

HB 65/

HB 66

PUBLIC

TESTIMONY

(FILE 2)

<TARGET><BILL>HB 65</BILL><SUBJECT>HB 65-HB 66 PUBLIC
TESTIMONY (FILE 2)</SUBJECT><COMM>HFIN28</COMM></TARGET>

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Rosalie Nadeau <RNadeau@akeela.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 10:43 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; rep.bryce.edgmon@akeg.gov; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Cc: Jim Sellers; Pat Ventgen; Dick LaFever (cli@ak.net)
Subject: Behavioral Health Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Health and Social Services Finance Subcommittee has recommended an \$8.3 million cut to the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH). The impact is devastating because it is approximately 15% of the Governor's recommended Division of Behavioral Health's budget, and it is slightly more if one measures it against the current year's budget. I have heard stories of the steep escalation in the budget, but those escalating budgets have not happened in Akeela's programs, and we are one of the largest programs in the State. For instance, in FY-1992 our Akeela House grant budget was \$682,239, and this fiscal year it is \$681,225. Our other large program, a women and children's residential and outpatient program has only increased \$40,477, from the FY-2007 budget of \$856,478, or \$6,746 per fiscal year. Additionally, the mandatory match each program must contribute in order to qualify for the grant has increased from ten to 25 percent.

We also agreed to take over the management of a small Southeast Behavioral Health Program that had struggled to stay afloat under the City of Ketchikan's management. It has a grant of \$981,098. The City notified DBH that it would close the program effective July 1, 2010, if no one could be found to take over the service. We stepped into that hole, and have inch by inch brought the program back to life. However, it is still a daily struggle to maintain operations in an area of the State that has few services. Any significant cut would likely result in the complete closure of that program that provides mental health and substance abuse services to over 1,000 children and families.

We also have been told that the committee wants to limit indirect to 15% of the budget. Our company has a 26% indirect cost rate agreement approved by the Federal government that is established by reviewing who spends funds in our company and how and where funds are spent. Administrative costs have grown dramatically in the last several years driven in large part by what we providers call unfunded mandates. For instance, the new Behavioral Health regulations require all of us to be accredited by one of three National Accreditation organizations. We have recently completed that process at a cost of approximately \$75,000 with an annual membership cost of a little over \$5,000. The accreditation is for three years, so the process must be repeated in 2015. We also are required to move to an Electronic Medical Records system. We now have \$300,000 invested in that effort, and we anticipate that we will spend an additional \$200,000 before all of our programs will be operational on the system. It takes personnel to maintain these systems and they are administrative in nature. When I began working for Akeela none of the more sophisticated management systems were required by the State. I believe that in part these required functions have been the State's way of shifting management costs from the Division to the provider. However, to meet these unfunded mandates, we must have personnel that do not neatly fit into the direct service category.

Finally, treatment works and costs less than failure to provide treatment. The best example can be found with our prison programs. Prisoners who have been in substance use treatment show a recidivism rate that is 12% to 16% lower than is the rate of prisoners who have not experienced treatment. The current recidivism rate for prisoners is approximately 67%. If one applies that rate to 100 prisoners at a daily rate of \$115 per prisoner, 67 individuals going back to prison cost \$7,705 per day, while 51 going back to prison cost \$5,865 or a savings per day of \$1,840 based on a 16% difference. The savings over the year at the daily rate savings of \$1,840 translates to \$671,600 for prisoners not returning to prison because they received treatment.

Rosalie Nadeau,

Akeela CEO

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: LIO Fairbanks
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 10:38 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: House Finance; Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: FW: Complex Behavior Collaborative Increment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: noel murray [njmak2003@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 10:24 AM
To: Fairbanks_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Complex Behavior Collaborative Increment

03/05/13

Fairbanks LIO: Please send the following letter to Representative Austerman and Representative Stoltze, with a copy to Senator Meyer:

March 5, 2013

Dear Representative Austerman and Representative Stoltze,

Recently representatives of the Key Coalition were in Juneau to discuss pertinent issues facing Alaskans who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities along with their families.

One of the critical new services that has been funded is the Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC), and the Key Coalition is supporting a \$450,000 increment to continue these vital services that allow Alaskans to remain in their home communities. The CBC offers short-term intervention services provided by experts for each of the four Trust beneficiary groups that are needed to prevent institutionalization in inappropriate settings such as API, hospital or correctional facility. Without the CBC individuals may also face leaving their community, families and loved ones, to be sent out of Alaska for services.

The CBC has been preventing these extreme measures at one-half the cost of the alternatives and data proving success has been gathered by the State of Alaska. The \$450,000 increment will not only offer crucial appropriate services and supports within Alaska, it allows another year to continue data collection to prove the CBC works.

I urge you to consider adding this small increment of \$450,000 to continue the program so vital for many Alaskans. It's the right service, for the right person, at the right time, for the right price, and it's the right thing to do. It saves the state money (now and in the future!), supports our communities by building expertise and infrastructure, and provides Alaskans with quality interventions that work, keeping families whole and healthy.

Please place this letter into the record.

CC: Senator Meyer

Thank you.

Noel J Murray

417 Clara Street

Fairbanks Alaska 99701

907/378-5163

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Anna Sappah <aapaoffice@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 10:29 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: oppose cuts to behavioral health budget
Attachments: letter to house finance re dbh budget cuts.docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please find the attached letter opposing cuts to the behavioral health budget that will be discussed this afternoon during the House Finance committee hearing.

Best Regards,

Anna Sappah

Anna Sappah,MS

Executive Director

Alaska Addiction Professionals Association (AAPA)

PO Box 92580

Anchorage, AK 99509

Phone: 907-242-6638

Fax: 1-866-252-8824

Website: www.sada-ak.org

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: D. Robbins <d Robbins.r@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 10:15 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: The budget should include more funds to pay down the unfunded liability of PERS/TRS
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Representatives,

If you would include more funds in the budget to pay down the underfunded PERS/TERS, the state and people of Alaska could save a lot of money in the long haul. By coasting on this the underfunded amounts continue to grow larger, like when you pay the minimum on your credit card.

The bill will come due and could be much reduced with some effort to pay more now.

Sincerely,

Doris Robbins

--
Doris Robbins

(907) 374-0597
Fairbanks AK 99709-6753
d Robbins.r@gmail.com

Natural Soaps Soothing to the Skin
www.alaskasoaps.com

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Jada Alexander <assist@voaak.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 9:58 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Substance Abuse Treatment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good Morning,

My name is Jada Alexander and I work in an adolescent facility here in Anchorage and Eagle River. If you cut our funding you will be taking away the care and help these young adults need. We as a facility and a treatment center help and shape young adults who are having problems with drugs and alcohol. Many of them do have co-occurring disorders that they mask but with our help and the help of outside agencies we are able to identify them and help not only them but their families learn to deal and cope with it in a healthy and safe way. If you take that away or prevent us and other agencies like us from doing not only our job but something we love to do then the adolescents are the ones who will pay the price. If we can prevent one young adult from doing anymore drugs or taking another drink, then we have helped that young person be able to have a healthy and happy life. Addiction is so hard but it makes it harder when people try to prevent us from doing our job. If the funding is cut then how will we be able to continue giving the best services that we can give. Please, take a moment and think of the young adults, if they do not get the best treatment they can get then they will become adults who will need treatment but it may be too late by then. If you cut our funding then you are also cutting their chances at a fresh start early on in their lives. What does that say about our government? Who is going to show them the way? You basically are keeping them in the dark, preventing us from bringing them back in the light. These children are our future. If we are unable to help them now then who will? By the time they are adults their brains will have been developed and then it becomes ten times harder to save them. Please help us.

Thank you,

Jada Alexander

Office Manager

Volunteers of America, Alaska

907-279-9640

907-276-5489-fax



OUTPATIENT TREATMENT FOR ADOLESCENTS WITH
SUBSTANCE ABUSE & CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: marcia_howell@hotmail.com on behalf of marcia howell <marcialhowell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 9:53 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Support for the Trauma Care Fund

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman,

I am writing to support the Trauma Care Fund. The data that is tracked in the Alaska Trauma Registry (ATR) is critical for the health and wellness of Alaskans. It provides a multitude of organizations with information for prioritizing health issues, enabling them to make decisions that are data based, and serve to help us efficiently allocate funding that will result in getting the most "bang for the buck." For instance, the ATR allows prevention organizations around the state to analyze which types of injuries are most common and cost the state the most money. Using this information, we can then decide to allocate our energy and fiscal resources for prevention efforts that will result in significant change, improving the health and quality of life of Alaskans. The alternative is that we make program decisions based on minor problems that are emotionally charged resulting in our efforts and financial investment having minimal impact.

For example, ATR data shows that falls are one of the most common injury cause of hospitalization for elderly Alaskans. We also know that falls are the number one cause of injury deaths for people over 65. And they are preventable! The ATR data helps us to learn some of the common causes of the falls. With this information, we can design and implement programs that reduce the risk of falling, and prevent premature deaths. I don't know about you, but I'm getting pretty close 65, and my parents are well past that age. I am concerned about this particular issue, and know that the ATR can help make a difference.

Senior falls are just one tiny component of the ATR. Discontinuing funding will have dramatic effects across a multitude of health issues as well as result in poor decision making ability for how millions of other prevention and health dollars are spent.

Thank you for considering continued funding of the Trauma Care Fund.

Best regards,

Marcia Howell
907-441-6746

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Helander, Ken <khelander@aar.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 9:46 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: Fall Prevention Support
Attachments: Fall Prevention - Support.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Members of the House Finance Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for the budget increment for fall prevention among Alaska seniors. Thank you so much.

Ken Helander

Ken Helander

AARP Alaska

Advocacy Director

907-762-3314

AARP is Alaska's largest member organization – 94,000 strong!

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Michele Vasquez <michele.s.simmons@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 9:35 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: re: Do Not cut Health Budget!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representatives Austerman, Neuman and Stoltze:

I am having an extremely difficult time following the logic behind some of the proposed bills this session, but the current effort by the Health & Social Services Subcommittee is the one I will address in this email.

The mere thought of cutting \$8.3 million from the budget for behavioral health services in the state of Alaska is simply absurd, cruel and inhumane! Sirs, this state has a population with a plethora of issues ranging from severe mental illness to alcohol/substance abuse. If you think we have a high suicide rate now, just wait until you cut these extremely valuable and critical services, particularly in the outlying areas of our state. Why is it that those who need the most, those that cannot afford it always be the ones to suffer? Have you no decency? Have you no compassion? Your national party, as well as those on the state level, have blamed gun violence on mental illness yet here you are proposing to gut the very thing you say needs to be addressed! Which is it? You cannot have it both ways, sirs!

I implore you, in the name of all things decent and caring, stop this action immediately. Do not cut valuable, critical behavioral health services to those in our state who need it most!

Thank you for your time,
Michele Vasquez
Soldotna

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Alice Mural <amural@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 9:31 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: cuts to behavior health
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Representative Austerman:

As a health care provider, i see the need for more services in behavior health than we have now. `The Emergency rooms are filled daily with people who are underserved and to cut this budget would only increase the cost to all of us. Please do not cut the budget for these services.

Alice Mural, ANP

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Thea Agnew Bemben <thea@agnewbeck.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 9:29 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Stop cuts to behavioral health services and early education

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to implore you to go back to the drawing board and look for other places to cut funding rather than behavioral health services and supports for early education. I understand the Alaska is facing a fiscal crisis in the next decade and that the legislature needs to take a very strategic look at our spending in order to find a sustainable path forward for our state.

I believe that this must be done by making our state healthier and better preparing children and families to live as productive, independent citizens. We also must better develop our economy, which necessitates a productive and highly trained workforce. As an employer of 23 people in a small business here in Anchorage, I understand the challenge of recruiting and retaining qualified workers. Being successfully employed requires soft skills that we learn, not in college, but in preschool, as well as the harder skills that we attain in the later years of education. Maintaining employment is key to caring for our families, and seeing a path forward that does not get derailed by drug and alcohol abuse.

If you look at the data for our state, we have very high rates of heavy and binge alcohol use among adults, a child maltreatment rate that is 7 times the national average and a shocking rate of domestic violence and sexual assault, which is alcohol related in the majority of cases. We also have much higher rates of smoking and obesity for Alaskans who have lower levels of educational attainment. You will also find that the cost of providing special education and other services to Alaskan children who arrive at kindergarten not prepared to learn is crippling our local districts and resulting in cuts in educational services to the general school population.

The cuts you are considering to behavioral health and early education will only fuel this downward cycle that we are in as a state. These cuts will lead to higher costs in future years as we continue to pay for corrections, TANF payments, Medicaid costs, not to mention the appalling human toll that child abuse, family violence and addiction takes on our people.

But even more than this, your job as leaders is to chart a future course for our state. We need a vision for a healthy, productive future, that is sustainable. Cutting services to our most needy Alaskans, simply because they have no moneyed constituency lobbying for them in your halls, is a cowardly move. We must spend well now in order to better prepare for the future. That is the only effective way to curb our spending and to craft a sustainable future for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Thea Agnew Bemben

Thea Agnew Bemben

Managing Principal

907.222.5424 office

www.agnewbeck.com

Engage, Plan, Implement. Agnew::Beck

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: USAG Tom Gemmell <usag.alaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 9:21 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep Tammie Wilson
Cc: Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Gary Stevens; Steven Ricci; Jesse Kiehl; Daniel George; Scott Kelley; Ben Mulligan; Kevin Brooks; cora.campbell@alaska.gov; Christopher Clark; ADFG Commissioner; Hannah McCarty
Subject: HB 65 Finance Committee Substitute - ADFG Funding
Attachments: House Finance Committee re ADFG Budget FINAL 4MAR2013A.pdf; Request for ADFG funding for aerial surveys FY2014 HFIN Legislators 12Feb2013.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good Morning Members of the House Finance Committee,

Please see the attached letters concerning the impacts of proposed cuts the the ADFG Budget for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Regards,

--
Tom Gemmell
Executive Director
United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
PO Box 20538
Juneau, AK 99802-0538
ph: (253) 237-3099 Google Voice
cell: 907-723-3358
<http://www.akgillnet.org/>
usag.alaska@gmail.com

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Mary Daniel <smdaniel@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 8:54 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please do not vote for severe budget cuts to education and to health and social services. I urge you to do all you can to fully fund these necessary services. A state with the resources of Alaska should not deny its citizens these essential services. Our state will be better off with educated, healthy, happy citizens.

Mary Daniel
Seward
Sent from my iPad

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Cathy Bishop <c.bishop@nugensranchak.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 8:37 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: HB65
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am writing in response to **HB 65**. An \$8.3 million reduction in Behavioral Health Services would be a devastating blow to services that are available and provided to all Alaskans. It is difficult to access these services now because the availability is so limited. If you pass a budget cut the services will be even harder to obtain for those in need. I strongly encourage you to look at the trickle down effect this budget cut will create. Employees that work for grant funded agencies work for less pay than those that work for private agencies and a budget cut might force them out of their jobs increasing the unemployment rate. People that can not obtain these services (because of the unavailability of services the budget cut would create) will flood hospital emergency rooms and increase the number of calls received by law enforcement due to an increase in crime. There will be an increase in the homeless problem and several other issues I could mention. Please re-think this budget cut – you are affecting the lives of All Alaskans.

Respectfully,

Cathy L. Bishop

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Monika <cscadm@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 8:31 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: Letter of Support for Senior Fall Prevention through the Health Promotion, Disease Prevention senior grant program from Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

The Honorable Mark Neuman

March 5, 2013

State House of Representatives

Alaska State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Neuman:

I am asking for your support of \$150,000 GF/MH for the Health Promotion, Disease Prevention targeted for senior fall prevention strategies included in the Governor's budget.

Following is just one example of the impact our Fall Prevention program made to one local senior.

A Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center resident started attending our Wellness and Exercise program a couple of years ago. As part of our initial fitness assessment to gage the mobility and strength of a client before starting any fitness program we asked the client to lie down on the floor and get back up. She was not able to get up on her own, not even with the help of a chair. She was also dependent on using a walker to get around. Of course the fear of falling in her apartment and not being able to get up, even if she wasn't hurt, made her feel dependent on others and she was not very confident about living on her own. After about 3 months of an extensive exercise and strengthening program, the same initial assessment was repeated to see if her mobility and strength had increased. She was not only able to get up off the floor unassisted, she even began walking without her walker and still does. Her confidence level rose and she felt healthy and strong enough to be able to live on her own.

Part of Fall Prevention and Health Promotion is education which is provided by our Health Outreach Nurse and exercise provided by our Wellness department to help strengthen our seniors and therefore making them feel confident in living in their own home, which ultimately saves our State money. Independence is a key factor in keeping our seniors happy and maintaining their quality of life.

- Falls are the #1 cause of non-fatal hospitalized injuries for Alaskans age 65. Falls can lead to a loss of independence, depression, and poor health. The consequences of a senior fall can change lives and devastate families. Falls are not a normal part of aging. **Falls are preventable.**

- Falls are expensive. Alaska's median cost for senior fall-related hospitalization is \$28,350 per incident. The Governor's proposed \$150,000 increment could help just 5 older Alaskans from falling; the increment would pay for itself from hospital cost savings.

- Research shows that multi-faceted interventions are most effective and include age appropriate exercise, home assessment and rehab for accessibility, and medication management.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration on this very important senior issue and thank you for all your work.

Sincerely,



Linda Hendrickson, Executive Director

Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center

Phone: (907) 688-2679

E-mail: execdir@mtaonline.net

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Daphne Coen <aztecgoddess21@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 8:17 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Mental Health Funding Cuts
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear representatives,

I think that it is appalling that a cut in the funding for mental health services is even being considered in this state. We have an epidemic of mental health issues including domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, sexual abuse as well as depression and suicide. Please do not cut this much needed funding.

--
Daphne Coen

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Pam Watts <Pam@jamhi.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 8:11 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Behavioral Health Budget Concerns
Attachments: Behavioral health budget.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Pamela L. Watts, M. Coun, LPC, NCC

Executive Director

Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc.

3406 Glacier Highway

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Ph: (907) 463-3303

Fax: (907) 586-3877

pam@jamhi.org

"We help adults with mental illness live their own best lives"



*The information contained in this transmission is privileged and confidential. It is intended only for the use of the individual entity named above. This information has been disclosed to you from records protected by federal and state confidentiality regulations. These regulations prohibit you from making any further disclosure of this information unless further disclosure is expressly permitted by the written consent of the person to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permitted by federal regulations 42 CFR Part 2. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is not sufficient for this purpose.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Elizabeth Johnston <lizjohnston27@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 8:09 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Therapeutic Courts
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House Finance Committee,

I cannot call in to comment on the potential Therapeutic Courts denial of funding, but I hope that you will accept this e-mail for your consideration.

I am currently the Assistant Public Defender working up in Barrow (the only one here), but I write in my own personal capacity. Though we are too small of a system here to offer a traditional therapeutic court (we do have some systems that act in a similar capacity), I was able to be a part of the court that had recently started in Juneau when I interned with the Public Defender office there. Through that experience, I met people who were taking steps to change their life around, and people who had graduated the program and were working to help support those going through it. In my brief time there, it was clearly a very, very powerful program that was changing the lives of those in it. It was very powerful for me to watch.

Therapeutic Courts are also apparently cheaper to run than jail. So why not spend less money in a program with a better success rate than more money to send people to prison where their likelihood of re-offending is higher? It seems like this should be an easy decision.

I think and hope that you will be bombarded with many facts supporting this program and heartfelt testimony over the next couple of days. I have little else to say except to put in my support for them. They are fairly new here in Alaska, and it would be tragic not to provide the funding they need to continue to grow.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J Smith
(Current Barrow resident, though I consider Juneau home).

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Carol Shuler <CShuler@spbhs.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 8:07 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara
Subject: HB 66
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am writing in support of HB 66 funding necessary Mental Health services, including the Complex Behavioral Collaborative.

The CBC is a "Swat Team" that allows experts in complex behaviors to come to rural communities to assess complex behaviors, devise a behavior plan and provide on-going support to the individual and the community team providing supports to this individual. This has proven to not only be **very effective in decreasing challenging and even dangerous behaviors, but it is cost effective** in that the alternative is often to send these individuals to Northstar or API, and then eventually, out of state to residential treatment. This allows the individual to stay in their chosen community and assists the state in meeting its Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for community services. We have found this service to be very effective with the individuals we serve who have utilized the CBC and are now identifying many more individuals who could benefit from this service.

Please continue funding for this very important service.

Carol Shuler
215 Ocean Drive Loop, Apt. B

Homer, Alaska 99603

907-235-3805

This message is intended for the sole use of the individual to whom it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee, you are hereby notified that you may not use, copy, disclose, or distribute to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received this item in error, please notify the original sender and destroy this item, along with any attachments.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: axmakers <axmakers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 8:03 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: ADF&G Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Rep. Austerman,

I am a commercial fisherman and understand the importance of the Alaska Dep. of Fish and Game in maintaining our fisheries. I urge you to please put the \$550 million back in their budget. Thank-you for your consideration in this matter.

David Axmaker
F/V Maranatha

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: larrybemis@ymail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 8:00 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: NB65-FYI 14 Re store S.E. funding,aerial funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To Whom it am concern:

Commercial fishing is my living and is my main source of income . I live in a small community where commercial fishing drives our economy. I support this bill to be funded.

Larry Bemis

Box 192

Yakutat, Ak 99689

President Yakutat Alaska Fishermen Alliance Chairmen Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association

Sent from my iPad

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Debra Arthur-Wilkinson <Debra@jamhi.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 7:44 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Budget Cuts
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Finance Committee:

Let me introduce myself, I am Debra K. Arthur-Wilkinson, a resident of Southeast Alaska , and an interested party to the purposed budget cut of \$8.3 million dollars to the Division of Behavioral Health's base budget.

Having been both a recipient of community mental health services and a provider of community mental health services, has allowed me the unique experience of being able to know how much each of those Behavioral Health dollars are truly worth. As a younger woman, I left an abusive relationship to be a single mother of two, working and providing for our daily lives. This situation left me feeling very depressed and often times out of hope and self-motivation. Through counseling at the local community mental health center, help with medications, and some additional services for my young daughters I was able to get in control of my depression and moved forward with my life. Behavioral health dollars also allowed my children and me to reside in a domestic violence shelter for 37-days. For every one of those 37-days, my daughters and I were afforded safe shelter, food, assistance with transportation for me to go to work each day and my children to be safely transported to school and day care. Through the support of other individuals, peers who had successfully run the gambit of domestic violence and mental health issues, I was able to see a future for myself and my daughters. I managed to complete two college degrees and to earn a Master's in Psychology while working fulltime to support myself and my daughters. I am now the Supervisor of Emergency Mental Health services for a community behavioral health center. I am giving back to the field that assisted me in my past life to live the healthy, happy, productive life I have today. If those Behavioral health dollars had not been available, I wonder how my life might be going now.

Oftentimes, monies applied to behavioral health are thought of expenses. And as every financially responsible concerned individual knows it is always good to cut expenses. I would argue the monies earmarked for behavioral health services are not an expense but an investment. As my life is testimony to. And, that investment did not stop with me. I have managed to raise two college educated daughters who are also productive members of the community of Southeast , Alaska; one working for the state of Alaska dealing with children in need, and one who is moving forward with employment with the City and Borough of Juneau. I

would encourage each of you to give consideration to the expenses you are cutting or the investments you are willing to make.

Thank you for attention,

Debra K. Arthur-Wilkinson, MA, LPA

Debra K. Arthur-Wilkinson, MA, LPA

Emergency Services Supervisor

3406 Glacier Hwy

Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 463-3303

"We help adults with mental illness live their own best lives"



*The information contained in this transmission is privileged and confidential. It is intended only for the use of the individual entity named above. This information has been disclosed to you from records protected by federal and state confidentiality regulations. These regulations prohibit you from making any further disclosure of this information unless further disclosure is expressly permitted by the written consent of the person to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permitted by federal regulations 42 CFR Part 2. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is not sufficient for this purpose.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: elaine pfeiffer <pfeifferelaines@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 7:31 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: House budget - Behavioral Health cuts

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I encourage you to maintain ARCH at the current funding level. I've personally visited ARCH and witnessed transformations of **chemically dependent teens**. The home-like treatment setting combined with abstinence literally gives kids back their lives. Once exposed to a life without chemical dependency, they are astounded by the choices they have. The benefits to communities they return to cannot be measured. Imagine the example a young person sets when he or she returns to their home - in towns and rural villages. Please continue funding for ARCH.

Elaine Pfeiffer

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Danielle Smith <dsmithz_70@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 6:49 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Public Comment - (H) Finance Committee - Therapeutic Courts

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman and Representative Stoltze-

I am writing to you, as co-chairs of the House Finance Subcommittee, to urge you and the Committee to **include the Alaska Court System's increment request of \$689,000 to support DUI Therapeutic Courts** in the SFY14 Operating budget. The requested increment will support the operations of six DUI Therapeutic Courts that have been operating since 2001. These courts have a proven track record and we need to support therapeutic courts as a cost-effective strategy to reduce criminal recidivism, while protecting the public. Otherwise, we can expect to continue the trend of incarceration and plan to spend millions more dollars for the construction and operation of a new correctional facility in the very near future.

Thank you for your consideration and your public service for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Danielle Williams
2029 Blueberry Street
Anchorage, AK 99503

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Mark Robinson <robsrule@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 5:02 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Proposed cut to Behavioral Health Services
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to urge you to resist the proposed cut to the budget of Behavioral Health Services. I am most concerned about this cut in the light of the continuing mass killings throughout our country and to which Alaska is not immune. Yesterday I listened to a radio program where gun advocates were saying that restrictions on guns do not work and that we need to better address the root causes of why people choose to misuse guns in this way. I basically agree although I favor a balanced approach that includes taxing gun and gun equipment sales. Behavioral health programs are the very programs the progun advocates are talking about. Alaska is a pro-gun state. We are also a state with some of the highest rates of alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic and sexual assault and mental illness, situations where guns are often misused and lives are altered forever. Alaska is not likely to enact restrictions or taxes on guns so it is imperative that we adequately address the root causes of gun and other violence against others. We can't have it both ways if we are to have healthy communities and citizens. Alaska must fund programs to assist people with the above problems. The climate and the dark here are demanding; we must support our citizens by providing adequate support to behavior health programs so that people get the treatment they need and can develop the coping skills they must have to lead productive lives.

I guarantee it will take much more money at a later time to address the havoc these cuts will wreck because the problems will be worse than they are now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Lander
Homer

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Lolita Brache <lolitagrace@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 10:43 PM
To: Rep. Tammie Wilson
Cc: rep.bill.stolze@akleg.gov; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: SAVE funding for Best Beginnings and PAT

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Wilson,

I am very discouraged to hear that you are sponsoring the bill that would cut \$137,500 from Best Beginnings and \$242,500 from Parents as Teachers.

These two programs have brought outstanding services to young families in the greater Homer area. Best Beginnings funding has helped build and maintain a strong collaborative network of agencies and individuals committed to supporting early learning, the educators that work with young children, and the parents that raise them. Parents as Teachers is a PROVEN program that connects families with one another and with professionals who can help them build resiliency. I know that you and all your fellow representatives are well aware of the cost SAVINGS when we help families up front-- to PREVENT child abuse and neglect, and when we work with young children to prepare them for school. The few dollars you think you are "saving" by cutting these programs, will only have to be spent somewhere else-- foster care for children of a family that has disintegrated in isolation? or "special services" for a child that enters school unprepared? Where would you rather spend our precious pennies?

Please preserve the original funding levels (which are the same as last year; no increase was sought).

Lolita Brache
PO Box 2508
Homer Ak
299 0694

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Jamie McLean <gjmclean52@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 9:21 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Please Support Behavioral Health Services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

As a mental health clinician who has lived in Juneau for the last 31 years, I am very concerned about the proposed budget cuts to behavioral health services. Without the support of agencies such as JAMHI, JYS and others that support people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders, our community puts these people in higher risk for institutional care and decreases their ability to live a meaningful and productive life. Please support maintaining current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health & Social Services budget.

Thank you for your careful and compassionate attention to this important issue.
Sincerely,

Jamieson McLean

G. Jamieson McLean M.A, L.P.C.
114 Franklin Street, Suite 207
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-3373

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: susan wylie <creativewellbeing@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 7:40 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Mental Health Emergency!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please support maintaining current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health & Social Services budget.

This funding cut is draconian and completely out of touch with the needs of Alaskans. Any of of would be hard pressed to not know of a person or family effected by suicide, mental illness or substance abuse. We are the number one state for suicide! How can we even think of cutting services?

I am a behavioral health provider in private practice, who urges you to support our public behavioral health services. Please consider the following:

The House Budget Subcommittee on Health & Social Services has recommended a \$8,368,800 (\$8.3 million) reduction in general funds for Behavioral Health Services. These local, community-based services include:

- * **mental health treatment**
- * **substance abuse treatment**
- * **detox services**
- * **services for youth with severe emotional disturbance**
- * **supported housing**
- * **peer support services**
- * **suicide prevention**
- * **tribal behavioral health services**
- * **services for seniors with co-occurring disorders**
- * **parent and peer navigation**
- * **services related to domestic violence and sexual assault**
- * **prevention and early intervention**
- * **programs that support reunifying and keeping families together**

· Behavioral Health Services support keeping people with mental illness and substance use disorders—including seniors and people with intellectual/developmental disorders with co-occurring disorders—at home and in their communities close to family and friends.

· Without community supports, people with these disorders are at higher risk for institutionalized care—such as jail, psychiatric institutions, and nursing homes.

· Without community supports, people with behavioral health disorders use emergency rooms more often and are at greater risk for institutionalized care.

· By serving people at home and in the community we are better able to see all Alaskans living meaningful and productive lives—at the same time we are saving money.

· Behavioral Health Services help “level the playing field” so that more Alaskans can be employed, housed, and contributing productively in the community.

· Behavioral Health Service Providers contribute to a **healthy workforce** and promote a strong economy.

· For Alaskans experiencing serious mental illness, the cost of community-based outpatient services is 2-5

times less expensive than institutional care.

Please support maintaining current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health & Social Services budget.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan Wylie, MS, LPC

Susan Wylie
4014 Ridge Way
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907)523-0437 Home
(907)209-3976 Office/cell
(907)523-0438 FAX

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Rachel Ludwig <rludwig75@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 7:21 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: REGARDING CONCERN FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear sirs and madams,

My name is Rachel Ludwig. My 20 year old son was diagnosed with schizophrenia three years ago. By passing a bill that limits funding to the behavioral health services, you risk the continued treatment and future services that my son and MANY others that seek these services they so desperately need. As it is now, Alaska is lacking in services and resources to these people, why put them on the chopping block when there are so many other cuts that could be made? I hear a lot of Politicians talking about "the good of Alaskans", these my friends ARE Alaskans. Let's NOT forget that OR them.

I implore you to reconsider this recommendation for the good of the people you serve.

Sincerely,

Rachel Ludwig

--

"The five separate fingers are independent units. Close them and the fist multiplies strength. This is organization."

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Tina Walsh-Morgan <tmmorgan@alaska.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 7:05 PM
Subject: \$8.3 Million Reduction to Mental Health Services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please do not make cuts to mental health services. Access to mental health services impact the sufferer and their families throughout the state. My family and I have personally benefitted from access to mental health services.

Thank you

Tina M. Morgan

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Marion Nelson <mmkn@ptialaska.net>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 6:55 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Behavioral Health Services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Representative Alan Austerman,

I like saving money as much as the next person especially when it comes to keeping people at home for medical and social services. It just makes sense for all concerned. Cutting 8.3 million from the Behavioral Health Services does not seem fiscally responsible. Please keep the budget in tact.

Behavioral Health Services support keeping people with mental illness and substance use disorders—including seniors and people with intellectual/developmental disorders with co-occurring disorders—**at home and in their communities close to family and friends.**

- Without community supports, people with these disorders are at higher risk for institutionalized care—such as jail, psychiatric institutions, and nursing homes.
- Without community supports, people with behavioral health disorders use emergency rooms more often and are at greater risk for institutionalized care.
- **By serving people at home and in the community we are better able to see all Alaskans living meaningful and productive lives—at the same time we are saving money.**

Regards,

Marion Nelson
POB 3612, Kenai 99611
907 283 4632
907 398 8669

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: GARY LEHNHART <lehnhart@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 5:48 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Representative.Bill.Stolze@akleg.gov; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Representative.David.Guttenber@akleg.gov; Representative.Tammie.Wilson@ak.leg.gov; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Mike Hawker; Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Sean.Parnell@alaska.gov
Subject: No Subject Education funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Legislators,

I understand that the Finance Committee will be discussing the operating budget tomorrow, which gives you the opportunity to hear testimony and think about our public school funding. I believe in public schools. I have four children who have attended school here in Juneau and I have the opportunities every day to witness the realities of our public schools. I am an elementary art teacher here in Juneau. The only one for our district of 6+ elementary schools. I serve 95 classrooms, going from school to school. It is both thrilling, because there is nothing more hopeful for our future than children being innovative and creative, and discouraging because I see the stress that teachers and students are feeling with strained school funding, resulting in larger and larger class sizes and the many difficulties and barriers to learning that this imposes.

I would like to ask you to please support raising the BSA this year after several years of flat funding and many cuts to many districts. It's raising the BSA that really makes the most practical difference.

I would also like to invite you, while you are in Juneau, to accompany me into a classroom while I teach an art lesson. I would enjoy meeting you and I think you'd really appreciate the opportunity to get out there and see what's going on. Please let me know if you are interested! I am very serious and sincere about this invitation.

I am hopeful that we will see good things come of your hard work and your creative thinking this year. We are counting on you. I believe there is nothing that has a higher impact on the future health of our state, than the intelligence, and mental and emotional health of all of our states children, thus placing the public schools in the position of the highest impact point for our states dollars.

Thank you so much for your hard work, your willingness to listen while you deliberate, and your leadership to come up with good solutions and support for our public schools.

Nancy Lehnhart

Juneau, (907) 321-0603

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kaia Dahl <kdahl1999@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 5:38 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: HB 65

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Mr. Austerman

I am very concerned that the fish and game is looking at 550k budget cut this is directed toward things in the SE Alaska that need funding if these things are cut they will effect fishing time and then also effect the crew shares the supplies need to conduct these fisheries and also the fish tax that is generated from these fisheries

Thank you Jerry Dahl

please contact me for further information if need 907 518 0860

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Daniello, Denise L (HSS) <denise.daniello@alaska.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 5:04 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Munoz, Cathy N (LAA) (representative_cathy_munoz@legis.state.ak.us); Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Cc: Paula Pawlowski
Subject: ACoA Support for Senior Fall Prevention Funds
Attachments: House HSS Finance Subcommittee, ACoA Support for Senior Increments.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Chair Neuman & House HSS Finance Subcommittee Members:

The Alaska Commission on Aging appreciates your consideration and support for the Governor's proposed increment for the Health Promotion, Disease Prevention program to target senior fall prevention and for continued funding of the Complex Behavior Collaborative. Our support letter is attached. Thank you.

Denise Daniello, Executive Director

Alaska Commission on Aging

P.O. Box 110693

Juneau, AK 99811-0693

907-465-4879 (Phone) / 907-465-1398 (Fax)

denise.daniello@alaska.gov

www.alaskaaging.org

Healthy Aging for Alaskans Across the Lifespan

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Dave Berube <dpb_99518@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 5:02 PM
To: Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Fully fund TBI program and AK Complex Behavior Collaborative

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

My name is Dave Berube and I live in Anchorage. I have a 28 year old son named Brandon who was born three months premature and a severe cognitive/intellectual disability. He was also diagnosed in his early 20's with Schizoaffective – Bi-Polar disorder. We have been struggling with his challenges which are several including behavioral issues. He tried to commit suicide three times last year and his mother and I are grateful for the assistance of the Anchorage Community Mental health center.

However more is needed and I am asking for **you to please support full funding for continuation of the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative**. People with disabilities are at a higher risk for experiencing complex and difficult-to-manage behaviors. People with disabilities include those with developmental and intellectual disabilities, behavioral health disorders, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, etc.) Alaskan service providers report they lack adequate intensive support and intervention services for clients with complex behaviors.

Family members who's loved ones suffer from complex behavior issues such as my son find themselves alone and need help in order to help the loved one affected. When caregivers are given tools through consultation and training the individuals they serve are more likely to stabilize and avoid being sent to more costly institutional care—such as Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API), incarceration, nursing homes, or out-of-state residential treatment.

I am also asking for your support on **FULLY funding the Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Program**. I have worked with individuals who were clients and a couple of friends who's loved ones sustained a traumatic brain injury from either a motor vehicle accident or a fall. It has been devastating to family members in the past who reached out for help only to find there was none. **The Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Program brings real hope and positive changes to not only the person's life who is affected but their family as well. This can be done through** case management services which are a critical support service and is a cost effective way to coordinate and link people to services that will support recovery efforts.

Case management supports the family to fully understand brain injury and provides tools for the challenges that brain injury brings. In the past 20 years, there have been nearly 15,000 Alaskans who have been hospitalized for Traumatic Brain Injury. Brain injury support services (such as case management) have been available in the Lower 48 since the 1980's, yet this service has yet to be fully developed in Alaska

Access to case management to an individual means it:

- Reduces inefficiencies in the utilization of public and private services

- Reduces emergency room visits – which happens a lot
- Deters more costly care by keeping people within their own homes
- Along with other program services, increases readiness for vocational rehabilitation and/or employment.

Please support both of these programs. Thank you for your time and attention to the request.
Sincerely,

Dave Berube

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Walter Majoros <walterm@jys.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 4:46 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Cc: Rep. Beth Kerttula; Sen. Dennis Egan
Subject: Proposed \$8.3 million cut to Behavior Health Grants

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House Finance Committee Members

I was saddened and shocked to see that the House Finance Subcommittee is recommending a \$8.3 million cut to behavioral health grants. These community-based services are critical to help people with mental illnesses and substance use disorders remain in their communities, and avoid more costly institutionalized care in jails, emergency rooms, psychiatric institutions and nursing homes.

At Juneau Youth Services, we serve 500 children/youth and their families each year. We offer an array of outpatient, school-based and residential services for youth with mental health and substance abuse problems. Most of these youth come from families who have experienced domestic violence, sexual abuse, child abuse and/or substance abuse. As you know, Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic, sexual, child and substance abuse in the country.

Cutting behavioral health grants will work directly against the Governor's Choose Respect Initiative to end domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse in Alaska. It is important to remember that these are generational cycles; unless we help children and youth who have experienced or witnessed these forms of assault and abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse will continue to run rampant in our state.

Please restore the \$8.3 million that is being proposed for cuts to behavioral health grants. These services are vital to the healthy future of Alaska's children, youth and families.

Walter Majoros
Executive Director
Juneau Youth Services
523-6531

----- Notice: This email may contain confidential privileged information If you are not the intended recipient any disclosure, copying, distribution, or action taken on the contents of these documents is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the sender immediately by email or via telephone at 907-789-7610. This information may have been disclosed from records protected by federal confidentiality rules - 42 C.F.R. Part 2 and HIPAA.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: sandikohtz@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 4:37 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; rep.david.gutenberg@akleg.gov; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in Alaska
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am currently the Director of Rainforest Recovery Center in Juneau. I am encouraging you to support maintaining the current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Health & Social Services budget. Without maintaining at least the current funding level, we will be unable to continue providing the level of services we are currently providing for Juneau and the state of Alaska. We currently remain at capacity with a waiting list for services.

The current level of funding does not cover the entire cost of treatment services, but allows us to have a foundation from which to build and provide the services we provide. The majority of our clientele do not have Medicaid or insurance which covers treatment for co-occurring disorders. The current funding allows us to provide services to them when they have no income. For every dollar invested in the treatment for substance abuse and mental illness, you save approximately \$4 in the cost of corrections and other non-treatment services.

I am hoping that you will consider my request. I would be willing to discuss any issues with you to answer questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 907-796-8499 or my cell phone at 775-813-8700.

Sandra F. Kohtz, LCSW

Director

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Jenny Martin <jenny.martin@bbbsak.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 4:32 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Restore Best Beginnings Funding
Attachments: CommCafe2013-kids.JPG; CommunityCafe2013.JPG; lang&literacy_training.JPG

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House Finance committee:

I am writing to request that you restore funding for **Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers to the governor's proposed funding levels** -- Best Beginnings \$937,500 and Parents as Teachers \$1,042,500.

In our local partnership, Best Beginnings Homer, funding has gone to help support local services for young children and their families. Here is just a snap shot:

- 25 parents and 18 children attended our community cafe on Feb 16 where we partnered with our local Paul Banks elementary school to provide educational sessions parents and free child care.
- 11 child care providers, librarians, parents and early learning professionals attended a language and literacy training we coordinated locally with faculty from UAA.
- Avg. 15 families and children are attending our outreach storyhour program coordinated by our public library 12 miles out EastEnd road - for families who have difficulty attending the local storyhour at the library. In addition, the kindergarten class at the Russian Old Believer village of Razdolna also are provided a storyhour every other week for 12 weeks.
- 15 book bags are being created by Kachemak Kid child care program through a grant provided by our program to help improve language and literacy with young children. These books bags are being made locally and will be available for checkout with parents at the program.
- approx. 10 emergency drop in slots are available at Stay Play Learn child care program through a mini grant offered by our program to help families in need.
- Playspace assessments have been completed for both indoor and outdoor play spaces and play grounds - in addition to a survey completed by parents and child care providers about local trails and walkways.

The funding we have received from Best Beginnings has been instrumental in improving early learning services and increasing awareness of the importance of early learning. Spend a \$1 now and save thousands later! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Jenny Martin
Best Beginnings Homer coordinator
907-435-7101

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Olivia Shears <oshears@nwresource.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 4:27 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Best Beginnings Homer
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Having worked with foster youth, foster parents, Child Protective Services (Investigations/Initial Assessments) over the past 7 years, I have experienced an up close and personal understanding of the negative impacts when children are not cared for adequately, whether due to lack of education, lack of resources or other variables. Children, families, and whole communities suffer. Parents and providers need resources to help them prepare to do the most important job there is, caring for children.

