

HB

66/67

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Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
COMMITTEE NAME
 committee on House Bill 167, dated 3/19/05
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

Please reinstate the funding that will allow the Breast and Cervical Health Check Program. I have been a client of Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic for over 10 years and have not had any medical insurance. Thanks to this program I have been getting well woman exams and mammograms.

Thank you for your consideration

Elizabeth Neumann

 Elizabeth Neumann
(ELIZABETH NEUMANN)

TESTIFYER
 REPRESENTING Myself
 ADDRESS 14340 Old Sterling Hwy, Anchor Pt AK 99556
 PHONE (907) 235-9667

David F. Bouker
P. O. Box 241
Dillingham, Ak. 99576

d-j-bouker@nushtel.net

March 19, 2005

State of Alaska
House Finance Committee

Gentlemen

For those of you who may not recall, PCE or Power Cost Equalization didn't just start up out of the blue. The idea originated (and later adopted by the Alaska Rural Electric Cooperative Association) with BC Hydro a major Canadian generation and transmission utility that developed a "postage stamp" rate which would benefit all of its customers equally in the province of British Columbia.

Several years prior to the North Slope oil project development, the price of middle distillate fuels rose precipitously which was caused by unrest in the Middle East. With the North Slope development, an opportunity was presented to the legislature that enabled it to help offset some of the high cost of generating electricity in the rural areas via the PCE program. Well, the cost of fuel oil is still going up and at a much higher rate. We need that program worse than ever now.

One legislator recently posed the question, "When will it all end?" It should be noted that the railbelt has benefitted from the efforts and assets of others for many years extending back to the early part of the twentieth century. For example, the oil companies have built a pipeline and refinery in the Fairbanks area, the Federal government built the railroad and probably the Richardson Highway. The point I am trying to make is that we, especially in Alaska, are the beneficiaries of others' efforts and assets. To carry this point a step further, it would only seem reasonable that the rural areas should also be offered the opportunity to benefit from the efforts of the legislature and share in the assets of this state when the need arises. The PCE program provides an excellent means of sharing the assets of this state by partially leveling the electric rates in the rural areas.

To us, it is a fundamental need for the very existence of rural communities. Our cost of fuel is skyrocketing which drains the resources of our electric utilities and our families. Just this last fuel delivery at Nushagak Cooperative saw an increase from \$1.04 to \$1.54 per gallon. This was the largest percentage increase in our history. With an annual fuel consumption of 1,200,000 gallons, it is not difficult to compute the additional cost to our 963 electric consumers. The impact on the rural energy consumer is significant.

Therefore, we ask that you consider PCE as a necessary part of the well-being of the rural areas as well as the rest of this state and fund it accordingly.

Thank you.





Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 66, dated 3-19-05
bill # / subject public hearing date

Alaska has the highest rate of FASD in the world w/ exception of a small area of Africa. Prevention and diagnosis ~~will be~~ of FASD will promote long-term negative impact of violence, incarceration and future FASD births. Diagnosis is extremely important because it opens the door to services such as parent training, individualized strategic intervention and greater success at school, community, and at home.

Prevention + diagnosis of FASD will reduce long-term costs related to domestic and community violence, substance abuse and the costs of raising + educating + supporting future generations of individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Diagnosis + prevention/intervention will also reduce the long-term + immediate emotional + physical consequences of child abuse. It is imperative that FASD programs are funded at their previous levels - if not increased for the long-term health of our state.

Signed:

Jacqueline (Jackie) Boock FASt clinical psychologist independent practice
FASD diagnostic team - Kenai
 Representing (optional)

Address

283-3012 (h) 260-4466 (w)

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 66, dated 3/19/05
bill # / subject public hearing date

Please continue to adequately fund efforts to reduce fetal alcohol spectrum disorders in Alaska. The FAS programs have done some wonderful work in identifying individuals with FASD and raising the level of awareness on the dangers of drinking during pregnancy. The need to continue these efforts is crucial.

If we can put money into prevention and intervention now, we will save a great deal of money in the long run. Without intervention, individuals with FASD end up in jail, embroiled in the legal system, have multiple health issues, are fraught with secondary mental health problems, and perpetuate the disability by creating another generation of children with FASD. Please don't cut our funding!

Signed: Nickie Jinter
Testifier

Kenai Peninsula FAS Diagnostic Program
Representing (optional)

Frontier Community Services 43335 K-Beach Rd. Soldotna
Address

202-6331 x 229
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on H B 66, dated Nov. 19, 2005
bill # / subject public hearing date

Please continue funding for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome identification, prevention and intervention. We have accomplished awareness in our community & state over the past 5 years of programs. We are beginning to see strides in breaking generational patterns. We are able to provide base line information ^{through diagnosis} for young children referred from OCS to assist with support services and appropriate community supports. Diagnosis is essential for identification of strengths and needs. We have numerous trainings each year that provide publicity, awareness, increased knowledge, and prevention measures. We target high risk populations for in-services and educational presentations for prevention. The FASD programs are an essential investment for our community and state.

Signed: Margaret Pearson-Williams
Testifier

Frontier Community Services
Representing (optional)

43335 K-Beach Rd Soldotna 99669
Address

262-6331 x 248
Phone number

RE: Breast and Cervical Health Check Program

I am a breast cancer survivor. I have excellent insurance and received excellent care and am now OK.

But I am speaking now for those women who do not have such resources—those without insurance or the means to access routine diagnostic testing. Breast cancer is the leading cancer in Alaska in terms of invasive cancer. Early screening is the key; the key to an early diagnosis, treatment in time, and a good prognosis.

Alaska has it in her power to help to eradicate the dire outcomes of these cancers when they are not found early enough. Funding of this program is what is needed.

And we have the ability to actually save the State an enormous amount—to say nothing of pain and suffering both physical and mental for the women involved—for later, complex treatment plans which would cost far, far more but would have less optimistic outcomes.

Screening is the most powerful tool we have. Please fund this program.

Thank you

Linda Raymond
11640 Gladys Ct
Homer, AK 99603

March 19, 2005

To Whom it may Concern:

I have been asked by the South Peninsula Women's Shelter in Homer to testify on behalf of additional funding for the programs that educate and support women in domestic or sexual assault cases that occur in our State.

I will also be addressing the funding for Breast and Cervical Health Cancer Programs as I am a breast cancer survivor.

My children and I are currently living in the S.P. Women's Shelter in Homer. We have been there for several weeks. Our home situation had become unbearable because of a mixture of drugs, alcohol and violent explosions of anger and aggression from my husband of 14 years.

My children were so scared, as was I. I decided that nothing I could do was going to fix our situation so I packed our van with cloths, bedding and some food. My only plan was to live in the van with the kids. We just needed out and I didn't care where.

The day we left I called around town trying to find support and encouragement. I called the S.P.W.S. and one of the advocate's spoke to me for a very long time. She was so kind and validated what I was experiencing as real. I cannot tell you what that ALONE did for me. I walked in a fog of self doubt and recrimination.

I am learning and we are recovering in the shelter. This haven has been instrumental in providing calm in the long storm of our life.

There are many books, tapes and other resources in the shelter. The advocates are kind and listen carefully. They gently point out things that I thought I was hiding. It was called to my attention how very differently I behave after a conversation with my husband. I knew how I felt physically, mentally and emotionally. I didn't know that, even when I am trying to appear

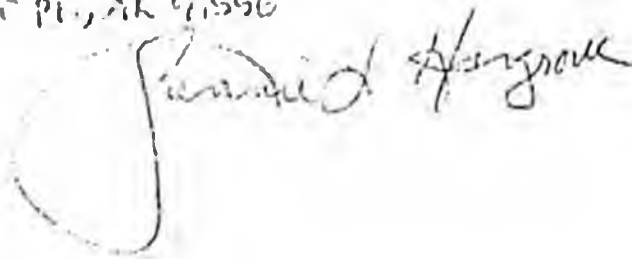
normal, I am disheveled. Full time, trained advocates are paramount to the success of women being validated in their personal experience. Having received validation, those of us who are adrift in a sea of self doubt can begin to right our selves and move forward.

There are many home like qualities that the shelter here in Homer could use. For instance light blocking window coverings so that women and children can rest soundly during our long summer months and cook ware that does not have the Teflon peeling off into the food. They could also use more building maintenance and repair services and driveway maintenance. Not to mention administrative needs that are present.

Your support for the women and children of Alaska is appreciated

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter

Jeanie Hargrove
PO Box 54
Arctic Pt., AK 99556

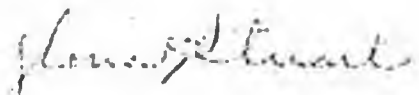
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanie Hargrove". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name and address.

Gloria Stuart
292 Mountain View Drive
Homer, Alaska 99603
glorias@xyz.net

House Finance Committee
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

I am a parent advocate on the Kenai Peninsula's Diagnostic team and the adoptive mother of two young men with FASD. For the past 20 years, I have been parenting these children and have seen first hand what a positive difference the right interventions can make in the lives of people living with this disability. I urge the legislature to retain and/or return the promised funds amounting to \$7.1 million to the designated programs, i.e. \$6 million for Substance Abuse Prevention and \$1.1 million to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Any appropriation less than the promised funding amounts would be a great injustice to the affected individuals. It also would be wise to spend money up front for prevention rather than spending more of the taxpayer's money later for rehabilitation.

Sincerely,



Gloria Stuart

March 19, 2005

Re: Breast and Cervical Health Cancer Program Funding.

Please pass the \$1.8 million funding of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. \

I am an almost 3-year survivor of Breast cancer. I was one of the first women to participate in the program. I testified in Juneau to abolish the sunset clause on the program while I was still in treatment. While I was there, I spoke to a state elected official who said to me, "There are many 'Jennie's' out there. My job is to see that our government does not bankrupt itself on programs like this that exist and serve a small population of our communities." I felt annoyed by his wording and attitude. But I couldn't really decide what the most roaring issue was for me. It took me awhile to boil it down but I did. I am the only 'Jennie' to my children, my mother, sisters, brother, many family members, neighbors and friends. I believe this program is the reason I am still alive, the reason my children still have a mother to raise them. There is only one me, just as there is only one you.

I have lived here since the 1970s

I received excellent care and even though my body has some issues I know that I was very lucky. My family and I are very grateful to you for supporting us in our time of great need. I have learned a lot from being on the receiving end. And I value myself more because of what I consider to be Aloka's investment to my life.

Thank you for your time.

Jennie Hagrove

Jennie Hagrove
P.O. Box 54
Anchor Point, AK
99556

March 17, 2005

House Finance Committee:

Please support the governor's \$1.8 million request for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. This program MUST be funded. Too many women go without proper screening. Breast and cervical cancer, caught early, can be much more easily treated and at a much lesser cost than if a woman goes without proper screening and waits until she has symptoms or finds a lump. The women that avail themselves of this program will be seeking more money for treatment, due to absent or delayed screening, if you refuse to provide them with the resources to do otherwise.

Cindy Emery
8710 El Paso Place
Anchorage, AK 99515

March 18, 2005

Re: Funding for Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

Dear House Finance Committee,

Since I was diagnosed at 36 (my mother at 46) I feel that screening is absolutely necessary for all women. Without the mammogram being available I most likely would not have survived to see my 4 preschoolers or even my current grandchildren grow up. Please continue funding for this life saving procedure.

Barb Gill 28yr survivor
2124 Douglas Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517

3/17/05

To: House finance committee:

Please support the funding of programs for early detection of breast and cervical cancers. The way our health care system is going in this country it becomes nearly impossible to keep up with health needs in an average family of 4 as in our case. To provide health, dental care for children would of course come first in a family... Women tend to leave their health up to good luck and their own knowledgeable care when they have kids to watch out for and marginal insurance coverage. Cancer screening becomes a backburner priority in comparison to children's needs. This kind of funding often leads me to get the screenings that I should have when I know I do not have the money or insurance to cover them. Preventative health care is becoming prohibitive to the middle income families who are not employed by government or big business concerns..... give us a break and help us get the screenings we need!

thank you, Carol Hazeltine

3200 Staysail Dr
Anchorage, AK 99516

March 17, 2005

To: House Finance Committee Members

Re: Funding for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

This program screens low-income, uninsured and under-insured women for breast and cervical cancer.

The screening program reaches women that would otherwise not have access to life-saving screenings.

Without this funding, even women with symptoms who would now qualify for the program could be turned away with no other options. I would assume most of the individual making these cuts are financially settled men who rarely have to worry about breast or cervical cancer. To these individuals, please consider if the significant women in your lives were low income and needed diagnosis of a lump in her breast or treatment for either of these cancers would you be so quick to cut these funds? Low income women are being discriminated against in these cuts and need advocates to speak up for them. Please restore these funds.

