to all of us in Alaska.

I know that my Senator & Representatives are supportive of EMS. I count on Senator Kim Elton & Beth Kertula to continue to support EMS. I urge Bill Hudson to continue his support & urge his Republican Colleagues to do likewise.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judy A. Carbaugh

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

The cuts in funds to Alaska EMS would be devastating to all of us. Many times they are not only first people to help but are care givers for extended periods until the patient can be gotten to medical care.

We are blessed with some of the best EMS in the world. But the only way we keep them is by continuing education + better or updated equipment.

Please carefully consider your families, friends + communities before cutting EMS funding -

Linda Comas R/Nasst.Mgt
ER/CCS
SEARHC
M.E.H

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Ken Brown MD
Medical Director Capital City Fire/Rescue
Juneau Alaska.

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am writing this Letter to protest recent Proposals to cut funding to STATE EMS regional offices. With recent events of Sept 11th demonstrating a clear need in our state to better unify our EMS delivery - these proposals to cut funding are careless at best.

This will undercut the ability of our EMS Programs to develop and meet the challenges of our day and, will put the citizens of Alaska at risk.

Sincerely,
Ken Brown MD

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Jerry Blood

Dear Sirs/Madam:

The proposed cut in the EMS budget will make it harder to provide adequate EMS services in a region already short of funds.

Please reconsider replacing fund for Training and equipment.

I have been in EMS for over 20 years and Volunteer Fire Depts. for 24 years. With out sufficient funds there is no way to improve skills and equipment

Jerry Blood

Haines Vol. Fire Dept

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: William Kirtu

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Please reduced the funding TO STATE AND Regional ~~THE~~ EMS Programs. I currently find it difficult enough with current levels to find courses and training in order to keep my EMT-B current.

Throughout Both rural + urban ALASKA EMS personell are the first line in the medical chain of care. To reduce the # of EMS Professionals by reducing the budget to their support organizations is negligent AT BEST.

Thanks for your Time and Attention TO THIS IMPORTANT issue in The Budget Process
Will R ~~_____~~

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am a volunteer EMT in Hoonah, AK. In Hoonah there are no paid EMS personnel. State funding provides aid that enables effective EMS. If funding ~~is~~ for EMS is cut the level of training and good service will decrease in rural Southeast Alaska. Funding for EMS provides important health care that if removed will harm the safety and level of care that Southeast Alaskans ~~receive~~ receive.

From a concerned individual.

Tim Hillier

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: BILL O'BRIEN YKHC EMS DEPT. BETHEL, AK.

Dear Sirs/Madam:

WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE CONTINUED FUNDING
FOR THE EMS PROGRAMS IN THE STATE. WE ARE
RESPONSIBLE AT YKHC EMS TO BRING EMS
TRAINING TO APPROXIMATELY 50 VILLAGES IN
OUR REGION. I BELIEVE IT WILL MAKE A
GREAT DIFFERENCE IN THE CARE AND
SURVIVAL OF THOSE INJURED IN THIS REGION
Thank You.

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Perhaps, before this drastic measure is conclusively acted on, a review of these resources (EMS) performed and done for Alaska - state wide - EMS is a life support - service, what does this mean to you and the Legislature? An indirect quote may explain this thought process - "Hardly (in the state of Alaska) has so many dedicated individuals, had to perform so much, with so very little!"

I would ask for Legislative members to ask of themselves - personally - "what if - this was my mother, my father, wife, child - ad infinitum?" And what, why didn't the EMS resources arrive, did not have up date equipment??

The answer perhaps, might be, that legislative members felt other priorities - agendas - are more important than training and equipment to save a human life - ~~strong message~~

Thayne Engle
International Survival
Consultant -

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Peggy Wilson

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am working as an RN who works in
the E.R. of a hospital - We need funding for
our E.M.S. Continued training is a must
if lives will continue to be affected by
volunteers across this state.

If there is any area of the state budget
should not be cut this is it.

Your money will go further here because
of the volunteers all over this state that
extend to every corner of AK.

Some will all some! Please don't cut
this funding. In tourism and into AK,

we will have a big impact on the TRAVELERS
industry, workers & staff who are

This funding is very important!

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Michael Tolson
Petersburg Vol EMS

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Please understand that if the STATE EMS budget is cut, as proposed, the EMS service will go downhill. Some of us have worked very hard to reach the level of service we give to our community. The only way we can maintain this level is to continually TRAIN. This training is NOT FREE. Historically we have received money from SEAREMS to help pay for instructors/classes/supplies/etc. We must raise the ball from local resources.

Just remember our level of service to our community depends directly on \$ from the STATE EMS Budget

Michael Tolson
EMT PSS Vol EMS
Ph# 907-772-4147
E-mail Tolson@MITROS-Net

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Sharon Hillis.
Whale Pass EMS

Dear Sirs/Madam:

This letter is in response to the proposed budget cuts for the Statewide EMS System.

I live in the small community of Whale Pass in S.E. Alaska. Our community is unincorporated + relies on revenue sharing which has decreased drastically in the last few years. Since our community is not a city, very few alternative funds are available to us.

Our EMS Service is strictly volunteer. We are very dependent on State funds to operate our EMS service. If the State funding to the regional offices, I'm afraid it will spell the end of our volunteer service.

Whale Pass is an economically depressed area. Volunteers will be unable to continue to keep up their skills + certification if the costs of expensive training + travel has to come from the pocket of the volunteers.