Best Beginnings provides information, trainings and resources for families and providers across the state. I believe that mental health field is people working towards changing the brain. We know the developing years of young children is crucial; therefore it is absolutely critical to be proactive and continue to invest in young children's development and well being. I am asking you to restore funding for Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers to the governor's proposed funding levels -- Best Beginnings \$937,500 and Parents as Teachers \$1,042,500.

This is a sample of what BBH has provided:

Update on Best Beginnings Homer - coalition of agencies, individuals and families who support early childhood education in our area. Over the last several years, we have helped support:

- Paul Banks Community Café - provided free child care, lunch, and educational sessions for parents on language, literacy, kindergarten readiness and other topics
- Outreach Storyhour program in collaboration with Public Library for families who cannot make it into the library
- Free parenting classes with free child care when needed
- Mini grants for child care providers to improve their services and equipment.
- Emergency 'drop in' child care grants for local child care programs to provide as needed to families.
- Playgroups for families through Parents as Teacher program
- Free educational trainings for parents, professionals and child care providers
- Assessment of local playspaces to make sure they are safe and child appropriate for young children - including park clean up days at Bayview park and providing a port-a-potty during summer.
- Week of the Young Child events and advocacy in the community

- New work group which is advocating support for local child care providers/programs to help improve the quality of services in our area and work with businesses to improve family-friendly policies and services.

Thank you for your time.

Olivia Shears | Family Support Specialist | *Alaska Center for Resource Families*

A Division of Northwest Resource Associates

840 K Street, Suite 101; Anchorage, Alaska 99501 | (907) 279-1803

*: oshears@nwresource.org

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: John Regitano <johnr@FamilyCenteredServices.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 4:28 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Proposed DHSS Budget Cuts

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

March 4, 2013

To: Representative Austerman

I am writing in regard to my concerns on the 8.3 million recommended cuts to behavioral health grants proposed by the House Health & Social Services Finance Subcommittee.

Based on my personal experience as a Director for a Behavioral Health nonprofit corporation providing mental health treatment services to children I can say with certainty that the proposed cuts will likely result in significant damage to the behavioral health service system in Alaska. This will result in harm to children and families and in the long-term result in higher costs to the citizens of Alaska in many ways and through many other venues. The degree of damage will vary from community to community and for each provider agency but in all cases it will likely result in reduced access to service or the complete elimination of essential mental and behavioral health services.

Because grant funding for many providers has remained flat or decreased over the last decade behavioral health organizations have been struggling financially for some time. This in large part is due to the increase in the need for services occurring simply from the population growth in the State, cost of living increases, and the continuing increase in Federal and State oversight demands that have required the redirection of provider resources. For our organization, which provides mental health services to children and families from all regions of Alaska, our State grant has not changed since Fiscal Year 2003 when it was reduced by 10%. While Medicaid funding has increased for most organizations in recent years the increase has not eliminated the importance of grant funding to help address the fact that Medicaid payment rates do not cover the full cost of the services that are provided by any behavioral health provider in Alaska. If anything in the last decade the flexibility afforded to provider agencies with the grant funding has made the funding even more essential to the stability of the Alaska behavioral health provider network.

I appreciate your assistance in helping to reinstate the proposed cuts into the house budget.



Sincerely

John W Regitano

Executive Director

Family Centered Services of Alaska

John W. Regitano

Executive Director

Family Centered Services of Alaska

1825 Marika Road



Fairbanks, AK 99709

Telephone: (907) 474-0890

Fax: (907) 474-3621

Confidentiality Note: This e-mail message may contain information that is confidential. It is to be conveyed to the designated recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender by replying to this message and then deleting it from your system.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Shere Baechler <SBaechler@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 4:24 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: please support early learning
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Legislators,

Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers makes a difference for families with young children and for our community!

I am a teacher of young children with special needs in the Homer area. These programs have been so helpful in providing services for these children and their families with direct services to meet their needs, offering informational opportunities and for their efforts to improve the quality of childcare.

Please restore funding for Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers to the governor's proposed funding levels -- Best Beginnings \$937,500 and Parents as Teachers \$1,042,500.

Thank you.

Sheryl Baechler, Special Education Teacher, PaulBanks Elementary School, Homer, AK

Homer resident and registered voter@

295 E. Fairview Avenue

Homer, AK 99603

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Gus Marx <gusm@jys.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 4:15 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Sen. Dennis Egan
Subject: No on \$8.3 Million Reduction to Behavioral Health Services
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

House Finance Committee:

This letter is to request that you do not reduce the general grant funds for Behavioral Health Services.

Saturday morning I learned that the Alaska House Finance Committee made budget decisions on Friday regarding Health & Social Services. It appears you are recommending an over \$8.3 million reduction in general funds for behavioral health services, amounting to a 31% reduction in DH&SS's grants funding. This appears be counter-intuitive to the Governor's initiatives for healthy families and an end to violence against women.

I have a list of "talking points," which I'm sure you will have cut and pasted to each of you a number of times during the next few days. Each of those points is perfectly valid.

However, I'm not going to veil my own self-interest. I am a grant writer for Juneau Youth Services, a non-profit that provides a wide spectrum of services for kids and their families. And to be honest, this cut will affect a number of our programs, including our suicide prevention program, which worked with nearly every ninth-grader in the district. It will impact (perhaps close) our transitional living program, which is currently facing possible federal funding cuts, as well. This budget decision may cripple our new Early Childcare Services program, which struggles with its current level of funding. I can mention a few other programs, but ultimately what this comes down to is that our State grant funding hasn't increased in years. Medicaid reimbursement hasn't kept up with inflation, and a 30+% cut to most of our State grants is probably more than Juneau Youth Services can withstand. We started trimming fat a few years ago because of the stagnant operating funding, and we're scraping bone now.

We've reduced staffing from a high of 180 to about 150 now. We are mandated by the State to maintain staff-to-client ratios, and we can't reduce staffing further and still maintain those ratios.

I ask you to reconsider this Health & Social Services budget reduction. Most of the service providers are stretched too thin now, and if I had the courage, I'd ask that you consider increasing the grant funding. Fortunately, I'm not confrontational. That said, I am hoping that the \$9 million in substance abuse funding that the State has reported it will receive (or has received) will not be used to replace this reduction in funding.

Thank you for considering not reducing the Health & Social Services grants funding.

Sincerely,

Gus Marx
Grants Coordinator
Juneau Youth Services

Phone: (907) 523-6511
FAX: (907) 789-2106

----- Notice: This email may contain confidential privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient any disclosure, copying, distribution, or action taken on the contents of these documents is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the sender immediately by email or via telephone at 907-789-7610. This information may have been disclosed from records protected by federal confidentiality rules - 42 C.F.R. Part 2 and HIPAA.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Simmonds, Foster <fps@achc.asrc.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 3:40 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: "No" to BUDGET CUTS in CRITICAL Behavioral Health Services
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

My name is Foster P. Simmonds

P.O. Box 786

Barrow, Alaska 99723

(907) 367-3044 C

(907) 852-3006 H

(907) 852-8374 W

I oppose cuts in the "Behavioral Health Services".

During this critical time, please to not cut programs in Behavioral Health Services, because of other, just as important mitigating circumstances.

There is a Nationwide concern, *growing steadily*, because of school shootings, multipul-shootings etc.

Because the problem is not as visible here at home in Alaska, does not mean we should not be concerned.

What happens in the Lower 48 usually follows later in Alaska.

I have a son who benefits from the services recommended for cuts,

I do not stand alone, but I fight on for others who, as I have been through... will be brought to tears because of circumstances they cannot understand.

Those individuals will have no-where to turn, as I had no-where to turn. Before My wife and I decided that the only way to save our son was to have the State take custody. Since then a lot of things have happened

- 1) Mental health was moved from Seattle to Alaska
- 2) Mental health was reorganized
- 3) Mentally ill are receiving services at home in Alaska
- 4) The state in general has become more aware of the scope of mental health issues we as a state are responsible for.
- 5) And the importance in addressing them to the benefit of our mutual future.

I with my High school education cannot presume to know all the issues, but I have been involved with mental illness issues for an awfully long time, because I love my son, who at times was unlovable.

It is my sincerest prayer & hope, that you will somehow find a way to continue, fully funding these program.

Foster P. Simmonds Sr. 3/4/13

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Chuck Wright <cwright@hopealaska.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 3:26 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Behavioral Health Services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Rep. Austerman,

I am very concerned about the proposed very significant reduction in funds for Behavioral Health Services. These are essential community-based services which have provided necessary assistance to Alaskans. Community services have been proven to be the most helpful and most cost-efficient means to help people whereas the institutionalization that invariably results without these services are the most expensive. My concern is for the welfare of the people involved and the loss of very useful services to them. There can be no argument that Alaskans should be allowed to remain in their communities and with their families instead of in psychiatric institutions, nursing homes and potentially jail. The many beneficial treatments, programs and other services provided by Behavioral Health Services do allow for the former to occur. Taking them away by the proposed reduction will require the latter. It shouldn't be a difficult choice. I hope you'll seriously consider the ramifications of this decision.

Thank you.

Chuck Wright

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Dale Valcarce <Dale@jamhi.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 3:14 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Proposed Budget cuts to the Division of Behavioral Health

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To Whom it may concern,

Upon accepting a position at Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc. (JAMHI), I moved to Juneau in February 2011. This has been my first position in the mental health field. Since having the opportunity of working at JAMHI I have gained a better perspective of the needs of people that are seriously mentally ill. This population definitely needs help from the Federal as well as State Government.

The Budget cuts that the legislature is proposing to the Division of Behavioral Health would be devastating for a large population in Alaska. Cuts up to 31% would have a lot of negative effects on communities all over Alaska. I really believe that the state would have higher incidents of homelessness, higher visits to hospitals, and higher incidents of people using illegal drugs and alcoholism. The outcome of these items would put a strain on the medical system that is overloaded now.

One of the many problems I see in the behavioral health field is the need for services and the ability to pay. Most of the clients at JAMHI rely on Medicaid. Medicaid represents about 53% of JAMHI's revenues. Under 2% of revenues come from other insurance and self-payers. That leaves the State of Alaska Behavioral Health Grant to cover services that most of JAMHI's clients are not able to afford. That state grant amounts to 29% of total revenues. Without that money JAMHI would have to cut services to many Alaskans. On July 1, 2010, JAMHI had 386 clients. At the end of February they had 438. The grant that JAMHI receives from the Division of Behavioral Health has not increased in over 3 years but yet they are serving 13% more clients than they were serving in 2010.

JAMHI over the last 5 years has had to take a serious look at it's cost and has reduced a lot of them. Just recently the Chief Operating Officer's position and an accounting position have been eliminated putting a stress on remaining positions. If JAMHI were to lose 31% of it's state grant, up to 6 positions would have to be eliminated and they would most likely be direct service positions.

I really believe that the state needs to reconsider funding for the Division of Behavioral Health and should increase funding instead of taking it away. The safety and well being of the entire state is in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Dale Valcarce

Chief Financial Officer

Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc.

3406 Glacier Highway

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Ph: (907) 463-3303

Fax: (907) 586-3877

dale@jamhi.org

"We help adults with mental illness live their own best lives"



*The information contained in this transmission is privileged and confidential. It is intended only for the use of the individual entity named above. This information has been disclosed to you from records protected by federal and state confidentiality regulations. These regulations prohibit you from making any further disclosure of this information unless further disclosure is expressly permitted by the written consent of the person to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permitted by federal regulations 42 CFR Part 2. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is not sufficient for this purpose.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Lee Anne Crafton <lcrafton@hopealaska.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 2:59 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: NO to DBH cuts

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Alaska Legislative Member,

I am writing to voice my resistance to DBH cuts currently on the table for discussion. As a person who has experienced the result of underserved mentally ill populations in my work and my personal life, I highly object to reducing funding to provide services to this needy population. We are already under serving the many people in our state, and country, who experience debilitating mental illness that affects ability to manage day to day life. Many of these people have already suffered poor advocacy and care and have ended up in jails across the state, not to mention the costs of institutionalization in hospitals and API. Community supports are what provide the safety net for many people experiencing mental illness and dual diagnosis.

I have seen it repeatedly over my 20 years in this state; in the summer streets of Anchorage, on a busy winter intersection in the Valley; at the doors of the slime line on the Peninsula; at homeless shelters and phone calls to my office. People who cannot make good decisions for themselves, left to their own devices without support end up costing us so much more money and time.

I personally met with a gentlemen this very morning. He came through my office door on a whim, and asked for some help. He is facing 2 years of prison, is legally deaf, and is struggling to find a way to stay out of institution.

Say NO to this cut, please.

Lee Anne Crafton, HOPE Care Coordinator

420-3608 Voice

260-9435 Fax

47202 Princeton Avenue Soldotna 99669

This message, including any attachments, is intended solely for the use of the named recipient and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution of this communication(s) is expressly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy any and all copies of the original message.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Sally Saddler <teal@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 1:50 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Senator_Dennis_Egan@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz; 'School Board'
Subject: FW: HB65 Support for Education Funding
Attachments: 3 4 13 JSD letter to Austerman.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

and now for the email with correct email addresses!

Please note, that the Governor is also copied on this letter but I sent his email separately.

From: Sally Saddler [mailto:teal@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 11:38 AM
To: 'alan.austerman@akleg.gov'; 'bill.stoltze@akleg.gov'
Cc: 'beth.kerttula@akleg.gov'; 'cathy.munoz@ak.gov'; 'dennis.egan@akleg.gov'; 'School Board'; 'Knuth, Dorothy K (EED)'
Subject: HB65 Support for Education Funding

Representative Austerman and Representative Stoltze:

Please accept the attached letter from the Juneau School Board President and Clerk in support of education funding in the operating budget in HB65.

We plan on having at least one of our board members present at today's hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sally Saddler, President



Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Robert Croley <rcroley@hopealaska.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 1:48 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: are you people crazy?
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Really... an 8.3 million dollar cut in mental health services...

Consider very carefully the impact to Alaska as a whole if you do this. Years ago when Regan chopped the mental health budget for the country thousands of people were impacted, put out on the street with absolutely no ability to manage for themselves.

You're wanting to do the same thing here... you'd better have a chat with your psychiatrist and get yourself a degree in psychology because with all of the people that I'm going to send to your office for services You're going to be working double time... The homeless population in Anchorage alone has skyrocketed in recent years and you want more of this... You've gotta be crazy.

Robert Croley

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Chris Maack <cmaack@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 12:47 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Tsunami funds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

March 4, 2013

Dear Governor Parnell,

There's a worrisome rumor that you would be opposed to using State funds to clean up debris from the Japanese tsunami.

I urge you to reconsider, if that is the case. Although our budget is squeezed, like everyone else's, the present financial paralysis in Washington does not bode well for getting federal dollars for this effort. The clean-up needs to be done sooner rather than later, and it is **our coastline, our ocean resources, our fisheries** that will suffer if we allow the tsunami flotsam to break up further, causing leakage of contaminants and dispersal of ever smaller bits of plastics into the food chain. We now know that even plastics are not inert but release chemicals that can act as endocrine disruptors, which are slow acting degraders of health in humans as well as other creatures.

If we hold out for federal intervention, nothing will happen until it becomes a national outrage and brings a lot of negative publicity to our seafoods. By then too much damage will have been done.

Thank you for your consideration,

Christine Maack
Anchorage, AK

Cc: Senator Pete Kelly, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Kevin Meyer, Senate Finance Committee
Rep. Alan Austerman, House Finance Committee
Rep. Bill Stoltze, House Finance Committee

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Karen Wood <karen.k.wood@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 1:43 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Fully fund the Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Program
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

-For the record, my name is Karen E Wood.

-I request your support to FULLY fund the Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Program.

My personal story: I am the mother of a son who experienced a traumatic brain injury as a teenager twenty-six years ago. Then knowledge and treatment of closed head injuries was negligible. Awareness of the long term implications and support for patient and family were non-existent. We are just recently becoming aware of the significance of this type of injury and it's lifelong lasting affects.

The Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury Program funding

- will provide case management to 100 Alaskans.

- Case management services are a critical support service
- Case management is a cost effective way to coordinate and link people to services that will support recovery efforts
- Case management supports the family to fully understand brain injury and provides tools for the challenges that brain injury brings
- There are nearly 700 Alaskans each year who experience moderate to severe traumatic brain injury who need this service. The current funding request is to support only 100 Alaskans.
- In the past 20 years, there have been nearly 15,000 Alaskans who have been hospitalized for Traumatic Brain Injury.

Access to case management:

- Reduces inefficiencies in the utilization of public and private services
- Reduces emergency room visits
- Deters more costly care by keeping people within their own homes
- Along with other program services, increases readiness for vocational rehabilitation and/or employment

- Please also support funding for continuation of the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative

- People with disabilities are at a higher risk for experiencing complex and difficult-to-manage behaviors. People with disabilities include those with developmental and intellectual disabilities, behavioral health disorders, Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia, autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, etc.)
- Alaskan service providers report they lack adequate intensive support and intervention services for clients with complex behaviors.
- Caregivers and providers who are not equipped with specialized behavior management skills struggle because they are not always able to handle those in their care with challenging behaviors.
- When caregivers are given tools through consultation and training the individuals they serve are more likely to stabilize and avoid being sent to more costly institutional care—such as Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API), incarceration, nursing homes, or out-of-state residential treatment.
- In FY12, funding was allocated to set up the Collaborative and develop the provider agreements. In FY13, the Collaborative began serving clients and continues to expand its consultant and client base. In FY14, we are seeking annualized funding to ensure that the consultation and training services of the Complex Behavior Collaborative continue to be available for caregivers and providers, and the individuals they serve.

- Research shows that when individuals with complex behaviors have on-going supports they are more likely to remain stable, productive, and functioning successfully in the community.
- Without supports, people with difficult-to-manage behaviors can more easily escalate into crisis, requiring more acute and costly care at API (Alaska Psychiatric Institute), emergency room care, incarceration in Alaska's correctional facilities, or out-of-state institutionalization. The Complex Behavior Collaborative helps providers avoid crises and acute care situations by:

- 1) building community-based service capacity to deal with difficult behaviors;

- 2) building expertise related to maladaptive behaviors within Alaska;

- 3) providing services in the community to prevent or reduce the need for hospitalization and acute institutional care.

Thank you!

Karen E Wood

PO Box 85228

Fairbanks, AK 99708-5228

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Cindy Lelake <lelaidecindy60@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 1:17 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Please don't victimize the most vulnerable among us by reducing Behavioral Health Services general funds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

The House Subcommittee on Health and Social Services has recommended an \$8.3 million reduction in general funds for Behavior Health Services. These local, community-based services include mental health and substance abuse treatment, detox services, services for youth with severe emotional disturbances and suicide prevention services and services related to domestic violence and sexual assault--to name only a few of the most vital programs offered.

Behavioral Health Services support keeping people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders at home and in their communities close to family and friends.

Without these community supports, people experiencing substance abuse and mental illness are at higher risk for much costlier institutionalized care--jail, psychiatric institutions, nursing homes.

Without these community supports, people with behavioral health disorders are more likely to seek help in emergency rooms, and are at greater risk for institutionalized care--again, far more costly alternatives.

By serving people at home and in the community, we are able to provide cost-effective ways to insure that all Alaskans live meaningful and productive lives.

Very truly yours,

Cindy Lelake
Anchorage

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: wilks@acsalaska.net
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 1:13 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Proposed cuts to Behavioral Health funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Shannon K. Wilks
2941 Westwind Court
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

March 4, 2012

Dear Representative Austerman;

I have read with dismay the proposed \$8,368,800 cuts to behavioral health services in Alaska. At a time when mental health and substance abuse are in the national press and affecting broad populations including returning veterans, children, adults and families cuts of this magnitude will only add to the costs of emergency services including emergency room costs, response costs by police, fire departments and village safety officer and costs of hospitalization at Alaska Psychiatric Institute and other hospitals state wide.

The House Budget Subcommittee on Health & Social Services has recommended a \$8,368,800 (\$8.3 million) reduction in general funds for Behavioral Health Services. These local, community-based services include:

- * mental health treatment
- * substance abuse treatment
- * detox services
- * services for youth with severe emotional disturbance
- * supported housing
- * peer support services
- * suicide prevention
- * tribal behavioral health services
- * services for seniors with co-occurring disorders
- * parent and peer navigation
- * services related to domestic violence and sexual assault
- * prevention and early intervention
- * programs that support reunifying and keeping families together

- Behavioral Health Services support keeping people with mental illness and substance use disorders—including seniors and people with intellectual/developmental disorders with co-occurring disorders—at home and in their communities close to family and friends.

- Without community supports, people with these disorders are at higher risk for institutionalized care—such as jail, psychiatric institutions, and nursing homes.

- Without community supports, people with behavioral health disorders use emergency rooms more often and are at greater risk for institutionalized care.

- By serving people at home and in the community we are better able to see all Alaskans living meaningful and productive lives—at the same time we are saving money.

Sincerely,

Shannon Wilks

Phone: 907-345-2846

Email: wilks@acsalaska.net

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Gail French <gailpfrench@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 12:33 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: mental health
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

In response to the Sandy Hook massacre there was a call for increased mental health intervention and restriction of large ammunition clips reduction. Any kind of gun control is difficult, that leaves mental health intervention.

SO now an eight million dollar reduction in mental health services funding is recommended?????????????

Gail French

--
Gail French
gailpfrench@gmail.com
344-6261

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kjersti Bowen <kjersti.bowen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 12:23 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Budget cuts to Behavioral Health Services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

March 4, 2013

Dear Representative Austerman;


I just heard that the The House Budget Subcommittee on Health & Social Services has recommended a \$8,368,800 (\$8.3 million) reduction in general funds for Behavioral Health Services. While cutting the budget makes a good sound byte, and certainly fiscal responsibility is to be hoped for, this budget cut misses the mark.

Cutting services to the most vulnerable members of society is easy as they have the least voice and ability to be heard. However, it is a shortsighted move. Not providing the kinds of services listed below will increase the long-term costs to our neighborhoods and communities. It will increase the costs of law enforcement, the judiciary, corrections, and emergency services. Research shows us that cuts to services of this sort result in increased institutionalization with its many times greater cost.

In many cases to cut funding would be to have wasted the money previously spent, e.g., suicide prevention and prevention and early intervention programs, another form of fiscal irresponsibility.

It is my understanding that the local, community-based services that would be affected by the budget cut include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Mental health treatment | Substance abuse treatment |
| Detox services | Services for youth with severe emotional disturbance |
| Supported housing | Peer support services |
| Suicide prevention | Tribal behavioral health services |
| Parent and peer navigation | Services for seniors with co-occurring disorders |
| Prevention and early intervention | Services related to domestic violence and sexual assault |
| Programs that support reunifying and keeping families together | |



I have worked with a number of Fairbanks and Anchorage residents who have benefited from programs listed above, and I know many more that have found long wait lists a barrier to services, but persisted in hoping for their turn.

Our population of seniors is the fastest growing in the nation. Alaskans commit suicide at a rate far exceeding that of other states. Alaska has high rates of sexual assault and child sexual abuse when compared with the rest of the nation. Alaskans need and use all of the services which are slated for cuts.

Please stand up against this budget cut, stand up for Alaskans, especially for those vulnerable Alaskans whose voices are seldom heard, for that is truly the role of government.

I urgently ask you to please support maintaining current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health & Social Services budget, and to use your influence to persuade others to do the same.

Sincerely,

Kjersti Bowen



Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kris Jez <kjez@hopealaska.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 12:06 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Say No to behavioral health services cuts

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Representative Austerman,

Please say no to the proposed cuts to Behavioral Health Services. The proposed cuts will only cost more money in the long run. Behavioral health supports keep people who experience mental illness and substance use disorders in the community, surrounded by family and friends. Without community supports, people with behavioral health issues tend to be at greater risk, which can then lead to higher incidents of hospitalization and the possibility of institutionalization. All of which cost more in the long run.

Community services has proven to be the most cost effective way of delivering services. I personally have family members who experience mental illness and it is their ability to receive services within the community, surrounded by family and friends that enables them to live a full and meaningful life.

Again, please say NO to the proposed budget cuts.

Thank you,

Kristan Jez

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Dennis Gann <dennisdgann@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 11:46 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: No Cuts to Critical Behavioral Health Services
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

Please do not cut Critical Behavioral Health Services as recommended by the House Budget Subcommittee on Health & Social Services.

These general funds support critical community-based services including, but not limited to: mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, detox services, services for youth with severe emotional disturbance, supported housing, peer support services, suicide prevention, tribal behavioral health services, services for seniors with co-occurring disorders, parent and peer navigation, services related to domestic violence and sexual assault, prevention and early intervention, and programs that support reunifying and keeping families together.

These funds support healthy communities, show our compassion to our fellow citizens, and save money in the long run by keeping people out of the much more expensive alternatives including jail, emergency rooms, psychiatric institutions, and nursing homes.

thank you

--
Dennis Gann
943 W 19th Avenue
Anchorage AK 99503
907-299-2239

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Joe Cannava <jcannava@pchsak.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 11:27 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: \$8.3 million reduction to Behavioral Health Services
Attachments: \$8.3 Reduction in Behavioral Health Services.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman,

I am writing this letter in opposition to the House Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services recommendation for an \$8,368,800. reduction in general funds for Behavioral Health Services because of the adverse effect it will have on the 725 mental health patients from Soldotna and Kenai that we treat on a regular basis at Peninsula Community Health Services.

I am the Director of Behavioral Health at Peninsula Community Health Services (PCHS) located in Soldotna Alaska. In 2012 PCHS worked with 725 different mental health patients providing mental health treatment to youth and families with a Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED) and Chronically Mentally Ill Adults. PCHS also provides on-call mental health clinicians for the emergency room at Central Peninsula Hospital (CPH).

If this reduction in general funds happens then Peninsula Community Health Services (PCHS) would have to reconsider providing services to underfunded clients and limit mental health services to clients. Our current behavioral health program is losing money because of the services being provided and the lack of funding for many clients. The Department of Behavioral Health grant (FY 14 CBHTR RFP) we receive from the State of Alaska current assists in our ability to provide mental health services to clients with limited funding. Although the grant does not even come close to funding the services we provide the money provides a cushion for the services to continue. Our current behavioral health program is losing money because of the services being provided and the lack of a funding source for many clients. The grant has not increased in over ten years and without it our ability to provide on-call services at Central Peninsula Hospital (redirecting people away from in-patient treatment) and mental health services to the Central Peninsula would be jeopardized. Other Community Mental Health programs have been shut down because of lack of funding.

The services that Peninsula Community Health Services provides assist Alaska so that they can live meaningful and productive lives-at the same time saving money by reducing in-patient hospital visits. For Alaskans experiencing serious mental illness, the cost of community-based outpatient services is 2-3 time less expensive than institutional care. Also, without community supports, people with these disorders are at higher risk for institutional care-such as jail, psychiatric institutions, and nursing homes.

Peninsula Community Health Services (PCHS) employs 230 employees. These hard working employees work with Chronically Mentally Ill Adults (CMI) and Severally Emotionally Disturbed (SED) Youth and Families because of the difference they make to clients that without their help these patients would normally be isolated in their homes, in correctional facilities, in local emergency rooms, and in institutional care.

I wholeheartedly hope you reconsider the \$8,368,000 reduction in general funds for Behavioral Health Services.

Joe Cannava, LPC



Director of Behavioral Health

Peninsula Community Health Services

230 E. Marydale Ave. Ste. 2
Soldotna, AK 99669

Direct: 907-260-3691

P Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Monica Adams <MAdams@pchsak.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 11:22 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Opposition to BH Cuts
Attachments: Austerman.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman,

Please see attached letter in opposition to the House Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services recommendation for an \$8,368,800 reduction of general funds for Behavioral Health Services.

Sincerely,

Monica Adams, MA, MBA



Executive Director

Peninsula Community Health Services

230 E. Marydale Ave. Ste. 3
Soldotna, AK 99669

Direct: 907-260-7300

Fax: 907-260-7301

"Strengthening our community by providing accessible, affordable health care."

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Gregg Bigsby <greggbigsby@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 11:12 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: F&G Budget / Haines Gillnetter perspective

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Rep Austerman,

My name is Gregg Bigsby, I have been a Haines fisherman for 35 years, and gillnetting and seining since 1971.

Please don't cut funds for Genetic Testing, port sampling, etc. in Northern Southeast, that would affect the future negatively.

From my personal perspective, I have seen overfishing in Icy Straits a few times, and Fish and Game will never admit to this. The UFA would endorse it!!!

At this point of the issues regarding Allocation of Enhanced Salmon in Southeast Alaska, it is written in Code (Findings of The Board of Fish, 1992) the Fish and Game will commit to an adequate testing/port sampling system.

Also at this point of the issues regarding Purse Seiners in Icy Straits, The proper escapements for sockeye runs in Chatham Straits and Lynn Canal are at peril; The Feds want to see progress in The State of Alaska's ability to manage our public resources of salmon in Northern Southeast, and progress can be made by NOT CUTTING this budget. The State of Alaska does not want to see Federal controls on Fisheries Management in Northern Southeast Alaska!!!

Thank you,

Gregg Bigsby
F/V Rustler
Haines

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Bryce Wrigley <deltaswcd@wildak.net>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 10:46 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: farm to School funding
Attachments: Farm to School letter.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Sorry,

I mistakenly sent an unsigned draft of the letter

Thanks,

Bryce Wrigley

Alaska Farm Bureau

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Linda Kumin <kuminak@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 10:45 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: NO to mental health cuts!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman,

It is distressing to hear that the legislature is planning on cutting mental health funds. It is very important to help these vulnerable people. We took away state institutions but we have never replaced them with good, on-going care. Substance abuse is a major problem in this state: we can't cut funds here! Domestic violence and child abuse are major problems in this state: we can't cut funds here! Sexual assault is a major problem in this state: we can't cut funds here! Suicide is rampant in this state: we can't cut funds here! Mental illness isn't a choice! The safety of society requires that we help people in distress.

Forget new roads across the wilderness, helping the oil companies become richer, a bridge across the inlet (until we can get renewable energy from that bridge it should be a no-go and well-paid authority members should be sacked), etcetera ...

People make bad decisions for many reasons but with constant agitation for every fetus to be born, we need to accept that we must take care of all folks in unfortunate circumstances too!

Sincerely,

Linda Kumin

4572 Sandy Beach Drive

Anchorage, AK 99502

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Mary Beth Bragiel <mb_oulliber@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 10:30 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: cuts to behavioral health services
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am writing to ask that you not cut behavioral health services. As a worker in the social services field, I see the effects every day of lack of services. As a concerned individual and citizen, I believe that we need to support those who need this help. It will cost us, as a society, more in the long run to not provide these services. **Please support maintaining current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health & Social Services budget.**

Mary Beth Bragiel
14610 Elmore Road
Anchorage, AK 99508

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Bryce Wrigley <deltaswcd@wildak.net>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 10:29 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Farm to School funding
Attachments: FB Letterhead.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman,

I am attaching a letter from the Alaska Farm Bureau requesting that the funding for the Farm to School Program be reinstated. It was cut by the DNR Budget Subcommittee last week. We have seen the great impact this program has had during its short life to open a market for Alaska Grown food and Alaska caught fish. Not only does this program benefit us as producers by encouraging school lunch programs around the state to source locally grown food, it also educates students and teachers about the wide variety of healthy and nutritious foods available by putting them on the lunch menu.

Please reinstate the funding for this program, which helps build markets that in turn helps increase supply of local food.

Sincerely,

Bryce Wrigley

Alaska Farm Bureau

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Patricia Stark <pstark@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 10:43 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman,

I am writing to ask you to restore funding for Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers, and the state's pre-kindergarten education program to the Governor's proposed funding levels. This would be Best Beginnings at \$937,500, Parents as Teachers at \$1,042,500, as well as the state's pre-kindergarten program at \$2.48 million.

The Imagination Library, an organization that provides books once a month to children from birth to 5 years of age, receives some funding from Best Beginnings. This is an excellent program which has been shown to help prepare children for school. The Parents as Teachers program provides parents with the tools necessary to help children become successful not only in school, but in later life. The state's pre-kindergarten education program is a pilot with most students coming from Native households or homes at or below the poverty level. It was given high marks in a 2011 report.

Research has shown that children receiving early childhood education are more successful in school and in life. Our children our Alaska's future. Please provide for these programs.

Sincerely,
Patricia Stark

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Steve Rollins <ansjr3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 10:26 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Please Help our Students--funding for the Live Homework Help program
Attachments: Live Homework Help Digitizing Alaska GovernorFY14Budget.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am writing to ask for your support for our students.

Please support our students by restoring the funding in the Governor's budget for the Live Homework Help service. \$138,200 in funding was included in the Governor's Digital Education in Alaska request (see attached budget sheet) Live Homework Help has been supported by grant funding and it has proven to be highly successful in helping our students do better in our schools and universities. The demand for this service has exceeded expectations and the grant funding is no longer adequate to maintain the high level of service. This year we expect 20,000 sessions will be conducted. This program serves all students in all grades and at the universities at a very affordable cost.

Last month for example, 2125 sessions were conducted online and here are the satisfaction rates.

Is this service helping you study for school?	97%
Are you glad your organization offers this service?	98%
Would you recommend this service to a friend?	97%
Is this service helping you complete your homework assignments?	94%
Is this service helping you improve your grades?	92%
Is this service helping you be more confident about your schoolwork?	97%

Thank you.



Steve Rollins

12840 Lupine Road
Anchorage, AK 99516

House District 27, Senate District N



Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kevin Dee <kevin@kmdconsulting.biz>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 9:43 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: House HSS fin. committee proposed \$8.3 million cut.
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representatives,

I first want to thank you for your service in addressing the needs of our great state and all that live here.

I am writing to you to request that you remove the proposed \$8.3 million in cuts to critical Behavioral Health Services from consideration. I do not ask you to reconsider this cut lightly as I am sure that we need to be more austere and prudent in how our state monies are used now, and in the future.

I ask you to not cut these CRITICAL services for several reasons.

1. They save money by keeping people out of institutions by providing services , if absent, would cost several times more to the state in residential care and emergency room services.
2. These essential services address many of the hot button issues of our populace throughout the state that if anything, need more funding (suicide prevention, domestic violence etc.) to address some of Alaska's largest problems.
3. Alaska must continue on its path to economic growth and vitality by continuing to create a more livable and reasonable quality of life thru healthy communities and services that support healthy communities and cutting what are already minimal services delivered at minimums of funding will and can only be viewed as a Band-Aid approach that does not even succeed in reducing the problem.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Dee, President

KMD Services & Consulting

Providing Leadership Development, Management Consulting and Human Resource Services for over 25 years

907 277 3477 ph

907 230 1771 cell

907 743 1977 fax

Kevin@kmdconsulting.biz

www.kmdconsulting.biz

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. If you are not the intended recipient of this message you are hereby notified that any use, review, retransmission, dissemination, distribution, reproduction or any action taken in reliance upon this message is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of the company.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Mary Geddes <ismar@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 9:41 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Budget Funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman,

I am a married 30 year Alaska resident. We have three children (2 adult and one teenager). I am a retired federal worker.

I understand that the House Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services has recommended a reduction of 8 million dollars in general funds for behavioral health services. I also understand that your committee, the House Finance Committee, is now considering this proposal.

I am glad you have a seat on this committee because this is indeed an occasion on which you can make a singular difference to an important outcome. I strongly urge your disapproval of any cuts to mental health funding. The long term consequence of reducing DBH funding is increased social dysfunction, criminal recidivism, family violence and costs in incarceration.

This is a "pennywise, pound-foolish" proposal. The reduction of mental health and substance abuse funding will impact many populations and this impact will lead to more expensive consequences in the long run.

The availability of substance abuse, alcohol treatment, and services for youth with severe emotional disturbance is crucial in order for many to avoid involvement in the criminal justice system. As for those already in the criminal justice system, the availability of those programs after their incarceration is critical to avoiding recidivism. Warehousing addicted, alcoholic and emotionally disturbed individuals works no cure, but community based treatment does. And its cheaper.

As I understand it, other groups of Alaskans will be effected by the proposed cuts. Teenagers at risk of suicide, exploitation and homelessness - and there are many - will lose out. Families experiencing domestic violence will be lose out of some important supports. Parents who need better skills to care for their children may remain unaided, and their children will suffer from the lack of care and supervision. Disabled individuals who could live successfully in the community but require some organizational support may need to be institutionalized instead.

Addressing such basic social and mental health needs should be paramount in the legislative agenda. I hope you agree and I look forward to your response.

Mary Geddes
1113 N Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: stephen hunter <sehunterb200@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 9:18 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Behavioral Health Services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Legislator,

I am an adoptive parent of three children who receive behavioral health services from a community based agency. My children will need support throughout their lives for mental health services related to the post-traumatic stress disorders that caused their severely emotionally disturbed behaviors. They will be at a higher risk for needing substance abuse avoidance and other assistance with housing and how to communicate properly with peers and people in positions of authority i.e. the police. Without adequate funding of behavioral health programs my children face a much greater risk of incarceration and abuse from perpetrators. Personally, and as a resident of the State of Alaska who understands how great the need is for Behavioral Health Services, I am totally aghast that funding for behavioral health services might be cut when the need is so great and benefit to the society so well described in study after study. Multiple studies clearly describe the long term cost benefits of behavioral services versus paying for someone to be in jail. As a state we can pay a little now or a lot more later. I want my legislators to invest in all the people of my state. Therefore, I do not support any cuts/reductions/reallocations of the general funds for Behavioral Health Services.

Sincerely,
Stephen E. Hunter

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Jack Fagnoli <fagnoli@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 9:16 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: behavior health services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please vote NO on **an \$8.3 million reduction to CRITICAL Behavioral Health Services!** Things are tough enough for people these days. Do not punish the most vulnerable among us. Thank you .

Allison Fagnoli

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Nancy Simpson <nsimpson@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 8:39 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: 8.3 million reduction to mental health

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Representative Austerman,

I have worked in Juneau for the last 28 years as a mental health therapist. Just last week I called another representative to see if there was a way to increase Office of Children's services funding after hearing a story about a baby with 4 foster homes in his short 8 months. Research is showing consistently that good care in early childhood is society's best bet for reducing crime and overcrowded prisons.

But now, seeing the proposal to cut 8.3 million from mental health services is beyond belief. Alaska is already way behind many other states in caring for its citizens. Please do not make these cuts. The potential escalation of crime and drug use in our communities cannot be over stated. No one benefits from extreme measures like these.

Please hold a place of and for sanity.

Sincerely,

Nancy Simpson LMFT

Juneau, Ak

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Ann Arrisi <aarrisi@hopealaska.org>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 8:31 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: budget cut to mental health services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

House Finance Members,

I am writing today on behalf of the thousands of people who experience mental illness and substance use disorders to include seniors and people with intellectual/developmental disorders with co-occurring disorders. Their disorders impact all of us and to reduce the budget will have a devastating impact to all Alaskan's.

Please consider the following when making your decision:

Without community supports, people with these disorders are at higher risk for institutionalized care—such as jail, psychiatric institutions, and nursing homes.

Without community supports, people with behavioral health disorders use emergency rooms more often and are at greater risk for institutionalized care.

By serving people at home and in the community we are better able to see all Alaskans living meaningful and productive lives—at the same time we are saving money.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Arrisi

Person-Centered Outreach Coordinator & Trainer

Hope Community Resources, Inc.

aarrisi@hopealaska.org

Direct number: 907-631-3702

Fax number: 907-357-3751

Main number 907-357-3750

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Nell Pederson <pednell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 8:16 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Parents as Teachers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Representative Austerman:

Please restore funding for Parents as Teachers and Best Beginnings to the governor's proposed levels, \$1,042 and \$937,500 respectively.

These vital programs support families raising young children with crucial information and activities to provide the best brain development at the earliest and most critical times of the child's life.

This minimal investment is a long term commitment to Alaska's future.

Respectfully,

Polly Smith
Executive Director
Alaska Literacy Program

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Ann Turner Olson <ann_turnerolson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 6:56 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Steve Thompson
Subject: 31% Behavioral Health Cuts
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear members of the Finance committee,

Please support maintaining current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health & Social Services budget

I expect you will receive numerous letters from your constituents who be be seriously impacted by the proposed **\$8.3 million in behavioral health budget cuts.**

In a time in our state and nationally where the connection between untreated mental illness and gun control and other social and economic issues has illustrated the importance of continued -- and even increased -- funding for mental health services it makes absolutely no sense to cut these important services across our state. It is well known that Alaska has the dubious distinction of having one of the highest substance abuse and suicide rates in the nation.

As a private mental health practitioner in Juneau, I can tell you without hesitation, these cuts will create enormous hardships for families whose children receive school, home and community based services through Juneau Youth Services and other communities' children's mental health services. The impact of cuts will trickle down to classroom teachers with students receiving school based mental health services and impact entire schools systems.

