

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1497

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1995-1996

Mr. Leonard
PO Box 61

M. Fabich

584-5528

Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
03/03/95	N	SB 98	Supports		05		U

TEACHING IN A NATIVE VILLAGE FOR 10 YEARS. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY EVER INCREASING CONCERN OVER THE CURRENT WELFARE SITUATION AND THE NEGATIVE EFFECT IT IS HAVING ON EDUCATION WHILE WELFARE IS CONTINUING TO SUPPORT FAMILIES FOR DOING NOTHING. IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE A GOAL FOR OUR STUDENT POPULATION.

Senator Lydia Green
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

March 15, 1995

Dear Senator Green:

It was not possible for us to participate in the public hearing regarding Senate Bill 98, so we're taking this time left in our day to give you our opinion as we consider bill 98 important. We definitely feel that there should be a time limit of from three years to five years and then cut off welfare to recipients. Welfare going on infinitely as it is now must stop.

Women on welfare less than 18 and even up to age 21 are probably much better off at home or in a home group environment. Presently these women get enough money to become rent paying roommates, and are more prone to get pregnant again whilst the would be father takes off and leaves them as continued burdens of the taxpayers. Living with their families has a better probability that these women might try harder at getting out of a dependant State. Welfare puts party girls in a great situation. They can continue their lifestyle, if dependant on the taxpayer, without anybody telling them what to do or expecting anything out of them. By the time these girls realize that their life is really going nowhere it's too late. We have a friend whose daughter just tried to commit suicide. Her daughter started becoming depressed several years ago. She has a seven-year-old daughter, and she's been on welfare since she was pregnant at the age of seventeen. She's lived with various boyfriends, and has had a wild ride of booze, drugs, and sex. Presently this young girl feels that her life is a dead end. Maybe if she had stayed home she may have tried to do something more with her life. So we agree that a requirement for young teens requesting welfare should be a home environment of some sort. Their chances of success would be much better in our opinion.

With regards to taking away the Alaska permanent fund dividend from those on welfare, we are definitely against it. No one who qualifies should be denied their permanent fund dividend. That dividend comes from monies received as a result of taxes paid to the State by the oil companies when they drill oil out of this land. As citizens, we have no mineral rights to our land (as we should have) so this is the only payment we're receiving for oil taken out of our State. In Texas, for example, residents have mineral rights to their land so they get paid if oil is taken from their land. We get nothing. Only the State bureaucracy gets paid, and the permanent fund dividend is the tiny dnbble we citizens receive. All citizens deserve that at least. If welfare recipients have their checks stolen, then pretty soon another group of citizens will be picked to have their portion stolen until nobody will get it. No, the permanent fund should not be taken away.

With regards to reducing welfare benefits by six to fifteen percent, we do not believe it should be reduced if the plan is to cut the whole thing after three to five years. The people who really need the help cannot afford to get less. Those who don't need the help, but are just sucking off the system will be off it eventually when the cut off time arives and hopefully cause a sort of balance.

Finally, we hope bill 98 when finally passed (if passed) does what it is supposed to do....prevent abuse of the system; not try to take away more from those who do need it.

Sincerely,


Rapp Family
P.O. Box 221865
Anchorage, AK 99522-1865

MAR 20 1995



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the H E E S
committee name
committee on S B 08, dated Mar 24 1995
bill/subject

You have my wholehearted support on this bill.

Signed: _____

Carole A. Nelson

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

General Delivery Willow, AK 99688

Address

907-495-5862

Phone No.

MAR 27 1995



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education & Social
committee name

Services Senate SE98, dated 2/23/95
committee on _____, bill/subject

We support SB 98 "Personal Responsibility Act of 1995" because the workers in the state and nation can no longer afford to support welfare programs to the extent they have been supported in recent years.

Overall the bill is a good start to getting people off welfare. We particularly endorse the concept of job training, however, we do not feel that the working taxpayers owe welfare recipients a college degree. It should be sufficient that they can find honest work in order to pay for college if that is their goal. They will put a great deal more value on the degree once they earn it.