Donna Hebbeler

4530 HPR Sitka, AK 99835

To House Finance Committee Members
Regarding the Breast and Cervical Health Check Program
March 17, 2005

My name is Crystal Upton, and I am 25. I have two younger sisters, Valisa, 24, and Kimberly, 21. Our mother died of ovarian cancer seven years ago; she was left untreated for about five years because her doctor, Dr. Subermanian, said she was growing fibroids in her uterus and it was nothing to worry about. When she finally had surgery, they removed two liters of fluid off her abdomen, her ovaries were the size of cantaloupes, and they gave her 5 years to live. She died six months later. She was a stay-at-home mom who did not have insurance thru our dad's policy. On our father's side, our grandma had breast cancer and beat it, and our great-uncle has bone marrow cancer and is fighting it. On our mother's side, our uncle had bowel cancer and died nine months before our mom did. We have a pretty good history of cancer in our family, and therefore we get checked regularly. Valisa and I have health insurance through work, but Kimberly does not, as she is going to college. If she did not have any recourse and found out later on in life that she had cancer, I don't know what I would do. Please, we need this opening to our young women! Thank you ~ Crystal

Crystal Upton, 2104 Roosevelt #1, Anchorage, Alaska 99517

3/17/05

House Finance Committee Comments

I support funding for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. I have had relatives die of cancer so it is very important for me to see that women get that early detection. I hate to see anyone wait or to get no help just because they couldn't afford it. I too was in that game, I had no income and waited to get help and now wished I had that insurance. I don't have cancer but I understand that situation. I am not able to make it to the hearing to speak in person, but do support getting this program funding.

Thanks for listening

**Rose Spencer

PO Box 202924

Anchorage, AK 99520

To House Finance Committee Members
March 17, 2005

It is very clear that early detection increases a woman's chance of survival from breast and cervical cancer. It is my understanding that funding for screening for uninsured or underinsured women is being either decreased or eliminated. I know there are women that would not have screening done because of limited or lack of insurance (medical care is expensive!). Imagine the increase in the death rate of women dying from these types of cancers. Even among those who do have insurance: the awareness of the availability of help to those uninsured or underinsured encourages the insured woman to get screened as well, because the program helps place emphasis on how important a role early screening is in saving the lives of women who get these types of cancer. If I were to be the one to decide to eliminate this type of funding, it would not be in my best conscience to do so. Perhaps you feel the same way.

thank you for your consideration

Jennifer Gillquist
19126 Monastery Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577

Attn: House Finance Committee Members
March 17, 2007

Breast and Cervical Health Check Program

From:

Josie Davidson
4631 Juneau Street #9B
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 230-8179

To Whom It May Concern:

Please, please, please, please do not take this funding away. It is women like me who rely and benefit from this funding. I am 26 years old and do not have medical insurance. As a part time student and recently have changed jobs, I am not eligible for insurance right now. Knowing that if I found a potentially cancerous lump in my breast and would not be able to do anything about it, is very serious to me.

My grandmother died of cancer and could have been saved if funding like this would have been available. She could have caught it early and lived. But without the resources and the available funds to catch it early, she did not survive.

Please institute this funding and save lives.

Thank you,
-Josie

**MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE FINANCE
COMMITTEE:**

**THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY BEFORE
YOU TODAY.**

**MY NAME IS LUCY HUDSON. I AM A MEMBER OF THE
GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG
ABUSE. AS A PUBLIC MEMBER OF THIS BOARD I AM HERE
TODAY TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNOR'S FY
06 AND 05 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR TWO OF
THE MOST IMPORTANT HEALTH ISSUES FACING OUR STATE
TODAY. THEY ARE:**

- 1. FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME – OUR BOARD
SUPPORTS THE GOVERNOR'S REQUEST FOR \$1.1
MILLION IN THE 06 BUDGET.**

**FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD) IS A
PERMANENT BIRTH DEFECT SYNDROME CAUSED BY
MATERNAL CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL DURING
PREGNANCY. FASD IS THE LEADING KNOWN, AND
THE ONLY 100 PERCENT PREVENTABLE, CAUSE OF
MENTAL RETARDATION. DRINKING ALCOHOL
DURING PREGNANCY DESTROYS GROWING AND
DEVELOPING CELLS IN THE FETUS, CAUSING
PERMANENT MALFORMATIONS IN THE BRAIN.**

**THIS \$1.1 MILLION WILL BE USED TO PREVENT -
THROUGH EDUCATION - ALCOHOL-RELATED BIRTH
DEFECTS, INCREASE AND IMPROVE DIAGNOSTIC
SERVICES AND THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO
THOSE INDIVIDUALS ALREADY AFFECTED BY FETAL
ALCOHOL SYNDROME. THIS FUNDING WILL ALSO BE
USED TO EVALUATE THE OUTCOMES OF THESE
STATEWIDE EFFORTS. WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT
PREVENTION, THROUGH EDUCATION, CAN REDUCE
FASD AND THE COSTLY SERVICES TO TREAT THIS
POPULATION AFTER THE FACT.**

2. SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PREVENTION WE ALSO SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR'S REQUEST FOR \$1.5 MILLION IN THE 06 BUDGET AND \$ 4.5 MILLION IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET TO BATTLE THIS MAJOR COSTLY MALADY IN OUR STATE.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE, USE AND DEPENDENCY COST THE STATE OF ALASKA MORE THAN \$600 MILLION ANNUALLY IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE, HEALTHCARE, TREATMENT, FAMILY VIOLENCE, LOSS PRODUCTIVITY, TRAFFIC/OTHER ACCIDENTS AND SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE.

ONCE AGAIN, PREVENTION, IS A KEY TO LONG TERM HEALTH OF ALASKANS. A 2003 NATIONAL SURVEY REPORTED THAT: YOUTH WHO FIRST USE ALCOHOL BEFORE AGE 15 ARE MORE THAN 5 TIMES AS LIKELY TO ABUSE OR BECOME ADDICTED TO ALCOHOL THAN A PERSON WHO FIRST USED ALCOHOL AT AGE 21 OR OLDER. WE BELIEVE THAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EFFORTS TARGETED TO TODAY'S 10 TO 15 YEAR OLDS COULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SAVINGS IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT COSTS AND IMPROVE HEALTHY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THIS POPULATION. FUNDING OF \$1.5 REQUESTED IN THE FY06 OPERATING BUDGET PLUS \$4.5 MILLION REQUESTED IN THE FY05 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET WILL BE USED TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND PREVENTION EFFORTS STATEWIDE – AN INVESTMENT IN ALASKA'S FUTURE.

FINALLY, I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT THE HUMAN COST OF RUINED LIVES AND BROKEN FAMILIES IS A REAL TRAGEDY. ALCOHOL ABUSE IS DESTROYING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES. I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR'S FUNDING REQUEST TO HELP REDUCE THIS TRAGEDY.

Charter School Funding Relevant Statutes

Sec. 14.03.260. Funding for charter school.

(a) A local school board shall provide an approved charter school with an annual program budget. The budget shall be not less than the amount generated by the students enrolled in the charter school less administrative costs retained by the local school district, determined by applying the indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Education and Early Development. The "amount generated by students enrolled in the charter school" is to be determined in the same manner as it would be for a student enrolled in another public school in that school district.

Sec. 14.17.905. Facilities constituting a school.

(a) For purposes of this chapter, the determination of the number of schools in a district is subject to the following:

(1) a community with an ADM of at least 10, but not more than 100, shall be counted as one school;

(2) a community with an ADM of at least 101, but not more than 425, shall be counted as

(A) one elementary school, which includes those students in grades kindergarten through six; and

(B) one secondary school, which includes students in grades seven through 12;

(3) in a community with an ADM of greater than 425, each facility that is administered as a separate school shall be counted as one school, except that each alternative school with an ADM of less than 200 shall be counted as a part of the school in the district with the highest ADM.

(b) Notwithstanding (a)(3) of this section, a charter school shall be counted as a separate school if the charter school has an ADM of at least 150 students.

Agency Summary - FY 2006 Operating Budget - House Structure

Numbers & Language
Fund Group: General Funds

Agency	04Actual	05MgtPln	GovTot	H Subcm	HouseCS	05MgtPln to HouseCS		GovTot to HouseCS	
Department of Administration	68,557.7	49,259.7	56,806.4	55,432.1	56,281.4	7,021.7	13.3 %	-525.0	-0.9 %
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development	11,124.8	7,867.9	9,026.0	8,813.8	8,939.6	1,071.7	13.6 %	-156.4	-1.7 %
Department of Corrections	150,293.9	155,704.8	169,906.9	165,435.6	168,829.6	13,124.8	8.4 %	-1,077.3	-0.6 %
Department of Education and Early Development	746,968.2	830,516.1	29,031.6	27,365.2	27,610.6	802,905.5	-96.7 %	-1,421.0	-4.9 %
Department of Environmental Conservation	10,900.1	12,934.8	13,856.8	13,295.0	13,606.7	671.9	5.2 %	-250.1	-1.8 %
Department of Fish and Game	26,682.8	28,571.7	32,922.0	30,806.4	32,272.0	3,700.3	13.0 %	-650.0	-2.0 %
Office of the Governor	15,686.8	10,075.0	15,924.6	15,541.6	15,924.6	-3,150.4	-16.5 %	0.0	
Department of Health and Social Services	524,858.7	530,551.4	628,137.1	591,580.3	597,149.1	66,590.7	12.6 %	-30,995.0	-4.9 %
Department of Labor and Workforce Development	10,675.6	13,850.6	15,453.8	14,772.6	15,043.8	1,193.2	8.6 %	-470.0	-2.7 %
Department of Law	31,218.5	31,481.1	34,183.6	31,769.6	32,577.6	1,196.5	3.8 %	-1,506.0	-4.4 %
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	8,587.1	9,175.6	12,678.6	11,566.3	11,929.6	2,753.8	30.0 %	-742.0	-5.9 %
Department of Natural Resources	42,659.5	53,608.6	54,474.7	52,991.9	54,243.6	639.0	1.2 %	-231.1	-0.4 %
Department of Public Safety	76,869.0	84,989.6	94,235.4	91,038.0	93,035.4	8,046.8	9.5 %	1,207.0	1.3 %
Department of Revenue	9,659.1	12,099.2	10,213.3	9,764.5	9,969.3	-2,135.9	-17.7 %	250.0	-2.4 %
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities	96,504.1	98,905.2	112,673.9	110,615.2	112,093.5	13,189.3	13.3 %	-28.4	-0.5 %
University of Alaska	212,717.1	228,933.1	241,645.1	228,267.0	231,711.1	3,977.9	2.5 %	11,934.0	4.9 %
Alaska Court System	54,845.9	58,817.2	64,732.6	60,891.4	62,661.1	3,243.9	5.5 %	2,671.7	4.1 %
Legislature	13,581.4	41,344.0	43,876.1	42,464.1	43,748.9	2,400.9	5.8 %	-131.2	-0.3 %
Debt Service	3,396.3	2,716.0	8,146.8	6,169.0	6,169.0	3,433.0	125.5 %	-1,977.8	-24.3 %
Fund Capitalization	42,959.5	51,669.1	114,242.0	116,414.1	116,466.1	84,606.0	175.5 %	2,226.1	1.9 %
Total - Operating Budget	2,186,746.1	2,321,477.0	1,764,247.5	1,145,018.1	1,709,747.6	611,729.3	-76.4 %	-58,499.9	-3.1 %