Adults with chronic and serious mental illness who receive services through community based mental health centers, such as JAMHI in Juneau, will be significantly impacted by cuts to services. The impact will be felt through our community, and all Alaskan communities, in social and economic ways.

before you vote to pass these cuts, please take a moment and think about someone you know, are related to or who is a constituent of yours who may be affected by cuts to behavioral health services and ***Please support maintaining current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health & Social Services budget.***

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Turner Olson
Juneau

Ann Turner Olson, LCSW
Counseling Services
Ph# 907-790-1090
fax: 907-790-1091

cell: 907-723-5219
email: ann_turnerolson@yahoo.com

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: jcurry@ufa-fish.org on behalf of UFA Julianne Curry <jcurry@ufa-fish.org>
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 12:51 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Fwd: Southeast ADF&G Funding Items

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Julianne Curry
United Fishermen of Alaska
Office 907.586.2820
Cell 907.957.4747

Begin forwarded message:

From: SEAFA - Kathy Hansen <seafa@gci.net>
Date: March 1, 2013, 10:34:27 AM AKST
To: Julianne - UFA <jcurry@ufa-fish.org>
Cc: Eric Prestegard <eric_prestegard@dipac.net>, John Burke <johnb@ssraa.org>, Steve Reifenstuhl <steve_reifenstuhl@nsraa.org>
Subject: **FW: Southeast ADF&G Funding Items**

From: UFA Julianne Curry [<mailto:jcurry@ufa-fish.org>]
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 10:27 AM
To: Kathy Hansen; Tom Gemmell -USAG; Jerry McCune; Brian Lynch; Dale Kelley -ATA; Bob Thorstenson; Bruce Wallace
Subject: Southeast ADF&G Funding Items

SE salmon groups (let me know if I'm missing anyone),

Yesterday evening, the House Fish and Game Finance subcommittee **zeroed out a line item for "GF to continue salmon stock identification projects expiring under federal Alaska sustainable salmon fisheries grants" to the tune of \$550.0.** I just wanted to send you all a note to let you know what the implications of this reduction in funding means. *To avoid confusion, this funding is completely unrelated to the Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) funding the Governor amended his budget for last year to sample sockeye in the Chatham corridor. That \$330.0 was a three year funding increment and was included in last year's budget.*

This funding request was submitted by the Department to replace a continuing loss of PST funds from the Federal government. **This funding for Southeast that was allocated to port sampling (\$440.0) and biometrician funding for PSC (\$110.0). Without this increment the Southeast port sampling program will cease to exist after July 1st, 2013.**

PORT SAMPLING INFO: Port samplers collect vital basic data that is used to implement sustainable salmon fisheries throughout the region. **This data is evaluated to prove we are meeting out obligations under the Pacific Salmon Treaty.** Without data to prove we are meeting treaty obligations, we are looking at reduced fishing opportunity in some of the most important fisheries in SEAK. **This data is also used to determine on an inseason basis if we are on track to meet escapement objectives,** mostly for coho salmon. Port sampling staff collect pink salmon sex ratios that give seine managers run timing info on an inseason basis. Without this data, managers would be forced to manage the seine fishery more conservatively. ADF&G uses sex ratios to figure out where we are in the run, early in the season it is predominantly males and we fish harder (later on females are higher proportion). There are different run timing curves for various stocks, and this is one reason ADF&G strives to have techs placed in ports throughout the region. Another part of port sampling is to evaluate Chinook landings. Port samplers look at thousands of Chinook and coho for coded wire tags, and in the spring troll fisheries those tags are evaluated. More hatchery fish means more fishing time.

BIOMETRICIAN INFO: The biometrician supported by this increment provides critical technical support for the Alaska Delegation to the international Pacific Salmon Commission. The increment helps in protection of the Chinook salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska from unwarranted encroachment. The Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon fisheries are of vital importance for the regional economy with the sport fishery accounting for more than 40% of the total sport caught Chinook landed in the State. The Southeast commercial Chinook fishery is the largest in the state.

WHAT TO DO: You may want to consider contacting representatives in the House Finance committee and start prepping the Senate Finance committee.

HOUSE FINANCE

HOUSE FINANCE 519 No Time available MTWTF

Standing Committee

CO-CHAIR: Representative Austerman

CO-CHAIR: Representative Stoltze

VICE-CHAIR: Representative Neuman

MEMBER: Representative Costello

MEMBER: Representative Edgmon

MEMBER: Representative Holmes
MEMBER: Representative Munoz
MEMBER: Representative Thompson
MEMBER: Representative T.Wilson
MEMBER: Representative Gara
MEMBER: Representative Guttenberg
ALTERNATE: Representative Hawker
ALTERNATE: Representative Kawasaki

Julianne Curry

Executive Director

United Fishermen of Alaska

Office: 907.586.2820

Cell: 907.957.4747

<http://www.ufa-fish.org>

jcurry@ufa-fish.org

NOTICE This e-mail is covered by the Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. Section 2510-2521 and is legally privileged. The information contained herein is confidential information intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or if an attachment is made in error, the reader is hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the above person by telephone or return e-mail immediately and delete/trash the original message from your system. We appreciate your cooperation.

Testimony to the House Finance Committee**3/5/2013**

Mr. Chair, Committee members,

My name is Faith Myers. For the last decade I have served as a Board member on some of the larger non-profits in the state. I also volunteer as a psychiatric patient advocate.

There are some very good programs in Alaska that help those with a mental or intellectual disability or other disabilities. Good community services are important.

Eight point three million is the proposed cut of the House and Social Services Finance Subcommittee. Without looking at more data, I would have difficulty in choosing which programs do have to be cut, if in fact some have to be cut.

My recommendation is a committee of advocates should be given more information and allowed to put forth their own recommendations. If cuts have to be made, make them intelligent cuts and spare programs that historically have been providing a demonstratively good quality program.

On a related issue, what history and personal experience has taught me is that society has always had difficulty incorporating those with a developmental disability or a mental illness into the communities. At one time the disabled were simply put into locked institutions.

Presently, we have incorporated many of the disabled into the community, but what has not to the extent necessary changed with the times is improvements in the grievance procedure laws for the disabled, and oversight. Alaska has some of the worst grievance procedure laws in the nation for the disabled. We need to improve those laws.

Thank you,

*Faith Myers
Dorrance Collins*

Mental Health Advocates,
Faith Myers / Dorrance Collins
3240 Penland Pkwy, Sp. 35
Anchorage, AK. 99508
(907) 929-0532

Testimony to House Finance Committee,**March 5, 2013**

Mr. Chair, Committee members,

My name is Dorrance Collins. If there are presently funds in the state budget to improve the grievance procedure law for disabled psychiatric patients and their guardians, I am asking that they not be cut from the operating budget.

A man denied service at a psychiatric unit walked straight out the door, took all his clothes of and walked around the parking lot until he was arrested. Another man denied service walked straight out the door, stole a taxi, went to the waterfront and committed suicide. Another man denied service walked out the door and shortly after punched a little girl in the face and now maybe she has brain damage.

I can come up with a hundred of those kinds of stories right out of the newspapers or court records in Alaska. A lot of the tragedies can be traced back to psychiatric patients and guardians not being able to file a grievance with providers of psychiatric services in a reasonable way.

There are legislative work drafts whose goal is to improve the grievance procedure law for disabled psychiatric patients. The goal is to cut down on preventable tragedies.

If there is presently no funds earmarked to improve the grievance procedure laws for the disabled, then I am asking that the committee put the money in the budget.

Thank you,



Mental Health Advocates,
Dorrance Collins / Faith Myers
3240 Penland Pkwy, Sp. 35
Anchorage, AK. 99508
929-0532

Kathleen Fitzgerald

4521 Southpark Bluff Drive

Anchorage, AK 99516

March 5, 2013

Representative Alan Austerman, Chair

House Finance Committee

RE: Public testimony on Complex Behavior Collaborative

Dear Rep. Austerman, Rep. Stoltze and Finance Committee Members,

I am testifying via written testimony on behalf of the Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC). Not only do we have early cost projected savings from the services provided through the CBC, we have real accounts from families on the effectiveness of CBC in helping to eliminate and control the extreme behaviors which was putting their son or daughter at risk of costly institutionalization.

CBC is a way of preventing institutional placements through **behavioral evaluation, behavioral plan implementation and training** to staff and families on how to eliminate behaviors. Direct support staff's ability to work with complicated individuals is enhanced and benefits the whole agency and community, not just the person who is the recipient of service. Keeping people successfully in the community keeps families together, builds capacity of service and saves high costs of API or outside placements.

CBC has demonstrated tremendously successful results so far. Please fund the \$450,000 for FY 2014 to allow the project to provide even more data to show efficacy and how the money invested in the project saves many times more that amount in more restrictive placements. The Department of Health and Social Services early data indicates this is an extremely effective project and worthy of continuation. I know that my daughter is an example of a person who would benefit from this expertise in our community based services. Twice in the past has she been at risk of API or out of state placement and I fear without this service, after my husband or I are not around, she would become institutionalized.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to give testimony on such an important service.

Sincerely,


Kathy Fitzgerald

Peter Hall

From: Alicia Deaver <alicia.deaver@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 4:57 PM
To: Peter Hall
Subject: Public Testimony

Hello,

My name is Alicia Deaver and I am writing in support of reinstating the early education funding to align with the governor's proposed budget. Specifically I would like to see the funding for Strengthening Families Statewide reinstated as it is a critical support for families and early educators. With the increase of mental health issues in young children I am also in support of keeping the early childhood mental health funding. Last year it there were 400 early educators trained in supporting children with behavioral challenges and over 900 children supported through the early childhood mental health consultation project. I have worked in the field for 11 years and understand the importance of supporting children birth through five and since so many children are in placements outside of the home, it is crucial to support the individuals who are taking care of them. In summary, I support the Strengthening Families, AK Pre-K, Early Childhood Mental Health, Parents as Teachers and Best Beginnings funding reinstatement. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alicia Deaver, MS, CCLS

My name is Paul Beran. I am a retired pastor and board member of Juneau's homeless shelter, the Glory Hole. I want to speak against the proposed cuts for Mental Health Services.

Consider the need: Alaska has many dysfunctional homes, frequently related to mental and emotional instability. We have a very high suicide rate, the highest alcohol consumption rate, and the highest rate of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Deficit (FASD) of all 50 states. The loss in untold individual potential combined with the costs to our society through social services, judiciary, and prisons is staggering. A dollar spent in helping those needing critical behavioral health services saves many dollars in the future.

I spent his past weekend with a family deeply grieving the self-inflicted death of a mother with 3 children. How will these children carry the tragic death of their mother the rest of their lives? What help will be available for them?

Jesus taught: "As much as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers, you did it to Me." Please do not reduce the funding for Critical Behavioral Health Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul D. Beran

**Juneau, Alaska
20 year Alaska resident**

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Katie Goodale

REPRESENTING: HOPE-Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies

BILL# or SUBJECT: House Finance Committee HB66

COMMITTEE AND
HEARING DATE: _____

_____ I am sending this letter to thank your for the funding for new and emerging programs for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. As a non-residential service provider on Prince of Wales Island, this funding will allow us to continue providing advocacy and prevention services to the 4500 residents of Prince of Wales Island. These services are not and cannot be met any other way. With Alaska holding the highest rate of domestic violence in the nation, the prevention and advocacy efforts of new and emerging programs, like ours, help to fill a gap that can reduce the number of people suffering from domestic violence and sexual assault in our communities. Once again, thank you for your commitment to a safer Alaska where all people can develop to their fullest potential without fear of violation.

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: BETH SNYDERREPRESENTING: ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICTBILL#/ SUBJECT: STATE-FUNDED PRE-K

COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE: HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ALASKA PRESCHOOL PROGRAM SINCE IT BEGAN 4 YRS AGO I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE MY CONCERN REGARDING ^{THE} PROPOSED REDUCTION IN FUNDING FOR PRE-K.

PRESCHOOL IS AN INTERVENTION THAT WORKS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN + THEIR FAMILIES. WE HAVE SEEN STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS + GUARDIANS AS THEIR CHILDREN DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS NECESSARY TO SUCCEED IN ^{READINESS} KINDERGARTEN. STUDENTS ARE CONFIDENT, COMPETENT AND EAGER TO LEARN.

VULNERABLE AT RISK FAMILIES WORK TOGETHER WITH SCHOOL STAFF LEARNING ~~TOGETHER~~ ^{WITH EACH OTHER} HOW BEST TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT. THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS SEEN YOUNG CHILDREN ENTER KINDERGARTEN PREPARED AND CAPABLE LEARNERS.

WITHOUT STATE-FUNDED PRESCHOOL STUDENTS + FAMILIES WILL ENTER OUR DISTRICT WITHOUT THE NECESSARY RESOURCES THEY NEED TO START SCHOOL READY TO LEARN.

THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH ~~PRE~~ PRE-SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANCHORAGE FAMILIES. PLEASE DO NOT CUT PRE-K FUNDING FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED. IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE FOR FAMILIES + SCHOOLS Alike.

OUR ASSESSMENTS SHOW STUDENTS COMING TO PREK + THEIR FAMILIES ARE ENGAGED, ~~IT~~ ARE ~~BEING~~ SOCIALLY, PHYSICALLY + AND STUDENTS ARE DEVELOPMENTALLY READY.

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Gena Graves

REPRESENTING:

Best Beginnings; Success By 6; Passage House

BILL#/ SUBJECT:

Funding for Early Education HB65

COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE:

finance Tuesday March 5, 2013

I know the importance of the investment of early childhood education. It benefits the child, their families as well as our community. I know that when children are prepared for school they do better in in all aspects of their lives and hope

that you consider reinstating the proposed cuts to these programs. This year we made no requests to increased spending in these programs because as good stewards of these funds we can continue to do more with what we have been given.

I'd like to share a brief story that illustrates the importance of programs such as these.

As a program coordinator of a young teen parent program in Anchorage I had our moms participate in Parents as Teachers as well as Ready for Kindergarten, put on by

Success by six; They provide information our youth need and do not get from

other places. Most are poorly educated themselves and have had little to no parenting role models in their lives. One such young mom began reading to her son faithfully as each of these programs taught - 20 mins. daily as she did so two things happened. First she noticed her son was not reacting to sounds she made when she read. She stated this to her doctor and found once examined he was having a problem hearing. If she had not noticed and acted he likely would have gone on years without treatment and could have learning deficiencies, or behavioral problems once in school. She would have not acted w/o the information she was given in these programs. She also benefited directly as well. Her literacy level increase as well while "teaching" her child. She has gone back to college and began working in the education field, contributing positively in our community. These are dollars well spent and invested with huge returns for all. Please continue the support of these programs at current levels - Geneva Graves

March 5, 2013

Testimony to the House Finance Committee

Current grievance procedure law does not protect psychiatric patients or the general public Please support revising the law

- **No mandate for due process or an appeal process**
- **No appeal process with due process past the walls of the institutions or units**
- **No urgent grievance procedure**
- **No requirement for the state to keep statistics**
- **No state mandate for enforcement / oversight of grievance procedure compliance by facilities.**
- **No requirement for state-wide uniformity of grievance procedures (current law does not cover all facilities)**
- **No requirement for crisis call-in center for patients denied service**
- **No requirement that patients be given the number to advocacy organizations**
- **No requirement that patients be informed of their appeal process rights, due process, etc. (Patients may be informed that they can file a complaint, but they are rarely informed of their due process, appeal process rights—As of now the facilities do not have to)**

Sec.47.30.847. Psychiatric Patients' grievance procedures. (a) A patient has the right to bring grievances about the patient's treatment, care, or rights to an impartial body within an evaluation facility or designated treatment facility.

(b) An evaluation facility and a designated treatment facility shall have a formal grievance procedure for patient grievances brought under (a) of this section. The facility shall inform each patient of the existence and contents of the grievance procedure.

(c) An evaluation facility and a designated treatment facility shall have a designated staff member who is trained in mental health consumer advocacy who will serve as an advocate, upon a patient's request, to assist the patient in bringing grievances or pursuing other redress for complaints concerning care, treatment, and rights.

(10 ch 109 SLA 1992)

New Grievance Procedure law needed 2012-2013

**You can support giving psychiatric patients or their
guardians a better grievance procedure law
and appeal process**

**Send your support letter as an avocate
Or your personal experience
With the psychiatric patient grievance procedure
To:**

**Faith Myers
3240 Penland Pkwy, Sp. 35
Anchorage, AK. 99508
(907) 929-0532
Or send by e-mail
faith.myers@gci.net**

Turn Page

Testimony to the House Finance Committee**3/5/2013**

Mr. Chair, Committee members,

My name is Faith Myers. For the last decade I have served as a Board member ^{for} on some of the larger non-profits in the state. I also volunteer as a psychiatric patient advocate.

There are some very good programs in Alaska that help those with a mental or intellectual disability or other disabilities. Good community services are important.

Eight point three million is the proposed cut of the House and Social Services Finance Subcommittee. Without looking at more data, I would have difficulty in choosing which programs do have to be cut, if in fact some have to be cut.

My recommendation is a committee of advocates should be given more information and allowed to put forth their own recommendations. If cuts have to be made, make them intelligent cuts and spare programs that historically have been providing a demonstratively good quality program.

On a related issue, what history and personal experience has taught me is that society has always had difficulty incorporating those with a developmental disability or a mental illness into the communities. At one time the disabled were simply put into locked institutions.

Presently, we have incorporated many of the disabled into the community, but what has not to the extent necessary changed with the times is improvements in the grievance procedure laws for the disabled, and oversight. Alaska has some of the worst grievance procedure laws in the nation for the disabled. We need to improve those laws.

Thank you,

Faith Myers

Mental Health Advocates,
Faith Myers / Dorrance Collins
3240 Penland Pkwy, Sp. 35
Anchorage, AK. 99508
(907) 929-0532

Testimony to House Finance Committee,**March 5, 2013**

Mr. Chair, Committee members,

My name is Dorrance Collins. If there are presently funds in the state budget to improve the grievance procedure law for disabled psychiatric patients and their guardians, I am asking that they not be cut from the operating budget.

A man denied service at a psychiatric unit walked straight out the door, took all his clothes of and walked around the parking lot until he was arrested. Another man denied service walked straight out the door, stole a taxi, went to the waterfront and committed suicide. Another man denied service walked out the door and shortly after punched a little girl in the face and now maybe she has brain damage.

I can come up with a hundred of those kinds of stories right out of the newspapers or court records in Alaska. A lot of the tragedies can be traced back to psychiatric patients and guardians not being able to file a grievance with providers of psychiatric services in a reasonable way.

There are legislative work drafts whose goal is to improve the grievance procedure law for disabled psychiatric patients. The goal is to cut down on preventable tragedies.

If there is presently no funds earmarked to improve the grievance procedure laws for the disabled, then I am asking that the committee put the money in the budget.

Thank you,



Mental Health Advocates,
Dorrance Collins / Faith Myers
3240 Penland Pkwy, Sp. 35
Anchorage, AK. 99508
929-0532



Trial Courts
State of Alaska

STEPHANIE RHOADES
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
825 W. 4TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2005

(907) 264-0666
FAX: (907) 264-0872

March 4, 2013

Members
House Finance Committee

I want to make clear at the outset that I am commenting here today in a personal capacity as a district court judge with 20 years of experience and not as a representative or spokesperson for the Alaska Court System. My comments should not be construed as the position of the Alaska Court System or the Alaska Supreme Court.

I want to urge you to consider the interplay between the criminal justice system and community behavioral health grants in the administration of justice, and the foreseeable, though doubtless unintended, costs to the criminal justice system if the recommendation by the House Budget Subcommittee on Health & Social Services of an \$8.3 million reduction in community behavioral health grants is accepted.

According to a 2007 study of Alaska's Corrections population conducted by Hornby Zeller Associates, 42% of inmates in Alaska correctional institutions on June 30, 2006 are mentally ill, developmentally disabled, seniors with dementia or other related brain disorders, traumatically brain injured, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and alcoholics w/psychosis. They qualify as beneficiaries of the Alaska Mental Health Trust.

People with these disorders have an increased likelihood of being "criminalized" (or being processed through the criminal justice system instead of through the mental health system) for publicly acting out the symptoms of their mental disorders. They are also more than one and one-half (1.6) times more likely than other offenders to be re-arrested and returned to the correctional system and to do so sooner according to the 2007 study. Alaska already pays a high price for inadequate mental health and substance abuse treatment in jail overcrowding costs and funding the building and operations of our new prison. The recommended reduction in behavioral health grants will worsen these problems.

In response to the serious overrepresentation of people with behavioral health disorders in jails and prisons, the Alaska Court System established Mental Health Courts in Anchorage, Palmer and Juneau. Mental health courts divert offenders with

Page 2

these disorders from jail and into community treatment and provide hands on judicial supervision of community treatment plans to promote public safety. Offenders with the above disorders experience complex and difficult to manage behaviors. Without community supports, they easily escalate into crisis, requiring acute and costly institutional care. Offenders who adhere to treatment requirements, on the other hand, cycle through jails, emergency rooms and psychiatric hospitals far less often.

The hitch is that in order for mental health courts to divert sick people from jail and into community treatment, community treatment must be funded and available to the court and its participants.

The recommendation by the House Budget Subcommittee on Health & Social Services of an \$8.3 million reduction is hugely problematic to therapeutic courts seeking to link persons with behavioral health disorders to community treatment since grant dollars directly provide detox and suicide prevention services, mental and substance abuse treatment, medication management, case management services and supported housing. These services are basic requirements. Unfortunate court participants have no insurance and rely solely on grant funds. Those who have Medicaid or Medicare, the proposed cuts will spur a terrible ripple effect, since those insurance rates don't cover the actual cost of services for those on fee for service reimbursement. Grant dollars make up the difference. Any drop in grant dollars means many more vulnerable people with mental and substance use disorders, seniors and people with intellectual/developmental disorders will be placed at higher risk than they presently are of being incarcerated or institutionalized for their care.

There can be no question that the cost of community-based outpatient services is 2-5 times less expensive than institutional care even when that care is provided by the Department of Corrections. How much higher than 42% of our corrections population do we want to fund to provide 3 hots, a cot and treatment inside the Department of Corrections when grants can provide considerably less expensive community behavioral health treatment?

As a judicial officer, I also find the recommended cuts ironic in their timing, given that many other states are increasing behavioral health funding in the aftermath of Columbine, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, Aurora and the plethora of other misguided mass shooting incidents, troubling to all who seek to protect the public from violence and which might have been prevented by the greater availability of behavioral health services. For these reasons and in the interests of the administration of justice, I urge the House Finance Committee to reject the recommended cuts to behavioral health services grants.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Rhoades
District Court Judge

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Elaine Dahlgren
REPRESENTING: Volunteers of America AK
BILL#/ SUBJECT: HSS Budget
COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: 3-5-2013 House Finance

I believe that cuts to this budget will increase corrections and prison population + clients to a degree that we will never be able to address.

As the CEO of a treatment program for adolescents I see change - amazing change - in peoples lives. Change that saves Alaska money & lives.

Please do not cut this budget that funds services to our most vulnerable state citizens. They deserve more & help from all of us.

I thank you,
Elaine Dahlgren

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Tom Turner
REPRESENTING: Self / Citizen
BILL# / SUBJECT: HB Cost Mental Health Budget
COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: House Finance 3/5/13

In this state, in this day and age
to consider any cuts to mental health
spending is ludicrous.

Our state is large & with such a
diverse population, there is no question
about the need for stable funding for
mental health issues.

The needs range from villages to towns,
elderly, to youth & civilians to soldiers.
To take money away from "problem
solving solutions" is like "shooting ourselves
in the foot". We need to continue
funding, continue treatment, counseling etc
to stop problems before they start.

I believe the calamities at Virginia Tech,
as well as Newtown Ct only underscore
the larger need for mental health solutions.

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Martha Harper
REPRESENTING: _____
BILL#/ SUBJECT: _____
COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: 3-5-13

My name is Martha and without the finding available to me I wouldn't have learned all about my past behaviors and about myself. I am very grateful for the substance abuse treatment programs and people who helped me save my life. I am a changed person today, before I was considered weak and always played the victim, when in fact I created victims due to my substance abuse. I did not recognize how my family's substance abuse carried on to me and I was on the path to destruction. I now use all the tools and I learned from the programs to better my life. I ^{now} control my life in stead of life controlling me. Instead of running to alcohol (like I usually did) I now go to other people who helps me ~~put~~ deal with my addiction. Without the finding available to others, ~~because~~ I believe you are not giving them a second chance in life, because people can change and I am living proof.

Thank you

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Dawn Smith
 REPRESENTING: Akaela
 BILL#/SUBJECT: _____
 COMMITTEE &
 HEARING DATE: 3-05-13

my name is Dawn Smith I am here to let people know that yes people can get clean on there own But in Reality without the tools to stay clean & sober you will either end up dead, in Jail or unhappy with yourself my story is I self-medicated with heroin I have been clean 1yr. If it wasn't for the tools I have learned at Akaela I honestly think I would be dead I graduated Sept 2012 I have learned forgiveness not only with myself but with people I come in contact with a daily basis Everybody has a story to tell its just who will listen and I believe Akaela will they listened to me helped me become the person I am proud of. The person I am today is a intelligent, responsible, outgoing person with goals in life to become a better man, sister, and daughter. I have my life now it took me 3 times to get an assessment the 4th time I got it, and a yr later here I am 1yr clean I am grateful to have been a part of this treatment facility they have changed my life for the better. People do need guidance and direction they point you in the right direction, thought, sleep, care beliefs, playing the tape through, and when in doubt reaching out. The difference is knowing you need to do things for yourself, wanting the help or its not getting it. Acceptance and open to change. is keep in living like before fulltime as I can today. thanks to Akaela the life of what I was, and now, and Criminal Activity for me is over I am not saying its not possible to relapse. its all about using the tools you where taught Thank You for giving me the time to tell my story I hope it helps at least one gain the courage to change as life is a blessing.

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Amy Simpson
 REPRESENTING: Infant Learning Programs
 BILL#/ SUBJECT: House DHSS Budget
 COMMITTEE &
 HEARING DATE: March 5, 2013

Thank you for taking my feedback on the House DHSS Budget. I would like to advocate for resources for service for young children including Parents AS Teachers, early intervention mental health services. The keep and wide cuts to behavioral health will cost the state more in the long term. The only budget that was not cut in this budget was corrections. More dollars in corrections is exactly what we will need if more vulnerable children fail to receive services to help them succeed in the future.

In addition the note to reduce the administrative costs allowed by DHSS grantees to 15% appears to be an excessive jump from the current 25% allowed costs. Most grantees are able to control costs efficiently and are below 25% overall. Perhaps the recommendation for admin costs could be raised to a more ~~reasonable~~ obtainable number or redefine admin. costs so that grantees can be in compliance and continue to provide vital services in the community.

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Terri Lynn Draeger
REPRESENTING: UAA Students
BILL#/ SUBJECT: E UAA/ UAF engineering building
COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: 3-5-2013

Hi, My name is Terri Lynn Draeger. I'm a UAA student majoring in Biology. The new engineer buildings are need to fill jobs in this state.

Right now Dimond High School, Eagle River High School and Sobeth High School have implemented Engineering Academies through Project Lead the Way. We will see a continued influx of engineering students. Our spaces are already too small - more students need more space so we can have more Alaska-grown engineers in the work force.

Employers prefer to hire UA graduates as they are more likely to remain in Alaska. Graduates from UAA & UAF are essential especially when addressing arctic engineering issues and requirements there.

Thank you for all the work you all do.

For the record my name is Paul Albers. I am a case manager at The Brother Francis Shelter.

I am requesting your support to FULLY fund the Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Program

I have been working with a gentleman I will call B. B has been homeless for most of the past 10 years. He has been unable to hold a job or maintain housing.

B first applied for Social Security Income in March of 2010. He has been denied several times. In 2010 B applied for services with DVR and was denied based on a psychiatric evaluation which said it would be difficult for DVR to find a suitable training program.

In August of 2012 the Alaska Brain Injury Network gave B a grant to get a neuro psychiatric evaluation. Based on the results of that report B has recently been approved for SSI. With continuing supports B will now be able to move out of the homeless shelter and into his own apartment.

Homelessness in Anchorage has received a lot of attention in the press and in public conversation. B is an example of how funding fully the Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Program can help put a dent in homelessness.

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Sandra Ozenna
REPRESENTING: SELF & Alaska Women In Recovery
BILL#/ SUBJECT: _____
COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: Finance 3-5-13

my name is Sandra Ozenna. I am one of the graduates at Alaska Women In Recovery at Akeela. I am 22 years old. And I would like to say that without the help of the program, the staff, the groups and the resources I would still be a hopeless alcoholic and drug addict roaming the streets of downtown. I am sober today because of the help I recieved at Akeela I would love to say that these programs work for those who work it. I am proof that addicts could change with the help of Akeela. I am a better person today. A good daughter. A good auntie. And a good citizen of society. I believe it is worth it to keep these programs running. And I hope you all would lend an ear, some empathy, and faith that these programs do work. Please dont cut budgets for helpful programs. Thank you for your time and consideration

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Rachelle L. Griffiths

REPRESENTING:

Self

BILL#/ SUBJECT:

COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE:

March 05, 2013

My journey began in detox, then 2 residential treatment centers w/ Southcentral Foundation and Akeela Inc. Both provide mental health services which I participated in. I wouldn't be where I am today w/o these programs. They gave me my life back.

My 5 year old daughter is happy, healthy and loved. Her mom is getting better everyday. I thank God.

I am a productive member of society. The knowledge I have gained is passed on to others around me. This is true with many others. This saves lives and generates hope.

I have benefited greatly from these federally funded programs and I believe they strengthen and improve our community. Please continue funding.

Thank-you for your time. And all that you do.

Rachelle Griffiths

Jill Hodges
1581 Nelchina Street, A#3
Anchorage, AK 99501
March 5, 2013

House Finance Committee Members
Alaska State Legislature

Dear House Finance Committee members:

For the record my name is Jill Hodges. 10 years ago, I earned my Business Degree and moved to Alaska. My family also moved north. Today, my dad and brother work on the North Slope. My mom is a teacher. My sister owns a BBQ business. Another brother is a firefighter. My boyfriend is an arctic engineer.

I was raised with a spirit of "work hard and smart and you can accomplish anything." I took on that spirit and made myself into a Division 1 athlete, class valedictorian, and student-athlete of the year. Sounds like a pretty balanced kid. Well, little did anyone know that despite my success, I was battling depression, I tortured myself with binge eating and obsessive exercise, (and I sometimes had thoughts of killing myself.) Mostly I was angry, successful people are supposed to be happy. Finally when I went away to college, I found the courage to seek mental health services, and I learned to respect myself. Four years later, life sent me a phone call. My younger brother was sitting in the hospital in a coma. He had suffered a traumatic brain injury.

I have spent the last eight years immersing myself in TBI best-practice care and services offered across the country. My brother's injury happened in California where resources exist. The neurosurgeon kept my brother alive and minimized the damage. My mom found a rehabilitation program. We still get a phone call from the case manager. My parents could have gone broke with medical expenses (and drowned in frustration), but the government stepped in temporarily to help keep them on their feet. My brother, the firefighter, has found his purpose, and I found a career helping others. The TBI knowledge came in handy one year ago when I was a passenger in a car that crashed and I too sustained a mild TBI.

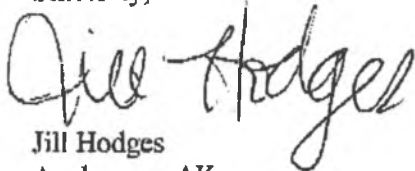
Alaska ^{has extremely limited} does not have brain injury services. There have been nearly 15,000 Alaskans that have been hospitalized for TBI in the last 20 years. These families have further insult to injury by having very few, if any, medical, rehabilitation or community supports.

Please recapitalize the trauma care funds (DHSS)
Fully fund the Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Program (DHSS)
Fully fund Behavioral Health Services (DHSS)
Fund the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative (DHSS)
Fund the Statewide Independent Living Centers in Alaska (Labor)

House Finance Committee Members
March 5, 2013
Page 2

Life happens whether we plan for it or not. We cannot have hard working, healthy family units without having a continuum of basic medical, mental health, and community resources. Please fund these programs. *They help put people back together.*

Sincerely,



Jill Hodges
Anchorage, AK

Cc: Representative Austerman
Representative Stoltz
Representative Neuman
Representative Costello
Representative Edgmon
Representative Holmes
Representative Munoz
Representative Thomas
Representative T. Wilson
Representative Gara
Representative Guttenberg

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Grace Snider

REPRESENTING:

individual, myself

BILL#/ SUBJECT:

TAB1 Program funding; Complex Behavior Collaborative. 8, 3 Million Reduction to Behavioral Health Services general funds.

COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE:

House Finance Committee, March 5, 2013

My many pleas: Thank you for your time.

Please fully fund the traumatic and acquired brain injury program. Please fund the Complex behavior collaborative. Please keep the 8.3 million dollars in the general funds for behavioral health services. I personally
The sister of a 40 year old woman who was hit by a car, surviving with a severe TBI. I have felt and witnessed the frustration of my sister and our parents as they slipped through the cracks due to a lack of programs for brain injury. I see her face and hear her voice in the individuals I work with in my job. I have the privilege of working daily with people effected by acquired and traumatic brain injury. Just today, I met with a woman who is homeless, desiring work and suffering memory loss and severe headaches due to "domestic violence assault" in 1996. She also has bipolar disorder and is struggling to take the steps to fight alcoholism, the latter of which she did not suffer before the brain injury. She is currently out of APT and currently being denied services. I personally have had my own mental health challenges and have benefitted greatly from peer support. I have a wonderful job with a non-profit in Anchorage serving Alaskans. I have a loving, loving partner, no debt, and a great quality of life. I know that if these cuts are made and programs such as, TAB1, the CBE, detox services, supported housing, peer support services, independent living centers, etc, more people will be lost to institutions, prisons, and the streets. I urge the House Finance Committee to participate in preventative health care, we tend to be reactionary in this society, meaning we wait for crisis before helping our neighbors. Let's work together to
thank you.

Signed
Grace Snider

KODIAK LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kodiak_LIO@akleg.gov
907-486-8116/ phone, 907-486-5264/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Jennifer Eubank
REPRESENTING: self, children I teach
BILL#/ SUBJECT: HB65
COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: House Finance Committee

Hello. I'm a special education teacher. I have been teaching for over 17 years. I am very concerned for the level of funding for education the legislature is considering. Our lawmakers are once again considering shorting students, programs and schools but, yet, we keep demanding more - greater assessment results, more topics to teach, greater responsibilities and less and less support. With the Governor's proposal we will be stuck with a budget that will lead to staff cuts - increasing class sizes, decreasing a teacher's ability to individualize and support a child's understanding and learning.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB 105/104, dated 6 MARCH 2013.
bill/subject

I am here today because I am working hard to quit smoking. I have used services at Kodiak Area Native Association and they have made a big difference

Quitting smoking is probably the hardest thing I have ever had to do. Without the help of the program at KANA, it would be even harder.

I have access to one-on-one counseling and group counseling to help me quit. That kind of support is critical for me.

Now is not the time to cut tobacco prevention funding. I know I am not the only person trying to quit and I know others really need the same services I am using.

Cutting the program now will not only make it harder for me to quit, but it could also lead to more kids starting. I don't want any young person to have to go through what I am going through. It's better to keep them from starting in the first place.

I want to quit smoking. I want to live longer, I want to be healthier. I wish I had never started. I need your help. PLEASE DON'T CUT TOBACCO PREVENTION FUNDING!

Thanks!

Signed: MARLON INGA
Testifier self
Representing (optional) 1055 MISSION RD KODIAK
Address 907-512-8073
Phone number

KODIAK LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kodiak_LIO@akleg.gov
907-486-8116/ phone, 907-486-5264/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: GEOFFREY SMITH
REPRESENTING: myself & my son
BILL#/ SUBJECT: HB 65
COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: HOUSE FINANCE 3/6/13

- First I am disappointed by the lack of attendance by committee members at this hearing.

- Children are our greatest resource to not fund or flat fund for the 3rd yr in a row is unacceptable!

We need to invest in our future!

- from Alan Austerman's News from the Hill Ed. Reform & workforce Development
• provide educational opportunities for AK students.

• improve AK schools & student performance

• insist on accountability & results

• prepare Alaskans for Alaskan jobs

• increased emphasis on Voc Ed & educational relevance

These all take money. flat funding will not get it done. it is unacceptable!

- funding a rocket launch facility that provides ~~not~~ no services is a waste of money. IT IS TIME TO SHUT THE DOORS TO THIS FACILITY.

- I encourage you to not pass
house bill #65

68GSMITH@gmail.com

KODIAK LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kodiak_LIO@akleg.gov
907-486-8116/ phone, 907-486-5264/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Patricia M. Olsen

REPRESENTING:

self

BILL#/ SUBJECT:

HB 65

COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE:

House Finance March 6, 2013

I am a 34 year resident of the State of Alaska. I am very unhappy about the proposed operating budget released this week. I am shocked that we are giving away \$1-1.5 billion dollars in the Governor's oil bill. While OUR oil is being given away, education funding for Pre-K is being cut. I consider the children of Alaska our most precious natural resource, and by eliminating the early childhood funding, what message are we sending? Legislators in Juneau keep asking for guarantees on what works in education. Well, research shows that quality pre-K instruction increases academic performance. The ~~current~~^{proposed} budget dramatically cuts funding for this important academic program. There's something wrong with this picture.

The Governor is GIVING ~~to~~ to the oil companies while TAKING from Alaska's children. Who exactly does the Governor work for? Please do not support HB65.

KODIAK LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kodiak_LIO@akleg.gov
907-486-8116/ phone, 907-486-5264/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Anjali Grantham
REPRESENTING: Self, Alaska Historical Society
BILL#/ SUBJECT: Alaska State Museum Grant-in-Aid
COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: Operating - House Finance

I am the president of the Alaska Historical Society + a museum professional, representing the AHS's board of directors and our near-500 active members. We ask that the Alaska State Museum's Grant-in-Aid program is funded at \$150,000. This \$ is re-granted to AK's museums + cultural centers. With these grants we accomplish crucial collections, exhibit, and program activities that otherwise likely wouldn't occur due to lack of funding. Increasing the \$ available means we can better care for our objects, better serve the tens of thousands of school children, visitors + tourists, and ensure the protection of our cultural patrimony. We also ask for a new line item of \$25,000 for the ASM's Grant-in-Aid program, specifically for an internship program for Alaska's museums. With graduate interns, small Alaskan museums get expert assistance in conservation, research, and exhibits - assistance that is otherwise prohibitively expensive. Alaska's museums + cultural institutions serve the tourism industry, our state's schools, and are important contributors to Alaska's economy. Please help museums to do our important work better.

Carlen Williams
SE AHEC Director
Ketchikan, Alaska

As the Director of the SE Area Health Education Center (AHEC) I am requesting your support of the AHEC increments in the University of Alaska's Budget. The Alaska AHEC is a statewide program that has five regional centers including the Southeast region which I am representing. The Alaska AHEC Centers do three things: Promote, Engage and Retain Healthcare professionals within the State of Alaska.


We promote to the youth of Alaska the opportunities they have in the healthcare field within the State.

We engage Alaskan students with opportunities within Alaskan educational programs and future Statewide employment options.

We retain by providing resources in continuing education and training needed to keep our healthcare professional here in Alaska.

Alaska AHEC supports the production of "homegrown" healthcare professional through awareness, education, and workforce development throughout the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.


Carlen Williams

SE AHEC Director

3100 Tongass Ave, Ketchikan AK 99901

907-228-8455

cwilliams@peacehealth.org

March 6, 2013

Dear House Finance Committee

Please continue to support Farm to School by granting the fourth year of spending for this invaluable program. This program gets thousands of pounds of local foods into the schools, builds relationships between children and the natural resources around them, helps create and sustain local economies, develops jobs so that people can continue to support themselves in their communities, and helps Alaska participate in America's food movement to make food healthy for those that eat it, sustainable since transportation/fuel usage is minimal, and enjoyable. Here in Sitka, the Farm to School program has supported the community's Fish to School program by giving us mini grants for our projects, which have enabled us to offer 1,500 students local seafood! These programs are invaluable for our youth, community, health, and economy.

Thank you for your time,

Ray Friedlander

109 Jeff Davis St., Sitka, AK 99835

CC'ed:

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Southeast Alaska fisherman and parent of a young child enrolled in an Alaskan public school,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the Farm to School Program and its continued funding.

For the last three years, my community's schoolchildren have benefited from healthy Local Fish Lunches—an award-winning Farm to School offshoot—served through the Sitka School District's school lunch program. These lunches bring donations of locally-caught seafood from fishermen like myself to children who otherwise might not have the chance to benefit firsthand from one of Alaska's most valuable natural resources.

Sitka is a model for communities statewide who wish to make local foods available in other school lunch programs—and rightly so, as the benefits to our state's children are many:

- Access to healthy foods, regardless of family income level
- Access to foods produced right here in Alaska
- Awareness of our state's natural resources and the importance of good stewardship
- Pride in Alaska's unique way of life and, in turn, an impetus toward good citizenship
- Future job opportunities in the emerging local foods sector
- Greater food security that comes with decreased dependence on imported foods

Just as I believe our state's schoolchildren should be among the first to enjoy locally-harvested seafood,

I also believe Alaskan children should have access to locally-grown produce—the plethora of fruits and vegetables that thrive in our rich soils. Please ensure this happens throughout our state by voting for continued funding for the Farm to School Program.

Thank you for your service to our great state, and for your time.

Sincerely,

Beth Short-Rhoads
111 Jamestown Drive
Sitka, AK 99835
907-738-9942

3-6-13



Sitka Conservation Society
Box 6533
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-7509
info@sitkawild.org
www.sitkawild.org

"Protecting the natural environment of the Tongass while supporting the development of sustainable communities in Southeast Alaska – since 1967."

Dear House Finance Committee,

The Alaska State Farm to School Program has been a huge asset to the Fish to Schools program in Sitka. Fish to Schools works toward a sustainable community that offers all school children the health benefits of locally-caught seafood, equips them to understand how this food source is obtained, and empowers them to one day enjoy the full cultural and economic advantages of local seafood resources. Farm to School has been integral to our success—through connections, support, and grant funding we have received. Through a partnership with Farm to School we are now able to offer 1,500 students in our community local fish twice a month!

The benefits to of Farm to School are many. By funding Farm to School, we can ensure schools connect with local, regional, and state farmers and fishermen. Farm to School networks create in-state markets for our producers, bolstering our local production and economies. And students benefit by eating local, healthy foods full of nutrients that feed their growing brains.

Farm to school benefits our economies, our communities, and our students. Thousands of pounds of fresh produce and seafood are now offered to Alaskan students, a direct result of this state program. Please reinstate funding for Alaska's Farm to School program so we can continue to see local seafood, Alaskan Grown, and traditional foods served in our schools.