In order for the jobs concept to work the legislature should next look to passing rules and regulations to encourage rather than discourage business and resource development. Suggest a sliding scale of regulations to help small businesses get started.

Thanks for your hard work.

Signed: Lucille J. Frey
Testifier

AK + Lucille Frey
Representing (Optional)

HC02 Box 7342 Palmer AK 99645
Address

(907) 745-3868
Phone No.

MAR 27 1995

John J. Thorne
 1045 1/2 10th Ave. N.W.
 Wash. D.C. 20037-1818

The situation is - several others I am suggesting
to go to work on a regular basis at some point -
At this time I am the only one in our
organization - a part-time lawyer in our
area, at least none whom I know, not my job club
or any other - I don't know if I do, not
at that point, not in our area. I may not be the
only one in your country, not in areas I feel.

Right now I am working with "volunteers" on
 the "job" program. There is a separate recipient
 group to see to some extent a program for a job.
 I am not sure the point that this person is not
 in contact, has not had this training, it's a day
 before the 1st. Will she be at the time so she won't be
 anything, all her calls about it, it's a one-time

thing. She will be able to work. As yet she receives
 no money. I am working with military. Myself
 and some ~~not~~ important. I am not sure the person
 is a doctor or a nurse. still in paying for her
 - all are asked. I feel we also need to adapt
 some new action, starting they have now
 with no extra AB. I also say no divider

Mr. Ryan
12955 Lindsey Dr

M. Lance

263-4419

				Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
Anchorage	AK	99516		05		Y
Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject		
03/22/95	N	SB 98	Supports			

I SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS ON SB 98 TO REFORM THE WELFARE SYSTEM. I'M SURE YOU ARE HEARING ALL FINDS OF OPPOSITION FROM THOSE WHO HAVE A VESTED FINANCIAL INTEREST IN MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO. KEEP A CLEAR MIND AND HOLD FIRM, YOU ARE DOING WHAT MAKES SENSE.

Ms. Cari
HC02 Box 7349C

Feaster

745-1951

				Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
Palmer	AK	99645		05		Y
Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject		
03/24/95	C	SB 98	Supports			

I SUPPORT SB98 AS WRITTEN. THE WELFARE PROGRAM NEEDS TO BE REDIRECTED TO SUPPORT THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE TRULY IN NEED. SO MANY PEOPLE SEE THESE PROGRAMS AS AN EASY WAY OUT OF RESPONSIBILITY. THEY CAN HAVE CHILDREN, AMPLE FOOD AND A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS WITHOUT WORKING FOR IT. WE NEED TO CHANGE THE PUBLIC'S THINKING. WELFARE SHOULD BE A LAST RESORT, NOT A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.

Ms. Carol
4800 E 112th Ave

Jensen

346-3321

	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter	
Anchorage	60		Y	
Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject
03/27/95	N	SB 98	Supports	

WELFARE RECIPIENTS AND THE VULTURES WHO LIVE OFF THEM (SOCIAL WORKERS, ETC) WILL ALWAYS WANT MORE, NEVER LESS. THE PUBLIC DOESN'T WANT TO KEEP PAYING TO SUPPORT THE LAZY LIFESTYLES OF EMPLOYABLE AGE HEALTHY PEOPLE.

REINSTATE HB 70 AND SB 37 TO KILL THE HOLD HARMLESS PROGRAM FOR ALL BUT THE LOW INCOME ELDERLY AND DISABLED.

Mr W
HCRO1 69G

De Jones

373-2831

	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter	
Palmer	24		U	
Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject
03/27/95	C	SB 98	Supports	

I'M ALL FOR CUTTING. I HAD 2 NEIGHBORS ON WELFARE, WHEN THEY GOT THE DIVIDEND. THEY PUT IT ON THE BAR AND TOLD THE BARTENDER TO LET THEM KNOW WHEN IT WAS USED UP. I'D LIKE TO SEE WELFARE RECIPIENTS HAVE MORE PRIDE. IT SEEMS

TO BE ONE GENERATION AFTER ANOTHER. I SUPPORT SB 98 AND THE BILLS THAT ELIMINATE THE HOLD HARMLESS PROVISION OF THE PFD TOO.