Alaska currently has a very good EMS system. If you consider the amount of volunteer time + effort you get for the state funding - you increase the actual value exponentially. I don't know of any other State program that can claim a similar pattern.

EMS affects all Alaskans - not just a certain segment.

I urge you to, at a very minimum, continue to fund EMS services at the current level.

Sincerely,
Sharon Hillis.

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Roxanne Staffens, EMT, LT.
Petersburg Volunteer Fire Dept.
Box 75, Petersburg, AK 99833

Dear Sirs/Madam:

As a volunteer EMT and life long resident of Petersburg I am urging you not to cut any funding that would impact our services. Training & new equipment are extremely important when you are dealing with volunteers who get frustrated or burnt out trying to operate with no funding. Our state staff and SERVIS personnel are also vital to how volunteers maintain their squads and take care they provide the citizens of Alaska.

We volunteer many hours of our life to better the safety & health of our great state and I urge all of you to see how any cuts to paid state personnel or other agencies will affect us all. Sincerely,
Roxanne

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: SANDRA K. DIXON
PO BOX 22
PETERSBURG, AK 99833

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Please do not cut the EMS budget for the State of Alaska.

I am a member of a volunteer organization in Petersburg, AK. We provide most of our training, but rely heavily on Southeast Region EMS and the State office for keeping us on track with new requirements, testing, and training we cannot provide locally. They support many small communities that don't have adequate resources otherwise.

If you reduce the funding, you will impact the whole state, not just one organization. How would you like to call an ambulance only to find the crew shows up without the appropriate training and/or equipment that is inadequate because they don't have the funding they need? Or, they don't know about a change in guidelines because the SE Region or State EMS office wasn't supposed to relay that info...

Thank you for rethinking your decision.

Sandra

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

How is it in the aftermath of 9/11/2001, the legislature and governing body decides that cutting back in EMS training & center ~~with~~ budget will help Alaska to gear up and prepare its own responsiveness to such future threats? I find the ideas & magnitude of such proposed cuts as grossly misguided.

You put at risk your own families as well as those to which make up our communities & the State of Alaska. Stop this non-sense now. If anything, increasing regional EMS budgets will help with the needed preparation for search & rescue / fire / & EMS personnel in the communities in Alaska.

Do not implement a reduction to regional & state office of EMS.

Sincerely,

Nathan P. Reiman / MD

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Dave McCandless MD
Box 1081, Wrangell, AK 99929

Dear Sirs/Madam:

As a medical provider, I have seen how important our EMS system is to southeast Alaska. We are continuing to struggle with the training and support of EMS providers in our smaller communities. Your proposed cuts in spending for Training, equipment, + supplies will cripple those efforts. This will result in decay of the system as volunteers without access to training or supplies withdraw from the network, leaving the rural population without access to emergency medical care. For many, your proposed cuts in the Public Health Nurse system will result in NO access to any medical care. I am aware that choosing the focus of budget cuts is difficult, I am sure you can find options that will not cause needless suffering, and possibly needless deaths. I, for one, am prepared to pay taxes to support this system.

Sincerely
Dave McCandless MD

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Allen Stewart
Rescue Captain Pelican Volunteer Fire & EMS

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am writing to you to please not cut any budget for the EMS. Without the help of Southeast Region EMS, the city of Pelican would not be able to fund an EMS Squad. Training costs are high. Volunteers are not able to meet these costs. I have lived in Pelican since 1986. Since then I have seen the city's population drop by half. I have been a Volunteer Firefighter & EMT for 10 years. Our Squad has gone from 15 to 5. We are a certified BLS service, but would not have that certification if it was not for the help and dedication of SEREMS. If you cut this Budget the funding may not be available to continue this service. At certain times this is the only medical in town. There is no other to backup our Small Clinic. Without this help the medical services will dwindle or be gone. So I am asking please do not cut this most valuable service our state provides.

Thank you
Allen Stewart

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: John Taylor, Chief Engineer, Wrangell Vol. Fire Dept.
RE: EMS FUNDING

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Our training program at WVFD is greatly dependant on state funding, as is our supplies & other items within our department. Our department trains EMS providers twice monthly & often bring special instructors to town. All of these training activities are very expensive. Wrangell's economy is in a tail spin & city funding is down. The city of Wrangell has one of the highest sales tax rates in the state @ 7%. If the state wide sales tax of 3% is passed, with Wrangell's 7%, then Wrangell will be a VERY expensive place to live.

Please consider the acute ramifications of cutting EMS funding. The training is critical to the life saving ability of volunteer & paid EMS providers alike.

Remember this! The Life you save by providing adequate funding may be you own!

John Taylor 723-1143

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Lori Moore
Kate

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Please protest cuts to EMS Grants and ^{the} State
EMS office. This involves the saving of
people's lives. Do not cut the EMS budget!

Thanks,
Lori

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Jim Moore

Katke AK.

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I want to voice my protest to the proposed cuts to the EMS Grants and the State EMS Office. This will have a direct negative impact on getting training and supplies to the community of Katke who rely on volunteer emergency personnel.

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Do not cut funding to the EMS
services in Alaska. The EMS system
& their important training is essential
for Alaskans safety - especially in our
small remote towns and villages.