Sincerely,

Tracy Gagnon
Fish to Schools Coordinator
Sitka Conservation Society

3-6-13

3/6/2013

Dear House Finance Committee,

As you conduct your research into budget items worthy of funding this legislative session, I hope you will give due consideration to the Farm to Schools program. I have seen more children in my school eating school lunch on the days local fish is offered, and as their teacher, I feel good about what they're eating. This program is just the smallest seed, but it is effective and making good things happen in our schools.

Please feel welcome to contact me in Sitka with any questions regarding the benefits of Farm to School funding for the students here – it is a small program that packs a punch and I hope you will support it in the budget process.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Himschoot
(907) 738 6744

3/6/2013

Dear House Finance committee;

As a commercial Fisher in Sitka, and the mother of a Keet Gooshi Heen elementary school student, I very much hope that you will consider reinstating the fourth year of funding for the Farm to Schools program.

With the rising cost of groceries here in Alaska, and the rising cost of shipping Alaska's products South, it is very important that we do the best we can to keep as much of Alaska's local produce and seafood here in the state. As a commercial fisher, I see my shipping costs rise substantially every year. This eats into my bottom line and makes it harder for me to remain a successful local business. By far the best returns I see are from products I sell locally. That extra money I make from saved shipping costs stays in Alaska and benefits the local economy. By "buying local", The Farm to School Program supports local fishermen, processors and farmers here in Alaska.

As a parent of a school aged child, I am very concerned about the quality of food served in school lunches. I am certain that the local fish students are now eating through our Fish to Schools program, in partnership with Farm to School, has higher dietary benefits than the normal fare. Fish caught here in Sitka Sound, processed at our local seafood processors, and cooked here at school happens in just a five mile radius and that's pretty fantastic!

I love the fact that when my child eats lunch on a "Fish to School" lunch day, she is aware of the fact that her dad, or one of his fishermen friends probably caught the fish she's eating. I believe this makes her more in tune with both the food she chooses to put in her body, AND with her community. If our younger generation realizes that their community is making the effort to invest in their healthy future, they will grow up to value their community and give back. "Sense of Place" is a very real thing, and the Farm to School Program is teaching a whole new generation where their food comes from, and why they need to support the community that provides it.

In closing, please reinstate funding for the Farm to School program.

Thank you,

Wendy Alderson
F/V Ocean Cape

Another letter!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Short-Rhoads** <eljanise@yahoo.com>

Date: Wed, Mar 6, 2013 at 11:39 AM

Subject: Please support the Farm to School Program

To: "[Representative Bill Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us)"

<[Representative Bill Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us)>

Cc: "[peter ecklund@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:peter_ecklund@legis.state.ak.us)" <peter_ecklund@legis.state.ak.us>,

"[joe michel@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:joe_michel@legis.state.ak.us)" <joe_michel@legis.state.ak.us>, "joe.michel@akleg.gov"

<joe.michel@akleg.gov>, "daniel.george@akleg.gov" <daniel.george@akleg.gov>,

"darrell.breese@akleg.gov" <darrell.breese@akleg.gov>, "ryan.mckee@akleg.gov"

<ryan.mckee@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov"

<Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>

Dear Senator Stoltze,

As a Southeast Alaska fisherman and parent of a young child enrolled in an Alaskan public school,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the Farm to School Program and its continued funding.

For the last three years, my community's schoolchildren have benefited from healthy Local Fish Lunches—an award-winning Farm to School offshoot—served through the Sitka School District's school lunch program. These lunches bring donations of locally-caught seafood from fishermen like myself to children who otherwise might not have the chance to benefit firsthand from one of Alaska's most valuable natural resources.

Sitka is a model for communities statewide who wish to make local foods available in other school lunch programs—and rightly so, as the benefits to our state's children are many:

- Access to healthy foods, regardless of family income level
- Access to foods produced right here in Alaska
- Awareness of our state's natural resources and the importance of good stewardship
- Pride in Alaska's unique way of life and, in turn, an impetus toward good citizenship
- Future job opportunities in the emerging local foods sector
- Greater food security that comes with decreased dependence on imported foods

Just as I believe our state's schoolchildren should be among the first to enjoy locally-harvested seafood,

I also believe Alaskan children should have access to locally-grown produce—the plethora of fruits and

vegetables that thrive in our rich soils. Please ensure this happens throughout our state by voting for continued funding for the Farm to School Program.

Thank you for your service to our great state, and for your time.

Sincerely,

Beth Short-Rhoads
111 Jamestown Drive
Sitka, AK 99835
907-738-9942

--

Tracy Gagnon
Community Sustainability Organizer
Sitka Conservation Society
(907) 747-7509
tracy@sitkawild.org

SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER

834 Lincoln Street, Suite 200
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Admin Phone: 907.747.8878
Email: info@sitkasoundsciencecenter.org



March 5, 2013

Dear Legislators,

This is a letter in support of the Fisheries Seafood and Maritime Initiative that includes an expansion of the University of Alaska Fisheries Technology Program. The expansion is critical to strengthening a program that is already helping Alaska by training people in aquaculture and fisheries biology.

The Sitka Sound Science Center is a support facility for the Fish Tech program and we see first-hand how this job training program helps Alaskans land jobs in fisheries and aquaculture.

The Fisheries Technology Program offers classes that are based on the needs of the aquaculture industry. This expansion will benefit students living in small communities in coastal Alaska.

Your support of this Initiative is critical to strengthening commercial fisheries in Alaska

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Busch".

Lisa Busch, Executive Director

**Petersburg Mental Health Services, Inc.**

P. O. Box 1309
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

(907) 772-3332 main
1-888-858-8850 fax

March 6, 2013

To Our Senators and Representatives:

As a third generation Alaskan and the director of a nonprofit behavioral health provider, I am writing to express dismay about the proposed cut of \$8.3 million in behavioral health services. At a time when our communities most need treatment, support, and violence intervention, this action will not keep Alaskans safe, nor will it save money. It will increase costs as emergency rooms, hospitals, and jails take on those who cannot cope without support.

We are experiencing a behavioral health and substance abuse crisis. Since 2005 Petersburg (pop 2,965) has had three homicides. Our violent death rate has in some years exceeded 33 per 100,000 (over eight times the state rate). An overall seven year average is still 14 per 100,000 (over three times the state rate).

There have been five suicides, including three in one year. Our average greatly exceeds the state rate, which is itself the second highest in the nation.

We had 32 suicide attempts, four drug-related deaths and multiple lockdowns of the school and other sites due to credible death/mass murder threats. In 2012 alone, three lockdowns (of the school, a bar and the entire city) occurred.

Domestic assaults are more frequent and serious, almost doubling since 2005, and we had 20 documented alcohol and drug overdoses needing emergency medical attention.

I've been Petersburg Mental Health's director for nearly 20 years. As cost of living and cost of healthcare have skyrocketed during this time we have not seen an increase in grant funding. We are being asked to do more and more administratively to demonstrate our service's worth. The concept of a cut on top of the burdens we already must adapt to is more than demoralizing, it's frightening.

Cuts like this don't require belt-tightening. They mean hacking off a limb. Please support full funding for behavioral health services. Oppose cuts that guarantee overburdened emergency rooms and jails. Keep us safe! Petersburg Mental Health Services can help if you give us the means to do our jobs.

Sincerely,

Susan Ohmer, LCSW

Director

P.MHS, Inc.

To Our Representatives and Senators:

I am writing to support funding for Behavioral Health Services in Alaska and oppose any proposed cuts to current funding.

My name is Rebecca Beltrami and I work as a behavioral health clinician at Petersburg Mental Health Services in Petersburg, Alaska. I have witnessed the many benefits of a community-centered, wraparound approach to behavioral health care. The proposed cuts threaten to decrease our ability to effectively serve our clients in their community, increasing the likelihood of them requiring interventions that are more restrictive, more expensive and are delivered away from family, friends, and community supports. I strongly encourage you to reconsider your plans to cut behavioral health funding.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Beltrami, MSW

March 6, 2013

GOOD AFTERNOON

MY NAME IS JENNIFER RAY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LISTENING TO MY TESTIMONY TODAY .

I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU WHY I AM TESTIFYING IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BUDGET.

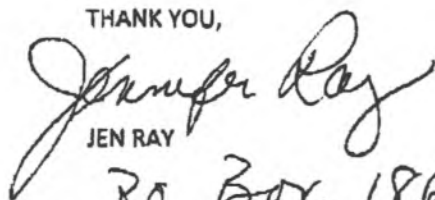
I HAVE A DAUGHTER WHO IS 26 YEARS OLD. SHE HAS HAD A SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS FOR THE LAST 7 YEARS AND IS DISABLED BECAUSE OF IT. PETERSBURG MENTAL HEALTH IS WHERE OUR FAMILY GOES FOR HER MENTAL HEALTH CARE. I HAVE FOUND THAT MY DAUGHTER'S USE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IS INTEGRAL FOR HER GROWTH AND MAINTAINING HER STABILITY. I RECEIVE COUNSELING ON HOW TO HELP MY DAUGHTER WHEN I AM CONFUSED OR UNCERTAIN AS TO WHAT TO DO. OUR ENTIRE FAMILY AT ONE TIME HAS BEEN COUNSELED REGARDING OUR CHILD.

PLEASE SUPPORT 100% FUNDING OF PETERSBURG MENTAL HEALTH AND ALL THE OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES THROUGHOUT ALASKA . UNTIL WE ADDRESS MENTAL ILLNES HEAD ON WE WILL BE DOING A DISSERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

I AM PERSONALLY WORKING WITH FOUR NAMI (NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS) TEACHERS HERE IN PETERSBURG TO BRING THE NAMI FAMILY TO FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM TO OUR COMMUNITY. THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED TO EDUCATE FAMILY MEMBERS OR CAREGIVERS SO THEY CAN BETTER ASSIST THEIR MENTALLY ILL LOVED ONES. WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS AND WANT TO HELP AND SHARE WITH OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS.

I HOPE THAT YOU, OUR STATE LEADERS, WILL EXTEND THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY IN YOUR VOTE FOR FULL FUNDING OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. YOU WILL BE SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH.

THANK YOU,



Jennifer Ray

JEN RAY

P.O. Box 1864

Petersburg, Ak 99833

907-772-2030

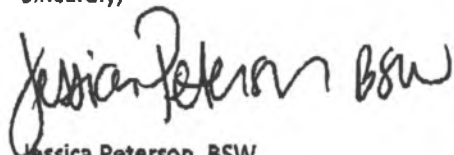
To Our Representatives and Senators:

I am in support for maintaining current funding levels for all Behavioral Health Services in Alaska.

My name is Jessica Peterson I work for Petersburg Mental Health Services Inc. in Petersburg, Alaska for the past ten years as a substance abuse counselor and behavioral health rehabilitation counselor. I have seen over the years a progression of many changes at the State level effecting and impacting the services and treatment provided. It seems with each passing year a reduction in funding and additional tasks/obligations on us to demonstrate our worth.

Without community supports individuals with behavioral health needs may be more apt to rely on emergency services and are at greater risk for requiring institutional care which will increase costs significantly. Meeting people where they are at benefits the residents while saving money overall by avoiding costly interventions. I strongly hope you re-consider your plans to reduce behavioral health services in all communities. A reduction in funding would significantly hinder our ability to serve our community members locally and would not be in the best interest of our consumers.

Sincerely,



Jessica Peterson, BSW

PMHS, Inc.

Dan Masoni
Unalaska City Librarian
Member of the SWAMC Broadband Technology Planning Committee
Member of the Unalaska City School Board

I'm speaking as the Unalaska City Librarian in favor of full funding for the Governor's Digital Initiative.

Broadband access is developing as a primary driver of economic, educational, and cultural exchange in rural Alaska.

The Online With Libraries Project has provided a strong backbone to most rural Public Libraries in Alaska. It creates a "community commons" that fosters ideas, education, and economic growth. SWAMC has recognized the need for this interchange in its most recent Broadband Implementation Plan.

Many small municipalities cannot afford the bandwidth currently provided by the OWL Project. If OWL support is cut, then those libraries and municipalities will have no alternative but to reduce public access and programming.

Ultimately the funding decisions recommended by the Subcommittee will disenfranchise 20% of the population of Alaska who live in roughly 70% of the State.

Live Homework Help is heavily used by students in Unalaska both from home and the Public Library. The system provides guidance for children whose parents either can't or won't help them with homework. A very strong educational tool will be lost if Live Homework Help is eliminated.



Mission:

To enhance the quality of life for all we serve

Vision:

Honor our heritage and be the pride of the community

Values:

- Integrity
- Compassion and Caring
- Trust
- Transparency
- Loyalty
- Honoring our Heritage
- Quality
- Fiscal Responsibility

March 8, 2013

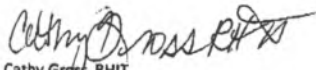
House Finance Committee
907-465-6813

Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing this letter as a testimonial on behalf of Wrangell Medical Center in support of HB 65, authorizing recapitalization of the trauma care fund in 2014. I have worked with the trauma registry since its inception in 1991 as an abstractor of data for Wrangell Medical Center's participation in the trauma registry program.

Due to our remote location, we cannot always evacuate trauma patients immediately. This funding supports education and training for our staff, and helps provide needed equipment which improves patient outcomes and helps save lives. This program also supports our efforts to obtain Level 4 Trauma Designation.

Thank you for your time.


Cathy Gross, RHIT
Director, Health Information Management

*Caring for
Southeast*

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

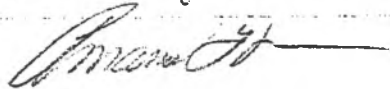
Name: +Address Amanda Moran 2130 Fisher Ct

Representing: _____

Bill No./Subject HB 65Committee: House FinanceDate of Hearing: 3/6/13

I am just writing this about the DBH grant funding if it gets cut I think that would be the worst thing ever. This program has helped my two boys a lot and without this funding I won't be able to keep them in the program. My oldest boy Sean when he came to the center he was having major melt downs @ school where he would cry for hours and I was getting called all the time from school he wasn't able to learn due to his behavior getting in the way - Now he is getting A's and he is able to express his emotions and handle them in a way that don't take over from doing everyday things. My youngest boy is doing alot better too, but he still needs this program and if the funding gets cut then I don't know what will happen so please don't cut this and think of all the children and families this has helped.

Thank You for your time



Alaska Trauma Fund

Issues:

- The Alaska Legislature passed a bill in 1993 authorizing the Department of Health and Social Services to certify hospital trauma centers based on nationally recognized criteria.
- This legislation provided for voluntary certification, but it provided no incentives for hospitals to become certified and no disincentives if they didn't become certified.
- In subsequent years, 4 rural hospitals were certified as Level IV trauma centers (basic level), and the Alaska Native Medical Center was certified as a Level II trauma center (second highest possible level).
- Although seven other hospitals in the state were reviewed by teams from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, no additional hospitals achieved certification over the next 15 years.
- Three years ago, the Alaska Legislature passed a bill unanimously to provide a trauma fund to give hospitals financial incentives to become certified.
- Following passage of this legislation, a total of 12 hospitals have become certified or recertified as trauma centers - one-half of the 24 acute care hospitals in Alaska.
- Several other hospitals have had trauma center consultation reviews and some of them are in the process of applying for certification.
- Studies have shown that hospitals meeting national trauma center criteria can improve outcomes by approximately 15% to 25%.
- After his trip to Israel, Governor Parnell announced his support for improving trauma care in Alaska. His FY14 budget request included \$2 million for the Alaska Trauma Fund. We support this request.
- We have documentation for the record showing how these funds have been used by certified hospital trauma centers in Alaska. Examples include funds for trauma training of physicians and nurses, support for the trauma registry data system, and funds for equipment to help improve trauma care.
- Currently, Alaska is the only state in the nation that doesn't have at least one Level I or II trauma center serving most of the population and Anchorage is the largest city in the United States that doesn't have at least a Level II trauma center serving most of the population.

Submitted by:

Mark S. Johnson, MPA

Member, Alaska Trauma System Review Committee

**10726 Horizon Drive
Juneau, AK 99801**

marksjohnson@acsalaska.net

(907) 463-5807



Trauma Fact Sheet

- **A traumatic injury** is a blunt force or penetrating physical injury that requires surgical and other medical specialists to consult, observe or perform surgery in order to optimize recovery.
- **A trauma system** involves the coordination of trauma care delivery among trauma centers, ambulances, helicopters, state and local governments and other healthcare resources. Currently, only 8 states have matured trauma systems.
- **A trauma center** is a specialized hospital distinguished by the *immediate* availability of *specialized* personnel, equipment and services to *treat* most severe and critical injuries. This includes ready-to-go teams that perform immediate surgery and other necessary procedures for people with serious or life-threatening injuries, for example, due to a car crash, bad fall, or gun shot wounds. The mission of a trauma center is to ensure continuity and quality of care for injured patients from the scene of injury through treatment at the trauma center and ultimately physical rehabilitation. Currently, less than 10% of hospitals have a trauma center.
- **How does trauma affect people?**
 - Leading cause of death among children and adults below the age of 45, and is the 4th leading cause of death for all ages
 - Accounts for approximately 170,000 deaths each year and over 400 deaths per day
 - Affects mostly the young and the old
 - Kills more Americans than stroke and AIDS combined
 - Leading cause of disability
- **Trauma centers are classified by levels dependant upon the amount of equipment, staff, and care provided:**
 - **Level I:** Has a full range of specialists and equipment available 24-hours a day • Admits a minimum required annual volume of severely injured patients • Has a research program • Is a leader in trauma education and injury prevention, and is a referral resource for communities in neighboring regions • Has a required program for substance abuse screening and provides brief intervention to patients
 - **Level II:** Works in collaboration with a Level I center usually but may be the only resource in a rural state • Provides comprehensive trauma care and supplements the clinical expertise of a Level I institution • Provides 24-hour availability of all essential specialties, personnel and equipment • No minimum volume requirements • Provides an injury prevention program, as well as conduct substance screening, but not required to have an ongoing program of research or a surgical residency program
 - **Level III:** Has resources for the emergency resuscitation, stabilization, emergent surgery, and intensive care of most trauma patients • Has transfer agreements with Level I and/or Level II trauma centers to assure back-up resources for the care of patients with severe injuries • Has an injury prevention program • Does not have the full availability of specialists except surgery and orthopedics in most states
 - **Level IV:** Provides initial evaluation, emergency resuscitation and stabilization of trauma patients, but most patients will require transfer to higher level trauma centers • Has 24-hour emergency coverage by a physician

Field Triage Guidelines

Prehospital emergency care and transport are integral components of getting a patient to the appropriate level of care needed. The Guidelines for Field Triage of Injured Patients, developed by an expert panel convened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American College of Surgeons and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, are criteria for EMS providers to identify patients who need specialized trauma center care. These guidelines help EMS personnel accurately estimate injury severity to ensure that patients with the most severe injury are transported to the appropriate level of trauma care. Transporting all traumatic injuries to a Level I trauma center is unnecessary, and uses valuable financial and health care resources at a higher cost. Patients with less severe injuries are transported to the most appropriate facility for their injury.

A 2011 study found that adoption of the CDC's 2006 field triage guidelines can decrease by at least 12 percent the number of patients who are incorrectly triaged.⁸ Forty-two states have adopted these



guidelines to improve trauma triage accuracy. Twenty-nine of these states have modified the official guidelines to meet a unique geographic or population need within the state.

Emergency Preparedness



Preparing for and responding to public health emergencies require a coordinated effort between many local, state and national emergency service responders. The trauma system is an integral part of any public health emergency or natural disaster, and a well-functioning day-to-day trauma system

can be the foundation for a well-functioning emergency medical response following a disaster or mass casualty. Some states coordinate emergency medical preparedness resources, communication and planning to effectively and efficiently respond to emergencies. In many states, the trauma, EMS and emergency preparedness programs are housed in separate agencies, operate on separate state and federal funding streams, and rarely communicate. These disconnects can hinder emergency medical response in a large-scale emergency. Developing statewide emergency management plans, such as a disaster response or mass casualty event plan, is a strategy states can use to identify each agency's role and responsibilities during public health emergencies. The process of developing these plans varies from state to state. In some states, the legislature has initiated coordination of emergency preparedness activities.

- Twenty-four states have identified a specific role for the trauma system in the state's disaster response plan.
- Nineteen states have identified a specific role for the trauma system in the state's mass casualty incident plan.

Trauma Designation



Dr. Steve Smith:

"Going through the process of Trauma designation has given PKIMC a much more active approach to trauma. In the past, we evaluated the patient in the ER then called personnel as deemed appropriate. This reactive approach could potentially result in a delay of needed care waiting for personnel to arrive. Now we are here as a cohesive unit waiting to care for the patient on arrival."



TRAUMA CARE FUND
 ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER
 LEVEL II TRAUMA CENTER

ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED TRAUMA CARE AT ANMC IN 2012:

Pending Redesignation: Level II Trauma Center November 19, 2012

- **24/7 Trauma Care Coverage** with enhanced neurosurgery capacity, with new staff neurosurgeon from Stanford University.
- **Acquisition of Cell Saver Equipment** training and support personnel. The Cell Saver is an intraoperative cell salvage machine that suctions, washes and filters the patient's blood, reducing the need for, and risk of, blood donation.
- **Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Training:** A systematic, concise approach to early care of the trauma patient. Simulation provides a common language, enhancing team communication and coordination for rapid, effective, life-saving patient treatment.
- **Trauma Nurse Care Course (TNCC)** provided enhanced clinical knowledge and psychomotor skills related to trauma.
- **Trauma Quality Improvement.** Collection of data through the Trauma Quality Improvement Program allows ANMC to use the National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB) to collect valid, reliable data that identifies characteristics associated with improved outcomes.
- **Trauma Center Association of American (TCAA)** utilization for up-to-date information on resources and sustainability.
- **Outreach and Prevention Programs:**
 - Southern Region EMS
 - Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT)
 - Alaska Injury Prevention Center



TRAUMA ACTIVITIES	TRAUMA COSTS
PERSONNEL	\$1,355,905
REVERIFICATION	\$13,000
EQUIPMENT	\$85,289
EDUCATION	\$46,138
REGISTRY / QI	\$14,000
OUTREACH	\$25,250
TOTAL ANMC COSTS	\$1,539,483
TCF PAYOUT	\$337,500
	456%

TRAUMA CARE FUND: ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER LEVEL II TRAUMA CENTER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established a **THINKFIRST Chapter** to provide educational programs to schools and community groups on head injuries.
- Provided education in Neurotrauma to Critical Care Nurses at ANMC for clinical expertise.
- Upgraded angiography equipment for diagnosis and treatment of vascular injuries.
- Addition of 1 full time trauma registrar as recommended by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma
- Reverification visit successfully completed for Level II Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma
- Trauma Quality Improvement Program through the ACS-COT provides quarterly reports, external data validation, and annual training.

ISSUES AND AREAS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

- Only Orthopedic Surgeon currently in Alaska for complex orthopedic fractures and other major orthopedic injuries.

Over 800 Alaskans are hospitalized every year with head or spine injuries. However, has shown that outcomes can be improved and secondary injury decreased or prevented by prompt, evidence-based interventions. As the only Level II state designated trauma center, ANMC serves as a reliable source of readily available neurosurgical care for Alaskans.



In the past 2 months, just looking at our trauma cases, we have saved a child who came in blind and blinded from abuse, a GSW to the head who walked out of here, a number of spine as well as cranial subdural and epidural, not to mention some complex spine trauma. I believe I've also started monitoring aneurysm, cerebral brain tumors, etc., and the incorporation of Neurosurgery that has not been available in Alaska before.

Dr. Roland Torres
Chief of Neurotrauma

TO SECURE THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF AMERICA'S TRAUMA CENTERS AND FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF TRAUMA CARE SO THAT ACCESS TO EXCELLENT CARE FOR THE SERIOUSLY INJURED IS ASSURED.

TRAUMA CENTER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
 BARTLETT REGIONAL HOSPITAL
 LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED TRAUMA CARE AT BARTLETT REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN 2012:

Designated Level IV Trauma Center: May 14, 2012

April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2012: 14,500 Emergency Department visits. Of those, 164 were trauma-related.

- **Focused Assessment with Sonography for Trauma (FAST Scan).** Trauma Care Funding supported purchase of a portable ultrasound machine located in Emergency Department, provides rapid non-invasive assessment and diagnosis of Trauma patients.
- **Advanced Trauma Operative Management Course:** The Advanced Trauma Operative Management (ATOM) course is an effective method of increasing surgical competence and confidence in the operative management of penetrating injuries. The State of Alaska Section of Emergency Programs collaborated with the San Diego State University Medical Center to bring this unprecedented opportunity to train rural general surgeons in damage control surgery for mass casualty/medical surge. Four general surgeons from Bartlett Regional Hospital attended this training.
- **Spinal Cord Patients:** Orthopedic physicians are the capability of operating and stabilizing limited types of spinal cord injuries.
- **The Trauma Program Manager** serves as a clinical resource; assists with education of staff, data collection, entry and monitoring, along with Performance Improvement Programs. This specialist meets frequently with Emergency Department staff and EMS to create effective communication and team building to benefit patient care. The Trauma Program Manager ensures consistent, quality trauma patient care.
- **Trauma Registry:** A primary purpose of aggregating trauma related data across the nation and within a state is to provide data for research purposes and to have evidence to direct and improve treatment which can maximize positive outcome for the trauma population. Good data provides evidence for benchmarking and process improvement activities as well as a base from which to develop standards of care.
- **Outreach and Prevention Programs:**
 - Trauma Informed care (caring for emotional needs of trauma patients)
 - Annual Equipment Fair
 - Advanced Trauma Life Support
 - Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses
 - Alaska Injury Prevention Center
 - Trauma Nurse Core Course
 - Responder Ready (Disaster Preparedness course for the public)

TRAUMA ACTIVITIES	TRAUMA COSTS
EQUIPMENT	\$83,394
PERSONNEL	\$8,083
TOTAL BARTLETT COSTS	\$91,477
TCF PAYOUT	\$91,477

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
BARTLETT REGIONAL HOSPITAL
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Hosting Advanced Trauma Life Support Course with the first Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses Course in 2013.
- Purchased 4 dedicated carts for pediatric care and resuscitation including pediatric defibrillator.
- Focused Assessment with Sonography in Trauma (FAST) Scan in Emergency Department for rapid non-invasive assessment and diagnosis of trauma patients.
- Dedicated Trauma Manager and Trauma Registrar.
- In process of upgrading to a Level III Trauma Center.

We had been using a utility cart, which was inadequate, and due to a lack of space, often created chaos during trauma codes. Our new pediatric trauma cart has drawers and shelves, is neatly organized, and definitely improves the care of our trauma patients.



TRAUMA CART

ISSUES AND AREAS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

- Fiscal sustainability of Trauma Program.
- Education and Training of Prehospital and Emergency Room Staff.
- Centralized Air Medical triage and transport
- Further integration with prehospital and disaster preparedness.

ATOM COURSE

The hands-on experience and use of new products in a non-emergent setting provided new tools to consider when time really matters.

Dr. Pamela Gruchacz

I learned new techniques and am better prepared to identify penetrating injuries.

Dr. Benjamin Miller

FAST SCAN



A 2011 STUDY FOUND THAT ADOPTION OF THE 2008 CDC'S FIELD TRIAGE GUIDELINES CAN DECREASE BY AT LEAST 12 PERCENT THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS WHO ARE INCORRECTLY TRIAGED

E. BROOKE LERNWER ET AL. "COMPARISON OF THE 1998 AND 2008 TRAUMA TRIAGE GUIDELINES: WHERE DO PATIENTS GO?" EMERGENCY CARE 16 (2011):12-17

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED TRAUMA CARE AT BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION IN 2012:

Designated Level IV Trauma Center: December 5, 2011

- **Video Laryngoscope** purchased with Trauma Care Funds provides practitioners with an enhanced view of the vocal cords with decreased time to intubation and increased success. The video laryngoscope is vital equipment for rural trauma centers with limited resources and transportation delays. It provides definitive airway management for compromised trauma patients.
- **Focused Assessment with Sonography for Trauma (FAST Scan).** This newly acquired portable ultrasound machine rapidly identifies intraperitoneal or pericardial bleeding and pneumothorax in the acutely injured trauma patient.
- Each Bristol Bay Area Community Health Clinic is now equipped with a **full-body vacuum splint.** Patients with potential spinal trauma can be splinted immediately in a position of comfort.
- **Broselow cart** purchased for specialized age- and weight-specific pediatric trauma resuscitation.
- **Continued Professional Trauma Education;** multiple core courses for village Community Health Aides, nursing and physicians; formalized intubation training for Emergency Physicians with staff Anesthesiologists at Alaska Native Medical Center.
- **Screening and Brief Intervention of Trauma Patients (SBIRT)** alcohol intervention training for all point-of-care staff.



TRAUMA ACTIVITIES	TRAUMA COSTS
TRAUMA EQUIPMENT	\$99,084.42
TOTAL BBAHC COSTS	\$99,084.42
TCF PAYOUT	\$92,045.45
	107%

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Down rescue-wraps have been purchased to prevent hypothermia before and during air-medical transport.
- Trauma stretchers were purchased to optimize care and resuscitation of trauma patients.
- Video laryngoscope was purchased to for difficult airway intubations.
- Incorporating EMS and prehospital trauma training and education.
- Monthly Performance Improvement Trauma filter reviews with Trauma Committee.



BBAHC has committed to building a strong patient-centered trauma team with the focus on quality care, evidenced-based practice, compliance and accurate record keeping, with the goal of reducing the number of preventable injuries.

ISSUES AND AREAS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

- Continued support and resources to village communities.
- Centralize Air Medical resources to streamline patient triage and transport process.

Trauma patients injured in rural Alaska are transported long distances to receive specialized definitive care. Specialized equipment used during transport to the trauma replacement equipment is replaced and given to the crew so rural communities are continuously supplied and at a continual level of preparedness.



THE DEATH RATE FROM UNINTENTIONAL INJURY IS MORE THAN 50% HIGHER IN RURAL AREAS THAN IN URBAN AREAS

SOURCE: MEDICAL DISABILITY ADVISOR HEALTH RESOURCES & SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
673RD MEDICAL GROUP
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

The 673RD Medical Group is committed to serving members of the Afghanistan population by providing over 221,000 outpatient visits, 6,300 surgeries, 444,000 prescriptions and 892,000 lab procedures.

TRAUMA ACTIVITIES	TRAUMA COSTS
PERSONNEL	\$100,000
TOTAL SUPPLIES	\$195,000
TCR PAYOUT	\$92,000
TRAUMA CARE FUND	\$387,000

ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED TRAUMA CARE AT THE 673RD MDG IN 2012:

Designated Level IV Trauma Center: February 13, 2012

In 2011: 32,536 Emergency Department visits. Of those, 12,000 were trauma patients.

- The Emergency Department is fully staffed 24/7 with a General Surgeon on call at all times.
- Radiology Department and staff are available 24/7/365. The Radiology department is just a short distance from the Emergency Department and is readily accessible.
- The availability of general surgery and operating rooms and Intensive Care Unit capability adds to the strength of the trauma program.
- **Spinal Cord Patients:** The hospital has the capability to stabilize and begin initial treatment of spinal cord or suspected spinal injuries.
- 673rd MDG has 8 bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The ICU has a total staff of 22 RNs and 6 Respiratory therapists. The average daily patient census is 5 patients/day. Length of Stay (LOS) is approximately 3 days.
- **Focused Assessment with Sonography for Trauma (FAST Scan)** exams are done in the ER and all emergency physicians and general surgeons are trained to provide this service.
- **The Trauma Program Manager (TPM)** is responsible for developing, implementing, and maintaining a cost-effective system of care for trauma patients throughout the continuum of care. The TPM serve as a clinical resource, assists with staff education, data collection, data entry and monitoring, along with Performance Improvement Programs.
- **Trauma Registry:** A primary purpose of aggregating trauma-related data across the nation and within a state is to provide data for research purposes and to have evidence to direct and improve treatment to maximize positive outcomes for the trauma population. Good data provides evidence for benchmarking and process improvement activities as well as a base from which to develop standards of care.

New Programs

The 673RD MDG is preparing to submit their trauma registry data to the Department of Defense Trauma Registry (DoDTR). The Department of Defense Trauma Registry provides data that leads to improved care of wounded warriors from point of injury through rehabilitation. It also generates actionable medical information leading to advancements in trauma care.

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
673RD MEDICAL GROUP
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Currently evaluating the feasibility of becoming a Level III Trauma Center.
- Trauma education is fully funded by the 673rd MDG for all physicians, nurses, mid levels, and medics at JBER.
- Trauma Education is well-documented and frequently offered for all staff, who are encouraged to receive trauma-related training.
- 100% compliance in staff trauma education requirements.
- Strong Performance Improvement Program.
- The 673RD MDG has mental health services readily available, as well as clinical social workers available through the VA clinic. Critical debriefing is available.



The 673RD MDG is a leader in injury prevention through fall prevention, alcohol awareness, suicide awareness/prevention, seatbelt safety and bicycle helmet safety activities readily available.

Monthly staff education and quarterly seminars reinforce the importance of safety and injury prevention.

ISSUES AND AREAS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

- Continue process of evaluating the feasibility of becoming a Level III Trauma Center.
- Continue to evaluate ability to receive civilian patients.

Strong consideration should be given to continue to grow the trauma program to a Level III designation status. By utilizing internal resources and core processes, adding additional staffing such as a regular full-time civilian trauma program service to its capabilities and fill a major gap of available trauma services within the local community.

T3RNC 2012 Level IV Verification Review



TRAUMA CARE FUND:

MT. EDGE CUMBE HOSPITAL
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED TRAUMA CARE AT MT. EDGE CUMBE HOSPITAL IN 2012:

Redesignated as a Level IV Trauma Center: December 15, 2010

- Mt. Edgumbe Hospital serves 18 Alaska Native villages and is a referral and treatment center for 12 area clinics. Mt. Edgumbe Hospital covers all of Southeast Alaska (42,162 square miles).
- Cervical Vacuum Immobilizer is now available for providers to use in trauma care. The immobilizer limits cervical spine range of motion in forward flexion, extension, and lateral flexion. It can be easily placed on an injured patient and keeps the patient immobilized during transport.
- Funding for the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) program for physicians and mid-level providers offers systemic and concise training for the early care of trauma patients. This program provides participants with a safe, reliable method for immediate management of the injured patient and the basic knowledge necessary to assess the patient's condition rapidly and accurately, resuscitate and stabilize the patient according to priority, determine if the patient's needs exceed a facility's capacity, arrange appropriately for the patient's inter-hospital transfer, and assure optimum care that does not deteriorate at any point during the evaluation, resuscitation, or transfer process.
- Introsseous (IO) Infusion capabilities added this year provide an alternative route for the administration of fluids and medications when difficulty with peripheral or central lines is encountered during resuscitation of critically ill and injured patients. Data indicates that IO infusions using the introsseous system may provide rapid, safe vascular access and may be a useful technique for reducing unacceptable delays in the provision of emergency treatment.

TRAUMA ACTIVITIES	TRAUMA COSTS
EQUIPMENT	\$70,009
EDUCATION	\$32,514
OUTREACH	\$250
TOTAL MEH COSTS	\$102,773
TCF PAYOUT	\$92,045
	117%



TRAUMA CARE FUND:

MT. EDGECUMBE HOSPITAL
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital has streamlined its transport process by utilizing the ED RN to make flight arrangements for transfer.
- Focused Assessment with Sonography for Trauma (FAST) scans support the appropriate timely transfer of trauma patients for further imaging or definitive surgical intervention, particularly in rural areas with limited resources.
- The majority of Intensive Care Nurses at Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital are cross-trained to the Emergency Department.
- A new CAT Scanner is available for diagnostics of emergent patients.
- Pelvic binders purchased with Trauma Care Funds are force-controlled circumferential pelvic belts scientifically proven to safely and effectively reduce and stabilize open-book pelvic ring fractures.
- Practitioners were trained in: Advanced Trauma Life Support, Emergency Nurse Pediatric Course, Trauma Nurse Core Course, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Course, Alaska Trauma Registry training, and Certified Emergency Nurse Training.

ISSUES AND AREAS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

- Remodeling of ED to ensure optimal patient care and flow with a centralized nursing station in the ED.
- Participation in State Trauma or EMS Board.

The TNCC Course is designed to provide the learner with cognitive knowledge and psychomotor skills in the treatment of trauma patients. The course is for nurses with limited emergency nursing critical experience or who work in a hospital with limited access to trauma patients.



DR. ELLIOT
BRUHL



The new Trauma Task Force—a multidisciplinary group working to streamline trauma care and process improvement—has positively influenced the care trauma patients receive at Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital.

SIXTEEN STATES REQUIRE TRAUMA CENTERS TO PAY A FEE FOR TRAUMA CENTER DESIGNATION STATUS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS

TRAUMA CARE FUND:

PROVIDENCE KODIAK ISLAND MEDICAL CENTER
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED TRAUMA CARE AT PROVIDENCE KODIAK ISLAND MEDICAL CENTER IN 2012:

Designation as a Level IV Trauma Center: May 11, 2012

In 2010, there were 3,860 Emergency Department visits. Of those, 1,269 were trauma patients

- **Community Education and Outreach:** Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center partnered with the Bayside Fire Department on the purchase of a Hazard House/Hazard Kitchen Project. A Bicycle Rodeo that distributed 200 bicycle helmets was partnered with the Kodiak Area Native Association. PKIMC also conducted Fall Prevention education at the local Senior Center. Falls are a leading cause of injury for elders in their area.
- **Purchase of Lifesaving Resuscitative Equipment:** A glidescope for the Emergency Room assisted with rapid intubations, cervical spine collars, and traction splints.
- **Trauma Professional Nursing Education:** The *Trauma Nurse Core Course* and *Emergency Nurse Pediatric Course* enhanced the level of trauma care by the Emergency Department, Operating Room, and departmental Registered Nurses.
- **Prehospital Trauma Life Support** was provided as a community service for Prehospital Providers and Fire Departments.

TRAUMA ACTIVITIES	TRAUMA COSTS
TRAUMA PERSONNEL	\$138,008
EDUCATION	\$40,500
TRAUMA OUTREACH	\$21,980
TOTAL PKIMC COSTS	\$227,288
TCF PAYOUT	\$92,045
	247%



TRAUMA CARE FUND:

PROVIDENCE KODIAK ISLAND MEDICAL CENTER
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Dedicated Trauma Coordinator position.
- In 2010, one third of the 3,860 Emergency Department visits were trauma patients.
- The Emergency Department now has a Rapid Sequence Intubation Kit.
- The PKIMC Trauma Program now provides EMS quality improvement data to improve patient outcomes.
- PKIMC has established transfer protocols for burn patients, spinal cord patients, and head injury patients.

The new Screening, Brief Interventions, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) form now used in the Emergency Department provides an integrated approach to early intervention with at-risk substance users before more severe consequences occur.



ISSUES AND AREAS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

- Ability to sustain on-call physicians, subspecialists, and nurses.
- Continue progress towards Level III Trauma Center.



Falls are the #1 presenting trauma to the PKIMC Emergency Department. By providing community education, PKIMC hopes to decrease the incidence of falls and associated injuries.

We don't heal in isolation, but in community.

— S. Kelley Harrell

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
PROVIDENCE SEWARD MEDICAL CENTER
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED TRAUMA CARE AT PROVIDENCE SEWARD MEDICAL CENTER IN 2012:

Designated as a Level IV Trauma Center: March 30, 2012

- Three Emergency Physicians attended a *Difficult Airway Course* to improve critical intubation skills.
- Increased communication between PSMC and local EMS crews and Fire Departments resulting from trauma system activities has improved patient care and outcomes.
- PSMC maintains a staffing level for on-call nursing staff 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A "back up" physician is available to respond to trauma or critical care needs.
- Emergency Department staff participates in the Regional EMS Council.
- Purchase of Pediatric Laryngoscope with Trauma Care Funds improves difficult pediatric airway management.

Outreach and Prevention Programs:

- "Trauma Nurses Talk Tough" to local area high schools students on risky behaviors
- Family and Friends CPR
- Kids Don't Float
- Bicycle Rodeo
- Prehospital Trauma Life Support Course

TRAUMA ACTIVITIES	TRAUMA COSTS
PERSONNEL	\$9,762
EQUIPMENT	\$41,284
EDUCATION	\$50,569
OUTREACH	\$250
TOTAL PSMC COSTS	\$101,816
TCF PAYOUT	\$93,045
	110%



TRAUMA CARE FUND:

PROVIDENCE SEWARD MEDICAL CENTER
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- PSMC streamlined the processes surrounding a critically injured patient with strategic organization of two crash carts.
- Multiple warming techniques are now available for trauma resuscitations.
- PSMC now has monitoring equipment for safe and effective transport of trauma patients from the Emergency Department for procedures (CAT scan, Radiology).
- 100% of Emergency Department has required trauma training certifications.
- Trauma Medical Director participated in *Tactical Combat Casualty Care* Course.
- Integrated trauma education with EMS and Disaster Preparedness.
- Increased staff participation in Professional Organizations.

ISSUES AND AREAS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

- Air medical transport dedicated aircraft crews located in Anchorage can be problematic for delayed patient transport, consider alternative bases.
- Purchase of FAST scan for definitive rapid diagnosis of blunt injury trauma patients.

Airway management is one of the most critical and difficult techniques in the Emergency Department (ED). Three ED physicians attended a Difficult Airway Management course and learned a rapid and systematic approach to airway difficulties. In the rural setting with limited resources, this education has proven lifesaving in at least three documented cases in the first six months since the training.

VIDEO
LARYNGOSCOPE



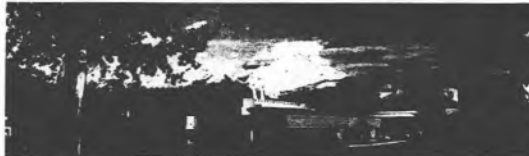
Trauma nurses work with patients of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. They decisively respond to problems and often assess, treat and stabilize patients within minutes. Trauma nurses work highly independently, are specialized, and are difficult to recruit, train, and retain, especially in rural communities. Funding enabled trauma nursing and provided on-call status for trauma activations.

