

HB

375

HFIN

FILE

HOUSE FINANCE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
 February 19, 2004

The House Finance Subcommittee has adopted the following FY05 Budget for the Department of Administration. The changes contained in this budget reflect changes to the House Committee Substitute bill. This budget contains \$56,210,200 in General Funds, \$1,076,300 in Federal Funds, and \$143,042,800 in Other Funds.

There are reductions in the following areas:

➤ Division of Finance	10% GF	470.3
➤ Labor Relations	10% GF	96.1
➤ Purchasing	FY03 levels	18.8
➤ Retirement & Benefits	Reduce Travel and Commodities	244.0 (non-GF)
➤ Group Health	Reduce Travel	22.2 (non-GF)
➤ Leases	GF by 5%	1,228.2
➤ Lease Administration	FY 03 levels	31.9
➤ Public Broadcasting	GF by 10%	247.0
➤ Satellite Infrastructure	GF reduction	1,182.3
➤ Office of Public Advocacy	GF Reduction	50.0
➤ Public Defender	Increment Reduced 50%	405.0
➤ Violent Crimes	Deny Increment	150.0

Total GF Reductions	3,879.6
Total non-GF Reductions	266.2

In addition, there were Fund Switches in the following areas:

- Motor Vehicles - GF Switch to Receipt Supported Services – 3,326.8
- Office of the Commissioner - GF Switch to Inter-Agency Receipts – 232.8

The Subcommittee strongly recommended that the Enterprise Technology Services Integration Plan be completed and implemented with all State Departments involved and aware of the specifics of the plan. The Subcommittee urged ETS to become streamlined as soon as possible and make an inventory of existing equipment throughout the State of Alaska.

Department of
Community and
Economic
Development

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Subcommittee Recommendations

Enclosed are our recommendations for reducing General Funds expenditures in the above described department.

I. Executive Administration - (1,267.5)

This BRU contains:

- A. Commissioner's Office (170.4)
- B. Administrative Services (915.4)
- C. Office of Economic Development (181.7)

This BRU has 12.9% of the total General Funds with the DCED budget.

A. The Commissioner's Office

The Commissioner's Office increase is due to the transfers in of a Secretary from the Division of Trade (44.9) and a Special Project Coordinator from the Division of Trade & Development (82.5). The transfers in, reflect an appropriate placement since the departmental restructuring.

B. Administrative Services

The Administrative Services component has 915.4 in General Funds. This level of funding is a reduction of 11.3% from 1,031.9 and is a reduction in General Funds of 116.5 from FY04.

We recommend fully funding this component at 915.4 as per the Governor's proposed FY 05 appropriation. Further reductions in this area could begin to impact the support function of the other components. Six (6) positions are to be eliminated and staffing levels are reduced from 37 to 31 full-time positions. Funding was reduced 11.3%, causing staff to be reduced by 16.2%. Further reductions in this area will impact efficiency in support services and further reductions are not recommended.

The 11.3% cut in FY 05 is healthy. We recommend GF funding at the proposed 915.4. The final component within this BRU is the newly created Office of Economic Development.

C. Office of Economic Development

The GF requirement is to fund two (2) positions, transferred in from Community Advocacy. These positions are:

- A. Special Project Manager (105.8)
- B. Economist (85.3)

Total

187.1

There is a discrepancy between 181.7 and 187.1. This could be a "transposition" error in which this component took a 5.4 cut. These positions support economic activities and could be funded from Business License Receipts generated through DCED activities.

We recommend **not** funding these positions with General Funds and funding these positions with excess Business License Receipts. The department already has Business License Receipt authority of 746.3. We recommend replacing the \$181.7 in General Funds for these positions with Business License.

The Alaska Film Commission was defunded in previous years. This activity has not only generated revenues in the past, but spurs interest in tourism activities throughout Alaska. We recommend using 175.0 in Business License Receipts for promotion of films in Alaska. This will restore a vital and valuable component of State Government. This funding is placed in the Office of Economic Development as follows:

A. Project Director	75.0
B. Administration Assistant	50.0
C. Contractual (Marketing)	<u>50.0</u>
Total	175.0

Additionally, this component receives 196.8 in funding from the CFRLF. We recommend transferring these funds to Commercial Fisheries to support Fish and Game activities and replacing this funding with Business License Receipts funding. This will require a total appropriation of \$1,299.8 from Business License Receipts within this BRU. This seems to be an appropriate funding shift.

II. Community Assistance and Economic Development (3,740.3)

This BRU contains:

- A. Community Advocacy (3,740.3)
- B. Trade and Development (0)
- C. Community and Business Development (0)
- D. International Trade and Marketing (0)

This BRU has 38.3% of the total General Funds within the DCED Budget.

A. The Office of Community Advocacy

The Office of Community of Advocacy had taken a proposed reduction in General Funds from 4,047.0 to 3,740.3. This 7.6% (306.7) reduction is in the form of:

- 1. **Transfers Out (181.7)** (to Office of Economic Development)
 - A. Special Project Manager (101.8)
 - B. Economist (85.3)

These positions are now housed in the newly created "Office of Economic Development." We agree with the reallocation of this money to that new division. Our recommendation is to concur with the transfers out and **change the funding source** from General Funds to Business License Receipts.

This division is not management heavy, and is comprised of workers, performing statutory mandated functions. Reductions in General Funds in this area would cause a reduction in services. We recommend **no** General Fund reductions in this area.

2. Alaska Legal Services (125.0)

We concur with the Governor's recommended reduction. We too recommend deletion of the Alaska Legal Services Grant in the amount of 125.0 in General Funds. The Department of Community Advocacy is not taking any actual reductions in funding or staff positions in the Governor's proposed budget. The reallocation of funds and positions seems reasonable and appropriate and we recommend the House accept the Governor's proposals.

B. Trade and Development

The other component within this BRU is Trade and Development. These positions, and funding, have been transferred to the Governor's Office. We concur with this transfer and feel it appropriate to have this function transferred out. We recommend no reductions in this GF area.

III. Qualified Trade Association Contract (4,005.1)

This BRU is a "placeholder" for funding of the QTA contract with Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA). ATIA is a non-profit, private organization that promotes marketing of Alaska tourism. This organization is a merger of Alaska Visitor's Association (AVA), the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council (ATMC) and the Alaska Division of Tourism. In 2000, this new entity was formed to effectively market Alaska tourism.

ATIA received \$4,000,000 in state GF funds to match \$6,000,000 in private funds. The source of private funds are as follows:

1. Cooperative Marketing	\$2,600,000	(26%)
2. Voluntary Cruise Line Contributions	\$1,900,000	(19%)
3. Domestic Marketing Organizations	\$600,000	(6%)
4. Membership Dues	\$900,000	(9%)
Total Private Funds	\$6,000,000	(60%)
General Funds	+ \$4,000,000	(40%)
Total Budget	\$10,000,000	(100%)

The \$4 million Alaska spends on tourism ranks us 36th among the 50 states. Hawaii is number one and spends \$56 million/year promoting tourism.

This \$10,000,000 Budget is not an adequate funding level to promote Alaska marketing. SB 254 and a House companion bill propose to create an Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute model to allow ATIA to assess the tourism industry 2% from tourism revenues. This 2% cost is passed on to the users and will generate \$18,000,000 in receipts.

ATIA feels they will only need GF funding for FY05 and can eliminate \$4,000,000 in GF by FY06, if legislation passes this session. For FY05, we recommend replacing **\$1 million in GF** with \$1 million in FY04 Business License Receipts revenues that will lapse at the end of FY04. Currently, Business License Receipt Authority within the DCED is as follows:

Prepared by
James F. Dieringer, III

Department of
Corrections

**House Finance Subcommittee on Corrections
Narrative
FY05 Budget Transmittal**

The House Finance Subcommittee on Corrections is making the following budget recommendations to the full House Finance Committee. These recommendations are a result of subcommittee meetings and discussions with management personnel of the Department of Corrections.

The recommendations are as follows:

Separate RDU's for the Office of the Commissioner, Administration/Support, Inmate Services, Inmate Health Care, Institutional Facilities, Existing CRC Facilities, Out-of-State Contractual, Probation and Parole, and the Parole Board. This totals nine RDU's. The result will be increased accountability and will mitigate past practices which resulted in significant budget shifting.

Replace AHFC/ASCL dividend with GF. AHFC/ASLC money was originally used to supplant GF giving the appearance of a GF reduction, when in fact there was an approximate \$600,000 increase.

Delete 3 positions in Information Technology. IT grew with OTIS development, but has not been reduced as the project matured. The reduction equals 3 x average employee cost, excluding the DP Manager.

Delete 5 positions in the Commissioner's Office. This will limit the Commissioner's Executive Personnel to the Commissioner, a Deputy Commissioner, a Project Coordinator, a Secretary, and an Auditor while eliminating duplicate and newly created positions. Four additional positions are tasked to Commissioner's office but funded from other RDU's.

Delete gratuities in Arizona Facility. The prior department administrators made a decision to pay gratuities to inmates working for the benefit of a private contractor. This adjustment eliminates all state funded gratuities in the private facility consistent with what will be terms of new contract(s).

Delete 1/2 of in-state inmate gratuities, excluding correctional industries. This will reduce gratuities to inmates for performing services to a little less than actual amounts expended in the past two years. The reduction does not touch correctional industries compensation.

Delete 10 CO IV positions. 4 positions were created by title change (no cost savings) of Assistant Superintendents intended to be eliminated by AO 207, resulting in preservation of positions. 2 of these positions were vacant. The other 6 positions were eliminated as a cost efficiency reduction of executive staff. One of these positions was vacant. This

adjustment is consistent with the intent of AO 207 to reduce administration in correctional facilities without compromising front-line corrections officer staffing.

Delete 3 Assistant Superintendent Positions. This completes the implementation of AO 207 eliminating most Assistant Superintendent positions. 2 of these positions are vacant.

Reduce travel to FY03 actual and Delete Admin Clerk III in the Institution Directors Office. The travel reduction is a necessary general efficiency. The elimination of the Admin Clerk III is a cost efficiency reduction of administrative staff.

Delete 8 positions established for Transition and Re-Entry program which was never initiated. These positions were established for the ATRAC program that was never initiated.

Reduce Academy to FY04 authorized and FY03 actual levels. This was a necessary general cost efficiency. The funding was not available for expanded training programs, especially considering the department's lower anticipated enrollments.

Reduce professional services in the Office of the Commissioner. This will reduce consulting contracts in the Commissioner's Office for one time audit and planning services completed in the last year.

Unallocated reduction to Probation and Parole RDU reducing GF spending back to FY 04 Management Plan Level. This is a necessary general efficiency requesting Probation and Parole to hold their GF spending level to FY 04 Management Plan, giving the department the greatest possible latitude in achieving those results.

Replace MHTAAR funding with GF for Jail Alternative Services, Women's Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, and the Men's Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program. This continues the State's negotiated commitment to transition MHTAAR funded programs to GF. This is the second year of three in the transition.

Department of
Education and Early
Development

House Finance Budget Subcommittee on Education & Early Development

Subcommittee Report FY05

February 20, 2004

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee on Education and Early Development has adopted a total budget for FY05 of \$955,138,600. This includes general funds of \$753,730,000, federal funds of \$171,652,800, and other funds of \$29,755,800.

Department of Education & Early Development House Budget Subcommittee FY05 Highlights

- Increment of \$8,000,000 general fund for education grants to school districts.

Subcommittee Issues of Concern:

The subcommittee deliberated many items of the department's budget, even if changes were not made to those areas. Issues that concerned the subcommittee members were:

- Decline in Foundation Funding Formula dollars due to decreased enrollment
- School District responsibility of deficit in PERS/TRS accounts

Department of
Environmental
Conservation

To: Representative John Harris
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
From: Representative Bill Williams
Chair, DEC Budget Subcommittee
Re: DEC Budget Close out
Date: February 23, 2004

Per your request, the Department of Environmental Conservation sub-committee used the FY'05 House Finance committee substitute bill when determining appropriation levels. Our sub-committee found general fund efficiencies for the FY'05 budget year and reduced general fund spending by \$111,400. The subcommittee reviewed the following motions and adopted them at our close out meeting on February 19, 2004.

Departmental Budget Structure

Per the request of the department, the Environmental Health and the Air and Water Quality appropriations were collapsed into one appropriation called Environmental Quality. Several internal transfers were also accepted for the beginning stages of a reorganization of the water programs.

Decrements and Increments

In the **Office of the Commissioner** section, a general fund decrement of \$1,200 for travel was accepted.

In the **Information and Administrative Services** section, a general fund decrement of \$1,100 for travel was accepted.

In the **Environmental Health Director** section, a general fund decrement of \$400 for travel was accepted.

In the **Food Safety and Sanitation** section, a fund source switch of \$56,000 from general funds to receipt supported services was accepted.

Page 2
DEC Budget Close out
February 23, 2004

In addition, a fund source switch of \$184,300 from Commercial Fishing Loan Fund to general funds was accepted.

In the **Laboratory Services section**, a general fund decrement of \$5,100 for travel was accepted.

In the **Drinking Water section**, a general fund decrement of \$45,900 was accepted to begin the phase-out of the Drinking Water Class C program.

In the **Solid Waste Management section**, a general fund decrement of \$75,000 was accepted to begin the phase-out of the Solid Waste Class 3 program.

In the **Air and Water Director section**, a general fund decrement of \$1,700 for travel was accepted.

In the **Air Quality section**, a general fund decrement of \$4,300 for travel was accepted.

In addition, at the request of the department, the subcommittee denied a \$300,000 increment of Statutory Designated Program receipts for the vehicle inspection and maintenance program.

In the **Water Quality section**, a general fund increment of \$200,000 for the "Raindrops to Ocean" program was accepted.

In the **Facilities Construction and Operations section**, a general fund decrement of \$5,000 for travel was accepted.

If you have any questions, please contact James Armstrong in my office at 6875.

cc: Representative Kohring
Representative Lynn
Representative Wolf
Representative Guttenberg
Representative Kerttula
Danith Watts, Legislative Finance Division
Melanie Lesh, Department of Environmental Conservation

BW/jja

Department of Fish
and Game

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Sub-Committee Recommendations

Appropriation	FY04		FY05 Governor's		Committee Recommendation		Change
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total	
Commercial Fisheries	24,122.8	47,376.6	23,086.3	48,364.2	22,224.1	49,563.3	+1,199.1
Sport Fisheries	265.9	35,469.7	265.9	38,454.4	265.9	38,654.4	+ 200.0
Wildlife Conservation	0	29,588.3	0	31,059.6	0	31,059.6	0
Admin. & Support	2,698.9	17,347.2	2,782.7	17,633.2	3,613.2	17,633.2	0
Commercial Fish Entry	0	2,755.7	0	2,759.7	0	2,759.7	0
Total	27,087.6	132,537.5	26,134.9	138,271.1	26,103.2	139,670.2	+1,399.1

We make the following recommendations to the Governor's FY05 Operating Budget:

I. Commercial Fisheries

The Governor has proposed a \$987.6 overall increase to the Commercial Fisheries Budget for ALL Funds. Despite an overall increase, the Governor has proposed a decrease in General Funds in the amount of (965.0).

We recommend replacing General Funds with investment income derived from the Commercial Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund (CFRLF). We also recommend a transfer in funds in the amount of 915.0, 196.8 and 184.4 from the CFRLF to replace General Funds in this BRU.

In addition, we recommend restoring General Fund cuts in the following:

	FY04	Gov's	FY05	Change
Central Region				
Minor Repairs for SONAR	160.0	75.0	100.0	+25.0
Contractual				
Supplies				
For Measuring and	87.9	35.0	60.0	+25.0
Sampling Equipment				

Total GF Increment

+ 50.0

This will keep the Cresant River SONAR Project in Cook Inlet from being eliminated due to General Fund reductions. We support funding for the Cook Inlet SONAR Project and restoring the proposed decrement to the Commercial Fisheries appropriation.

II. AYK Fisheries Management

We recommend No General Fund reductions within the AYK Region. This region has been overlooked in the past. Salmon stocks and Harvest Data has depleted, and needs support along the Yukon River.

We recommend an increment in Inter-Agency Receipts by 200.0 to offset pressure on General Funds expenditures within this region. Certain monitoring projects within this region are designed to enhance not only Commercial Fisheries, but to benefit the Sport Fish "Anglers."

We recommend the following:

	FY04	Gov's	FY05	Change
Inter-Agency Receipts (Fish and Game Funds)	0	0	200.0	200.0
Test Fisheries Receipts	34.7	35.2	35.2	0
CFRLF	0	0	196.8	196.8
CFRLF	0	0	184.4	184.4

1. Increasing the Fish and Game Fund Authority in Sport Fisheries by \$200,000
2. Decrease total Test Fisheries Authority to \$2,500,000 (from \$2,847,100 in Governor's budget).
3. Transfer CFRLF Funds from the Department of Community and Economic Development and Department of Environmental Conservation to Commercial Fisheries (381.2).

This fund shift will replace proposed General Fund cuts and will increase the allocation by 581.2.

The subcommittee would like the funding in the AYK region to be earmarked as follows:

1. Upgrade operations and maintenance to Pilot Station SONAR
Equipment

200.0

- 2. Install (2) new DIDSON SONAR Units in the Tanana and Porcupine Rivers 196.8
- 3. Provide operating funds to expand monitoring and research projects in the Upper Yukon and Tanana River 184.4

This area needs support and this shift in funding will not create a burden on General Funds for development of Fisheries within the AYK Region.

III. Administration and Support

The Governor proposes General Fund increases in the amount of \$133.8 in the Administrative Services Component. We concur with this General Fund increase. We recommend funding as follows:

	FY04	Gov's	FY05	Change
Admin. Services	988.8	1122.6	1122.6	0
Board of Fish and Game	523.8	473.8	473.8	0
Subsistence	233.9	233.9	1064.4	+830.5

We concur with the General Fund reduction to the Board of Fish and Game in the amount of (50.0). Additionally, we recommend reducing all 830.5 of CFRLF within the State Subsistence Component with general funds.

	FY04	Gov's	FY05
General Fund	233.9	233.9	1064.4
CFRLF	800.0	830.5	0
Other Funds	3274.7	3363.1	3363.1
Total	4308.6	4427.5	4427.5

We recommend transferring 830.5 in CFRLF Revenue from State Subsistence to Commercial Fisheries. This will be replaced by 1064.4 in General Funds. All CFRLF revenues will now be in the Commercial Fisheries BRU. Subsistence will be funded with 830.5 and 233.9 for a total of 1064.4. This is a (0) Net reduction in the Governor's proposed level of 233.9 in General Funds.

Summary

Competition for both quality and quantity for Seafood, on a Global Basis, is at an all-time high. The Commercial Fisheries BRU is, and has been, a revenue producer for the Department and the State of Alaska. This area needs reinforcement. These shifts in funding will help accomplish this and will support Commercial Fisheries for FY05.

Prepared by
James F. Dieringer, III

Office of the
Governor

**HOUSE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

The House Finance Subcommittee on the Office of the Governor recommends adopting the FY 05 budget recommendations as submitted by the Administration.

Federal Receipts	154.8
General Fund	17,924.4
GF Program Receipts	4.9
I/A Receipts	90.7
CIP Receipts	181.8
Total Agency Budget	18,356.6

Department of Health
and Social Services



HOUSE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
Department of Health & Social Services
State Capitol, Room 434; Phone 907-465-4949

**COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

Rep. Mike Hawker
Chairman
Room 434
465-4949

Rep. John Coghill
Room 204
465-3719

Rep. Dan Ogg
Room 409
465-2487

Rep. Peggy Wilson
Room 104
465-3824

Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch
Room 102
465-3744

Rep. Reggie Joulé
Room 405
465-4833

Rep. Sharon Cissna
Room 420
465-3875

Memorandum

To: House Finance Committee
From: Representative Mike Hawker
Re: FY '05 Budget Narrative for
Dept. of Health and Social Services
Date: February 17, 2004

The House Finance Subcommittee on the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) submits the following FY '05 budget recommendations to the full Finance Committee for its further consideration:

Attached is a financial abstract and point-by-point narrative of the subcommittee's recommended budget detailing the differences between the Governor's amended to the House Subcommittee version. Also attached are supporting documents including intent language, details of the Governor's adjustments, Transaction Comparisons, Agency Totals, and Component Summaries detailing the Subcommittee's recommendations.

The Governor's amended budget requested a single appropriation for the entire department. The subcommittee respectfully chose to maintain the existing ten-division RDU structure.

The original budget request asked for approximately \$65 million in increased general fund spending, but included an equal \$65 million in general fund reductions. The reductions were characterized as either refinancing existing activities largely with federal money, improving efficiencies or as cost containment measures. The distinction between efficiencies and cost containment is a bit blurred as all essentially involved constraining existing programs.

The \$65 million in increased general fund spending consisted of approximately \$35 million in formula Medicaid growth, \$20 million in other Medicaid increases arising mostly from federal rate changes and \$10 million other caseload and front-line services increases.

The offsetting \$65 million in refinancing and cuts were spread throughout the budget. In aggregate, the proposals were somewhat aggressive, both in scope and in probability of successful implementation. The subcommittee endorses the spirit of cost management reflected in the proposals, but recognized a need to temper some of the more aggressive efforts. Accordingly the committee judiciously restored \$5.6 million in proposed cost reductions. These are detailed in the attached narrative. Both department and Mental Health Trust personnel largely concurred with these decisions, agreeing that the effected proposals might be too much too fast or had a low probability of achievement.

The department's proposed constraint of many programs in order to fund the growth of Medicaid raised concern with the committee and members of the social services community. There are legitimate and serious concerns that anticipated Medicaid growth cannot continue to be funded through refinancing and compromising other department activities. Also, the department's expressed commitment to refinancing general fund activities with Medicaid leveraged federal dollars is legitimate and proper, but does expose the budget to increased funding risk should the federal government resist increased cost shifting to federal Medicaid funding.

The committee was concerned that both the formula growth in and increased reliance on Medicaid is not sustainable in the long term. However, the department is not specifically addressing this issue. Discussions with the department, both this year and last year, demonstrate that the department lacks the dedicated resources to project and assess future Medicaid and other program growth and to undertake a strategic effort to control that growth and to plan how to pay for the growth that cannot be mitigated. Accordingly, the subcommittee budget includes a new RDU for Assessment and Planning. Assessment and Planning was funded with \$500,000 split equally between general funds and available matching federal Medicaid administration money.

As part of this effort, the department was asked to defer their requested \$35 million increase in Medicaid formula spending and include efforts to reduce that growth in the Assessment and Planning project. The Assessment and Planning project and the requested attention to controlling Medicaid cost growth are intended to clearly establish legislative policy direction. The department will commence to identify and take action necessary to anticipate and control this escalating cost. Unrestrained growth in Medicaid and similar entitlement programs is not an acceptable management practice.

The following intent language was included in the budget for this initiative.

"It is the intent of the legislature that the Assessment and Planning funding is specifically provided to identify and implement actions and regulatory changes necessary to achieve Medicaid and related program growth cost containment requested in this budget with the least possible effect on the most vulnerable beneficiaries. The Department is to dedicate necessary resources to analyze and project future entitlement growth of Medicaid and related program spending and to identify alternatives to mitigate or stop increases. A progress report is to be provided to the legislature prior to the beginning of the 2005 session and will include a rationalization for any supplemental budget request expected to be made as a result of failure to achieve Medicaid growth cost containment requested in this budget."

The subcommittee approves other intent and purpose language in the attached Wordage Report. This language is consistent with prior years adding provisions for Assessment and Planning, prohibiting use of fee agents within 50 road miles of public assistance offices and requiring the department to address escalating costs of personal care attendant services.

The cost of personal care attendant services has escalated in four years from approximately \$8 million per year to over \$50 million per year. While it is important to avoid the loss of home care provider services that result in increased institutional facility costs, the aggregate cost of this program must be assessed and controlled.

The Subcommittee's goal is to provide a responsible department budget consistent with controlling the cost and growth of government while protecting the well being of all Alaskans, promoting and protecting the health and safety of the most vulnerable Alaskans, especially children whose families are unable or unwilling to help them and disabled and elderly adults whose personal or family resources are insufficient to meet their basic needs and assisting and positively motivating those Alaskans able to achieve and maintain self sufficiency. The proposed FY 05 subcommittee budget is consistent with these objectives.

Representative Mike Hawker
House Finance Budget Subcommittee Chairman
Department of Health and Social Services

Department of Health & Social Services
FY 05 Operating Budget – Subcommittee Recommendations, point by point

The subcommittee responded to the highest priority concerns with the Governor's budget in approving the funding in the Office of Children's Services to address the inadequacies highlighted in the recently completed federal Child and Family Services Review and to implement the office's federally approved Program Improvement Plan. An investment of \$664.1 in General Funds will leverage \$1,528.7 in Federal Funds, combined these funds will support front line social workers in four regions: Anchorage, Northern, Southcentral and Southeastern and will assist in dropping caseloads from 24 to 21 per worker. This funding will also support Independent Living Specialists to aid the transition for youth who "age out" of the foster care system.

The subcommittee commends the Governor's proposed Department of Health and Social Services FY 05 Operating Budget with regards to implementing efficiency, refinancing and cost containment measures. However upon further analysis the subcommittee deemed that the department's policy of sacrificing all other programs to sustain unrestricted growth in the Medicaid industry was concerning and restored nearly 10% of those cuts in the department budget as follows:

1. Alaskan Pioneer Homes, Pioneer Homes: Reinstated 500.0 GF as added support while rate changes are being assessed and implemented in the homes.
2. Alaska Youth Initiative, Bring the Kids Home: Reinstated 500.0 GF/MH to support efforts to bring the kids home in the component for Severely Emotionally Disturbed Youth.
3. Alcohol Safety Action Program, Adult ASAP: Reinstated 341.4 GF (one-half of the proposed cut) and 225.2 in I/A receipts to maintain support for the program as restructuring to a 100% self-sustaining program is implemented.
4. Behavioral Health Grants, Alcohol Treatment Residential Beds: Reinstated 600.0 in Alcohol Funds to support the continued funding of inpatient beds in the recovery process.
5. Community Action Prevention and Intervention Grants: Reinstated a total of 300.0 in GF and GF/MH to assist in preventing drug and alcohol abuse statewide.
6. Psychiatric Emergency Services, Regional MH Coordinator's Regional Emergency Services Fund: Reinstated 150.0 GF as emergency capacity is needed in time of cuts to maintain a safety net of services.
7. Family Preservation, Implement Medicaid Targeted Case Management for Family Preservation: Reinstated 270.6 GF to support program in preserving and strengthening families, as the implementation of targeted case management is difficult to achieve at this time.
8. Residential Child Care, Residential Child Care Grants and Cliental Travel: Reinstated 220.0 GF to assist communities most impacted by previous cuts.

9. Residential Child Care, Education Costs for Youth in Out of State Residential Facilities: Reinstated 375.1 GF to support education costs as this refinancing is difficult to achieve in that it requires the cooperation of school districts and dispersing of foundation formula funding.
10. Health Care Services, Women's & Adolescent's Services: Cut family planning support of \$412.5 FF, as this is not considered to be a formula program.
11. Juvenile Justice, Youth Courts: created a new allocation for Youth Courts and transferred current FY 05 youth court funding in from Delinquency Prevention and Probation Services. Added an additional 200.0 in GF to restore Youth Courts to full funding for proper and effective programming.
12. Nursing, Administrative/Management restructuring for Public Health Nursing: Reinstated 535.0 GF and 370.0 I/A (one-half of proposed cuts) due to concerns with regards to statewide impacts with proposed reduction.
13. Senior/Disabilities, Exceptions Relief: Reinstated 500.0 GF and 677.5 FF (one-half of proposed cut) to mitigate impacts on facilities and maintain exceptional relief funding discretion within the department.
14. Home & Community Based Services, AD/CD Support Services: Funded 250.0 GF/MH in the Mental Health Bill as requested match for care coordination and respite for vulnerable populations.
15. Home & Community Based Care, Innovative Respite / Chore for all beneficiaries: Funded 187.5 GF/MH in the Mental Health Bill as requested match for respite for vulnerable populations.
16. Home & Community Based Services, Senior & Disabilities Emergency Frontline Services Preservation: Added 750.0 FF and 500.0 GF/MH in the Mental Health Bill to secure services in lieu of aggressive project cost saving proposal in respite and HCB waivers.
17. Home & Community Based Services, Senior & Disability Services Emergency Fund: Added 150.0 GF/MH in the Mental Health Bill for emergency capacity to cover emergent costs associated with other programs that have been cut.
18. Community DD Grants, High Risk Clinic: Added 100.0 GF/MH to restore DD grant to the sexual offenders/victims specialty clinic.
19. Assessment and Planning: Created a new appropriation, funded with 250.0 GF and 250.0 FF administrative match. This appropriation is specifically provided to identify and implement actions and regulatory changes necessary to achieve Medicaid and related program growth cost containments with the least possible effect on the most vulnerable beneficiaries. Please see intent language.
20. Human Services Community Matching Grant: Restored 335.0 GF to the prior year funding level in support of non-profit services within the communities of Anchorage, Fairbanks and Mat-su.

Department of Labor
and Workforce
Development

House Finance Budget Subcommittee on Labor and Workforce Development

Subcommittee Report FY05

February 20, 2004

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee on Labor and Workforce Development has adopted a total budget for FY05 of \$152,611,300. This includes general funds of \$10,573,800, federal funds of \$98,617,700 and other funds of \$43,419,800.