Mrs. Robert
6209 Chevigny St

J. Cochran

243-3439

				Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
Anchorage	AK	99502		20		U
Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject		
03/28/95	N	SB 98	Supports			

I AM IN FAVOR OF SB 98. WHAT STARTED AS A HELPING HAND HAS BECOME TOTAL SUPPORT, CONTINUING INDEFINITELY UNDERMINING CHARACTER OF RECIPIENTS. ALSO, I DO NOT WISH TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO REFUSE TO LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES
AFTER RAISING MY OWN FOUR CHILDREN AS A WORKING SINGLE MOTHER.

Ms. Alice
3441 Harrier Cir

M. Bray

333-2359

Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
03/13/95	N	SB 98	Supports		01		U

REGARDING YOUR PROPOSED WELFARE REFORM BILL, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM 100 PERCENT IN SUPPORT OF EACH ITEM AS PROPOSED.

Ms. Louise
PO Box 770323

Pogany

696-2390

Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
03/13/95	N	SB 98	Supports		60		Y

WE ARE IN TOTAL SUPPORT OF SB 98, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

Mr. Gary
PO Box 770323

Pogany

696-2390

Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
03/13/95	N	SB 98	Supports		60		Y

I AM IN TOTALY SUPPORT OF SB 98. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

Mr. Eric
PO Box 274

Landenburger

224-3979

Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
03/14/95	N	SB 98	Supports		01		Y

I'D LIKE TO COMMEND MS. LYDA GREEN FOR HER EFFORTS ON WELFARE REFORM AND DENYING THE PERMANENT FUND TO WELFARE RECIPIENTS. BETWEEN MY WIFE AND MYSELF, WE WORK THREE JOBS PLUS COMMERCIAL FISH. LET THE FREELoadERS WORK, TOO.

Ms. Beth
HC85 Box 9381

Stohl-Reiland

269-6426

Eagle River AK 99577

Distribution Affiliation Reg Voter
05 U

Date POM Sent Constituency Bill Number Response Subject
03/10/95 N SB 98 Supports

I AM IN FAVOR OF SB 98 AND AM ASKING YCU TO CONSIDER THE INCREASED DIVERSITY OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR STATE EMPLOYEES WHEN DECIDING TO CUT OUR SALARIES.

Mr. Doug
P O Box 870351

Millard

376-2118

Wasilla AK 99687

Distribution Affiliation Reg Voter
01 Y

Date POM Sent Constituency Bill Number Response Subject
03/10/95 N SB 98 Supports

ELAINE, DAVID, CURTIS AND I ARE IMPRESSED WITH AND IN FAVOR OF SB98.

Ms. Eleanor
7330 Silver Birch Dr

Nesting

243-5048

Anchorage AK 99502

Distribution Affiliation Reg Voter
00 U

Date POM Sent Constituency Bill Number Response Subject
03/10/95 N SB 98 Supports

I WANT STRONG WELFARE REFORM. NOT HALF WAY MEASURES. I LIKE SEN. GREEN'S SENATE BILL 98. IT IS TIME TO PUT FREE LOADERS TO WORK AND TO QUIT REWARDING UNMARRIED MOTHERS FOR HAVING MORE AND MORE CHILDREN.

Ms. Rebecca
4690 Caravelle Dr

C. Mallory

243-0200

Anchorage AK 99502

Distribution Affiliation Reg Voter
05 U

Date POM Sent Constituency Bill Number Response Subject
03/13/95 N SB 98 Supports

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SUPPORT SB 98. MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT THE TIME LINE FOR BENEFITS IS FIVE YEARS. IT SHOULD BE THREE YEARS OR LESS. THE LONGER THE BENEFITS, THE MORE IT CREATES DEPENDENCY. I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THE IDEA THAT THIS BILL PROJECTS-CREATING SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Ms. Bonnie
7290 Glacier Hwy

J. Savland

789-4242

Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
03/10/95	N	SB 98	Supports		20		U

I JUST WANTED TO REGISTER MY SUPPORT FOR SB 98 AND URGE ITS SPEEDY PASSAGE.