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
 PROVIDENCE VALDEZ MEDICAL CENTER
 LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED TRAUMA CARE AT PROVIDENCE VALDEZ MEDICAL CENTER (PVMC) IN 2012:

Designated as a Level IV Trauma Center: April 12, 2012

- Providence Valdez Medical Center is an 11-bed acute care facility with one ICU/monitored bed. The Med-Surg Unit has one negative pressure bed. The Emergency Department has access to five outpatient beds for Emergency Department overflow. There is one operating suite and the hospital has two ventilators. A 10-bed long-term care facility is located at PVMC.
- Protocols for trauma team activation are based primarily on prehospital information. Protocols help ensure that severely injured incoming patients receive multidisciplinary care immediately upon admission.
- The purchase of trauma-specific equipment through the Trauma Care Fund has significantly increased the opportunity for successful patient outcomes.
- The hospital allies with many community partners in community-wide prevention programs. Highlights include: Kid's Don't Float, car seat and bicycle helmet distribution; 1 Voice Youth Coalition; Sound Wellness Alliance Network; Healthier You, and multiple other community programs.
- Staff participated in collaborative simulation lab training with UAA. Additional training options included workshops such as trauma during pregnancy as one of the multiple educational opportunities.
- The revised PVMC trauma activation form allows for more consistent documentation of hourly vital signs, Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS), trauma team arrival times, and procedure times.



TRAUMA ACTIVITIES	TRAUMA COSTS
TRAUMA EQUIPMENT	\$13,520
TRAUMA PERSONNEL	\$77,105
LVL IV IMPLEMENTATION	23,050
TOTAL PVMC COSTS	\$113,675
TCF PAYOUT	\$92,045
	123%

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
PROVIDENCE VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- From a prevention standpoint, the new focus on trauma has acted as the catalyst for renewed attention on community outreach and awareness.
- The collaborative effort between the Emergency Department and the Fire Department has led to smoother operational flow.
- Nursing and prehospital staff received Trauma Intravenous training.
- PVMC and its EMS prehospital providers communicate via a dedicated radio or cell phone service.

With limited resources at rural facilities, the early recognition of major trauma and expeditious transfer of patients from the trauma team improves patient outcome. Emergency Department physicians, nurses, and ancillary staff ensure best practice methods in the effort to improve trauma response, management, and accountability.



ISSUES AND AREAS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

- One of the noted deficiencies of the facility during the trauma designation process was in respiratory therapy support, a vital function to the trauma team. The respiratory therapist assists with airway and ventilator management, including emergency ventilation, ventilator management, and pulmonary treatment.
- The Trauma Medical Director and multiple Emergency Department Physicians expressed some frustration with the transfer process of patients to Anchorage facilities. Concerns about "HIPAA violations" from receiving facilities affect their release of patient information and continuity of care. This issue is being addressed through continued education from the state office.



PVMC preparation for Level IV trauma center designation included staff education, trauma registry, performance improvement, and trauma committee meetings.

THE NATIONAL STUDY ON THE COSTS AND OUTCOMES OF TRAUMA (NSCOT) IDENTIFIED A 25% REDUCTION IN MORTALITY FOR SEVERELY INJURED ADULT PATIENTS WHO RECEIVED CARE AT A LEVEL I TRAUMA CENTER RATHER THAN AT A NONTRAUMA CENTER.

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
SITKA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

**ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED TRAUMA CARE AT SITKA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
IN 2012:**

Redesignation as a Level IV Trauma Center: December 14, 2010

- Emergency Department modifications improved trauma care for rapid diagnosis and immediate treatment and stabilization of life-threatening injuries.
- SCH purchased multiple external warming devices for trauma patients. Actions to reduce cold exposure and prevent further heat loss are an important and integrated part of trauma care, along with immediate care for life-threatening conditions.
- A hospital paging system created for trauma activations increased the timely response of the on-call trauma team.
- An Intra-Compartmental Pressure Monitor System is now available for immediate or continuous reading of compartment pressure which can potentially save lives and limbs.



TRAUMA ACTIVITIES	TRAUMA COSTS
EQUIPMENT	\$92,748
EDUCATION	\$7,500
TOTAL SCH COSTS	\$100,248
TCF PAYOUT	\$92,045
	109%

TRAUMA CARE FUND:

SITKA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Multiple advanced trauma course for nurses and physicians were offered to staff to reach 100% compliance
- Trauma Stretchers were purchased to deliver a secure, stable platform for assessing and attending to patient injuries.
- Small pharmacy annex created in Emergency Department to expedite the ability to administer life-saving drugs.
- Purchase of exam lights in the Emergency Department for correct lighting to reduce chance of error or omission, plus it extends the amount of time required to complete a procedure.

ISSUES AND AREAS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

- Ability of Emergency Department to handle patient loads and improve patient care by tailoring the limited space to patient needs.
- Continuing Trauma Education for staff.



Long range plans include working with Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital, Southeast Region EMS, and the University of Alaska Southeast Campus on training instructors and bringing more trauma-related courses to Sitka.

Sitka Community Hospital has begun to explore the possibility of starting a Regional Trauma Symposium. This would incorporate various trauma-related programs into a single venue.



UNINTENTIONAL INJURY IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AMERICANS AGES 1 TO 44.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
SOUTH PENINSULA HOSPITAL
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED TRAUMA CARE AT SOUTH PENINSUSLA HOSPITAL IN 2012:

Level IV Trauma Center designation: April 26, 2012

- **Purchase of a Glide Scope** for the Trauma Room: The day after this new piece of equipment was in place, the equipment was used successfully on a trauma patient that the physician was unable to intubate with the traditional equipment.
- **Procedural Sedation Certification** by nursing staff: SPH was able to offer financial support for nursing staff to complete an intensive on-line Procedural Sedation certification course, which has now been completed by 11 of 14 Emergency Department nurses.
- **Improved Audio System with EMS and State Communications:** With four EMS services in SPH's catchment area, communications were not optimal. New systems put in place now allow in-field communications between the Emergency Department and all EMS services.
- **Board Certification for ED nurses:** Encouragement for ER nurses to become board certified in Emergency Nursing (CEN) has resulted in an increase in nursing staff who undertake this professional step. Three nurses were board certified prior to Level IV designation; two more have completed certification, and two others are in the process of obtaining certification.
- **Improved Lighting in the Surgical Center/OR:** Improved lighting has greatly facilitated improved surgical processes.
- **Trauma Team Activation:** New policies have facilitated increased awareness and procedures for partial or full Trauma Team Activation. Recently, a severely burned patient was stabilized and then medevaced to Harborview Burn Center in Seattle. Within eight minutes of arrival at SPH, the patient had two large bore IVs placed, was sedated and intubated, and the surgeon was performing an escharotomy.
- **New RSI Policy in place:** Among other new policies, a *Rapid Sequence Intubation Policy* was implemented with approval by the Anesthesia Department and ER nurse training completed.
- **Trauma Coordinator position implemented:** Posted in December, 2012, a 0.3 FTE position was created for a Trauma Coordinator. This person will not only be responsible for gathering and entering Alaska Trauma Registry data, but will also be responsible for ongoing skill training with the ER nurses.

TRAUMA ACTIVITIES	TRAUMA COSTS
PERSONNEL	\$22,202.00
LEVEL IV	\$6,500.00
OPREPARATION	
EQUIPMENT	\$84,994.00
EDUCATION	\$6,301.00
TOTAL SPH COSTS	\$99,997.00
	\$92,045.45
RETURN ON INVESTMENT	108%

TRAUMA CARE FUND:

SOUTH PENINSULA HOSPITAL
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 100% of Emergency Department physicians are *Advanced Trauma Life Support* certified
- Trauma Crash Cart age-appropriate equipment purchased
- Purchase of life-saving resuscitative equipment includes: Life Pak monitor, procedural head lamp, examination lights, EKG integration, Glidescope
- Continued robust Injury Prevention for community



DR. GREG
HOUGH

ISSUES AND AREAS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

- Continued improved integration and communication of EMS and SPH
- Ability to maintain highly trained physician and nursing staff
- Support to system readiness
- Continued support of prevention programs



Emergency physicians also provide core trauma care functions within rural hospitals, as trauma medical directors and by participation on multiple trauma-related multi-disciplinary committees. While this requires substantial financial support initially, improved outcomes and increased patient and provider satisfaction should return at least a portion of the investment.

THE OPTIMAL CARE OF THE TRAUMA PATIENT IS BEST ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS OF THE TRAUMA TEAM USE A SYSTEMATIC, STANDARDIZED APPROACH TO THE CARE OF THE INJURED PATIENT.

EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION (ENAI)

TRAUMA CARE FUND:

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA REGIONAL HOSPITAL
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED TRAUMA CARE AT YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA HEALTH CORPORATION REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN 2012:

Redesignated as a Level IV Trauma Center: June 10, 2010

- Medical Exam Lights now assist in performing in-depth exams and minor procedures that potentially remain in the Emergency Department without having to utilize an operating room and OR staff.
- Paging system update allows for group pages in mass casualty disaster notification.
- Video teleconferencing upgrades for direct consultation for trauma patients enhance patient outcomes.
- The Trauma Medical Director provides ongoing, real-time feedback with the Bethel Fire Department that has improved outcomes and patient care.
- Board certification is now required of physicians within 4 years of eligibility. This requirement will continue to ensure YKDRH maintains a staff of highly skilled physicians.
- Review of trauma processes in area villages includes assessment of their equipment, trauma resuscitation room, and practices.
- Robust Injury Prevention Programs include: Kids Don't Float; Gun Safe Project; FOCUS on Safety Deployment; Reflective Tape-Be Safe, Be Seen; and the Suicide Readiness Assessment.



TRAUMA ACTIVITIES	TRAUMA COSTS
TRAUMA EQUIPMENT	\$64,145
TRAUMA PERSONNEL	\$35,855
TOTAL YKDRH COSTS	\$100,000
TCF PAYOUT	\$92,045
	109%

TRAUMA CARE FUND:
YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA REGIONAL HOSPITAL
LEVEL IV TRAUMA CENTER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Cat Scanner in place and functional since June 2008
- EMS has moved toward a policy of rapid transport
- Trauma Education has included the Trauma Program Manager to shadow the ANMC Trauma Program Manager for training.
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) of admitted trauma patients has been such a successful program that YKDRH is in the process of implementing screening for all admitted patients



YKDRH has committed to building a strong patient-centered trauma team with the focus on quality care, evidenced-based practice, complete and concise record keeping, with the goal of reducing the number of preventable injuries.

ISSUES AND AREAS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

- Provide sustainability of Trauma Registry through YKDRH staff rather than through contract with an outside entity to review, abstract, and submit data.
- Improvement of patient transport from village to Anchorage and expediting Bethel to Anchorage Medevacs.
- Continued training for village Community Health Aides.

Trauma centers must maintain a trauma registry. Trauma registries collect, abstract, code, and report data on traumatic injuries. They review medical records and communicate with Trauma Team staff to identify reportable cases and collect data on severity and cause of injury, course of care and outcome, and code and enter data into the Alaska Trauma Registry database.



TWENTY-FOUR STATES HAVE IDENTIFIED A SPECIFIC ROLE FOR THE TRAUMA SYSTEM IN THE STATES' DISASTER PLAN

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS



K-12 Robotics - STEM Workforce Development: \$400,000
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Skills for Alaska

Request: \$400,000 investment in targeted, cost-effective, high quality STEM education opportunities for Alaska students in K-12 Robotics.

Robotics has a proven track record in Alaska, engaging students, ages 6-18 in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields. The flagship program, *FIRST* Robotics, has propelled Alaska to national distinction:

- **Alaska has the highest per capita participation in the nation for *FIRST* LEGO League** (ages 9-14) and ***FIRST* Tech Challenge** (introductory high school level)
- The gender gap is being closed with **45% of Alaska's *FIRST* LEGO League participants girls**, as compared with national average of 25-30% female
- There are ***FIRST* teams in 50 Alaska communities**, in 25 School Districts
- Over **2,000 students** are involved in this after school, competitive program
- ***FIRST* has successfully tapped local volunteerism, with over 4,000 volunteer hours** invested in hosting tournaments alone

A *FIRST* robotics motto is "the hardest fun you'll ever have." Like a team sport, it rewards excellence, perseverance, skill and hard work. Tournaments are designed to be memorable and exciting, and all the while students gain computer programming skills, researching real world problems, working together as a team, and presenting their findings to panels of adults; All this is done on a student's own time, after school.

Alaska's success with robotics relies on the commitment of coaches, mentors, and school districts, as well as a system of statewide coordination that makes the program accessible and possible. Since 2009 this infrastructure has been provided by STEM AK, a statewide program of the Juneau Economic Development Council, with funding from the U.S. Department of Defense, and state funding in 2011. With declining federal dollars, an ongoing commitment of state funds is needed to maintain these dynamic programs that prepare students for workforce challenges of the 21st century.

There is more to robotics than *FIRST* Robotics ---

Underwater robotics is another robotics strand with tremendous potential. Given Alaska's extensive coastline, inland waterways, and reliance on the seafood industry for jobs in coastal areas, underwater robotics offers a meaningful hands-on engineering experience for students. As Alaska looks to develop offshore resources, including oil, gas, and minerals, underwater robotics are likely to play an important role in the development and extraction of these resources. Currently two underwater robotics

Mary Hakala, Coordinator
STEM AK, a program of the Juneau Economic Development Council
mhakala@jedc.org
www.STEMak.org



programs are offered, targeting middle school ages -- SeaPerch ROV (Remote Operated Vehicle), and SeaGlide, an underwater glider being developed in partnership with the U.S. Navy. **Since 2009 the SeaPerch ROV project led by STEM AK has impacted 4500 students, with 1500 kits distributed, 170 teachers trained, and 2 regional competitions held.**

An area of growing interest is **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)**, or “drones”. These **avionic robots** offer tremendous potential as research and search and rescue tools. Work is underway to develop curricula and materials to engage students in engineering UAS systems, for in-school and out-of-school learning times.

Background – STEM Education Imperative for Alaska:

At its simplest STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. At its most practical it represents skills critical to job opportunities and economic growth. On the individual level, it is about skills needed to gain access to living wage jobs and an array of career opportunities – whether a student’s postsecondary path is college, technical school, apprenticeship programs or directly into the workforce.

By 2018, the Alaska Department of Labor projects over 8,000 job openings in STEM related jobs in Alaska, not including the fastest growing occupational sector – health care – a STEM intensive field. All told, the future is bright for Alaska students who graduate from high school with a solid base of STEM skills.

Many Alaska students are ill prepared for the training required for STEM career pathways.

- Of college bound students taking the ACT test, 52% did not meet college-readiness benchmarks in mathematics, and 70% did not meet college-readiness benchmarks in science.
- In 2012 only 13 Alaska students took the AP subject test in computer science, despite the ubiquitous nature of computer technology and commensurate importance of computer science skills.

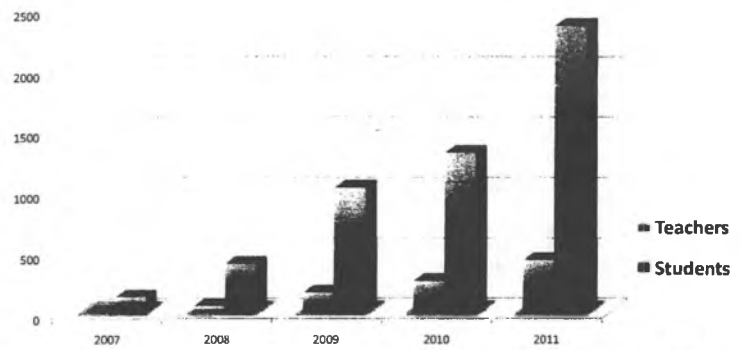
Increasingly, STEM skills are gatekeepers to economic opportunity and living wage jobs. This operating budget request reflects a targeted investment to increase the number of STEM capable students ready for postsecondary training, whether their path is to college, technical school, or on the job training.

Robotics is an effective, targeted investment in workforce development to complement and support the K-12 educational system.

Mary Hakala, Coordinator
STEM AK, a program of the Juneau Economic Development Council
mhakala@jedc.org
www.STEMak.org

STEM AK - Building Momentum

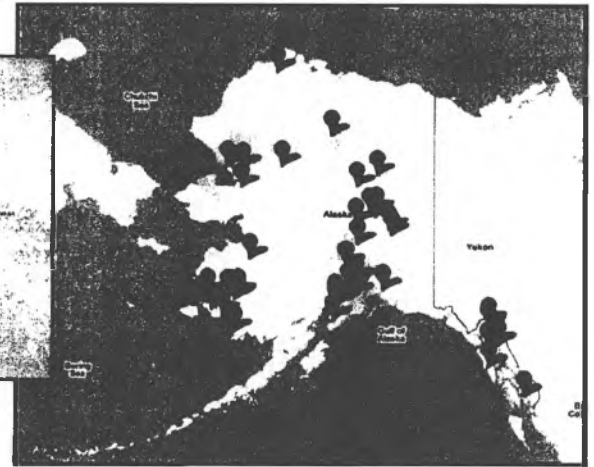
Overall Impact (all funding sources, not cumulative)



FIRST Robotics – Geographic Reach



2007



2012





Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)

"Look what we take for granted in our everyday lives: the Internet and cellphones, MRI scanners and microwave ovens... cancer treatments made from bacteria we've programmed for benevolence. All these American innovations and thousands more come to us from science, mathematics, engineering, and technology—no, let's rephrase that: They came to us from people schooled in those disciplines and from people associated with them who supplied the entrepreneurial energies and capital that the scientist, engineer, and technologist may have lacked.

The men and women who will make America's tomorrow are in school and college today. They are the human capital at the core of any productive economy. And here's a fact about them. There are too few of these people in the scientific disciplines. America, the leader, now lags."

--Mortimer B. Zuckerman, editor in chief, U.S. New & World Report, September 27, 2011

What is STEM?

At its simplest, STEM education is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; at its most practical, it represents skills critical to job opportunities and economic growth.

Why STEM?

- Jobs

By 2018 Alaska Department of Labor projects there will be over 8,000 job openings in STEM-related jobs in Alaska (2,700 new STEM jobs and 5,400 more openings as workers retire), and this data does not include the fastest growing occupation sector – health care. (Alaska Economic Trends, Feb. 2011)

In the health care sector, Alaska Dept. of Labor projects a 27.4% increase in health care practitioners and technical occupations -STEM intensive fields- by 2020. (Alaska Economic Trends, October 2012)

On the national level STEM professions are second only to Healthcare as the fastest growing occupational category in the U.S. economy. (Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, *STEM*, 2011)

- Pay & Opportunities

According to the Alaska Department of Labor, STEM workers in Alaska earn an average of \$73,000 a year, \$28,000 more per year on average than non-STEM workers. (Alaska Economic Trends, Feb. 2011)

- STEM skills are in demand

STEM *skills* include critical thinking, complex problem solving, systems analysis, troubleshooting, application of math & science, design and application of technologies.

STEM *skills* are in demand across the entire U.S. job market and occupational sectors.

Individuals with STEM skills enjoy higher earnings, regardless of whether they work in STEM or non-STEM occupations. (U.S. Dept of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Admin, *STEM*, Oct 2011)



Nationally there are more STEM jobs than there are skilled workers: 1.7 STEM jobs for every 1 unemployed person; For non-STEM workers, there are 4.3 unemployed for every 1 job.

Are Alaska students prepared for STEM opportunities?

In 2012, 52% of Alaska students taking the ACT test did not meet college-readiness benchmarks in mathematics and 70% did not meet benchmarks in science. (ACT benchmarks represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses, ACT 2012)

In 2012, only 13 Alaska students took the SAT AP test for computer science; juxtapose that with the many career options that exist in computer systems design, & related fields. (AK Department of Labor, Industry & Occupational Forecasts 2010-2020)

Is STEM Education important for all K-12 students and schools?

STEM provides a framework for methodically analyzing and tackling problems; it offers a young person access to high-demand, lucrative jobs and future prospects - in Alaska and across the U.S. Given our changing economy, STEM skills are important for all students....

STEM policy and practical needs in Alaska:

- Elevate importance of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and STEM in the formal education system.
- Invest strategically in STEM opportunities for Alaska youth through formal and informal education systems – both during the school day as well as during out of school times.
- Increase the number of highly skilled K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics teachers in Alaska.
- Track success and value of informal and formal STEM education investments to Alaska students and Alaska's economy through longitudinal studies.

"Talent will be the oil of the 21st century."
Deborah Winice-Smith of the Council on Competitiveness

"...the education level of our citizenry is inextricably tied to Alaska's economic development."
Alaska Legislative Task Force on College and Career Readiness, April 2011

Resources & References of Note:

- Alaska Department of Labor, Alaska Economic Trends, *Science, Technology, Engineering and Math*, February 2011; Industry & Occupational Forecasts 2010-2020
- Georgetown University, Center on Education and the Workforce, *STEM, October 2011: Hard Times, College Majors, Unemployment and Earnings: Not all College Degrees are Created Equal*, Jan. 4, 2011
- New York Times, Paul Tough: *What if the Secret to Success is Failure?*, Sept. 14, 2011,
- U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Issue Brief, #03-11: *STEM: Good Jobs Now and for the Future*, July 2011
- www.teachengineering.org/engrdesignprocess.php, *Teach Engineering*



Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Cobban <cobban@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 8:39 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Fw: school

Dear sir: I think the Farm to School program should be continued. It teaches the kids to eat healthier!

Sincerely, Delores Cobban

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Judy Kepes <judkep41@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 5:09 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Representative.Bill.Stolze@akleg.gov; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Representative.David.Guttenber@akleg.gov; Representative.Tammie.Wilson@ak.leg.gov; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Mike Hawker; Sean.Parnell@alaska.gov
Subject: School Funding

We moved to Alaska four years ago leaving behind the under funded, demoralized schools of rural Northern New York. My children have thrived at Trailside Elementary, Hanshew Middle School and Service High School in Anchorage. I've seen first hand in New York the detrimental affects of cut backs year after year. Teachers and parents become discouraged and this in turn is passed on to the students. Alaska has some good stuff happening at their schools. The students are our future. Fund the schools.

Judy Kepes

8810 Rendon Drive, Anchorage AK

P.S. The education my children have received in Alaska has taught them to be good citizens. They participate in government and vote.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Paul Horton <pfhorton2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 2:12 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Behavioral Health

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear sir: We urge the retention of the present funding for behavioral health which is becoming more important in our society for all! Paul and Roberta Sent from my iPad

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Jenkins, Jerry <JJenkins@acmhs.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 12:54 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Request to Reconsider Behavioral Health Cuts

Co-Chair Austerman, Co-Chair Stoltze, Vice-Chair Neuman and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee, I am writing to respectfully request you reconsider cuts to the Division of Behavioral Health budget.

As I currently understand the proposal, the reduction is not specified and will result in a base funding reduction primarily impacting community providers as Anchorage Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS). ACMHS is a span of life provider currently serving 2-98 years of age. Services target children with severe emotional disturbance and adults with serious mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders.

I will summarize in two manners.

First, community based recovery oriented services are the least expensive of those funded by the State of Alaska. Results are tangible. ACMHS is a critical factor in the reduction of census at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute. We have tracked preadmission to ACMHS use of API to post admission and find a 80+% reduction in API days. There are similar results for the Department of Corrections. Children's Services focus on family preservation and improvement in life domains (home, community and school). We get results. We get results not with the easy cases but with those experience complex adverse life events/trauma. OCS is a primary referral source for trauma focused services.

Second, reductions in community based grants impacts the ability to utilize Medicaid. The short version is the current Alaska rates for behavioral health do not cover the actual cost of providing services. More information is available should anyone desire it.

In closing, I urge you not to decrease grant funding for behavioral health care that effects the base services.

Thank you for your reconsideration.

Regards,

j2

Jerry A. Jenkins, M.Ed., MAC
Chief Executive Officer
Anchorage Community Mental Health Services
4020 Folker Street
Anchorage, AK 99508

907-261-5310- Office

jjenkins@acmhs.com

Our Vision is "wellness for everyone."

Our Mission is to promote recovery and wellness by providing consumer-driven behavioral healthcare services.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Ferguson, Ashley <Ashley.Ferguson@providence.org>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 9:19 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Steve Thompson
Cc: Fong, Joseph; Rivard, Bethany; 'Rabeau, Julie A (HSS)'
Subject: Regarding State Trauma Program
Attachments: img-311081509-0001.pdf

All—

Please see the attached document from Dr Robert Reeg in regards to the proposed cuts to the State Trauma Fund.

Thank you,

Ashley Ferguson

Project Coordinator
Providence Seward Medical and Care Center
417 1st Ave
PO Box 365
Seward, AK 99664
(907) 224-2836
Fax: (907) 224-8826

This message is intended for the sole use of the addressee, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee you are hereby notified that you may not use, copy, disclose, or distribute to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received this message in error, please immediately advise the sender by reply email and delete this message.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Mike Satre (CAP) <msatre@alaskaproducers.org>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 8:36 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; =?iso-8859-1?Q?'Representative.Cathy.Mu=F1oz=40akleg.gov'?=@mxjnu01.legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB65: Request to Add UAS Director of Mine Training
Attachments: HB65_CAP_Comments.pdf

Co-Chair Austerman, Co-Chair Stoltze and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Please find the attached letter requesting the addition of funding in the operating budget for the Director of Mine Training position at the University of Alaska Southeast's Center for Mine Training.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at your convenience.

Thank you,

Mike Satre

Executive Director

Council of Alaska Producers

PO Box 33499 Juneau, AK 99803

Phone: +907.957.2149

E-Mail: msatre@alaskaproducers.org

www.alaskaproducers.org

NOTICE: This message is intended for the use of the named recipient and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by reply or by telephone (call us collect) and immediately delete this message and all of its attachments.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Melissa Kemberling <mkemberling@healthymatsu.org>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 7:15 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: recapitalization of the Trauma Care Fund

Representative Austerman,

I urge you to authorize recapitalization of the Trauma Care Fund for state Fiscal Year 2014. The data collected through this program is crucial for public health programs that work on preventing injury and injury death in the State. Specifically, the Mat-Su has a significantly higher injury death rate than the rest of the country 50 deaths per 100,000 for Mat-Su vs. 40 for the US. We need to continue to develop initiatives to address this high rate of injury mortality and morbidity. The Mat-Su Health Foundation is using this data for our Community Health Assessment in an attempt to improve the health in the Valley.

Sincerely,

Dr. Melissa Kemberling

Melissa Kemberling, PhD, MPH
Director of Program Planning and Evaluation
Mat-Su Health Foundation
950 E. Bogard Road, Ste. 218
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 352-2894
(907) 232-7036 cell
(907) 352-2865 fax
mkemberling@healthymatsu.org

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: LaMarr Anderson <lamarra05@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 10:11 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Behavioral Health Svcs \$8.3M Reduction Recommendation

Honorable Austerman, House Finance Committee Member

You're very busy....have massive amounts of reading material coming at you from all sides. So, I'll be brief and to the point:

As a sitting board member (and it's Finance Committee Chairman) for Mat-Su Health Services, the primary community behavioral and integrated primary care health provider in the Mat-Su valley, I can outline from personal knowledge the devastating destruction that a \$8.4million reduction in state support for behavioral health grants will cause: We simply will be unable to maintain the barely sustainable medical and psychiatric crisis intervention, and the associated on-going stabilizing outpatient therapy and community support, that we currently diligently strive to provide.

Currently, we are not really able to fully meet the growing community need for behavioral health services but through careful stewardship and prioritization of resources and patient needs, we continue to be able to meet most crisis intervention needs and provide continuity in follow-up outpatient therapy and interventions. We are only able to continue providing such as long as current federal, state, and local funding sources remain constant, at a minimum, let alone if handed a thirty-one percent (31%) reduction of state support (which the \$8.3million proposed reduction represents).

Please consider the actual savings to our state and communities in long term costs by ensuring Alaskan experiencing serious mental illness/behavioral health issues (manifested by severe emotional disturbances, domestic violence and sexual assault, mental health treatment and substance abuse (to name a few), are treated through preventive/early intervention and continuing supportive therapy and support programs that are possible now because of current state Behavioral Health Services funding levels. We can't fully meet the growing mental/behavioral health needs of our communities now with the limited resources and funding we have....let alone with cuts!

We can pay now, even though painful....or pay 2-5 times more down the road.... when it will be greatly more painful and devastating. Let's not be short-sighted.

LaMarr Anderson

PO Box 3808

Palmer, Alaska

907 232-5082

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Mike and Andi Story <andimike@ak.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 9:03 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Representative.Bill.Stolze@akleg.gov; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Mike Hawker
Cc: 'School Board'; Gelbrich, Glenn; Sean.Parnell@alaska.gov; Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Beth Kerttula; dorothy.knuth@alaska.gov
Subject: FW: HB65 Support for Education Funding
Attachments: 3 4 13 JSD letter to Austerman.pdf; Testimony HF 2014.docx

Dear Honorable House Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in House Finance this past week. I ran out of time to share my last paragraph that I had prepared for testimony, which is about the importance of early learning for children. I share it below for your consideration:

The state of Maryland's public education system was ranked No. 1 in education for the fifth year in a row by the nonprofit Editorial Projects in Education which publishes Education Week (NY Times article on Jan. 10, 2013). Maryland received high marks for its investment in early childhood education and policies related to college and workforce readiness. The Juneau School Board urges full support for funding all of the requested amount of Governor Parnell's investments in early childhood programs in the operating budget: Pre-Kindergarten pilot programs; Best Beginnings, and Parents as Teachers. When kids enter kindergarten ready to learn it is a huge savings to the state and a guarantee in increasing the graduation rate.

My full testimony is attached for reference. In addition, the letter from Board President, Sally Saddler, and myself, on behalf of the Juneau School Board, regarding HB65. Thank you for your service to Alaskans!

Sincerely,

Andi Story

12069 Cross Street

Juneau, Alaska 99801

(907) 789 - 4292

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: michael stanton <wmichaelstanton@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 3:44 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: CUTS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRANTS

TO MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

AS A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL AND AS A CONSUMER OF COMMUNITY BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, I AM OPPOSED TO ANY -CUTS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRANTS. OVER TWENTY PLUS YEARS AS A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL HAS EXPOSED ME TO THE BENEFITS AND NEEDS OF THESE CRUCIAL GRANTS AND THE POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT OF SUCH GRANTS.

AS A MEDICALLY RETIRED COMBAT VETERAN, I SERIOUSLY DOUBT I WOULD BE HERE, ALIVE, AND A FUNCTIONING MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT SUCH SERVICES. THESE SERVICES SAVED MY LIFE AND I AM INDEBTED AND GRATEFUL.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES ALASKAN COMMUNITIES WILL SUFFER IF SUCH FUNDING IS DRASTICALLY CUT.

SINCERELY YOURS,

W MICHAEL STANTON, MSc.
PO BOX 2067
PALMER, AK 99645
-

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Rebecca Traylor <wbusters@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2013 11:03 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz
Subject: FW: BUDGET:State -wide Independent LIVING Council

From: wbusters@hotmail.com
To: representative.mike.chenault@akleg.gov
Subject: BUDGET:State -wide Independent LIVING Council
Date: Sat, 9 Mar 2013 23:57:53 -0800

Hello!.....,

Over the last two days, you have listened to hours of public comment.
I know, I have listened with you.
First of all, *Thank You* for your service and commitment to Alaska!
It is obvious how much need is out there!

I am writing in support of restoring the \$ 100k increment for Independent Living that the GOVERNOR has included in his Operating Budget. This (rather small) INCREMENT has far-reaching effects. The cost to the State of housing and providing for just ONE Alaskan in a long-term care facility such as Denali Center in Fairbanks, *averages*, and *can exceed*, \$100,000 per year. Our Centers for Independent Living are asking for that same amount;.....which would allow C.enters for I.ndependent L.iving to provide services to approximately *33* Alaskans. To me; it seems simple.....a "no-brainer".

Centers for Independent Living provide a unique set of services...which are NOT duplicated anywhere, in any platform or budget. It would BE EASY to dismiss ..as services are frequently using the term "Independent Living" to describe what they do. I urge you to look in to the differences in programs, in depth.

Representative Tammie Wilson has previously asked for a copy of our "Study" (i.e. Agnew::Beck report) regarding our Independent Living Rural inclusion and expansion plan. Instead of burdening you each with said 20 - page document; you can easily access it on our SILC website.....www.silcalaska.org

Thank you.....each of YOU; for your consideration!!
Please feel free to ask questions, or require further documents.
=> Sincerely,
Rebecca Traylor
(907)490-2898

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Shana Crondahl <akedupdate@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2013 5:32 PM
To: Shana Crondahl
Subject: HFin budget testimony given after 4pm, Wednesday, March 6
Attachments: Saturday, March 9, 2013 AKEDUPDATE.pdf

Hello,

Attached is a report containing testimony given to the House Finance Committee after 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9.

There was a lot of testimony in the two days of hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday in support of education funding, including testimony in support of early education funding, library programs, the Dept. of Education & Early Development budget, university funding, and the level of overall funding for K-12 education.

Thanks,

Shana Crondahl

Alaska Education Update

4100 Blackerby St.

Juneau, AK 99801-9535

(907) 500-7069

Email: akedupdate@gci.net

Website: www.alaskaeducationupdate.com

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/AKEDUPDATE>

The Alaska Education Updates and this email are copyrighted material and should not be forwarded outside your organization.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Michael and Sheila Horton <sehorton@cvalaska.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2013 2:39 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: My House Finance Testimony

Representative Austerman;

Thank you for sitting on the Finance Committee meeting and taking public testimony regarding the impending cuts to Behavioral Health Services. Sheila and I are still homeowners in Kodiak and I was thinking about our counseling experiences from Kodiak when I wrote out what I wanted to say for my opinion. (In fact, I was contacted and counseled one of my former clients from one of Kodiak villages last night. She was experiencing trauma from the loss of a family member.) I was present for the verbal testimony from Glennallen on Wednesday night from our LIO. Of course, with so many people in line to add their voices to the opposition, I was hurried along and was unable to share all of my written statement. I tried to keep it brief, but still had trouble getting 600+ words out in two minutes. So, I vowed that I would come home and send legislators the written text. And, since I write the weekly column, "Counselor's Corner" and tend to be a bit conservative in my efforts, I will be reprinting the text there this next Thursday and will be beseeching our readership to contact their elected officials. Having voted for you several times in the past, I wanted you to hear what I have to say in its entirety.

Here is the text that I wrote:

Hello. My name is Michael Horton. I am the Director for Behavioral Health Services in the Copper River Valley. I am also the VPSO Coordinator for our area. Often times in small rural communities, we have to wear multiple hats to cover the needs and in order for our programs to survive.

I am here to address the proposed cut to Behavioral Health services by \$8.3 million or roughly one-third of our statewide budget for behavioral health grant.

I understand that the Legislature wants to be fiscally responsible (we value this trait) and it values successes. When I first arrived in Alaska thirty years ago, the average consumption of alcohol by Alaskans was *three times* the national rate and the suicide statistics showed an incidence rate many times that in the Lower 48. In the last thirty years, due in large part to rural counseling services, Alaskans now drink only twice that of the other states and our suicide rates, once indisputably the highest in the country are down, and we now run neck-and-neck with Montana and Nevada for this sad, sad distinction.

These have been our measured successes, now we must consider the continued challenges. Some are where we have also made the greatest gains. We are still number one for completed suicides, we double the Lower 48 in alcohol and tobacco consumption, have three times the lifetime incidents of domestic violence, and nine times the rate of FASD. Those \$8.3 million dollars make a difference in who can be reached.

But these mind-numbing statistics and dollar amounts can be overwhelming. This needs to be put in terms that we all can relate to. I am first and foremost a provider- I counsel people of all ages, run groups, and have had the 24/7 Crisis Line with me for over 9,000 hours in the past 3 ½ years. As a provider, I have lost too many real people to suicide and I have been one of those people on my hands and knees cleaning up the blood, the last traces of lost lives.

I have also had many successes- our soldiers returning home who choose not to kill themselves, Alaskan marriages and families kept intact due to counseling, and many, many people clean and sober from our services. These successes and saved lives cannot be heralded in the press for obvious reasons. Those clients that have been helped also do not come forward to testify for equally obvious reasons. They were helped at the nadir of their lives, their lowest and most shame-filled point.

The services that we provide- how much are they worth? Or perhaps it should be asked, 'What services does the State provide that are more valuable than preventing suicides among our kids and combat personnel returning to Alaska?' How much is it worth to promote sobriety and to bring Alaskan families back together? How much is it worth to a parent who has lost a child to addictions to have a counselor available to the children still left in the home?

With the support of the Department of Health and Social Services, we are turning the corner on our greatest problems, and our communities *are* getting better. We have thrown the lifelines out to those in trouble and our counselors are out there in the water with those needing help guiding anguished Alaskans back to safety. Why would we ever cut the lifelines now when they are in sight of recovery? In such a case, we lose those in need of help and the counselors who have had real experience aiding others. And why in the world would we ever consider cutting the funding to those people who are already hurting, our most vulnerable people in Alaska?

Michael Horton, LPC, CDC II

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Thomas Leigh <akleigh@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 10:51 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Alaska State PMP and State Trauma System

Dear Representative,

As an Emergency Medicine Physician practicing at Alaska Regional Hospital, Providence Alaska Medical Center, and as an owner of Capstone Urgent Care in Wasilla I am extremely concerned that two valuable programs funded by the state may not be funded. I have been made aware that the prescription monitoring program (PMP) is potentially on the chopping block. This is unbelievable. The amount of prescription drug abuse in this state is astronomical. In the last 18 years I have not worked a single shift in any of the four Emergency Departments in which I have worked (Mat-Su, Fairbanks, PAMC or ARH) where I have not had to confront a malingering drug seeker. The number of people who make a living in this state by doctor shopping for prescription opiates is astonishing. As you may be aware, the number of deaths in this country due to prescription drug abuse is at an all time high, and rose, again, last year. The prescription monitoring program gives health care providers important information about a patient's use of narcotic pain medications and helps us provide appropriate safe care. Alaska's PMP is a fairly new program so we don't have a long track record or a lot of data yet, but experience from other states has shown significant savings to the Medicaid system and improved patient safety. There are two critical programs that serve Alaskan's being cared ofrin our State's emergency departments that are not funded in the proposed 2014 budget that I would like to ask you to support. First is the State's trauma system and second is the prescription monitoring program. Both of these programs are critical for the patients we serve, on a daily basis.

The trauma system provides resources and coordination of care to our most seriously injured patients, which improves their outcomes and simply saves lives.

The prescription monitoring program gives health care providers important information about a patient's use of narcotic pain medications and helps us provide appropriate safe care. Alaska's PMP is a fairly new program so we don't have a long track record or a lot of data yet, but experience from other states has shown significant savings to the Medicaid system and improved patient safety.

Please support adding funding for these two important programs back into the budget. If you have any further questions about importance of these programs please feel free to contact me.

Thank You

--

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kevin Munson <KMunson@matsuhealthservices.org>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 2:56 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: The Operating Budget
Attachments: Budget Advocacy Letter-Austerman.pdf

Please see the attached

Kevin Munson, MS MAPA LPC

Chief Executive Officer

Mat-Su Health Services, Inc.

(907) 352-3210 (voice)

(907) 352-3363 (fax)

kmunson@matsuhealth.org

www.mshsak.org

Confidentiality Notice: This email and any attached files may contain confidential health information that is legally privileged in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and 42 CFR Part 2. The information contained in this message and any attached documents is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the designated recipient(s). The authorized recipient of this information is prohibited from disclosing this information to any other party unless required to do so by law or regulation and is required to secure the received document(s). The recipient is also required to destroy the information after its stated need has been fulfilled.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kimberly Burrows <kimmerleigh@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 12:35 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: A Concerned Citizen

To the State of Alaska Finance Committee Members:

My name is Kim Burrows and I live in Homer, Alaska. Let me begin by thanking our legislative body for opening HB65 up for public testimony prior to your voting on it. I was at the Homer Legislative Office on Wednesday, March 6th, and I appreciated your allowing me to speak.

However, as a voting citizen of Alaska, I have something I think each of you needs to hear. I want you to know I am speaking as a private citizen and am sending this email from my personal computer at my home and am NOT speaking for any other person or entity.

Many of my fellow concerned citizens arrived early in order to hear and/or speak at this public testimony. When it came time to begin our session, the committee chair called for a five minute recess, which was understandable. Ours was the last slot of a two-day work session and a short recess was probably much needed by each of you. However, and herein lies my frustration, after the short recess, only three of the esteemed committee members returned to their seats. There was some hustle and bustle, but it appeared to me it was because aides and assistants were clearing papers, etc. from the desks of those who failed to return.

There are eleven of you on this committee, but only three thought it important to return to listen to this, the final, meeting? I am asking you as respectfully as I can, how dare you? I realize you were tired after a long day at work, but it was also the end of a long day for those of us who took the time to get involved in the democratic process in which this country professes to partake.

This admonishment can be taken two ways. One, you can disregard it because you don't know me and I am only one person. Or, two, this could be an edifying occasion for each of you reminding you that you are there not only for us, the people, but by us, the people.

Thank you for your time.

Kimberly Burrows
kimmerleigh@hotmail.com
POB 2444
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-4045

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: CVCLA <cvcla@cvinternet.net>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 11:41 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: Rep.Bill.Stoltz@akleg.gov; Rep. Eric Feige; Sen. Click Bishop
Subject: OWL Funding

My name is Bonnie McLeod, I am a resident of the Copper River Valley and a member of the Board of Directors of the Copper Valley Library. I am writing in support of the Owl Project and Live Homework Help both of which contribute to the educational advancement of youth (and adults) in rural communities. The Copper Valley Library has devoted many hours in implementation and promotion of the Owl program. This project is of great importance to youth in rural areas who need to be competitive with youth from urban Alaskan communities and also youth from other states of the U.S. No one can say what direction a young persons life will take or what discipline or interest will catch their imagination as they mature....whether they will remain in Alaska or move outside. What ever the direction they must NOT be educationally disadvantaged by virtue of where they live. The OWL program is an important tool in providing exposure and knowledge. I believe in time its use will grow and be vital in other institutions of human well being.