Department of Labor and Workforce Development House Budget Subcommittee FY05 Highlights

- Reduced Personal Services Authorization for Alaska Labor Relations Agency Staffing by \$42,600 (general fund)
- Reduced general fund by one PFT Wage & Hour Technician, \$55,900
- Increased funding to the Independent Living Rehabilitation Program by \$467,800 (general fund)
- Appropriation structure change. There are now four appropriations within the Department.
- Reduced general fund to AVTEC. Replaced funding with Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) funding relying on the reverse sweep.
- Reduced general fund by \$229,800 in Employment Services (related to the Senior Employment Program). Replaced funding with inter-agency receipts from the STEP funding.
- Reduced Client Services funding by \$126,000 (GF Match)

Subcommittee Issues of Concern:

The subcommittee deliberated many items of the department's budget, even if changes were not made to those areas. Issues that concerned the subcommittee members were:

- Suitable general funds for Independent Living Rehabilitation Program
- Amount of Staff within the Alaska Hire Program

Department of Law

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Chair:
House Finance Subcommittees for,
Department of Public Safety
Department of Law

Member:
House Finance Committee
Legislative Council



Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4958
Fax: (907) 465-4928

Interim:
PO Box 464
Chugiak, AK 99567

REPRESENTATIVE BILL STOLTZE

Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us

HOUSE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

Department of Law

February 25, 2004

The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Law reviewed the House Committee Substitute for House Bill 375 and adopted the following changes for consideration by the full Finance Committee.

Reduced the requested GF amount for new attorneys by 1,458.3, providing funding for three CINA attorneys and one CINA paralegal. Eliminated the Victims for Justice increment of 125.0 as the subcommittee felt the Department was not the ideal placement for this grant program. Decreased GF retirement benefit costs by 266.7 allowing for 80% of the request, (Law was one of only a few agencies that was permitted by the Administration to request GF to cover these increases). Approved the following additional decrements: 37.7 used for FY04 section head reorganization; 61.7 new AG press person; 168.9 personal services to Deputy AG office, Civil; and 292.7 travel expenses. All increments using "other" funds were approved.

DISTRICT 16

BIRCHWOOD • BUTTE • CHUGIAK • EKLUTNA • FAIRVIEW LOOP
KNIK RIVER ROAD • LAZY MOUNTAIN • PALMER • PETERS CREEK

Military and Veterans Affairs

**House Finance Committee – Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
Recommendations for FY 05 Operating Budget
Representative Richard Foster, Subcommittee Chair**

The FY05 Operating Budget – House Structure, when compared with the FY04 Authorized, increases the Department's Operating Budget by \$377,600, or 1.1%. When the GF Match decrement and the General Fund (GF) increments are combined, the GF portion of the budget increased by \$381,900, or 4.4%. The Federal Funds portion of the budget decreases by (\$166,700). The Other Funds, which includes Interagency Receipts, CIP Receipts, Statutory Designated Funds, and various other funding sources, increases by \$162,400.

The budget reflects efficiencies that the Department has achieved by combining Homeland Security and the Division of Emergency Services into one division, The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. This has eliminated duplication of services and reduced overall management costs.

Four areas of the budget are almost completely supported by General Funds. The first is an increment of \$133,400 for the Alaska Military Youth Academy. This program did not receive any GF in FY04. The instructional portion of the program is funded through the education foundation formula. The increment being requested is to do the planning and other preparatory work that is needed to establish a second youth academy in Fairbanks next year.

The Educational Benefits line item, \$278,500 provides college tuition for National Guard members and is maintained at the FY04 level.

Retirement Benefits, which provides retirement benefits for eligible National Guard members, was increased from \$1,322,500 to \$1,996,800. This increase reflects increased actuarial liabilities.

Veteran Affairs, which provides funding for the Veterans' Outreach Program, was increased from \$646,000 to \$674,500. The increase is intended to meet increasing costs faced by the three veterans' organizations that contract with the Department and provide support to help Alaskan veterans secure the benefits to which they are entitled.

The budget supports all of the Department's goals that were expressed in the Governor's FY05 Budget Request.

Department of
Natural Resources

The House Finance Subcommittee has adopted the following FY05 Budget for the Department of Natural Resources. The changes contained in this budget reflect changes to the Governor's amended budget. This budget contains \$97,631.5 total funds including \$44,844.8 in General Funds, \$14,026.1 in Federal Funds, and \$38,760.6 in other Funds.

There are general fund reductions in the following areas:

Commissioners Office	650.2
Administrative Services	112.0
Information Resources Management	160.0
Oil and Gas Development	566.8
Alaska Coastal Management Program	261.5
Claims Permits and Leases	542.0
Title Acquisition & Defense	106.0
Fores: Management & Development	240.0
Geological Development	173.0
Agricultural Development	120.0
Fire Suppression	250.0
Parks Management	350.0

Total GF Reduction	3,531.5
--------------------	---------

Fund Switches

Water Development	300.0
GF to Receipt Supported Services	
Large Project Permitting	102.3
GF to Land Disposal Income Fund	

Positions

Deleted 10 Full Time positions related to reductions

Legislature

**HOUSE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
LEGISLATURE**

The House Finance Subcommittee on the Legislature recommends adopting the FY05 budget as presented in CSHB 375(FIN) with the following changes:

Budget and Audit Committee

Legislative Audit

Remove one-time appropriation for sunset and performance audits - 150.0GF

Committee Expenses

Remove funding relating to study of navigable water and RS 2477 Rights of Way Assertions - 400.0 GF

Remove funding for study of a stand-alone Veterans Home - 100.2 GF

Reduce contractual (for legal expenses associated with redistricting) - 1,000.0 GF

Legislative Council

Administrative Services

Savings due to reorganization - 52.7 GF

Council and Subcommittees

Remove Alaska Energy Task Force funds (FY04 Fiscal Note) - 78.0 GF

Remove funding for the Council of State Governments annual meeting - 538.0 GF

Remove funding for the Joint Legislative Salmon Task Force - 177.3 GF

Legal and Research Services

Savings due to retirement of long-term employees - 14.4 GF

Funding Sources

General Fund	37,499.1
GF Program Receipts	98.9
I/A Receipts	390.0
PFD Criminal Funds	541.6

Total Agency Budget	38,529.6
----------------------------	-----------------

Department of Public
Safety

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Chair:
House Finance Subcommittees for,
Department of Public Safety
Department of Law

Member:
House Finance Committee
Legislative Council



Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4958
Fax: (907) 465-4928

Interim:
PO Box 464
Chugiak, AK 99567

REPRESENTATIVE BILL STOLTZE

Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us

HOUSE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE Department of Public Safety

February 25, 2004

The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Public Safety reviewed House Committee Substitute for House Bill 375 and approved the requested budget without changes.

DISTRICT 16

BIRCHWOOD • BUTTE • CHUGIAK • EKLUTNA • FAIRVIEW LOOP
KNIK RIVER ROAD • LAZY MOUNTAIN • PALMER • PETERS CREEK

Department of
Revenue

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House Finance Subcommittee on the Department of Revenue FY2005 Budget
FROM: Representative Bill Williams, Subcommittee Chairman
RE: Department of Revenue Budget Closeout
DATE: February 19th, 2004

Attached with this memorandum are:

1. Six pages of proposed amendments to the Governor's FY05 Budget, provided by the Department of Revenue
2. Four reports prepared by Legislative Finance:
 - A three page report entitled "Agency Totals"
 - An "Appropriation Summary" report that includes all funding sources
 - An "Appropriation Summary" report that includes general funds only
 - A "Transaction Compare" report

I am recommending that the Subcommittee adopt the following actions (in the order in which they appear on the comparison report):

Tax Division

1. Reduce General Fund receipts by \$1,100,000, and replace those funds with \$1,100,000 in Business License Receipts. These are fees collected from businesses purchasing or renewing their business licenses. These receipts are to support the Tax Division's Corporate Income Tax auditing function.

Treasury Division

2. Use \$16,600 from I/A Receipts and \$32,300 from Student Loan Receipts to partially fund a new Bond Analyst position in the Treasury Division. A 2002 audit recommended to the Alaska State Pension Investment Board that Treasury add four investment and audit staffers. This increment plus the increment for an equity analyst will fill two of the recommended positions. This action was requested by the Department.

3. Delete a vacant Accounting Tech position in the Cash Management section to provide some of the funds for the Bond Analyst position. This action was requested by the Department.

Alaska State Pension Investment Board

4. Use \$9,900 from P/E Retirement, \$5,300 from Teacher Retirement, \$700 from Judicial Retirement, and \$700 from National Guard receipts to pay ASPIB's share of the bond analyst position requested in the Treasury Division's budget. This action was requested by the Department.
5. A Decrement totaling \$1,500,000 (\$975,000 from P/E Retirement and \$525,000 from Teacher Retirement) to reduce investment management fees. ASPIB investment management fees are based upon the market value of the amounts invested. Because of lower market values, ASPIB should not require all of the previously authorized amount. This action was requested by the Department.

Child Support Enforcement Division

6. Reduce incentive funds paid to the CSED by the Federal Government by \$1,168,600 and replace it with \$1,168,600 from Receipt Supported Services. This is to reflect an anticipated reduction in Federal Incentive payments in FY2005. The CSED earns these incentives for meeting certain performance levels in its child support programs. As other states have improved their performance, Alaska's share of incentive funding has been reduced. The Department is proposing to fill this shortfall with funds collected by the Division (Receipt Supported Services). This action was requested by the Department.
7. Reduce CSED Administrative Cost Receipts by \$304,600 and replace those funds with Receipt Supported Services funding. This Federal funding has been collected from the federal child support enforcement program to reimburse the state for overhead. These funds have been used as a match to other federal funds. They can be replaced by RSS without any loss to the Department of personnel or service. The CSED will continue to collect the maximum amount of receipts allowable under the federally negotiated rate.

Administration and Support

8. Reduce General Funds to the Administrative Services division by \$304,600 and replace those funds with \$304,600 from CSED Administrative Cost Receipts (See note 7, above). Using this money

to replace General Funds allows a saving of General Fund revenues without any loss to the Department of personnel or service.

Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority

9. Increase Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Receipts by \$150,000 to cover the costs associated with increased use of the Bond Bank. Because more municipalities are using the Bond Bank's services, the Authority expects increased costs. There is no expenditure of General Fund dollars involved. This action was requested by the Department.

I am proposing that the Subcommittee deny the Department's request for the following amendment until a conclusive position is reached by the legislature on this issue:

Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation

10. The Corporation is requesting authority to spend \$700,000 from Permanent Fund Receipts to fund a comprehensive public communications plan to educate, promote and advocate for the Corporation's Trustees' Percent of Market Value proposal.

Department of
Transportation and
Public Facilities

**House Finance Committee – Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Recommendations for FY 05 Operating Budget
Representative Richard Foster, Subcommittee Chair**

The FY05 Operating Budget - House Structure, when compared to the FY04 Authorized, increases the Department's Operating Budget by \$14,004,100. The increase in the General Fund portion of their budget is \$1,493,900. There is a slight decrease in Federal Funds, (\$229,300) and an increase in Other Funds of \$12,739,500. Other Funds would include such sources as the Marine Highway Stabilization Fund, The International Airport Operating Fund, receipts authority for direct services, Interagency Receipts and others.

The Highways and Aviation Maintenance portion of the budget is mostly General Funds (GF). Of the \$97,838,900 GF requested by the Governor, \$79,048,000, or 81% makes up 85% of the \$92,914,700 in these budget components. This portion of the budget increases by \$1,922,500 over the FY04 Authorized budget. This increase will allow the Department to continue maintenance at the current level for FY05.

The "belt tightening" efforts are reflected in the budget. Only four areas of the budget are increasing. Of these, only Highways and Aviation Maintenance shows a significant increase. Six areas of the budget are maintained at the FY04 level. All other areas that receive GF have decrements. The budget does address all of the funding concerns brought forward by the Governor.

Overall, there are modest increases in the Department's budget, which reflect a desire to protect the state's investment in transportation infrastructure and facilities by supporting maintenance of our highways, airports, marine terminals and other State facilities at or above the current level.

University of Alaska



Alaska State Legislature

Representative John Harris

State capitol 505 Juneau ,Alaska 99801-1182 (907)465-4859

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

House Finance Subcommittee

February 17, 2004

The House Finance Subcommittee for the University of Alaska made the following budget recommendations for the University. These recommendations are as a result of meetings and discussions with representatives of the University.

There were no changes to the University of Alaska budget from the House Committee Substitute version of the operating budget bill. There were no recommendations for reductions to this budget.

The recommendations for FY05 as compared to the FY04 Management Plan are as follows:

- Maintain General Funds at the same level for a total General Fund amount of \$212,715.0
- Increase Federal Funds by \$11,305.6 for a total Federal Fund level of \$124,362.0
- Decrease Others Funds by \$11,305.6 for a total Other Fund level of \$312,495.1
- Maintain the authorized position count at 3,869 PFT and 176 PPT positions

For FY05, total University of Alaska Operating Budget funds have been maintained at \$649,572.1.

The recommendations are focused on the University's commitment to recruiting and retaining Alaska students and offering academic programs directed at training Alaskans to fill the jobs in the highest demand today and in the future. This will ensure that Alaskan businesses and industries have a readily available workforce to draw from rather than having to recruit employees from outside Alaska.

Alaska Court System



Alaska State Legislature

Representative John Harris

State capitol 505 Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 (907)465-4859

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE, COURT SYSTEM, FY05 February 17, 2004

The House Finance Subcommittee for the Court System made the following recommendations for the three appropriations of the Court System's FY05 Operating Budget. At the request of the Chair, Legislative Finance has drafted a spreadsheet enumerating the results. The following summarizes the increments requested and overall budget:

Appellate Courts:

The following increments are denied:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1) JRS, PERS, and Benefit Rate Increase: | -\$115.0 |
| 2) Expanding Court's Salary Schedule to include "G" Step: | - 30.1 |

Trial Courts:

The following increments are denied:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 3) Expanding JRS, PERS, and Benefit Rate Increase: | -\$1,436.0 |
| 4) Reinstate First Day Juror Pay to \$25/Day: | -200.0 |
| 5) Improve Courthouse Security in Bethel: | -125.0 |
| 6) Fairbanks Courthouse 5 th Floor Operations: | -65.0 |
| 7) Increase Lease Expense at Unalaska: | -100.0 |
| 8) Software Maintenance and Support: | -517.0 |
| 9) Expanding Court's Salary Schedule to include "G" Step: | -338.0 |
| 10) Increase Hourly Rate Paid for Court Appointed Attorneys: | -34.0 |

The following reduction was made:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 11) Delete costs for 1 judgeship due to sunset provision at the end of FY04 (judge, secretary, 3 clerks) | -308.6 |
|--|--------|

Administration and Support:

The following increments are denied:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 12) JRS, PERS, and Benefit Rate Increase: | -\$248.0 |
| 13) Expanding Court's Salary Schedule to include "G" Step: | -81.9 |



Alaska State Legislature

Representative John Harris

State capitol 505 Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 (907)465-4859

(Continued, Page 2 of 2)

Commission on Judicial Conduct:

The following increments are denied:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 14) Increase for changes to retirement and other personal services rates: | - \$9.1 |
| 15) Office Space Rent Increase: | - 7.0 |
| 16) Vacancy Rate funding for 2 person office: | - 5.4 |

Judicial Council:

The following increment is denied:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 17) Recidivism Study: | - \$32.1 |
|-----------------------|----------|

The following reduction was made:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 18) Cost efficiency reduction of executive staff
and associated expenses: | - 505.7 |
|--|---------|

Admin 1

AMENDMENT TO CSHB 375 (FIN) Version 1S

Offered By: Representative Mike Hawker by Request

ADD

Page: 4 Line: 18

Department: Administration

Appropriation: Legal and Advocacy Services

Allocation: Office of Public Advocacy

Fund Source: Alcohol ~~Fund~~ and Other Drug Abuse Treatment and Prevention Fund

Amount: \$66,000

Description:

Establish Full Funding for a Social Services Specialist II - ANC \$66,000

A District Branch of the Wellness Court has been established under the direction of District Court Judge Sam Adams. The funding requested is essential to the proper functioning of the Wellness Court, as this position serves as the Case Coordinator for state participants in the Anchorage Wellness Court.

The expansion of the Anchorage Wellness Court includes another unit to serve state misdemeanants, including Anchorage residents arrested for DUI in the Palmer and Kenai Judicial Districts. The new unit expands upon the proven cost savings and public benefits that have been achieved through Judge Wanamaker's Wellness Court for municipal misdemeanants. All that is needed is assurance of the ongoing funding for the Case Coordinator.

Currently, Partners for Progress, Inc. in coordination with the Alaska Court System has committed to fund this position for the remainder of FY 04. LB&A approved \$33,000 in Statutory Designated Program Receipt authority for the Office of Public Advocacy during the December 12, 2003 meeting. There are no funds reflected in the FY 05 Governor's budget for this position.

Adopted

G F

FTG 1

Amendment to CS HB 375/HB 377 (FIN) work draft

Offered By: Representative Fate

ADD

Page 12 Lines: 13, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26

Department: Fish and Game

Appropriation: Commercial Fisheries

Allocation:

n/o b/g

13. Southeast Region Fisheries Management	\$49.2
18. Central Region Fisheries Management	\$72.2
20. AYK Region Fisheries Management	\$165.1
22. Westward Region Fisheries Management	\$32.7
24. Headquarters Fisheries Management	\$27.7
26. Fisheries Development	<u>\$30.8</u>

Total \$377.7

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$377.7

Description:

Increment to miscellaneous line. Replace CFRLF with General Funds.

GOV 1

Amendment to CS HB 375 / HB 377 (FIN) work draft

Offered By: Representative Harris

n/obg

FUND SOURCE CHANGE AMENDMENT:

Department: Office of the Governor

Appropriation: Executive Operations

Allocation: Executive Office

1175 Business License Receipts \$610,300

1004 General Fund (\$610,300)

DESCRIPTION:

Since submitting the Governor's budget, it has been determined that the Governor's Office can utilize business license receipts for international trade activities. This amendment reflects a fund source change to business license receipts (the fund source used for trade activities in the Department of Community and Economic Development).

H#SS1

Amendment to HB 375 / HB 377 (FIN) work draft

Offered By: ~~██████████~~ Rep Hawker

ADD

Department: Health and Social Services

Appropriation: Various

Allocation: Various

Fund Source Number & Name: 1004 General Fund

Amount: \$949,700

no log

DELETE

Department: Health and Social Services

Appropriation: Various

Allocation: Various

Fund Source Number & Name: 1003 General Fund Match

Amount: \$949,700

DESCRIPTION:

This fund change is necessary to correct the ratio of General Fund to General Fund Match resulting from internal department transfers in/out. See table below for changes in funding to appropriations and allocations.

Appropriation	Allocation	GF	GFM
Juvenile Justice	Probation	23,900	-23,900
Health Care Services	Medical Asst. Administration	25,400	-25,400
Public Assistance	Public Assistance Administration	9,700	-9,700
Public Assistance	Public Assistance Field Services	32,800	-32,800
Senior & Disabilities Services	SDS Administration	10,200	-10,200
Senior & Disabilities Services	SDS Medicaid	688,400	-688,400
Departmental Support Services	Administrative Support Services	159,300	-159,300
	Total	949,700	-949,700

New HISS 2

Amendment to HB 375 / HB 377 (FIN) work draft

Offered By: Representative Harris

no/oby

ADD/DELETE

Department: Health and Social Services

Appropriation: Public Assistance

Allocation: Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP)

Fund Source Number & Name: 1002 Federal Funds

Amount: \$900,000

Appropriation: Public Assistance

Allocation: Adult Public Assistance

Fund Source Number & Name: 1004 General Fund

Amount: -\$900,000

ADD/DELETE

Department: Health and Social Services

Appropriation: Public Health

Allocation: Community Health Grants

Fund Source Number & Name: 1004 General Fund

Amount: \$500,000

Fund Source Number & Name: 1168 Tobacco Use Education and Cessation

Amount: -\$500,000

ADD

Department: Education and Early Development

Appropriation: Alaska Library and Museums

Allocation: Library Operations

Fund Source Number & Name: 1004 General Fund

Amount: \$174,500

ADD

Department: Education and Early Development

Appropriation: Alaska Library and Museums

Allocation: Archives

Fund Source Number & Name: 1004 General Fund

Amount: \$138,800 (and 2 positions)

ADD

Department: Education and Early Development

Appropriation: Alaska Library and Museums

Allocation: Museum Operations

Fund Source Number & Name: 1004 General Fund

Amount: \$52,600 (and 1 position)

Description

This amendment utilizes the remaining federal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) bonus award of \$900,000 and allows usage of \$900,000 general fund from Adult Public Assistance.

\$500,000 of GF is substituted for Tobacco funds used for Community Health Grants. The newly available tobacco funds are not spent in FY05; they remain available in the fund and can be spent in future years.

\$365,900 of GF is used in the Department of Education for

1. contractual services and supplies in Library Operations,
2. two new positions in Archives, and
3. restoration of a Curator position in the Sheldon Jackson Museum

Amendment to HP 375 / HB 377 (FIN) work draft

Offered By: Representative Harris

ADD

Department: Public Safety

Appropriation: Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Allocation: Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Fund Source Number & Name: 1004 General Fund

Amount: \$900,000

DNR #1

Amendment to HB 375 / HB 377 (FIN) work draft

Offered By: Representative Harris

ADD

n/o

Department: Natural Resources

Appropriation: Resource Development

Allocation: Recorder's Office/Uniform Commercial Code

Fund Source Number & Name: 1156 Receipt Supported Services

Amount: ~~\$6,120~~ 6,200

DESCRIPTION:

This amendment will provide office space in the Seward recording office.

DPS #1

Amendment to HB 375 / HB 377 (FIN) work draft

Offered By: Representative Harris

ADD

Department: Public Safety

Appropriation: Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Allocation: Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Fund Source Number & Name: 1004 General Fund

Amount: \$900,000

w/d

DPS #2

Rescinded
w/TP
S-H

LANGUAGE

AMENDMENT TO CS HB 375(FIN) WORK DRAFT

Offered by: **Rep Harris**

Department: Public Safety

Appropriation: Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Allocation: Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Delete:

Page 28 Lines: ²⁵ ~~22~~ through ²⁷ ~~24~~

[Not withstanding AS 43.23.028(b)(2), up to 10% of the amount allocated for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault under AS 43.23.028(b)(2) may be used to fund operations and grant administration.]

Add:

It is the intent of the legislature that \$200,000 be transferred from Council administrative funds to the grants line to offset reductions to grants provided to local shelters and rape crisis programs for immediate safety and crisis intervention.

Rationale: Due to reduction in PFD/Felon funds and TANF funds, the grants to shelters and rape crisis centers is \$1.1 million less than in FY04, while the Council's administration received no reduction. This amendment transfers \$200,000 within this budget to the grants line. The funds are anticipated to be made up in administration through a Denali Commission administrative fee on capital funds (see letter, attached).

DPOR #1

23-GH2040\S.2
Utermohle
3/29/04

AMENDMENT

by Rep Harris

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSHB 375(FIN), Draft Version "S"

n/o

1 Page 30, following line 23:

2 Insert "No money appropriated by this appropriation may be used to advocate to the
3 legislature or the public in favor of passage of a resolution submitting to the voters a
4 constitutional amendment relating to the method of calculating distribution from the Alaska
5 permanent fund or in favor of the adoption of such an amendment by the voters."
6

7 Page 51, following line 4:

8 Insert a new subsection to read:

9 "(e) No money appropriated by this section may be used to advocate to the legislature
10 or the public in favor of passage of a resolution submitting to the voters a constitutional
11 amendment relating to the method of calculating distribution from the Alaska permanent fund
12 or in favor of the adoption of such an amendment by the voters."

LEG #1

Amendment to CS HB 375 / HB 377 (FIN) work draft

Offered By: Representative Harris

Create New Allocation

Agency: Legislature

Appropriation: Council and Subcommittees

New Allocation: Office of Victims Rights

n/o

Create a new allocation for the Office of Victims Rights and transfer the following funding:

- 153,000 general funds
- 328,600 PFD Criminal
- 60,000 FY04 PFD Criminal (reappropriation)

DESCRIPTION:

All funding listed is included in the Council and Subcommittees appropriation in the draft bill.

The Office is presently included in the budget of the Legislative Council. Identifying funding for the office was not a problem when the only funding source was PFD Criminal funds, but the addition of general funds causes the Office to lose its identifiable funding source. A separate allocation will allow the Office's budget to be tracked.

LANG #1

Amendment to CS HB 375 / HB 377 (FIN) work draft

Offered By: Representative Harris

no

Amend section 20, Fund Transfers, by adding a new subsection to read:

() The balance of the electrical service extension fund (AS 42.45.200) is appropriated to the general fund.

(This subsection needs a July 1, 2004 effective date.)

DESCRIPTION:

The transfer of the balance (estimated to be \$85,000) of the Electrical Service Extension Fund to the general fund was part of the administration's FY 05 revenue proposals. Alaska Energy Authority legislation, HB 485 and SB 337, was introduced on February 16 to repeal the fund, along with several other changes.

LANG #2

23-GH2040\S.3
Utermohle
3/30/04

AMENDMENT

By Rep Williams

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSHB 375(FIN), Draft Version "S"

NO.

1 Page 53, lines 15 - 23:

2 Delete all material and insert:

3 "(b) The sum of ^{40,000,000}~~35,500,000~~ is appropriated from the general fund to the Alaska
4 marine highway system fund (AS 19.65.060)."

5

6 Page 60, line 4:

7 Delete "Section 22 of this Act takes"

8 Insert "Sections 20(b) and 22 of this Act take"

LANG #3

Amendment to CS HB 375 / HB 377 (FIN) work draft

Offered By: Representative Harris

NO

Amend sec. 36 to read:

* **Sec. 36.** The appropriations made in sec. 1 of this Act that appropriate either the unexpended and unobligated balance of specific fiscal year 2004 program receipts or the unexpended and unobligated balance on June 30, 2004, of a specified account take effect July 1, 2004 and are retroactive to June 30, 2004 solely for the purpose of carrying forward a prior year balance [JUNE 30, 2004].

Description: This amendment would satisfy two concerns expressed by state accountants and attorneys. First, the amendment would make the appropriations financed with carry forward balances effective in FY 05 rather than FY 04. As presently written, state accountants would consider these appropriations to cover two fiscal years. By making these appropriations effective on July 1, 2004, the amendment avoids accounting actions covering two fiscal years rather than a single fiscal year. Second, once the appropriations take effect, the amendment makes the appropriations retroactive to the end of the previous fiscal year to preserve the legislature's intent that the year end balances of the account involved will not lapse and are to remain available to finance the FY 05 appropriations.

n/0

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSHB 375(FIN), Draft Version "S"

1 Page 59, following line 27:

2 Insert a new bill section to read:

3 "* Sec. 35. GRANTS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS. The sum of \$206,000 is appropriated
4 from the general fund to the Department of Education and Early Development for the fiscal
5 year ending June 30, 2005, for payment as grants to each school district that operates a charter
6 school with an average daily membership of 150 or less for support of those charter schools in
7 those districts. The amount appropriated for grants by this section is to be allocated among
8 eligible school districts in the proportion that the average daily membership of eligible charter
9 schools in a district bears to the total average daily membership of all eligible charter schools
10 in all school districts that operate an eligible charter school."

11

12

13 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

14

15 Page 60, line 5:

16 Delete "secs. 36 and 37"

17 Insert "secs. 37 and 38"



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFIN committee name
committee on BUDGET bill/subject, dated _____

Please distribute to all members of the House Finance Committee. Please respond to

Ralph Baldwin
Citizens Advisory Board - Mat-Su State Parks
rbaldwin@mtaonline.net

Signed: Ralph W. Baldwin
Testifier Mat-Su State Parks CAB
Representing (Optional) _____
Mailing Address 907-376-2297
Phone Number _____

March 24, 2004

STATE PARKS BUDGET

Dear House Finance Committee:

i am contacting you as a member of the Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board and a user of Alaska State Parks. Your Committee on House Finance has recommended a cut of \$350,000 to the operating budget for the next fiscal year. In Mat-Su this past year, we had to contract out several State Parks to private operators due to budget limitations. You will remember that two summers ago, some parks even had to be closed due to a lack of staff to operate the park. Further cuts to an already bare bones budget will bring us from a program of imposing fiscal restraint to a program of dismantling State Parks.

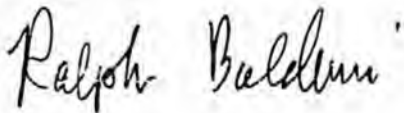
We have some of the most beautiful and exciting natural parks in the entire country, but, they must be maintained in a sustainable fashion. These parks are the jewels of Alaska to which Alaskan residents as well as visitors from Outside look for recreation and renewal of the spirit.

As a member of the Citizens Advisory Board for Mat-Su, I can honestly tell you that we have our hands full up here with visitation levels that currently exceed the ability of park rangers to carry out their jobs in a superior fashion, deferred maintenance that will ultimately cost us more, and as we increase the number of subcontracts in the summer to operate state parks...a loss of revenue.

The question is do we want State Parks that will attract the public and offer desirable recreational experiences, or, do we wish to lose that precious opportunity. Speaking for myself, my family, and my community, I want quality State Parks.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to restore any cuts to the operating budget for Alaska State Parks for the next year. Alaska State Parks now operates now at minimum level. To cut any further is to cause serious damage to a public institution revered by all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Ralph Baldwin
Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board
rbaldwin@mtaonline.net (H)
(907) 376-2297



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFEN committee name
 committee on BUDGET bill/subject, dated _____

Please distribute to all members of the House Finance Committee. Please respond to

Ralph Baldwin
 Citizens Advisory Board - Mat-Su State Parks
 rbaldwin@mtaonline.net

Signed: Ralph W. Baldwin
 Testifier Mat-Su State Parks CAB
 Representing (Optional) _____
 Mailing Address 907-376-2297
 Phone Number _____

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

March 24, 2004

STATE PARKS BUDGET

Dear House Finance Committee:

I am contacting you as a member of the Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board and a user of Alaska State Parks. Your Committee on House Finance has recommended a cut of \$350,000 to the operating budget for the next fiscal year. In Mat-Su this past year, we had to contract out several State Parks to private operators due to budget limitations. You will remember that two summers ago, some parks even had to be closed due to a lack of staff to operate the park. Further cuts to an already bare bones budget will bring us from a program of imposing fiscal restraint to a program of dismantling State Parks.

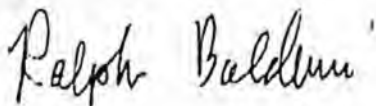
We have some of the most beautiful and exciting natural parks in the entire country, but, they must be maintained in a sustainable fashion. These parks are the jewels of Alaska to which Alaskan residents as well as visitors from Outside look for recreation and renewal of the spirit.