Agency Summary - FY 2006 Operating Budget - House Structure

Numbers & Language

Agency	04Actual	05MgtPIn	GovAtot	H Subcom	HouseCS	05MgtPIn to HouseCS		GovAtot to HouseCS	
Department of Administration	188,461.7	213,335.4	229,641.3	226,902.3	229,304.7	15,969.3	7.5 %	-336.6	+0.1 %
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development	122,671.2	125,609.1	137,477.7	124,599.2	125,874.9	265.8	0.2 %	-11,602.8	-8.4 %
Department of Corrections	177,967.9	182,600.4	196,044.4	191,457.9	194,966.5	12,366.1	6.8 %	-1,077.9	-0.5 %
Department of Education and Early Development	945,085.7	1,032,450.8	241,234.8	239,079.6	239,813.8	-792,637.0	-76.8 %	-1,471.0	-0.6 %
Department of Environmental Conservation	49,760.2	54,983.5	57,732.5	55,768.7	57,014.5	2,031.0	3.7 %	-718.0	-1.2 %
Department of Fish and Game	117,307.3	143,035.5	154,560.7	151,101.9	153,910.7	10,875.2	7.6 %	-650.0	-0.4 %
Office of the Governor	14,283.9	21,928.9	16,998.9	16,603.9	16,998.9	-4,930.0	-22.5 %	0.0	
Department of Health and Social Services	1,599,328.5	1,678,262.6	1,836,133.2	1,775,785.2	1,782,883.1	104,670.5	6.2 %	-53,250.1	-2.9 %
Department of Labor and Workforce Development	119,913.2	157,393.3	156,393.1	153,757.2	155,973.1	-1,420.2	-0.9 %	-470.0	-0.3 %
Department of Law	48,967.8	54,614.1	58,803.2	56,170.8	57,597.2	2,983.1	5.5 %	-1,206.0	-2.1 %
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	32,480.7	35,769.9	41,019.5	39,678.9	40,270.5	4,500.6	12.6 %	-749.0	-1.8 %
Department of Natural Resources	95,509.3	112,476.2	114,612.7	112,028.0	114,113.5	1,637.3	1.5 %	-499.2	-0.4 %
Department of Public Safety	104,140.2	116,081.0	125,492.6	122,683.6	124,292.6	8,211.6	7.1 %	-1,200.0	-1.0 %
Department of Revenue	149,670.9	169,472.6	181,478.0	174,401.5	176,465.9	6,994.3	4.2 %	-7,011.1	-3.8 %
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities	367,517.1	394,477.8	426,293.1	407,165.6	416,047.2	21,564.4	5.5 %	10,251.1	+2.4 %
University of Alaska	566,665.1	655,921.6	712,003.7	678,464.6	695,420.5	19,493.9	2.9 %	-76,591.2	-3.7 %
Alaska Court System	56,410.0	62,149.4	67,155.0	63,311.6	64,463.3	4,333.9	7.2 %	-7,671.7	-4.0 %
Legislature	34,369.1	42,147.0	44,512.2	41,110.4	44,981.0	2,234.0	5.3 %	-131.2	-0.1 %
Det:1 Service	127,710.7	182,580.8	193,921.1	188,913.3	188,543.3	6,352.5	3.5 %	1,477.8	+1.0 %
Fund Capitalization	164,766.0	1,452,588.3	1,604,010.9	1,495,757.0	1,496,257.0	153,768.7	10.5 %	2,226.1	0.1 %

<u>Agency</u>	<u>04Actual</u>	<u>05MgtPln</u>	<u>GovATot</u>	<u>H Subcom</u>	<u>HouseCS</u>	<u>05MgtPln to HouseCS</u>		<u>GovATot to HouseCS</u>	
Total - Operating Budget	5,683,258.5	6,896,288.2	6,594,538.8	6,426,691.2	6,475,008.2	-421,280.0	-6.1 %	-119,530.6	-1.8 %
General Funds	2,186,746.1	2,321,477.0	1,764,247.5	1,685,018.1	1,709,747.6	-611,729.4	-26.4 %	-54,499.9	-3.1 %
Federal Receipts	1,447,140.2	1,577,068.6	1,673,686.0	1,644,489.6	1,651,048.7	73,980.1	4.7 %	-22,637.3	-1.4 %
Other	2,049,372.2	2,997,742.6	3,156,605.3	3,097,183.5	3,114,211.9	116,469.3	3.9 %	-42,393.4	-1.3 %

LANGUAGE CHANGES (Governor to House CS)--House Operating Budget			
Item	Section	Description	Notes
1	3	Add intent regarding addition of positions	
2	4	Add language regarding position reclassifications	
3	13	Add GovAmend language appropriating \$570.0 to DEED for legal costs.	
4	14	Add statutory citation	
5	15	Replace "defined" with "described" in text referring to LB&A review of additional funding	
6	18	Delete GF capitalization of PCE fund (reduces program grants to \$15.7 million)	
7	18(e)	Adopt GovAmend number for GF capitalization of Debt Retirement Fund	
8	18(f)	Adopt GovAmend number for ILTF capitalization of Debt Retirement Fund	
9	18(m, o, p)	Move GovAmend language regarding NPRA grants from capital bill and modify to direct \$253.4 surplus to PCE fund instead of PCE endowment	
10		Delete GovAmend \$12.2 Master lease capitalization of ISF for IT capital projects (replaced with GF capitalization in FTS)	Placed in FTS and removed from CS. Later removed from FTS so an amendment is required if the projects are to be funded.
11	27(m)	Adopt GovAmend revisions to school debt reimbursement	
12		Delete GF Debt Service payments for DOA's human resources & payroll project	Project was to be paid for with cash in the FTS but was removed from that bill. An amendment to capitalize the ISF is required if the projects are to be funded with proceeds from the line of credit. No debt service is required if the capitalization is from the general fund.
13		Delete GF Debt Service payments for DOA's enterprise technology projects	Projects were to be paid for with cash in the FTS but were removed from that bill. An amendment to capitalize the ISF is required if the projects are to be funded with proceeds from the line of credit. No debt service is required if the capitalization is from the general fund.
14	30	Adopt GovAmend CBR management fee	
15		Delete Gov FY06 retirement cost increases of state agencies (including University) and fund with FY06 money in section 1	
16		Delete all FY05 funding for FY07 retirement and University cost increases	
17		Modify lapse and effective date sections as required to match changes	

6

LANGUAGE CHANGES (Governor to House CS)--House Operating Budget			
Item	Section	Description	Notes
Amendments to Consider			
1		Add three maritime unions to the list of labor agreements in section 22	An amendment should include capitalization of the AMHS fund and appropriations from the fund as well as language mentioning the unions.
2		FY06 University cost increases (other than retirement) should be funded with FY06 money in section 1	Subcommittees do not typically address language, so this issue was not addressed. The Chairman chose to propose an amendment rather than override the subcommittee report.
3	9(d)	Potential Amendments contingent on bill to amend AS 37.13.145(d). An amendment to the FY05 operating budget would produce another \$30 million (that is currently appropriated to PF principal).	AS 37.13.145(d) directs that earnings on the AmHess settlement go to Permanent Fund principal. An amendment could redirect that cash flow to the debt retirement fund, but only if AS 37.13.145(d) is modified. Governor has other plans for AmHess earnings

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Alaska Commission on Aging

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110693

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0693

PHONE: (907) 465-3250

FAX: (907) 465-1398

March 17, 2005

The Honorable Mike Chenault
House Finance Committee
State Capitol Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB 66/67

Dear Representative Chenault:

The members of the Alaska Commission on Aging would like to voice their support for passage of HB 66 and 67, the Governor's funding requests for the Department of Health and Social Services FY06 budget. We are concerned about providing services for all vulnerable Alaskans and we have particular interest in supporting services for older Alaskans who are in need. We urge you to fully fund the following requests in the Governor's FY06 budget:

- Pioneer Homes Staffing - \$300,000
- Nursing Facilities Transition Program - \$225,000
- Adult Protective Services General Relief Program - \$750,000

The Governor's request for the Pioneers Homes staffing would provide for the hiring of 6 new certified nursing assistants, 2 each in the 3 Pioneers Homes where occupancy runs close to capacity. These facilities also tend to have the highest fall rates for residents. This is a very serious safety concern which can only be remedied by increased staffing. In addition, the trend in our Pioneers Homes has been a decline in residents needing very little or no care (37 to 10%) and a sharp increase in residents requiring the highest level of care (26 to 71%). This problem is not going to go away. These vulnerable seniors and elders need your support.

The Nursing Facilities Transition Program, federally funded through September 2005, has been extremely successful in transitioning people out of costly care in nursing facilities to homes in their own communities. To date this program has transitioned 80 individuals out of nursing homes, with a savings of about \$6,500 per person. The GF increment for the program in the Governor's budget is necessary in order to continue this program.

Finally, the Adult Protective Services General Relief Program provides funding that is used to pay for housing and supportive services for vulnerable adults residing in licensed assisted living homes. This is not a new program and the funding is critical to protect vulnerable Alaska adults who are not able to live on their own.

Again, the Commission asks that you support passage of the Governor's proposed FY06 budget for the Department of Health and Social Services. We thank you for consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Linda Gohl, Executive Director
Alaska Commission on Aging



For Additional information:
Kevin Ritchie 586-1325 Kevin@akml.org

Date: March, 2005

Communities form the heart and culture of Alaska. Cities and boroughs provide the most public service at the lowest price of any level of government. They protect the State from liability and reduce the cost to the State of providing basic public services to state residents.

1. **High oil prices hurt communities:** Every \$1 increase in the price of a barrel of oil =

- ◆ \$65 million of new revenue per year for the State government,
- ◆ But \$20 million of new costs to Alaskan cities and boroughs, schools, businesses, other organizations, and families (based on federal fuel usage figures for Alaska).

2. **Small cities disintegrating:**

Per State DCCED, this year out of 94 small cities:

- 9 cities no longer functioning
- 17 more cities in deep debt
- 39 more cities have terminated key local services this year (e.g. police, road/utility/facility maintenance)

Per AML Joint Insurance Association:

- 10 cities insurance canceled
- 33 cities on month to month payments due an inability to pay

Uninsured communities place a huge liability on the State, far in excess of the cost of a municipal revenue sharing program.

3. **Rural out-migration/Impacts of increasing decline of rural public services:**

- ◆ Out-migration of Alaska Natives from their homes in rural Alaska has accelerated over the last 30 years. In the last decade, 11,011 Alaska Natives (nearly 10% of the rural population) migrated to urban areas. (UA - ISER "Status of Alaska Natives 2004")

4. **Rural Alaska Fuels the Urban Economy**

- ◆ An estimated 20% of the urban job base directly or indirectly depends on trade and services to other parts of Alaska. (Alaska's Economic Links – Gross and Assoc, Chase Economics, Northwest Strategies, 1998)

Status Update (3/1/05)
Municipal Governments
(DCCED Division of Community Advocacy)

There are 20 first class and 113 second class cities in Alaska. These municipal governments are responsible for providing core services to the residents in those communities. The revenue they receive to provide these services is categorized in to three classes. Locally generated revenue is a category and includes sales taxes, profits from gaming operations, user fees from services, rental of buildings and equipment and administrative fees from management of grants. Grant revenue as a second category is frequently used to provide social services, or assist in paying for governmental services such as police. A third category of funding for municipalities is state-shared revenue. This includes Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILT), Shared taxes (fish tax, telephone coop taxes), and up to the past year Revenue Sharing/Municipal Assistance/Safe Communities/Temporary Fiscal Relief Payment.

In the past few years we have seen a reduction in funds distributed to municipalities at the same time as an increase in cost through higher insurance premiums, fuel costs (and thus transportation costs), and retirement plan costs. This set of circumstances has put many municipalities in hard financial times.

In examining the financial status of municipalities we can break them out into several categories:

- Closed down or transferred operations to another entity;
- Accrued significant debt or financial problems yet to be dealt with; and,
- Struggling with financial situations or have made significant reductions to core services.

Getting situational reports that can be used to evaluate the financial health of every municipality is extremely hard. While the communities in the first and most financially distressed category are relatively easy to define, it is likely that there are additional communities in the other two categories that we are not aware of.

Closed down or transferred operations to another entity,

Currently there are 9 municipal corporations in the State of Alaska that have ceased day to day operation. These nine are Ahkiok, Kiana, Kivalina, Kupreanof, Mekoryuk, Nikolai, Platinum, Quinhagak, and Russian Mission. Two of these cities, Kiana and Quinhagak continue to maintain a shell of a municipality (no employees, but hold elections and joint council meetings) in order to maximize revenue coming into the community.

Closed down or transferred operations to another entity (9 municipalities)

Ahkiok	Kiana	Kivalina	Kupreanof
Mekoryuk	Nikolai	Platinum	Quinhagak
Russian Mission			

Accrued significant debt or financial problems yet to be dealt with.

There are 18 communities that we know about that have extreme managerial or financial problems. These problems are severe enough that they could be considered to be insolvent. The problems include:

- Not completing the basic function of municipal government including holding elections, holding regular council meetings, or adopting a yearly budget,
- Large debt to vendors, including; the IRS, fuel companies or the state for delinquent fuel loans, or insurance companies,

- Operating without workers compensation insurance,
 - Having lawsuits filed against them (or unpaid judgements) and not able to afford legal council,
 - Having to transfer operation of water/sewer to other entities in order to eliminate expenditures.
- Sanitation is considered a core service that is almost always the major capital investment made by state and federal agencies in the community. Remaining services provided by city are minimal.

Accured significant debt or financial problems yet to be dealt with (17 municipalities)

Allakaket	Buckland	Chevak	Goodnews Bay
Grayling	Holy Cross	Hydaburg	Lower Kalskag
Napaskiak	Nunam Iqua	Pilot Point	Point Hope
Saint George	Shageluk	Shishmaref	Toksook Bay
Upper Kalskag	Wales		

Struggling with financial situations or have made significant reductions to core services.