Ms. Elizabeth
428 East St

R. Eavey

586-1059

Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
03/10/95	N	SB 98	Supports		02		U

I THINK THIS BILL WILL HELP PEOPLE TO BECOME MORE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE IN REGARDS TO PUBLIC SUPPORT; SPECIFICALLY IN THE FACT THAT NO ONE MAY RECIEVE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AND THAT AFDC

RECIPIENTS SIGN A CONTRACT. THOSE TWO ASPECTS OF THE BILL HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT.

Mr. Bill
9550 Moraine Way

Paulick

789-0777

Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
03/10/95	N	SB 98	Supports		01	Juneau	U

I SUPPORT THIS BILL. THE STATE IS INVOLVED IN TOO MANY PROGRAMS THAT WOULD BE BETTER ADMINISTERED AT THE FAMILY, CHURCH OR COMMUNITY LEVEL. HARD COPY WITH DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

Mr. Ken
7330 Silver Birch Dr

L. Nesting

243-5048

Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
03/10/95	N	SB 98	Supports		60		U

I SUPPORT SENATOR LYDIA GREEN'S SB 98. THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1995. WELFARE RECIPIENTS SHOULD NOT HAVE BETTER LIFESTYLES AND BENEFITS THEN LOWER INCOME WORKERS. LETS GIVE WELFARE RECIPIENTS MOTIVATIONS TO WORK, AND LOW INCOME WORKER'S MOTIVATION TO STAY OFF WELFARE.



Lawrence D. & Lydia G. Wood

P.O. Box 1789 Palmer, Alaska 99645-1789 / Tel. & Fax. (907) 746-4981

March 18, 1995

Sen. Lyda Green
Rep. Vic Kohring
Rep. Scott Ogan

Re: Legislation before the House and Senate. Education. Youth Violence

Dear Sen. Green, Reps. Kohring and Ogan:

I have just reviewed over 40 house and senate bills, now in committees. Several of the public's concerns over welfare reform and child support enforcement are addressed by this legislation. For example, HB62 & SB109 provide for revocation or denial of occupational licensing for failure to pay child support. SB98 provides for a fairly comprehensive rework of the welfare system by establishing work and education requirements, time limits, citizenship eligibility requirements, and denies additional aid for children born to a welfare parent. Legislation which would have an impact on welfare and child support issues is SB105, which requires parental or court consent for a minor female to have an abortion. Lydia and I are generally in support of the intent of these bills. We hope that you will support them.

Youth Violence

There are several pieces of legislation which seem to address this concern, but fall short in failing to provide for any substantive remedy.

HB215 provides for the suspension from or denial of admittance to school for a student's disorderly behavior or other condition which would either prevent the student from benefitting from the programs offered. This bill falls short in one area. It requires a felony class conviction to deny admittance. What about several violent misdemeanor convictions? Otherwise, if that deficiency is not corrected before a vote, then we can support the legislation in its present form.

HB206 provides for the suspension or revocation of a juvenile's drivers license for other than driving issues. If Section 2 concerning the revocation, suspension, or denial of a driver's license were extended across the board to adult also, then I do not think that there would be a problem with this bill, other than the association of the driver's license with non-driving criminal acts. Further, the bill refers to a 'juvenile court.' For the offenses listed, there should be NO JUVENILE anything. To

Sen. Lyda Green
Rep. Vic Kohring
Rep. Scott Ogan
Legislation Comments
March 18, 1995
Page 2

intentionally bring firearms to school, or commit a violent act, the juvenile offender should be treated as an adult at least from age 13. Juvenile should be stricken from the language in reference to the court, and the 'court of jurisdiction' substituted. Otherwise, we can support the intent of the legislation.