I ask that you support this program, that Live Homework Help be funded in full, that OWL be funded in full and that the governors recommendation of permanent addition to the Operating Budget with periodic reviews be implemented.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted, Bonnie McLeod

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: joe short <jshort@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 10:25 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: FW: Bill HB 65

From: joe short [<mailto:jshort@gci.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 2:02 PM
To: Alan Austerman (alanausterman@akleg.gov)
Subject: FW: Bill HB 65

From: joe short [<mailto:jshort@gci.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 1:58 PM
To: Alan Austerman (alan.austerman@akleg.gov)
Subject: Bill HB 65

Dear Mr. Austerman'

I attempted to testify but was unable as testifying ran over its schedule time frame.

My name is Joe Short. I have lived in Petersburg since 1980, and am a lifelong resident. I have commercial fished all my life and have a general store in Kake.

My concern is H.B. 65. Please reinstate the \$550,000.00 to the Fish and Game budget. This is vital to the management of our fisheries from Shell fish and Fin fish. We also need an increase of \$165,000.00 for aerial surveys for the management of Herring and Salmon, it is a necessity.

Without this funding these fisheries can't be properly managed. This will have a negative effect on the S.E. economy. Commercial fishing is our state and communities largest source of revenue and largest employer.

Thank you,

Joe Short

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Sumner, Christy <csumner@SouthcentralFoundation.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 2:19 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Mental Heath funding cuts

Dear Gentlemen and Ladies.

I work with a population of people who experience severe mental illness. Many of them are on Social Security Disability and as such have very meager incomes. These individuals may be dually diagnosed with mental illness and substance abuse/dependence. The admiration and respect I have for people I serve knows no bounds, they struggle and yet persevere under very difficult circumstances. Everything about having these issues is hard: finding appropriate low income housing, being able to be clothed and fed, the basic living that all people are entitled to have.

I am a clinical associate at a day treatment program, Qu yana Clubhouse, that serves this population. We serve all individuals who experience a severe and persistent mental illness. We provide services in order to help them maintain independent living, which includes, but not limited to: psychiatric, clinical, and intensive case management. We do a total wrap around service for the members here. We provide stability and consistency in the care that we provide.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of suicide and alcoholism nationwide and cutting any mental health funding would mean that Alaskan providers would be less able to serve a population of people most likely to commit or have these problems. People with mental illness are already very vulnerable in our communities because of the stigma and stereotyping that exists.

Many of the programs In Anchorage and rural communities will be severely impacted and will not be able to serve as many people. We deinstitutionalized people in the seventies and there is not enough long term care in psychiatric institutions. Because of this many mentally ill people end up on the streets and in jail. Many people in our jails all over the nation have mental illness. People who go off their medications and commit crimes end up in jail with limited psychiatric serves. Jail is not the solution to the housing problem that people with mental illness have.

I feel very strongly about this and hope that you our representatives feel that way too. Please work to keep our funding, we not only need what they want to cut we could use more to serve this underserved population.

Christy Sumner CAII

Southcentral Foundation

Quyana Clubhouse

907-729-6328

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Sue Cotter
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 2:06 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: FW: TESTIMONY FOR TODAY'S HEARING- FINANCE

From: Sue Cotter
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 2:03 PM
To: alan.austerman@akleg.gov
Subject: FW: TESTIMONY FOR TODAY'S HEARING- FINANCE

Rep. Austerman, FYI, this is in reponse to an email I received from Rep. Kreiss-Tompkins last night. This woman was very angry and vented on my staff several times last night.

My 'irratating' remark was not a reflection on you, if I had to interrupt a meeting i would expect some irritation. Thanks, Sue

From: Sue Cotter
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 1:49 PM
To: Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tompkins
Cc: Sue Cotter
Subject: RE: TESTIMONY FOR TODAY'S HEARING- FINANCE

Thanks for the email. We had several conversations with Lexi yesterday. I appreciate her frustration but I don't think anyone is to blame. There may have been some miscues though. I will try to lay it out below but if it's not clear please call me at 209-8575. I am taking this afternoon off.

As is their pratice, the house finance committee geographically divides up the state when scheduling public testimony on the budget. This is done so that all those wishing to testify don't have to sit through the testimony of the whole state to get their turn. If you look at the hearing schedule in BASIS, testimony from Sitka was scheduled for one hour between 3 and 4 yesterday. Offnets (those calling from places with no LIO or other extenuating circumstances) were scheduled and heard from on Tuesday. You will see why this becomes important in a minute.

From what I understand, Lexi called the day before (not sure who she called) asking when was Sitka's turn to testify, she was told the correct time FOR SITKA. But she called in at three as an offnet as she happened to be in Juneau. The chair said from the outset that they were going to try to get the testimony in from all those attending at the LIO's during the previously mentioned schedule and IF they had time would take testimony from the offnets even though their opportunity was the day before. They didn't have time to hear from everyone even though they stuck to the schedule, two minute limit and extended the hearing by 2 hours. As a matter of fact by the time chair Austerman got to his own district only one of the nine folks at the Kodiak LIO got a chance to testify. The rest were going to submit written testimony.

My staff did everything they could to work the situation given the circumstances. Other than asking (and I'm sure irratating) the chair to recess the meeting so that we could make a case for taking this particular offnet i don't know what else we could have done.

I think Helen Phillips of the house finance staff was going to call Lexi with an explanation. They know each other.

I am copying the staff in my office who worked on this yesterday. Juneau LIO-if I missed something or misstated please call me on my cell.

Thanks, Sue

From: Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 10:00 PM
To: Sue Cotter
Subject: Fwd: TESTIMONY FOR TODAY'S HEARING- FINANCE

Sue,

This seems unacceptable. How did it happen? What should I tell Lexi?

I'm sure you have a lot on your plate with operating budget testimony. Thanks for your time and attention to this matter.

Jonathan

Sent from the iJonathan; please excuse brevity.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alexandra Fish <fish.lexi@gmail.com>
Date: March 6, 2013, 8:07:18 PM AKST
To: <Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us>, <peter_ecklund@legis.state.ak.us>, <joe_michel@legis.state.ak.us>, <joe.michel@akleg.gov>, <daniel.george@akleg.gov>, <darrell.breese@akleg.gov>, <ryan.mckee@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Alan.Austerman@akleg.gov>
Subject: TESTIMONY FOR TODAY'S HEARING- FINANCE

Hello,

My name is Lexi Fish. I am a lifelong resident of Sitka, Alaska where I have always been actively involved in community events, volunteer activities and civic engagement.

I helped create the Fish-Schools in Sitka which you heard so much about today, and now am a Fish-Schools volunteer in Sitka and Juneau. I decided to volunteer my time to testify at today's House Finance Committee Hearing in favor of maintaining the Farm to School funding, which is considered being cut completely.

I got on the phone at 3 pm and waited for THREE HOURS to testify. At 6 pm I was finally notified that my testimony would not be taken. For the record, I tried to testify yesterday as well, but was told that I

had to wait until today, Wednesday to do so. So I did. Except that I didn't get the opportunity to. Instead, I got out of work to listen to everyone else testify for THREE hours without ever getting the chance to give my own testimony. I wasted three hours of work time that I will have to make up late tonight, and I didn't even get to give my testimony. I listened to a dozen people from Sitka get to testify without ever being called on. I was in continual contact with the teleconference staff and they kept telling me to wait for my turn. This "democratic" system needs to be fixed. I understand many other people were in the same position as me, which is simply not fair and is completely unacceptable. Do you want your constituents to be involved in the political process or not? I am surely discouraged after all the time your offices wasted of mine today. I apologize for the negative tone of the email, but I am extremely disappointed and frustrated, and my experience with the legislature today completely turned my day sour. Not many of you know me, but I am actually a patient and upbeat person, however, that was beaten out of me today after three hours of being on hold!

Even though I wanted to give an in person testimony and not an email testimony, it looks like I have no choice since I was not allowed to testify today even after waiting for three hours. If you can't tell, I don't really have three spare hours to waste at this time. FYI, I was careful to make an extremely short testimony since I know you have to listen to a lot of them. I am extremely disappointed I wasn't able to give my testimony today and will be even more so disappointed in our leadership if this valuable program is cut. I understand the budget needs to be trimmed. There is a LOT of wasted government spending, but the Farm to School program is not an example of that waste. Hear me out, and please respond. I feel it's the least you can do after I spent my whole afternoon on hold for no reason.

--

My name is Lexi Fish, I am a lifelong resident of Sitka. I am a volunteer with the Fish to Schools Program in Sitka and Juneau. I am also a commercial fisherman and a Graduate Student of Nutrition and Dietetics. Needless to say, the Farm to School Program is very close to my heart.

I urge you to keep the Farm to School funding in the budget. Farm to School provides a boost to local Alaskan economies and provides much needed incentives for increased production of Alaskan products. Encouraging fish and farm production in Alaska provides economic diversity in a sustainable manner.

The Farm to School funding is a TINY investment in the overall budget that yields a great value to Alaskan kids and food producers and industries. Farm to School has been involved with so many successful programs, like Sitka's Fish to Schools, and it deserves more time to come to full fruition.

The health of our kids is NOTHING to put on the back burner. Childhood obesity is rising at a scary rate, and Type 2 Diabetes is being diagnosed in High School children. This is a serious threat to mental and physical health, not to mention to the productivity of our future!

Farm to School encourages local food products that are much healthier. Investing in our future generation is something we will never regret. I, myself grew up in the Sitka School District - the school lunches were repulsive and completely unhealthy! I rarely ate them. If a local option featuring Alaskan fish, produce and grains were ever an option, the schools would have surely seen more of my lunch money. Now is NOT the time to move backwards! Please retain full funding for the Alaska Farm to School Program.

Thank you,

Lexi Fish
228 Lakeview Drive
Sitka, AK 99835
907-738-5684
fish.lexi@gmail.com

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Veronica Dalton <daltonv@hoonahschools.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 2:00 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rep. Cathy Munoz; Representative.Bryce.Edgemon@akleg.gov; Rep. Lindsey Holmes;
Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep.
Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Parents as Teachers Funding

March 08, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a mother of two, I see the value of having an organization in our school provide necessary and appropriate support to all parents. This education is vital to help me prepare my young children for the outside world where problems are getting harder and more frightening. Please consider Hoonah's young children and the need for this vital organization. I strongly encourage full and adequate funding for the Parents as Teachers program and I speak specifically for Hoonah youth and tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts.

Signed,
Anne Marie White
Mother of 2
Hoonah

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Veronica Dalton <daltonv@hoonahschools.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 1:52 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Mia Costello; Representative.Bryce.Edgemon@akleg.gov; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Parents as Teachers Funding

To the Representatives on the House Finance Committee,

Please continue to support the Parents As Teachers program (PAT); I am a parent of Alaska's first PAT program that began 18 years ago in Hoonah. My youngest son and I were fortunate to participate; he was two years old and was identified with a speech delay. With the support of PAT, Infant Learning Program (ILP), and the Hoonah School District my son and I received the support to help him with his speech delay. By the time he was ready to enter the school system he was ready to learn without any delays.

His journey through school was exciting to watch he loved to read and enjoyed challenges and was not afraid to ask for help. Through middle school and high school he made the honor roll. After graduating he knew what he wanted to do with his life and went on to attend Wyoming Technical Institute-WyoTech in Laramie Wyoming, and graduated as a Diesel mechanic.

The PAT program supports families from prenatal to five in many ways, identifying any delays and able to help the families overcome the delay, so that their child may enter school ready to learn. It also supports families to support their child's needs and most of all I believe that it helps breaks the cycles of abuse and neglect. The support families receive makes it more comfortable for the parent to come to the school where they themselves may have not had a successful experience.

With this program the parents are given the tools to help their child be successful in school: language, social emotional, intellectual and fine-gross motor development, and the parents are given the tools to make better choices for themselves and their family.

I wish that this program were in place with my older children I believe if it had been then their experience in school may have been less challenging.

I do see the difference that this program has done for Hoonah: more dad involvement and more children excited to learn, and the cycle of alcoholism is down I believe. Lots of parent involvement with community activities, a past parent is currently sitting on the School Board.

Please continue to fully fund the Parents as Teachers because it truly makes a difference with a child's/family life.

Sincerely,

Veronica Dalton

P.O. Box 407

Hoonah, Ak 99829

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Veronica Dalton <daltonv@hoonahschools.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 1:42 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgemon@akleg.gov; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Parents As Teachers funding



To the Representatives on the House Finance Committee,

Please continue to fully fund the Parents As Teachers program (PAT); I am a parent of Alaska's first PAT program that began 18 years ago in Hoonah. My youngest son and I were fortunate to participate; he was two years old and was identified with a speech delay. With the support of PAT, Infant Learning Program (ILP), and the Hoonah School District my son and I received the support to help him with his speech delay. By the time he was ready to enter the school system he was ready to learn without any delays.

His journey through school was exciting to watch, he loved to read and enjoyed challenges and was not afraid to ask for help. Through middle school and high school he made the honor roll. After graduating he knew what he wanted to do with his life and went on to attend Wyoming Technical Institute-WyoTech in Laramie Wyoming, and graduated as a Diesel mechanic.

The PAT program supports families from prenatal to five in many ways, identifying any delays and able to help the families overcome the delay, so that their child may enter school ready to learn. It also supports families to support their child's needs and most of all I believe that it helps break the cycles of abuse and neglect. The support families receive makes it more comfortable for the parent to come to the school where they themselves may have not had a successful experience.

With this program the parents are given the tools to help their child be successful in school: language, social emotional, intellectual and fine-gross motor development, and the parents are given the tools to make better choices for themselves and their family.

I wish that this program were in place with my older children I believe if it had been then their experience in school may have been less challenging.

I do see the difference that this program has done for Hoonah: more dad involvement and more children excited to learn, and the cycle of alcoholism is down I believe. Lots of parent involvement with community activities, a past parent is currently sitting on the school board.

Please continue to fully fund the Parents as Teachers because it truly makes a difference with a child's/family life.

Sincerely,

Veronica Dalton

P.O. Box 407

Hoonah, Ak 99829

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kim Burrows <reception@peninsulailc.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 12:56 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: HB65

A letter from two of our consumers:

March 5, 2013

Dear Alaska Legislators,

I apologize for being unable to present our comments in person and thank you for accepting my written comments.

As the wife of a man who is permanently disabled due to a spinal cord injury, I feel compelled to speak to you on behalf of disabled persons throughout Alaska on the proposed budget cuts to funding for Independent Living Centers in Alaska.

Because my husband's injury was work related and occurred in another state, we are luckier than most in that we have received most of the essential care necessary for his health and survival.

Still, even in view of that, my husband's physician sought the services of the Independent Living Center in Homer when home modifications became necessary for my husband's well being and safety. Before this, we had never heard of them before.

Although we ended up needing only minimal assistance from our local ILC, we did benefit from their several visits to our home to help us access those who could help.

During these visits, we were struck by the kindness, professionalism, and compassion displayed by workers there. In the world of being disabled, or the family of someone who is disabled, this kind of caring is often missing. We were also struck by the fact that many of the workers are volunteers—a small army of dedicated souls who function under the direction of Executive Director Joyanna Geissler and the operating Board of Directors.

Although our story is not outstanding, the stories of others less fortunate than us are.

In the limited time we have known our Homer group, it has been easy to observe the cohesive spirit of giving that means so much to so many—especially in rural areas that are already underserved.

The offices of the ILC are not fancy and the equipment is obviously dated, but the attitude and the sheer volume of work done there are state of the art.

Cutting funding to this deserving non-profit organization would be cutting essential and quality of life services for those it serves. It would be removing the small modicum of independence from those who have already lost

so much quality of life through their disabilities—be it a disability with sight, hearing, mobility, or whatever the cause.

When my husband was injured, attitudes towards the disabled were horrendous. They were to be hospitalized and shut away from society. They could not own homes or hope for an independent lifestyle. Thank God that has changed. Thank God for places like our Independent Living Centers. Hopefully you or your families will never need them, but if they should, they would be well served. Please do not further disable the disabled by removing this important and vital funding for the Independent Living Centers of Alaska.

My husband would also like to add, “They were there for me when there was nowhere else to turn and it was much appreciated.”

Sincerely,

Marianne and William D. Schlegelmilch

PO Box 2086

4470 Kachemak Way

Homer, Alaska 99603

Kim Burrows

Independent Living Center

P.O. Box 2474

Homer, AK 99603

Phone: 907-235-7911

Fax: 907-235-6236

Life is an attitude!

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Pat Wendt <patw@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 12:35 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Cuts

Does America or Alaska take care of it's people? Is it sane to cut what little treatment we have for what is quickly becoming the most fearful problem on this planet.

In an emergency, the first response is to treat the victim. To do otherwise is grossly negligence.

I assume that you folks representing Alaskans have enough healthy mental capacity to support the already underfunded efforts to effect recovery and healing among our afflicted.

Pat Wendt
3201 east 15th
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
907-952-5598

Sent from my iPad

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Jessica Holden <jessholden@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 11:56 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: House Finance Committee: Please restore Independent Living increment

Dear Representative Austerman,

I serve as an Advocate on the Statewide Independent Living Council, and I have had the privilege of working with and learning about Independent Living Services in Alaska for nearly two years. My day job is with Information Insights, an Alaskan firm specializing in Public Policy Research and Management consulting, and I am a lifelong Alaskan.

I'm writing to ask that you work with your colleagues to restore the \$100,000 increment in the Governor's Department of Labor budget for Centers for Independent Living (CILs).

Alaska CILs provide people with disabilities individualized services that are consumer-responsive, cost-effective, and community-based, and these characteristics of CILs are some of the most impressive things about them, I think. Not only do CILs provide Alaskans with valuable services, they do so efficiently, and in a manner that builds and enhances community.

Last fiscal year, Alaska CILs served over 4000 Alaskans with disabilities. CILs provided itinerant services to over 45 rural communities last year, but enormous areas of Alaska remain underserved. CILs need more money, not less.

Without the support of a CIL, many Alaskans are forced into expensive long-term care away from family or live dependent and isolated lives.

Of increasing importance to our state, CILs fill a unique niche in Alaska's long-term care crisis by providing a wide array of cost-effective non-residential services that increase the potential for Alaskans of all ages and all disabilities to successfully age in place.

We are often asked why our budget is in the Department of Labor rather than Health and Social Services. CILs are located in the Dept. of Labor budget because the federally government requires CILs to be in the same Dept. as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Again, I urge you to work with your colleagues restore the Governor's \$100K increment for Independent Living in the Dept. of Labor budget. Please feel free to contact myself or our Executive Director, Heidi Frost, for more information.

Thank you,

Jessica

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: arcticaccess@gci.net on behalf of Audrey Aanes <arcticaccess@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 11:43 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Independent Living funding

House Finance Committee members: Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony to the value and importance of increased funding to Centers for Independent Living (CILs) provided through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Labor. My name is Audrey Aanes and I'm currently the Executive Director of Arctic Access, a Center for Independent Living, which was founded by a group of five men with severe disabilities living in rural Alaska in the early 1990's. Our current board and staff are also comprised of a majority of people who experience disabilities providing local knowledge and control.

For 20 years, on a very limited budget, Arctic Access has been providing outreach, community awareness and education, independent living skills training, peer counseling, individual and systems advocacy, and information and referral, in a region that spans 61,000 square miles and includes 28 remote communities, with a total population of 16,866. With the exception of Nome, the communities we serve are primarily populated by Alaska Natives of Inupiaq descent. Many families live a traditional subsistence lifestyle, and due to a lack of jobs, unemployment rates are as high as 68% – including adults looking for work and those no longer seeking employment. Poverty levels, which average around 18%, are as high as 42% in some villages.

Thanks to the legislature for increased funding for FY13, Arctic Access has this year provided services to 136 people of all ages and all types of disabilities in 23 communities. With the increasing number of elders in Alaska's remote communities, the ever-increasing voice is the desire to remain in their own homes and communities on through death and dying issues. Caring for elders within the extended family setting is a core cultural value, and elders are of primary importance in maintaining the social fabric and cultural resilience of Inupiaq communities. In-home care costs less than one-third of the cost of a private room in an assisted living facility and less than one-tenth the cost of nursing home care.

Our emphasis on identifying and developing community capacity while simultaneously delivering individual services has proved to be a very effective strategy. Arctic Access has formed working partnerships with Maniilaq and Norton Sound Health Corporations, Nome Community Center and the XYZ Senior Center, Alzheimer's Association, ResCare In Home Services, village Clinics, local IRAs and their housing programs, RurAL CAP Weatherization program, regional housing authorities, NANA Resource Techs, Norton Sound Patient Benefits Counselors, Kawerak and Maniilaq elders programs, developmental disabilities and vocational rehabilitation services, and the State Independent Living Council. We have worked cooperatively on developing needs assessments and transportation surveys, obtained funding for an accessible taxi for Nome and a pool lift for their one pool, collaborated with RurAL CAP and other housing programs in providing better home access, partnered with the attendant care and Waiver programs to address identified unmet needs, and partnered in gardening projects to include elders and people with disabilities to grow their own food.

Please restore the Governor's \$100,000 increment or an additional amount for Independent Living in the Dept. of Labor budget to provide greater outreach to this increasing population who deserve the right to live safe and quality lives in their own rural communities. Thank you for your time and your support.

Audrey

Audrey P. Aanes

Executive Director / IL Program Director

Arctic Access, Inc.

website: **www.arcticaccesscil.org**

phone/fax: 907/345-0715

toll free: 1-877-442-2393

e-mail: arcticaccess@gci.net

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Dick LaFever <cli@ak.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 11:23 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; rep.bryce.edgmon@akeg.gov; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Behavioral Health Budget

Greetings: I am writing to ask that proposed cuts to the Division of Behavioral Health not be made. I am in complete agreement with the comments made by Rosalie Nadeau, Akeela CEO (see below). I am a board member of Akeela, Inc. and I am personally and professionally aware of the benefits of programs such as those offered by Akeela and other organizations providing treatment programs throughout Alaska, including the prison population.

Consider:

- The cost of not providing treatment. If support, care, and treatment is not offered, or reduced, the need does not go away. The costs increase for public safety, emergency room treatment, and other emergency mental health care intervention.
- The programs provided by Akeela work and return people to productive lives.
- Builds stronger and more functional individuals, families, and communities.

I'm asking you to consider both the short and long range implications of these proposed budget reductions.

Sincerely,

Dick La Fever

Crossroads Leadership Institute (CLI)

Catalysts for Positive Change

815 W 19th Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99503

Cell 907.727.6187

e-mail: cli@ak.net

www.consultcli.com

27th Anniversary (1986-2013)

A Native American Owned and Managed Organizational Consulting Company

DBE Certified

On Mar 5, 2013, at 10:43 AM, Rosalie Nadeau wrote:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Health and Social Services Finance Subcommittee has recommended an \$8.3 million cut to the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH). The impact is devastating because it is approximately 15% of the Governor's recommended Division of Behavioral Health's budget, and it is slightly more if one measures it against the current year's budget. I have heard stories of the steep escalation in the budget, but those escalating budgets

have not happened in Akeela's programs, and we are one of the largest programs in the State. For instance, in FY-1992 our Akeela House grant budget was \$682,239, and this fiscal year it is \$681,225. Our other large program, a women and children's residential and outpatient program has only increased \$40,477, from the FY-2007 budget of \$856,478, or \$6,746 per fiscal year. Additionally, the mandatory match each program must contribute in order to qualify for the grant has increased from ten to 25 percent.

We also agreed to take over the management of a small Southeast Behavioral Health Program that had struggled to stay afloat under the City of Ketchikan's management. It has a grant of \$981,098. The City notified DBH that it would close the program effective July 1, 2010, if no one could be found to take over the service. We stepped into that hole, and have inch by inch brought the program back to life. However, it is still a daily struggle to maintain operations in an area of the State that has few services. Any significant cut would likely result in the complete closure of that program that provides mental health and substance abuse services to over 1,000 children and families.

We also have been told that the committee wants to limit indirect to 15% of the budget. Our company has a 26% indirect cost rate agreement approved by the Federal government that is established by reviewing who spends funds in our company and how and where funds are spent. Administrative costs have grown dramatically in the last several years driven in large part by what we providers call unfunded mandates. For instance, the new Behavioral Health regulations require all of us to be accredited by one of three National Accreditation organizations. We have recently completed that process at a cost of approximately \$75,000 with an annual membership cost of a little over \$5,000. The accreditation is for three years, so the process must be repeated in 2015. We also are required to move to an Electronic Medical Records system. We now have \$300,000 invested in that effort, and we anticipate that we will spend an additional \$200,000 before all of our programs will be operational on the system. It takes personnel to maintain these systems and they are administrative in nature. When I began working for Akeela none of the more sophisticated management systems were required by the State. I believe that in part these required functions have been the State's way of shifting management costs from the Division to the provider. However, to meet these unfunded mandates, we must have personnel that do not neatly fit into the direct service category.

Finally, treatment works and costs less than failure to provide treatment. The best example can be found with our prison programs. Prisoners who have been in substance use treatment show a recidivism rate that is 12% to 16% lower than is the rate of prisoners who have not experienced treatment. The current recidivism rate for prisoners is approximately 67%. If one applies that rate to 100 prisoners at a daily rate of \$115 per prisoner, 67 individuals going back to prison cost \$7,705 per day, while 51 going back to prison cost \$5,865 or a savings per day of \$1,840 based on a 16% difference. The savings over the year at the daily rate savings of \$1,840 translates to \$671,600 for prisoners not returning to prison because they received treatment.

Rosalie Nadeau,

Akeela CEO

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Bonnie Low <bonniel@AccessAlaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 10:44 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: Complex Behavior Collaborative

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I would like to encourage you to fund the Complex Behavior Collaborative.

I have a 27 year old son with special needs who has some very difficult and complex behaviors. He lives at home with his father and I. He is destructive to property and has been physically assaultive to others as well. We have tried to find help for him but help is not available in Alaska. His world has become very limited due to his behavior. He is not able to ride in a car due to the possibility of him jumping out of the moving car or striking the driver. As a result of this, we are unable to take him out into the community. His world consists of his home only.

Our dream for him is to get his behavior under control so he can ride in a car, take part in community events and even live in supported living. With his current behaviors, all these goals are impossible. Daily living with him is very stressful.

My son was accepted into the Complex Behavior Collaborative. We are thrilled that at last we are receiving help. We feel that there is hope for him now!!! We have just started to receive training for both my husband and I and the providers that work with our son. We are learning techniques for communication and as a team have developed a behavior intervention plan. We have seen behaviors decrease and as a result, our son's quality of life has improved.

The on-going support of the team has been invaluable. Having someone come into the home and work directly with our son and providers has been crucial. Please don't pull the rug out from under us!!

Please continue to support the Complex Behavior Collaborative!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Bonnie Low

142 Frog Pond Circle

Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

alaskanbonnie@gmail.com

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Dan Masoni-1 <akunak@ci.unalaska.ak.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 10:43 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: HB 65 - Operating Budget - Testimony of Dan Masoni, Unalaska

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Unfortunately a snow storm cut off communications with the Unalaska LIO yesterday.

One phone line was working well enough to send a fax of my comments, but it took over 45 minutes to make the connection and deliver the document. I'm not sure that my comments ever made it to the Committee.

I'm attaching my comments below this note in order to deliver my testimony.

The Governor's Digital Initiative is well planned and very well vetted by staff. It builds on the basics constructed by the Alaska State Library, Gates Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation and University of Alaska to create a "community commons" in each Alaska City and Village. Once created, strong Broadband delivery in rural Alaska will be scalable to include schools as well as public libraries.

Broadband, as represented by the Online With Libraries Project in the Initiative, is essential to the future growth of ideas, commerce, and culture in Rural Alaska.

As a school board member, I have seen the positive results of Live Homework Help on students in our community. Over 50% of the students in our school have English as their second language. The availability of trained tutors to guide students to productive understanding of school materials is an essential tool that is heavily used in our community. Employing Live Homework Help as a delivery system creates economies of scale that no single school district can duplicate.

Please read my comments.

Thank you,

Dan Masoni

Thank You.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kristi Krueger <myfireweed@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 10:41 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Farm to School program funding support

Kristi Krueger

11751 E Loretta Cir

Palmer, AK 99645

March 7, 2013

Representative Alan Austerman

House Finance Committee Co-Chair

Alaska State Legislature

Rep.Alan.Austerman@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Austerman:

I am writing to ask you to support Alaska Farm to School. For the past three years, this program has been working very hard to connect local farmers with schools. Not just to introduce local foods onto children's lunch trays, but to teach kids about the food system, how plants grow and that what they eat doesn't just come from a grocery store.

The success of farm to school programs nationwide is dependent on the flexibility of the program to meet the diverse needs of the geography, community, and culture within a given state. Places with such extreme climatic and geographic conditions like Alaska need to be especially creative and resourceful while promoting Alaska's unique agricultural bounty. The success of the Alaska program depends on funding. It depends on your vote.

I have seen first hand the joy and enthusiasm children have when they get to care for a tiny seed in a cup of soil in the classroom, or are able to be unleashed on a farm to pick potatoes in the dirt and to grow their own carrots

in a school garden then harvest and have them as snacks in school. The comments I've heard from their sweet mouths would bring a tear to any mother's eye, "My kindergarten mouth didn't like broccoli, but my first grade mouth does!"

I think that this is an important program. It benefits children across the entire state of Alaska and without funding for this program; much of the hard work and efforts made in the last three years of the program will be lost. The FTS program is more than just helping children; it's helping farmers, which in turn, helps the local economy. Farm Safety workshops are held to teach farmers what steps are necessary for tracking and accountability for schools to accept the food they produce. Educational binders, food availability charts, local food hero posters and food maps have all been developed by this program. Taste tests at schools, grants for schools to create school gardens and FTS challenges have engaged thousands of students in the program. To stop funding of this program now would be devastating!

Please vote in favor of funding the Farm to School program. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kristi Krueger

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Brandi Simington <brandis@fcbhc.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 10:29 AM
To: Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Alan Austerman; 'Rep.Bil.Stoltze@akleg.gov'; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson
Subject: Behavioral Health Services

I am writing to you regarding the proposed reduction in general funds for Behavioral Health Services. I represent not only an interest in the field through my employment but also as the parent of an individual that is seriously mentally ill.

Behavioral Health Services support keeping people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders – including seniors and people with intellectual/developmental disorders with co-occurring disorders – at home and in their communities close to family and friends.

Without community supports, people with these disorders are at higher risk for institutionalized care – such as jail, psychiatric institutions, and nursing homes.

Without community supports, people with behavioral health disorders use emergency rooms more often and are at greater risk for institutionalized care.

By serving people at home and in the community we are better able to see all Alaskans living meaningful and productive lives – at the same time we are saving money.

Behavioral Health Services help “level the playing field” so that more Alaskans can be employed, housed, and contributing productively in the community.

Behavioral Health Service Providers contribute to a healthy workforce and promote a strong economy. For Alaskans experiencing serious mental illness, the cost of community-based outpatient services is 2-5 times less expensive than institutional care.

Behavioral Health Services are invaluable in our community. Costs of providing care continue to rise and there are static and dwindling resources available to pay for these services.

Please support maintaining current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health & Social Services budget.

Thank you,

Brandi Simington, PHR, MBA

Chief Financial Officer

Fairbanks Community Behavioral Health Center

3830 S Cushman St

Fairbanks, AK 99701

907-455-5279

brandis@fcbhc.org

The mission of the Fairbanks Community Behavioral Health Center is to provide quality behavioral health services that support consumer choice, cultural diversity, and clinical excellence.

Our Core Values are effective:

Stewardship

Collaboration

Leadership

Compassion

Confidentiality Notice: The information disclosed within this email is intended only for the use of the individual(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient, please return this message to sender. The information disclosed may be considered Confidential and may be protected under state law or federal regulations. These laws and regulations prohibit any further disclosure of this information without the specific written consent of the person to whom the information pertains, or as otherwise permitted by laws and regulations. Re-disclosure of this information is a violation of HIPAA laws and may subject the offender to civil and/or criminal penalties.

Confidentiality Notice: The information disclosed within this email is intended only for the use of the individual(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient, please return this message to sender. The information disclosed may be considered Confidential and may be protected under state law or federal regulations. These laws and regulations prohibit any further disclosure of this information without the specific written consent of the person to whom the information pertains, or as otherwise permitted by laws and regulations. Re-disclosure of this information is a violation of HIPAA laws and may subject the offender to civil and/or criminal penalties.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kniaziowski, Rick <RKniaziowski@horizonlines.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 9:55 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: HB65 (Operating Budget)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman

Re: HB65 (Operating Budget)

I apologize for not being able to stay at the LIO last night long enough to testify on the operating budget. It is nice that we have the opportunity to do so telephonically but day care closes at 5:30 and I couldn't stay any later. So here are the comments I was going to give last night.

For four years the governor and legislature have flat funded education. The governor calls it full funding, to which I must object. A \$2 million shortfall in the local KIBSD budget does not feel or look like full funding.

This operating budget not only flat funds education it peels away some crucial funding for programs that we use in Kodiak and around the state to try and bridge the gap between expenses and revenue and still be innovative in providing education to children. The Digital Learning Initiative, Pre-K, Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers and Jobs for Alaska's Grads all face cuts or a switch to one time funding.

For four years we have been told to do more with less. We've met that challenge but things are starting to crack at the seams. We're scrambling to retool for the new standards and assessments coming down the pike. Our local graduation rate is at 86.8% and climbing. Our Learning Café helps those kids not making it in traditional classrooms and allows even more kids graduate. If we could use those numbers we would be above the 90% threshold the governor has asked for. But we need the resources to meet the mandates given us.


Now we have a report out by the Alaska Policy Forum that cherry picks data to claim that we are failing our kids in education and spending a lot do it. They compare education funding now with the level we were at the end of the Sheffield administration and programs and infrastructure had been gutted. Those same folks call for vouchers and more school choice. While that effort may not pass the house and senate this session, it takes everyone's attention away from the underfunding of education.

Please consider increasing the funding of public education in this state.

Regards,

Rick Kniaziowski

Kodiak Island Board of Education



**** ATTENTION **** This email and any attachments may contain confidential or privileged information. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender by return email and delete immediately without forwarding to others. [HRZ Disclaimer 1]

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: sheila kelly <smbkelly@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 9:45 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: University of Alaska Press is unique state resource

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

Alaska is rightfully proud of its rich resources. **The University of Alaska Press is a unique state resource that deserves a sustaining stewardship.** My family were Alaska pioneers, settling in Treadwell on Douglas Island in 1899. I wrote a book on the Treadwell story and University of Alaska Press published it, recognizing that this little known town played a big role in Alaska history, American history and gold mining history. Although few publishers took an interest in this book, it ended up receiving a special recognition award from the Mining History Association (U.S.). University of Alaska Press serves and preserves Alaska culture and history in so many ways that enrich the state. It deserves sustaining funding from the state budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sheila Kelly, Author

Treadwell Gold, An Alaska Saga of Riches and Ruin

University of Alaska Press, 2010

www.TreadwellGold.com

smbkelly@gmail.com

1444 NW Woodbine Way

Seattle WA 98177

206-365-7892

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: KELLY MCBRIDE <Kelly.McBride@matsuk12.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 3:05 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: State PreK Program in Mat Su: letter from parent
Attachments: letter about state PreK mat su.pdf

I have attached a letter from a parent of a student who is currently attending our state preK program: Widening the Net.

Kelly McBride

Resource Specialist

Mat-Su Borough School District

Kelly.McBride@matsuk12.us

(907) 746-9202

*The **MORE** things that you **READ**,*

*the more **THINGS** you will **KNOW**.*

*The **MORE** you **LEARN**,*

*the more **PLACES** you'll **GO**!*

~Dr. Seuss

Disclaimer Notice: This email and any attachments to it may be confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed. Any views or opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the **Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District**. If you are not an intended recipient for this email, you are hereby notified that this is not a waiver of confidentiality and that you must not take any action based upon its contents, and any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this information is

strictly prohibited.

If you believe you have received this information in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply email and immediately delete this message from your system.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Toby Sullivan <toby@kodiakmaritimemuseum.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 9:34 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Alaska State Museums Funding
Attachments: Representative Austerman 3-7-2013.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Austerman:

Attached is a letter in support of the Alaska State Museum budget line item request for a funding increase for the Alaska State Museum Grant-in-Aid program. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about my support for this request.

Regards-

Toby

--
Toby Sullivan
Executive Director
Kodiak Maritime Museum
toby@kodiakmaritimemuseum.org

P.O. Box 1876, Kodiak, Alaska 99615
907-486-0383 www.kodiakmaritimemuseum.org



Pick, Click, Give

Last year 37 Alaskans donated more than \$2,600 to Kodiak Maritime Museum through Pick, Click, Give, to help preserve the maritime history of Alaska. This year, please consider a Pick, Click, Give donation to KMM to continue preserving Alaska's maritime heritage, and help us reach our goal of 100 donors and \$7,100 through the Pick, Click, Give, program.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Lynne Stevens <lstevens@focusoutreach.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 9:30 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Program

Hi, my name is Lynne Stevens and I am asking that you to support and FULLY fund the Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Program.

I have been working with children and adults with developmental disabilities for 12 yrs. and some have had TBI's or other acquired brain injuries.

My husband had a TBI in 1975 when he was 17 as a result of a vehicle accident. They didn't expect him to live but with the right supports and therapies he learned how to speak again. He still has a physical disability but has been able to go to college and graduated a few years ago at the age of 48. Voc Rehab played a major role in his recovery. He has worked in the Human Services Field ever since.

Can you imagine what it would be like to be locked in a body that didn't work but your brain did? Can you imagine what it would be like if you had a functioning body but the brain was damaged and you really didn't know what you were doing or saying wasn't the "norm" and people would look at you like you were crazy? Well it's the services that are offered to individuals who experience TBI's and the case managers who are advocates that help promote the individual to be a productive member of society. These services are sometimes needed for the rest of their lives depending on the severity of the injury. It's not a quick fix, it's a slow and laborious process and it's never ending.

If case managers, agencies who support and work with these individuals, and the training wasn't provided my husband wouldn't be where he is today. They help link the individuals to services that will help in their recovery. The supports to the families are undeniably the saving grace to some. It helps them understand and how to help their loved one and provides information for what behaviors might follow. There are no institutions here in Alaska and group homes are sometimes available. This may be an option for some but not everyone.

I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to read my letter and hope that you will fully support the Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Program.

Sincerely,

Lynne Stevens

Lynne Stevens, BS, MEd, RN

Nurse Consultant

FOCUS, Inc.

11901 Business Blvd., Suite 209

Eagle River, AK 99577

Ph: 907-694-6002

Fx: 907-689-7205

[website](#) | [facebook](#) | [twitter](#)

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Karen Glenn <KGlenn@SEAVIEWSEWARD.ORG>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 8:56 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Complex Behavior Collaborative

Please support funding for continuation of the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative.

People with disabilities are at a higher risk for experiencing complex and difficult-to-manage behaviors. People with disabilities include those with developmental and intellectual disabilities, behavioral health disorders, Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia, autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, etc.)

Alaskan service providers report they lack adequate intensive support and intervention services for clients with complex behaviors.

Caregivers and providers who are not equipped with specialized behavior management skills struggle because they are not always able to handle those in their care with challenging behaviors.

When caregivers are given tools through consultation and training the individuals they serve are more likely to stabilize and avoid being sent to more costly institutional care—such as Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API), incarceration, nursing homes, or out-of-state residential treatment.

In FY12, funding was allocated to set up the Collaborative and develop the provider agreements. In FY13, the Collaborative began serving clients and continues to expand its consultant and client base. In FY14, we are seeking annualized funding to ensure that the consultation and training services of the Complex Behavior Collaborative continue to be available for caregivers and providers, and the individuals they serve.

3.1.13 / 2 of 2

Research shows that when individuals with complex behaviors have on-going supports they are more likely to remain stable, productive, and functioning successfully in the community.

Without supports, people with difficult-to-manage behaviors can more easily escalate into crisis, requiring more acute and costly care at API (Alaska Psychiatric Institute), emergency room care, incarceration in Alaska's correctional facilities, or out-of-state institutionalization.

The Complex Behavior Collaborative helps providers avoid crises and acute care situations by: 1) building community-based service capacity to deal with difficult behaviors; 2) building expertise related to maladaptive behaviors within Alaska; 3) providing services in the community to prevent or reduce the need for hospitalization and acute institutional care.

Respectfully,

Karen L Glenn

Admin Manager

SeaView Community Services

P.O. Box 1045

Seward, AK 99664

907-224-5257 main

907-422-1002 direct

907-224-7081 fax

kglenn@seaviewseward.org



Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Karen Glenn <KGlenn@SEAVIEWSEWARD.ORG>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 8:49 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Proposed \$8.3 million Reduction to Behavioral Health Services

The House Budget Subcommittee on Health & Social Services has recommended a \$8,368,800 (\$8.3 million) reduction in general funds for Behavioral Health Services. These local, community-based services include:

- * **mental health treatment**
- * **substance abuse treatment**
- * **detox services**
- * **services for youth with severe emotional disturbance**
- * **supported housing**
- * **peer support services**
- * **suicide prevention**
- * **tribal behavioral health services**
- * **services for seniors with co-occurring disorders**
- * **parent and peer navigation**
- * **services related to domestic violence and sexual assault**
- * **prevention and early intervention**
- * **programs that support reunifying and keeping families together**

WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU RECONSIDER THIS RECOMMENDTION! BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. SeaView Community Services has scheduled 21 new Behavioral Health assessments for mental health related issues in the last 4 weeks alone. If funding were to be reduced we would be unable to provide all of these assessments within this timeframe.
2. SeaView Community Services has a wait list of 29 individuals that need substance abuse assessments scheduled but there are no available appointment times for several seeks. If funding were to be reduced we would be unable to provide services to these 29 individuals.
3. SeaView Community Services has on average over 2,000 contacts per year. If funding were to be reduced what would these individuals do?
4. Behavioral Health Services support keeping people with mental illness and substance use disorders—including seniors and people with intellectual/developmental disorders with co-occurring disorders—at home and in their communities close to family and friends.
5. Without community supports, people with these disorders are at higher risk for institutionalized care—such as jail, psychiatric institutions, and nursing homes.
6. Without community supports, people with behavioral health disorders use emergency rooms more often and are at greater risk for institutionalized care.
7. By serving people at home and in the community we are better able to see all Alaskans living meaningful and productive lives—at the same time we are saving money.
8. Behavioral Health Services help “level the playing field” so that more Alaskans can be employed, housed, and contributing productively in the community.
9. Behavioral Health Service Providers contribute to a **healthy workforce** and promote a strong economy.
10. For Alaskans experiencing serious mental illness, the cost of community-based outpatient services is 2-5 times less expensive than institutional care.