There are 39 communities that we know about that have significant financial problems. These problems could become severe enough in the next 24 months to cause closure of the city administrative offices and result in the financial insolvency of the municipality. These municipalities have already eliminated a core governmental service. The problems include:

- Eliminate core municipal services such as police protection, closure of washeteria, or elimination of road maintenance due to lack of available funds,
- Large PERS debts from terminating from the PERS program,
- Large IRS debts or default fuel loans to the Alaska Energy Authority,
- Significantly behind on payment for insurance or fuel.

The following listing of municipalities by category of distress is based upon evidence provided from various sources to the Division's Local Government Specialist staff. There is no way to completely and accurately predict the future. These are estimates of the municipalities we believe to be in various levels of financial distress.

Struggling with financial situations or have made significant reductions to core services (39 municipalities)

Akiak	Alakanuk	Ambler	Anaktuvuk Pass
Angoon	Atquasuk	Chignik	Chuathbaluk
Clark's Point	Diomedede	Eck	Emmonak
Gambell	Golovin	Hooper Bay	Kaktovik
Kobuk	Kotlik	Koyuk	Koyukuk
Mountain Village	Napakiak	Nightmute	Noorvik
Nuiqsut	Old Harbor	Pelican	Pilot Station
Port Lions	Ruby	Saint Michael	Scammon Bay
Selawik	Shaktoolik	Shungnak	Teller
Tenakee Springs	Togiak	Wainwright	

General Rural Alaska Conditions

Extremely High Costs	e.g. Gas at \$5.15 a gallon
Extremely High Unemployment	e.g. Unemployment at 50% or more
Virtually No Property Tax Base	e.g. All of Ambler is assessed at \$3.5 million (i.e. low values and much non-taxable land.)
Low revenue from sales tax	e.g. Despite the fact more cities have sales tax and many are raising it, it won't save them. Each 1% of sales tax in Ambler nets \$7500/year.
Very Strong Stable Communities	Most rural communities have existed from hundreds to thousands of years.

Impacts of the loss of State support

State impacts of loss of insurance	It appears that the State is the logical "deep pocket" for losses of uninsured cities in the Legislature's Unorganized Borough. <u>One loss</u> could exceed the cost of a revenue sharing program.
Statewide economic impacts	Rural residents are moving to urban areas in accelerating numbers while urban jobs serving rural Alaska are declining. Currently an estimated one out of five urban jobs directly or indirectly serve other regions in Alaska. Rural communities attract a large amount of federal and foundation resources that cycle through urban economies.

Statistics to date

Per State DCCED,

- 9 cities no longer functioning
- 17 cities in deep debt that they are unlikely to be able to repay
- 39 cities have terminated key local services this year (e.g. police, road/utility/facility maintenance)

Per AML Joint Insurance Association:

- 10 cities insurance canceled
- 33 cities on month to month payment plans due an inability to pay

Conclusion

Alaska faces the loss of half its city governments. Unlike an occasional western U.S. boom town that becomes a ghost town, this represents a growing widespread loss of historically stable and culturally rich communities.

January, 2005
Local Government Issue Paper
Alaska's Small Cities in Crisis



In 2003, there were 94 cities with annual local government operating budgets under \$300,000 per year, and averaging \$164,000, to provide public services for an entire community (according to State figures, DCED). From 2003 to 2005, those 94 cities (out of a total of 146 cities in Alaska) lost an average of approximately 42% of the revenue required to provide basic public services. The crises are due to massive State cuts to cities at a time of skyrocketing local costs and economic downturns. In 2004, Alaska became one of two states that eliminated its local government revenue sharing programs. Most small rural cities operate in a cost effective manner with many part-time or volunteer positions. However, most of Alaska's small rural communities have very little local tax base due to cash poor subsistence economies.

2003 Average Operating Budget for two thirds of AK Cities	\$164,000
Examples of Approximate 2003-04 Cuts/cost increases:	-\$69,000)
2003 State Cuts to Revenue Sharing/Match Grants	-\$10,000)
2004 State Eliminates Revenue Sharing	-\$40,000)
Fuel/electricity/goods rise due to oil prices	-\$7,000)
Community insurance increases	-\$6,000)
State mandated increases (PERS)	-\$4,000)
New state inspection fees, service transfers, etc.	-\$2,000)

Growing Impacts of Loss of Revenue Sharing, etc.

It is difficult to know the status of small rural communities. Few that fail have the administrative capacity to take steps to formally dissolve. They simply lay off their employees, cease being able to hold elections, cancel insurance for community facilities, stop providing services, etc. In some cases tribes or other organizations take over key government services.

As of last month, the following cities have either been unresponsive to contacts by the State, have not held local elections, entered into an agreement with a tribe to assume city responsibilities, or contacted the State regarding formal dissolution: Akhiok, Ambler, Chevak, Holy Cross, Hughes, Kiana, Kivalina, Koyukuk, Lower Kalskag, Napaskiak, Nikolai, Platinum, Russian Mission, Scammon Bay. Additionally, 10 cities or more have had their insurance canceled for lack of payment to date, and approximately 33 more cities are on month-to-month payment plans because they can't afford the premiums currently.

While it is too early to say how many cities have ceased operations, a great number are unquestionably in peril. The loss of public safety, transportation, and other key local services is having a huge negative impact on the people of Alaska.

Kathleen Johnson, LPC
13641 Windward Circle
Anchorage, AK 99516
(907) 345-3249

March 17, 2005

Chair, House Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Fax: (907) 465-6813

Re: Written Testimony
Proposed State Operating Budget (HB67)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to provide legislative testimony regarding the proposed FY06 budget. I want to express the importance of continuing to fund the prevention programs (substance abuse prevention, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome prevention and Cancer Screenings), and that I support the entire package being re-instated in the Governor's budget.

I have more than 15 years professional experience working with addiction issues and fetal alcohol syndrome. Our state cannot afford to eliminate or under fund the prevention efforts in these areas. The State of Alaska has the highest Fetal Alcohol Syndrome rates in the nation. We lead the nation in drug and alcohol addiction as well as problems related to substance abuse- domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, and crime. If our people and governing bodies do not step up to the plate and fund the prevention of these issues, we will forever be limited to reactive-based interventions at an immense cost.

The substance abuse prevention dollars fund programs that interrupt negative cycles of addiction and offer people an opportunity to make changes in their lives BEFORE their addiction destroys them and their families. The FAS prevention services throughout the state have done an excellent job at elevating the dangers of drinking and pregnancy to general awareness. But this process must continue. Our medical providers are being educated to inform their Prenatal Patients to cease alcohol consumption during pregnancy, our schools and special education committees have FAS prevention integrated and represented. Our treatment programs offer education about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and dangers of drinking. Children who have been prenatally exposed to alcohol are receiving appropriate diagnoses for the first time, resulting in the right treatments rather than incorrect diagnoses which are treated with the wrong medications. Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are receiving earlier interventions and the families, foster care providers and parents are supported by the many FAS-related community projects throughout the state to obtain EARLY access to very important interventions that can be life-changing for the child, family and community.

Approximately 15% of pregnant women seeking prenatal care through a local women's health clinic self-report alcohol use during pregnancy. This places them in the risk category for delivering a child with FASD related disabilities. The estimated lifetime cost of treating one child with FAS is roughly 1.4-1.5 million dollars. I urge you to fund the prevention package.


Kathleen Johnson
Licensed Professional Counselor

Please forward a copy of current written findings protocols, current members, suggested members providing contact phone & fax nos, & current public hearing results



Alaska State Legislature

AS (Sec. 12, Art II) Sec. 24, 05, 120

I believe that confusion of rules exist & that it is impossible for the public to follow or conduct in the legislative process

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

AttN: Gary Wilkin's committee on Senate Bill NO. 42, dated 3-16-05
ph: 465-4714 introduced 1-11-2005 GILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I would like to testify on the "Act Extending ... Task Force on Naturopathic Scope of practice." I must first state my gratitude to everyone for all of their work and efforts dedicated to improving the health of everyone in Alaska. I also would ask you to define the dates of extention through the date of termination. Also, I would like to understand what the Dept of Commerce and the Dept of Community and Economic Development have in one that is centered around money making. I have experienced the unethical, unfair and illegal practices from the Alaska Community & Economic Dev. offices from through unauthorized seizures of my subsurface and mineral rights, land rights and have left me no benefit. In fact, recent developments have proved the over-legal limits of arsenic & iron in my drinking water that I pay to be brought in! I was told I can die of cancer from drinking my water. 72 schools in Alaska have the same problems possibly and I move that

Signed: Debra Spencer legal steward of Seward
Public - Homestead Lands Meridian

and results → PO Box 913, Homer AK 99603
ADDRESS: ATA - (907) 235-8868
PHONE NO.

instead of amending this S.B. No. 42 I propose that the occupational licensing & the Commerce, community & Economic Development stay away from the health field & that the health field start to help protect health + safety

~~Handwritten scribbles and crossed-out text at the top of the page.~~



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the ~~214~~ H Finance COMMITTEE NAME

committee on HB No 61 BILL / SUBJECT, dated 3/17/05 TODAY'S DATE

I would like to enter my testimony for HB61 in regards to calcutta pools. I am afraid that the undefined terms may open doors for more destructions to Alaska's wildlife & wild game. Also, has there been any efforts to establish protective acts for each animal, fish, bird, species that enters into Alaska. As a "Last Frontier" I believe we have a serious responsibility to defend and preserve and honor all life including birds (ex. geese, which is important for foxes to eat which inturn leaves opportunity for the trappers to provide pelts to buyers.) Eider Steller is in jeopardy of extinction and I would like to know, if this Bill is passed will there be any protections on wildlife or ocean life not be used to AID in providing a "CONTEST OF SKILL" - calcutta Pools may deny the frontiers duty to protect any game, wildlife, bird, or ocean animal like sea otters, seals, ect. Hunting is not a game in Alaska... it is a way to survive and feed your families.

Signed: Debra Spencer
 PUBLIC - HOMESTEAD LANDS. LEGAL STeward of Seward Meridian

Please send results to → P.O. Box 913, Homer, AK 99603
 (907) 235-8868

March 17, 2005

Alaska State Legislature House Finance Committee
Anchorage LIO
716 W 4th Avenue Ste 200
Anchorage, AK. 99501

I am writing on behalf of the women of Alaska. The women that need and deserve quality health care which includes screening for two potentially deadly diseases, breast and cervical cancer. Both of which can be fought and won with the current medical advances available to us, **ESPECIALLY** when screened and detected early.

I am a 33 year-old Alaskan woman, and a breast cancer survivor. I was fortunate enough to have insurance when I was diagnosed at the age of 30. I know there are many women not as fortunate as myself. 145 breast cancers and 23 cervical cancers have been detected in women who otherwise would not have had the means to get screening. Through the Health Check program, cancers were detected and women were empowered with the treatment options available to them and thus lives were saved. The fact that funding could be possibly cut and women could be turned away is a travesty and I urge you, our State Legislators, to help the women of Alaska that need this funding, and support Governor Murkowski's proposed \$1.8 Million in additional funding for the Health Check program. Just think of the additional lives that can be saved.

Please don't hesitate to call or email me with any further questions or concerns. Thank you for taking the time to hear my views.

Sincerely,

Carla Wyrick
1736 Bellevue Loop
Anchorage, AK. 99515
(907) 338-8903 home
(907) 360-8890 cell
(907) 646-2107 work



FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR
State of Alaska

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

P.O. Box 240240 • Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0249 • Phone: 907-269-0990 • Fax: 907-269-8995 • Toll Free 888-269-8990

March 17, 2005

State of Alaska
House Finance Committee
State Capital, Room 519
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Proposed Operating Budget (HB 67)

Mr. Chairmen and Members of the Committee:

The Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education fully supports the inclusion of funds in the FY06 budget to allow individuals to transition out of a nursing facility and into the community in which they belong.

Alaska's Nursing Facility Transitions Project began in 2001 using funds from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). To date, funds from this project have allowed 80 individuals to transfer out of a nursing facility and back into their own community. The annual cost to keep these 80 individuals in a nursing facility would be \$10,590,612. In contrast, the annual cost for Home and Community Based Waiver Services (HCBS) for these 80 individuals is \$4,047,190. This translates to a \$6,543,422 savings from transitioning these 80 individuals back into their communities.

Unfortunately, funding for this project will cease on September 30, 2005 and many of the initial transition services that this program provides are not covered under Medicaid. Therefore, a General Fund increment is vital in order to continue to offer this service as an option.

The *Olmstead Decision* (*Olmstead v L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581, 110 S.Ct. 2176 (1999)) requires states to place individuals with disabilities in community settings, rather than in institutions, when appropriate. It is known that services provided to individuals in a community setting are more cost effective than providing the same services in an institutional setting. More importantly, individuals are able to live in their own communities, surrounded by friends and family.

In order to provide this opportunity to others, we are asking that you support Governor Murkowski's request to fund this valuable service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Edmands".