Richard
Jensen

Governor Knowles, Commissioner Livey, Senators and Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of the residents of Southeast Alaska. I am a life-long resident of this region and have grown over time to appreciate the many unique characteristics of this land. So much of what enables us to live such rich lives is the attitude of "Neighbor helping neighbor". This is the theme of EMS in our region. Unfortunately, like so many other organizations that depend on volunteerism we have seen a decline in this vital activity. Many things contribute to this. One of the primary ways that volunteers are encouraged is by visits to their communities by educated, supportive individuals who can provide training, evaluate supplies and other needs particular to them. During these visits hearing the words, "Well done" inspires the volunteers in these communities! This makes all the difference in the world to a volunteer. The staff who have primarily had this responsibility of site visits come from Southeast Region EMS office in Sitka. This office is a very busy, productive place where much is done to support EMS for the region. Unfortunately, rising costs have forced budgetary cuts prohibiting unnecessary travel. While I understand the exorbitant costs of travel in this region, these visits are a vital link to the existence of EMS in SE Alaska. There are many other items on the budget that have been reduced or eliminated. I feel that we can not continue this trend and sustain the assurance of quality and safety for our residents. Please consider an increase in the Grant to SEREMS. As a board member of SEREMS, I can assure you that we have evaluated the situation carefully. Please support the safety of our residents and visitors by approving increased grant funds with which to effectively accomplish the EMS goals.

Sincerely,

Elaine Caskey, RN

P. O. Box 6064

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

(907)247-8361

caskeyclan@att.net

MR TONY KNOWLES

14 APRIL 2002

GOVERNOR, STATE OF ALASKA

COMMISSIONER J. LLOYD

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES,
ALASKA LEGISLATORS.

LADIES & GENTLEMEN

I AM NOT AN ALASKAN CITIZEN, I AM A WASHINGTONIAN AND THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AT HARRISON MEDICAL CENTER IN SEATTLE. EARLY AND LATE IN THE PAST FIFTY YEARS I TALK TO AN ALASKAN PHYSICIAN OR SPEAK WITH THE MEDICAL CREW OF AN ALCRAFT NORTHWEST MEDICAL FLIGHT WHICH IS MOVING AN ALASKAN TO A TERTIARY CARE MEDICAL FACILITY.

THESE ALASKANS WERE FOR THE MOST PART, AT YOU WOULD USE YOU SUFFERED ALL OF WHICH ARE FIRST BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL WHOSE TRAINING & EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN VOLUNTEERED BY THE FOLLOWING THINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE & THE POLICE. MOST OF THE EMS AGENCIES ARE VOLUNTEER. THE TRAINING IS HARD WORK AND CRITICAL TO PERFORMANCE. THE EQUIPMENT OF ANY AGENCY IS APPROPRIATE AND LACKS THE FLOWTH SEEN IN THE LOWER 48.

THE CASE IS SIMPLE. THE CONTRIBUTION TO SURVIVAL AND TO PATIENTS QUALITY OF LIFE CAN BE MEASURED IN EACH CASE.

TO CUT THE BUDGET OF EMS IS TO CUT THE FACTOR OF SAFETY ACCESS TO EACH AREA IN HIS OR HER COMMUNITY. TO CUT THE EMS BUDGET WILL INCREASE MEDICAL COSTS - PEOPLE WILL BE LESS ABLE TO RECEIVE ACUTE CARE & INTERVENTION AND APPROX IN THE HOSPITALS & CLINICS WHEN THEIR COUNTRIES REQUIRE FAR MORE RESOURCES AND THE OUTCOME LESS OPTIMAL.

ALASKA EMS IS A UNMATCHED SUCCESS PROPORTIONATELY FAR BETTER THAN ANY OTHER STATE. PLEASE DO NOT DIMINISH ITS IMPACT. PLEASE MAINTAIN THE PRESENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT AND FUNDING.

Michael E. Coates III
MICHAEL E. COATES
MEMBER: SOUTHEAST ALASKA EMS
BOARDS OF DIRECTORS.

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: KIRK JOHNSON

Dear Sirs/Madam:

AS A FREQUENT TRAVELER IN ALASKA
I AM AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACED
BY THE EMS AGENCIES IN FUNDING THEIR
PROGRAMS. I AM ALSO AWARE, THAT
GIVEN A CHOICE I WILL AVOID TRAVEL
TO AREAS WITH LITTLE OR NO EMS SUPPORT.

PLEASE, DO NOT CUT FUNDING TO THESE
VITAL AGENCIES. YOU MAY FIND OUT TOO
LATE THAT THE EFFECTS OF YOUR CUTBACKS
ARE FAR OUTWEIGHED BY THE NEGATIVE
PUBLICITY OF A SITUATION THAT COULD HAVE
BEEN AVOIDED OR MINIMIZED BY A PROPER
EMS RESPONSE.

AND REMEMBER, IT COULD BE YOU OR YOUR
FAMILY THAT NEEDS EMS SUPPORT NEXT.



April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I urge you, as a member of the Skagway Volunteer Fire Department EMS team, to not to go through with the proposed cuts to the State and Regional EMS program budgets. EMS providers all across the state rely heavily on this funding.

As a community with a huge tourism population we deal extensively with providing service to the & visiting population. Without trained volunteers many persons would go without assistance, and this would reflect badly on the potential for returns from these visitors, ^{their} family and friends - which is our livelihood.

Without money for training we would be unable to even recruit volunteers, as I believe many would be unwilling to give to an organization / community that does not give back in return.