SSHB104, HB125, SB29, SB102 all address the need for disclosure of juvenile criminal records, but fall short of the degree necessary to insure the safety of the community, the school, school staff, and student body. I disagree with the protection of the minor offender's record couched in each of these bills. There is little or no provision for insuring that the school has vital information concerning a student's criminal acts. This information should be provided to the school administration and staff on a confidential basis, but **SHOULD BE PROVIDED AUTOMATICALLY** upon registration or conviction. If a student has a criminal conviction history, then the disclosure of that history by the family or the police should be mandatory. Same for any violations occurring during the school year. Notice of any pending charges should not be withheld from the school administration and affected teachers. However, I can see withholding information on an ongoing investigation. Therefore, Lydia and I cannot support this legislation in its present form. There are too many protections for the youthful offender and too little for society and the schools.

We do support the concept of sealing an individual's youth offense record for misdemeanor offenses after five years from the last offense--so long as that record can be used by the prosecution and police in the investigation and sentencing of any post sealing convictions. However, there should be no sealing of court records for **VIOLENT** felony class crimes. Simple assault is one thing, assault with a deadly weapon is another. Today's youth are too well informed about their rights under the law. They have no excuse for their violence, any more so than an adult offender.

We fully support HB87 establishing youth courts. We are familiar with the concept, and are aware of the success of the program in Anchorage and elsewhere in the U.S.

HB142 provides for the Department of Corrections to provide for juvenile detention in adult facilities. This falls far short of the facilities necessary to insure proper separation of juveniles and adult offenders. Further, it does not address the need for the establishment of a new or increased capacity juvenile detention facility(ies) to address the growing problem of juvenile crime. We are shipping prisoners Outside for lack of space. How does this bill solve anything?

Sen. Lyda Green
Rep. Vic Kohring
Rep. Scott Ogan
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SB26 addresses the consequences of the use of firearms by juveniles, but also allows for the sealing of court records. I do not believe that records of VIOLENT felony class crimes should be sealed--restoration of rights for good behavior, yes, but not denying the knowledge of a violent act. With that exception, we support this legislation.

SB46 provides for the treatment of juveniles as adults in District Court cases, with specific limitations: Possession of tobacco, fish and game statute violations, alcohol, and minor traffic offenses. What about misdemeanor assault, reckless endangerment, and other misdemeanor acts of violence or negligence? This bill does very little to expand the current responsibility for a juvenile's acts against society. Therefore, while sterling in intent, this bill does not go far enough. However, if that is all that is offered, then we can support it, but we would rather see the responsibility expanded to cover all of the District Court's jurisdiction in criminal matters.

HB202 provides for parental accountability in making restitution for a juvenile's damages in committing an offense. This bill, oddly enough, leaves out garnishment of the JUVENILE's permanent fund dividend, and requires only the parent's(s') dividend(s) to be garnished to pay for restitution. This is a glaring deficiency and needs to be corrected. Otherwise, the intent of the legislation addresses the need for restitution for a minor's acts, but, again, falls short of also making the juvenile offender responsible for the act resulting in harm by leaving the juvenile's dividend intact. Therefore, we cannot support this legislation without first correcting that deficiency.

(My perspective is from my experience as a member of the Mat-Su Borough's Youth Violence and Anti-crime Task Force and with the raising of three children, now of college age--LDW.)

Driving Issues

HB10 makes me wonder if Rep. Davies is an insurance agent. This bill requires mandatory uninsured driver coverage with every vehicle insurance policy sold in Alaska. I do not believe that such coverage should be at anyone's discretion but the purchasers. We oppose this legislation. Insurance rates are too high. This bill would force them to even greater levels. How about insurance reform?

HB24 raises the BAC level to .08% for DUI charges. The problem is not with the present level of .10%, which is a reasonable standard. There is also a decline in the number of first time

Sen. Lyda Green
Rep. Vic Kohring
Rep. Scott Ogan
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arrests, overall. The problem is with the repeat offender and the fact that the offender can walk out of a bar over the legal limit. Raising the ante and increasing convictions requiring jail time in an already overloaded corrections system is ridiculous. Therefore, increasing the number of convictions is contra productive. We oppose this legislation on the basis of the lack of deterrence for and solution to the problem.

HB 204 and SB82 both provide for the automatic suspension of a driver's license by administrative rote upon issuance of a citation for possession of alcohol with no relation to a driving offense. The issue of taking a license by the administrative act with no relation to the actual alcohol is raised. I am concerned with the revocation of a driver's license for everything under the sun. We cannot support this for just a minor consuming issue. DUI is DUI, whether adult or minor.