As a member of the Citizens Advisory Board for Mat-Su, I can honestly tell you that we have our hands full up here with visitation levels that currently exceed the ability of park rangers to carry out their jobs in a superior fashion, deferred maintenance that will ultimately cost us more, and as we increase the number of subcontracts in the summer to operate state parks...a loss of revenue.

The question is do we want State Parks that will attract the public and offer desirable recreational experiences, or, do we wish to lose that precious opportunity. Speaking for myself, my family, and my community, I want quality State Parks.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to restore any cuts to the operating budget for Alaska State Parks for the next year. Alaska State Parks now operates now at minimum level. To cut any further is to cause serious damage to a public institution revered by all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Ralph Baldwin
Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board
rbaldwin@mtaonline.net (H)
(907) 376-2297

Beau Kelly

From: G Plotnick [dmisha@alaska.net]
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2004 11:07 AM
To: Beau_Kelly@labor.state.ak.us
Subject: Misha

I have been a client of DVR since 1999. When I started as a client I had limited expectations of my possibilities for work. The process of vocational counseling has been very empowering for me and offered me a means to employment. My experiences have been overwhelmingly positive with staff at DVR they are uniformly committed to seeing disabled people return to the workforce.

Through education that was subsidized by DVR I have been offered the ability to become a counselor and use my experiences as a disabled person in a positive way.

As a disabled individual you are constantly faced with evidence of how you differ from the expected norm of society. This difference can be disenfranchising. Working by it's very definition is part of the American norm, and can lift you out of poverty as well as enhance your role in society. This is what I have gained from my relationship with DVR.

Thank you, G. Misha Plotnick

03/05/2004

I offer this statement of support as public testimony for consideration in the matter of funding for the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. I speak from a personal level on how that experience has impacted my ability to return to work

I have Multiple Sclerosis and was collecting Social Security Benefits for 10 years and through Vocational Rehabilitation I was able to begin exploring job prospects that were within my skills and abilities. I also gained confidence about my skills, and these strategies allowed me to begin the process of returning to work. My case was handled with respect, dignity, and I began to have faith in my own abilities and dared to dream. I was respected as a person with skills that were needed into days' Alaska job market. I was encouraged and supported to make decisions that would get me employed. No other public agency offered this service to someone with a significant disability.

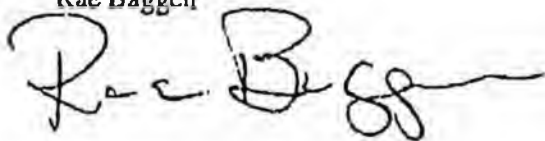
I now work independently without supports and recently started my return to college that I am able to pay for with my earnings. I have read that for every dollar spent on Vocational Rehabilitation that \$9 dollars comes back to the community, and from the experience that I have, I believe this to be true. Knowing I am able to contribute to the tax base of this community, buying goods and services that keep others employed gives me a sense of pride, a sense of community. I am no longer "on the dole" and totally self-sufficient.

I hope that you will see this as a good return on money spent, I am one example of many who have benefited from Vocational services. Please consider carefully the impact that the proposed budget cuts will mean to those needing Vocational Rehabilitation support to be able to enter, or reenter the job market.

To address the immeasurable benefits of VR services include, empowerment, sense of dignity and, self-sufficiency, and the pride of knowing that I could compete with 20 other applicants and be hired on my abilities and not have the focus be on my disability. The potential that DVR offers to people with disabilities is powerful, it provides us with a chance to turn those hopes and dreams into reality.

Respectfully

Rae Baggen

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rae Baggen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
 Committee on Governor's Budget Committee Name Dated 3/4/04
Bill / Subject

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Alaska, and is responsible for one out of every five deaths in our state. Currently with the tobacco settle money and tobacco tax the state is taking in over \$70 million dollars. If the proposed tobacco tax goes into effect that figure will top \$100 million. The US Center for Disease Control has recommended that our state spend \$16 million on Tobacco Prevention. That is not happening yet in Alaska. We need to work harder!

I totally support the Administration Amendment to remedying last year's miss laid \$1,061,000 that went into the Medicaid fund by giving it back to Tobacco Prevention. I thank the commissioner for bringing this forward for you attention.

I urge you to maintain the Legislature's commitment to fund at least the 20% level for Tobacco Prevention. Your commitment to fund tobacco prevention, will brighten the future of our children, lower the cost the state has to spend to treat tobacco diseases, and improve the health of Alaskans.

SIGNED:

Diana M. Darnall

Testifier

FAIR AIR

Representing

P.O. Box 81189 Fairbanks AK 99708

Address / Phone Number

479-5421



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
 Committee on Budget Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 3/4/04

Good Evening,

as the Administrative Director of a group that enables 5 different organizations to fulfill their mission of helping our fellow community members, (Head Start) (RCPD) (Literacy Council) (WIC) (INHC) any assistance in the way of funding our capital request that I recently e-mailed Representative Foltz would be greatly appreciated, even if only a partial commitment. We can help the legislature stretch scant funds in an effective manner. Thank you.

SIGNED:

Karl R. Greer

Testifier

Fairbanks Community Development Foundation
 Representing

841 Nine Mile Hill Rd. Fairbanks AK 99712
 Address / Phone Number

907-488-0713

To: House Finance Committee
03-04-04

April 28, 2003

To: Interior Delegation

From: Arctic Alliance for People Legislative Committee

Re: Request for examples of State savings generated by programs supported by the Health and Social Services Community Matching Grant (in Fairbanks alone)

Summary of estimated State savings by a sampling of agencies funded by the Community Matching Grant in the Fairbanks North Star Borough:

North Star Council on the Aging:

In answer to your inquiries, NSCoA provides home-delivered meals to 151 homebound persons. Proper nutrition promotes good health and helps to keep people out of nursing facilities and the hospital. The cost per meal is \$10.34 per day. The cost to stay at Denali Center is \$350 per day and \$825 per day at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

Not everyone who receives Meals on Wheels (MOW) is a candidate for the nursing home, but let's conservatively estimate that the MOW program is helping to keep 20% of MOW recipients (30 individuals) out of the hospital. Let's assume that the average time in the hospital is 1 week followed by 1 month (30 days) convalescence at Denali Center. Then:

30 persons X (\$825/FMH day X 7 days) + (\$350/Denali day X 30 days) = \$315,000 savings to the state in medical costs.

Hospice of the Tanana Valley:

Without the availability of the services and support of Hospice staff and volunteers, many patients with terminal illnesses and their families would be forced to use the facilities of assisted living homes, the Denali Center or the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, especially in the days or weeks immediately preceding the patient's death. In other cases, when a need exists but the patient's condition is not yet critical enough, insurer limitations or lack of coverage can result in the patient and family going without any assistance if Hospice volunteer services were not available.

In 2002, 104 patients were served by Hospice with an average length of stay in the program of 82 days for a total of 8,502 patient days. Using 2002 Hospice expenses of \$173,002, the cost per patient per day was about \$20. The average daily cost for room and care at an assisted living home is about \$130, at Denali Center about \$350, and at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital about \$2,750.

If 40% of the Hospice patient days in 2002 were spent in care at an assisted living home, the cost would have been over \$442,104. If 30% of the Hospice patient days in 2002 were spent in care at the Denali Center, the cost would have been about \$892,710. If 20% of the Hospice patient days were spent in care at the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, the cost would have been about \$4.7 million.

Hospice bereavement clients indicated they would not have received any bereavement support had Hospice services been unavailable. Research supports the rationale that stress and trauma from unresolved grief results in illness, lost work, substance abuse, relationship and parent-child difficulties

①

(dysfunction). Offering bereavement support lessens the demands for other Human Services, thereby resulting in long-term cost savings to the family, community and to the state.

The requested grant of \$50,000 supports about 32% of Hospice's personnel costs including benefits and payroll expenses. If the State of Alaska were to directly provide the same services as were delivered by Hospice in 2002, the cost for the equivalent personnel is estimated as follows:

Director of Hospice Services	
<i>AK Social Worker Level 4, \$31.45/hour, full-time</i>	\$65,416
Bereavement Services Coordinator	
<i>AK Social Worker Level 4, \$31.45/hour, ¾ time</i>	\$49,062
Volunteer Coordinator	
<i>AK Social Worker Level 1, \$23.78/hour, 374 hours</i>	\$8,894
Office Manager	
<i>AK Admin. Asst., \$23.78/hour, 1481 hours</i>	\$35,218
Patient Care Coordinator	
<i>AK Social Worker Level 1, \$23.78/hour, 1074.5 hours</i>	\$25,552
Patient Care/Bereavement Volunteers	
<i>Certified Nurses Aide, \$15.44/hour, 7326 hours</i>	\$113,113
Office Volunteers	
<i>AK Secretary Level 3, \$19.76/hour, ¾ time</i>	\$30,826
Professional Service Volunteers	
<i>Doctors, nurses, accountants, counselors, board & committee members, \$60/hour, 3,439 hours</i>	<u>\$206,340</u>
Total direct State personnel cost	\$534,421
Less cost to State (grant to Hospice)	<u>\$50,000</u>
Savings to the State	\$484,421

North Star Youth Court:

The NSYC, and other youth courts, directly and indirectly save the state money.

1. Each youth offender accepted by a youth court means one less case for a juvenile probation officer, an Assistant Attorney General or District Attorney, a Public Defender, and the Superior Court. These State employees and agencies can spend their efforts on more serious cases. The State will not have to hire additional probation officers and attorneys to handle an increased load of juvenile offenders.

Cost per case to the State:

\$67,000 (average salary of Juvenile PO's directly accepting referrals) x 7 (Juvenile PO's) / 916 (referrals rec'd in 2002) = \$512 per case. NSYC accepted 120 cases during 2002 x \$512 saving the State **\$61,440**.

2. Juvenile offenders who face consequences for misdemeanor offenses are less likely to continue to commit crimes or to commit more serious

crimes. This reduces the case loads not only on the state employees listed above, but also on state and local police forces.

The NSYC maintains a recidivism rate of less than 10% in comparison to the State's 24% recidivism rate. So...let's say that a youth, as a result of being held accountable for a criminal act in youth court, does not engage in criminal behavior in the future. In the absence of this program, he or she would not be held accountable by the Division of Juvenile Justice. It costs the state \$170 per day (in Fairbanks) to incarcerate/institutionalize a juvenile who has been formally adjudicated by the division. Out of 100 cases per year, let's conservatively estimate that 5 of these youth have made choices that have not led to future criminal behavior at a felony level (or multiple misdemeanors) that would result in formal adjudication and a period of lock-up. Five youth x \$170/day x 6 month stay in a home or detention facility = \$153,000 direct savings to the State

3. Juvenile offenders cause expensive property damage not only to private parties but also to state and local government property. Youth courts seek and enforce restitution for vandalism and theft. Anything youth courts can do to diminish property crimes will benefit the State.

4. Youth courts are operating independent court systems with VOLUNTEER attorneys, judges, and court personnel. If the State were to attempt to replace youth courts with an equivalent court system, the State would have to employ attorneys, paralegals, court personnel, and judges, with current State wages and benefits. It is almost inconceivably cost-effective to have these legal and judicial positions filled for FREE by teen-age volunteers.

5. Youth courts provide legal training for many youth. These youth, even if they never participate in a youth court, have had basic education in criminal and juvenile law, the ethics of being an attorney, the roles of police, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges, and the impact of crime on victims and the community. This kind of education makes teen-agers more aware of the impact of crime, what constitutes criminal behavior, and why the legal system operates as it does. Such educated youth can be expected to be more law-abiding because of their education. To duplicate this kind of training as a State activity would require hiring professional teachers or attorneys. The State benefits from better educated youth without having to pay for it.

Big Brothers Big Sisters – Greater Fairbanks Area:

Big Brothers Big Sisters, by matching at-risk kids with positive adult role-models, is a positive youth development and prevention program, preventing such behaviors as delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, and failure at school. The costs of the alternatives to prevention are staggering. Institutional drug rehabilitation costs approximately \$500 a day. Incarceration of a minor

costs \$62,050 per year. The cost of one full time caseworker, providing services to over 50 matched and 30 unmatched at-risk children for a full year is less than 1/2 the cost of incarcerating a single juvenile. The number of school-aged children in the Borough is 16,337. The number of youth arrests is approximately 450, making the juvenile arrest rate about 3%. If we apply that arrest rate to the 402 kids served by Big Brothers Big Sisters, we can conservatively estimate that 12 youngsters would have been arrested if they hadn't received our services. If even only two had gone on to be incarcerated, the cost to the State would have been \$124,100. This is a very conservative estimate, as the population we serve has higher risk factors than the general population from which we are calculating the arrest rate.

In 2002 over 35,000 hours of companionship, mentoring and friendship were provided by our volunteer Big Brothers and Big Sisters to the children with whom they were matched. When compared to the cost of professional counseling services (much of which could potentially be medicaid billable) at a rate of anywhere from \$50 to \$200 per hour, this represents a savings of between \$1,750,000 to \$7,000,000.

Fairbanks Community Food Bank:

In the past twelve months we have provided food assistance in the following ways:

FOOD BOX PROGRAM: 27,000 different people in the Fairbanks North Star Borough and Delta have received a minimum of 20 pounds of food each. Half of the people served are local children.

WOODEN NICKELS: 1500 overnight emergency sacks of food.

BONEBUILDERS: 143 street children were served 4,453 pounds of food in community donated backpacks.

USDA COMMODITIES, TEFAP: Once a month distribution of government food which supplements over 1,000 enrolled households. One-third of these households are military.

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP): Once a month commodities program which extends services to WIC clientele and to seniors over 60. The caseload for this program is 1100.

There is NO duplication of services between the local food box program and the USDA Commodities food programs.

- **We do this work with an annual budget of approximately \$300,000.** This is possible because we are primarily a volunteer agency and recycle community surplus items, such as food, plastic sacks, paper sacks. There is no easy way to place a value on those recyclable items because we do not have processing centers in Alaska for such items as cardboard and plastic, so the best way is to reuse them, and we do.
- 9/10s of the food we collect each day is being discarded by over 100 local commercial vendors. Would that food find it's way into the City dump if we weren't here? If so,

that would impact our dump with 1,800,000 additional pounds/year. The fee charged by the Fairbanks North Star Borough is \$50/ton, so the value of 900 tons of wasted food is \$45,000.

- **Over 50% of the people we serve with local surplus food only need one or two food boxes to get them over their emergency situation. Is the alternative of (1) having families not have nutritious food for their households, or (2) connecting them to more expensive service delivery sources (like food stamps) a good option, when we can simply solve their immediate problem with surplus food collected in the community.**
- In Fairbanks we have an organized way of sharing our local resources and a way to connect the youngest and oldest volunteers with effective and pleasant work experiences. There is no way to measure the dollar value of this gift of service to the community, but we do log over 17,000 volunteer hours which we then value at \$7.00/hr. With that simple formula, the value of this service to the community is \$119,000.
- Using the same logic, the food we collect is very conservatively valued at \$1.00/pound (the national standard is \$1.67/pound). That recovers over \$2,000,000 of surplus food in this community each year.
- By providing an outlet for USDA food, we facilitate this communities' ability to increase food capacity by \$80/box/month for food provided to households. Last year for the TEFAP program that amounted to \$336,000 in delivered food. This year we will add an additional \$88,000/month or \$1,056,000/annually in the CSFP program. The total annual value of this "new" food (both TEFAP and CSFP programs) to supplement local households will be \$1,392,000. This is food that would not be available to share with our local people without a food bank distribution point.
- There are other less definable qualities, such as the idea that if food was not readily available, would folks have a need to steal or suffer stress which is manifested in alcoholism, child abuse, domestic violence. We hear stories which lead us to believe that, but there is no way to really measure it in dollars and cents.
- In community capacity building, we also give donors a place to invest their hard earned dollars. One donor invested over \$2,000,000 in a new building for us (which he would not have done without us) and foundations such as Kraft and Rasmuson have invested \$40,000 - \$87,000/year in bricks and mortar and vehicles. We build community here.

November 25, 2003

**A Look at Unmet Needs in the Fairbanks North Star Borough
through the Health and Human Services Community Matching Block Grant
administered by the FNSB Health and Social Services Commission**

The FNSB Health and Social Services Commission has developed a scoring rubric to assist Commissioners with the evaluation of the grant requests that are submitted each year. This rubric has helped the Commission evaluate each proposal in terms of demonstration of community need, efficiency and effectiveness of program delivery, non-duplication of services, and measurable positive outcomes produced. Funding decisions are thus based on solid and demonstrable criteria, not reputation of agency or smoothness of grant-writing. This process has become a true example of results-based funding and could be a model for the concept of "missions and measures" that the State is looking to utilize in its own budget and funding decisions.

In the development of the rubric, it was decided that a minimum score of 70 would be required for a program to be eligible for funding. In a recent discussion with Senate President Gene Therriault it was suggested that one possible tool for determining the unmet social services needs for the Borough would be to look at the number of grant applications that scored above that benchmark yet were unable to receive funding due to the amount available that year. Here is a summary:

FY 2001

Funded Programs:	13	Total distribution	\$578,797
Partially funded program:	1	\$ short of request:	\$ 41,214
Unfunded Programs scoring over 70:	6	\$ short of request	\$284,277

Partially funded program:	FNA Chronic Inebriate Program
Unfunded Programs:	Fairbanks Counseling & Adoption Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention ALPA & Literacy Council Family Literacy Program Boys & Girls Clubs After School Programs Love, Inc. Transportation Program Campfire Boys and Girls Public Housing Center Program Fairbanks Community Mental Health Homeless Outreach

FY 2002

Funded Programs:	13	Total distribution	\$576,724
Partially funded program:	1	\$ short of request	\$ 33,183
Unfunded Programs scoring over 70:	4	\$ short of request	\$143,970

Partially funded program:	National Senior Service Corps Transportation program
Unfunded Programs:	FNA Chronic Inebriate Program The Salvation Army Homelessness Prevention Campfire Boys and Girls After School Programs Fairbanks Crisis Clinic Suicide Prevention

FY 2003**

Funded Programs:	10	Total distribution	\$481,512
Partially funded program:	1	\$ short of request	\$ 36,590
Unfunded Programs scoring over 70:	5	\$ short of request	\$204,983

Partially funded program: National Senior Service Corps Transportation program
Unfunded Programs: Access Alaska Adaptive Equipment program
Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living Suicide prevention
BreadLine Soup Kitchen and Day Labor programs
The Salvation Army Dental Care program
Literacy Council of Alaska Adult Literacy program

**Funds available for distribution had been reduced at the State level from the prior year
Impact to Fairbanks: \$97,285 less funding available (could have funded 3 additional programs)

FY 2004****

Funded Programs:	6	Total distribution	\$331,014
Partially funded program:	1	\$ short of request	\$ 18,544
Unfunded Programs scoring over 70:	7	\$ short of request	\$333,500

Partially funded program: Interior AIDS Association Methadone Program
Unfunded Programs: National Senior Service Corps Transportation program
Hospice of the Tanana Valley Patient Care and Bereavement
ACCA Early Intervention programs
BreadLine Soup Kitchen and Day Labor programs
FNA Chronic Inebriate Program
Boys & Girls Clubs Summer Day Camp
Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption Teen Wilderness program

****Funds available for distribution had again been reduced at the State level from the prior year
Impact to Fairbanks: \$150,498 less funding available (could have funded four additional programs)

Total reduction in dollars available TO FAIRBANKS AREA PROGRAMS (combined State and local) over the last two years is approximately \$250,000. That is a 43% reduction since FY2002. Most of the programs applying for funds from this source either prevent the need for state-funded services or provide a cost-efficient alternative to state programs. The long term effect of this reduction will be an increase in cost to the State – in terms of Medicaid spending, public assistance, and both juvenile and adult incarceration. We need to reverse this trend!

This year we are anticipating that Mat/Su will apply for funds through this Block Grant as they are now eligible due to the growth in their population. Mat/Su's participation will drastically further reduce funds available to the FNSB unless an increase is sought.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE
 Committee on SOA OPERATING BUDGET Dated 03.04.04
 Bill / Subject

Honorable Representatives, Thank you for this opportunity to testify at public hearing on the state operating budget. I did my taxes this weekend. 4% of my income went to U of Alaska student groups, museum, public media, alumni scholarships, and the University of Alaska Foundation. In addition, I accrued 240 hours of community service, serving the same university assets. This adds a lot to our community, the university on the hill is a shining jewel in Fairbanks. Moreover, I am not ashamed to get my fellow alumni to contribute their time and money. THERE IS ONE THING I REGRET. MY SERVICE TO MY ALMA MATER DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO ITS OPERATING FUND. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO FEEL THE SAME WAY. So, I am willing to set up a payment plan with the state of Alaska to support university education in Alaska. Let's work together to figure out how this payment plan works, either as an income tax, a program to draw on permanent fund earnings, and keep the dialogue from the Conference of Alaskans fresh, working toward a fiscal plan.

SIGNED: Marta Mueller MARTA MUELLER,
 Testifier

PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE UOFA
 Representing

516 AUKLET PLACE FAIRBANKS AK 99709-6653
 Address / Phone Number 907.479.6780



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee Name
 Committee on HB 375 Bill / Subject Dated 3/4/04

Please re-instate funding for Alaska Legal Services Corp. (ALSC) that organization provides legal representation to indigent Alaskans who would otherwise be at the mercy of our judicial system. From my service on the ALSC Board of Directors, I have seen first-hand the dedication and commitment of ALSC staff, and the difference that their efforts can make in the lives of their clients. ALSC deserves the continued support of the Alaska Legislature, at least at the modest level of the current fiscal year (\$125K). I urge you to support ALSC's work on behalf of Alaska's indigent residents. Thank you!

SIGNED:



Cameron M. Leonard

Testifier

Board of Directors (Alternate) - Alaska Legal Services Corp.
 Representing

1100 Solitude Way Fairbanks AK 99709
 Address / Phone Number

Subject: Written Testimony for Finance Committee on Operating Budget

Date: Thu, 04 Mar 2004 15:46:45 -0900

From: "Nevada Bovee" <Nevada@northernschoolsfcu.org>

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

CC: <Danielle_Brown@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for the invitation to provide testimony to the Finance Committee on the operating budget.

My name is Nevada Bovee. I live at 1845 Caribou Way in Fairbanks, Alaska, I have lived in Alaska for more than 25 years and my husband is a lifelong Alaskan and business owner. Between us, my husband and I have four children. I grew up in Fairbanks and attended public school as well as later on attended and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. My daughters and stepsons have also attended public school and my oldest daughter is currently attending UAF, and my oldest stepson has recently completed several classes at UAF.

I am an active participant in my community and have been for many years. I currently serve as Chair of the Fairbanks, Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and President of the Fairbanks Chapter of the University of Alaska Alumni Association, I also participate with my daughters Parent Student Teacher Association. In addition to my civic involvement, I participate in the community through my job as Vice President of Marketing for Northern Schools Federal Credit Union. I provide free workshops and seminars for youth in our schools and for adults in transition on the Fundamentals of Personal Finance, Career and Employment Strategies, and Interpersonal Skill and Communication Development. I have also participated in several panels to help inform parents and students on various options for financing higher education and have served on an advisory group with West Valley High School Counseling Department to help develop and evolve various student programs and community relations. I have been a member of the Choice Lions group and have helped with many other organizations and fund raising efforts over the years. I am a registered voter, vote at all elections and encourage my family, friends and others to be informed voters.

I realize you all have a very challenging situation with the budget and fiscal gap and I thank you for your concerns and commitment to funding for education, health and social services, and public safety. I did have an opportunity to talk with many Legislators last week when I attended the Juneau Fly-in with a delegation of the Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska; and what I heard was that education is a top priority and you would like input on how we, the citizens of Alaska, would pay for the state's educational needs along with financial needs for social services, public safety, Department of Natural Resources and all the other financial needs to keep this state running at optimal and healthy levels. I also realize there are no easy solutions, if there were you would have already discovered and implemented them. You must continue to work for creative solutions, be willing to use resources that are politically hot, and to create opportunities for future revenue streams that will meet the needs of our citizens. While the average citizen may not like the idea of taxes and using the Permanent Fund we have to be realistic. Having \$27+ billion dollars in the Permanent Fund and not using reasonable portions of the money to meet the needs of essential programs such as education and health and social services now is like a millionaire who chooses to live homeless and in ill-health and forces his family to do the same. The fund has grown substantially over the last several years and surely it can sustain itself (even in a poor market cycle) without reinvesting such high percentages of the earnings back into the fund just to protect its value.

I, for one, am ready to use earnings from the Permanent Fund to help provide the necessary money. I support POMV and would also support an education tax to provide ongoing funds that would be dedicated to the needs of all our state's school districts. Our schools, both K-12 and University of Alaska have been trimming budgets for several years now. The University of Alaska has trimmed \$20 million dollars in the last few years and students have agreed to a tuition increase of 10% per year over a three year period. Our local school district has cut several administrative positions, cut educational programs such as summer school, and have increased or incorporated new fees for several programs including correspondence classes. The University and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District have also been increasing revenue from grants and various authority receipts to help fulfill their budget needs. However, without full funding at the state and local level some of these matching grants will no longer be available, causing even greater hardship to local budget needs. Students in Anchorage have been paying fees to participate in extracurricular sports and that trend is spreading across the state. My point is that the leaders of these public services recognize the need for efficiency and are doing what they can, however they are not in the same position as a regular private business. They do not have multiple revenue streams and many of the fixed costs are mandated, thus they cannot be reduced. They are public services and as such should be funded by the public resources. In addition, we must support our Legislators' efforts to find solutions to resolve the PERS and TERS issues that befall all our public service organizations. As you know the TERS and PERS issue is not a single one-time fix. The increased mandated employer contributions will have a major impact on these organizational budgets for the next three or more years. So we must look for a long-term solutions and not a one-time quick fix.

I am not pleased with the proposed cuts of the GOP Majority or our local School Board. I would like to remind you that an educated society tends to make better lifestyle decisions resulting in better health and lower health care costs. Preventative health care has also been proven to reduce costs of treatment in the long run. By making the dramatic cuts to the Medicaid program, in my opinion, is truly taking a step backwards and will cost the State of Alaska more money in the long run.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough needs your support in Education and Social Services. The proposed cuts will have a major impact on the quality of education and the quality of life in our community. The loss of 100 teachers and 20 other special staff is extremely undesirable. Education is much more than the Three Rs. Add the Arts, Languages and Extracurricular Sports to Reading, Writing and Arithmetic and then you have a comprehensive, well rounded education that will benefit the entire community and State of Alaska. These additional educational opportunities teach fundamental skills and student learn critical learning processes as well. A well rounded education provides students with stronger leadership skills, interpersonal skill development, co-operation and team work that will serve them on a family level and employment level. The Arts and Sports also allow students to develop critical thinking skills, independent learning, creativity, time management skills, and many other self management skills, including responsibility and accountability to a greater cause.

Our students who live and learn in Alaska need to feel confident that they will find work in Alaska that will pay a family wage. We need to keep the talented teachers, engineers, medical professionals, and the people in so many other vocations in Alaska. By not funding these programs and reducing essential teaching programs now we will lose these talented and devoted people to other states and they may not be so inclined to return when the state gets to better financial footing. We

need to protect our human resources for the future of Alaska as well as our natural resources.

Thank you for your time and attention to my views. I would also like to state that I have learned quite a bit about the challenges this state and my local community face over the last few years. Sometimes I think one of your greatest challenges is educating the public on the issues and options so that they can make responsible decisions. I feel confident that people will make the appropriate decisions given enough information and have the ability to realize that the emotions and opinions should not be the fundamental focus of the issues. I would like to leave you with a quote that has impressed me for more than 20 years. "As the individual grows the community grows." I am just one of many prime examples of the this truism. Please know that I am counting on you to stay strong and make those tough decisions that may not always be popular but may be the right thing to do.

Nevada Bovee
1845 Caribou Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Nevada Bovee
Vice President, Marketing

Northern Schools and you, a winning combination!

March 3, 2004

Cliff Burglin: P.O. Box 70131 Fairbanks, Alaska

Phone 907 452-5149 fax 907 452-5203

Precious Lives For Cheap Oil

According to a recent International Petroleum Encyclopedia, plus an Oil & Gas Journal directory, the Mid-East produces 21,569,000 barrels of oil per day, valued at \$36 per barrel and trillions of cubic feet of Natural gas, valued at \$5.26 per 1,000 cubic feet. The oil reserves of the following countries: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and Abu Dhabi, are 686 billion barrels. Some of these fields have been producing high grade oil profitably from shallow depths since 1939.

Most of this oil is marketed by BP, Shell, Exxon, Chevron, and Texaco. This oil is refined in Europe, Japan and Russia.

The U.S. imports most of it's oil from Canada, Mexico and Venezuela and produces all of it's oil from the reserves of producing states, including Alaska. The U.S. needs very little, if any, oil from the Mid-East.

The only reason our troops are fighting and dying in the Mid East is to protect this oil and gas, so that these American, British, Dutch and Russian corporations can make more trillions of dollars. If these corporations had to pay for their own oil, it would cost over \$100 per barrel.

Alaska could easily produce enough oil and gas so that there would be no reason for our fine service personnel to be risking and giving their lives for these corrupt, greedy corporations.





COOK INLET
T R I B A L
COUNCIL, INC.

March 10, 2004

Legislative Finance Division
House Finance Committee
P.O. Box 113200
Juneau, Alaska 99811-3200

Dear House Finance Committee:

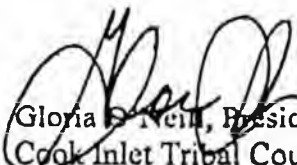
As the President of Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc, a non-profit organization committing to serving Alaska Natives and American Indians in the Human and Social Services field, I strongly oppose the proposed reduction of \$126,000 in general funds to the Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development, Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program.

A reduction of \$126,000 in general funds would actually amount to a loss of federal matching funds of \$126,000. This equates to \$256,000 that will not be available to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to deliver vocational rehabilitation services to people with disabilities and to help them become employed.