Candace Cahill
P.O. Box 662
Skagway, Alaska 99787

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Beth Norman, RN
1407 Cascade Creek Rd.
Sitka AK 99835

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am writing in support of continued funding of the EMS programs in Alaska. And to encourage you to increase funding over previous year's budgets, to bring the EMS programs up to date with the increasing cost of living.

The EMS programs throughout Alaska provide an invaluable public service to both residents and visitors -- both in the way of emergency healthcare and education. Without these services, mortality rates will increase, as will residual effects of other injuries & illnesses that could be prevented by early access to Emergency Medical Services.

As a registered nurse working in the E.R., I see the difference EMS personnel make in people's lives - whether volunteers or paid responders. They make my job easier. And make all of our lives better.

Consider this: if you need EMS, wouldn't you want the best possible services available? This is what we have, what we need, and what we must continue to support. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Beth Norman RN
Chief Nurse, Office Sitka Community Hospital

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

FUNDING FOR EMS AND EMS TRAINING IS NEEDED
IN GREATER QUANTITY NOT IN SMALL AMOUNTS, WITHOUT
THIS MONEY THERE WILL BE NUMEROUS COMMUNITIES
WITH NO BASIC EMS TRAINING OR SUPPLIES.

I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
EMS.

THANK YOU


LUCY TATE

HAINES VOL. FIRE DEPT.

Tuesday, April 16: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

University of Alaska closeout

Adopt all committee reports for incorporation into committee substitute work draft

Public testimony is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday as follows.

Wednesday, April 17: 4:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Formally adopt committee substitute work draft

4:00 – 4:45 Dillingham, Homer, Seward, Valdez

4:45 – 5:30 Cordova, Kenai, Kodiak, Bethel

5:30 – 6:15 Glennallen, Petersburg, Sitka

break

7:00 – 9:00 Anchorage

Thursday Morning 9:00 – 11:00

9:00 – 10:00 Mat-su, Delta Junction, Ketchikan, Tok

10:00 – 11:00 Wrangeli, Nome, Kotzebue, Barrow

break for session

Thursday Afternoon 4:00

4:00 – 5:15 Offnet Sites

5:15 – 6:30 Fairbanks

break

7:15 – 9:00 Juneau

People wishing to testify may want to arrive early in the event testimony from previous LIOs concludes before the scheduled time. Meetings will conclude at the state time or when all those present have made their comments.

SITE: DILLINGHAM LIO

COMMITTEE: SFIN

DATE: 4-17-02

**SUBJECT OF MEETING:
BUDGET BILLS**

UPDATE #:



PLEASE SIGN IN

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

**DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N**

✓ Marilyn Rosene		Education	Yes
Email address:			
✓ Dorothy Larson		Curyung	Yes
Email address:		Tribal Council	
✓ Deanna Hardin		Bristol Bay	Yes
Email address:		Campus	
Karen Kelly		Bristol Bay	Yes
Email address:		Campus	
Cristal Nielson		Bristol Bay	Yes
Email address:		Campus	
✓ Cristy Willer Tilden		BBAHC	Yes
Email address:		Alcoh & Drug	
✓ Jennifer Jones-Molina		Education	Yes
Email address:			

SITE: PETERSBURG I.I.O

COMMITTEE: SFIN

DATE: 4/17/2002

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Public Testimony on Budget Bills

UPDATE #:



PLEASE SIGN IN

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

**DO YOU WANT
REPRESENTING TO TESTIFY?
Y or N**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marilyn MenishMeucci	PO Box 1076, Petersburg, AK99833	Self	Yes
Email address:	meucci@mitkof.net		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Trembley	PO Box 662, Petersburg, AK 99833	Self	Yes
Email address:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Anderson	PO Box 1454, Petersburg, AK99833	Self	Yes
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			

SITE: Glennallen LIO

COMMITTEE: S FIN

DATE: 041702

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

SB 289

UPDATE #:



PLEASE SIGN IN

PRINT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y OR N

✓ Ken Roberson	P O Box 375 Glennallen AK 99588	Copper River EMS	Y
Email address:	owlkrvr@alaska.net		
✓ Dave Lemaire	P O Box 107 Glennallen AK 99588	Copper River EMS	Y
Email address:	Lemaire@cvinternet.net		
✓ Marnie Graham	P O Box 366 Copper Center AK 99573	Self	Y
Email address:	vollman@alaska.net		
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			

SITE: Kodiak LIO

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance

DATE: 04-17-02

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Operating Budget

UPDATE # 1



PLEASE SIGN IN

DO YOU WANT

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

PRINT YOUR NAME

REPRESENTING

TO TESTIFY?

Y or N

PRINT YOUR NAME REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	TO TESTIFY? Y or N
✓ Don Roberts Jr		Y
✓ Pat Holmes		Y
✓ Everett Stone		Y
✓ Dave Jones		Y
✓ Pat Carlson		Y
✓ Carolyn Floyd		Y
✓ Pat Branson		Y
✓ Mike Milligan		Y
✓ Gabrielle Ledoux		Y
✓ Betty Walters		

SITE: Kenai LIO
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
HB 403 / SB 289 Appropriations:
Operating Budget/Loans/Funds