Beth Edmands
Chair, Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education

Creating Change That Improves The Lives Of People With Disabilities

Kathleen Fitzgerald
4521 Southpark Bluff Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

March 17, 2005

State of Alaska
House Finance Committee

Re: Mental Health Budget

Mr. Chairmen and Members of the Committee,

I am unable to attend your hearing, but request that this letter be entered as testimony for the House Finance Committee hearing today.

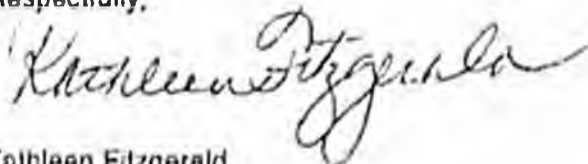
I am the mother of a young adult who experiences severe autism. Our family has cared for our daughter her entire life, and she still continues to live at home with our family. The services and supports that we have been fortunate enough to receive have been critical to the survival of our daughter and our family. I want to thank this legislature and past legislatures for their support of the Medicaid funding which made these services possible. As with every request I make to the legislature, I am always asking for increased funding to remove people from our DD wait list.

I would also request you consider funding two different programs which are vital to many individuals and their families:

1) Nursing Home Transition Grant services which allow seniors to leave nursing homes and live in their community. As in the disability community, whenever we can serve individuals outside of an institution, we are maximizing our state dollars by providing services for less, which allow us to better meet the need of the growing senior population. Please support the Governor's request to fund this critical service. In the long run, it is the most cost effective thing we can do. I know that nursing homes will continue to refill those beds, but this at least helps contain the growth of additional nursing homes.

2) I would also ask that you approve funding for the FAS diagnostic teams. Many of these families are adoptive or foster families who need the supports and information that these teams are able to provide. As I am sure you are aware, there are very few supports in the community for families and this link to an FAS team is extremely important.

Respectfully,



Kathleen Fitzgerald

March 17, 2005

State of Alaska
House Finance Committee
State Capital, Room 519
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Proposed Operating Budget (HB 67)

Mr. Chairmen and Members of the Committee:

The Systems Change Consumer Task Force (CTF) fully supports the inclusion of funds in the FY06 budget to allow individuals to transition out of a nursing facility and into the community in which they belong.

The purpose of the CTF is to advise, recommend, and advocate to the State of Alaska, a consumer-driven service delivery system that supports the self-determination and community participation of seniors, individuals with disabilities and their families. Specifically, we are the advising body for three of Alaska's Systems Change Grants. We are well aware of the opportunity that the Nursing Facility Transitions Project has provided to individuals who have chosen to transition out of a nursing facility.

Alaska's Nursing Facility Transitions Project began in 2001 using funds from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). To date, funds from this project have allowed 80 individuals to transfer out of a nursing facility and back into their own community. The annual cost to keep these 80 individuals in a nursing facility would be \$10,590,612. In contrast, the annual cost for Home and Community Based Waiver Services (HCBS) for these 80 individuals is \$4,047,190. This translates to a \$6,543,422 savings from transitioning these 80 individuals back into their communities.

Unfortunately, funding for this project will cease on September 30, 2005 and many of the initial transition services that this program provides are not covered under Medicaid. Therefore, a General Fund increment is vital in order to continue to offer this service as an option.

The *Olmstead* Decision (*Olmstead v L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581, 110 S.Ct. 2176 (1999)) requires states to place individuals with disabilities in community settings, rather than in institutions, when appropriate. It is known that services provided to individuals in a community setting are more cost effective than providing the same services in an institutional setting. More importantly, individuals are able to live in their own communities, surrounded by friends and family.

In order to provide this opportunity to others, we are asking that you support Governor Murkowski's request to fund this valuable service.

Respectfully,

Margaret Evans

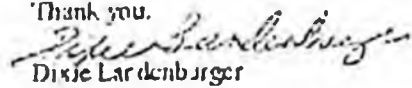
Margaret Evans
Chair, Systems Change Consumer Task Force

To House Finance Committee

Please support the Governor's proposal to provide 7.1 million dollars for Substance Prevention. Prevention is the key to stopping the epidemic of substance abuse. Without Prevention, we are just treating the symptoms, not the disease. Prevention funding must be increased if we are to win the battle of addiction.

Also the Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Programs in our state are building safe, violence free communities. Your continued support is required. Please increase funding for DVSA programs to allow them to continue with construction of healthy, safe communities.

Thank you.



Dixie Lardenburger
50 Box 274
Seward, AK 99664

MAR-19-05 SAT 11:33 AM SEWARD LIO

FAX NO. 9072245067

P. 01

I am Sandy Wassilie, vice president of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board.

Our District needs funding levels that a base student allocation (BSA) of \$5200 would bring into the Foundation Formula. The reason we need to ask for this is that our schools and our classes have eroded over twenty years of mostly flat funding and a deficient area cost differential (ACD).

Although we have had test scores consistently above the state average, we doubt we can continue to maintain this performance. Our class sizes have increased. Our staffing and programming have decreased—to dangerous levels. Four quick indicators in Seward of why we are in trouble include:

(1) Seward Elementary

Of the 42 kindergartners enrolled last September, 20 did not meet the minimum benchmark indicators which are 8 letter names and 8 letter sounds. We have one teacher for kindergarten.

(2) Seward Middle

We have shortened the school day and kept to the basics—no music, art or exploratory classes, no counseling or preparation for high school.

(3) Seward High School

Many juniors and seniors have home release as there are not enough classes to keep them fully engaged all day.

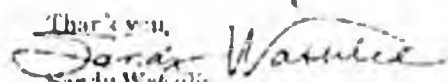
Our community works hard to fill in these gaps. Some examples are on-the-job training programs, courses through the SeaLife Center, the Kenai Peninsula College and the Seward Education Alliance. However, these programs reach only a few kids.

(4) Families with the economic ability are sending their children to schools in the states I know of three families doing so. This hurts our student body and our community. Good grief, in what we did 100 years we were just starting out as a community with far less resources than this state has today.

One fifth of the population on the Kenai represents school-aged children. They spend a good part of their waking day in school with trained professionals. I resent hearing that this state which ranks 30th in education funding is throwing money at education; we are in truth taking as good care of our young as we can. Not to educate adequately is exceedingly neglectful. Education does depend on dollars as well as expertise.

I know you need to balance our needs with what is realistic for the entire state. We ask you to be fair as well as realistic for the sake of our children.

Thank you,



Sandy Wassilie
P.O. Box 1576
Seward, AK 99664

Go Rep. Paul Seaton
Sen. Gary Stevens

The Honorable House Finance Committee;

We appreciate the small increase in funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The need is so great, but the proposed increase will not cover the increased costs of heating, fuel, food and other basic necessities needed by victims and their children. We would respectfully ask that the amount be increased. We appreciate your support. Thank you.

Melanie James *Melanie James*
Susan Ernst *Susan Ernst*
Seaview Community Services
PO Box 1045
Seward, AK 99664

March 19, 2005

House Finance Committee

Please continue to support the nursing home transition grant. There is no doubt that institutional care is too expensive. Community based services are more cost effective for the State of Alaska. Every individual has the right to live in the least restrictive environment and have quality of life. Thank you for your support.

AW
Art Walters
PO Box 276
Seward, AK 99664

MAR-19-05 SAT 11:20 AM SEWARD L10

FAX NO. 9072245067

P. 02



2207 E. Tudor, Suite 34
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(907) 274-0827
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Testimony to House Finance Committee
by Carole Edwards, Alaska Nurses Association
March 18, 2005

Chairman and Members of the House Finance Committee – Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Carole Edwards. I have been an oncology nurse for over 20 years. My testimony today is on behalf of the Alaska Nurses Association and myself.

Before speaking about a specific shortcoming in the budget bill before you, first let me thank all the members of this Committee and the Health and Social Services Subcommittee (chaired by Rep. Hawker) for your many hours of hard work. This budget includes funding for additional tobacco cessation programs, maintenance of public health nurses, additional child protection services, and other health care services.

We realize these programs bear a cost to the State of ALaska, and we support efforts by the Legislature to address a long term fiscal solution in order to keep and maintain these programs.

We are also concerned about the need to fund prevention and screening programs for breast and cervical cancer

Others may speak to you about statistics. As a nurse, I want to talk to you about people.

I will speak primarily of breast cancer since that has the greatest impact on Alaskan women.

For many years I have firmly believed that prevention and early detection is cost effective. The cost to families that is not financial is overwhelming when a woman has breast cancer. Think of the emotional cost.

The woman and her family must face the possibility of her death. If premenopausal, she will most likely go thru menopausal and the emotional upheaval that that causes at this stressful time – a double whammy you might say. Many marriages cannot handle this stress and break up. Children often act out in school and have difficulties with their studies. Teenagers and college age children have said – why should I study/graduate. It's probably genetic and I'll just die so I'll party now. . The women experience a fatigue like none other. Often performing housework or going to a job is more than they can handle. Work is missed and money is short. Or, more likely, they do it anyway and

are really exhausted. Homes are disrupted. Life is in turmoil. I am not even touching on the self image changes that women experience. And this is huge. Many women consider themselves deformed or less of a woman, particularly if a mastectomy is performed.

As for money – if that is ALL you want to look at..... A mammogram costs approximately \$145.50 plus the radiologist's fee to read, approximately \$60. ONLY ONE treatment of chemotherapy varies in cost but is as much as \$8,700 - for one treatment ONLY. This does not include labs or doctor fees. A mastectomy - hospital charges only is about \$10,000 and a breast biopsy is \$4,000-\$5,500 - hospital only. Add to that the cost of possibly 6 weeks of radiation treatment (in all of Alaska except Anchorage and Fairbanks – out of town), and 6 months or more of chemotherapy. Then there is follow up care with possible relapse. Or there is physical therapy for trauma to the lymph nodes when they are sampled and potential infections in that arm thru life. It is not unusual for treatment of breast cancer to far exceed \$100,000.

Both in terms of the dollars and also the cost in stress to the family – cancers that are caught earlier are more easily treated and cost less.

Cancer forever changes a family, not just the individual. I tell you this, not as a nurse who has cared for cancer patients for 20 years, but as a wife who has loved and cared for a spouse with cancer. We are blessed. Due to SCREENING, my husband's cancer has cost us and the state insurance little in dollars and although life changing, much less in emotional trauma than if it had not been caught at an early stage and treatment had been more extensive.

Please fund this program for the women, men and children of Alaska. Breast and cervical cancer affects not only the women but the men and children who love them.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.



Solutions for the Future

557 Kenny Wren Road • P.O. Box 350 • Dillingham, AK 99576
Phone: 907-842-5251 • FAX: 907-842-2739 • www.nushtel.com

Testimony of Nushagak Cooperative
House Bill 67 – Operating Budget
March 19, 2005

Honorable Chairman and Committee Members,

Nushagak Cooperative provides diesel generated electric power for 963 Alaskan households and businesses serving 2,687 residents in Dillingham and Aleknagik. Our electric consumers pay about twenty four cents a kilowatt hour (approximately three times the national average).

Nushagak's cost of fuel went up almost 50 cents a gallon last year. That translates to more than four cents a kWh while at the same time PCE went down by almost that much again. So, for the rural electric consumer the monthly electric bill increased by almost eight cents a kWh last year. Imagine for a moment, the hue and cry that would echo through Juneau if Anchorage's and Fairbanks' electric rates went up by eight cents a kWh in one year.

This year our Governor recognized that high energy costs are wreaking financial and social havoc in rural Alaska. He tried to do the right thing by proposing to fully fund PCE to the tune of \$20.7 million in FY06. He suggested that \$11.5 million come out of the PCE Endowment Fund and the balance from General Funds and NPR-A.

I understand that the Finance Budget Subcommittee has chosen to use General Funds only to the extent that it provides for PCE to be funded at \$15.7 million. This will pay PCE at the 75% level for FY06. If today's high oil prices hold for the year, that level will probably represent less than 60% of full funding.

Economic justice requires that the state's budget surplus emanating from the high price of crude oil be used to provide relief for rural Alaskans. Nushagak's cost of fuel rose 12 cents per gallon in 2003 and 49.5 cents per gallon in 2004. Current prices are up 40 cents per gallon from our price last year which more than doubles our per gallon price in a three year time span.

We have not only seen an enormous and directly correlated increase in commodity prices in rural Alaska we have also experienced the commensurate increase in transportation costs. On behalf of those residents, whose contributions - to high crude oil prices through higher costs in all aspects of rural Alaskan commerce - constitute a disproportionate share of their available income, I ask the State to honor past commitments and fully fund the PCE program.

There is no reason why struggling rural communities should be denied full PCE. At full funding of \$20.7 million, it still only covers 20% of the cost of electricity for small users in rural Alaska. This is clearly laid out in the AEA's PCE report for FY04 which shows that the cost of producing electricity in the PCE eligible communities was more than \$100 million.