If the proposed funding cut occurs, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation anticipates implementing an Order of Selection for Vocational Rehabilitation Services which would result in a wait list to an estimated 420 individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, provision of Vocational Rehabilitation Services to Rural Alaska would be adversely affected as satellite offices in Kodiak and Sitka will be closed.

I urge you to reconsider the reduction of \$126,000 in General Funds from the Dept of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, FY 2005 budget.

Sincerely;


Gloria S. Neil, President and CEO
Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.
2700 Cordova Street
Anchorage Alaska 99503

ADMINISTRATION
2700 GAMBELL STREET, SUITE 400 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

FAX: (907) 297-2575

PHONE: (907) 265-5900

Dear Committee members

My name is Gail Baker, ^{Represent D U R} I live at 7670 B Douglas Hwy, I am 49 years of age. I

have a documented Learning Disability. I have been involved with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation since I began collage 5 years Ago. I am working on a Associates of Arts degree with 4 credits to go and a bachelors degree in Social Science with and emphasis in history, with 35 credits to go . The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in my case has made sure my learning disability is fully documented, They have helped with the cost of tutors, and testing, and have been there to help me succeed in my atempt to receive a university degree. I know that the Department of VocationalRehabilitation will be there to help me acquire the type of employment I have been working so hard towards.

The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation has been there for hundreds of thousands ^{off} disabled people helping them achieve their full potential, and at the same time helping them become full participating members of society. The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation is a viable enity and should remain as such.

03/08/04

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

My Name is Bill Burk

I hold my Masters in Special Education, and have worked with the Handicapped since the 70s. I am presently on the Local Board of the Special Olympic, and am very active in both the Local and the State games. I would like to express my concern to this committee as to the proposed budget cut that is administration wants to do the Independent Living Programs State wide. The Southeast Alaska Independent Living here in Juneau provides necessary services for the handicapped in Southeast Alaska. As I am sure the others do through the state. Here in Juneau SAIL provides Assistants to the deaf and throughout Southeast They help with the Winter Special Olympics and train the local Athletes to compete in the State Winter games, The ORCA provides recreation to the handicapped that they would not get. I as a Resident of this great state urge this administration not to cut the funding of the special needs people of our state. These budget cuts will not only hurt the all the people of Alaska, but the put Alaska out of compliance with the Federal American's With Disabilities Act In which we will loosed federal monies it will also set the State of Alaska back to the 60's and 70's when the handicapped had no rights. Thank you for your time

Bill Burk

P.O. BOX 21011 < JUNEAU AK 99802
drobbins@pci.net < (907) 364-3267

March 5, 2004

RE: HB 75, Vocational Rehabilitation Funds

After learning from Voc Rehab that the budget cut would prevent them from serving ⁴²⁰~~450~~ of their clients as of January 1, 2005, I compared last year's budget to this year and found that the overall cuts as far as I could tell would result in a loss of \$1,090,400. Losing the ability to serve ~~450~~⁴²⁰ clients is a lose, lose, lose! Voc Rehab by definition means to rehabilitate for work. Voc Rehab clients are hard working people. It is important to them to be able to work!

#1 Loss: The "Federal Order of Selection" rules will go into play with the loss of client services. That means that the people who are not served are the ones who could go to work with the smallest amount of help. They could easily be assisted to get back into the workforce and make a full living for themselves. Instead they lose hope.

#2 Loss: The money we put in the pot gets a dollar for dollar match from the feds, so we lose twice the money that would have been put into voc rehab services.

#3 Loss: When people can not get to work because they need some assistance, they not only lose hope, but we get them pushed onto welfare roles. Not able to make a living they must have greater assistance. This assistance will be another big loss.

We just can't afford this kind of budgeting. It will hurt us so much more than the straight dollars taken from the clients of voc rehab.

This must be fixed! The "Federal Order of Selection" is fancy jargon to salve our feelings of responsibility when we throw good people away. Restore fully the cut to the Voc Rehab budget.



Doris Robbins

Vocational Rehabilitation Division (excerpt 3/4/04)

Affected Program:	Dollar Amount(s):	Fund Source(s):
Client Services	(\$126,000)	GF Match (of federal funds)

Proposed Change:

Client Services – Reduce \$126,000 in general funds match and lose a corresponding \$126,000 in federal funds. Due to Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements (34 CFR 361.62) when states reduce its level of state share contribution, the federal grant will be reduced dollar for dollar.

Impact of the Proposed Change on Services Delivered to the Public:

Client Services – A \$126,000 reduction to the Client Services component will have an affect on the division's ability to deliver vocational rehabilitation services to people with disabilities and to help them become employed. The corresponding \$126,000 MOE reduction will cause a compounding impact to the division in the next federal fiscal year.

The division anticipates an inability to serve all eligible participants with this additional reduction, totaling \$411.0. (\$126.0 + \$126.0 MOE + Governors reductions of \$159.0) The Governor's budget reduced overhead and provided for additional streamlined methods of delivery. An additional reduction in Client Service spending will occur with this proposed reduction.

The division will closely monitor Federal Order of Selection indicators such as time sensitive eligibility decisions, the creation of informal wait lists and the ability to provide a full range of vocational rehabilitation services to all who are eligible. The division will seek to minimize the impact to State and Federal performance measures.

Beginning January 1, 2005 the division anticipates implementing an Order of Selection for services, essentially a wait list for vocational rehabilitation.

Order of Selection is a federal requirement if the State is unable to provide for the vocational rehabilitation needs of all individuals with disabilities who are eligible. An Order of Selection is essentially an approved wait list.

Alaska's Order of Selection has three distinct Priority Categories - Individuals with the Most Significant Disabilities, Individuals with Significant Disabilities and Individuals with Disabilities. Lower priority categories are closed when resources are not adequate to serve all categories.

An Order of Selection is Anticipated Mid-Year FY 05:

The division serves 4200 individuals per year. With the Order of Selection implemented January 1, 2005, it is estimated 420 individuals will not receive vocational rehabilitation services that are eligible for them. Those individuals will receive a formal referral to the Workforce Investment System partners such as the Employment Security Division and the Division of Public Assistance for employment and training related services.

With an Order of Selection, an estimated 20% reduction in caseload size will result over the following year. As rural offices with limited staff will no longer be efficient, the division will close the Kodiak and Sitka offices in January 2005. It is anticipated that nine staff layoffs will occur statewide. The State must maintain a statewide service delivery system to continue to receive federal funding. To accomplish statewide services, rural residents will be served itinerantly. Thus travel costs will increase.

A ripple effect will occur as reductions to client services are made. Private contractors utilized by the division will receive less funding, as will private training schools and the University of Alaska. Reductions will also be made in leases, commodity purchases and personal services costs.

Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Order of Selection

Relevant Definitions

Prepared by David Quisenberry, Director

February 26, 2004

Alaska's Order of Selection (AS 23.15.090) follows federal requirements (34 CFR 361.36) that people with the most severe medical limitations are served first if resources do not allow all individuals to be served.

In an Order of Selection, individuals with disabilities are categorized based on the significance of their medical condition(s). Functional limitations associated with the medical condition are evaluated in the areas of mobility, work skills, self-care, interpersonal skills, communication, self-direction or work tolerance. Counseling staff assesses how the functional limitations affect the individual's employability and determine if multiple vocational rehabilitation services are required for the individual to become employed. The greater number of service needs assist in determining the severity of the disability.

Alaska's Order of Selection has three distinct Priority Categories - Individuals with the Most Significant Disabilities, Individuals with Significant Disabilities and Individuals with Disabilities. Lower priority categories are closed when resources are not adequate to serve all categories.

Relevant Definitions:

"Disability" - a physical or mental impairment that constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment.

"Extended period of time" - as a guideline, six months or more.

"Individual with a disability" - any individual who has a physical or mental impairment which, for that individual, constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment and who can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from vocational rehabilitation services.

"Individual with significant disability" - an individual who has a severe physical or mental impairment which seriously limits one or more functional capacities (mobility, communication, self-care, self-direction, interpersonal skills, work tolerance, or work skills) in terms of an employment outcome and whose vocational rehabilitation can be expected to require multiple vocational rehabilitation services over an extended period of time, or is an individual receiving disability benefits under Title II or Title XVI of the Social Security Act.

"Individual with a most significant disability" - an individual who has a severe physical or mental impairment which seriously limits three or more functional capacities (mobility, communication, self-care, self-direction, interpersonal skills, work tolerance, or work skills) in terms of an employment outcome, and whose vocational rehabilitation can be expected to require multiple vocational rehabilitation services over an extended period of time.

"Multiple vocational rehabilitation services" - two or more primary services.

"Primary vocational rehabilitation services" - those services which reduce the impact of functional limitations on employment outcome such as: physical and mental restoration services, vocational and other training services, placement services, interpreter services, occupational licenses, tools, equipment, and initial stocks and supplies, rehabilitation technology, sensory, and other technological aids and devices, and supported employment services; reader services, rehabilitation teaching, orientation and mobility services for the blind as opposed to supportive services which complement the provision of primary services such as transportation assistance and financial maintenance support.

P.O. BOX 21011 <> JUNEAU AK 99802
drobbins@gci.net <> (907) 364-3267

March 8, 2004

RE: Budget Testimony, Tobacco Funds for Prevention

I have been working for many years as a volunteer on issues of substance abuse, primarily tobacco as an airborne poison in the form of secondhand smoke. Currently, I am working with Juneau Clean Air Coalition, a volunteer group that has had more than it can stand of secondhand smoke. Personally, I continue to manage a permanent chronic illness brought on by exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace.

I had been hearing rumors from friends from the prevention community that more cuts in tobacco funds for prevention may be ahead. As I watched a House Finance debate, and heard Commissioner Gilbertson say that they were again asking that you provide the full 20% of the tobacco funds which had been requested last year, but not funded. I was overjoyed! I commend Governor Murkowski and his staff who recognizes that prevention is critical!

It is critical that you fully fund the program for tobacco prevention. That is the only way to get the necessary decrease in underage use, which will lead to a healthier community. In addition, illnesses caused by tobacco, directly and indirectly, are extremely costly for our state. A special emphasis needs to take place with our Native youth, as we have been less successful in decreasing their smoking. You have seen the H&SS statistics showing overall improvement for Alaska.

Years ago, I was both a teacher aide and teacher at different times, as well as bringing up my own three kids who are now on their own. I have seen what it takes for young people to succeed. We emphasize passing a test on reading, writing & arithmetic. There is much more required for the success of children. They aren't rats in a cage! With all the bad information hitting them, how can we expect not to teach prevention and have children learn to make good choices? Prevention programs in the schools provide a right voice in their ears, or how will they know otherwise? Children must have

mentors to show them the right paths to take. Part of prevention is learning good behaviors so that bad ones will not be substituted. The National Council of Alcohol and Drug Dependency is right across the street from the Capitol. As a member of Juneau Clean Air Coalition, I have met in a conference room there, which we have been allowed to borrow, weekly for over two years. I have observed some of the positive things for youth, which are occurring through them to help keep kids tobacco and drug free.

One of the programs in Juneau multiplies the dollars, which they get through Teens Against Tobacco Use. This is a local program where high school students teach the younger kids through skits and programs about the value of staying tobacco free. This is working! These young people are so energized that you could only hope to get campaign volunteers that enthusiastic! While young people are at the age of asserting their independence for the first time, they are especially receptive to peer influence. That is one reason the Teens Against Tobacco group is so valuable. Just as with adults, once a bad behavior is learned you can't just replace it. You must substitute a good behavior in its place. It takes seven attempts before an adult is able to stop smoking. Children must make at least as much effort as adults. While it is best to prevent a bad behavior from starting, early interdiction also works.

About a week ago, I accidentally came upon one of the prevention beneficiaries, who just walked in off the street as Juneau Clean Air was ending our regular meeting. The young person apparently felt it to be a safe place, and began talking to one of the folks there who was nearing the end of a lunch break, without regard for the three or four of us who were gathering our things to leave. The young person stood there and said "I was here before, because I had to take a class." The young person began talking about what was going on, and it became very clear that this was a crisis situation. Out of desperation, the youth had returned here because of the previous positive experience that had led her/him to feel that someone would help. The person there, a counselor said "Would you like to go back to my office and talk?" Lunch ended abruptly and the youth went to talk. The first time was court ordered. This time the person is much more likely to make a lasting change.

Presently, the Juneau program is barebones and they have had to cut the programs drastically because of lowered funding last year. Currently, two Vista workers are helping them keep prevention in some of the schools. While you put Tobacco Fund money into Medicaid, if you want to eventually lower Medicaid expenditure, you are better off putting most money into prevention.

According to the CDC, at the current \$3.8 million, Alaska is only putting 47% of the recommended tobacco funds into prevention, making us 14th of all 50 states. Alaska spending on tobacco prevention amounts to 5.7% of the \$66.3 million in tobacco-generated revenue the state collects each year in tobacco settlement payments and taxes. Keeping that in mind, our Alaska costs are:

80 to 150 deaths each year from secondhand smoke.

440 adult deaths each year from smokers' own smoke.

19,500 kids under 18 and alive in Alaska today will die prematurely from smoking.

No count of the total who are ill and under care (but not dead) but it is extensive and expensive. I'm one of them.

Smoking kills more people than the combined total of: alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides.

The above facts are available from Tobacco Free Kids, H&SS or the CDC.

Prevention works tremendously well! Please restore funding statewide for prevention. We really can not afford to do anything else.

Thank you.



Doris Robbins

3-8-04

I would like to thank the chairman and the other finance committee members for taking the time to hear our testimony. I realize these are difficult times with difficult choices.

My name is Ruth Simpson; I am a certified Chemical Dependency counselor and have worked in the addiction field since 1985.

I cannot emphasize enough the disservice I feel ^{WILL HAPPEN} you will do to countless citizens if you choose to cut funding from treatment, prevention and the Alcohol Safety Action Program. The people served by these programs are completely salvageable and once on the right road they can and do become some of the most creative, passionate, productive people you could ever hope to meet.

Chemical Dependency is a disease like any other; it cannot and should not be ignored, discounted or dismissed.

It is imperative that you restore money to the ASAP programs; it is through those programs that 90% of all outpatient referrals (the least expensive form of treatment) occur. Without a comprehensive ASAP program those offenders will slip through the cracks and our ability to intervene on their disease is taken away. The cycle of drinking and re-offending will continue at a much higher rate than we have seen thus far.

We know that jail is not an effective intervention for addicted people; they need treatment and a supportive environment that will enable them to remain clean and sober. I have seen the worst of outcomes and the best of outcomes. Without resources we will only see those negative outcomes increase. When I speak of negative outcomes I am talking about overdose, suicide and vehicular homicide.

In addition to being a CD counselor I also have 22 years of sobriety. Prior to getting sober I cost this community significant amounts of money, energy and resources. Had it not been for the resources available in this community, I would not have been able to reclaim my life and commit my career to those suffering from this disease.

All of my clients could easily be your daughter, sister, or mother. I am asking you to keep that in your mind and close to your heart when you're making these critical decisions.

As a contributing member of this community, I would be happy to support treatment funding through an income tax.

Thank you for your time,



Ruth Simpson
5545 North Douglas Hwy
Juneau, Alaska 99801

rsimpson-neaddj@ak.net



National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
Juneau Affiliate
211 4th Street, Suite 102
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Phone: (907) 463-3755
Fax: (907) 463-2539
ncaj@ptialaska.net
<http://www.ncadd.org>
National Intervention Network (800) 654-HOPE

March 8, 2004

The Honorable Bill Williams, Co-Chair
The Honorable John Harris, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
The State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representatives Williams and Harris:

I am Ernie Mueller, the President of the Juneau Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. I have been a national and state certified substance abuse counselor for the last fifteen years and have worked or volunteered in the field for almost twenty years. I was born and raised in Fairbanks, earned three degrees from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and have lived in Juneau for the last thirty years.

Alcohol and drug abuse is the most serious public health issue in Alaska. About half of all fatal automobile crashes are alcohol related. Alcohol and illicit drugs severely disable and kill hundreds of Alaskans by direct toxic and medical problems, including heart, respiratory, liver, pancreas and nervous system disorders. Alcohol and drugs are involved in the majority of violent injuries and crimes, including suicide, murder, assault, domestic violence and property crimes. Alcohol and drugs are the cause of a large number of accidental injuries and deaths, including falls, vehicle crashes, drownings, and gunshots. Alaska has, for many years, been at or near the top among all the states in per capita alcohol consumption.

All of us have friends and family who have been killed, disabled or seriously injured by alcohol and drugs. About twenty years ago my wife and I took two young teenage boys, one the son of a close friend and the other his buddy, on a hike to the Herbert Glacier. It was wet and cold, but we had a good time, although they kept asking us how much longer this was going to last. We did not have the heart to tell them that they had gone nine miles until we returned to the road.

Several years later one of these young men, riding in the back of a pickup truck driven by an intoxicated friend, was killed when the truck ran off the road and rolled over. More recently the other young man drove off the road after a bout of drinking. He lived, but is a paraplegic, confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

I could go on all day, as many of you can, with personal stories of injury, illness, destroyed families, destroyed marriages and destroyed lives all caused, in some way, by



alcohol and drug use and abuse. I can also talk all day about the good news, those who have risen out of the devastation of alcohol and drug abuse to lead productive, sober and happy lives.

Like the man who came up to me at the park last year when I was there with one of my grandsons. He said, "Ernie I am two years sober and this is my son, pointing to a young boy." Although his family split up due, in part, to alcohol, he now has a job and shares custody with his son.

Or, the mother who came up to me the other day to talk about her teenage son, who had been my client following his arrest for drug possession. She was excited to tell me he graduated from high school and was now in college, heading for a professional career.

There has been considerable research on prevention and treatment strategies for alcohol and drug abuse. We know what works and what doesn't. We know that the public and private costs of alcohol and drug abuse in Alaska are a half-billion dollars or more every year. We know that managing this public health problem will save a major portion of health care, law enforcement, court, corrections and employment dollars. Public funds allocated to prevent treat and intervene in alcohol and drug abuse are very cost-effective, saving far more than the cost of prosecuting and incarcerating offenders alone. We know that youth who do not use alcohol before they are 21 are far less likely to have alcohol related problems later in life, even when they do drink as adults. We know what works to prevent them from early drinking. We know that early intervention and treatment for those who have alcohol and drug problems are effective and can return these sufferers to success in school, family and jobs. We know that not intervening brings them closer to alcoholism and drug addiction, with all of its medical, social and legal problems. We know that early intervention, education and outpatient treatment are the most cost-effective options.

NCADD has been on the front lines in prevention, intervention and treatment of alcohol and drug disorders in Juneau for almost forty years. NCADD sponsors prevention initiatives that work in middle school and high school, the critical ages for youth in preventing future problems. Continuing and expanding prevention programs are the most cost-effective ways to avoid the high cost of treatment, law enforcement, rehabilitation and suffering.

NCADD provides alcohol and drug information schools using State-approved curricula to youth and adults. These clients are referred through the courts, usually the result of minor consuming or possession or adult DUI offenders. These are typically first time offenders, the vast majority of which will not reoffend if they are provided with proper consequences for their actions and appropriate education.

NCADD also operates the Juneau Alcohol Safety Action Program under a grant from the State. This program screens offenders, refers them to education or formal assessment as appropriate, and monitors their progress. If the client fails to comply, affidavits are filed with the District Court, which may then issue a bench warrant and enforce compliance.

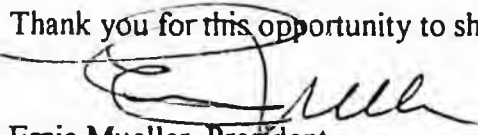
This service is very like a probation officer function for the many hundreds of youth and adults arrested for alcohol and drug offenses every year. This program is critical to holding offenders accountable.

Other services include special driver skill training directed at reducing the incidence of youth driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, general community prevention and interventions for anyone who suffers from alcohol and drug addiction.

It is my understanding that the Alaska Legislature is considering substantial reductions in funding of prevention and treatment of alcohol and drug abuse and addiction and for the Alcohol Safety Action Program. I appreciate the severe constraints that you have in preparing a budget when revenues are so short. This must be balanced by the recognition that program cuts today will increase the alcohol and drug problems Alaskans of all ages will face in the future. All of us need to "keep our eyes on the prize," a healthy life for all Alaskans.

I urge you to fully fund alcohol and other drug abuse intervention, prevention and treatment programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views.



Ernie Mueller, President
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
Juneau Affiliate
211 Fourth Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Hello, my name is JOHN HANGSTEFER.

Having a local vocational rehab office means a lot to me.

Chris was able to get me employment, orthotics and counselling services including social security. "She's my secretary helping me through the process." Without Chris, I wouldn't have gotten very far.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Hangstefer". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Voc rehab has helped me get a job and get training in computers. When my eyesight got to the point I could no longer see well enough to work they helped me complete the paperwork for my SSDI. They helped me with medical appointments that required travel to Anchorage.

Because of Voc. Rehab I am able to have my own apartment and live independently, providing me with the magnification devices I needed.

Pat Simenoff
3-6-04

Hi my name is Dawn Jurado

I was referred to Voc Rehab by my probation officer and with their help I have been able to get my life on track.

Voc Rehab has:

- Helped me stay alcohol free
- Encouraged me to work on my basic skills
- Helped me build confidence in myself and positive work ethics
- Assisted me in getting a job and face reality in the work place

Without Voc Rehab I would probably have continued to drink and would likely be in jail today. Because of VR I am off probation, my self-esteem is much higher and I have a good job with benefits.

If funding for all of the social service agencies gets cut people are going to go crazy and probably get into more trouble because there will be no help available – people's lives are at stake.

Everyone needs someone to believe in them!

Dawn T. Jurado

Education & Prevention
Residential & Out-Patient Treatment
Adolescent Services
Alcohol & Drug Information School
Referrals & Assessments
Employee Assistance Programs



Toll Free : (866)486-3535
Phone: (907)486-3535
Fax: (907)486-7689
115 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Email: safeharbor@gci.net

TREATING ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE FOR OVER 20 YEAR

"Where The Healing Begins"

March 05, 2004

Re: Vocational Rehabilitation Support

To Whom It May Concern:

A cut in funding to Kodiak's Vocational Rehabilitation would be a tremendous blow to the services Kodiak Council on Alcoholism provides as the majority of our clients are in need of these services to get their lives back on track as they have been outside the mainstream of society. As the Executive Director of Safe Harbor I was once one of these people and the services that Vocational Rehabilitation provided me allowed me to get my degree and become a productive member of society as opposed to a burden. If these services are pulled the State will still pay the cost though it will be in the area of public safety and the Department of Corrections.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me at the above number. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Scott Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

D. Scott Smith, MAPS
Executive Director
Safe Harbor Treatment Facility

I have received services from both Vocational Rehabilitation and Safe Harbor.

These agencies have helped me know myself better and have another chance at life.

I have been sober for 13 months during that time I have learned to live independantly and have completed training as an emergency trauma technician. I am waiting for my results of the Emergency Medical Technician Course I just completed.

Richard McDaniel

Public Comment
House Finance Committee
Saturday, March 06, 2004
Donald E. Roberts Jr.

Re: HB 375 Operating Budget / Loans Funds;
HB - 377 Mental Health Budget

Mr Chairman my name is Don Roberts Jr. I live at 264 Lilly Drive in Kodiak.
Thank you for this opportunity.

I speak in favor of Vocational Rehabilitation component of the budget and the
Mental Health Budget. The long term economic and social consequences of not
funding these is far greater than any savings that might be had.

In addition, many people by virtue of their disability may not be able to participate
in these proceedings, it would not be reasonable to interpret their silence as lack of
concern.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Roberts Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB 375 - operating Budget, dated 3-6-04
bill/subject

DVR HAS BEEN VERY helpful to me -
I have PARKINSON'S DISEASE -
They have paid for classes at the college
for me to be able to get a better job -
They have helped to get a job

DVR HELPED by paying my way to a
neurologist expert in my condition

Their help has given me hope when all
looked so grim for my life & future -

CLOSING DVR is going to close the
door of hope of for those of us who
struggle thru each day as it is, and
who hope to be productive members of
our community in spite of our handicaps -

Signed: Pete Holm PO Box 271 Kodiak

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 271 Kodiak, AK 99615

Address

907-486-5118

Phone No



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB375- Operating Bud dated 3-6-04
bill/subject

VOC. REHAB. HELPED ME ROUND THE
CORNER AND GET BACK INTO THE WORKFORCE.
IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE
PROPOSED CHANGES WILL HINDER
THOSE THAT ARE THE MOST
LIKELY TO GET BACK ~~IN~~ IN-
TO THE WORKFORCE, FROM DOING SO,
I'M IN FAVOR OF AN INCOME
TAX TO AVOID SUCH MEASURES

Signed: Ben Eirudg
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address
3340 MELNITA LN.

Phone No 486-4502



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB375-Operating Bud dated 3-6-04
bill/subject

Cutting funding to Kodiak's Vocational Rehab. Office is a bad idea! We need this vital resource here. I am very fortunate to be a beneficiary of the V.R. programs offered here, and it has been critical to my success as a viable member of this community. Alaska's rural communities only have the state to rely on for these services and if they are underfunded or closed a good many of us will be unable to get the help we need.

Alaska ranks third from the bottom, number 48, as a state with funds available to help V.R. clients as it stands right now, so why make it worse!

Signed: Glen Ojeda
Testifier

self
Representing (Optional)

12906 Noch Dr. Kodiak Ak 99615
Address

907-487-2774
Phone No



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on operating funds, dated March 6, 2004
bill/subject

Keeping seniors out of costly nursing homes + able to live at home independently with the assistance of Home Community Based Waivers is a cost efficient way to do business + pay for needed services. I support keeping these vital services that are available to the most vulnerable + poorest seniors. I support paying an income tax, using the permanent dividend fund earnings + keeping Alaska's infrastructure + services in place. Once these services are gone, we will not get them back. I also support a long range fiscal plan from state so agencies + those receiving services can plan + count on staying here.

Signed: Pat Bransm

Testifier

Senior Citizens of Kodiak, Inc.

Representing (Optional)

Box 3888 Kodiak, AK 99615

Address

907-486-3641

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name
 committee on operating budget dated March 6, 2004.
bill/subject

My name is Mary Furford and I am 82 years old, continuing to live independently in my own apartment, though I have macular degeneration, and I participate in activities that keep my mind sharp - watercolor painting and singing each week with the golden Tods. I am able to live alone mly with assistance of the Medicaid waiver program. Through this program I receive home delivered meals, transportation to and from doctors' appointments, home health + I know other services are available when I get to the point of needing them. I have family in town, but they are often away on business. I know my family realizes the kind of care I receive + that makes them comfortable. I am not just for advocating for programs. but also for the legislature to adopt a fiscal plan.

Signed: Mary Furford
Testifier

myself
Representing (Optional)

914 Upper Mill Bay Road #111
Address

486-8452
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB 375-Operating Budget dated 03-06-04
bill/subject

As a person with a disability having a local Vocational Rehabilitation office is a benefit to me personally. As a participant in the Reseed Self-Employment program, the staff of the local Vocational Rehabilitation Office have provided a tremendous amount of support and resources to assist in my self-employment goal.

Herman Squartsoff

Signed: Herman Squartsoff

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 189

Address

907-

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on HB375 Operating Budget, dated March 6, 2004
 bill/subject

I am writing to show my support for the Vocational Rehabilitation services here in Kodiak. I have achieved many positive things in my life--graduating with honors from college, obtaining my teaching certificate, seeking a masters degree in Early Childhood Special Education, and maintaining a loving, supportive, stable family. I have a lot to contribute to the state of Alaska. I also suffer from disabling anxiety, depression and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. These are frustrating diseases not well understood or tolerated by most people. Daily life is a challenge and I often feel frustrated and hopeless, yet I know it doesn't have to be this way forever. I am tough and will prevail with continued support. When I feel useless, Chris McVay here at the VR office in Kodiak is here to help me feel and be useful. She knows me and my problems--I am a real person to her, not just another case. Having an office in Kodiak means that I have support here when and where I need it. I fear that I will become just another case and my quality of life will decrease if services are cut here in Kodiak. It would be impossible for me to fly to Anchorage for services as it is too expensive. Services provided by phone or through infrequent visits would seriously impact many lives here. Living life with a disability is frustrating and challenging, please don't make it harder by cutting services. Consider instead implementing an income tax and tapping into the permanent fund--there are solutions out there.

Signed:

Rusten Panamau

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

PO BOX 174 KODIAK AK 99615

Address

486-3495

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB 375-Operating Budget, dated 03-06-04
bill/subject

I am the caregiver of a person who is handicapped - I have seen how DVR has helped my disabled friend by providing counseling services, paid for classes at the college, helped with traveling expenses to a clinic and a Neurologist expert outside of ALASKA, all of which greatly improved the quality of life of the person in my case. Those services have given him hope when there was no hope otherwise -

I also hear that personal care attendant services are to be cut - What are the disabled people, my friend included, going to do? He depends ~~of~~ on the help from to him by personal care attendant services - Is he going to be left to die? or put in a nursing home? The proposed cuts ~~of~~ are appalling, I am against them!

Signed: Olga N. Vokur Chuska (personal care attendant)
D Friend

Testifier

Peter Holm

Representing (Optional)

Address

Good Afternoon...

My Name is Aharon Dolph. I am 22 Years Old.

I am a V.R. Client.

Local V.R. support is important to me because my telephone skills for making long distance calls are li mi ted. //

V.R. has made a big difference in my life.

I got support for a stuttering problem when speech ther a py was not found anywhere else in Kodiak. //

I also have support for my job to improve my skills at work. //

This has been possible with the local support system in Kodiak.

Local V.R. resources help to make my life better.

Thank you.

Aharon Dolph

1:00 PM 6th
For the Hearing, ~~7:00 PM~~ on March ~~4th~~, 2004

Gentlemen:

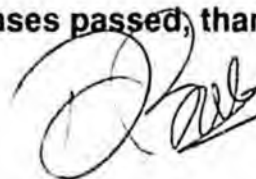
I am a 66-year resident of Kodiak and have a deep human investment here. As a physician I have always been concerned about the people in my community. I served on a number of State Boards as well as the Borough Assembly. More important, I was a founder of a number of non-government volunteer organizations (NGO's) that were formed to meet perceived needs of our people.