HB 404 / SB 288 Appropriations:
Mental Health Budget

DATE: 4-17-02

Update #: Page 1



PLEASE SIGN IN

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

TESTIFYING?
Y or N

✓ James E. Fisher		Self	Y
Email address:			
✓ Rosemary Reeder		Soldotna Community	Y
Email address:		Schools	
✓ Grace Merkes		Head Start	Y
Email address:			
✓ Rosemary Bushon		Head Start	Y
Email address:			
Marion Nelson		Self	Y
Email address:			
✓ Marjorie J. Hayes		AK Commission on	Y
Email address:		Aging; Mental & Personal Health	SB 289 & SB 288

SITE: Kenai LIO
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance

DATE: 4-17-02

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
HB 403 / SB 289 Appropriations:
Operating Budget/Loans/Funds

HB 404 / SB 288 Appropriations:
Mental Health Budget

Update #: Page 2



PLEASE SIGN IN

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

TESTIFYING?
Y or N

Michael Tilly		Kenai Fire Dept	Y
Email address:			
✓ Jason A. Elson		Southern Region EMS Council; AK Fire Chiefs	Y
Email address:			
✓ Katie Stafford		NASW,DFYS	Y
Email address:			
✓ James Shill		Central Penin.Counseling	Y
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			

SITE: CORDOVA LIO

COMMITTEE: SFIN

DATE: 041702

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Senate Budget Hearings

UPDATE #:2



P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

**DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N**

✓ Corrine Erickson, Envoy	P.O. Box 2401 Cordova, AK 99574	Salvation Army, other social service agencies	y
Email address:			
✓ Nicole Songer	P.O. Box 2116 Cordova, AK 99574	Cordova Family Resource Center	y
Email address:			
✓ Denny Weathers	P.O. Box 1791 Cordova, AK 99574	self	y
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			

SITE: Valdez LIO

COMMITTEE: SFIN

DATE: 4/17/2002

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Budget

UPDATE: #2



PLEASE SIGN IN

DO YOU WANT

PRINT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

TO TESTIFY?

Y or N

PRINT YOUR NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	TO TESTIFY? Y or N
Aliesha Todd	University Funding	PWSCC	Yes
Email address:			
✓ Doug Disorcie		PWSCC	Yes
Email address:			
Raimier Masters		PWSCC	Yes
Email address:			
Kaci Hamilton		PWSCC	Yes
Email address:			
John Hischer		PWSCC	Yes
Email address:			
Minnie Andrews		PWSCC	Yes
Email address:			
✓ <i>Janice Johnson</i>		PWSCC	Yes
Email address:			

SITE: Valdez LIO

COMMITTEE:

DATE: 4/17/2002

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Budget

UPDATE; # 3

Continuation



PLEASE SIGN IN

DO YOU WANT

PRINT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

TO TESTIFY?

Y or N

Quvanoruq	A.			YES
Tulrshaq				
Email address:				
Janis Johnson				Yes
Email address:				
Jessica N Prince				Yes
Email address:				
Angela Corcran				Yes
Email address:				
Email address:				
Email address:				

SITE: HOMER LIO

COMMITTEE: (S) Fin

DATE: 04-17-02

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

SB289: Budget Bills

UPDATE #: 1



PRINT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N

PRINT YOUR NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY? Y or N
✓ Mako Haggerty		K-Bay Parks Board	Y- Parks
Email address:			
✓ Josh Perry		State Parks	Y- Parks
Email address:			
✓ Joshua Duffus		State Parks	Y- Parks
Email address:			
✓ Kathee Kiefer			Y- Parks
Email address:			
✓ Lisa Ruoff			Y- Parks
Email address:			
✓ Jennifer Reinhart		Self	Y- UA
Email address:			
✓ Roger McCampbell		Self	Y- Parks
Email address:			

Joey Easeman
Keith Iverson

SITE: SEWARD LIO

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance

DATE: 04-17-02

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Operating Budget

UPDATE #:



PLEASE SIGN IN

PRINT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N

✓ Dixie Landenburger			Y
Email address:			
✓ Melanie Weems			Y
Email address:			
✓ Janet Buchanan			Y
Email address:			
✓ Angus Kunz			Y
Email address:			
✓ Sung Kim Linder			Y
Email address:			
Kat Temple			Y
Email address:			
Carolyn Tanner			Y
Email address:			



SITE: MATSU LIO

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

COMMITTEE: SFIN

Budget

DATE: 04/18/02

UPDATE #:

PLEASE SIGN IN

PRINT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N

✓ Susan Mason-Bolterse		Sunshine Comm. Health Center	Y
Email address:			
✓ Patricia G. Coyne		B.A.A.R.T.	Y
Email address:			
✓ Eric T. Wagenius		Nugens Ranch Matsu Recovery	Y
Email address:			
✓ Paula Handricks		Nugens Ranch	Y
Email address:			
✓ David Bartholmew		WASI	Y
Email address:			
✓ Michael Handricks		Alcohol Treatment	Y

Email address:

Mat. Su

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Wallace		self	Y
Email address:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan McKittrick			Y
Email address:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Henrickson			Y
Email address:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Fiscus			Y
Email address:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Wells			Y
Email address:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carmon Frisby		self	?
Email address:			

Carol Kane

AK Assoct Y
Principals

Ann KilKenny, Email address:

SITE: KETCHIKAN LIO

SUBJECT OF MEETING: SB289 Budget

COMMITTEE: (S) FIN

UPDATE #:

DATE: 04.18.02

PLEASE SIGN IN

PRINT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N

✓ Rebecca Kleinschmidt		Self	Y
Email address:			
✓ Kevin Murphy		GCHS	Y
Email address:			
✓ Ed Zastrow			Y
Email address:			
✓ Kasay Kelley			Y
Email address:			
✓ Valeree Rice			Y
Email address:			
✓ Pat Chapman		KGH Tobacco Cessation	Y
Email address:			
Email address:			

SITE: Offnets
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance
DATE: 04/18/02

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
 Budget Bills
 UPDATE #: 2nd list updated



DO YOU WANT

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

TO TESTIFY?
 Y or N

P R I N T YOUR NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	TO TESTIFY? Y or N
✓ William Soloman	Kaltag		Y
✓ Elizabeth Woods	Manley Hot Springs		Y
✓ Frank Kelt	Unalaska		Y
✓ Sam Lightwood	Glennallen		Y
✓ Sheryle Charlie	Minto (calling back)		Y
✓ Al Unok	Kotlik		Y

Travis Pati	Aniak		Y
Cheryl Ogren	McGrath		Y
✓ Lawrence Brendeman	Tanana Chiefs		Y
✓ Crystal Wilson	Tok		Y

SITE: Offnets

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance

DATE: 04/18/02

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Budget Bills

UPDATE #: 1



DO YOU WANT

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

TO TESTIFY?

Y or N

P R I N T YOUR NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	TO TESTIFY? Y or N
Darlene Andrew	Emonak		Y
Sheryle Charlie	Mcinto		Y
✓ Jerry Carroll and 3 others	Ft Yukon VTS		Y
✓ Gary Crandall	Lower Yukon Schools		Y
✓ Andy Nunny DURNY	Nulato		Y
✓ Paula Harris	McGrath		Y

✓ Jerri Nagaruk	Elim		Y
Darvo West	Tanana Chiefs Conference		Y
✓ Jimmy Hurley	Ekwok		Y
✓ Roger Jenkins	Nikolai		Y

SITE: FAIRBANKS MIO

COMMITTEE: SFIN

DATE: 4/18/2002

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Budget Hearings

UPDATE # 1



PLEASE SIGN IN

PRINT YOUR NAME

DO YOU WANT

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

TO TESTIFY?

Y or N

PRINT YOUR NAME	DO YOU WANT ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	TO TESTIFY? Y or N
Art Buswell			Y
Royce Chapman		FNSB School Board	Y
James Parrish			Y
Mike Donaldson			Y
Richard Wright			Y
Carter Crawford			Y
Richard Harnos			Y

pg 2 update

Fairbanks

✓ James Dart			Y
✓ Jeri Lanier			Y
✓ David Leone			Y
✓ Judy Boelts			Y
✓ Samuel Faris			Y
✓ Eve Lambert		FNSBSD	Y
✓ Riki Sipe		H&S Commission	Y
✓ Denise Daniello			Y
✓ Ruthamae Karr		INHC	Y
✓ Krystal Huwe			Y
✓ Tina Kocsis		Hospice Valley Tanana	Y

✓ Sharon Bullock		FCMHC	Y
✓ Cynthia Henry			Y
✓ Don Thibedeau		Hospice	Y
✓ Steve Sweet		Local 71	Y
Diann Darnall			Y
✓ Annette Frieburger			Y
✓ Margaret Wilson			Y
✓ Ann Hopper		FNA	Y
✓ Elaine Landon		TCC	Y
✓ Carla Goldizen		PTA	Y

pg 4 updates

Final 2/25

✓ Taber Rehbaum		Arctic Alliance	Y
✓ Brenda Holden		HESS Comm.	Y
✓ Richard Keck		North Star Youth Court	Y
✓ Cheryl Keepers			Y
✓ Nick Stayrook		School District	Y
✓ Linda Robertson		FNSBSD	Y
✓ Don Triplehorn			Y
✓ Vanessa Spencer			Y
✓ Marta Mueller			Y
✓ Julia Peters			Y
Olga Kozevnikov			Y

pg 6

Fairbanks

✓ Julie Shefchik			Y
✓ Ben M. Angel			Y
✓ Doug Isaacson			Y
✓ H.B. Telling			Y
✓ Derek Miller			Y
✓ Joe Hardenbrook			Y
✓ Oscar Jones			Y
✓ Erin McGrath			Y
✓ Jim Lynch			Y

SITE: FAIRBANKS LIO

COMMITTEE: SFIN

DATE: 4/18/2002

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Budget Hearings

UPDATE # 7

pg 7



PLEASE SIGN IN

DO YOU WANT

PRINT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

TO TESTIFY?
Y or N

PRINT YOUR NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	TO TESTIFY? Y or N
✓ Tammy Ganguli			Y
✓ Martin P. Branville			Y
✓ Irene Peyton			Y
✓ Lisa Villano			Y
✓ Todd Larkin			Y

HB 403-APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS
HB 404-APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SIGN-IN

✓ NAME: Jodi Rumph Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: Mom Phone: 586-4216
Address: 6310 Glacier Hwy Juneau Ak Zip: 99801
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Marv Wheeler Subject/Bill No: Senate Budget
Co./Dept./Title: Self Phone: 586-3350
Address: 348 W 12th St. Juneau, Ak Zip: 99801
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: JAMES KEEN WORTHY Subject/Bill No: HB 403
Co./Dept./Title: ASTF Phone: 272-4333
Address: 4500 Diplomacy, ANC Zip: 99508
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: DAVID HULL Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: ACEMS Phone: 225-5051
Address: 827 Brown Deer Rd Zip: 99901
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