I urge the Finance Committee to do the right thing. Restore PCE funding for FY06 to \$20.7 million and make up the balance from General Funds. Remember, the economic health of urban Alaska is directly related to the health of rural Alaska. Every dollar spent in rural Alaska for electricity is a dollar that won't be spent for services and goods supplied by Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Frank Corbin
CEO / General Manager

microenterprise in ALASKA

What is microenterprise?

A microenterprise is a business with five or fewer employees, which requires \$35,000 or less in start-up capital, and which does not have access to the traditional commercial banking sector. For the majority of microenterprises, the owner is the same operator and employee.

Why is microenterprise important?

Microenterprise development is a key strategy for economic growth and job creation. It provides a pathway for entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses, contributing to the state's economic development. Microenterprises are important because they provide a significant source of employment and contribute to the state's economic growth. In Alaska, there are a total of 21,499,426 microenterprises in the state, which represents 17.2% of all private employment in the state.

Alaska in Focus:

According to statistics derived from the U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Commerce:

- Microenterprises provide employment for an estimated 74,776 Alaskans
- Microenterprise accounts for over 30% of all private employment in 3 Alaskan counties
- There is 1 SBA Women's Business Center in Alaska

Federal Support: SBA Microloan Program: Provides funding for lending capital and grants for technical assistance to microentrepreneurs. Since 1992, the program has loaned a total of \$254,161,859.

SBA Women's Business Centers: Provides grants for training and technical assistance to women starting or expanding their businesses.

SBA Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs (PRIME): Provides grants for technical assistance to low- and very low-income microentrepreneurs.

Quick Fact: Microenterprise development is a strong public investment: estimated returns range from \$2.06 to \$2.72 for every dollar invested!

Success in Alaska: Bev's Flowers & Gifts

Beverly Frost-Wright, a longtime resident of Sitka, Alaska, worked as a floral designer for more than 20 years. However, in late 2002 she faced unemployment when her employers decided to close their business.

Frost-Wright turned to microenterprise organizations to explore self-employment opportunities. Armed with a business plan, added confidence, and a shoestring budget, she leased her own location and opened Bev's Flowers and Gifts. After a grand opening in early 2003, Frost-Wright continued to receive business counseling from the Juneau Economic Development Council's Business Assistance Center, and training services from the Sitka WorkForce Development Center's Job Training Program.

Since opening, Bev's Flowers and Gifts has received an excellent response from the community of Sitka. Her reputation as an outstanding floral designer and her strong desire to be an entrepreneur have contributed to Frost-Wright's success. In addition to creating a satisfying job for herself, she retains one other employee, and plans to hire more as her business grows.

For more information contact the Juneau Economic Development Council at 907.463.3662 ext. 24 or 34



ASSOCIATION FOR ENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITY

For more information on microenterprise or the state fact sheets contact the Association for Enterprise Opportunity at 703.511.7760 or visit www.microenterpriseworks.org/services/policy/index

* Statistics derived from U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Commerce (SBA) data sources

Microenterprises account for 18.1% of all employment in Alaska. There are a total of 57,922 microenterprises in Alaska. Most are approximately 5 microenterprises in Alaska.

Microenterprise Employment Statistics in Alaska 2001

County	Number of Microenterprises			Total Employment ¹		Total Private-Non-farm Employment
	Without Employees ²	With 1-4 Employees ³	Total	Microbusiness Employment ⁴	Percent of County ^{5,6}	
Aleutians East Borough	311	26	337	377	12.5%	3,008
Aleutians West Borough	263	51	314	392	9.6%	4,063
Anchorage	17,524	4,284	21,808	28,356	15.3%	185,131
Bethel	825	100	925	1,078	13.1%	8,213
Bristol Bay	265	43	308	374	27.2%	1,372
Denali Borough	145	52	197	276	12.0%	2,297
Dillingham	803	53	856	937	22.7%	4,131
Fairbanks North Star	4,858	1,247	6,105	8,011	15.3%	52,494
Haines	363	81	444	568	21.3%	2,667
Juneau	2,428	614	3,042	3,880	18.5%	21,467
Kenai Peninsula	5,326	1,243	6,569	8,468	30.0%	28,206
Ketchikan Gateway	1,242	356	1,598	2,142	21.4%	10,013
Kodiak Island	1,593	299	1,892	2,349	23.9%	9,831
Lake and Peninsula Borough	293	36	329	384	39.5%	971
Matanuska-Susitna	4,232	995	5,227	6,748	31.3%	21,587
Nome	314	105	419	579	13.3%	4,346
North Slope	211	60	271	363	3.7%	9,694
Northwest Arctic	179	44	223	290	8.7%	3,343
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	506	102	608	784	29.2%	2,614
Sitka	1,176	267	1,443	1,851	29.2%	6,344
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	429	118	547	727	28.5%	2,549
Southeast Fairbanks	429	109	538	705	28.6%	2,463
Valdez-Cordova	1,218	331	1,549	2,055	30.4%	6,751
Wade Hampton	118	20	138	189	5.9%	2,865
Wrangell-Petersburg	1,180	131	1,311	1,638	36.6%	4,478
Yakutat Borough	112	17	129	155	28.9%	536
Yukon-Koyukuk	300	82	382	507	17.4%	2,916
TOTAL	46,843	10,918	57,761	74,243	18.2%	407,268

Microenterprise Employment	
Employees ⁷	
Employers	10,916
Non-Employers	48,643
Average Rate	1.528398681

1/ Total employment includes proprietors and all non-farm part-time and full-time employees.

2/ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Non-Employer Statistics, 2001.

3/ Source: 2001 County Business Patterns, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

4/ Includes micro-business entrepreneurs (with and without employees) and estimated employment for businesses with 1-4 employees.

5/ Micro-business employment as a percent of total county employment.

6/ Source: 2001 Bureau of Economic Analysis, Full-time and Part-time County Employment Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

7/ The number of microenterprise employees does not include individuals who are self-employed.

This data was compiled by the Association for Enterprise Opportunity's Policy & Research Manager, Michelle Levy-Benitez, Policy & Research Associate, Siobhan Sanders, and VISTA Member, Lin Johnson. The methodology for this analysis was developed by James C. McConnon, Jr., Business & Economics Specialist and Associate Professor of Resource Economics and Policy at the University of Maine and Thomas Allen, Associate Scientist at the University of Maine.

Alaska

- Alaska Rankings (pdf) ↗
- Alaska Trend Indicators (pdf) ↗
- Alaska Press Release (pdf) ↗

	Employment	C
	Earnings and Job Quality	C
D Performance	Equity	B
	Quality of Life	C
	Resource Efficiency	F
D Business Vitality	Competitiveness of Existing Bus.	C
	Entrepreneurial Energy	C
	Human Resources	B
D Development Capacity	Financial Resources	B
	Infrastructure Resources	D
	Amenity Resources	D
	Innovation Assets	D

Description

This year's C in Performance marks an improvement over Alaska's previous three years' grades. On the positive side, Employment and Equity each rose one letter grade (to C and B respectively) while marks in Earnings & Job Quality and Quality of Life remain stable with Cs. Worthy of mention are the particularly high rankings for short-term employment growth (8th), working poor (10th), deaths from heart disease (1st), and voting rate (7th). Counterbalancing these are a host of low-ranking measures indicating that the Last Frontier state still has work to do in dispersing its economic successes across its populace (49th in unemployment, 46th in involuntary part-time employment, and 46th in rural/urban disparity). Alaska's strength is in Equity where three of the four measures were ranked in the top 10: poverty (10th), income distribution (10th), and income distribution change (7th). The real weakness continues to be Resource Efficiency (F). The state ranks in the bottom 10 in five of the six measures within this subindex including toxic releases (50th), recycling (49th), and emission of greenhouse gases (47th); the single bright spot is vehicle miles traveled (4th).

Alaska maintains a D in Business Vitality, an area which continues to present a mixed picture. Alaska moves up one grade to a C in Entrepreneurial Energy as the result of a large improvement in the change in new companies (from 43rd to 7th) and the continued strength of new companies (11th). But, low ranks in business closings (44th) and industrial diversity (47th) indicate that without greater growth of new and existing businesses and a broader cross-section of industries, the state could find its future limited. Alaska's manufacturing investment (9th) shows that businesses are investing in their future capacity. And the slight increased rank in strength of traded sector (up to 17th) is a positive sign. But, Alaska ranks near the bottom of the pack (49th) in job growth due to new businesses indicating that the state is not yet seeing all of the benefits from this economic growth.

Development Capacity is also an area which has seen some moderate improvement, moving up one grade to a C. With strong Human Resources (B) as well as Financial Resources (A) the state has a solid foundation on which to base its future. Top rankings in loans to small business (1st), SBC financing (5th), and venture capital investment (7th) indicate a positive outlook for the state's businesses. The high school attainment rate (3rd) is also a reason to cheer. However, these strong subindexes are tempered by below average returns for Infrastructure Resources, Amenity Resources & Natural Capital, and Innovation Assets—all Ds. With moderate to low rankings in all measures of Infrastructure and Amenity Resources & Natural Capital, save for highway performance (14th) and loss of cropland (18th), Alaska lacks some of the building blocks for a sustainable economy. Holding a high rank in university research and development (3rd) is small compensation for the host of Innovative Resources misfires that fall in the Bottom 10 (science and engineering graduate students (44th), royalties and licenses (45th), patents (46th), SBC grants (50th) and university spin-outs (42nd)).

Strengths

Rank	Measure
1	Heart Disease
1	Households with Computers
1	Loans to Small Businesses
1	High School Completion

3	High School Attainment
3	University Research and Development
4	Vehicle Miles Traveled
5	SBIC Financing
7	Income Distribution Change
7	Voting Rate
7	Change in New Companies
8	Employment Growth: Short Term
9	Manufacturing Investment
10	Working Poor
10	Poverty Rate
10	Income Distribution

Weaknesses

Rank	Measure
41	Renewable Energy
42	University Spin-Outs
44	Charitable Giving
44	Business Closings
44	Graduate Students in Science and Engineering
44	Venture Capital Investments
45	Royalties and Licenses
46	Involuntary Part-Time Employment
46	Disparity between Rural and Urban Areas
47	Mass Layoffs
47	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
47	Industrial Diversity
48	Recycling Rate
49	Patents Issued
49	Unemployment Rate
49	Job Growth due to New Business
49	Electronic Public Services
49	Energy Cost
49	Per Capita Energy Consumption
50	Toxic Release Inventory
50	SBIR Grants

All measures for which the state ranked in the top 10 nationally are displayed under Strengths, and all measures for which the state ranked in the bottom 10 nationally are displayed under Weaknesses.

Request for State of Alaska Support

for a

Statewide Entrepreneurial Development System

Also known as a
Statewide Microenterprise Association

Submitted by the
Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC)

On this 9th Day of March 2005

Executive Summary

Given declines in both fishing and timber industries, Alaskans are increasingly pursuing entrepreneurial ventures. A host of organizations facilitate these ambitions by providing services, such as technical assistance and access to capital. However, the availability and scope of services varies widely as each organization often operates independently, without the benefit of a statewide strategy.

Current research points to the limited effectiveness of entrepreneurial development services that are uncoordinated. A comprehensive and collaborative system is found to be more effective at assisting entrepreneurial efforts and can also foster entrepreneurship itself. A dynamic entrepreneurial system will create more sustainable businesses and jobs, thereby leading to more vibrant rural communities.

The JEDC seeks to champion this collaborative effort to build a dynamic statewide entrepreneurial development system. The proposed system includes multi-pronged capacity building, networking, physical and distance outreach, as well as unified advocacy and impact reporting.

The State of Alaska is uniquely positioned to assist in advancing a statewide entrepreneurial development system. JEDC and partners seek support and funding from the state in order to implement this project.

The Problem

Small businesses play a vital role in the health of our state economy, especially in the rural communities that are struggling the most in today's economy. For all the potential of small business as an engine of growth, the Alaska state government does not do enough to support their development. There is no coordinated state policy or activities to promote entrepreneurship. Instead, we have an array of mostly private, local non-profit organizations that provide varying levels of business development services.

In Alaska, business development services are limited in both range and scope, and are uncoordinated at this time. The local organizations operate independently, without the benefit of a statewide strategy or any outside support. In many cases they have tenuous funding and are competing with each other for funding sources.

Alaska's Economic Development Performance

It is commonly understood that regions of our state are suffering from structural changes in the fishing and timber industries. Alaska also faces unique economic challenges based on geography, transportation, and culture. While there are clear reasons for our economic decline, it is also clear that we could do more to foster a positive economy.