As is the case in all developing communities, Kodiak grew and the task of each NGO grew with it, to the point that volunteers either burned out or "went public" by forming non-profit corporations. Over the course of fifty years, most "went public" obtained funds, and were able to hire a director. There are, perhaps, a dozen such organizations and they have filled just about every perceived need in our community. Because volunteers were still involved, they are much more efficient than would be the same services, were they to be provided by the government.

I have been very proud of Kodiak and its sensitivity to the needs of its people. No one has to sleep outside. No one has to go hungry. There is protected housing and counselling for the abused and the abusers. There is treatment available for mental illness and addiction. There are several effective organizations for youth.

Because the State has not provided cost-of-living increase to any of the NGO's over the last ten years, they have been mercilessly "squeezed" for finances. Now, gentlemen, a number of them are severely compromised--Kodiak Youth Services is closing and others are on the verge--because of the austere budget and the flagrant disregard of the most important community enterprise--*caring for people*. You pretend that this is financially necessary when the undivided profits of the permanent fund contain millions of dollars intended to support State services when the need arises.

The need has arisen, and, in some cases passed, thanks to you. You should do something about it!



Dr. Bob Johnson

THE PERMANENT FUND AND THE STATE

In 1967, when the State Legislature instituted the Permanent Fund, we all thought it was a wonderful idea. Many of us thought that this would be our salvation when, or if, the State ever ran into trouble. Since then, due to excellent management and good times, it has grown considerably.

Prior to my three-year stint on the Borough Assembly, 1996-98, I had never been much interested in the management of State finances. During my tenure on the Assembly, I discovered that the State had been squeezing the borough budget for ten years by disregarding the increased cost of living. I learned, also, that there was no long range financial plan. Thus I was pleased to see a proposal by the Alaska Municipal League for a long range plan to use unreserved Permanent Fund income and an income tax that would have provided consistent funding to maintain State services over time.

The League plan was rejected by the legislature and, instead, they have dipped into the Constitutional Budget Reserve, our emergency fund, to cover budget deficits, still reducing funding for basic State programs and local communities.

Reviewing the history of the fund, since its inception, I find the legislature has had the wisdom to allocate a portion of the unreserved funds back into the fund to cover for inflation, and has paid dividends to each of us as well. What was left could have been used for anything the legislature decided—it was not part of the principal and not subject to the need of approval by ballot. I found that, since inception, \$7,394,000,000 had been reinvested back into the principal of the Fund. This year, that figure amounted to \$345,000,000, probably enough to have covered the budget deficit.

The time has come to re-think this matter. The Permanent Fund has reached a point where it will continue to earn enough to provide for inflation and dividends and increase the principal. The unreserved income can be used to beef up faltering State services: maintenance of State buildings, Fish & Game, Highways, Schools, Law Enforcement, etc. If additional funds are needed they should be supplied by an income tax, the most equitable tax, since it takes from those in proportion to what they earn and it taxes the income of the enterprising soul who comes from elsewhere. The dividend could very likely pay the tax for those in the lower income brackets.

A word about Sales Tax. This is the one resource available to local communities to provide local funding for their programs. If Anchorage and Fairbanks need additional income, they may institute their own Sales Tax and not push a State tax that compromises most of the smaller communities.

In summary, gentlemen, it is high time to adopt a long range financial plan. The best plan is to utilize the unreserved earnings of the permanent fund and an income tax, and leave the constitutional budget reserve alone. By all means, do not institute a statewide sales tax!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. B. ...", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

I Bill Adams CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY
YOU SHOOTING DOWN VOTE RECALL WHEN
THERE IS SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE NEED
FOR TRAINING. THEY HELPED ME GO THROUGH
COMPUTER SCHOOL AND ~~AND~~ ^{I AM} LOOKING FORWARD
TO GOING AGAIN. WITH OUT VOTE RECALL I
WOULD HAVE GOTTEN UNEMPLOYED. NOW
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO
PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT AWAY.

Bill Adams
PO Box 8575
Kodiak, AK 99615

Subject: [Fwd: Testemony on Alaska Budget]

Date: Fri, 05 Mar 2004 07:06:27 -0900

From: John Harris <Representative_John_Harris@Legis.state.ak.us>

Organization: Alaska State Legislature

To: Louanne Christian <Louanne_Christian@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: Testemony on Alaska Budget

Date: Thu, 04 Mar 2004 22:48:22 -0900

From: Gayle Trivette <gayletriv@pci.net>

To: Rep.John.Harris@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative Harris,

I am a life-long Alaskan who would like to live out my days here. I was born and raised in Petersburg, graduated from the University of Alaska and have lived in Fairbanks and Anchorage before settling in Juneau. My grandfather spent his last days at the Sitka Pioneers Home. My father spent his last years in the Petersburg Hospital Long Term Care Facility. In his healthy days he had been a long time volunteer at that same facility and served on the city council and various boards. Our older son attends UAF and our younger son attends Juneau Douglas High School. When I was 15 years old the first Alaska Marine Highway ferry came to Petersburg and revolutionized life for those of us who lived there and couldn't afford a plane ticket out. I'm telling you these facts about our family life to demonstrate how important all these pieces of Alaska infrastructure are to us.

Oil money started flowing after I was an adult, so I remember paying a state income tax and a state "school tax" (really an employment tax) to support our needed state infrastructure. We then deducted that state tax from our federal income tax. Since Alaska has such a transient population, I've run into a number of people who have no idea that we used to pay for our state services with an income tax.

When oil money started flowing we were like paupers who had won the lottery. We did build and repair many needed facilities and develop some worthy and necessary programs. There was also a lot of waste and misuse of our wealth. Unfortunately, attacking that waste and misuse of money was overused as a campaign slogan to the point that now many Alaskans have come to believe that any spending of public money is probably wasteful and unnecessary. This mindset has greatly contributed to the sad state of affairs we're in now. The financial policies of the past many years have moved Alaska from trimming fat to amputating arms and legs. The one good thing about the devastating budget cuts we're facing is that they have aroused the public to recognize the importance of our infrastructure and the need to fund it. You elected officials now have the opportunity to move Alaska into a stable and mature financial position by developing a responsible and balanced fiscal plan.

As a lay person who watches politics the way some people watch sports, I don't claim to be an expert, but do have a strong vested interest in living in a state with a healthy economy and method of managing money. No one piece is going to fix our situation, but a combination of disciplined practices should help this state grow up and move forward. Here is a combination that I would propose, with no one piece more important than the other:

1. Adopt the Percentage of Market Value method of calculating the pay out of the permanent fund. Listen to the Permanent Fund Board's recommendations about what percent to pay out each year (I think I heard

5%). Divide that pay out between dividends for every citizen and use for paying for state services and facilities. I don't know what percentage for each. The dividend has been a nice, but not essential part of our family income and has helped with our kids college expenses, but there are many people for whom it is an essential income. It gets spent in Alaska and circulates through our economy.

2. Reinstitute the state income tax. We can deduct it from our federal income tax. The many out of state workers who come here seasonally can help pay for the services and infrastructure they use while here. Residents will be more connected to their government when they're involved with paying for it. Sales tax is an important source of revenue for many communities throughout Alaska. This tax should not be usurped by the state.

3. Re-examine our financial arrangements with the oil companies who are extracting our oil. The Alaska Fair Share Bill (H.B. 441) sounds to me like a balanced approach to getting a proper return for our natural resource, while also giving the oil companies a reasonable profit adjusted to reflect the fluxuation of oil prices. We shouldn't drive the oil companies away with unreasonable taxes, but neither should they reap windfall profits from a resource that belongs to the citizens of this state.

A tremendous amount of energy is being wasted in Alaska fighting about money. A comprehensive financial plan that adjusts for the natural ups and downs of a resource based economy would free up our energy for constructive use in building this state into it's rich potential.

As a parent and part-time school employee I see first hand how much energy is wasted trying to compensate for decreased financial support to our educational system with ever increasing demands for doing more with less. Our children and the future of our entire society are the real losers when staff, programs and transportation are cut. We need stable, adequate funding that includes a formula to compensate for inflation. Without inflation proofing, educators have to spend time and energy trying to pay for education instead of providing education. If the day ever comes when fixed expenses stop rising, the inflation proofing could be abandoned. A sound state financial plan would allow for adequate funding of education and all our other necessary infrastructure. It's time for our state to grow up and move forward. We are rich and blessed and we need to be responsible and thankful.

Thank you very much for the time and energy you are dedicating to the service of the people of Alaska.

Sincerely, Gayle Trivette, 7870 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801

March 5, 2004

*Patricia MacDonald
120 Charles Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701*

Representatives:

*John Harris, Bill Williams, Kevin Meyer, Mitch Chenault, Richard Foster, Mike Hawker,
Bill Stoltze, Hugh "Bud" Fate, Eric Croft, Reggie Joule, and Carl Moses
State Capital, Room 519
Juneau, AK 99801
Fax (907) 465-0813*

Dear Representatives John Harris, Bill Williams, Kevin Meyer, Mitch Chenault, Richard Foster, Mike Hawker, Bill Stoltze, Hugh "Bud" Fate, Eric Croft, Reggie Joule, and Carl Moses:

As an Athabaskan woman, a mother, and a community member I have the responsibility to identify opportunities to make a positive impact on the lives of my children, and the generation to come. I know that as Representatives of this Great State of Alaska that is your goal as well. There are many ways I have found to do that, by teaching through example, through lessons in my home, and by being active in the native community and the community I live in. As Representatives, each of you has made a decision to work to improve and impact the communities that you represent throughout Alaska, and in that we have a common goal.

I have made a conscience choice to work to make a difference in my community so that I can raise my children in a world where they are safe from the violence that I grew up in. In order to work towards that goal I am a board member and strong advocate for the programs offered by the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living.

The Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living and the Shelters, Community Programs, and Crisis Lines across that State provide the services that are desperately needed within each of our communities.

The funding that you appropriate to the CDVSA impacts programs across the State including in communities that you represent. Currently this funding is down \$648,000 from the amount allocated to the grants line in the FY04 budget. If this funding is not fully funded the impact will be felt not only by the victims, but also by the courts and jails and schools, and social service agencies that will need to provide additional services and deal with the impact, because the violence will continue if not increase. It is imperative that each of you view Domestic Violence and Violent Crime as possibilities that could impact you, your families, your communities and your State; because I assure you it can.

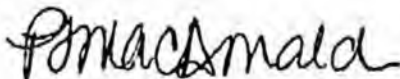
Why is this so important to me? Because I am only one of the many victims across Alaska that need the valuable services provided by the agencies that receive funding via the CDVSA. Please indulge me as I share my story.

Having grown up in the Interior of Alaska I have witnessed the effects of physical and sexual assault directly. As a small child I watched as my mother was beat time and again; when I was seven I watched as they buried my grandmother--she had frozen to death on her front porch, in the village, while her husband was drinking inside; and as a young girl I was sexually and physically assaulted with no resources, no shelter, no advocates, and no where to turn. I was one of the lucky survivors. Somehow, through sheer grace, I am privileged to be a functioning adult, with a 14-year marriage, and four wonderful children that are growing up in a safe home. I have a wonderful career and I am an active part of my community working to make changes for those who are so much less fortunate.

Do we, myself, and each of you, not have an obligation to work together to help those that are victims to build safe and successful lives? We are the privileged, and it is time that we take the time and energy and commit to changing lives. As Representatives on the House Budget Committee, you each have the power to do just that. Please consider with compassion the changes that can continue to be made by the financial support you provide to the CDVSA. Do not cut funding in this very vital area. There are many fiscal needs before you, but let me assure you, the fiscal needs of the CDVSA and the agencies it supports may impact you or someone you love.

Thank you for allowing me this time to share my story, and my requests.

Sincerely yours,



*Patricia MacDonald, Vice-President
Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living*

PO Box 2742
Homer, Alaska 99603



Phone (907) 235-3436
Fax (907) 235-8346

family planning clinic

March 3, 2004

House Finance Committee Members
Alaska State Legislature
23rd Legislature, Second Session

Dear Representative Harris,

The proposed rejection of \$412,000 in Federal Title X funds would drastically affect us here in the Southern Kenai Peninsula. We provide low-income women and families reproductive health care using these funds, of which approximately \$100,000 comes to our agency. The guidelines on how this money can be spent is very specific: income-qualifying uninsured women receive annual exams including Pap smears, contraceptives, and screening tests. Our low-cost vasectomy program for men is also funded through Title X. About half of our Title X clients are under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, and the individuals who are between 100-250 of FPL contribute a portion of their health care costs, further stretching our dollars.

These funds are extremely important to our clients: in 2003 we provided 692 annual exams for women with this money. We had a total of 1,633 client visits—other services provided were contraceptive-related, STI (sexually transmitted infection) testing, or health education and counseling.

Of course, none of this money is spent on abortions, which are not provided here at our agency, or in Homer. We provide abstinence education for adolescents, and our small staff has five certified Adoption Counselors. We are strong advocates in the community for family involvement in adolescent issues, for parents as teachers, and for all individuals making healthy choices. We are therefore an indispensable resource for those needing basic reproductive health care services: without our Title X funds, women, adolescents and families would be left only with the full fees charged by the private medical clinics and pharmacies. A package of birth control pills that we can provide for \$5—thanks to Title X—costs \$35 at the local pharmacy. We know many, most actually, of our clients are not able to afford this, or the cost of a yearly annual exam at the physician's office, and could become pregnant. They would then be eligible for Medicaid, which would place a greater burden on that system.

This \$412,000 is federal money providing a huge benefit for State residents, particularly in our area. A further look at our statistics for our Title X services reveal the following numbers in 2003:



A United Way Member Agency

- 692 annual exams provided
- 515 contraceptive visits provided
- 361 pregnancy tests provided
- 520 sexually transmitted infection tests provided
- 16 low-cost or no-cost vasectomies were provided to men who could not otherwise afford the service
- 437 referrals made to medical providers, or to social services
- 53% of our Title X clients are under 100% of Federal Poverty Level; (they do not qualify for Medicaid)

Our business continues to grow—more families and individuals are in need of basic health care at an affordable cost to them. The Title X guidelines are very stringent—funds are used in the most effective and efficient manner, and under no circumstances for controversial services. We work very hard for our Title X money, compiling detailed data and striving for the highest level of excellence in reproductive health care. We have close alliances with Homer Public Health Department, Homer Medical Clinic, Kachemak Bay Medical Clinic, Community Mental Health, South Peninsula Hospital, South Peninsula Women's Services, and many other community agencies.

And finally, the Title X funding is our major funding source at Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic. Were we to lose these funds, staff and services would need to be cut drastically. I'm not even able to imagine it fully—client need would remain the same, yet there would be absolutely no funding. It would certainly be a huge blow to our community's residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do contact me if you have any questions or concerns; I would be happy to discuss them further.

Sincerely,



Michelle Waneka
Executive Director

To: House Finance Comm. Hee
03-04-04

April 28, 2003

To: Interior Delegation

From: Arctic Alliance for People Legislative Committee

Re: Request for examples of State savings generated by programs supported by the Health and Social Services Community Matching Grant (in Fairbanks alone)

Summary of estimated State savings by a sampling of agencies funded by the Community Matching Grant in the Fairbanks North Star Borough:

North Star Council on the Aging:

In answer to your inquiries, NSCoA provides home-delivered meals to 151 homebound persons. Proper nutrition promotes good health and helps to keep people out of nursing facilities and the hospital. The cost per meal is \$10.34 per day. The cost to stay at Denali Center is \$350 per day and \$825 per day at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

Not everyone who receives Meals on Wheels (MOW) is a candidate for the nursing home, but let's conservatively estimate that the MOW program is helping to keep 20% of MOW recipients (30 individuals) out of the hospital. Let's assume that the average time in the hospital is 1 week followed by 1 month (30 days) convalescence at Denali Center. Then:

$30 \text{ persons} \times (\$825/\text{TMH day} \times 7 \text{ days}) + (\$350/\text{Denali day} \times 30 \text{ days}) = \$315,000$ savings to the state in medical costs.

Hospice of the Tanana Valley:

Without the availability of the services and support of Hospice staff and volunteers, many patients with terminal illnesses and their families would be forced to use the facilities of assisted living homes, the Denali Center or the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, especially in the days or weeks immediately preceding the patient's death. In other cases, when a need exists but the patient's condition is not yet critical enough, insurer limitations or lack of coverage can result in the patient and family going without any assistance if Hospice volunteer services were not available.

In 2002, 104 patients were served by Hospice with an average length of stay in the program of 82 days for a total of 8,502 patient days. Using 2002 Hospice expenses of \$173,002, the cost per patient per day was about \$20. The average daily cost for room and care at an assisted living home is about \$130, at Denali Center about \$350, and at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital about \$2,750.

If 40% of the Hospice patient days in 2002 were spent in care at an assisted living home, the cost would have been over \$442,104. If 30% of the Hospice patient days in 2002 were spent in care at the Denali Center, the cost would have been about \$892,710. If 20% of the Hospice patient days were spent in care at the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, the cost would have been about \$4.7 million.

Hospice bereavement clients indicated they would not have received any bereavement support had Hospice services been unavailable. Research supports the rationale that stress and trauma from unresolved grief results in illness, lost work, substance abuse, relationship and parent-child difficulties

①

(dysfunction). Offering bereavement support lessens the demands for other Human Services, thereby resulting in long-term cost savings to the family, community and to the state.

The requested grant of \$50,000 supports about 32% of Hospice's personnel costs including benefits and payroll expenses. If the State of Alaska were to directly provide the same services as were delivered by Hospice in 2002, the cost for the equivalent personnel is estimated as follows:

Director of Hospice Services	
<i>AK Social Worker Level 4, \$31.45/hour, full-time</i>	\$65,416
Bereavement Services Coordinator	
<i>AK Social Worker Level 4, \$31.45/hour, 3/4 time</i>	\$49,062
Volunteer Coordinator	
<i>AK Social Worker Level 1, \$23.78/hour, 374 hours</i>	\$8,894
Office Manager	
<i>AK Admin. Asst., \$23.78/hour, 1481 hours</i>	\$35,218
Patient Care Coordinator	
<i>AK Social Worker Level 1, \$23.78/hour, 1074.5 hours</i>	\$25,552
Patient Care/Bereavement Volunteers	
<i>Certified Nurses Aide, \$15.44/hour, 7326 hours</i>	\$113,113
Office Volunteers	
<i>AK Secretary Level 3, \$19.76/hour, 3/4 time</i>	\$30,826
Professional Service Volunteers	
<i>Doctors, nurses, accountants, counselors, board & committee members, \$60/hour, 3,439 hours</i>	<u>\$206,340</u>
Total direct State personnel cost	\$534,421
Less cost to State (grant to Hospice)	<u>\$50,000</u>
Savings to the State	\$484,421

North Star Youth Court:

The NSYC, and other youth courts, directly and indirectly save the state money.

1. Each youth offender accepted by a youth court means one less case for a juvenile probation officer, an Assistant Attorney General or District Attorney, a Public Defender, and the Superior Court. These State employees and agencies can spend their efforts on more serious cases. The State will not have to hire additional probation officers and attorneys to handle an increased load of juvenile offenders.

Cost per case to the State:

\$67,000 (average salary of Juvenile PO's directly accepting referrals) ÷
7 (Juvenile PO's) / 916 (referrals rec'd in 2002) = \$512 per case. NSYC
accepted 120 cases during 2002 x \$512 saving the State \$61,440.

2. Juvenile offenders who face consequences for misdemeanor offenses are less likely to continue to commit crimes or to commit more serious

crimes. This reduces the case loads not only on the state employees listed above, but also on state and local police forces.

The NSYC maintains a recidivism rate of less than 10% in comparison to the State's 24% recidivism rate. So...let's say that a youth, as a result of being held accountable for a criminal act in youth court, does not engage in criminal behavior in the future. In the absence of this program, he or she would not be held accountable by the Division of Juvenile Justice. It costs the state \$170 per day (in Fairbanks) to incarcerate/institutionalize a juvenile who has been formally adjudicated by the division. Out of 100 cases per year, let's conservatively estimate that 5 of these youth have made choices that have not led to future criminal behavior on the felony level (or multiple misdemeanors) that would result in formal adjudication and a period of lock-up. Five youth x \$170/day x 6 month stay in a home or detention facility = \$153,000 direct savings to the State

3. Juvenile offenders cause expensive property damage not only to private parties but also to state and local government property. Youth courts seek and enforce restitution for vandalism and theft. Anything youth courts can do to diminish property crimes will benefit the State.

4. Youth courts are operating independent court systems with VOLUNTEER attorneys, judges, and court personnel. If the State were to attempt to replace youth courts with an equivalent court system, the State would have to employ attorneys, paralegals, court personnel, and judges, with current State wages and benefits. It is almost inconceivably cost-effective to have these legal and judicial positions filled for FREE by teen-age volunteers.

5. Youth courts provide legal training for many youth. These youth, even if they never participate in a youth court, have had basic education in criminal and juvenile law, the ethics of being an attorney, the roles of police, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges, and the impact of crime on victims and the community. This kind of education makes teen-agers more aware of the impact of crime, what constitutes criminal behavior, and why the legal system operates as it does. Such educated youth can be expected to be more law-abiding because of their education. To duplicate this kind of training as a State activity would require hiring professional teachers or attorneys. The State benefits from better educated youth without having to pay for it.

Big Brothers Big Sisters - Greater Fairbanks Area:

Big Brothers Big Sisters, by matching at-risk kids with positive adult role-models, is a positive youth development and prevention program, preventing such behaviors as delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, and failure at school. The costs of the alternatives to prevention are staggering. Institutional drug rehabilitation costs approximately \$500 a day. Incarceration of a minor

costs \$62,050 per year. The cost of one full time caseworker, providing services to over 50 matched and 30 unmatched at-risk children for a full year is less than 1/2 the cost of incarcerating a single juvenile. The number of school-aged children in the Borough is 16,337. The number of youth arrests is approximately 450, making the juvenile arrest rate about 3%. If we apply that arrest rate to the 402 kids served by Big Brothers Big Sisters, we can conservatively estimate that 12 youngsters would have been arrested if they hadn't received our services. If even only two had gone on to be incarcerated, the cost to the State would have been **\$124,100**. This is a very conservative estimate, as the population we serve has higher risk factors than the general population from which we are calculating the arrest rate.

In 2002 over 35,000 hours of companionship, mentoring and friendship were provided by our volunteer Big Brothers and Big Sisters to the children with whom they were matched. When compared to the cost of professional counseling services (much of which could potentially be medicaid billable) at a rate of anywhere from \$50 to \$200 per hour, this represents a savings of between **\$1,750,000 to \$7,000,000**.

Fairbanks Community Food Bank:

In the past twelve months we have provided food assistance in the following ways:

FOOD BOX PROGRAM: 27,000 different people in the Fairbanks North Star Borough and Delta have received a minimum of 20 pounds of food each. Half of the people served are local children.

WOODEN NICKELS: 1500 overnight emergency sacks of food.

BONEBUILDERS: 143 street children were served 4,453 pounds of food in community donated backpacks.

USDA COMMODITIES, TEFAP: Once a month distribution of government food which supplements over 1,000 enrolled households. One-third of these households are military.

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP): Once a month commodities program which extends services to WIC clientele and to seniors over 60. The caseload for this program is 1100.

There is NO duplication of services between the local food box program and the USDA Commodities food programs.

- We do this work with an annual budget of approximately \$300,000. This is possible because we are primarily a volunteer agency and recycle community surplus items, such as food, plastic sacks, paper sacks. There is no easy way to place a value on those recyclable items because we do not have processing centers in Alaska for such items as cardboard and plastic, so the best way is to reuse them, and we do.
- 9/10s of the food we collect each day is being discarded by over 100 local commercial vendors. Would that food find it's way into the City dump if we weren't here? If so,

that would impact our dump with 1,800,000 additional pounds/year. The fee charged by the Fairbanks North Star Borough is \$50/ton, so the value of 900 tons of wasted food is \$45,000.

- Over 50% of the people we serve with local surplus food only need one or two food boxes to get them over their emergency situation. Is the alternative of (1) having families not have nutritious food for their households, or (2) connecting them to more expensive service delivery sources (like food stamps) a good option, when we can simply solve their immediate problem with surplus food collected in the community.
- In Fairbanks we have an organized way of sharing our local resources and a way to connect the youngest and oldest volunteers with effective and pleasant work experiences. There is no way to measure the dollar value of this gift of service to the community, but we do log over 17,000 volunteer hours which we then value at \$7.00/hr. With that simple formula, the value of this service to the community is \$119,000.
- Using the same logic, the food we collect is very conservatively valued at \$1.00/pound (the national standard is \$1.67/pound). That recovers over \$2,000,000 of surplus food in this community each year.
- By providing an outlet for USDA food, we facilitate this communities' ability to increase food capacity by \$80/box/month for food provided to households. Last year for the TEFAP program that amounted to \$336,000 in delivered food. This year we will add an additional \$88,000/month or \$1,056,000/annually in the CSFP program. The total annual value of this "new" food (both TEFAP and CSFP programs) to supplement local households will be \$1,392,000. This is food that would not be available to share with our local people without a food bank distribution point.
- There are other less definable qualities, such as the idea that if food was not readily available, would folks have a need to steal or suffer stress which is manifested in alcoholism, child abuse, domestic violence. We hear stories which lead us to believe that, but there is no way to really measure it in dollars and cents.
- In community capacity building, we also give donors a place to invest their hard earned dollars. One donor invested over \$2,000,000 in a new building for us (which he would not have done without us) and foundations such as Kraft and Rasmuson have invested \$40,000 - \$87,000/year in bricks and mortar and vehicles. We build community here.

November 25, 2003

**A Look at Unmet Needs in the Fairbanks North Star Borough
through the Health and Human Services Community Matching Block Grant
administered by the FNSB Health and Social Services Commission**

The FNSB Health and Social Services Commission has developed a scoring rubric to assist Commissioners with the evaluation of the grant requests that are submitted each year. This rubric has helped the Commission evaluate each proposal in terms of demonstration of community need, efficiency and effectiveness of program delivery, non-duplication of services, and measurable positive outcomes produced. Funding decisions are thus based on solid and demonstrable criteria, not reputation of agency or smoothness of grant-writing. This process has become a true example of results-based funding and could be a model for the concept of "missions and measures" that the State is looking to utilize in its own budget and funding decisions.

In the development of the rubric, it was decided that a minimum score of 70 would be required for a program to be eligible for funding. In a recent discussion with Senate President Gene Therriault it was suggested that one possible tool for determining the unmet social services needs for the Borough would be to look at the number of grant applications that scored above that benchmark yet were unable to receive funding due to the amount available that year. Here is a summary:

FY 2001

Funded Programs:	13	Total distribution	\$578,797
Partially funded program:	1	\$ short of request:	\$ 41,214
Unfunded Programs scoring over 70:	6	\$ short of request	\$284,277

Partially funded program: FNA Chronic Inebriate Program
 Unfunded Programs: Fairbanks Counseling & Adoption Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention
 ALPA & Literacy Council Family Literacy Program
 Boys & Girls Clubs After School Programs
 Love, Inc. Transportation Program
 Campfire Boys and Girls Public Housing Center Program
 Fairbanks Community Mental Health Homeless Outreach

FY 2002

Funded Programs:	13	Total distribution	\$576,724
Partially funded program:	1	\$ short of request	\$ 33,183
Unfunded Programs scoring over 70:	4	\$ short of request.	\$143,970

Partially funded program: National Senior Service Corps Transportation program
 Unfunded Programs: FNA Chronic Inebriate Program
 The Salvation Army Homelessness Prevention
 Campfire Boys and Girls After School Programs
 Fairbanks Crisis Clinic Suicide Prevention

(6)

FY 2003**

Funded Programs:	10	Total distribution	\$481,512
Partially funded program:	1	\$ short of request	\$ 36,590
Unfunded Programs scoring over 70:	5	\$ short of request	\$204,983

Partially funded program: National Senior Service Corps Transportation program
 Unfunded Programs: Access Alaska Adaptive Equipment program
 Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living Suicide prevention
 BreadLine Soup Kitchen and Day Labor programs
 The Salvation Army Dental Care program
 Literacy Council of Alaska Adult Literacy program

**Funds available for distribution had been reduced at the State level from the prior year
 Impact to Fairbanks: \$97,285 less funding available (could have funded 3 additional programs)

FY 2004****

Funded Programs:	6	Total distribution	\$331,014
Partially funded program:	1	\$ short of request	\$ 18,544
Unfunded Programs scoring over 70:	7	\$ short of request	\$333,500

Partially funded program: Interior AIDS Association Methadone Program
 Unfunded Programs: National Senior Service Corps Transportation program
 Hospice of the Tanana Valley Patient Care and Bereavement
 ACCA Early Intervention programs
 BreadLine Soup Kitchen and Day Labor programs
 FNA Chronic Inebriate Program
 Boys & Girls Clubs Summer Day Camp
 Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption Teen Wilderness program

****Funds available for distribution had again been reduced at the State level from the prior year
 Impact to Fairbanks: \$150,498 less funding available (could have funded four additional programs)

Total reduction in dollars available TO FAIRBANKS AREA PROGRAMS (combined State and local) over the last two years is approximately \$250,000. That is a 43% reduction since FY2002. Most of the programs applying for funds from this source either prevent the need for state-funded services or provide a cost-efficient alternative to state programs. The long term effect of this reduction will be an increase in cost to the State – in terms of Medicaid spending, public assistance, and both juvenile and adult incarceration. We need to reverse this trend!

This year we are anticipating that Mat/Su will apply for funds through this Block Grant as they are now eligible due to the growth in their population. Mat/Su's participation will drastically further reduce funds available to the FNSB unless an increase is sought.