The SeaView Community Services Program Directors along with the agencies below support maintaining current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health & Social Services budget.

The Alaska Mental Health Board, Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Alaska Commission on Aging, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and Alaska Brain Injury Network support maintaining or increasing current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health & Social Services budget.

Respectfully,

Craig Williamson, Ed.D., Behavioral Health Clinical Director

Chris Sheehan, IT Clinical Director

Dyan Ferren, HR Clinical Director

Karen L Glenn, Admin Manager

SeaView Community Services

P.O. Box 1045

Seward, AK 99664

907-224-5257 main

907-224-7081 fax



Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Lori Salyers <lsalyers@pchsak.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 8:22 AM
To: Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: Kathleen Wales
Subject: HB 65



Dear Maam and Sirs,

I am writing this email against HB65. As a direct service professional in the field of mental health and behavioral health, I feel reducing the funding for behavioral and mental health programs will be a great detriment to the state of Alaska. Our program covers a very large part of the Kenai Peninsula: Soldotna, Kenai, Nikiski, Kasilof, Sterling and a mobile clinic in Cooper Landing.

As it stands, we scrape by with low funding and use a lot of grants to run our program. In a field of such high importance, we are treated as the ugly red-headed step-children of the government. The population that we provide services to are the ones that generally fall through the cracks due to lack of income and resources.

We are EFFECTIVE at keeping the mental health population out of jails, API and excessive ER visits. A major portion of our consumers have stated that without our program, they would more than likely have committed suicide or a crime which would have them institutionalized or in prison. Our prison system does NOT give mental health consumers their proper medications, if they are given any medications at all.

I ask you to please continue our funding, we are doing a very important job for the constituents and residents of the state of Alaska and specifically the Kenai Peninsula.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lori A. Salyers

Recovery Assistant

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: JERRY AND STACEY DAHL <dahlcrew@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 8:17 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Fwd: Re: House finance testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

----- Original Message -----

From:
"JERRY AND STACEY DAHL" <dahlcrew@gci.net>

To:
"Brian Lynch -PVOA-" <pvoa@gci.net>
Sent:
Wed, 06 Mar 2013 08:42:13 -0900
Subject:
Re: House finance testimony

To Mr Austerman and the house finance committee

I was singed to testify on the teleconference but there was not enough time for me to speak so i would like to submit my testimony in writing.

my name is Jerry Dahl i live in petersburg born here in 1967 commercial fishing since i was 12

I would like to call attention to HB 65

please reinstate the 550,000 to the fish and game budget

this is vital to the region to conduct management of fisherys

also increase the there budget with 165,000 for the aireo surveys

for salmon management this is a very important tool for the salmon biologist to manage on abundance basis which has been effective type of management...

If these budget items remain UN funded it will have a negative effect on the SE economy. the the vessels will not get the openings the crews will not make income and the towns will not sell supplies and

the state will not receive the raw fish tax.... this is the main resource of this area

thank you Jerry Dahl

----- Original Message -----

From:
"Brian Lynch -PVOA-" <pvoa@gci.net>

To:

"Jerry Dahl" <dahlcrew@gci.net>

Cc:

Sent:

Tue, 05 Mar 2013 15:03:20 -0900

Subject:

House finance testimony

WordSection1">

font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Arial","sans-serif">Here's mine, such as it is.

font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Arial","sans-serif">

font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Arial","sans-serif">Brian Lynch

font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Arial","sans-serif">Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Arial","sans-serif">PO Box 232

font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Arial","sans-serif">Petersburg, AK 99833

font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Arial","sans-serif">907.772.9323

font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Arial","sans-serif">pvoa@gci.net>pvoa@gci.net

font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Arial","sans-serif">www.pvoaonline.org/>www.pvoaonline.org

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kate Graber <kateinak@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 7:34 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Cuts to behavioral services?

The quality of our life is determined by the quality of life of those in our community, especially those living on the edge. With all of the addiction, domestic violence, and mental illness in Alaska, the first thing that needs to be done is to put more funding towards assisting those caught up in the cycle of addiction, the cycle of violence and the sadness of mental illness. To delete money from these services would be a travesty and would invite unimaginable loss for all. I don't know of any family in Alaska that has not had at least one family member affected by at least one of these nightmares and the destructive effects affect the other family members and those who know them. These are community problems, not just personal problems.

Kathleen G. Graber
47146 Lexington Ct.
Kenai, AK 99611

Sent from my iPhone

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kathy Blanc <kathyblanc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 8:15 PM
To: Rep. Cathy Munoz
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Funding for Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers

Dear Representative Munoz,

Please restore funding for Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers to the governor's proposed funding levels -- Best Beginnings at \$937,500 and Parents as Teachers at \$1,042,500.

We know that having children come to school ready to learn is critical to their future success. This investment in young families and early education will go further than any other legislative appropriation.

Best Beginnings resources, in combination with community volunteers and private matching funds, are used to support parents. The programs supported by Best Beginnings are simple, inexpensive, family-based, and they work.

One important program that is partially funded through Best Beginnings state funding is the Imagination Library. The Imagination Library mails a brand new, age appropriate book each month to every child from birth to age 5 who signs up for the program in their community, regardless of family income.

More than 20,000 Alaska children already participate in the program through 29 local Imagination Libraries serving 102 communities.

The Southeast Imagination Library, housed in Juneau, just reached a major milestone: after six years of steady growth, 2,000 of our children in Juneau, Haines, Yakutat, Kake, Angoon, Craig, Klawock, Sitka, Petersburg, Skagway, Gustavus, Tenakee and Wrangell are now receiving a free Imagination Library book in the mail EVERY MONTH--and we are on track to deliver our 100,000th book in November!

We know that having children come to school ready to read is critical, and educators have emphasized that reading with your preschool child is the single most important activity to prepare a child for school. Proficient reading and comprehension skills are an important key to success in school and beyond.

The Imagination Library directly addresses the three areas of greatest need as measured by the Alaska Education and Early Development's school readiness developmental profile: phonological awareness, awareness of print concepts, and knowledge of letters and symbols.

But it's more than a book delivery program; it's a Get-the-Whole-Community-Involved-in-Reading-to-Kids Program. Here in Juneau, we also are at the forefront of using the Imagination Library as a way to reach young families.

The Imagination Library contact list allows us to inform young families of other enrichment activities that promote early literacy. For example, family nights at the library often now have more than 100 participants! AEYC-Southeast's "Born Learning" newsletter publicizes events for families, and attendance at family programs in Juneau has grown exponentially.

So thank you, Representative Munoz and all Alaska legislators, for making these funds available through Best Beginnings. **There are no administration costs to the Southeast Imagination Library program as the support work is done by volunteers.** This effort is simple, community-based, and powerful.

We already know the path to success in school starts at birth. Those first five years of life are critical for establishing how a child will fare in school and ultimately in life. Please make a small investment in our community's future by restoring funding for Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers to the governor's proposed funding levels.

Thank you,

Kathy Blanc
3003 Foster Avenue
Juneau

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Alexandra Fish <fish.lexi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 8:07 PM
To: Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us; peter_ecklund@legis.state.ak.us; joe_michel@legis.state.ak.us; Joe Michel; Daniel George; Darrell Breese; Ryan McKee; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: TESTIMONY FOR TODAY'S HEARING- FINANCE

Hello,

My name is Lexi Fish. I am a lifelong resident of Sitka, Alaska where I have always been actively involved in community events, volunteer activities and civic engagement.

I helped create the Fish-Schools in Sitka which you heard so much about today, and now am a Fish-Schools volunteer in Sitka and Juneau.

I decided to volunteer my time to testify at today's House Finance Committee Hearing in favor of maintaining the Farm to School funding, which is considered being cut completely.

I got on the phone at 3 pm and waited for THREE HOURS to testify. At 6 pm I was finally notified that my testimony would not be taken. For the record, I tried to testify yesterday as well, but was told that I had to wait until today, Wednesday to do so. So I did. Except that I didn't get the opportunity to. Instead, I got out of work to listen to everyone else testify for THREE hours without ever getting the chance to give my own testimony. I wasted three hours of work time that I will have to make up late tonight, and I didn't even get to give my testimony. I listened to a dozen people from Sitka get to testify without ever being called on. I was in continual contact with the teleconference staff and they kept telling me to wait for my turn.

This "democratic" system needs to be fixed. I understand many other people were in the same position as me, which is simply not fair and is completely unacceptable. Do you want your constituents to be involved in the political process or not? I am surely discouraged after all the time your offices wasted of mine today. I apologize for the negative tone of the email, but I am extremely disappointed and frustrated, and my experience with the legislature today completely turned my day sour. Not many of you know me, but I am actually a patient and upbeat person, however, that was beaten out of me today after three hours of being on hold!


Even though I wanted to give an in person testimony and not an email testimony, it looks like I have no choice since I was not allowed to testify today even after waiting for three hours. If you can't tell, I don't really have three spare hours to waste at this time. FYI, I was careful to make an extremely short testimony since I know you have to listen to a lot of them. I am extremely disappointed I wasn't able to give my testimony today and will be even more so disappointed in our leadership if this valuable program is cut. I understand the budget needs to be trimmed. There is a LOT of wasted government spending, but the Farm to School program is not an example of that waste. Hear me out, and please respond. I feel it's the least you can do after I spent my whole afternoon on hold for no reason.

--

My name is Lexi Fish, I am a lifelong resident of Sitka. I am a volunteer with the Fish to Schools Program in Sitka and Juneau. I am also a commercial fisherman and a Graduate Student of Nutrition and Dietetics. Needless to say, the Farm to School Program is very close to my heart.

I urge you to keep the Farm to School funding in the budget. Farm to School provides a boost to local Alaskan economies and provides much needed incentives for increased production of Alaskan products.

Encouraging fish and farm production in Alaska provides economic diversity in a sustainable manner.



The Farm to School funding is a TINY investment in the overall budget that yields a great value to Alaskan kids and food producers and industries. Farm to School has been involved with so many successful programs, like Sitka's Fish to Schools, and it deserves more time to come to full fruition.

The health of our kids is NOTHING to put on the back burner. Childhood obesity is rising at a scary rate, and Type 2 Diabetes is being diagnosed in High School children. This is a serious threat to mental and physical health, not to mention to the productivity of our future!

Farm to School encourages local food products that are much healthier.

Investing in our future generation is something we will never regret.

I, myself grew up in the Sitka School District - the school lunches were repulsive and completely unhealthy! I rarely ate them. If a local option featuring Alaskan fish, produce and grains were ever an option, the schools would have surely seen more of my lunch money. Now is NOT the time to move backwards! Please retain full funding for the Alaska Farm to School Program.

Thank you,

Lexi Fish
228 Lakeview Drive
Sitka, AK 99835
907-738-5684
fish.lexi@gmail.com

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: LAURENE MADSEN <geotech@alaska.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 7:54 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: feedback on budget for libraries and education

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello Alan,

I was unable to tune into the LIO call-in today, but wanted to speak out against the proposed elimination of funding for the Homework Help and cuts to the OWL state library budget, as well as education budgets. These programs serve all students in our state, leveling the playing field for our students in remote places, like Karluk or Akhiok as well as Bethel or Barrow, to have the same access to services and online resources as the "in town" kids. Because these services have been available, our rural students are better prepared for post-secondary education or training, and have a higher skill level than in many other states.

I am currently in California, caring for my 97-year old mother, and working at the Univ. of Cal Merced, and am astounded how far behind this state is in adoption of technology tools and access to resources. This is because the poorer districts and communities have suffered from a lack of funding and support from the state education budget. It's no wonder they rank down near the bottom of achievement levels. Only the richer districts, with more affluent parental support, are faring fairly well, but not by much.

Alaska has long been a leader in innovation of technology in education, perhaps out of need due to our remote locations, but also because of the dedication of those who work and fund educational programs. Please do not let this important program suffer from the short-sighted Governor's proposals. We have the money, and it's just a matter of how it is allocated.

Please take this into consideration when you sit down with the fellow members of the Finance Committee. Alaska needs to keep up and fully fund education and the resources we have available.

Thank you,
Laurie Madsen

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Sallye Werner <sallyewerner@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 7:26 PM
To: Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Cathy Munoz
Subject: HB65

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear members of the House Finance Committee:

I wish to encourage you and the other members of the House Finance Committee to restore the \$8.3 million funding for Behavioral Health programs that were in the Governor's proposed budget and cut by Subcommittee. These include such programs as Strengthening Families and Best Beginnings, programs proven to achieve positive results. As an Alaska teacher from 1977-1998 and a CASA volunteer since 1999, I have personally seen the positive results these programs have produced.

I encourage restoring this funding for two basic reasons:

First, it is the right thing to do. If we as a civilized community do not ensure the safety and well-being of ALL of our children, we are morally and ethically wrong. Programs that help parents get or stay sober and become better parents benefit their children. With so little effort we can take steps toward ensuring that our children and families get the education and support they need. These programs are a step in the right direction.

Secondly, if we do not fund these programs, we condemn our children and grandchildren (who do become healthy contributing citizens) to paying for the results of not having these programs. Today, too much of our money goes to deal with the many homeless, addicted, and incarcerated in our communities. We know that many of them suffered abuse and neglect while growing up and we know that contributed to their situations today. We know that programs like Best Beginnings and Strengthening Families have improved the lot of those they serve, both in Alaska and elsewhere. Do we want to ensure the next generation will be paying higher taxes because we were unwilling to do the right thing now?

Please vote to restore the Behavioral Health funding.

Thank you for your time,

Sallye Werner
16844 Kenai Terrace Road
Anchorage AK 99516
House District 27

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Anna Troxel <akjelani@ymail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 6:56 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Public Testimony for HB 66

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

My name is Anna Campbell and I'm a patient at Center For Drug Problems. I am a single mom of a 10 year old child. I live in Anchorage,AK. I've lived here for 31 years. I have been in the program at CDP for 10 months now and it has really changed my life in the short time I've been there. If y'all take all that money away (\$8.3 Million) from programs like this one it's going to cost you more money from other places. Like more of us will end up in Jail, or are Kids ending up in State Custody, Court costs, Hospital costs. Because this program really helped me and others change are paths in life. I have become a better person in society, started working and paying taxes, but most of all I became a better mother for my child. I waited 15 months on the wait list for this program. It is so hard to admit you have a problem, even harder to ask for help. The worst part is being told they can't help you right now because they don't have room available or the funding for the program to help you. Then you give up and go back to what you know. And that's sad when you want to get better but there is no programs available or money for them, to get help you need. And that's how it is now , it will only get worst if you cut all that money (\$ 8.3 million) from the few programs we have now. So I am asking you to please consider not cutting the funding of these programs I really need them and so do all the other people waiting on the wait list or in the programs. Having that place to help you get a chance for help really saved life's and gives us a chance for a good sober future for ourselves and are family's. I am so thankful I got the chance to be in the program at Center For Drug Problems it saved my life and I am so thankful everyday for that . Also the counseling sessions one on one, the group counseling sessions and the weekly groups I have attened like Relapse Prevention, Cognitive Problem Solving (which teaches us to not think like criminals anymore and how to prevent thinking errors in everyday situations, and how to act in everyday situations in life without going back to are old habits and thinking ways.) also Beyond Trauma has helped me work through traumatic events that I've been in. These are just the ones i've taken so far and there are many more. These groups are so helpful with learning ways to continue a better sober life, teaching us tools and skills to be able to stay sober. Without this help I would not have made it this far in my recovery process. I am so thankful for this oppertunity for a second chance for a better life. So please consider not cutting this money from these programs, I and many other people need and count on these services. Without them I would be in a very bad place in life instead of doing so good like now.

Thank you for your time,
Anna Campbell

907-440-1931

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Anthony J. Cravalho <anthony.cravalho@maniilaq.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 6:20 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Cc: Rep. Benjamin Nageak
Subject: Proposed Cuts to BHS - \$8.3 milion

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good Afternoon,

My name is Anthony Cravalho and I am a single father of a 14 year old autistic son living in Kotzebue.

I am reaching out to you today to address how the proposed budget cuts will affect my community and Maniilaq Association.

1. Community based services can mean the difference between providing a child with autism the needed supports within his own home and community among his own family and friends, or sending him to a facility in Texas for expensive residential treatment provided by strangers. It can mean the difference between seeing a mental health therapist in your own village or involuntary acute care in Alaska Psychiatric institute. One way or another these people will end up in services but Community based services can mean the difference between inclusion or exile for the people of the Northwest Arctic.

Every one of those \$8,368,800 proposed dollars cut will directly affect a man, woman or child potentially in crisis. I urge you to maintain the current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health and Social Services budget as the cost of community-based outpatient services is 2-5 times less expensive than institutional care.

2. Maniilaq Behavioral Health Services is located in the Northwest Arctic Region in remote Alaska. The main hub is in Kotzebue with residence of about 3000. We provide services to 11 outlying smaller villages whose occupants can range from 120 up to about 900 people. I am sure you are aware and have hopefully acknowledged the statistics provided by the epidemiology department that show how our region has some of the highest rates of substance abuse, Traumatic Brain Injury, domestic violence, suicide, and mental health concerns. The Maniilaq Behavioral Health program is the sole provider in the region with no road system and is tasked with providing support to all of the individuals in the northwest arctic region. To date we service about

200-350 clients each year, this includes substance abuse/dependence, mental health, medication management, wellness to include issues dealing with suicide and providing support to families and the communities.

If these cuts are made Maniilaq BHS will be affected and forced to send people out for services. The closest acute behavioral health facilities are located in Anchorage Alaska. So you see, by cutting cost in one area you are actually raising costs in another. I again urge you to maintain the current funding levels for Behavioral Health Services in the Department of Health and Social Services budget as the cost of community-based outpatient services is 2-5 times less expensive than institutional care.

3. **Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative**

In FY14, we are seeking annualized funding to ensure that the consultation and training services of the Complex Behavior Collaborative continue to be available for caregivers and providers, and the individuals they serve. People with disabilities are at a higher risk for experiencing complex and difficult-to-manage behaviors. People with disabilities include those with developmental and intellectual disabilities, behavioral health disorders, Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia, autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, etc.) Alaskan service providers report they lack adequate intensive support and intervention services for clients with complex behaviors. Caregivers and providers who are not equipped with specialized behavior management skills struggle because they are not always able to handle those in their care with challenging behaviors. When caregivers are given tools through consultation and training the individuals they serve are more likely to stabilize and avoid being sent to more costly institutional care—such as Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API), incarceration, nursing homes, or out-of-state residential treatment.

I please ask you to found the Complex Behavior Collaborative for FY 14 as they are working with the hardest cases in Alaska and helping people like a 14 year old girl stay in her home community instead of being sent out of state.

4. The House labor subcommittee on finance eliminated the \$100,000 that was put in by the Governor for Centers for Independent Living. Independent Living Services are very important to helping people with disabilities and elders remain independent and stay in their homes and in their communities. I please ask you to put back the \$100,000 for Centers for Independent Living.

Thank You

Anthony J. Cravalho

Maniilaq Association | Assistant Director of Planning & Development

Address P.O. Box 256 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 | **PH** 907-442-7636

TOLL FREE 1-800-478-3321 | **Email** anthony.cravalho@maniilaq.org | **Website** www.maniilaq.org

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Susan Bouterse <smason@bouterse.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 6:18 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: House H&SS Budget Subcommittee proposed funding cuts for behavioral health services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

March 6, 2013

Dear Representative Austerman:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed \$8.3 million reduction to behavioral health services. While I understand and appreciate the legislature's need to ensure a balanced budget and to ensure the state's fiscal viability, I am dismayed at the idea of doing so by cutting vital services to some of our most vulnerable community members. Just a few of the services that would be impacted include:

- Mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Services for children with severe emotional disturbance
- Suicide prevention
- Services for people experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault
- Supported housing programs
- Programs focusing on prevention and early intervention

I have worked in the health care field for 30 years and 16 of those years have been in Alaska. Much of my work has been with vulnerable populations such as the mentally ill. I've seen the irreparable damage that institutionalization does to people, and I've witnessed the impact of mental illness on family members. I've also seen way too often how the lack of adequate community mental health services results in the criminalization of mentally ill individuals. And it's a foregone conclusion that, if services are not available for individuals in crisis, they and their families are going to seek emergency room treatment, the most expensive and definitely less effective option than ongoing, consistent care.

I would urge the legislature to work with the State, funders and community partners to identify solutions to the growing mental health crisis in this state and in this nation. These proposed funding cuts will have devastating impacts on our communities, on these vulnerable populations and on their families.

I appreciate your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Susan Mason-Bouterse

9891 Puffin Drive

Palmer, AK 99645

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Philip Licht <philip@setfreealaska.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 6:05 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Behavioral Health Budget Cut

Dear State Representative,

I have recently been made aware of your intention to reduce the Behavioral Health budget. Unfortunately, I was unable to participate in public comment this afternoon, however, I am compelled to urge you to reconsider this cut. As an individual in recovery myself, I know first-hand the damage that drugs and alcohol can cause. Without services to help the individuals in our state whose lives are being destroyed, their chances of long-term recovery are very slim. In addition to being in recovery myself, I am also a leader in the health & social services field. I am the Executive Director of Set Free Alaska, an agency who provides substance abuse treatment to over 320 individuals in the Mat-Su every year. I also serve our community on the Health & Social Services Board, the Substance Abuse Coalition Steering Committee, and am the Vice-Chair of the Mat-Su Agency Partnership. I have witnessed the turnaround in countless individual's lives that leads them to become a healthy and productive member of society once again. Drug and alcohol addiction is an epidemic in our state that we cannot ignore, it is destroying our families and the next generation to come. A 2008 survey that the Substance Abuse Coalition conducted discovered that over 25% of high school juniors reported misusing prescription pain medication. With opioid abuse on the rise, cutting funding is not a decision that will lead to long-term health and productivity of those you represent.

Although our people must remain the primary motivation as they are our most precious resource, I would like to also remind you of the economic benefits of treatment. A McDowell Group report estimated that drug and alcohol abuse cost our state \$1.2 billion in 2010. According to a 2011 SAMHSA report, for every \$1 spent on treatment, we save the tax payer \$7.46. In addition, a recent Senate bill (56) introduced by Fred Dyson states that our prison rates have risen over 94% since 2005 with the average cost being over \$50,000 per inmate. With the majority of our prisoners being non-violent drug and alcohol offenders, it is clear that substance abuse is costing our state a lot of money. According to our current per inmate prison cost, treatment in our state would only need to successfully keep 166 individuals out of prison over a one-year period to pay for the \$8.3 million in suggested cuts. This does not take into consideration all the other expenses our state is incurring due to loss of productivity, welfare services for family members of those incarcerated, etc.

I realize that the Health & Social Services budget is huge, however, it also is saving our state money through the services provided. Cutting \$8.3 million would provide for a short-term reduction in our budget which would lead to a greater long-term expense incurred. In 1996 I was on felony probation for breaking & entering, a crime which was related to drug and alcohol addiction. My life was heading towards long-term problems both

personally and with the criminal justice system. I am very certain that had I not entered recovery, I would be in jail today. Based on our current prison cost, my hypothetical 17 years of prison could have cost the state \$850,000. This is only a fraction of the total cost when you factor in all the productive activities and engagement I have had in our state during that period of time. Our Health & Social Services are making a difference in the lives of our people. Please reconsider this budget cut of \$8.3 million. Our residents who are struggling, their families, our communities, and our state economics will suffer if this cut is made.

Sincerely,

Philip Licht

Executive Director

Set Free Alaska

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Alan Batten <alanbatten@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 5:51 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mia Costello; Representative Bryce Egmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Mark Neuman; Representative Bill Stoltze; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Education budget, Behavioral Health Services budget
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House Finance Committee Representatives:

I hope it is not too late to contact you before these bills leave your committee.

I urge you to reinstate the proposed cuts of \$5.7 million from the Governor's education budget and the \$8.3 million from the Behavioral Health Services budget. Education is of primary importance to the future of our state. If we don't care enough about our state to optimize educational opportunities for our children it will not bode well for us down the road. I am proud of the teachers we have in our state who put in long hours with little recognition and sometimes pay for classroom supplies out of their own pockets. We should give them all the resources they need to do the job well. I would argue that the Governor's education budget should be enlarged, not cut. It has been basically flat for 3-5 years now, while the price of heating fuel and other infrastructure costs have risen dramatically. The pre-K pilot program that is being cut has received good reviews and needs to be expanded, not cut. The "Best Beginnings" and other programs marked for cuts have also received high marks from parents and educators and need to be retained.

I understand that the funds cut from the Behavioral Health Services budget would have gone to support community-based social service programs directed toward a wide variety of social problems, including substance abuse and suicide (two issues that account for huge costs in grief, pain and money in our state). There are many more such issues. Establishing preemptive programs in our communities are much more effective and economical than ignoring problems until the people involved wind up in jails or hospitals. Social workers are another component of our State infrastructure that work very hard under extremely difficult and stressful circumstances. We need to at least provide them with adequate resources.

Thank you.

Alan Batten
946 Smallwood Trail
Fairbanks, AK 99712-3122

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Mikayla Spiers <Mikayla2@ayfn.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 5:49 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Budget Reduction

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Mikayla Spiers

601 E 16th Ave Apt A5

Anchorage, AK 99501

3/6/13

Dear Rep. ,

It has come to my attention that there is an \$8.3 million reduction being planned for Behavioral Health Services. I would strongly like to urge you to reconsider this cut. While we do need to start spending money more frugally, I honestly do not think this is the area that should be under revision. I am by no means an expert in funding, or running a government, nor am I an expert in behavioral health; however I do have experience with the behavioral health system.

My mother has benefitted greatly from peer support, peer navigation, substance abuse and mental health treatment. She has lived a difficult life, both due to circumstances and because of choices she made. Many would have said that she was unfit to be a mother when she had me, many DID say that. I can tell you without a doubt that she is a fantastic mother to this day, but the people that said otherwise would have been very right if she hadn't had access to the services she did. There are countless other cases with similar results. The services you are thinking of reducing funds for are things that can help make society all the more productive. It is these services that are giving those that thought they didn't have a chance the will to live.

It is these services and supports that allow people that have been dealt a bad hand in life to shuffle the cards and try again. They keep youth off the streets, mothers of eight sane, addicts clean and suicidal people ALIVE for their friends and families to appreciate all those extra years. They help keep people out of jails, and out of state-funded institutionalized care. These services are what are keeping society, as a whole, functioning on an acceptable level of balance. Without them, the balance will fall, and there will be chaos. Please reconsider reducing the budget for Behavioral Health Services; I fear what society will become without them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Mikayla Spiers

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Elizabeth Ripley <eripley@healthymatsu.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 5:47 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: RE: House Finance Committee: Budget
Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House Finance Members:

The Mat-Su Health Foundation is a 501c3 that owns part of the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center. We invest revenues from our local hospital into grants to make measurable improvements in the health status of Mat-Su residents.

The Foundation invests in local and state level coalitions working on health-related issues, including three working on substance abuse prevention: Mat-Su THRIVE (the Mat-Su Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition) working at the borough level; Recover Alaska, funded by Rasmuson, AMHTA and MSHF to significantly increase the effectiveness of our efforts to address substance abuse at the state level; and the Alaska Wellness Coalition, whose members comprise substance abuse prevention coalitions across the state, from Mat-Su and Anchorage to Kenai, Valdez, Prince of Wales, Seward, Homer, Yakutat, Tanana and many other communities. The AK Wellness Coalition holds that substance abuse needs to be addressed in both the community and state arenas through environmental strategies, concrete efforts to change the actual environment or culture of our community so that it supports healthy children, adults and families. Sound public policy on alcohol is an environmental strategy. The State DBH and mental health budgets are part of this policy.

Mat-Su THRIVE has documented through the 2008 Alaska Healthy Kids Survey (AHKS) that by the time Mat-Su students are in 11th grade, 68% of them have used alcohol. This is the highest use rate of any substance by Mat-Su youth. The 2011 YRBS shows that 15% of Mat-Su high schoolers have been binge on alcohol in the last 30 days compared to 22% of high schoolers statewide, so we're doing considerably better in Mat-Su. Alcohol use has become a rite of passage for our children—it is becoming the way we usher them into adulthood. We have to change the model and make investments upstream in prevention and early intervention, treatment and family supports.

The AK Wellness Coalition aims to change the way we talk about this issue statewide. We're designing a statewide positive community norms campaign to combat substance abuse. The Recover Alaska plan and

several state funded plans support this statewide media strategy, including the *AK Statewide Plan to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking*. Research conducted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on tobacco messaging has demonstrated how effective and critical public awareness campaigns are to reducing substance abuse. Through the AK Wellness Coalition, the substance abuse coalitions across the state are collaborating, instead of working separately. We're conserving resources and maximizing our reach with messaging that goes from the macro state level to the micro community level.

A recent report found that the impact of alcohol and drug abuse in AK in 2010 was approximately 1.2B. In the FY13 budget, the legislature made a special appropriation of \$9M over three years to tackle substance abuse with evidence-based strategies. The AK Wellness Coalition was awarded \$600K over the next three years to conduct this campaign. We understand that even these appropriated funds are in jeopardy at this point—even the few like ours that has been awarded. The Mat-Su Health Foundation has invested \$50K this year and plans additional investments, but we did so with the understanding that the State was a critical funder of this work. Other prominent funders are considering investing in the project as well.

An investment in the state mental health budget is just that—an investment. This is an intelligent investment that reduces demand over time. We urge you to look closely at what you cut and ensure that it does not create more costs and harm more lives. And we urge you to support efforts like this statewide campaign where communities have come together to collaborate, use dollars efficiently, and improve the chances that kids across Alaska are not harmed by alcohol. **We ask for your support in preserving DHSS/DBH funding in the budget to be allocated towards innovative substance abuse prevention and intervention projects.**

Elizabeth Ripley, Executive Director

Mat-Su Health Foundation

950 E. Bogard Road, Ste. 218

Wasilla, AK 99654

(907) 352-2863

(907) 352-2865 fax

eripley@healthymatsu.org

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Sarah Walters <Sarah2@ayfn.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 5:36 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Cc: Amber Hampton
Subject: Budget Cuts

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Sarah Walters

1034 E. 27th Ave.

Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Rep. Alan Austerman,

I recently recieved notice of an \$8.3 million budget cut. I could sit here and ramble on and on about how many behavioral health services are less expensive than traditional methods of psychiatric treatment and therapy, and are typically more effective, but, honestly, I don't think that will be very effective. Some of the services being cut include peer-to-peer support for children as well as parents, suicide prevention and intervention services, substance abuse treatment and detox services, physical and verbal abuse treatment, detection and prevention as well as sexual asault prevention, detection and treatment, intervention services, family unificaton services, and mental health services for general issues, trauma, abuse, treatment for dual-diagnosis, and even behavioral treatment. AS you can easily see, there are a lot of services that will be effected by this budget cut.

For the past year and a half I have recieved peer-to-peer support services for my depression and daily life struggles. I am currently in recovery, yet I still have constant relapses. I have purposefully kept myself out of as many systems as I could and only allowed myself to enter into one service willingly, and that has been the greatest decision of my life. I use these services on a nearly day-to-day basis and am now employed by an agency that I whole-heartedly support for it's role in serving the community by providing peer-to-peer support services as well as intervention and prevention services and early detection of many issues that the client-base faces throughout their lives.

If it wasn't for these services, I can't confidently say that I would be here to be e-mailing you today. Every person in my life has either needed these services directly or has been deeply affected (in a good way) by someone who has been changed for the better due to these services. Maybe my single message won't make a difference and what I have to say won't necessarily change your mind or influence your decision... yet I humbly

ask that these budget cuts are reconsidered and thought through at least one more time. The livelihood of tomorrow's leaders depends on you.



Sincerely,

Sarah Walters

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Kristen R. Smith <kristen.smith@maniilaq.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 5:10 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Re: Proposed Cuts to BHS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

In response to the State Fiscal Year 2014 Operating Budget: House Budget Subcommittee on Health & Social Services recommendation of cutting over \$8.3 million dollars in general funds for BHS.

Northwest Alaska has a lot of on-going problems, especially regarding mental health and alcohol/ substance abuse. This region has the highest rates of suicide in the nation, as well as extremely high rates of substance abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and criminal activity related to alcohol. Cutting programs for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, suicide prevention, tribal behavioral health services, services related to domestic violence and sexual assault and prevention and early intervention will have a devastating effect on the people who live in the Northwest Alaska region. It will have a devastating effect on the culture, employment rates will drop dramatically and the standard of living will decrease considerably as well.

Please do not cut the funding stream for these types of programs for people who live in such a remote and isolated location! There are no other options for people who live up here, and if you do cut these programs then they will have to fly more than 500 miles away for treatment; and the cost of traveling is extremely high in this area. The people do not have money for this type of thing, so they will either be left untreated and cause distressing community problems or the State will end up picking up the cost for traveling out and that is extremely expensive...a lot more expensive than funding these programs in the long run.

Kristen Smith

Lead Planner/Grant Writer

Planning & Development

Maniilaq Association

P. O. Box 256

Kotzebue, AK 99752

Phone: (907) 442-7634

Fax: (907) 442-7678



Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Al and Barb Home <alanbarb@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 4:51 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: tv movie office

Good afternoon

The other day I saw one of your members saying he was entering a bill to remove funding for TV and movie productions. He probably thinks that it is a waste of money unless you live in Anchorage. But I think that is short-sighted, there are many TV productions all over the State. Here in Kodiak I know of several that taped last Summer and there is currently 3 working this Winter. Who knows if their efforts will ever make it to broadcast but for now they are renting rooms, buying gas and groceries. I am not sure whether they would be here without that extra incentive. Please think this over if that bill comes across your desks .

Thank you for your time

Barbara Large

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: drendatigner@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 4:50 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman

Dear Rep. Austerman,

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee on Health & Social Services did not add funding for continuation of the Complex Behavior Collaborative, as requested by the Trust and partner advisory boards. The Key Coalition of Alaska is requesting the Alaska Legislature include \$450,000 funding to continue necessary services provided by the CBC in the Fiscal Year 14 budget.

In addition, please continue to work to restore the funding for services to the most fragile Alaskans, children, seniors and the mentally ill.

Thank you for your dedication and Hard work. I appreciate all you and your staff do for us.

Drenda Tigner

Chief Executive Officer

Presbyterian Hospitality House

209 Forty Mile Avenue

Fairbanks, Ak 99701

NOTICE: This e-mail message and all attachments transmitted with it may contain legally privileged and confidential information intended solely for the use of the addressee. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, or other use of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by telephone (907-456-6445) or by electronic mail, and delete this message and all copies and backups thereof. Thank you.

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Jerry Cleworth <jcleworth@ci.fairbanks.ak.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 4:27 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Doug Isaacson; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Dan.Saddler@ak.leg.gov; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Pete Higgins; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: House Operating Budget
Attachments: DOC001.PDF

Honorable House Members:

Please see the attached letter regarding the House Operating Budget.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jerry Cleworth
City of Fairbanks
907.459.6784

Alaska Legislature budget committee:

3/6/2013

I want to take a moment to express my disappointment to hear that funding for the CBC is in jeopardy and to encourage you to continue supporting rural partnerships with this vital program. My journey as a care coordinator partnering with the CBC began in a way that is far too common for many agencies that serve Alaskans who are at high risk of institutionalization. In working with a young man who has exhibited a range of behaviors related directly to his own safety as well as the safety of those who work with him (assaulting family, school personal and our agency personnel) I received a frantic phone call from his parents begging me to find an institutional placement as they felt they had no options and no place to turn after another assault. The truth is that as a state we lack the resources and expertise to serve such individuals in our rural communities. When you look at what residential or institutional programs are in Alaska you will find a lack of beds available and a number reserved for OCS children. When you couple that with the fact that clients such as mine have special needs due to the particular presentation of their developmental disability and in this case a client who is both dually diagnosed with mental illness and genetic abnormality, I shared the hopelessness and deep concern these parents were experiencing.

It was at this point that I discovered the CBC as a resource to work with Alaskans who were at immanent risk of institutionalization. As we began the process of developing a team which would implement the ABA plan, a new hope that we might prevent this young man from losing his home and community arose. We were able to work intensively with mental health services as well as with the school and family. In particular, as the school was seeing a large percentage of daily aggressive and non compliant behaviors, the CBC was able to work in the school setting and train the para-professionals to implement behavior strategies specifically designed for this young man. As you can imagine, where there was a sense of failure and desperation, this new team felt empowerment and hope.

We are still meeting bi-weekly as a comprehensive team to help this young man. I can say with certainty that if the CBC was not in existence our client would be institutionalized in a setting far from home which might not provide the level of support he requires to find success and some day return to his community and family. Currently this young man has begun to exhibit an increase in compliance and a decrease in violent behavior which speaks volumes.

I want to express to those who would hold the future of the CBC within their decision making process that this young program is just getting its legs and that the value it holds for agencies and families across the state is not yet fully understood. As a care coordinator having been involved in social services in Alaska over the past thirteen years, I would implore that every consideration is made to recognize that the CBC can play a pivotal and vital role in reducing both present and future expenses related to institutional and residential treatment.

Thank you again for your role in supporting our community, schools and families in Homer and throughout Alaska.

Sincerely,

Sean Jones

Care Coordinator.



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Alex L. Kaplan

Representing: _____

Bill No./Subject H.B. 65

Committee: House Finance

Date of Hearing: 3/6/13

I am a teacher at Homer Flex. This is an alternative H.S. in Homer. Currently our enrollment is at 40 students. Needless to say many of our students are involved w/ the community mental health services in Homer. These services we ^{are going} receive from the Center are enormous. ^{many are leaving or going through the crisis management program.} The Center is providing support to these students so they can maintain and thrive in our community. Without the support of the Center so many of our students would most likely drop out. The support they receive eventually will help many of them be self-sufficient, without the support there is a good chance they might drop out and then we know that cycle hurts in so many ways. The money you want to cut will end up not being a ~~safety~~ savings - my guess is the cost we are spending now is definitely worth spending ^{it} so in the future we don't end up spending ^{more} money later for the situations that students may end up ~~spending~~ in.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Edward R Murphy
Representing: _____
Bill No./Subject: Medicaid
Committee: H FIN
Date of Hearing: 3/6/2013

I want to thank Patti Boyle of the Independent Living Center for all her help in helping me with a Miller Trust and the Medicaid program. I am a disabled senior citizen and would probably be without adequate medical treatment (I have heart disease) with out her counseling and interventions. I regret to hear that you may be cutting funding for this vital resource for seniors and the disabled.

Edward R Murphy

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Crystal Millien
 Representing: The Center
 Bill No./Subject: HB 65
 Committee: _____
 Date of Hearing: 3/6/13

I work for South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services in Homer and work closely with area schools and non-profits. I would like to start by ~~recognizing~~ acknowledging that budget money must come from somewhere. I recognize that; however, it's important to note that cuts to DBH Grants, early childhood programs, ~~education~~ and programs to address complex behaviors and autism, will not save us money in the long run. The needs ^{the complex} these programs address are real, and rarely ^{Behavioral Collaboration} are they fully met at current funding levels. Our agencies relying on these funds are strapped and will be forced to reduce services, when that happens the needs are forced to be addressed by more expensive and ineffective means such as the emergency room, residential ~~of~~ facilities, psychiatric hospitalizations, and incarceration. But these are more than fiscal considerations all of these programs see incredible positive changes in individuals and families that branch out into the community and future generations in the necessary ways that save, not only save us money but also facilitate the development of the kind of Alaska where all citizens can be healthy, productive, and positively engaged.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Rachel Romberg
Representing: Haven House
Bill No./Subject: HB 65
Committee: House Finance
Date of Hearing: 3/6/13

I am testifying regarding House Bill 65, respectfully requesting that the Committee restore funding for Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers to the governor's proposed amounts of 937,500 and 1,042,500 respectively. These programs are a vital part of our Homer Community's health and address the needs of our youngest citizens, ~~which~~ thereby addressing the needs of our future. Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers offer young children in families facing serious challenges a chance they might not otherwise have had for health, happiness and success, something all Alaskan children should have the right to. As the Victim Services Program Manager for South Peninsula Haven House, a domestic violence agency, I have worked with both programs. From my professional standpoint, I see the immense difference that these programs make in the prevention and early detection of child abuse and domestic violence. I've seen these programs make the difference in families break the cycle of violence. I strongly urge this committee to restore funding, ^{and in doing so} to support our youngest citizens, to support the prevention of domestic violence and child abuse, and to support our future

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Meg Mitchell
Representing: SPBHS The Center PRIDE Program
Bill No./Subject: HB 65
Committee: Finance
Date of Hearing: 3/6/13

I am requesting support for funding for the Complex Behavior Collaborative, as requested by the Mental Health Trust and the Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education. As a 22 year employee of the PRIDE Program ^{working} as a provider and a case manager for people of all ages who experience a disability I would like to communicate how impressive and effective the Complex Behavior Collaborative is in helping support of consultation and training services for every community it has been invited into to assist providers and caregivers who serve people with challenging behaviors. This program has made essential, effective training supports that help intervene to improve services for clients with complex behaviors. There is no other training program in the State of Alaska which has provided more common sense supports for teams of caregivers and providers who work with individuals with disabilities and challenging behaviors. Continuing this support is absolutely essential to improve the lives of the individual with the disability, their families and their community. In addition the Complex

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: RICHARD L. WEBB
 Representing: SELF (BUT WORK AT KBC)
 Bill No./Subject: 65 OPERATING BUDGET
 Committee: _____
 Date of Hearing: 3/6/2013

I would like to register my support for Bill 65 - OPERATING BUDGET (specifically the KBC Student Advisor Position and monies for the operating costs for the Career & Technical Center.