In the Corporation For Enterprise Development's 2003 and 2004 Development Report Card for the States, *Alaska received a grade of D for each of the three major categories*; economic performance, business vitality, and development capacity (see Appendix A for complete report). Alaska ranked very low in relation to the other 49 states on several important measurements:

- 50th in Unemployment Rate
- 48th in Involuntary Part-Time Employment
- 43rd in Rural/Urban Disparity
- 48th in Industrial Diversity
- 48th in Job Growth due to New Businesses
- 39th in Business Closings

Definitions and Data

The following statistics show that microenterprise is an important sector of the Alaskan economy that affects numerous Alaskans (For a breakdown of microenterprise employment by borough, see Appendix B).

- As defined by the U.S. SBA, A microenterprise is a business with five or fewer employees, which generally requires \$35,000 or less in start-up capital.
- There are 57,559 microenterprises in Alaska¹.
- Microenterprises account for 18.2% of all employment in Alaska¹.

¹ Statistics derived from U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Commerce 2001 data sources.

The Field of Business Development

Across the United States, as in Alaska, micro enterprise development is a powerful strategy to help people get out of poverty. Some regard micro enterprise development as an 'essential element' of any strategy to turn struggling communities around.² For example, from 1990-1994 micro enterprises with 1-4 employees generated 43 % of the net new jobs created³. One study found that 55% of micro entrepreneurs depend on their business as their principal source of income, 30% work at full or part time jobs, and 15% receive public assistance while running their business⁴.

The Aspen Institute's Self-Employment Learning Project⁵ found that nearly three-quarters of the low-income micro entrepreneurs studied experienced significant gains in income from their micro enterprises. The average increase in household income for these entrepreneurs was \$8,484. Furthermore, poor entrepreneurs were found to have reduced their reliance on government assistance by 61% on average.

There are two significant barriers for aspiring entrepreneurs that are universally acknowledged. The first barrier is access to capital. It can be very difficult to obtain financing for a new business start-up. The second challenge is a general lack of business education and experience. Specific weaknesses noted include marketing, general business practices, developing a business plan, and completing loan applications⁶.

It is increasingly accepted that technical assistance is a critical component of micro enterprise development efforts⁷. A lack of managerial expertise and skills is itself a barrier to success in business and may be a sufficient reason to be declined for a loan. Research indicates that the provision of technical assistance greatly improves the client's probability of success⁸. This technical assistance is needed throughout the process, from developing a business plan through its implementation.

The field of business development exists to help entrepreneurs overcome barriers to success in business. Counselors assist entrepreneurs to determine feasibility, properly plan their business, obtain financing to start or expand their business, market their product or service, improve their management skills, and more.

These services produce results. In 2003, the JEDC's microenterprise program assisted 110 clients who started 11 new businesses resulting in 15 full-time, 9 part-time, and 11 seasonal jobs. An additional 5 jobs were saved. These clients were also able to obtain a total of 14 loans for

² Johnson, Cliff, et. al., *Creating Jobs: Public and Private Strategies for the Hard-to-Employ*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Corporation for Enterprise Development.

³ U.S. SBA Office of Advocacy.

⁴ Johnson, Cliff, et. al., *Creating Jobs: Public and Private Strategies for the Hard-to-Employ*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Corporation for Enterprise Development.

⁵ Clark, Peggy and Amy Kays, *Microenterprise and the Poor: Findings from the Self-Employment Learning Project Five Year Study of Microentrepreneurs*, The Aspen Institute.

⁶ Adamson, Rebecca and Juliet King (2002). *The Native American Entrepreneurship Report*. First Nations Development Institute.

⁷ SBA Office of Inspector General. *The Microloan Program: Moving Toward Performance Management*, May 13, 2002. Report No. 3-26

⁸ *The Native American Entrepreneurship Report*.

\$136,500. Approximately half of the clients were existing business owners. The assistance provided to these clients helped to improve their competitiveness.

Broader statewide impact reporting is not available at this time as each organization prepares and submits reports to their specific funding source.

Examples of Innovative Business Development Activities in Alaska

There are some innovative business development efforts underway in Alaska. Many of these efforts may go unnoticed outside of their immediate service area due to the lack of a statewide coordinated system. Two of these efforts deserve mention here. One is the Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission's (NABEDC) revolving loan fund. The other is the Juneau Economic Development Council's (JEDC) Hoonah Business Incubator Project.

NABEDC Art Purchase and Loan Funds

Lee Stoops, Executive Director of the NABEDC has instituted two innovative projects. One is a microloan fund that uses the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend as security for loans of up to \$1,000. This mechanism allows virtually every citizen to be eligible, and reduces administrative costs and default risks. This program has now been replicated in the Kenai Borough. This approach could be widely replicated, but the program features and design have not been disseminated.

JEDC's Hoonah Business Incubator Project

Hoonah was a depressed town with unemployment at 20% and nearly 17% of the population living below the Federal poverty line. The new cruise ship facility represented tremendous opportunity. However, many residents were not prepared to take advantage of the tourism opportunities.

This unique convergence of opportunity and need prompted the JEDC to develop the Hoonah Business Incubator Project (HIP), which was competitively funded by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services in September 2003. The HIP project seeks to jump-start the entrepreneurial ambitions of Hoonah residents by providing small grants, technical assistance, and a dedicated loan fund.

The fourth component of the HIP project is particularly proactive. The JEDC established the Arctic Spirit Gallery, a retail store at the Hoonah facility. The purpose of the store is to provide hands-on management training; it is an effort to lead by example. The JEDC is carrying the store through the difficult start-up phase, providing training (and wages) to five local employees, and has committed to selling the store at cost at the end of the 2005 season. The employees have priority in the store's purchase, and JEDC will work to facilitate the transaction and transition.

Benefits of a Statewide Strategy

Current groundbreaking work on entrepreneurial development points to the limited effectiveness of entrepreneurial development services that are uncoordinated⁹. An integrated system of activities and programs is found to be more effective at developing entrepreneurial talent, an entrepreneurial culture, and successful enterprises.

A coordinated statewide approach to the delivery of microenterprise development services can provide numerous specific benefits. These benefits include:

- Develop the capacity of the local organizations by conducting in-state practitioner training, fostering a peer exchange network and the sharing of innovative ideas, and promoting best practices.
- Create a policy forum for developing and advancing a unified state level advocacy effort. This advocacy effort will be strengthened by the adoption of uniform, performance-based accountability measures, and by collecting and aggregating program data into a broader, more statistically relevant statewide impact report.
- The ability to leverage new sources of funds that would not be readily available to the individual organizations. These sources include Federal grants, national and in-state foundations, and possibly, state controlled federal funds, such as TANF, CDBG, and WIA.
- Ability to implement a culturally relevant distance-delivery component of business development services on a statewide basis.

Two national organizations recognize the importance of State Microenterprise Associations (SMAs) and are actively facilitating their growth and development. The Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO) and the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) offer technical assistance, funding, and guidance in the development and operation of SMAs. For example, CFED operates a program that provides small operating grants exclusively to SMAs.

Currently, 29 states have an SMA, operating under one of three possible structures. While specific strategies vary from state to state, all SMAs serve to strengthen the field of business development.

The SMA typically:

- Provides training and promotes best practices among practitioners,
- Compiles and reports outcomes on a statewide basis,
- Serves as a unified voice for the field,
- Creates quality standards and accountability of members,
- May also serve as a funding conduit, or financial intermediary.

⁹ Lichtenstein, Gregg and Lyons, Thomas, The Entrepreneurial Development System, Economic Development Quarterly Vol. 14 No. 1, February 2001, pp 3-20.

What Should the State of Alaska Do?

There is no need for additional state employees or departments. Rather, the state can help to facilitate an effective practitioner-driven organization by adopting a supportive policy and providing a relatively small amount of funding. This funding can be used to leverage additional funding from federal and foundation sources.

Many of the components of an entrepreneurial development system or SMA are already in place throughout our state. However, as independent organizations, we lack the proper incentive and motivation (and some would argue authority) to create a coordinated statewide system. The state's role is to provide the authority and incentive that will bring the collaboration together.

There are several specific actions the legislature can take to support microenterprise and the field of business development in Alaska. These actions include:

- A resolution of support for entrepreneurs and the field of business development,
- A statement of recognition of the practitioner-driven SMA
- Authorize \$400,000 + to be granted to the JEDC/Alaska Development Corporation (ADC¹⁰) for the initial operating expenses of the SMA.

Role of the Juneau Economic Development Council

The JEDC is working to spear-head this project by:

1. Bringing the collaboration together,
2. Forming a 501(c)-3 to 'house' the SMA,
3. Securing funding for the project,
4. Advancing this statewide effort.

Going forward, the JEDC will work to:

1. Strengthen the field of business development through
 - a. capacity building, and
 - b. raise new funding from federal and foundation sources
2. Create a unified voice for the field
 - a. to prioritize and advance policy objectives
3. Foster a more entrepreneurial culture
4. Increase the range and scope of services provided to Alaska's entrepreneurs.

For a review of JEDC's organizational capacity and effectiveness, see Appendix C.

¹⁰ ADC is a newly formed 501 (C)-3 corporation that has been formed by the JEDC for the purpose of creating, implementing, and sustaining a statewide entrepreneurial development system.

The Alaska SMA

Purpose:

To strengthen the economy of rural Alaska and contribute to vibrant rural communities by helping individuals in those communities to achieve success in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

Mission:

Create, implement, and sustain a statewide development system to strengthen the entrepreneurial culture and assist Alaska's rural entrepreneurs to achieve success.

Goals:

To develop and integrate Alaska's business assistance providers into a comprehensive entrepreneurial development system that serves the entrepreneurs of Alaska directly, through distance delivery, and by building and developing the capacity of local partners. Ultimately, the goal is to assist in the creation of successful small businesses, and the expansion of existing businesses. Subsidiary goals include:

- Develop and increase access to capital and access to markets.
- Expand the scope and range of business development services, and provide a more efficient, effective use of resources in the provision of those services.
- Foster a more entrepreneurial culture by expanding educational services to currently unserved or under-served regions of the state.
- Strengthen the existing business development organizations with a concerted capacity building effort.

Objectives:

- Expand the availability of in-person entrepreneurial development services, particularly in remote, rural regions of the state.
- Utilize technology to efficiently expand the level and scope of entrepreneurial development services throughout the state.
- Develop and strengthen the capacity of existing local entrepreneurial development organizations.
- Create a policy forum for developing and advancing a unified state level advocacy effort.
- Leverage new funding sources to provide additional amounts, types, and sources of funding for Alaska's entrepreneurs.

Secondary objectives, designed to sustain the entrepreneurial development system, include:

- Institute statewide performance based measurements, program evaluation, and impact reporting.
- Leverage new funding sources to support continued operation of the entrepreneurial development system.

The collaborative

The collaborative partners have been engaged in face-to-face and teleconference meetings. This proposal for a statewide entrepreneurial development system evolved from these meetings and the collective input of the partners. Each primary partner in the collaborative has a unique role in the implementation of the plan as described below.

- Alaska Growth Capital (AGC) will participate in local capacity building efforts and will also assist the efforts to design, sustain, and grow business loan and equity funds.
- Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) will initially have primary responsibility of organizing and leading the statewide effort.
- University of Alaska, Southeast (UAS). UAS will participate in the distance delivery component of the entrepreneurial development system.
- Junior Achievement of Alaska (JA) will develop the curriculum for distance delivery of youth-targeted entrepreneurial education and assist in marketing the program.
- First Alaskans Institute (FAI) will advance uniform, performance-based measurements, collect statewide data derived from these measurements, and aggregate it into a statewide impact report. FAI will also conduct project evaluations.
- State of Alaska Department of Commerce (DCED) involvement will increase participation and legitimacy, and ensure greater coordination between state agencies and non-profit service providers.
- Alaska Invest Net (AIN) will participate in capacity building efforts. AIN will also create a web-based network to catalogue and match statewide resources and needs.

The collaborative is designed to be all-inclusive. All agencies and organizations in Alaska that promote business development will be encouraged to participate. Most of the ARDORS have already been engaged in discussions and are supportive of the concept. The following local and regional organizations are identified as the secondary collaborators:

ARDORS

- Arctic Development Council. Jan Philips, Executive Director.
- Bering Strait Development Council. Melissa Boeckman, Director.
- Copper Valley Economic Development Council. John Downes, Executive Director.
- Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPBEDD). John Parker, Executive Director.
- Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council. Carl Berger, Executive Director.
- Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission. Lee Stoope, Executive Director.
- Southeast Conference. Rollo Pool, Executive Director.

Other Collaborators

- City of Wrangell, Economic Development Department. Carol Rushmore, Director.
- Haines Borough Economic Development Department. Robert Venables, Director.
- Lake and Peninsula Borough, Economic Development Department. Helen Allen, Director.
- Minority Business Development Center, Tanana Chiefs Conference. Lloyd Allen, Director.