Subject: Operating Budget Testimony

Date: Thu, 04 Mar 2004 15:55:24 -0900

From: "Nevada Bovee" <Nevada@northernschoolsfcu.org>

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

CC: <Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Bill_Williams@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Carl_Moses@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_David_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Eric_Croft@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Hugh_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Kevin_Meyer@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Mike_Chenault@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Mike_Hawker@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Reggie_Joule@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative_Richard_Foster@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for the invitation to provide testimony to the Finance Committee on the operating budget.

My name is Nevada Bovee. I live at 1845 Caribou Way in Fairbanks, Alaska, I have lived in Alaska for more than 25 years and my husband is a lifelong Alaskan and business owner. Between us, my husband and I have four children. I grew up in Fairbanks and attended public school as well as later on attended and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. My daughters and stepsons have also attended public school and my oldest daughter is currently attending UAF, and my oldest stepson has recently completed several classes at UAF.

I am an active participant in my community and have been for many years. I currently serve as Chair of the Fairbanks, Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and President of the Fairbanks Chapter of the University of Alaska Alumni Association, I also participate with my daughters Parent Student Teacher Association. In addition to my civic involvement, I participate in the community through my job as Vice President of Marketing for Northern Schools Federal Credit Union. I provide free workshops and seminars for youth in our schools and for adults in transition on the Fundamentals of Personal Finance, Career and Employment Strategies, and Interpersonal Skill and Communication Development. I have also participated in several panels to help inform parents and students on various options for financing higher education and have served on an advisory group with West Valley High School Counseling Department to help develop and evolve various student programs and community relations. I have been a member of the Choice Lions group and have helped with many other organizations and fund raising efforts over the years. I am a registered voter, vote at all elections and encourage my family, friends and others to be informed voters.

I realize you all have a very challenging situation with the budget and fiscal gap and I thank you for your concerns and commitment to funding for education, health and social services, and public safety. I did have an opportunity to talk with many Legislators last week when I attended the Juneau Fly-in with a delegation of the Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska; and what I heard was that education is a top priority and you would like input on how we, the citizens of Alaska, would pay for the state's educational needs along with financial needs for social services, public safety, Department of Natural Resources and all the other financial needs to keep this state running at optimal and healthy levels. I also realize there are no easy

solutions, if there were you would have already discovered and implemented them. You must continue to work for creative solutions, be willing to use resources that are politically hot, and to create opportunities for future revenue streams that will meet the needs of our citizens. While the average citizen may not like the idea of taxes and using the Permanent Fund we have to be realistic. Having \$27+ billion dollars in the Permanent Fund and not using reasonable portions of the money to meet the needs of essential programs such as education and health and social services now is like a millionaire who chooses to live homeless and in ill-health and forces his family to do the same. The fund has grown substantially over the last several years and surely it can sustain itself (even in a poor market cycle) without reinvesting such high percentages of the earnings back into the fund just to protect its value.

I, for one, am ready to use earnings from the Permanent Fund to help provide the necessary money. I support POMV and would also support an education tax to provide ongoing funds that would be dedicated to the needs of all our state's school districts. Our schools, both K-12 and University of Alaska have been trimming budgets for several years now. The University of Alaska has trimmed \$20 million dollars in the last few years and students have agreed to a tuition increase of 10% per year over a three year period. Our local school district has cut several administrative positions, cut educational programs such as summer school, and have increased or incorporated new fees for several programs including correspondence classes. The University and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District have also been increasing revenue from grants and various authority receipts to help fulfill their budget needs. However, without full funding at the state and local level some of these matching grants will no longer be available, causing even greater hardship to local budget needs. Students in Anchorage have been paying fees to participate in extracurricular sports and that trend is spreading across the state. My point is that the leaders of these public services recognize the need for efficiency and are doing what they can, however they are not in the same position as a regular private business. They do not have multiple revenue streams and many of the fixed costs are mandated, thus they cannot be reduced. They are public services and as such should be funded by the public resources. In addition, we must support our Legislators' efforts to find solutions to resolve the PERC and TERS issues that befall all our public service organizations. As you know the TERS and PERS issue is not a single one-time fix. The increased mandated employer contributions will have a major impact on these organizational budgets for the next three or more years. So we must look for a long-term solutions and not a one-time quick fix.

I am not pleased with the proposed cuts of the GOP Majority or our local School Board. I would like to remind you that an educated society tends to make better lifestyle decisions resulting in better health and lower health care costs. Preventative health care has also been proven to reduce costs of treatment in the long run. By making the dramatic cuts to the Medicaid program, in my opinion, is truly taking a step backwards and will cost the State of Alaska more money in the long run.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough needs your support in Education and Social Services. The proposed cuts will have a major impact on the quality of education and the quality of life in our community. The loss of 100 teachers and 20 other special staff is extremely undesirable. Education is much more than the Three Rs. Add the Arts, Languages and Extracurricular Sports to Reading, Writing and Arithmetic and then you have a comprehensive, well rounded education that will benefit the entire community and State of Alaska. These additional educational opportunities teach fundamental skills and student learn critical

learning processes as well. A well rounded education provides students with stronger leadership skills, interpersonal skill development, co-operation and team work that will serve them on a family level and employment level. The Arts and Sports also allow students to develop critical thinking skills, independent learning, creativity, time management skills, and many other self management skills, including responsibility and accountability to a greater cause.

Our students who live and learn in Alaska need to feel confident that they will find work in Alaska that will pay a family wage. We need to keep the talented teachers, engineers, medical professionals, and the people in so many other vocations in Alaska. By not funding these programs and reducing essential teaching programs now we will lose these talented and devoted people to other states and they may not be so inclined to return when the state gets to better financial footing. We need to protect our human resources for the future of Alaska as well as our natural resources.

Thank you for your time and attention to my views. I would also like to state that I have learned quite a bit about the challenges this state and my local community face over the last few years. Sometimes I think one of your greatest challenges is educating the public on the issues and options so that they can make responsible decisions. I feel confident that people will make the appropriate decisions given enough information and have the ability to realize that the emotions and opinions should not be the fundamental focus of the issues. I would like to leave you with a quote that has impressed me for more than 20 years. "As the individual grows the community grows." I am just one of many prime examples of the this truism. Please know that I am counting on you to stay strong and make those tough decisions that may not always be popular but may be the right thing to do.

Nevada Bovee
1845 Caribou Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Nevada Bovee
Vice President, Marketing

Northern Schools and you, a winning combination!

**Fairbanks North Star
Borough
Health & Social
Services Commission**

FY 2003

**Human Services Community Matching Grant
Highlights of the Community Impact**

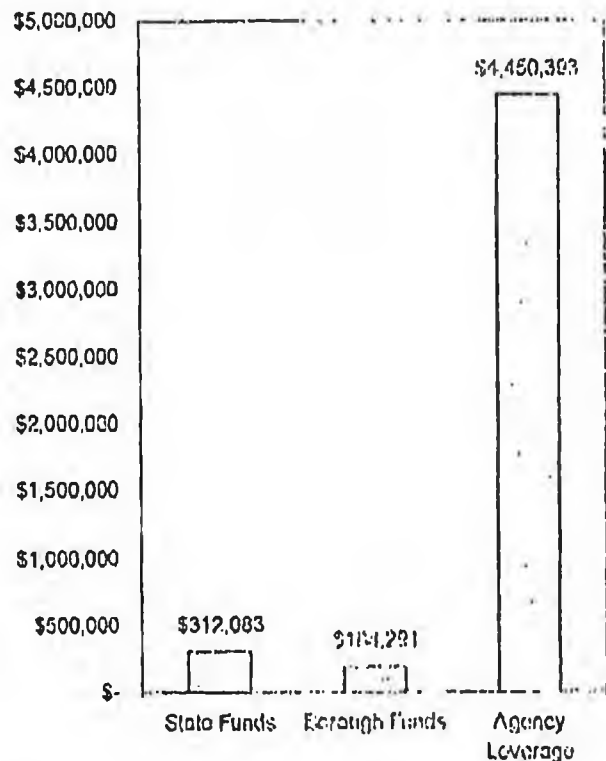
Grant Funds Were Distributed to Eleven Non-profit Agencies

- ACCA
- Alaska Legal Services Corporation
- Big Brothers / Big Sisters
- Fairbanks Community Food Bank
- Fairbanks Native Association
- Hospice of the Tanana Valley
- Interlor AIDS Association
- Interlor Community Health Center
- National Senior Service Corps
- North Star Council on Aging
- North Star Youth Court

The agencies used state funds to leverage fourteen times that amount in the value of services to the community

	FY 2003
State funds	\$ 312,083
Borough funds	\$ 184,291
Income generated by projects	\$ 294,776
Other funds received by projects	\$ 1,588,481
In-kind generated by projects	\$ 2,567,136
Total value to the community	\$ 4,946,767

Funding Leverage



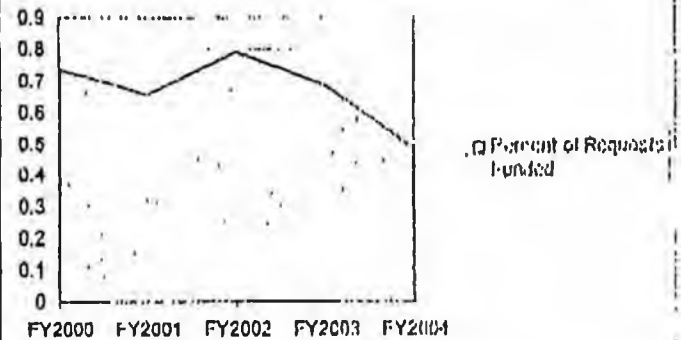
Highlights of Services Provided

- Distributed 1,360,798 pounds of food to hungry people using 16,147 volunteer hours
- Homebound seniors received 38,480 hot meals delivered to their home
- 2,081 low income individuals received primary and preventative medical care services
- 366 terminally ill people and their loved ones received direct care and support
- 250 individuals received legal advice and referrals for housing, family law, health, and income-maintenance problems
- 522 children spent time with their Big Brother / Big Sister, enriching their lives with adult attention and support; over 68% showed improvement in school performance
- 92 youth were arraigned in youth court, diverting work from the formal juvenile justice system; youth defendants paid \$3,086 in restitution and contributed 1,615 hours of community service
- Provided transportation for 3,809 senior volunteer trips from their residences to 27 active workstations
- Community Service Patrol drivers picked-up and transported 1386 public inebriates

State Funding Decreased 42% Since FY 2002.

The community lost the potential to generate \$459,466, \$769,652, and \$1,287,480 of other funds, project income and in-kind contributions in FY02-03-04 respectively, due to insufficient state funding.

Percent of Requests Funded FY00-FY04



FY 2004 Human Services Community Matching Grant Projects Funded

Agency	Brief Project Description	Grant Amount	Other Funds, Project Income & In-Kind Contributions
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Match children in need of additional adult attention with adult volunteers.	\$50,000	\$919,802
Fairbanks Community Food Bank	Collect local surplus food and give it to people who need it, through agencies who are trained to identify and respond to those needs.	\$40,000	\$2,052,000
Alaska Legal Services Corp.	Provide legal assistance to low-income families (those with incomes below 125% of poverty level) in civil cases such as housing, income, public assistance benefits, health care and family law.	\$10,000	\$60,508
Interior Community Health Center	Provide preventative & primary health care services on a sliding fee schedule to low & moderate income people.	\$50,000	\$181,000
North Star Council on Aging	Deliver hot healthy meals to homebound elders living within the FNSB, to include frozen meal service on weekends.	\$50,000	\$268,343
North Star Youth Court	Operate community-based juvenile justice diversion and victim/offender mediation program.	\$50,000	\$181,800
Interior AIDS Association	Provide a full service, methadone maintenance treatment program to opiate dependent persons. (Requested \$49,550 but only \$31,014 was available)	\$31,014	\$130,718
Total Projects Funded		\$331,014	\$3,825,327

FY 2004 Human Services Community Matching Grant Projects NOT Funded

Interior AIDS Association	Balance of request not funded	\$10,544	\$0
National Senior Service Corps	Support transportation needs of senior citizens volunteering their time through Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP programs.	\$50,000	\$314,014
Legacy of the Tanana Valley	Provide Patient Care Services and support to terminally ill people and their loved ones. Provide Bereavement Services, education, information and training on issues relating to death and dying, grief and loss.	\$50,000	\$539,134
ACCA	Provide early intervention services to children, age birth to three, in social services custody who begin life with medical, biological or social risks and who experience developmental delays.	\$20,000	\$10,225
Bread Line, Inc.	Feed people through the Soup Kitchen, operate a day labor program, and supply donated clothing and other household goods to those in need.	\$40,000	\$115,130
Fairbanks Native Association	Provide a van service that picks up public inebriates and substance abusers, assesses their condition, and transports them to an appropriate facility.	\$50,000	\$160,294
Boys & Girls Club of the Tanana Valley	Provide an affordable summer day camp program where youth ages 8-12 participate in programs and activities designed to encourage academic and social development, positive choices, increased self esteem and competence.	\$50,000	\$70,275
Fairbanks Counseling & Adoption	Engage at-risk youth ages 14-18 in the positive physical and emotional challenges of wilderness adventure leading to the cessation of substance abuse, achievement of physical fitness and school/job retention culminating in an increased capacity for making a positive pro-social outlook on life.	\$45,000	\$64,430
Total Projects Not Funded		\$352,044	\$1,287,480

Total Project Request for FY 2004

\$683,058

\$5,112,807



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Etc
 Committee on HB 375 Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 3/4/04

Please re-instate funding for Alaska Legal Services Corp. (ALSC) that organization provides legal representation to indigent Alaskans who would otherwise be at the mercy of our judicial system. From my service on the ALSC Board of Directors, I have seen first-hand the dedication and commitment of ALSC staff, and the difference that their efforts can make, the lives of their clients. ALSC deserves the continued support of the Alaska Legislature, at least at the modest level of the current fiscal year (\$125K). I urge you to support ALSC's work on behalf of Alaska's indigent residents. Thank you!

SIGNED:



Cameron M. Leonard

Testifier

Board of Directors (Alternate) - Alaska Legal Services Corp.
 Representing

1100 Solitude Way Fairbanks AK 99709
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE
 Committee on SOA OPERATING BUDGET Dated 03.04.04
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

Honorable Representatives, Thank you for this opportunity to testify at public hearing on the state operating budget. I did my taxes this weekend. 4% of my income went to U of Alaska student groups, museum, public media, alumni scholarships, and the University of Alaska Foundation. In addition, I accrued 240 hours of community service, serving the same university assets. This adds a lot to our community, the university on the hill is a shining jewel in Fairbanks. Moreover, I am not ashamed to get my fellow alumni to contribute their time and money. THERE IS ONE THING I REGRET. MY SERVICE TO MY ALMA MATER DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO ITS OPERATING FUND. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO FEEL THE SAME WAY. So, I am willing to set up a payment plan with the state of Alaska to support university education in Alaska. Let's work together to figure out how this payment plan works, either as an income tax, a program to draw on permanent fund earnings, and keep the dialogue from the Conference of Alaskans fresh, working toward a fiscal plan.

SIGNED:

MARIA MUELLER

Testifier

PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE UOFA

Representing

516 AUKLET PLACE FAIRBANKS AK. 99709-6653

Address / Phone Number 907.479.6780



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
 Committee on Budget Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 3/4/04

Good Evening,

as the Administrative Director of a group that enables 5 different organizations to fulfill their mission of helping our fellow community members, (Head Start) (BCPE) (Literacy Council) (WIC) (INHC) any assistance in the way of funding our capital request that I recently e-mailed representatives Fols would be greatly appreciated, even if only a partial commitment. We can help the legislature stretch account funds in an effective manner. Thank you.

SIGNED:

Karl R. Green

Testifier

Fairbanks Community Development Foundation

Representing

841 Nine Mile Hill Rd. Fairbanks AK 99712

Address / Phone Number

907-488-0713



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
 Committee on Governor's Budget Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 3/4/04

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Alaska, and is responsible for one out of every five deaths in our state. Currently with the tobacco settle money and tobacco tax the state is taking in over \$70 million dollars. If the proposed tobacco tax goes into effect that figure will top \$100 million. The US Center for Disease Control has recommended that our state spend \$16 million on Tobacco Prevention. That is not happening yet in Alaska. We need to work harder!

I totally support the Administration Amendment to remedying last year's miss laid \$1,061,000 that went into the Medicaid fund by giving it back to Tobacco Prevention. I thank the commissioner for bringing this forward for you attention.

I urge you to maintain the Legislature's commitment to fund at least the 20% level for Tobacco Prevention. Your commitment to fund tobacco prevention, will brighten the future of our children, lower the cost the state has to spend to treat tobacco diseases, and improve the health of Alaskans.

SIGNED:

Diana M. Donnell

Testifier

FAIR AIR

Representing

P.O. Box 8189 Fairbanks AK 99708

Address / Phone Number

479-5421

THANK YOU, MIKE SIGLER, PARENT OF 2 SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN
JUNEAU

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE FROM A JUNEAU RESIDENT

Juneau Schools face increased class sizes

A looming budget gap is facing the Juneau School District that will severely affect the quality of education in our public schools. Unless the Legislature increases education funding for the next fiscal year, Juneau schools face a ten percent increase in class size, making classes with 28 students per elementary school teacher commonplace. Our children will be less likely to succeed in school with this increase and more children will fall through the cracks.

The City of Juneau and the State of Alaska both contribute funding for schools. Currently, the City's contribution is at the maximum legally allowed (the "cap").
Local

teachers received a well-deserved raise this year as their salaries have not kept up with inflation. In contrast to the local support shown for schools, the State contribution to Alaska schools has risen little in the last decade. The Legislature and Governor claim they will "protect education funding", but this only means they will not cut from current funding levels. In the meantime, inflation has chipped away at education funding and the real value of student funding has decreased. We are holding our children's feet to the fire by setting education benchmarks, but we also need to provide the funding needed for each student to have a fair chance at meeting the new testing requirements.

The Governor and Legislature need to change the meaning of "protecting education" from "no education cuts" to "increase education funding". For Juneau schools, a \$400 increase in the per-student allocation would maintain classes at the existing size, rather than suffering an increase in class size. Increasing funding to match inflation also is critical. I request that education funding be increased to meet our children's basic public education needs. I am willing to pay for these increases through broad-based taxes.

Re: Support for Public Health Nursing Fund Restoration

Page 2 of 2

March 3, 2004

Services provided by Public Health Nurses also help to expand access to health care, in communities where there are no providers, or when other providers are unavailable to serve.

Among the most pressing and important service issues are increasing demands for disease control services. This fall, for example, public health nurses were on the front lines responding to cases of Viral Meningitis, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Salmonella and a near-record flu season. Increased surveillance and continued follow up for the 2000-2001 tuberculosis outbreak continues to be needed. Achieving and sustaining immunization rates to protect our children, youth and adults at risk are all essential outcomes in the Department of Health and Social Services mission and measures.

Disease control efforts, as we have been reminded today, are central to delivering the State's constitutional mandate to protect and promote the public's health. It is also critical in assuring Alaska's viability as a tourist destination and place where businesses want to operate.

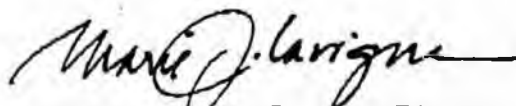
We are deeply concerned with the impact of budget cuts to Public Health Nursing. The dilemma of reduced funding and support for the Division of Public Health has resulted in a restructuring of Alaska's Public Health Nursing services, in an effort to limit the impact on services to communities. Plans to transition services to the private sector are ambitious at best and without comprehensive planning, will result in critical health services and – most importantly – the protection of the public's health to be threatened.

As the infrastructure for public health continues to erode, we express concern that the Division of Public Health Section of Nursing may be spreading itself too thin, which could result in a risk to the public's health and decreases in health outcomes for our infants, children, adults and elderly.

Ultimately, the legal responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the health of the population rests with government public health agencies.

We urge you to prioritize full restoration of funds to the Division of Public Health Section of Nursing along with support for a tobacco tax, among other sources of revenue being proposed.

Thank you.



Marie J. Lavigne, Executive Director
Alaska Public Health Association



ALPHA

ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Committed To Advancing Alaska's Public Health Since 1978

Page 1 of 2

March 3, 2004

(H)FIN Hearings on CSHB375 Operating Budget

We Urge Your Support for Public Health Nursing Fund Restoration!

Dear members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Alaska Public Health Association, representing over two hundred public health professionals from across Alaska who are deeply committed to developing sound public health policy and sustaining a strong public health system to improve the health of all Alaskans, we urge you to restore full funding to the Division of Public Health's Section of Nursing.

At a time when State Government takes pride in leading by focusing on Mission and Outcomes, we are deeply concerned that proposed cuts to the Division of Public Health Nursing Section will negatively impact health outcomes in our communities. At the very time we need to be strengthening the public health infrastructure to respond to increasing demands for disease prevention and control, these budget cuts risk further eroding the public health infrastructure.

Public health nursing is the front line public health workforce in Alaskan communities to deliver disease prevention and protection, health promotion, and health assessment services.

The public health infrastructure extends beyond the 23 public health centers to more than 250 communities through the travel of Itinerant Public Health Nurses. In four communities, services are contracted directly with Norton Sound Health Corporation, Maniilaq Health Corporation, North Slope Borough Health Department and Municipality of Anchorage Health Department.

The success of our public health nurses is the result of years of establishing and building trust in the communities they serve, working to identify those at risk, to monitor health status while supporting local communities in responding to health concerns. The skilled contribution for health assessment, planning and development by Public Health Nurses is highly valued.

Core services provided by public health nurses includes disease protection and prevention to prevent and control chronic and communicable diseases, including TB, Hepatitis A/B/C, HIV, STD, food-water-vector borne diseases, diabetes, obesity, and cardio-vascular disease.

In an era where terrorism, SARS, West Nile Virus, Small Pox, new and emerging diseases can threaten the public's health, Public Health Nursing has been at the core of the State of Alaska's response plans to assist in the development of statewide and regional disaster preparedness, training and exercises for bio-terrorism preparedness, and to respond at the community level to potential threats to the public's health.

P.O. Box 9-1825 Anchorage, AK 99509 907/332-1030 e-mail: publichealth@alaska.net www.alaskapublichealth.org

FAX: 907 - 465 - 6813

P. 1/1

TO: 19074656813

haven't been out of Seward Ak. for over a year now just to get Anchorage or Kenai!

To House Finance

COM. MEMBERS

I'm 75 and I have to have meds. every mo. so I have to use Medicaid or I can't manage as am on low income and I have many seniors friends using it so please don't cut it out! Also, we just got a new cook (parttime) at our center that gives us nutritious meals and

How much more are you going to cut?! Sincerely, a senior

and I have many still have good health thanks to my Jesus

There are many of my friends who depend on the meals on wheels for just one good hot meal a day! Don't make us get rid of Marylyn Olson 100 low cuts.

Shirley Brown
P.O. Box 1814
Seward Ak.
-99664

MAR-3-2004 11:51 FROM:

3-3-04

To: House Finance Committee Members

FAX: 907-465-6813

3-2-04

Dear Sir;

I'm writing to let you know that we need personal care attendant for our seniors. We also need the meals on wheels, congregate meals and transportation for these seniors. I would like to keep the seniors in their own homes as the cost for a nursing home is high.

I also don't want to see our cook at our senior center lose her job. We have just had the kitchen remodelled to fit her needs.

We have alot of seniors who now get meals on wheels. We have alot of seniors who now eat at the center.

Thank you for reading this -

Kay Ann

P.O. Box 2267

Seward AK 99664

FROM : LEY OF KARL SCHLEICH

PHONE NO. : 907 373 0655

Mar. 03 2004 09:38AM P1

FAX MEMO

Please forward!

Corinne Schleich
 5055 Fernwood Dr.
 Wasilla, AK 99654
 PH (907) 373-0623
 FAX (907) 373-0655
 arcticloon@gci.net

TO: All House Finance & Senate Finance
 FAX: committee members
 DATE: March 3, 2004
 RE: Education Funding

I'm an 11 year old girl living in Wasilla. Most of this tax stuff is about losing great activities for kids, so here is one kid's point of view.

My favorite sports are basketball and soccer. If you can't find a way to pay for these then I won't be able to do them and my friends won't either. Nobody will get exercise and we won't be able to do science Olympiad, Music, and other things that help us grow. It would be better if everyone paid a little amount of money so those things can continue. My class has 30 kids in it and so it is harder to learn. My school and class is great except for that. Please think about everyone in this situation, including me and my friends! I know I don't handle the money in this house or in this state but if I did I would rather pay and have a really good school.

Sincerely,

Corinne Schleich

LUDWIG K. EVERETT
SEWARD

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

I WANT TO ADVOCATE FOR STATE BUDGETS THAT WILL MAINTAIN THE SENIOR NETWORK OF SERVICES AND FOR MAINTAINING FUNDING FOR THESE SERVICES. HERE IN SEWARD ARE PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS AND SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES, MEALS ON WHEELS, CONGREGATE MEALS, TRANSPORTATION AND EVERYONE THAT I KNOW THINKS THEY ARE IMPORTANT AND NEEDED. TO GET MORE REVENUE FOR THIS I THINK THE STATE OF ALASKA SHOULD USE THE MONEY FROM THE PERMANENT FUND.

Ludwig K. Everett

THANK YOU, MIKE SIGLER, PARENT OF 2 SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN
JUNEAU

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE FROM A JUNEAU RESIDENT

Juneau Schools face increased class sizes

A looming budget gap is facing the Juneau School District that will severely affect the quality of education in our public schools. Unless the Legislature increases education funding for the next fiscal year, Juneau schools face a ten percent increase in class size, making classes with 28 students per elementary school teacher commonplace. Our children will be less likely to succeed in school with this increase and more children will fall through the cracks.

The City of Juneau and the State of Alaska both contribute funding for schools. Currently, the City's contribution is at the maximum legally allowed (the "cap"). Local teachers received a well-deserved raise this year as their salaries have not kept up with inflation. In contrast to the local support shown for schools, the State contribution to Alaska schools has raised little in the last decade. The Legislature and Governor claim they will protect education funding, but this only means they will not cut from current funding levels. In the meantime, inflation has chipped away at education funding and the real value of student funding has decreased. We are holding our children feet to the fire by setting education benchmarks, but we also need to provide the funding needed for each student to have a fair chance at meeting the new testing requirements.

The Governor and Legislature need to change the meaning of "protecting education" from no education cuts to increase education funding. For Juneau schools, a \$400 increase in the per-student allocation would maintain classes at the existing size, rather than suffering an increase in class size. Increasing funding to match inflation also is critical. I request that education funding be increased to meet our children's basic public education needs. I am willing to pay for these increases through broad-based taxes.

Mike Sigler

Harborview Elementary School Parent

State of Alaska
Representative John Harris
House Finance Chair

March 5, 2004
Dear Mr. Harris

As a family member who has seen the devastation of the disease of addiction, I am writing as a concerned Alaskan about the proposed \$600,000 cut to Alcohol and drug treatment programs. I am asking that this money NOT BE CUT and that alcohol and drug treatment be FULLY FUNDED.

Some things are very clear to me Mr. Harris. Alcoholism is a disease. We have more than enough medical evidence to prove this. It is fundamentally a brain disease. Once a person becomes addicted, only medical treatment will work. Unfortunately this is not medical treatment where you can give a person a pill and the disease goes away. The addicted person has to learn a new way of living. This takes time.

Alaska is #1 in the country in alcoholism. Our suicide rate, which is often connected with drug or alcohol use is through the roof this year. We cannot take any more cuts. Many Alaskans do not have health benefits and do not qualify for Medicaid. They will need treatment and will not be able to afford it. The result is that they will take up more jail beds and you cannot treat a medical condition with a prison term. Emergency rooms will become overrun with people in need of detoxification services which ends up costing the state and our citizens thousands while placing undue burdens on emergency services.

There is talk of cutting the Alcohol Safety Action program. *This must continue to be funded* as accountability is a part of the treatment of the illness of addiction. If left on their own most addicts will not comply with seeking treatment without a mitigating party to answer to. I would suggest that this program be funded as a Misdemeanor Services program within the Alaska court system, or revert to a Department of Public Safety program. It is our opinion that either of these moves would preserve an important monitoring service and could still place the responsibility of the crime back where it belongs, on the person who committed the crime. To do otherwise is inconsistent with your core service goals to

- Reduce the number of Alaskans afflicted with alcoholism and substance abuse
- AND
- Preventing and mitigating threats to public health.

Child abuse and neglect often occurs with the presence of alcohol and drug abuse. You can expect our children to be more at risk if you block access to treatment by cutting funding. The statistics speak for themselves. To cut funding for treatment would essentially mean doing what is inconsistent with your core service goal of:

- Protect children from abuse and neglect.

Overall, your cuts would appear to go against your Mission:
To promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans

I cannot stress enough that LIVES depend on treatment. People die from this affliction and your cuts may mean life or death for someone. I am again asking that the proposed \$600,000 cut to Alcohol and drug treatment programs be voted against. I am asking that this money NOT BE CUT and that alcohol and drug treatment be FULLY FUNDED. Alaskan lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

David McCormick
P.O. Box 34045
Juneau, AK. 99803
907-364-3830

Jan Mesdag

House Finance Committee:

I have heard that there is the potential of residential treatment for substance dependence being cut. Please, Please reconsider plans to cut residential treatment. Addiction is a very serious problem in our state. Once addiction has progressed, it is very difficult to stop if not almost impossible to stop without treatment. Residential treatment focusses on those seriously ill residents in our state who can not make it without the structure of a residential facility.

Many in this population do not have Medicaid or insurance. They need and want treatment but can not afford it. If they can not be treated, they will still take up emergency rooms or take up jail beds. Families often end up on Public Assistance because of their financial problems. Cost to the state remains because the state will pay through another less desirable route. It seems more cost effective if people are treated for addiction. I have been involved in the field for many years and I have seen many whose lives are better and improved because of treatment.