As to the first - the KBC Advisor Position - I work on an almost daily basis with the incumbent of this position. I know first hand the value this position and this person brings to the community and to Alaska. This advisor position has a proven record of success (of being able to retain students and of helping them go on to successful careers.

As to the Career & Technical Position. This supports key economic training & development in key areas Process Technology, Instrumentation & Electronics. These are positions that are already vital to Alaska's economy. Healthcare will also be supported. But most importantly ~~if~~ the center will ~~be~~ be Training those workers who will be required for the future economy. One based upon a dynamic Technical infrastructure - and the will to support it.

R. Webb

12:15
HBCS
My name is Kim Burrows and I work at the Independent Living Center in Homer. ~~There are a couple of our consumers~~

March 5, 2013

I have a letter to one of our consumers has asked me to read for us.

Dear Alaska Legislators,

I apologize for being unable to present our comments in person and thank you for accepting my written comments.

As the wife of a man who is permanently disabled due to a spinal cord injury, I feel compelled to speak to you on behalf of disabled persons throughout Alaska on the proposed budget cuts to funding for Independent Living Centers in Alaska.

Because my husband's injury was work related and occurred in another state, we are luckier than most in that we have received most of the essential care necessary for his health and survival.

Still, even in view of that, my husband's physician sought the services of the Independent Living Center in Homer when home modifications became necessary for my husband's well being and safety. Before this, we had never heard of them before.

Although we ended up needing only minimal assistance from our local ILC, we did benefit from their several visits to our home to help us access those who could help.

During these visits, we were struck by the kindness, professionalism, and compassion displayed by workers there. In the world of being disabled, or the family of someone who is disabled, this kind of caring is often missing. We were also struck by the fact that many of the workers are volunteers—a small army of dedicated souls who function under the direction of Executive Director Joyanna Geissler and the operating Board of Directors.

Although our story is not outstanding, the stories of others less fortunate than us are.

In the limited time we have known our Homer group, it has been easy to observe the cohesive spirit of giving that means so much to so many—especially in rural areas that are already underserved.

The offices of the ILC are not fancy and the equipment is obviously dated, but the attitude and the sheer volume of work done there are state of the art.

Cutting funding to this deserving non-profit organization would be cutting essential and quality of life services for those it serves. It would be removing the small modicum of independence from those who have already lost so much quality of life through their disabilities—be it a disability with sight, hearing, mobility, or whatever the cause.

When my husband was injured, attitudes towards the disabled were horrendous. They were to be hospitalized and shut away from society. They could not own homes or hope for an independent lifestyle. Thank God that has changed. Thank God

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Jeff vonRekowski

Representing: _____

Bill No./Subject _____

Committee: _____

Date of Hearing: _____

Life long Alaskan from Sitka AK
now living in Homer AK Parents as
teachers, and best beginnings is an
essential program to provide the
utmost care and education to
families, and children.

Please continue to support
~~our~~ Thank you.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Scot L. Wheat
 Representing: SELF
 Bill No./Subject: HB65 - Budget Bills
 Committee: Hse. Finance
 Date of Hearing: March 05^W, 2013

Through the Chair, For the record, my name is Scot with one t. Please hear me, see me as a fiscal conservative. We will save money more through ~~prevention~~ prevention than belated treatment. Over the last 56 years in Alaska, I have been a customer of the school system K-university. I also have been through Emergency rooms, Department of Corrections, and APT. Today I testify that the Independent Living centers TRAILS events are helping me continue to be a student, a tax payer, a parent and a grandparent.

I receive Social Security Disability Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and other related supports. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, once allowed to function has worked to prevent unreasonable costs to clean up the mess left by alcohol, drugs, and general abuse of behavioral health symptoms.

Scot L. Wheat
 P.O. 8353

99603

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: JILL ROSS
 Representing: SPROUT
 Bill No./Subject: PRE-K FUNDING
 Committee: HOUSE FINANCE
 Date of Hearing: 3/14/13

MY NAME IS JILL ROSS AND I AM THE ASSISTANT COORDINATOR FOR THE INFANT LEARNING PROGRAM. BEING IN EARLY INTERVENTION, WE HAVE AN INVALUABLE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM. I AM TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF A FAMILY CURRENTLY RECEIVING SERVICES WITH PARENTS AS TEACHERS: "MY DAUGHTER AND I ARE A PART OF THE PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM AND HAVE BEEN FOR ABOUT 4 MONTHS. I FEEL THIS IS THE BEST EDUCATION AND INTERACTION MY DAUGHTER HAS EVER GOTTEN. IT IS GETTING HER READY FOR SCHOOL AND LIFE. THESE CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE AND IT ALL BEGINS W/ THESE PROGRAMS." THANK YOU.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: LS LINDSEY
Representing: HOMER INDEPENDENT LIVING
CNTR.
Bill No./Subject: HB65
Committee: Finance Committee
Date of Hearing: 3/6/13

Homer independent living center helped me with many projects. Amanda was especially kind + helpful, as were many people at the center. Kim the receptionist was extremely kind + helpful.

My wheelchair ramp is enclosed thanks to a grant ~~from~~ that the H.I.L.C. helped me obtain. I wanted to thank everyone who helped me. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: LARRY TANNER
Representing: INDEP LVB CNTR - HOMER
Bill No./Subject: HR 65
Committee: FINANCE COMMITTEE
Date of Hearing: 3/6/13

I've been a resident of AK for 23 yrs & a res. of Homer for 8 yrs now. Got very sick from an injury that lasted for 6 yrs: lost housing / employment / basic life structure. Did not qualify for state or fed aid of any type. It is my belief if the services would not have been there for me @ the LLC in Homer, I would have probably slipped through the cracks and been unable to have a productive life. The LLC has helped me w/ everything from medical to housing to starting my own business. Now I am not homeless - for close to 6 years - and am now a taxpayer in the state of AK. It is my belief if you cut these services, there will be many people that would lose out on a full life here in this great state of AK.

I am in favor of full-funding plus and the state should not try to fix something that isn't broke!

Larry Tanner

1332 Lake Shore Dr. Homer, AK 99603

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Lolita Brache

Representing: self

Bill No./Subject: HB 125 operating budget

Committee: Finance

Date of Hearing: 3/6/13

I urge you to support the UA budget to the fullest extent possible. Supporting the programs at Kenai River Campus - including the Career and Technical Center is essential to Alaska's ability to have a skilled work force in the future.

Cutting funding to education is ~~an~~ regressive. We need educated working citizens. Anything that limits our campus' ability to provide high quality programs is going to result in serious gaps in the future.

Lolita Brache
299-0694

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Lolita Brache
 Representing: self
 Bill No./Subject: operating budget
 Committee: finance
 Date of Hearing: 3/6/13

Im speaking for myself and many parents who support Best Beginnings and Parents as Teachers Homer has strengthened support to families with these funds. Prevention is more meaningful than remediation! A few things Best Beginnings has done - outreach story hours, trainings and support for child care providers, free activities for parents & kids.

Parents as Teachers builds resiliency in children & parents - connecting parents to resources, providing specific information + skills training. Keep Kids OUT of OCS by supporting parents as teachers

Lolita Brache
 299-0694

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Catherine H. Knott
Representing: KPC
Bill No./Subject: "65" Operating budget
Committee: Finance
Date of Hearing: March 6, 2013

I am an assistant professor of anthropology at Kenei Peninsula College; I also teach distance courses which include WAA students from all over the state. I am writing to support the UA Board of Regents approved budget items for student success advisors & student advisor's position. These are of critical importance for the success of our students. We have a higher number of nontraditional students many years & many have challenges above & beyond their academic classes - in the last year I have had students with major illness, accidents, loss of jobs, loss of childcare, & new babies, new spouses, new jobs, students deployed overseas and who have lost a spouse. All of these present serious challenges to the ability of a student to stay in school. Our student advisor & student success staff work one-on-one with the students to make sure that the students don't give up, that they get through critical periods without quitting school, and that they choose courses & majors & degrees which ensure them the best chance for success. Please hear this testimony in favor of the Board of Regents' approved budget.

John Cannon
3101 Whispering Woods Dr.
Wasilla, AK 99654

March 5, 2013

Representative Allen Austerman
Co-Chair House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Austerman:

I waited at the Mat-Su LIO for over 1.5 hours to testify at the Finance Committee HB65 public testimony held 3/6/13. Unfortunately, I had another commitment and had to leave. I was impressed with the legislators who like you who stayed for the entire session and listened to the heart felt and compelling testimony of citizens from all over our great State. On the other hand, the number of empty seats around the table was not impressive.

Following are the comments I would have made for the record.

Good afternoon Chairman Austerman, Chairman Stoltze, and members of the committee. My name is: John Cannon, I live at 3101 Whispering Woods Dr., Wasilla. I serve as the President of the Key Coalition of Alaska. On behalf of Key, I want to thank you both, the members of your committee and their staff for taking time out of their busy schedules a few weeks ago to meet with individuals with disabilities and their family members who traveled to Juneau to talk with legislators about their challenges and their successes. Mr. Chairman, today I want to speak in support of the complex behavioral collaborative.

After closing out their budget subcommittee process, the House Finance Budget Subcommittee on Health & Social Services did not add funding for continuation of the Complex Behavior Collaborative, as requested by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and partner advisory boards. Mr. Chairman I am here today to ask your committee to reconsider this decision. I respectfully request support of a funding increment to continue the critically needed support services provided through the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative.

Research shows that when individuals with complex behaviors have on-going supports they are more likely to remain stable, productive, and functioning successfully in the community. Without supports, people with difficult-to-manage behaviors can more easily escalate into crisis, requiring more acute and costly care at API (Alaska Psychiatric Institute), emergency room care, incarceration in Alaska's correctional facilities, or out-of-state institutionalization.

The Complex Behavior Collaborative is saving the Alaska money. According to state staff, the Collaborative helps reduce service costs by 50% when crises are averted. Mr. Chairman on behalf of Alaskans who need these critically important services I strongly urge your committee to fund the requested \$450,000 increment needed for the complex behavioral collaborative. Thank you.

Sincerely,


John Cannon
907-376-6063

GLENNALLEN LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Glennallen_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-822-5588/ phone, 907-822-5591/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Sheila Horton
REPRESENTING: CRNA

BILL#/ SUBJECT: HB 65/HB 66 Operating and Mental Health Budget

COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: HFIN 3/6/13

My name is Sheila Horton, and I am a BHS Clinical Director for CRNA.

I would like the legislature to reject any cuts to the Behavioral Health Budget because of already present unmet behavioral health needs in Alaska. Alaska has the highest rates of substance abuse, depression and suicide of any state in the U.S.

For the many years that I have been in Alaska, I have watched as one Substance Abuse center after another has closed its doors. And as a long term mental health provider, I have treated countless people who suffer from depression, thoughts of suicide, and suicide attempts. This population is vulnerable and disenfranchised already. Why would we, the people of the state of Alaska, push them further to the edge?

And speaking of vulnerable, disenfranchised people, what of the chronically mentally ill; those who can have fulfilling enriched lives, if they can receive the support and counseling provided by the very programs that will be gutted if the legislature makes the proposed cuts.

GLENNALLEN LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Glennallen_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-822-5588/ phone, 907-822-5591/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Lejla Berberovic
REPRESENTING: CRNA

BILL#/ SUBJECT: HB 65/HB 66 Operating and Mental Health Budget

COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: HFIN 3/6/13

Thank you for your time.

My name is Lejla Berberovic, and I am a Behavioral Health clinician. I work for CRNA. I work mostly with children. CRNA has been able to extend my position so that we can provide services at our schools. This helps the families with things such as transportation. Also, this helps our schools since they don't have the funding to provide mental health services themselves.

I can tell you that all of the children I work with have academic difficulties and a lot of them are at least one year behind.

I truly believe that their academic problems stem from their mental health problems such as trauma. Often this trauma is because they belong to a lower socio-economic bracket which is exactly the bracket we at CRNA tend to serve. I want to urge you to not cut funding to mental health services to both adults and youth because these services are helping these children function at their optimum today and therefore, better theirs and our futures.

March 6, 2013

Dear Governor Parnell, Legislators & Committee Members,

I'm Valarie Kingsland. I work in a school library and I'm a Regional Representative for the Alaska Association of School Librarians.

I have a BA from UAF and I'm currently a grad student in an online program for a Masters in Library and Information Science at San Jose State University.

I am Inupiaq and have lived in Unalakleet, Fairbanks, Selawik and Shishmaref before moving to Seward.

On behalf of the School Librarians of Alaska and the rural education community, I request continued funding for Live Homework Help. In addition to providing tutoring from kindergarten through college, it also offers help with GEDs, Citizenship, a Writing Center and Career Center that included job search and resume writing skills. As a participant in the free online Introduction to Alaska Digital Resources class and a competent writer and successful grad student, I've used the writing center and found it to very helpful. It was one of the most valuable lessons in the class.

On behalf of rural communities and fellow Alaska Natives, I request continued and full financial support for the OWL broadband project. I was encouraging a young person to attend the online graduate program I'm in; only to be disappointed that it isn't possible because the bandwidth required to participate in such online education programs is not available in his village. Online education opportunities are increasing and the potential to reach rural participants is powerful and transformative. It's time to take broadband off the road system and to the rest of Alaska for the benefit of those who have the least opportunity and resources in Alaska.

Each of these programs empowers your people, Alaska's people, to learn and contribute to the welfare and future of Alaska.

Thank you for your time.

Valarie Kingsland

Seward, Alaska

valariek@alaska.com

www.about.me/vkingsland

March 6, 2013

To the Chair
House Finance Committee:

Today I am testifying on behalf of Alaska Vocational Technical College in Seward, AK. While the proposed cut of \$200,000 may sound very small in the scheme of things, this proposed cut will result in program reductions at AVTEC. Any class cut could very well be the one required course someone needs to complete his/her degree.

AVTEC specializes in training the future workers needed for Alaska. Welding, carpentry, heavy diesel mechanics, maritime training, electricity, and plumbing are just a few of the courses offered. Students learn how to make a good living and provide stable support for the State of Alaska.

We need to train Alaskans to work in Alaska!

Right now, there are opportunities we have to take advantage of, such as the expansion of the Bering Sea fishing fleet by its moving from Seattle to Alaska. Shell Oil is becoming a larger presence and will shortly begin drilling in the Arctic; it is anticipated during the summer of 2014. The railroad is also expanding its capabilities.

Now is the time to increase training opportunities for our workforce so we can meet the needs of Alaska's future.

Sincerely,

Vanta Shafer
Current Seward City Council member
Former Mayor, City of Seward

1004 2nd Ave
Seward, AK
907-224-2525

March 6, 2013

Dear Representative,

I am a guardian for a 62 year old developmentally and physically disabled adult in Seward, Alaska. Due to her physical and developmental disabilities, she can easily become isolated and shut-in. The Independent Living Center here has been a God send for her in connecting her to the community so she can make friends, gain access to activities that greatly improve the quality of her life, and improve her mental health. I strongly support this wonderful program that already operates on minimal funding. Please do not deny the \$100,000 incremental funding that can enable the Independent Living Center to provide these services to more of those who are in our trust of care.

Thank you,



Christine Sheehan

Seward, Alaska

POB 2982

491-0260

March 6, 2013

Dear Representative,

I was shocked to see the magnitude of the proposed cuts to Behavioral Health Services in Alaska. I am a guardian for a developmentally and physically disabled adult who also suffers from mental illness. In addition, I work in the administration of a community behavioral health agency. I see the individual need first hand, and I see the day-to-day struggles of the agency trying to keep solvent in order to continue to offer services. It is a huge challenge as many are suffering and need these services to cope in their daily lives. Many do not have resources of their own to pay for services, relying on Medicaid billing, but the reimbursement rates are fixed. The agency cannot continue to absorb the lack of resources on its own, and be able to continue to provide the much needed services, as well as maintain competent staff with the below par wages that are all we can offer.

Please reconsider the impact that these cuts will have on the ability of small agencies to continue to provide these much-needed services in their communities.

Sincerely,



Christine Sheehan

Seward, Alaska

POB 2982

491-0260



P.O. Box 1045
302 Railway Avenue
Seward, Alaska 99664
Phone: 907.224.5257
Alaska toll free: 1.888.224.5257
Fax: 907.224.7081

Co-Chairmen,
House Finance Committee,

Dear Sirs,

My name is Dr. John Craig Williamson, I am a psychologist and Behavioral Health Director for SeaView Community Service in Seward, Alaska. Our agency is a non-profit community mental health agency which offers 12 unique programs in our facility. We provide services for mental health, substance abuse, disability services, group home assisted living, transitional community support, youth and family services, infant learning, domestic violence and sexual assault, and tele-behavioral health. We primarily serve the poor and the working poor in Seward and the surrounding communities of Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, and Hope.

I am writing today to urge you to not pass House Bill 65. The reason for my request is that the demand for all of the services we provide continues to increase. We observe that as the economy worsens the stresses it produces on our citizens and their families also increases. The waiting list for our outpatient substance abuse counseling is almost three pages. We have had twenty new requests for behavioral health services since the middle of February. Our tele-behavioral health program provides psychiatric medication management to fifty area residents. Several of these people are seriously mentally ill, and would require hospitalization or possibly be incarcerated if it wasn't for a service like this to monitor and help support them living in the community. Using programs like tele-behavioral health we have been very successful in keeping many mentally ill people in the community rather than be admitted, or re-admitted to API.

Our agency maintains a 24 hour crisis line to handle requests for behavioral health emergencies such as suicidal individuals, psychiatric emergencies, and domestic violence and sexual assault. We are proud to provide services to all the residents in our cachment area regardless of their ability to pay. We are able to offer these services because the State of Alaska, Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Public Safety, and other state granting agencies help us with grants to help provide vital services for many who could not otherwise afford them. Please carefully consider these Alaska citizens when you make your decisions. Thank you.

J. Craig Williamson, EdD

PO Box 365
Seward, AK 99664
t: (907) 224 5205
f: (907) 224 8826
www.providence.org/alaska

March 7, 2012

Re: Proposed cuts to State Trauma Fund



Dear Legislators,

My name is Robert Reeg. I am a physician and the Trauma Medical Director at Providence Seward Medical Center, a Level IV Trauma Center. I would like to express my concerns about proposed cuts to the State Trauma Fund. I have been practicing in Seward, Alaska for eight years and during that time I have seen lives saved and vast improvements in patient care as a direct result of the State Trauma Fund.

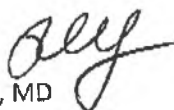
It is well documented that a small percentage of people live in rural areas, but approximately half of all traumatic injuries occur in small communities like Seward. Examples of life threatening injuries we encounter include car, motorcycle, and snow machine accidents, gunshot wounds, stabbings, and severe life threatening injuries from falls off Mount Marathon. We encounter the same types of injuries that are often seen in big cities, but we have multiple disadvantages. Our transportation times to more advanced care in Anchorage are prolonged due to our location as well as weather. We also don't have the trained staff, capabilities, or the equipment of larger hospitals. We don't have Trauma Surgeons, board certified Emergency Physicians on permanent staff, or other experienced staff. Severely injured patients are often limited to our small hospital staffed mostly with Family Physicians and nurses when they sustain a life threatening injury.

Despite these disadvantages, we strive to provide the highest level of care to our patients. We struggle financially like other rural hospitals. The State Trauma Fund has been vital to our successes and without this funding I question whether or not our hospital would be able to afford the infrastructure to continue to provide this level of care. We currently use State Trauma funds to finance trauma education for physicians and nurses. The funds have also allowed us to provide advanced trauma training to 24 local EMS providers yearly. We have also been able to purchase life saving medical equipment including a video intubating device which has already saved multiple lives. We have also significantly benefitted from the expertise, guidance, training, and outreach provided by Julie Rabeau, the State Trauma Program Manager.

Please consider continuing funding of the State Trauma Fund. I can say with certainty that this program has and would continue to save lives in Seward and other Alaskan communities. I greatly appreciate your consideration of my comments.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Robert Reeg, MD
Trauma Medical Director, Providence Seward Medical Center

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Ann Dixon

Representing: Homer Public Library

Bill No./Subject Proposed Cuts to Governor's Education Budget - OWL Program

Committee: _____

Date of Hearing: 03/06/2013

Please restore funding of \$761,800 as in the governor's budget for the OWL program. ~~Thank you!~~ Please see attached. Thank you!

OWL Funding

Restore funding please!

The OWL project has been instrumental in upgrading public access to the Internet for people who live in the Homer area and make use of the library's Internet and computers. Last year we registered nearly 50,000 Internet sessions. Many people cannot afford Internet access in their homes, or the access they have is too slow to support certain functions, or they ~~do not have~~ ^{do not have} printers and ~~printing~~ at home.

The OWL ~~program~~ ^{program} helps pay for the bandwidth we use to support this public access. Without it, the library budget would not be able to provide the amount of bandwidth we currently offer. Yet demand for bandwidth only grows. People need computers and internet access to apply for jobs, get health information, retrieve government documents and forms, find legal documents, conduct business, and many other essential activities of modern life.

OWL has also provided us with computer equipment, most notably the fabulous videoconference equipment we now enjoy. So far we've used it to provide cost-effective training for staff, air the presidential debates, offer a hands-on robotic workshop ~~program~~ for youth, a job interview, a thesis defense, both receive and broadcast live story times for children, and numerous other educational and civic programs.

Libraries need this funding in order to afford this access to technology and information for our communities. Funding for bandwidth benefits people in all age groups and from all segments of our community. I urge you to support full funding for Governor Parnell's budget of \$761,800 for the OWL program.

Thank you very much.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Ruth Allison Reynolds
Representing: Parents as Teachers, Best Beginnings
Bill No./Subject: House Bill 65
Committee: House Finance
Date of Hearing: 3/6/13

Please restore the funding for Parents as Teachers and Best Beginnings to the levels proposed by the Governor

I am the parent of a four-year-old child with developmental delays. These delays often manifest as what most people who are not educated in early childhood development would simply call "bad behavior." I spent several years in frustration as every technique I read about in parenting books, and all of the advice from other parents failed with my child. As my frustration escalated and I felt more and more helpless, I went to Sprout in Homer and signed up for Parents as Teachers. My Parent Educator immediately saw signs of developmental delays in my daughter and gave me several questionnaires to fill out. She also told me about how much a pediatric occupational therapist might help my daughter. She has also recommended many good parenting books to help me deal with my daughter's needs. Best Beginnings held a free parenting class with free childcare that taught me how to discipline my child in a way that suited her needs. My Parent Educator also helped us get into a neurodevelopmental clinic that I otherwise would not have been aware of. If it was not for Parents as Teachers and Best Beginnings, I believe I would still feel lost as a parent, and my daughter would not be getting the therapy she needs.

Thank you for serving this wonderful state -
rich in resources and people.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Caroline Venuti
Representing: Kachemak Bay Campus
Bill No./Subject: H.B # 65
Committee: House ~~and Means~~ Finance
Date of Hearing: 6 March 2013

My name is Caroline Venuti, I'm a
live-long Alaska. I am an educator. I
taught in Alaska for 33 years. I currently
am the Learning Resource Coordinator at
Kachemak Bay Campus.

I'm hold a Bachelors' Degree from U.A.F.
and a Masters Degree from U.A.A.

I'm concerned about the budget not
being supported for K.R.C. and K.B.C.
Carol Swartz and Gary Turner are
pros at budgets. You need to know
they put many hours looking at a
fair budget for their community needs.
Fairbanks and Anchorage are large city
centers - both campuses are large. But
for some students small is what is
needed. The Old Believers and native
Alaskans are two groups that benefit
from small classes, lots of support,
and opportunities to be active in
student govt.

One size doesn't fit all!
Please look again at the funding for
Kenai Peninsula College.

~~I see it 2 ways:~~

You can be remembered as the legislature that helped ~~all~~ colleges campuses meet the community needs. The choice is easy/ support K.P.C.

signed: Carolin Veruti
Box 3652
Homer, Ak. 99603

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Karen Shemat
 Representing: Sprout / PAT, BB programs
 Bill No./Subject: 65
 Committee: House Finance
 Date of Hearing: 3/6/13

Please restore Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers & other early childhood funding back to the governor's proposed funding levels,

I've been a family/home visitor in Homer for over 12 years now & I've seen dramatic improvements in families lives when they get support from programs such as PAT, ILP, BB, Imagination Library etc.

PAT, in particular improves parenting practices, increases early detection of developmental delay & health issues, promotes safe & healthy relationships & improves school readiness & school success.

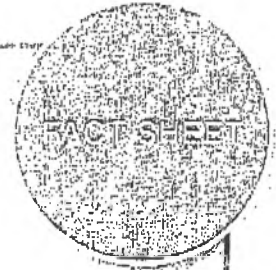
I was a parent in the program & it works!

- See Attached: Please
 - Why invest in PAT 2 pages fully
 - Parent support letters, fund

Thank you



Parents as Teachers™



Why Invest in Parents as Teachers

An evidence-based home visiting approach builds strong families and promotes positive parent-child interaction so children are healthy, safe and ready to learn.

Few investments have the rate of return of early childhood programs. Investing in children, starting with the earliest years, produces significant long-term impacts for individuals and communities.¹ Children who participate in early education programs receive immediate benefits from improved kindergarten readiness and long-term benefits from school success, better employment, and reduced delinquent and criminal behavior.²

What experts say:
An independent cost-benefit analysis

A 2004 study conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy titled "Benefits and Costs of Prevention and Early Intervention Programs for Youth"³ found that:

- > Parents as Teachers realized an \$800 per child return on investment for communities (\$4,300 in benefits of the program minus costs over 2.5 years).
- > Parents as Teachers had the largest benefit per dollar of cost (\$1.23) of all reviewed pre-kindergarten education programs for children up to age 3.

The difference

Home visiting is critical to high-quality preschool programs. Parents as Teachers curriculum are often selected by preschool programs as the resource on home visiting to support their early childhood services.

Parents as Teachers is designed to:

1. **Enhance parent knowledge of child development and improve parenting practices.**
 - > Most brain development occurs in the first few years of life and parents are the most important influence on children during this critical period.
 - > Parents who participated in Parents as Teachers were more involved in their child's school, increasing the chances of long-term academic success.⁴
2. **Increase early detection of developmental delays and health issues.**
 - > Parents as Teachers detects delays and refers children to appropriate resources for early intervention which results in long-term savings.^{5,6}

- Annual special education costs per student = \$8,080⁷

- Annual cost for non-special education student = \$4,394

- > In the 2009-2010 program year, Parents as Teachers parent educators identified thousands of delays:⁸

- 3,000 social emotional problems
- 2,400 vision problems
- 2,600 physical delays and health problems
- 3,400 hearing problems
- 18,000 developmental delays

- > Nearly 10,000 children with developmental delays received access to specialized follow-up services.

3. **Promote safe and healthy relationships to prevent child abuse and neglect.**

- > Children who are safe, healthy and ready to learn are able to achieve success in school. Children who have been abused and neglected have higher rates of juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, school failure, alcohol use and psychiatric illness.⁹

Our vision is that all children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential



(continued)

- > Parents as Teachers equips families with the information and tools necessary to provide a healthy and safe home using five protective factors to strengthen families: parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, and children's social and emotional development.

4. Improve school readiness and school success.

- > Children who are prepared for kindergarten continue to do well in the early grades of elementary school, are more likely to graduate from high school and achieve success in life.¹⁰
- > Parents as Teachers, combined with preschool, narrows the achievement gap between low-income and more affluent students both at kindergarten entry and at third grade.¹¹

Every year 4 million children are born in the United States; if each of these children participated in Parents as Teachers, more than \$17 billion in benefits could be realized.^{12,13}

¹ Cunha, F., Heckman, J., (2007) Conference Presentation.. research funded by Partnership for America's Success

² Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2004 report. <http://www.waipp.wa.gov/pub.asp?docid=04-07-3501>

³ Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2004 Report <http://www.waipp.wa.gov/pub.asp?docid=04-07-3501> and U.S. Census data

⁴ Piantanoci, J., Lamborn, T. and Yarnell, V. (1996). Second Wave Study of the Parents as Teachers Program

⁵ Drazek, S.M. & Houtz, M. (1994). *Preventing Special Education Costs via Early Intervention*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Finance Association, Nashville, TN. Savings of over \$57,000 was reported for the 1993-1994 school year in a program which served 43 children in Binghamton, NY.

⁶ Piantanoci, J.C. & Zigler, E. (2007). *Prekindergarten experiences, school readiness and early elementary achievement*. Unpublished report prepared for Parents as Teachers National Center. PAT participation related to higher kindergarten readiness for children with special needs. Early identification of special services for minority children helped reduce the minority gap in school-aged special education placement. Since special education costs are more than double that of regular education, PAT services provide considerable educational savings.

⁷ U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, *A New Era: Revitalizing Special Education for Children and Their Families*. Washington, DC, 2002. http://www.ed.gov/init/commissionboards/whspecial/education/reports/imagov/Pron_Rup.pdf

⁸ Parents as Teachers 08-10 Annual Program Report

⁹ Child Welfare Information Gateway, http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubac/actsheets/lang_tenn_consequences.cfm

¹⁰ Snow, C.E., Burns, M., and Griffin, P., (1998) *Preventing reading difficulties in young children*

¹¹ Piantanoci, J.C. & Zigler, E. (2007). *Prekindergarten experiences, school readiness and early elementary achievement*. Unpublished report prepared for Parents as Teachers National Center. PAT participation related to higher kindergarten readiness for children with special needs. Early identification of special services for minority children helped reduce the minority gap in school-aged special education placement. Since special education costs are more than double that of regular education, PAT services provide considerable educational savings.

¹² U.S. Dept. of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, *A New Era: Revitalizing Special Education for Children and Their Families*, <http://www.ed.gov/init/commissionboards/whspecial/education/>

¹³ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count 2004 data www.kidscount.org

Sprout Family Services
2691 Ben Walters Lane, 4
Homer, Alaska 99603

To Whom it May Concern:

I participated in the Parents as Teachers program with my children and I am very grateful to SPROUT for sponsoring this wonderful program. P.A.T. is very rewarding and beneficial for children and families, and the skills we have learned have helped our family grow closer. We have been very pleased that SPROUT and P.A.T. Russian rural program have respected our Russian Orthodox Old Believer culture, and have also supported our language and traditions.

The P.A.T. program has been such a positive experience for my family over the last year. It has provided an easy and convenient way to enhance the learning opportunities of our children. Our parent educator Yulia Kern is very knowledgeable and eager to assist me with my questions, Yulia is able to refer me to the appropriate resources.

I will hope that the program will continue with the same service, as always. We truly value the knowledge we have gained on how to encourage our children's development, in age-appropriate ways. Both SPROUT and P.A.T. have not only enriched our child's life, but ours as well. Special thanks for Yulia Kern, who is establish PAT program in our Russian village.



**South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
3948 Ben Walters Lane, Homer, AK 99603**

Child, Adult &
Psychiatric
Treatment
907-235-7701
Fax:
907-235-2290

24 hour
Emergency
Services

Rehab
Services
The Annex
907-235-6990

DD Services
PRIDE Program
907-235-9287
Fax:
907-235-7834

www.spbhs.org

3/5/13

Dear Legislators;

My name is Susan Drathman. I work at South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services, Inc. as the director of the PRIDE Program, which provides home and community based services to people experiencing Developmental Disabilities. About 40% of the people we serve also have Mental Health challenges. We do an excellent job of serving most of the people in our program. We do however have some individuals with extremely challenging behaviors that we are not able to serve effectively. When this occurs, we have limited options in our small community and people have to leave Homer and their families for more expert services, generally for a hospitalization or to enter institutional care. People may be gone for a short time or for many years.

There are several serious concerns with this service model. First, there is the anguish of people leaving their family, friends, and community behind to the impersonal care of an institution. This trauma for the individual and family can resonate throughout many years.

Next, when the individual is ready to return to the community, the community is not ready for them. There will have been no local opportunity to improve skills for the professionals and families who will resume care.

Finally, there is the extreme cost of institutional care which can be in excess of hundreds of thousands of dollars per year per individual.

This service model has been repeated all over the state for many years. We even have a program called **Bring the Kids Home** that has been funded for a number of years to encourage and support the return of children who have been institutionalized out of state because programs and communities lacked the capacity to respond to their extreme behaviors.

As a result of these problems, the **Complex Behavioral Collaborative** was formed for the purpose of enabling people with challenging behaviors to remain in their home communities. The Collaborative has access to experts who can respond to urgent requests from service agencies to quickly intervene in times of crisis and give the caregivers the tools they need to become more effective in their service delivery. Through consultation and training they assist in stabilizing the individual and avoiding more costly institutional care, such as API, incarceration, nursing homes, or out-of-state residential treatment.

In FY12, funding was allocated to set up the Collaborative and develop the provider agreements. In FY13, the Collaborative began serving clients and continues to expand its consultant and client base. In FY14, we are seeking annualized funding to ensure that the consultation and training services of the Complex Behavior Collaborative continue to be available for caregivers and providers, and the individuals they serve.

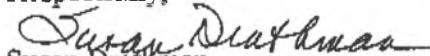
We have been very fortunate at our agency to have had several individuals served through the Collaborative and 2 more pending. We have found this approach to be very effective and has allowed children to remain with their families who would have otherwise left the community. Our staff and direct care providers have received training and support to allow them to expand their skill sets and expertise.

In summary:

The Complex Behavior Collaborative helps providers avoid crises and acute care situations by:
1) building community-based service capacity to deal with difficult behaviors; 2) building expertise related to maladaptive behaviors within Alaska; 3) providing services in the community to prevent or reduce the need for hospitalization and acute institutional care.

Please continue to support funding for the Complex Behavior Collaborative.

Respectfully,


Susan Drathman

PRIDE Program Director

March 6, 2013

State of Alaska

House and Senate Finance Committees:

HB 65 operating budget

Chairman and members of the Committee: My name is Lanetta Lundberg and I reside at 7446 South Tongass, Ketchikan, Alaska. I am a constituent from District 1A and the Vice President of Culture and People at Ketchikan Medical Center.

I am here today both in that capacity and as a citizen to encourage you to include the Alaska Area Health Education Center in the UA budget or in the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's General Fund request. The funding is to support five (5) regional, industry-hosted Centers that focus on community-based training, and preparation of Alaskans into health careers. Regional centers are located throughout Alaska and Ketchikan Medical Center is proud to host the Southeast Area Health Education Center serving all of Southeast Alaska, otherwise known as SE AHEC.

UAA Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) (GF: \$320.0, NGF: \$75.0, Total: \$395.0)

The Alaska AHEC system has felt the impact of decreases in federal funding that have already occurred for three centers and will continue through FY2016. This budget reduction for each of five centers is from \$250k to \$100k per year. The AHEC program office, located at UAA, supports the five AHEC centers (Interior, Yukon Kuskokwim, South Central, Southeast, and 15FY14 Operating Budget Program Descriptions Northwest) serving large geographic regions of Alaska, which focus on: developing and sustaining a strong healthy workforce in Alaska by engaging youth and others to enter health related careers; recruiting health students to consider working in rural and underserved areas of the State through clinical rotations in rural areas; and retaining health professionals in rural areas by providing continuing education opportunities. The AHEC system plays an important part in developing the health workforce in the state and works closely with a variety of partners to attract Alaskans into health careers, beginning with courses in UA health programs. In upcoming years the healthcare sector is predicted to produce Alaska's largest job growth; funding for the AHEC system is a key factor in fulfilling the UAA mission as the lead university at UA for health matters, and is a high priority of the Alaska Health Workforce Coalition and the Mental Health Trust Authority.

The indisputable fact remains that we all use and will continue to need access to health care services. This requires having a qualified workforce available to tend to our needs – and the needs of our parents, children, and friends and neighbors. We can't rely on this coming from outside of Alaska and need to continue to strengthen and grow health care education, training and workforce within Alaska.

Thank you,

Lanetta Lundberg
7446 South Tongass
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Lanetta Lundberg

*Please ensure the
AHEC increment for \$395,000
is included in the
UA operating budget.*

FAXED
03-06-13

Dear House Finance Comm.

Dennis and myself (Vickie) are so thankful for independent living ^{for} and the help they provided. Dennis had back surgery and also had a broken hip that ~~he~~ had not been repaired. Without the ramp Dennis would have been housebound. ~~due to~~ We both thank independent living center.

Vickie Diver
Dennis Vaughan

FAXED
03-06-13

My Name is Patricia Chapman, I reside at 3233 Emma court in Ketchikan. I am concerned about many aspects of your proposed budget cuts and omissions. I commend you all for trying to be fiscally responsible. However I believe that your proposed budget cuts may cause an increase in services that are very costly to the state. The Complex Behavioral Collaborative program that you have omitted from the budget is to care for those individuals who have too complex of behaviors for their providers in their home communities. The CBC funding would provide for a professional to train and provide tools to the staff and family in how to help that individual. This would keep the individual in their home community around family and friends safely. This would help stop some of the abuse to families and children by individuals with complex behaviors. Believe me an individual with complex behaviors do not wish to behave as they do; most do not understand what they did until after it was done; then they are appalled. Many individuals try to commit suicide when they understand how they have behaved; they do not know how to stop it or why they do it. The CBC funding would keep some of those individuals from entering our criminal Justice system. Just 10 individuals who are sent to a 30 day psychiatric institute (only ten mind you) will cost what we are asking you to fund the CBC for a year for. This funding would support 4 to 5 times, or more individuals in their home community. A per day stay in a psychiatric unit is \$1200 per day plus, the transportation is up to \$80,000 per medevac trip. The cost of keeping an individual in Jail costs the state hundreds of dollars per day. The cost of legal system is a expensive cost to the state, as these individuals use the public attorney system. I would rather pay out now to help these individuals stay at home and perchance heal enough so that they could get a job, even part time, to allow them to be a healthy part of the community. Please add the CBC funding back into the budget.

I also ask you not cut the Traumatic Brain injury funding. We have hundreds individuals and families who need the case management and someone to guide them to the resources to allow in TBI individual to heal and become able to understand the sudden change in themselves. It is very scary to wake up and be a different person and yet know who you once were. Not to be able to do what you once could do or even speak as you use to do. You do not have to have a severe injury to have this happen to you, a mild brain injury has the potential to change your whole life. As my daughter told her peers once, "In a nano second, your life is totally changed". It could happen to you or one of your loved ones at any moment, if so you would want help for them or yourself. The TBI program helps hundreds of folks with gaining tools to use in their daily life or locating resources for them in the state.

To cut the mental health budget as you are projecting will put many vulnerable individuals at jeopardy of being homeless, in jail or in the psychiatric institution. Those with jobs may lose them as services are no longer available for them to maintain a safe healthy behavior. Let us not load our jail system up even more with these individual with mental health problems because we omitted to provide them with the services they needed to live in a safe manor.

FAXED
03-06-13

People with mental health and developmental disabilities are depending upon you to safe guard them and keep them in their communities safely. I urge you to look back upon the vast cuts you are proposing to this segment and revise it to safe guard those in your hands who cannot safe guard temselves.

The center for independent living provides aide and skills that other agencies do not in aiding individuals develop and retain independence living capabilities. They provide free loan of equipment for folks to try to see if it will aide them in gaining some independence. They have trained staff to help fix homes so folks who acquire a disability suddenly, can stay in their homes safely. They help in finding resources for people with a disability that will enable them to function within the community. Centers for independent living are a vital part of the disability community. Lose the function of your eyes, ears or extremities and see how suddenly you need to find a resource to help you live somewhat as you use to do, or even stay in your home. Please help Centers for independent Living continue to stay in our communities.

You may ask how I know what things cost or how an individual reacts. I work in a field where the cost of medical care is prominent. I work in a field where the cost of medical care is prominent. I am hearing impaired myself and a parent / care provider of a 24 yr. old TBI individual who was brain injured seven years ago and occurred severe physical limitations along with the brain injury that she is very actively attempting to overcome. So I am living the life with her and it is not always joyful when those around do not comprehend the stress and challenges she daily has to face. I also volunteer to help others with brain injuries find help and understand what is happening. Finding the resources are not easy to locate when most are just not available in our state at this time.

You are my elected officials and I would like to think you are proactive in your fiscal responsibilities and not reactive. I do not like to see our budget getting larger and larger but our state is getting a larger and larger population and they live or lived dangerous lives. We also have not cared for many of these individual in the past, so we now have a high population that needs treated and cared for. If we do a good job now we should slow down the expanding costs of care for these individuals within the state. Alaska is behind other states in the care for TBI victims.

I thank you for taking the time to read this and understand what I am trying to convey to you. Please feel free to contact me for more information if I can help in any way.

FAXED
03-06-13

Patricia (Pat) Chapman

patchapman@peacehealth.org

907-617-5704

FAXED
03-06-13

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Paula Price-Executive Director

REPRESENTING: HOPE- Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies

BILL# or SUBJECT: DVSA

COMMITTEE AND
HEARING DATE: House Finance Committee 2-26-2013

I would like to thank the Alaska State Legislature on behalf of HOPE and the people of Prince of Wales Island for including funding in the budget for new and emerging DVSA programs such as ours. We offer legal advocacy and prevention education services. DVSA is a major concern here and it affects many families. This funding could enable us to provide more prevention and outreach training to the more remote parts of P.O.W. This funding could ensure that we retain our advocate as a full time employee.