- Petersburg Economic Development Council, Eric Phillips, Director.
- Sitka Business Resource Center. Sheila Finkenbinder, Director.
- Skagway Economic Development, Michael Catsi, Director.
- University of Alaska, Center for Human Development (CHD), Self-employment Center. Ron Broome and Ken Hamrick, self-employment specialists.
- YWCA Women\$fund. Jennifer Abbott, Director.
- Alaska Village Initiatives. Michael Orr

Governance

A Board of Directors will govern the activities of the ADC. This board will ideally consist of the Executive Directors of the primary partners (AGC and JEDC, and representatives of the Denali Commission, and the ARDORS). This governance board should evolve into a more practitioner-led entity with directors elected by the membership at-large.

Proposed Budget

Initial funding of \$600,000 is sufficient to begin implementation. The support of the state will help to leverage the necessary funds from the Denali Commission and other sources. The use of funds is presented here in broad categories only. Detailed budgets can be produced upon request.

<u>Two-Year Budget Summary</u>	
\$ 240,000	Project Development and Management
\$ 35,000	In-State Training Event
\$ 140,000	Distance-delivery component
\$ 140,000	Technical Assistance/Bookkeeping circuit-rider
\$ 45,000	Data aggregation, impact reporting, and project evaluation
<u>\$ 600,000</u>	Total Funds Needed

Additional Funding Objective

Ideally, the SMA would raise funds to be dispensed as sub-grants to the local partner organizations. These sub-grants would be need-based (ie. survival grants), performance-based (ie. reward grants), and/or for innovative demonstration projects at the local level.

- Request an additional challenge grant¹¹ of \$150,000 - \$200,000 to be used for sub-grants.

¹¹ A challenge grant must be matched by an equal amount of funds from other sources.

Budget Narrative

Project Development and Management:

A 2/3 time Director (initially a JEDC employee) will coordinate the activities of the SMA, including coordination of the distance delivery, the training event, capacity building activities, mentoring and networking, compiling and promoting the policy priorities, and marketing of the entrepreneurial development system.

In-State Training:

A premier event drawing practitioners from across the state, this will include two full-days of skill building training, combined with a one-day membership meeting designed to energize and unite the field and set the direction of the collaborative. Half of the budgeted amount will be used for travel scholarships for the in-state partners to ensure widespread participation.

Distant Delivery:

This entails statewide delivery of general entrepreneurial education, financial literacy, and specific business workshops via the UAS satellite system. UAS supports this effort to more fully utilize their satellite-delivery system and is providing a match of in-kind satellite time. JEDC will lead this effort in collaboration with Junior Achievement and other partners.

TA Circuit Rider:

This component is designed to provide and expand services to currently under-served areas. The circuit rider will provide technical assistance to entrepreneurs as well as capacity building for local practitioners. This training will have an emphasis on book-keeping, in addition to general business skills. Bookkeeping is a nearly universal weakness among small business owners. A lack of good books deprives the owner of a key management tool and is a barrier to growth and success.

Data Aggregation, Impact Reporting and Project Evaluation:

First Alaskans Institute will take responsibility for this component with assistance from the Sitka Workforce Development Center. Uniform performance measures will be set. Impact data will be gathered from statewide partners and assembled into a statewide impact report. The project evaluation will focus on each of the partners as well as the system as a whole in order to provide feedback that will enable continuous improvements.

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Appendix C

Capacity and Effectiveness of the Juneau Economic Development Council

The Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) is a leader in providing business development services to Alaska's entrepreneurs, since 1995. JEDC staff has the energy, the expertise, and the passion to advance this project. The JEDC's primary programs include:

- Business Assistance Center: A Microenterprise technical assistance program funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) since 1995. It is targeted to low and moderate-income entrepreneurs throughout Southeast Alaska.
- The Hoonah Business Incubator Project: A two-year special project launched in 2003. Inspired by a unique convergence of opportunity and need, this comprehensive project seeks to jump-start Hoonah residents' entrepreneurial ambitions.
- Southeast AK Revolving Loan Fund (RLF): Established in 1998, the Southeast Alaska Revolving Loan Fund assists entrepreneurs to start and expand local businesses by providing direct loans and technical assistance. Currently, the RLF has over \$2 million in loans outstanding to businesses in Gustavus, Haines, Hoonah, Juneau, and Wrangell.
- Alaska Investnet (AIN): A statewide capital matching network that works to make outside equity financing more accessible to Alaska's entrepreneurs. After five years as a JEDC program, AIN was spun off as its own 501(c)-3 organization in 2002.
- Springboard: JEDC's newest effort is a Department of Defense funded technology commercialization project.

Client surveys found that JEDC loan and technical assistance activities from 1998-2001 resulted in the following impacts:

- 51 new businesses started
- 302 jobs created, with over \$8 million in payroll
- More than \$26 million in sales revenue
- \$8 million in financing received by businesses
- More than \$175,000 in sales tax paid to the City of Juneau in the year 2001.

LIO Fairbanks

From: foote [foote@alaska.com]
To: LIO Fairbanks
Cc:
Subject: Budget Comments with Highlights
Attachments:

Sent: Fri 3/17/2006 2:08 PM

I would like to encourage my legislators to consider two main things as they pass the current budget.

The first is to keep the Governor's numbers for the Community Matching Grants. This is one of the most single important dollars coming to Fairbanks, not only for what it allows non-profits to provide to those in need, but also for how much they leverage those dollars into much more. These dollars also save us money in important but hard to measure prevention ways. Please don't reduce this amount.

Secondly, the University is an important economic engine for the entire State. The dollars discussed for UA also gets leveraged not only for those that receive the education (I provide health education to the most rural sites), but also as we write for more federal dollars. We are working with students who live and work in rural Alaska and who plan to stay there. This is critical to their economy and as they graduate they provide important services right where they live. This too saves the State money while contributing to it!

Thanks for your hard work, and remember the land, oil and gas belongs to all of us so don't let be given away to the wrong people.
Torie Foote



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
 201 Katlian Street, Suite 200A, Sitka, AK 99835
 Phone: 747-6276 Fax: 747-5807
 Email: sitka_lio@legis.state.ak.us

DATE: March 20, 2006
TO: House Finance Committee
FAX: _____ 6 pages, including cover sheet

FROM: Sitka Legislative Information Office

MESSAGE: Thank you so much for allowing public testimony on HB 365, Operating budget...here is some written testimony from constituents they would like to be included for the record.

Thank you again! *Marie Murray LIO Officer*

*I tried to fax these all day yesterday
 but realize now I must have had
 a wrong #. Will try again.
 Thank you.*

March 20, '06

907-747-8071 home

John R. Larsen
P.O. Box 6047
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Re: Pioneers Home Budget

My name is John Larsen - my wife has been in The Sitka Home for 5 years - with Alzheimer's - She's going to be there the rest of her life - this is important to us.

When she entered the Home her condition was evaluated by the professional staff and the 'need for care' was set at a certain level, which determines the monthly cost - currently about \$6,000/month. In my wife's wing of the Home there are usually 6 or 7 residents - most of whom need to be fed and toileted by 2 or 3 caregivers. I've been present for some 700 meals in the past year and usually I've fed my wife. There are also two other residents who are assisted by family members because of staffing restrictions. The level of care "is being changed after setting the rates the families pay for the care - by arbitrarily setting the budget."

II

"Quality of Life" is difficult to quantify -- or control by computer numbers. A close look shows the care level has changed primarily by staffing changes dictated by budget restrictions. These budget numbers have effectively lowered the number of caregivers, without reducing the monthly rate the families must pay. Rather than an abstract argument over numbers, we should give thought to "Quality of Life" by those who make the limits on staffing through budget cuts.

The Sitka Pioneers' Home is a wonderful example of good care for those who can't care for themselves -- certainly I'm biased! In my wife's wing, she is the only resident who can walk to meals, because I walk with her daily. Physical Therapy services were cut arbitrarily. The other residents spend all day, every day in bed or in wheel chairs -- this is what budget restrictions can do. We'd appreciate your understanding when dealing with the "numbers".

Thanks for listening
John R. Tarsen

March 17, 2006

Sitka Pioneers' Home
120 Katlian St., Sitka, AK 99835

My name is Fredi Young. I am a Level I resident of the Sitka Pioneers' Home and the wife of one of the Level III residents. I really love this home, and want to speak out on its behalf and that of all the Homes in Alaska.

Just this past week we had an incident happen which could have been prevented or have been less of a problem if more aides had been on the floor, a floor where most of the residents are totally unable to take care of themselves. I passed by a room shortly after breakfast. The lady was lying on her back on the floor. I called an aide, who was carrying an armload of dirty laundry. She deposited that; ran for a nurse. The one on duty on our floor could not be found. The other aide and a float came, leaving four residents in the dining room without supervision. Then a nurse hurried in from another floor, and performed the necessary procedure, determining that there were no serious injuries. Our nurse was later found receiving her instructions for the day from her supervisor on another floor. These types of incidents occur daily, not because our staff and aides are inefficient, but because they can only stretch so far.

I note that when extra workers are on ^{duty} ~~the floor~~, the morale improves remarkably, both of residents who are getting their needs met, and of caretakers who are free to do a more thorough job *under less tension.*

Thank you so much for hearing me on this issue of increasing our budget.

Fredi Young

Testimony to the House Finance Committee on Saturday, March 18th

Good morning, committee members. I am Dr. Lillian Sharon Cox, ^{the} Reading Recovery Teacher Leader for the Sitka School District.

I am here today to speak in support of The Youth Success Initiative that your committee is considering restoring to the Health and Social Services budget. Specifically, I am speaking in support of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program that has made a significant difference in the lives of the ~~child~~ ^{children} of Sitka.

I bring two perspectives to this ^{testimony} ~~discussion~~: the first is as a citizen of this country and the state of Alaska. The second is as a public school educator with almost four decades of experience in working with children.

First, let me acknowledge the privilege we have as citizens to communicate to our legislators our wishes with regard to the disbursement of public funds. Thank you for your willingness to listen to our concerns and desires.

I am concerned for the welfare of our children in the coming years. I know that our children face untold temptations on the road to becoming effective, contributing citizens to our society and the world.

Big Brothers/ Big Sisters provides a hedge of support around children early in their lives that persists over time. The program's proven effectiveness means our tax dollars will be effectively used in establishing mentoring relationships between well matched adults and our youngest citizens. These relationships support not only the children directly involved, but their parents and extended families in guiding youngsters toward productive, law-abiding lives. These are worthy goals; ^{they are} ~~and~~ essential to the future of Alaska.

My second perspective as a public school educator provides ~~me~~ experiential advocacy for the funding of the Youth Success Initiative. In my position as a trainer of teachers, I work with children who are at risk for learning literacy skills.

The research is clear that children who do not learn to read become future participants in our judicial and prison systems.

Two elements that adults can control impact the outcome of a child's life. The first element is equipping at-risk children with the academic skills they need to succeed. The second element is establishing strong interpersonal connections for these children with caring adults. I have seen the power of these connections in my work at Baranof Elementary School. Children meeting with their Big partners during lunch become the focus of individual attention and support. They also build connections with their peers because every child clamors to be included in this special time.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters strengthens interpersonal and communication skills. It builds positive relationships among children and between children and adults. It provides a supportive context that can lead to shifts in behavior and academic issues. *problems*.

I know Big Brothers/Big Sisters works well in mitigating some of the risk factors that children bring to their school experience. I can document the academic progress made by our neediest first graders who have had the support of a caring "Big". In addition to that quantitative data, is the qualitative difference made in the life of a child walking down the hall with his Big in hand. We have children in Sitka waiting for the opportunity to experience this kind of support and joy.

I urge your committee to restore the funding of the Youth Success Initiative to the Health and Social Services budget. Our children need adults to actively advocate for this kind of social support early in their lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

William Sharon Fox
407 Monastery St.
Sitka, AK 99835



SITE: CORDOVA LIO
COMMITTEE: HFIN
DATE: 3-18-06 Sat.

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
BILL # HB 365 HB 366
UPDATE #: Final

Print Your Name	Representing/ Affiliation	Address/Phone/Email	Testifying? Y or N
Ken Gates	CORDOVA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	PO. Box 219 CORDOVA AK 99577 424-5555 kgates@cordovaelectric.com	Y
Valerie Cove	Citizen	PO Box 984 Cordova AK 99574 424-7469	Y
Clay Koplin	Cordova Chamber	PO Box 172 cchamber@ak.net Cordova AK 99574 424-7260	Y
Curt Herschleb	CDFV	PO Box 1622 Cordova AK 99574	Y
Heep Symmonds	Cordova Electric Clean Beauty	P.O. Box 2046 Cordova, AK.	Y

Please fax all House Committee lists, except House Finance to House Records at 465-2267, after hearings are over.