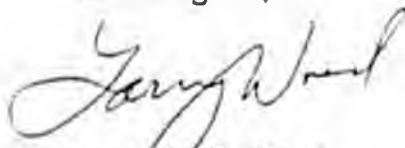
Miscellaneous

HB210 provides for third party DMV agents. This is a GREAT idea. We wholeheartedly support this concept. I am certain communities without DMV offices would benefit greatly from this concept.

HB77 and SB38 provide for the allowance of off-road vehicles within five miles of the Dalton Highway for trapping activity. We support this legislation. Although, I see that oil exploration vehicles are provided for, but not explicitly stated as to the allowance of vehicles used in MINERAL exploration. The current law allows for mining vehicles, but only states exploration in terms of Oil. An oversight that might have repercussions down the road if an exploitable mineral deposit could be safely exploited within the pipeline corridor.

This completes our comments on the foregoing legislation. We hope that you will take our comments into consideration when you review the above legislation for a vote.

Best Regards,



Larry and Lydia Wood

Rachel

Constituent Contact Sheet

NAME: Rick Krueger

DATE: 3-28-95

ADDRESS: Works for Ketchikan
Radio station

PHONE: 225-2193

S.S.N.: _____

REGARDING: Heard about SB98 - fully supports 2 yr.
limit on AFDC. Wants to testify at
next hearing.

Horror story about owing \$30,000 in back
child support payments because mother
has been on AFDC for past 13 yrs.

Never knew had child until yrs. later...

System is out of control + answers to no one.

They were at fault but he still owes. Filed bankruptcy.

ACTION TAKEN: _____

RESPONSE TO CONSTITUENT: _____

State Farm's Car Finance Plan is simple as



DALE L. CONOVER, AGENT
~~Auto-Life-Health-Home and Business~~
436 NORTH MAIN ST
WASILLA, AK 99654 PHONE (907) 376-2478

March 23, 1995

Senator Lyda Green
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Lyda,

We are supporting your welfare reform efforts. We applaud your willingness to take on a big issue.

A recent letter to the editor in the Anchorage Daily News suggested testing welfare recipients for illegal drugs. What a great idea. Employees of government and industry who are in responsible positions are required to test. Why not those on government handout!

Keep up the good work!

Dale and Staff

Dale Conover
Dee Boughton
Linda Conover
Karen Cleveland

MAR 27 1995

5 50 56 PM 3/15/95

Senator Lyda Green
Room 423 State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Senator Green

Don't throw this letter away early. Contrary to good communication the main intent is toward the end.

The state is too socialistic. The damage being done is almost beyond repair. I like to put in Webster's definition of socialism but will give you a break and quote the words that really stand out, "classless society."

State employees to high of wages is the biggest welfare system, second is the educational system, parents \$20,000.00 a year wages is paying for \$40,000.00 a year school teachers. This fact is causing a lot of conflict between teacher and student.

What the public is seeking are Legislatures with some courage to combat known excessive expenses, I am for cutting back on welfare as such but would much prefer a start on the above first.

Let me thank you for your effort in cutting back state expense by your recent bill.

Good Luck in getting your bill into law.

David L. White *D. W.*
3486 HCO1
Sterling, Alaska 99672

See the Railroad, Ferris, etc.

MAR 23 1995

Mr. Phillip
4410 N Douglas Hwy

L. Gray

586-6913

Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject	Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
03/20/95	N	SB 98	Supports		60		Y

OUR FAMILY SUPPORTS PASSAGE OF SB98 (THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1995). THIS BILL WILL HELP TO PREVENT SOME OF THE WELFARE FRAUD AND DEPENDENTS ON WELFARE BY MANY PERSONS CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Constituent Contact Sheet

NAME: Hellene Polis

DATE: 3/22/95 12:30 pm

ADDRESS: PO BOX 875313

Wasilla AK. 99687

PHONE: 376-0435

S.S.N.: _____

REGARDING: Strongly Supports SB 37. Believes
hold harmful laws should be repealed. She
was on welfare for a short period of time & it
helped her through a crisis; welfare should be
temporary help for needy people in a crisis.