Jan Mesdag

John Harris
House Finance Chair
465-3799

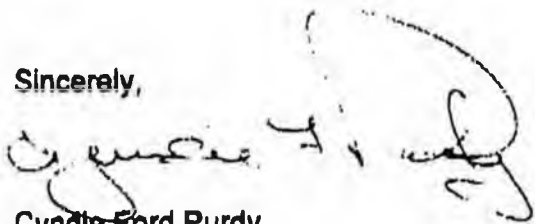
March 5, 2004

Representative John Harris
House Finance Chair

Fax 465.3799

As a taxpayer, I am concerned that you are considering cutting funding for residential treatment for people with alcohol and/or other drug dependence. If the state does not support residential and inpatient treatment for people with drugs and alcohol dependence, only the wealthy will be able to afford treatment. Those without insurance or other means of payment for treatment will flood our emergency rooms and correction centers. 85 - 95% of all child abuse is related to alcohol and/or other drugs, and without intervention the danger to our most vulnerable citizens will increase dramatically. The impact and cost of that damage is incalculable and those who survive will be angry, bitter, and antisocial individuals who will follow the same path and the cycle repeats over and over again. If anything, you should be considering increasing the funding for more residential treatment centers capable of providing wrap-around services to insure an increase in positive outcomes. **Please**, do not reduce funding for residential drug and/or alcohol treatment centers. If you do, we will all suffer the serious consequences of your mistake for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Cyndie Ford Purdy
9475 Eagle St.
Juneau, AK 99801
907.789.5523

Date: March 5, 2004

To: House Finance Chair, Representative John Hartz 465-3799

From: Samantha Abernathy 

Re: proposed \$600,000 cut to Residential Alcohol/drug treatment

I am writing to support the continence of monies for alcohol and drug treatment in the state of Alaska. Alaska had the highest rate of injury death in the United States during 1988-1992. Higher rates occurred in rural Alaska, where the majority of injury deaths were alcohol-related and among Alaska Natives. In Alaska, the prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is higher than the national average.

I believe it is our duty as a state to provide alcohol and drug treatment services to Alaska Natives and all peoples of Alaska, as the projected figures of death will only increase. Additionally, the cost of medical care and incarceration will not offset the monies saved by not providing alcohol and drug treatment.

Thank you.

To Representative John Harris:

I am a victim of domestic violence and I am also a concerned parent. I think the proposed cut in our Alcohol/Drug treatment plan would not only effect my family but thousands of others too. This service is an important part of recovery for a large percent of our residents. It doesn't just effect the offender it effects the innocent people involved. Please consider the innocent and help us by helping the recovery of chemical abusers before the innocent die. Thank you Jodi Miracle.

To the members of the House Budget Finance Committee:

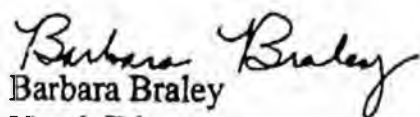
I am very concerned that the grants for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is down \$648,000 which will impact 21 programs statewide. This would be a travesty and seriously endanger the safety of women and children in Alaska.

As the Youth Educator at Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living, I provide classes and presentations on the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault for students ranging from pre-school through college. Last month alone I taught classes to over 300 teenagers. I also train teachers and agency workers on the effects of domestic violence on children and how to work with children from violent homes. I provide parenting classes and attend health fairs to let people know of our services and provide information as needed by the public. I believe that through the process of education we can help prevent future generations from experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault.

The proposed cuts would eliminate this service to the community. My part-time position would certainly disappear, as would the shelter's Children Program that provides advocacy and support groups for children living at the shelter as well as non-residents. If we want to end the inter-generational continuance of domestic violence and sexual assault, we need to educate the community and help the children learn how to have healthy relationships and not grow up to become victims or abusers.

I'm asking that the \$648,000 be restored to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. My concern is not just for the youth education and child advocacy positions that will be lost, but for the future safety of women and children in Alaska. As a way to provide the revenue for these important programs, I would be happy to pay a state income tax. I believe that's the only fair way to pay for services needed by our state.

Sincerely,



Barbara Braley
Youth Educator

Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living

4397 Julcp Street
Juneau AK 99801

March 5, 2004

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

RE: Budget cuts to Alaska Marine Highway System

Southeast Alaska geography is coastal and island, a geography quite unlike the rest of the United States. In such an area, where human habitation is confined to narrow strips of coastline and islands, seaborne transportation is the basic transportation infrastructure within the area, as well as an important link to areas outside. Ferry transportation is relatively low cost, has a low impact on the environment, and continues to operate in weather conditions when the air alternative cannot.

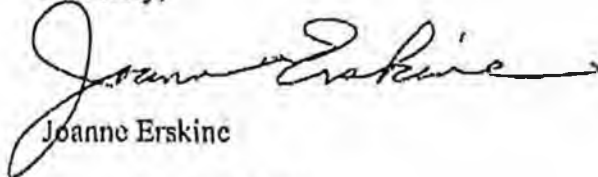
The call for improved ferry service has been clearly made. The need for improved ferry transportation among Southeast communities is obvious and indisputable: service that is faster, more frequent, more convenient, and more reliable. Better ferry links are necessary to support commerce and society; without them a number of smaller communities will wither.

The budget proposal to cut ten percent from Marine Highways maintenance and operations is a move in the wrong direction entirely, curtailing and degrading service. This is not a cut of fat, it is a cut from the flesh and bone of vital transportation infrastructure. It is self-destructive, and makes no sense. Why buy new ferries, if you lack the means to operate them together with the rest of the existing system?

Roads cannot connect an island and coastal environment. The main reason for building them is federal highway money. Our congressional delegation should devote more effort to obtaining more liberal provisions for using such money for transport adapted to the peculiar needs of Southeast, the Alaska Marine Highway System.

I strongly oppose any budget cut for Marine Highways.

Sincerely,



Joanne Erskine

cc: Sen. Kim Elton
Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch

**RESOURCE CENTER FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN**

1401 KELLUM STREET

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

PHONE (907) 456-2366 FAX (907) 451-8125

rcpc@rcpcfairbanks.org

Via fax: 465-6813

March 5, 2004

Dear House Finance Committee members:

It has come to my attention that the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault budget has been cut and is down by \$648,000 from the original amount of \$1.5 million. These cuts will severely impact these much needed services to those caught in the cycle of family violence.

The impacts to the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living are severe and long lasting:

- Loss of d.v. education in our schools
- Limiting the number of clients who may reside each night in the shelter
- Cutting back on legal advocacy resources
- Discontinuing services offered to children of family violence

Your restoration of the \$850,000 will go along way to keeping these families safe and helping to teach kids about the risk and protective factors in family violence. As the director of the Resource Center for Parents and Families, along with the staff we directly see the results of family violence and how it affects all of us in this community.

I urge you to restore the funds to the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault budget and I strongly support use of an income tax or the permanent fund to provide these valuable services to Alaskan families.

Warm Regards, _____

Coleen Turner
Executive Director

March 4, 2003

From:

Barbara Bird via email to the Sitka LIO office:

Please forward my request to not cut any more senior citizen benefits. We've been whittled to the bone. Also, it would be nice if Gov. Murkowski would rein in his own extravagant expenditures!!

Sincerely, Barbara Bird, 1501 Edgumbe Drive, Sitka, AK 99835

hpbobby@ptialaska.net

3-5-04

House Finance Budget Hearing

HB 377: FY 05

Proposed budget cut to the State Ferry System.

The Ferry System needs adequate funding. Our Marine Highway System has too many "pot-holes" at the present time.

The communities in South East Alaska suffer from poor scheduling because of inadequate funds.

If ferries came North and South more often, we'd be able to enjoy our great ferry system and travel more often. It is vital to our needs.

Doris G. Smith

Doris G. Smith

3407 Halibut Point Rd.

Sitka, AK 99835

March 5, 2004

To the Finance Committee:

My understanding is one of the items to be discussed in budget hearing is a considerable cut to the Alaska State Ferry System which would amount to a 10% reduction in service to Southeast communities.

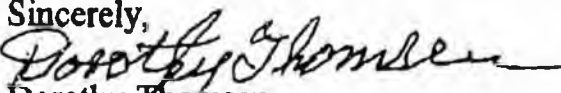
Our service has already been reduced considerably. This is important means transportation among the villages and cities. The ferries make it through in all kinds of weather when planes aren't able to fly.

Future plans for roads (God help us) will be years in the making, in the mean time we need to keep the ferries in operating conditions.

Questions I have are the highways and roads taking a cut? After all this is our highway.

Times are hard for the state as well as for the citizens. Please give consideration for keeping the ferry schedule at the present schedule. We in Southeast don't ask for much and seem to be a stepchild of the state.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Thomsen
3505 Halibut Point Road
Sitka, Alaska 99835



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Health & Social Services
Commission

520 Fifth Ave. PO Box 71267 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267 (907) 459-1474 FAX (907) 459-1280

To: House Finance Committee

From: Carrie Dershin, Chair, Health and Social Services Commission CP

Date: March 5, 2004

Subject: Human Services Community Matching Grant

On behalf of the Health and Social Services Commission, I would like to thank you for reinstating the Community Matching Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000. As a follow up to my testimony from yesterday evening, I am pleased to provide you with a brief report on the community impact of the Human Services Community Matching Grant. This will further illustrate the need to continue this vital grant program.

It is my hope that you are already well aware of the impact that these funds have on the delivery of *essential human services* within our community. These range from hot meals and emergency food boxes to attainable health care to youth leadership and mentoring. The services that are provided by our local non-profits are non-duplicative, efficient and cost-effective.

In FY03, state funds of \$312,083 combined with the Borough allocation of \$184,291 leveraged a total community value of \$4,946,767 when other sources of funds and the value of in-kind donations are considered. In short, these funds provided a value to the community *fourteen times* that of the actual grant dollars allocated.

The need to preserve this grant is great. The impact that these funds have in our community is significant. The health and care of our community is critical to the overall growth and development of our future. Unfortunately the future of the Community Matching Grant is at risk. Since FY02, state funding for the Community Matching Grant has decreased 42%. With the Mat-Su Borough now eligible for the funding as well, this reduces the amount coming into our community even further. Rather than the combined total of \$331,014 coming to agencies as in FY04, we could see approximately only \$267,000. This roughly translates into not seven, but only five local agencies that could receive this grant. This is down from the eleven agencies of two years ago.

An additional \$236,000 allocated to the proposed \$1,000,000 would keep us at the same funding level of FY04. The need for services is going to continue to increase. Our safety net which has been held together by our local non-profits is continuing to be stretched and could lose its strength without the necessary fiscal support from our local community and our state. The Human Services Community Matching Grant is an *exceptionally cost-effective* use of public dollars that exemplifies the deeply rooted philosophy of neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for the valuable work that you do and for your continued and future support keeping our communities healthy and well.

**Department of Labor and Workforce
Development**
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Governor's Committee on Employment & Rehabilitation
Of People with Disabilities

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

801 West 10th Street, Suite A
Juneau, Alaska 99801
V/TTY: (907) 465-2814
FAX: (907) 465-2856

March 6, 2004

House Finance Committee

Dear Members of the Committee:

I would like to address the proposed cuts to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Governor Murkowski's proposed cut of \$138,000 to the Administration sections of VR and the Division's decision to close the Bethel office would not significantly impact services to consumers. However the additional \$126,000 proposed by the Committee would have a magnifying and devastating affect on persons receiving services. Because these are matching funds an equal reduction in federal funds would occur totaling \$252,000. These cuts would be in direct client services and would trigger an Order of Selection process in the State of Alaska. This means that some clients would be dropped and others would not receive services at all. Those not served would find it even more difficult to get off Social Security and Medicaid. They would probably stay on those programs. The order of selection probably would also result in more sign ups to SS resulting in more individuals on Medicaid. In the spirit of producing more jobs and putting our citizens to work this is counter productive.

As in the Independent Living programs these dollars help to get people off Medicaid and Social Security. Without the opportunity for training and chance to improve, these individuals would continue stay on these non-productive programs. These are dollars well spent.

If these cuts go through the Sitka and Kodiak offices are slated for closure. Sitka was being served out of the Juneau office for almost a year and it proved not to work. The work load in Juneau had increased leaving Sitka almost unserved, not to mention that all clients in Angoon, Kake, Petersburg, Wrangell would be underserved or dropped.

Please find the funds so as not to eliminate the \$126,000 in client services to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Thank you.


Jerry Kainuainen
GCERPD Member

Sharon John

From: "Sharon John" <shjohn@gcl.net>
To: <Sitka_Lio@legis.state.ak.us>
Cc: "Vicki Keele" <Vicki_Keele@labor.state.ak.us>; "Lisa April" <lisa_april@labor.state.ak.us>
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2004 5:06 PM
Subject: Sitka DVR

I would like to respond to the proposed closure of the Sitka DVR office due to stated budget reduction.

In 2002 as I was leaving my shift at the Pioneer's Home here in Sitka, I was struck by a hit and run driver and lay unconscious in the street for approximately 15-20 minutes before taken to the hospital. I now suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury with balance problems, headaches, memory deficits, cognitive function deficit, tinnitus, impaired comprehension with difficulty in new or abstract thoughts, and right eye sluggishness, to name some problems associated with my injury. Having been in the nursing field 40 years, this was the only work I knew when I was suddenly removed from my vocation. After two years of being unable to work, I linked up with the Sitka DVR and right away was able to begin testing to ascertain what the potential for my future was, and now have pending appointments with other entities to hopefully assist me in becoming more productive as time goes on.

Because my ability to drive is likely going to be fairly short lived, it's a real blessing to have office close by for visits. I would not like to think about having to travel great distances for appointments, and, due to very poor ferry service in Sitka, the very people DVR is committed to helping, would experience a 'double whammy'—becoming even more victimized by the lack of facilities in town, poor transportation services AND getting thrown into unfamiliar surroundings in order to be given an appointment with DVR offices elsewhere.

I sincerely hope this office will remain open for the good of this unique community... it is needed!

Sincerely,

Sharon John

(mailed 3/5/04)

Dear Governor Murkowski:

I was extremely distressed to hear of plans to cut Alaska's Alcohol Safety Action Program budget. Saving money is always good, but this is not the way to do it. ASAP programs are designed on several levels to *save* money and there is apparent misunderstanding about what the ASAP function actually is.

Alcohol and other drugs are involved in almost three-fourths of all court cases in Alaska. What ASAPs do is to offer an alternative to regular sentencing protocols for people whose offenses involve drugs and alcohol. These people are given the choice of receiving an ASAP screening and then complying with treatment or education recommendations indicated by this screening. In this way ASAPs provide early interventions to catch drinking and drugging behaviors before they become serious health risks to clients and create serious costs to society.

In addition, ASAPs serve as a specialized probation function to monitor these clients for compliance. When ASAPs take over alcohol- and other drug-related cases, court dockets become less clogged and probation caseloads are lightened. The numbers are considerable - 8,500 DUI offenders are monitored by ASAP programs each year. ASAPs insure increased compliance as well. When funding for an ASAP-affiliate program in Kenai, Alaska, was cut last year, absenteeism jumped 80 percent in two months.

It seems ironic to me that on the first day of this year's legislative session, a drunk driver ran into your fence before midday. It is doubtful that the driver did this deliberately. People do not set out to break the law by drinking and driving; rather, they are either young and foolish and in need of education, or they are in the grips of a disease that clouds their judgment. The fence incident is a dramatic indication of how badly we need to fund more effective alcohol and other drug prevention, intervention and treatment programs. The last thing Alaska needs is to pull the plug on this funding.

Please do not withdraw funding from our ASAPs.

Sincerely,



Barbara Blackman
6590 Glacier Highway #151
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 780-6242
bblackmn@ptialaska.net

F. Bill Adams CAN'T understand why
they shutting down voice Rehab when
there is so many people in the need
for training. They helped me go through
computer school and ~~and~~ ^{am} looking forward
to going again. With out voice Rehab I
would have gotten nowhere. Now
I've got something to look forward to
Please don't take it away.

Bill Larkin
PO Box 8575
Kodiak, AK 99615

Hi my name is Dawn Jurado

I was referred to Voc Rehab by my probation officer and with their help I have been able to get my life on track.

Voc Rehab has:

- Helped me stay alcohol free
- Encouraged me to work on my basic skills
- Helped me build confidence in myself and positive work ethics
- Assisted me in getting a job and face reality in the work place

Without Voc Rehab I would probably have continued to drink and would likely be in jail today. Because of VR I am off probation, my self-esteem is much higher and I have a good job with benefits.

If funding for all of the social service agencies gets cut people are going to go crazy and probably get into more trouble because there will be no help available -- people's lives are at stake.

Everyone needs someone to believe in them!

Dawn T. Jurado

Voc Rehab has helped me get a job and get training in computers. When my eyesight got to the point I could no longer see well enough to work they helped me complete the paperwork for my SSDI. They helped me with medical appointments that required travel to Anchorage.

Because of Voc Rehab I am able to have my own apartment and live independently, providing me with the magnification devices I needed.

Pat Seman
3-6-04



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on 113375-Operating Exp dated 3-6-04 bill/subject

VOC. MEMBERS, NEEDED ME ROUND THE
CORNER AND GET BACK INTO THE WORKFORCE.
IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE

PROPOSED CHANGES WILL HINDER

THOSE THAT ARE THE MOST

LIKELY TO GET BACK ~~IN~~ IN-

TO THE WORKFORCE, FROM DOING SO,

I'm IN FAVOR OF AN INCOME
TAX TO AVOID SUCH MEASURES

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address
3340 PRECINCTA LN.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Budget - House Finance
 committee name
 committee on HB 375 - Operating Bud dated 3-6-04
 bill/subject

Cutting funding to Kodiak's Vocational Rehab. Office is a bad idea! We need this vital resource here. I am very fortunate to be a beneficiary of the V.R. program offered here, and it has been critical to my success as a viable member of this community. Alaska's rural communities only have the state to rely on for these services and if they are underfunded or closed a good many of us will be unable to get the help we need.

Alaska ranks third from the bottom, number 48, as a state with funds available to help V.R. clients as it stands right now, so why make it worse!

Signed: John O'Ryan
 Testifier
self
 Representing (Optional)
12906 Nach Dr. Kodiak AK 99615
 Address
907-487-2779



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE
committee name
committed on HB 375 - operating budget dated 3-6-04
bill/subject

DVR. HAS BEEN VERY helpful to me. -
I have PARKINSON'S DISEASE -
They have paid for classes at the college
for me to be able to get a better job -
They have helped to get a job
DVR HELPED by paying my way to a
Neurologist expert in my condition
Their help has given me hope when all
looked so grim for my life & future -
(LDS) DVR is going to close the
door of hope off for those of us who
struggle thru each day as it is, and
who hope to be productive members of
our community in spite of our handicaps -

Signed: Rete Holm PO Box 271 Kodiak
Testifier
Self
Representing (Optional)
PO Box 271 Kodiak, AK 99615
Address
907-486-5118



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance - House
committee name
committed on operating funds, dated March 6, 2004.
bill/subject

Keeping seniors out of costly nursing homes + able to live at home independently with the assistance of Home + Community Based waivers is a cost efficient way to do business + pay for needed services. I support keeping these vital services that are available to the most vulnerable + poorest seniors. I support paying an income tax, using the permanent dividend fund earnings + keeping Alaska's infrastructure + services in place. Once these services are gone, we will not get them back. I also support a long range fiscal plan from state so agencies + those receiving services can plan + count on staying here.

Signed: Pat Dransm

Testifier

Senior Citizens of Kodiak, Inc.

Representing (Optional)

Box 3888 Kodiak, AK 99615

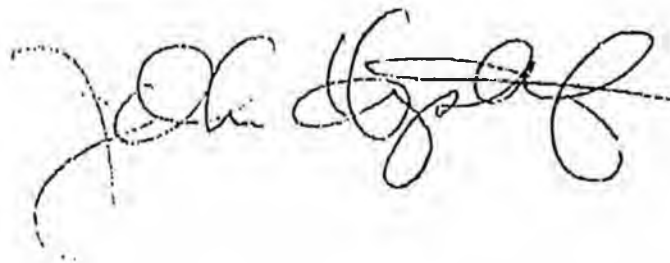
Address

907-486-3641

Hello, my name is JOHN HANGSTEFER.

Having a local vocational rehab office means a lot to me.

Chris was able to get me employment, orthotics and counselling services including social security. "She's my secretary helping me through the process." Without Chris, I wouldn't have gotten very far.



Education & Prevention
 Residential & Out-Patient Treatment
 Adolescent Services
 Alcohol & Drug Information School
 Referrals & Assessments
 Employee Assistance Programs



Toll Free : (800)406-3535
 Phone: (907)486-3535
 Fax: (907)486-7689
 115 Mill Bay Road
 Kodiak, Alaska 99015
 Email: safeharbor@gci.net

"Where The Healing Begins"

March 05, 2004

Re: Vocational Rehabilitation Support

To Whom It May Concern:

A cut in funding to Kodiak's Vocational Rehabilitation would be a tremendous blow to the services Kodiak Council on Alcoholism provides as the majority of our clients are in need of these services to get their lives back on track as they have been outside the mainstream of society. As the Executive Director of Safe Harbor I was once one of these people and the services that Vocational Rehabilitation provided me allowed me to get my degree and become a productive member of society as opposed to a burden. If these services are pulled the State will still pay the cost though it will be in the area of public safety and the Department of Corrections.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me at the above number. Thank you.

D. Scott Smith, MAPS
 Executive Director
 Safe Harbor Treatment Facility



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name
 committee on operating budget, dated March 6, 2004.
bill/subject

My name is Mary Turfird and I am 82 years old, continuing to live independently in my own apartment, though I have macular degeneration, and I participate in activities that keep my mind sharp - watercolor painting and singing each week with the Golden Tots. I am able to live alone only with assistance of the Medicaid waiver program. Through this program I receive home delivered meals, transportation to and from doctors' appointments, home health & know other services are available when I get to the point of needing them. I have family in town, but they are often away on business. I know my family realizes the kind of care I receive & that makes them comfortable. I am not just for advocating for programs, but also for the legislature to adopt a fiscal plan.

Signed: Mary Turfird
Testifier

myself
Representing (Optional)

914 Upper Mid Bay Road #111
Address

480-8452
Phone No.

I have received services from both Vocational Rehabilitation and Safe Harbor.

These agencies have helped me know myself better and have given me another chance at life.

I have been sober for 13 months. During that time I have learned to live independently and have completed training as an emergency trauma technician. I am waiting for my results of the Emergency Medical Technician course I just completed.

Richard McDaniel

Public Comment
House Finance Committee
Saturday, March 06, 2004
. Donald B. Roberts Jr.

Re: HB 375 Operating Budget / Loans Funds;
HB - 377 Mental Health Budget

Mr Chairman my name is Don Roberts Jr. I live at 264 Lilly Drive in Kodiak.
Thank you for this opportunity.

I speak in favor of Vocational Rehabilitation component of the budget and the
Mental Health Budget. The long term economic and social consequences of not
funding these is far greater than any savings that might be had.

In addition, many people by virtue of their disability may not be able to participate
in these proceedings, it would not be reasonable to interpret their silence as lack of
concern.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald B. Roberts Jr.", is written over a horizontal dashed line. The signature is fluid and cursive, extending across the width of the page.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on HB 375 Operating Budget dated 03-06-04
 bill/subject

As a person with a disability having a local Vocational Rehabilitation office is a benefit to me personally. As a participant in the Resred Self-Employment program, the staff of the local Vocational Rehabilitation Office have provided a tremendous amount of support and resources to assist in my self-employment goal.

Herman Squartsoff

Signed: Herman Squartsoff
 Testifier
S. J. P.
 Representing (Optional)
170 Box 189
 Address
907-



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB375-Operating Budget, dated March 6, 2004
bill/subject

I am writing to show my support for the Vocational Rehabilitation services here in Kodiak. I have achieved many positive things in my life--graduating with honors from college, obtaining my teaching certificate, seeking a masters degree in Early Childhood Special Education, and maintaining a loving, supportive, stable family. I have a lot to contribute to the State of Alaska. I also suffer from disabling anxiety, depression and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. These are frustrating diseases not well understood or tolerated by most people. Daily life is a challenge and I often feel frustrated and hopeless, yet I know it doesn't have to be this way forever. I am tough and will prevail with continued support. When I feel useless, Chris McKay here at the VR office in Kodiak is here to help me feel and be useful. She knows me and my problems--I am a real person to her, not just another case. Having an office in Kodiak means that I have support here when and where I need it. I fear that I will become just another case and my quality of life will decrease if services are cut here in Kodiak. It would be impossible for me to fly to Anchorage for services as it is too expensive. Services provided by phone or through infrequent visits would seriously impact many lives here. Living life with a disability is frustrating and challenging, please don't make it harder by cutting services. Consider instead implementing an income tax and tapping into the permanent fund--there are solutions out there.

Signed: Kristen Parman
Testifier

S/f

Representing (Optional)

PO BOX 174 KODIAK AK 99615

Address

486-3495



Alaska State Legislature

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

committed on HB 375 Operating Budget, dated 03-06-04
bill/subject

I am the caregiver of a person who is handicapped. I have seen how DVR has helped my disabled friend by providing counseling services, paid for classes at the college, helped with traveling expenses to a clinic and a Neurologist expert outside of ALASKA, all of which greatly improved the quality of life of the person in my case. Those services have given him hope when there was no hope otherwise.

I also hear that personal care attendant services are to be cut. What are the disabled people, my friend included, going to do? The prospects of no the help given to him by personal care attendant services - Is he going to be left to die? or put in a nursing home? The proposed cuts are appalling, I am against them!

Signed: Olga N. Kater-Sherba (personal care attendant)
Testifier D Sherba

Peter Holm

Representing (Optional)

Address

1:00 PM 6th
For the Hearing, ~~7:30 PM~~ on March 4th, 2004

Gentlemen:

I am a 68-year resident of Kodiak and have a deep human investment here. As a physician I have always been concerned about the people in my community. I served on a number of State Boards as well as the Borough Assembly. More important, I was a founder of a number of non-government volunteer organizations (NGO's) that were formed to meet perceived needs of our people.

As is the case in all developing communities, Kodiak grew and the task of each NGO grew with it, to the point that volunteers either burned out or "went public" by forming non-profit corporations. Over the course of fifty years, most "went public" obtained funds, and were able to hire a director. There are, perhaps, a dozen such organizations and they have filled just about every perceived need in our community. Because volunteers were still involved, they are much more efficient than would be the same services, were they to be provided by the government.

I have been very proud of Kodiak and its sensitivity to the needs of its people. No one has to sleep outside. No one has to go hungry. There is protected housing and counselling for the abused and the abusers. There is treatment available for mental illness and addiction. There are several effective organizations for youth.

Because the State has not provided cost-of-living increase to any of the NGO's over the last ten years, they have been mercilessly "squeezed" for finances. Now, gentlemen, a number of them are severely compromised--Kodiak Youth Services is closing and others are on the verge--because of the austere budget and the flagrant disregard of the most important community enterprise--*caring for people*. You pretend that this is financially necessary when the undivided profits of the permanent fund contain millions of dollars intended to support State services when the need arises.

The need has arisen, and, in some cases passed, thanks to you. You should do something about it!



Dr. Bob Johnson

THE PERMANENT FUND AND THE STATE

In 1967, when the State Legislature instituted the Permanent Fund, we all thought it was a wonderful idea. Many of us thought that this would be our salvation when, or if, the State ever ran into trouble. Since then, due to excellent management and good times, it has grown considerably.

Prior to my three-year stint on the Borough Assembly, 1996-98, I had never been much interested in the management of State finances. During my tenure on the Assembly, I discovered that the State had been squeezing the borough budget for ten years by disregarding the increased cost of living. I learned, also, that there was no long range financial plan. Thus I was pleased to see a proposal by the Alaska Municipal League for a long range plan to use unreserved Permanent Fund income and an income tax that would have provided consistent funding to maintain State services over time.

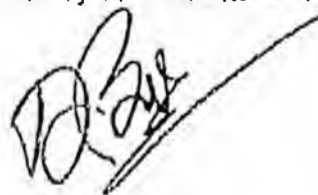
The League plan was rejected by the legislature and, instead, they have dipped into the Constitutional Budget Reserve, our emergency fund, to cover budget deficits, still reducing funding for basic State programs and local communities.

Reviewing the history of the fund, since its inception, I find the legislature has had the wisdom to allocate a portion of the unreserved funds back into the fund to cover for inflation, and has paid dividends to each of us as well. What was left could have been used for anything; the legislature decided—it was not part of the principal and not subject to the need of approval by ballot. I found that, since inception, \$7,394,000,000 had been rebudgeted back into the principal of the Fund. This year, that figure amounted to \$345,000,000, probably enough to have covered the budget deficit.

The time has come to re-think this matter. The Permanent Fund has reached a point where it will continue to earn enough to provide for inflation and dividends and increase the principal. The unreserved income can be used to beef up faltering State services: maintenance of State buildings, Fish & Game, Highways, Schools, Law Enforcement, etc. If additional funds are needed they should be supplied by an income tax, the most equitable tax, since it takes from those in proportion to what they earn and it taxes the income of the enterprising soul who comes from elsewhere. The dividend could very likely pay the tax for those in the lower income brackets.

A word about Sales Tax. This is the one resource available to local communities to provide local funding for their programs. If Anchorage and Fairbanks need additional income, they may institute their own Sales Tax and not push a State tax that compromises most of the smaller communities.

In summary, gentlemen, it is high time to adopt a long range financial plan. The best plan is to utilize the unreserved earnings of the permanent fund and an income tax, and leave the constitutional budget reserve alone. By all means, do not institute a statewide sales tax!



Good Afternoon...

My Name is Aharon Dolph. I am 22 Years Old.

I am a V.R. Client.

Local V.R. support is important to me because my telephone skills for making long distance calls are li mi ted. //

V.R. has made a big difference in my life.

I got support for a stuttering problem when speech ther a py was not found anywhere else in Kodiak. //

I also have support for my job to improve my skills at work. //

This has been possible with the local support system in Kodiak.

Local V.R. resources help to make my life better.

Thank you.