②

✓ NAME: Bill ~~Wagon~~ Legere Subject/Bill No: _____
 Co./Dept./Title: Public Broadcasting Phone: 586-1670
 Address: 360 Egan Drive, Juneau Zip: 99801

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Stephen Sundby, Ph.D. Subject/Bill No: _____
 Co./Dept./Title: Juneau Recovery Hospital Phone: 586-9041
 Address: 3250 Hospital Dr Zip: 99801

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: VERNER STILLNER MD Subject/Bill No: 404
 Co./Dept./Title: BARTLETT REGIONAL HOSPITAL/JUNEAU RECOVERY Phone: 586 8498
 Address: 3250 HOSPITAL DRIVE Zip: 99801

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: CHRISTIE MCINTYRE Subject/Bill No: _____
 Co./Dept./Title: AMERICAN LUGG ASSOCIATION Phone: 5
 Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Kathryn Arlen Subject/Bill No: _____
 Co./Dept./Title: self Phone: 586-1872
 Address: 177 So. FRANKLIN ST. #312 Zip: ~~99~~99801
JUNEAU

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: MARK GRAVES Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA Phone: _____
Address: P.O. Box 210763 ANCHORAGE, AK Zip: 99521
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: McKenzie Mataga Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: UAS Phone: _____
Address: 4300 University Dr Zip: 99801
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Eric Morrison Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: UAS Phone: _____
Address: 1700 Northwood #7 Zip: 99801
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Jennifer Coesch Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: University of AK Phone: 209-1150
Address: 4300 University Dr Anch, AK Zip: 99801
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Shyann Stedman Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: UAS Phone: 364-3515
Address: 21690 David St # A Juneau Zip: 99801
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Marilyn Pilliant Subject/Bill No: School Funding
Co./Dept./Title: Teacher/Parent Phone: 216-2660
Address: 2436 Glenwood St. Zip: 99508
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Paul Thomas Subject/Bill No: School Funding
Co./Dept./Title: teacher Phone: 762-4580
Address: P.O. Box 93003 Anch AK Zip: 99509
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: Annette Marley Subject/Bill No: To know use education +
education +
Co./Dept./Title: Alaska Native Health Board Phone: 907 743-6110
Address: 3700 Woodland Dr. SE 500 Zip: 99517
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Pam Watts Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: Ex Dir Advisory Board Alaska Dept of Health Phone: 465-4667
Address: Juneau AK Zip: 99811
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Franc Wright Subject/Bill No: School Funding
Co./Dept./Title: student Phone: 1-907-672-3191
Address: Manly H Springs Zip: 99753
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Heidi Wright Subject/Bill No: DOT School funds
Co./Dept./Title: Teacher Phone: 907 672 3202
Address: Manley Hot Springs Zip: 99756
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Crystal Melton Subject/Bill No: School Funding
Co./Dept./Title: Student Phone: 1-907-672-3002
Address: Manley Hot Springs Zip: 99756
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Dr. Sue Clifton Subject/Bill No: DOT & School Funding
Co./Dept./Title: Principal Phone: 672-3829
Address: Manley Hot Springs Zip: 99756
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: John Rowlett Subject/Bill No: school funding
Co./Dept./Title: Student Phone: 907-672-3202
Address: Manley Hot Springs Zip: 99756
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Parry Popper Subject/Bill No: DOT SCHOOL Funding
Co./Dept./Title: Student Phone: 907-672-3497
Address: P.O. Box 103 Manley Hot Springs Zip: 99756
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Cori Dart Subject/Bill No: DOT, School Funding
Co./Dept./Title: student Phone: 907-672-3252
Address: P.O. Box 49 Manley Hot springs Zip: 99756
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Seve Candebria Subject/Bill No: Dot / School
Co./Dept./Title: Student Phone: 586 2144
Address: _____ Zip: 99801
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Steven Scambor Subject/Bill No: D. of School
Co./Dept./Title: Student Phone: 907 789-6933
Address: 4538 HADGAR Zip: 99801
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Troy Tangney Subject/Bill No: D. of School
Co./Dept./Title: Student Phone: 790-2446
Address: 8173 Thurston St Zip: 99801
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Bill Glude Subject/Bill No: Budget - DPS Anchorage Section
Co./Dept./Title: SE Alaska Anchorage Center Phone: 586-5699
Address: P.O. Box 20578 Juneau AK Zip: 99802
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Jamie Atkinson Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: Student Phone: 790-9805

Address: 4300 University Dr. Juneau Zip: 99801

Do you wish to testify? Yes No ___ Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Vivian Montoya Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: teacher Phone: 586-625

Address: 4321 7th St Zip: 99801

Do you wish to testify? Yes ___ No ___ Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: ~~Debra Garrison~~ Debra Garrison Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: Missy Phone: 789-3234

Address: 9202 Emily Way Zip: 99801

Do you wish to testify? Yes ___ No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Respond To Questions

NAME: Robert Sewell, Chair - Statewide Subject/Bill No: _____

✓ Co./Dept./Title: Univ. of Alaska - Staff Alliance Phone: 463-5074

Address: 903 5th St, Douglas, AK Zip: 99824

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: VERNER STILLNER MD Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: BARTLETT REGIONAL HOSPITAL Phone: 586 8498

Address: JEWELL Zip: 99821

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

SITE: ANCHORAGE LIO

COMMITTEE: (S) FIN

DATE: April 17, 2002

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

SB 289-Budget

UPDATE #:



P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

**DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N**

✓ Jan MacClarence		AMHB & AWAIC	Y
Email address:			
✓ Peter Macksey		Community Schools	Y
Email address:			
Peter Macksey		Community Schools	Y
Email address:			
✓ Joan Fisher		ANHC	Y
Email address:			
✓ Rich Sewell		UAA Alumni Assoc.	Y
Email address:			
✓ Cherie Northon		UAA-Geomatis	Y
Email address:			
✓ Sister Moreen McPortland		CSS & SFH	Y
Email address:			

pg 2 update

✓ Tim Hunterberger		UAA	Y
Email address:			
✓ Kathy Harrison		ILP/PIC	Y
Email address:			
✓ Merrilee Harrell		UAA	Y
Email address:			
✓ Eva Stanley		Catholic Social Services	Y
Email address:			
✓ George Smith		Catholic Social Services	Y
Email address:			
✓ Joelle Hall			Y
Email address:			
✓ Ed Earnhart			Y
Email address:			

✓ Sara Jackson		Catholic Social Serc. St Francis House	Y
Email address:			
✓ John Riles		Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center	Y
Email address:			
✓ Philip Kaufman		DFYS	Y
Email address:			
✓ Robin Kornfield		Alaska Public Broadcasting	Y
Email address:			
Rich Sewell		UAA Alumni Assoc.	Y
Email address:			
✓ Mark Wolbers		UAA	Y
Email address:			
✓ Leigh Carrigan		BLP/PIC	Y
Email address:			

✓ Luke Sullivan		AK Cancer	Y
Email address:			
✓ Brittney Huff		AK Cancer	Y
Email address:			
✓ Christine Sturgis		Children	Y
Email address:			
✓ Myra Casey		Children of AK	Y
Email address:			
✓ Travis Erickson		Children	Y
Email address:			
✓ Marilyn Borell		College Students	Y
Email address:			
✓ Patrick Luby		AARP	Y
Email address:			

pg 5

✓ Erica Josely		self	Y
Email address:			
✓ Don Valeske		AK Tobacco Control Alliance	Y
Email address:	Don		
✓ Steve Bye	Valesko	CITC	Y
Email address:			
✓ Emily Nenon		American Cancer Society	Y
Email address:			
✓ Eileen Thompson		UAA	Y
Email address:			
Karen Hodge			Y
Email address:			
Bonny Headly		Head Start/UAA	Y
Email address:			

Tracy Ellsworth		self	Y
Email address:			
Rocky Plotnick		AK Tobacco Control Alliance	Y
Email address:			
Brenda Newburn			Y
Email address:			
Dave Landerd			Y
Email address:			
Susan Trapp			Y
Email address:			
Nancy Bushey			Y
Email address:			
John Pendrey			Y
Email address:			
Elaine Dahlgren			Y
Email address:			

Bill History/Action Display



BILL: HB 403

SHORT TITLE: APPROP: OPERATING
BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS

BILL VERSION: CSHB 403(FIN) AM(BRF SUP MAJ
FLD)(EFD FLD)

SPONSOR(S): FINANCE

CURRENT STATUS: (S) FIN

STATUS DATE: 03/20/02

TITLE: "An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government, for certain programs, and to capitalize funds."

Full Text	No Fiscal Notes Available	Amendments
Committee Action with Bill History		

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
02/11/02	<u>2206</u>	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/11/02	<u>2206</u>	(H) FIN
03/18/02	<u>2576</u>	(H) FIN RPT CS(FIN) SDP 2DNP 1AM
03/18/02	<u>2576</u>	(H) DP: BUNDE, WHITAKER, HARRIS, LANCASTER,
03/18/02	<u>2576</u>	(H) HUDSON, FOSTER, MULDER, WILLIAMS;
03/18/02	<u>2576</u>	(H) DNP: CROFT, MOSES; AM: DAVIES
03/18/02	<u>2583</u>	(H) RULES TO CALENDAR 3/18/02
03/18/02	<u>2583</u>	(H) READ THE SECOND TIME
03/18/02	<u>2584</u>	(H) FIN CS ADOPTED UNAN CONSENT
03/18/02	<u>2584</u>	(H) AM NO 1 ADOPTED Y34 N3 E2 A1
03/18/02	<u>2585</u>	(H) AM NO 2 FAILED Y15 N22 E2 A1
03/18/02	<u>2587</u>	(H) AL 'ANCELO TO THIRD READING UNAN CONSENT
03/18/02	<u>2587</u>	(H) READ THE THIRD TIME CSHB 403(FIN) AM
03/18/02	<u>2587</u>	(H) PASSED Y26 N11 E2 A1
03/18/02	<u>2587</u>	(H) CBRF SECTION(S) FLD Y26 N11 E2 A1
03/18/02	<u>2588</u>	(H) EFFECTIVE DATE(S) FAILED Y26 N11 E2 A1
03/18/02	<u>2594</u>	(H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)
03/18/02	<u>2594</u>	(H) VERSION: CSHB 403(FIN) AM(BRF SUP MAJ F
03/20/02		(S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/20/02		(S) FIN
03/20/02		(S) REFERRED TO FINANCE

- Similar Subject Match or Exact Subject Match
- APPROPRIATIONS
 - BUDGET
 - COURTS
 - EXECUTIVE BRANCH
 - FUNDS
 - LEGISLATURE