Need workfare and time limits - no
additional money for more children.

ACTION TAKEN: _____

RESPONSE TO CONSTITUENT: _____

3/17/95

Senate
Lizbeth Green

I strongly support your
bill on welfare.

That is why I and the rest
of the working class voted
for you. We are tired of
carrying the free loaders.

Thanks

.. Patrick O'Connor

Box 3657

Palmer AK 99645

MAR 22 1995

Henry P. Guinotte

Box 579 - Palmer, Alaska 99645-0579

Telephone (907) 745-4392

FAX (907) 746-3435

March 19, 1995

Cynthia Toohey
State Capitol #104
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Cynthia,

My hope in this letter is to offer some possible answers to questions you and Senator Green may have already heard. I'm sure you know where I stand on all this.

My comments are based on over 15 years experience of working with people who are or have been on state and federal welfare benefits. I have no selfish interests. I don't receive a salary from the food bank. I don't receive any program money from the state nor do I seek a state grant.

The figures on welfare from Senate HESS are only part of the whole picture. The figures are accurate for state programs. However, there are people on various Social Security benefits related to disability and veterans' disability programs. Then there are Workman's Comp and unemployment insurance. All the figures would indicate a large per cent of Valley people on some type of public aid.

Many long time welfare people are moving to Alaska because Alaska has benefits 5 times what some other states have. As the other states tighten up on welfare, folks will move out of strict states. Many are coming to Alaska. Unless we scale down benefits the state will gain more than a proper share of welfare people.

Over 100 welfare people have moved to Palmer in the last eight weeks. They come from the south 48. Their vocabulary indicates that have been on welfare in the south 48. They know the rules. They all talk about the \$1000 they hope to get. Some may try to get it this time around.

One of the best ideas I heard was not to give welfare people the permanent fund dividend. Then make sure California and Oregon newspapers get the story. From what is in the Anchorage paper this idea is not legal. When a family of five gets about \$15,000 in annual AFDC benefits for the year, why give them another \$5000 in dividends?

The talk of getting jobs for the welfare people is one that causes me to laugh. Many of the folks don't want jobs, won't take jobs, and don't understand about working for a salary. There aren't enough jobs out there if they did want to work.

When these folks take jobs they have an emergency on a regular basis that keeps them from going to work. The emergency might be that they need to stay home because the cable TV installer is expected. Or, I want to go shopping in Anchorage. As one fellow told me with shock, "You mean you have worked for 38 years non stop?" After a few months of work he quits his job and goes on unemployment, food stamps etc. Work is more than he can handle.

MAR 22 1995

What about the poor children of welfare families? Giving money to the adults will not necessarily help the children. The state money goes for alcohol, car repairs, expensive cafe dinners, etc. When people come to me with the poor child story I often say to them that the state gives you the AFDC to take care of the children. If you are not taking care of the children your acceptance of the money is equivalent to fraud.

There are many people making big money because of welfare. The state grant supported organizations will cry that the needs of people are not being met. Actually they are concerned about the size of the state grant because their salary comes from the grant. We had an all volunteer effort that helped abusive parents in relationships with their children. After many years it was decided that a small state grant would help with some of the expenses. Then, the grant got so big that someone said, "what you really need is a person with a masters in social work to run the program." She took the job and got the salary. When the state grant ran out the organization closed down. She had angered the volunteers to a point they all quit.

High school girls often get pregnant by desire, not accident. Part of being a teen is to rebel against adults. A 16 year old that wants to get away from home gets pregnant to get AFDC. The \$821 looks big to the students. Restricting welfare payments to the teens would cause the parents to get involved if the girl gets pregnant. There would be less high school pregnancies.

Withholding added benefits from ladies on AFDC that continue to bear children might reduce the increasing number of welfare supported children. I doubt that the ladies have added children because of the money. The economics don't add up. The ladies enjoy sex and are careless about controlling the situation.