Aharon Dolph

Re: Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation
Budget cuts

From: Danielle Reed ~~Danielle Reed~~

I would like to emphasize how much the DVE office is needed ~~is~~ in Sitka. I have used these services off & on since 2000, & have found them very useful. I am not able to go out & get a job by myself, & I don't think I'd be able to work without them. They have provided me with very useful & important vocational testing, which led to a seasonal job with Fish & Game. They are now helping me with benefits counseling. I can't emphasize enough how much people like me need to have an office here in Sitka. It helps me to be able to drop by when I need something & to do interviews with DVE personnel face-to-face. I will continue to use DVE services in the future & will find it very upsetting & stressful if I have to deal with this over the phone with some office I can't visit when I need to. Sitka residents like me need this office.

3-0604

To: Alaska House Finance Committee

My name is Teresa Leighton. I reside in Sitka and have been an Alaskan ~~for~~ resident since 1954. My daughter, Caitlin Leighton was born in 1983 and is listed in the state of Alaska as a multi-handicapped person. Throughout her 20 years in Alaska... she has received many services thru the state. All of these have been necessary and very helpful to us as a family and especially to Caitlin. She is 20 years old now and would to one day be able to support herself with a job and live independtly. She requires the assistance of our local vocational office - she is currently using their services to look for a job. I strongly urge you to not reduce any funding that would close ~~down~~ down our local office. Thank-you

Teresa Leighton



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Budget & Finance
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on AB 375, dated 3/6/04
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I am a 26 year resident of Alaska, mother of 3, District-Supervisor for Juvenile Probation, Division of Juvenile Justice and past Director of the Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic (10 yrs). Please do not even consider rejecting these Title X funds for the DHS Operating Budget. These funds are vital for hundreds of women and in turn hundreds, thousands of their family members. If these funds are lost, it is a loss to your constituents, to their children. The loss also increases the burden on the State - will increase undiagnosed diseases, unplanned pregnancies - thereby requiring Medicaid.

We are not all privileged enough to have medical insurance - these funds provide basic medical care in conjunction - with other agencies and private providers. These are preventative services, providing access to basic care - services that should be available to all women + their families.

I urge you to reinstate these Federal Title X monies - it is absolutely ridiculous to not accept these funds. They are vital and they cost this state nothing.

Signed:

K. M. Smith

TESTIFIER

Self

REPRESENTING

PO Box 3235 - Homer AK 99603

ADDRESS

PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the House Finance Committee
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB 375, dated 3-6-04
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I would like to offer my support of re-instating the Fed Title X funding into the Operating Budget. These Family Planning services offered by Kachemak Bay Family Planning are so important to our community's public health. I'm a certified nurse midwife & have been practicing as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner providing Women's Health Care in Homer x 23 years. Our private clinic relies on KBFPC to provide low-cost contraceptive supplies to everyone - private sector cannot provide these services. Please accept Fed support.

Signed: Mary Lou Kelsey cnm, AWP
TESTIFIER
Homer Medical Clinic
REPRESENTING
Box 874, Homer, AK 99603
ADDRESS
907-299-1985
PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFIN
 committee name
 committee on HB 377, dated 3-5-04
 bill/subject

I am a new resident to Homer and am concerned about the cuts to Title X. If this money is not reinstated, thousands of women in the South Kenai Peninsula area would not be able to receive free or low cost reproductive health care. Without this funding KBFP will not be able to provide these services. These women will have to visit a private provider & pay full rates. The funding for KBFP has nothing to do with abortion & funds Well woman health exams, Family Planning & Early detection cancer screening. Please reinstate the C12 K to Title X

Signed: Jules Harlnett Jules Harlnett

Testifier

KBFP

Representing (Optional)

POX 15043 Fritz Creek

Address

235-7578

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the House Finance
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB 375, dated 3/6/04
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I am here today to urge you to reinstate the \$412,000 in Federal TitleX funds to the Operating Budget. Here in Homer the Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic uses these funds to provide well-woman annual exams, essential cancer screening services and contraceptive counseling and supplies to low income women who would likely not receive this care if funding were not available. There are strictly enforced regulations in place that ensure that the funds are used for, ~~Exclusively~~ among other things, a choice of contraceptive methods, without coercion to use any particular method, and that the funds are not used for abortion.

To reject Federal Funds can only cost the State of Alaska, financially and socially as people go without needed care.

Signed: Leah Shay Hoffman Leah Shay Hoffman
TESTIFIER
SELF
REPRESENTING
P.O. Box 446 Homer, AK 99603
ADDRESS
255-9022
PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the HFIN
COMMITTEE NAME

committee on HB 375, dated 3-6-04
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

My name is CHRISTINE Fontaine
 I am very concerned about the rejection of Federal money for Family Planning Services in Homer. The amount of FUNDS may not be very much to ^{the} state budget, but if this Title X money was rejected by our state, our communities on the Southern Kenai Peninsula would suffer an enormous loss. Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic has provided myself, and many other women in Homer and outlying rural areas with free and low cost healthcare. I have not had health insurance for parts of my life in ALASKA, and Kachemak Bay Family Planning has been the only place I have been able to receive consistent, professional, and much needed reproductive and general healthcare. These funds cost the state nothing and are not used to provide abortions. KBFPC would be financially devastated. Our community would be less healthy. Low income women would suffer.

Signed: Chris Fontaine
TESTIFIER Chris Fontaine

REPRESENTING _____
ADDRESS PO Box 1386 Homer, AK 99603
PHONE NO. 235-0698



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Home Finance Committee
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB 375, dated 3/6/04
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

My name is Elizabeth Neumann. I have been a member of this community for 15 yrs and have benefited from the services that Kachumak Bay Family Planning has provided during most of those years. Due to the fact that my work has not provided me with health insurance and at times just putting food on the table has been a challenging task. I feel so fortunate to know that this organization is out here to offer me the health care I need. This organization is a vital part of this community and without federal funding it would surely be put into dire straits.

Signed: ELIZABETH NEUMANN
TESTIFIER
self
REPRESENTING
42410 Old Sterling Hwy. Anchorage AK
ADDRESS
907 235-3667
PHONE NO.

Please reinstate the title of funding
 Thank You for your consideration

Elizabeth Neumann



Alaska State Legislature

(H)

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Budget & Finance
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB 375, dated 3/6/04
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

Please reinstate money for Family Planning in the state of Alaska. ~~It~~
 These services are mandatory for a healthy community. As a parent of two Adult Children I owe a thanks to Family Planning for helping educate my children ~~and~~ along with providing direct services to them. This quality of service will not be available to our community if this money is not reinstated. I urge you to come up with a fiscal plan to fund these Family Planning Clinic around the State

Signed: Mary Jane Shrus
TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING
PO Box 388
ADDRESS
235-4074
PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

(H)

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Budget & Finance
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB 377, dated 3/6/04
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I would like to encourage you to come up with a fiscal plan for '05. I know the money is dwindling and we can no longer depend upon oil to support us, that is why I would support taxing my income or even spring part of my permanent fund to support social services in Alaska. I work with ~~the~~ developmentally disabled people ~~and~~ also I am an advisor for "People First" (an advocacy group). I have seen ~~the~~ ^{direct} benefits mental health services and the local PRIDE program have done for countless individuals. The DD population in Homer contributes to the community atmosphere so prevalent here. Please do not cut these services any further.

Signed: Mary Jane Shows
TESTIFIER

PO Box 388, Homer, AK 99603
REPRESENTING ADDRESS
235-4074
PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the HFIN
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB375, dated 3-5-04
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I stand with those supporting the reinstatement of the \$412,000 in Federal Title X funds to the Health and Social Services Operating Budget, House Bill 375. How could anyone not support accepting Federal money that helps uninsured and low-income women stay healthy in Homer at no cost to the State. The services provided by our Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic are necessary to and appreciated by those who use them. To lose these services would be a great loss to our community and would probably cost the state in other ways down the road.

Signed: Claudia Caffrey DeLapp
TESTIFIER
self
REPRESENTING
353 D Jonny Way Homer, Alaska 99603
ADDRESS
907-225-5434
PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

(H)FIN

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Representative Mike Chenault

committee on SB375/377 Funding, dated Apr. 6, 2004

help before - Hello; I am a client of CMHC and appreciate
I realized the funding is "short". However, it would be less expensive to continue mental health benefits, i.e. Medicaid, counsellors, support programs like the Annex, medicines (which would be unaffordable to many who are disabled mentally and which helps keep us out of hospitals). My income, as is others is below poverty level.

I am planning to try vocational training but, I have trouble functioning normally and can't seem to tolerate pressure. I'm almost 62 years old

I also believe that many of us mentally limited people would suffer if you cut Independent Living, especially help with taxi assistance. Please don't cut this organization. I also have physical problems requiring surgery.

Signed: Lois M. Huffman
TESTIFIER
Health benefits - self
REPRESENTING
3953 Main St, Apt 11
ADDRESS
(907) 235-0719
PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on H.F. 315 dated March 6 2004
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

As a mother of one adopted and one birth child, I speak from a position of living authority.

① It is unalaskan to legislate anything which personally affects an individual. Alaska is about PERSONAL FREEDOM.

② Homer Family Planning Clinic Does Alot of things. May I ask how many deeply personal exams you've had in your life? I can tell you how many I've had and it's close to 100. It is wonderful having it done in a caring supportive environment.

③ Focus on changing the mentality RE: adoption first... a natural progression away from abortion will follow.

Signed: Glana L Greear Glana Greear
TESTIFIER

Mothers
REPRESENTING

PO Box 2156 HOMER 99603
ADDRESS

907 235 3227
PHONE NO

④ Keep Church; State Separate

DO NOT CUT TOTAL 10 FUNDING



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the (H)FIN
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB 375 dated 3/5/04
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I strongly encourage support for not rejecting
 the \$412,000 in Federal Title X funds to the
 Health & Social Services Operating Budget

I can't believe that anyone with any compassion
 or common sense would reject funding that
 doesn't cost the state of Ak anything and
 helps so many people with such wonderful
 services.

Signed: Phyllis J Kaufman Phyllis Kaufman
TESTIFIER
Self
REPRESENTING
PO Box 2613
ADDRESS
907-235-2313
PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the (H)FIN
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB377, dated 3/12/04
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I Am here for the mental Health Budget Discussion. Please Support Full Funding for mental Health

Signed: Tacy Smith
TESTIFIER
Sc. 16
REPRESENTING

ADDRESS

PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Finance Appro.
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB-377, dated 3-6-04
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I would ask that you please not cut any more funds from Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Programs, we speak by as it is trying to give services from crisis intervention to shelter for victims + their children to legal advocacy - Domestic Violence intervention program - ~~and~~ education in our schools and community - Please I am not only an employee of SPWS I am a survivor of DV. and our communities need these services, Thank you -

Signed: Jeannie Parker
TESTIFY
 REPRESENTING South Peninsula Womens Services
 ADDRESS 3776 Lake St. S100
Homer 99603
 PHONE NO. 235-7712 / Hm 235-9766



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the House finance committee
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on Title X funding cut, dated 3-6-04
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I am writing to ask the committee to please
 reinstate the federal title X funding.

Our local Family Planning clinic is the only
 resource for health care for me and many

of my uninsured friends in the community.

With rising costs of health care, I would be
 unable to receive ^(afford) basic yearly health checks
 without this funding. I have a family history
 of cervical cancer, and the yearly screenings are
 extremely important to my and all women's health.

Signed: Juliane Derry (Juliane Derry)
TESTIFIER
 REPRESENTING Self
REPRESENTING
 ADDRESS
 PHONE NO. (907) 235-6026

Thank you



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the House Finance Ctr.
COMMITTEE NAME

committee on Title X Funding, dated 3/6/04
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I am writing today to urge the committee to reinstate federal Title X funding back into the operating budget. As a low income person I rely on the services available at the Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic that this funding provides for. Without this funding women & low income women will be forced to forego basic health care & be left without family planning resources. Please accept this federal funding that allows so many women in this community access to basic health services. Accepting this money places no additional burden on the state, however, rejecting the funding will place undue burden on low income women & families.

Signed: Jody Scholz - Jody Scholz
 TESTIFIER
Self
 REPRESENTING
P.O. Box 15187
 ADDRESS
907-235-6026
 PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the House FINANCE
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on HB 375, dated 6 MARCH 04.
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

My NAME IS TARRI THURMAN. I AM A
 KACHEMAK BAY FAMILY PLANNING ~~CLINIC~~ CLINIC
 BOARD MEMBER. WE WORK VERY HARD TO
 PROVIDE LOW COST HEALTH CARE TO
 LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS. WE NEED ~~OUR~~
 THE TITLE X FUNDING TO CONTINUE OFFERING
 THESE VERY NEEDED SERVICES. THIS
 TITLE X FUNDING PROVIDED 2900 UNINSURED
 LOW INCOME WOMEN BASIC NECESSARY
 ANNUAL EXAMS - CANCER SCREENING FOR
 A TOTAL OF 6,100 MEDICAL VISITS. THIS IS
 SO VERY IMPORTANT TO THE HEALTH OF
 OUR COMMUNITY. PLEASE KEEP THESE
FEDERAL FUNDS COMING TO US.

Signed: TARRI THURMAN
TESTIFIER

KBFPL BOARD MEMBER
REPRESENTING

PO BOX 15001 FRITZ CREEK AK 99603
ADDRESS

235-8248
PHONE NO.



Alaska State Legislature

(H)FIN

Please enter into the record by testimony to the

MIKE CRENNAK
COMMITTEE NAME

committee on

HOUSE FINANCE
BILL / SUBJECT

dated

MARCH 2004
TODAY'S DATE

My concern is regarding of Medicaid cuts
 in reference to Mental Health funding &
 preferred drug list. The mental health system in
 combination with the appropriate medications need
 need hundreds of people suffering from MH problems
 from psychiatric institutions which are much more
 costly than Medicaid.

Thank you for your attention

Signed:

Patricia Arnold
TESTIFIER

Patricia Arnold

State Representative Behavioral Health Services Panel
REPRESENTING

500 Alaska State House, Anchorage, Alaska 99505
ADDRESS

235-7179
PHONE NO.



STATE of ALASKA

Bethel Legislative Information Office

PO Box 886
Bethel, Alaska 99559
(907) 543-3541
Fax- 543-3542

Written Testimony
for the
Record:

TCN: 4346

Committee: HFIN - 465-6813

Date: 3/6/04

Bill Number(s): HB 375

Subject(s): Operating Budget

Please enter my testimony into the record.

Jo Anne Williams / Mike Hawes
Testifier's name (s):

Bethel Community Services
Representing (opt.)

Address

Phone

Testimony on proposed OPERATING BUDGET HB 375

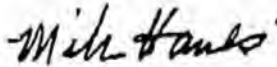
This is Joanna Williams ,STAR Coordinator at Bethel Community Services and Mike Hanes, DD Case Manager at Bethel Community Services. We know of many people that utilize the Vocational Rehabilitation services in this area and it has tremendously helped the individual with their self esteem and helped them get on their feet. It's the people we provide services to and have referred to Vocational Rehabilitation here in Bethel, Alaska. The services have made big differences for the individuals with disabilities and the individuals are contributing back into the community by continuing to work and keeping the economy going as well. Having the office or service in Bethel or in any rural area is very beneficial to outlining areas because it is closer to where we live and the counselor knows and understands the environment/culture.

We feel that closing the rural Vocational Rehabilitation office is not fair for individuals with disabilities from the rural areas. The 'big' offices in the cities like Anchorage have no first hand clue of what it's like to live in the rural area and we don't feel that they will not deliver the best service. We have worked together with the local Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor- Vicki Keele in promoting choice and opportunities for our consumers. Vicki has been very helpful and been available to many consumers from surrounding villages. If we don't have a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor available locally, it will take too long to provide those services to our people in the villages. We hope that you understand why we need the Vocational Rehabilitation offices in the rural areas open.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Joanna Williams, STAR Coordinator


Mike Hanes, DD Case Manager

I am writing you about the proposed reduction of \$126,000 in general funds to the Dept of Labor and Workforce Development, Vocational Rehabilitation.

A reduction of \$126,000 in general funds would amount to a loss of \$252,000 due to the corresponding federal match that would reduce dollar for dollar.

The impact of the proposed reduction on Services Delivered to the Public would be in the Vocational Rehabilitation Client Services component and will have an affect on the divisions ability to deliver vocational rehabilitation services to people with disabilities and to help them become employed. This would adversely effect our economy as we have many very reliable people with disabilities who have entered and who are willing to enter into the workforce.

The intended cut will result in a wait list for Vocational Rehabilitation Services that would affect an estimated 420 individuals with disabilities.

I urge you to reconsider the reduction of \$126,000 in General Funds from the Dept of Labor and Workforce Development FY 2005 budget.

Thank you sincerely: Martha Outwater

Martha Outwater, Maniilaq Voc Rehab Project Director



Alaska State Legislature

March 6, 2004

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
HB 375 - Operations Budget committee name
committee on HB 377 - Appropriations dated _____
bill/subject on Mental Health

Please include this information
in the meeting today at 2:00 PM.
*See the attached testimony

*Two Pages

Signed: Lorraine Helling
Testifier Donald Helling
Representing (Optional) P.O. Box 874645
Mailing Address Wasilla AK 99687-4645
Phone Number 373-1695

Lorraine and Don Helling
P.O. Box 874615
4484 W. Neumar Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
907-373-1695 Phone ~ 907-373-1695 Fax

Testimony Regarding Budget Cuts
to
Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

In 1956, at the age of 18, my husband, Don Helling, was struck with polio, leaving him a quadriplegic. Now, at the age of 65, he can look back on his life and enjoy the memory of accomplishments.....a career in real estate, a time of art classes and paintings, two unpublished books and our marriage (his first) when he was 63. Not only did we marry at a late age, but Don took his first airline flight and moved to my home in Wasilla, leaving behind a home in Colorado that was fully equipped for a wheelchair. Don has done something with his life, despite severe physical limitations.

Despite a hospital accident last summer which has taken about a year out of our lives for recovery, Don remains positive and looks ahead to getting back to his desk and voice activated computer program, which was furnished by the DVR. A plan is in progress to help Don continue writing with this special computer program. What a blessing and encouragement to him to have an attainable goal, thanks to the help of the DVR. Don has talent as an author both in the field of historical fiction and in the area of encouragement. The DVR expects to be able to help him publish his works, especially his book on encouragement which will help many who are disabled or facing major difficulties in life.

Without this voice activated computer program, Don would be without hope of writing again. At this time in his life, a voice activated computer is the only way he is able to prepare his manuscripts. Disabled people need a future to look forward to, just as the rest of us who have normal abilities. Don has hope for a future and a way to help support our family, through his writing. Beyond his writing, Don will again enjoy communication with his ham radio buddies, Internet research, and e-mail communication with family and friends, as soon as he recovers from the hospital accident.

The DVR has helped us in other ways, too, enabling Don to live and work at home. Both Don and I would like to bring the importance of the work at the DVR to your attention and ask that you carefully review any budget cuts that are being considered. The DVR helps disabled people become more independent and more productive in their lives, even to the point of remaining in their own homes, rather than being confined to an institution. I might add that cost to taxpayers is greatly reduced when a disabled person is able to remain at home.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Lorraine and Don Helling

Lorraine and Don Helling

March 6, 2004

3/6/04

To: House Finance Committee, of Alaska Legislature

Re: Proposed 2005 FY budget should enact revenues rather than program slashes destructive to Alaska's many communities.

From: James E. Fisher, 171 Farnsworth, Soldotna 99669

Phone: 262-9601 - fax: 262-9641

I urge enactment of revenue enhancing measures rather than cuts to vital programs such as the various senior programs as proposed by the subcommittee.

This budget cycle should avoid further proposed reductions¹ to those affecting our state's most vulnerable people – our seniors and or children

Since 1995, we have heard Alaska can not grow, or cut, its way out of a fiscal gap. Yet in 2004(for FY2005) we hear you considering: 1) slashing seniors' other than drug help; 2) consigning children to less health maintenance; and so on.

None of any proposed cuts come close to solving the fiscal gap. Revenue measures should be started before any finalization of budget allocations.

An unnamed theologian said "the self righteous will lead us to hell"; Alaska's analogy is that the proposed deterioration of Alaska's senior and education programs could throw us into a recession or some other kind of social hell.

(HFin3304 testimony)

¹ For documentation see attached analysis.

3/6/04 - Confirmation of testimony
to House Finance
J.E.F.

**Reductions to Medicaid Waivers or Grants
Affecting seniors and adults with physical disabilities**

\$6,818.0	Reductions to plans of care (OA/APD)
\$ 790.4	Cost of living/ SB 105/ all waivers
\$7,235.0	Cost study/ reimbursement rate reductions
\$7,950.0	Reduce respite/ use adult day
\$2,900.0	Limit Administrative and General rate to 18%
\$4,905.7	Quality assurance/ Medicaid fraud
\$1,500.0	Monitoring Title III grants
\$1,000.0	Eliminate PCA and respite in assisted living
\$6,566.9	Reduce PCA
\$4,000.0	Nursing Home/ preadmission counseling
\$4,435.5	Reduce environmental modifications
\$ 200.0	Increase Title III grants match

*This is a summary of
the attached analysis*
JEF



James E. Fisher
171 Farnsworth Blvd
Soldotna AK 99669

262-9041

Planning for longer term
DHSS

**Proposed FY05 budget
Division of Senior and Disability Services
Suggested impacts**

Note: all references in this document refer to the page numbers in the Department of Health and Social Services, FY05 Budget Overview.

Preface: one of the largest challenges facing today's health care system is managing chronic care. People with multiple chronic conditions have substantially more physician contacts and are more likely to be hospitalized each year. As the elderly age, they face an increased risk of having multiple chronic conditions. A Robert Wood Johnson study determined that, nationwide, almost all Medicare dollars and about 80 percent of Medicaid resources are spent on people with chronic conditions. Page 91 of the DHSS FY05, Budget Overview, contains a chart of Medicaid expenditures. This chart indicates that the largest Medicaid expenditures are hospital services, physician services, pharmacy, and nursing home care.

The RWJ study suggests that an effective chronic care model is organized around individuals' needs and preferences to coordinate services with the goal of maintaining health status and slowing disease progression. This model includes supportive services that are leveraged to enhance the effectiveness of medical care and to improve the quality of life for people with chronic conditions.

Many studies have shown that an effective coordinated community based service delivery system (supportive services) reduces costs across the continuum of care. In Alaska, Medicaid waivers and minimal grant funding provide the basic foundation for community care. This foundation helps to delay or prevent unnecessary nursing home placement, assists seniors in negotiating the bewildering health care system, reduces the number of contacts to physicians' offices, and can reduce hospital visits.

- An average cost for a senior under the Older Alaskan's waiver (home and community based care) is \$12,911; compared to the average nursing home cost of \$150,000 per patient per year.
- Unfortunately, the existing home and community based system for seniors is seriously under funded.
- This infrastructure will see damaging erosion if the FY05 proposed budget reductions are implemented, resulting in higher costs in the end.

The following information is a list of suggested impacts to the proposed budget reductions.

Page 160: Cost Savings from Older Alaskans/Adults with Physical Disabilities (\$2,727.2) GF match and (\$4,090.8) Fed.

- This reduction assumes that plans of care will be reduced through contracted care coordination assessment.
- This significant reduction is difficult to quantify since the Department has given no specific information about where the care plans will be reduced.

- A reduction of \$6,818 in waiver services will have a significant impact on those needing services, especially when taken in tandem with other proposed reductions.

Page 160: Second year cost-of-living adjustments for Nursing Homes and Home and Community based waivers. (\$252.9) GF match and (\$37.5) Fed.

- This savings is based on SB105 passed by the legislature last year. That bill effectively reduces the number of eligible recipients for Medicaid.
- DHSS does not indicate how many people might lose their eligibility.
- We have already experienced difficulty in qualifying people for the waiver even though the need was clear and the eligibility criteria seemed applicable.

Page 160: Cost Study Savings for Medicaid Waivers. (\$2,894) GF match and (\$4,341) Fed.

- This standardizes reimbursement rates for services across the four waivers.
- There is little specific information in this item; this is a projected assumption of savings based on a study that has not yet been conducted.
- We know that delivering services in rural areas cost more and that waivers are often the essential key to keeping elders in their home communities.

Page 162: Reduce Respite Utilization. (\$3,180) GF match and (\$4,770) Fed

- This reduces respite costs by using the more cost effective adult day service.
- This is an exceptionally effective cost containment strategy that also results in improved outcomes for seniors.
- This strategy, of course, only works in communities where there is an adult day program. Currently there are 12 adult day programs in 11 communities.
- Respite care under the waiver is reimbursed at \$22 an hour. If you divide the proposed \$7,950.0 reduction, that equals a reduction of 361,363 hours of respite.

Page 162: Limit Administrative and General cost to 18%. (\$1,160) GFM and (\$1,740) Fed.

- We are willing to do our part to contain costs, and will try to find a way to live within the 18% cap.
- Administrative burdens continue to increase with the state looking for more accountability financially, and in the area of outcomes that require more data collection and analysis.
- We would be concerned if this represents a downward trend that might continue over time.

Page 162: Eliminate respite and personal care attendant services in Assisted Living Homes. (\$400.0) GF match and (\$600.0) Fed.

- The state currently reimburses assisted living homes for services but not for room and board.
- It is very difficult for the homes to make ends meet with the current rates.

DRAFT

Kenai Food Bank Policy
or
Soliciting and Sales Persons on Premises

Sales Persons and Individuals Soliciting Business from Food Bank staff and employees shall adhere to the following policies and procedures on KPFB premises.

1. Sales solicitors shall call in advance and check to see if their visitation will disrupt special activities taking place on that day after 4:30 p.m.
2. Sales person may visit the KPFB after 4:30 p.m. to visit with staff and after the front office has closed. Visitations may be allowed earlier in the day if the Executive Director determines that it will not be disruptive to the Food Bank's operations.
3. All companies soliciting business at the KPFB must show proof of being registered with the Kenai Peninsula Sales Tax Division.
4. Companies that have demonstrated compliance with the Kenai Peninsula Borough Sales Tax Ordinance may drop off brochures at the front desk before 4:30 p.m. where they will be made available to employees. Employees and staff are not to be solicited at the time the brochures or catalogs are dropped off if it is before 4:30 p.m.
5. If visitations by any one company are disruptive then they may be limited to visiting the KPFB once a month or banned from soliciting employees on KPFB premises at the discretion of Executive Director.

Adopted by the Board of Directors on December 16, 2003.

HOUSE FINANCE CMTE 3-6-04

HB377

Hello My Name is Richard Warrington,

I'm from Kenai, I am a 25 years Survivor of Traumatic Brain Injury, I moved to Alaska with my family in 1986.

I tried to find Services to help me, there was Nothing. Even the Mental Health Councilor's were not trained to help people with Brain Injuries.

I have worked very hard over the 18 years, to get services for people with TBI here in Alaska.

According to the National Statistics the State of Alaska has the most amount of Brain Injury per capita.

From all the presentations I have made over the years, finally getting the Mental Health Board to start looking into services for Brain Injury.

Cognitive impairments from Brain Injury overlaps some ways with other styles of mental health trouble, but are still not the same kind of trouble.

I was appointed to the Newly formed State of Alaska TBI Advisory Board, to represent the Kenai Peninsula.

The Board is set up to help get Service's Through Out the State.

We receive Federal Funds from a HRSA Grant, With matching funds from the Mental Health Trust Authority.

Our Very First Training Conference for the Mental Health Agencies through out the State, will be held the 8th & 9th in Anchorage.

We are Just getting Started, assisting the other survivors around the state

Please Do Not Cut These Vital Funds in Mental Health.

A Whole Population of UN-serviced people live here in Alaska, They need some hope for Their Lives.

The National Brain Injury Assoc Appointed me to the Ambassador program in '97 the same year I made a presentation to the finance committee the same year. Talked about Brain Injury also.

There is 10,000, 50,000, even 100,000 survivors all around the state

*Sincerely
Richard Warrington*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance
committee name

Committee on

HB 375 General Operating Bd.
bill # / subject

, dated

3/6/04

public hearing date

Education is the lifeblood of every community in Alaska. The proposed ~~cuts~~ ^{increases} to education are in reality a bandaide of sorts on the gushing wound that inflation inflicts on education year in and year out. The proposed increases are, in fact a good start, but in reality we need to insure that funding keeps pace with the cost of doing business.

Signed:

John W. Wensley
Testifier
SELF

Representing (optional)

580 Rance Court
Address

283-6091
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

House Finance

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

General Operating Budget
committee name

Committee on

HB 375

bill #/ subject

, dated

3/6/04

public hearing date

My name is Lincoln Wensley, I live at 580 Rance Court, Kenai, Alaska. I am a 5th grader at Mtn View Elementary. I am reading in the newspaper that they are thinking about cutting teachers. Now, I have 7 more years in school left in my education, and I want the best education I can get. Spend more money on schools and we will continue to grow to 1. con forever. So please do not cut teachers, for children need a great education to grow up to be the next Neil Armstrong. Also, if you cut ~~the~~ teachers, I will not learn about the information about ~~the~~ that I am now ~~learning~~. So spend money on schools, and do not cut teachers.

I know you have the money, so spend it the right way.

Signed:

Lincoln Wensley

Testifier

Representing (optional)

580 Rance Ct. Kenai AK 99611

Address

283-6091

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee
committee name

Committee on

HB 377
bill # / subject

, dated

6 MAR 04
public hearing date

I know it's a downturn time in our State,
 But Cutting Our Health Service Programs
 is not a way to close that Gap.
 I'm specially speaking to Mental Health issues
 We have just got the state Traumatic Brain Injury
 Advisory Board started, Mental Health Agencies
 will finally, have training which will
 now provide service for TBI survivors
 after ~~many~~ 4 years of working to this end,
 you now want to cut that service
 just at the beginning! Please Don't!

20 year resident - Grandmother, Great Grandmother
 Education is important too.

Health for these Babies.

The Senior issues will be important in a few years
 what will we have in our future ?? for ours
 & our families ??

Signed:

Mary E. Warrington
Testifier

Kenai Peninsula Brain Injury Support Group
Representing (optional)

313 Cindy Circle - Kenai, AK 99611
Address

907-283-5711
Phone number