Expect a lot of crying from the welfare set and related organizations. The folks are good at laying guilt trips on people. The organizations tell people things to get them stirred up. I get form letters and telephone calls asking me to object to reductions in the various welfare programs.

Whatever the amount of benefits the welfare set get, they will always want more. The month the permanent fund checks are received the folks come to me with the same needs for food, utilities, and rent. I don't know what happens to the dividend money.

Senior citizens sometimes think like welfare people. The tax exemption on real estate is being abused. When the welfare set asks me to pay rent I check the ownership of property before paying the rent. Sometimes the rented cabin is on tax exempt property. One senior has a summer house here that is tax exempt. He spends the winters south. On this issue I have a vested interest. I reach the magic age this year. Every citizen should help pay for government. It would be wise to reduce the tax exemption to \$50,000. I heard there is a bill that talks about \$75,000.

I hope the staff person that reads this will give you a condensed version of this letter.

Sincerely,

Henry P. Guinotte

MAR 22 1995



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Welfare reform
committee name

committee on SB 98 Personal Responsibility dated MAY 1995
bill/subject

Dear Senator Green

In this area the people on welfare think its the other people around here owe them a living. There are kids here that are 25 to 30 years old able to work but won't because its to easy not to, I have even heard some of them say; If they cut me off I will have to go find a job, and one lady even gets paid to pick up her own child at school, because nobody would send a handicapped bus to the school for this one child

The people who live out in the remote areas of this valley should not get free air plane rides to town to take there children to the doctors, if they want to live out there thats ok with me, but please lets not subsidize a lifestyle they themselves have chosen.

In closing there is another reason to stop welfare

we can't afford it anymore

Thank you

Signed: Mr. Jerry Shurtleff Shurtleff
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P. C. Box 211 Willow AK 99688
Address

445-6503
Phone No.

Rep Lyda Green
Ak State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Ak 99811-1182


Dear Ms Green

Although I am not from your district, I want to encourage you to continue your attempt to cut the generous welfare benefits that the recipients receive in this state.

Our current welfare programs in Alaska are simply subsidizing slothfulness and non-productivity. Our benefit levels are the highest in the nation and are attracting recipients to our great state in unprecedented numbers. Our previous director, Jan Hansen, did everything within her power to convince the state legislature that welfare is not a problem for Alaska, and should continue to be funded at its current generous levels. The real truth of this matter is diametrically opposed to what Jan Hansen stated. People are flocking to Alaska, mostly Anchorage, for the higher welfare benefits.

The hold harmless program has got to go away. Twenty two million dollars so that a few select persons get to keep their welfare and their permanent fund dividend too. And the 22 million comes from all other Alaskans.

Your drive and desire to cut the generous welfare benefits is commendable. Please keep up the effort and realize that working persons, such as myself, are supporting your efforts.


David C. Wolfe
8211 Pioneer Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99504

MAR 22 1995

Mr. Andrew
12100 Woodway Cir

J. Bond

263-4623

				Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
Anchorage	AK	99516		60		Y
Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject		
03/21/95	N	SB 98	Supports			

I SUPPORT SB 98. PLEASE CUT WELFARE PROGRAMS. THIS STATE CANNOT AFFORD A BLOATED BUREAUCRACY ANY LONGER. CUT SPENDING IN EVERY DEPARTMENT. DO NOT THINK ABOUT RAISING TAXES.

Mr. Matt
6121 Austria Dr

Scully

265-8896

				Distribution	Affiliation	Reg Voter
Anchorage	AK	99516		20		U
Date POM Sent	Constituency	Bill Number	Response	Subject		
03.21.95	N	SB 98	Supports			

I SUPPORT WELFARE REFORM AS PROPOSED IN SB 98. THESE REFORMS ARE LONG OVERDUE. THIS BILL ENCOURAGES INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND FAVORS THOSE WHO MAKE RESPONSIBLE CHOICES. IT DISCOURAGES WELFARE AS A WAY OF LIFE BUT GIVES FINANCIAL HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL THOSE WHO REALLY NEED IT.

produce a decent return.

Never mind the Tobacco Road image of poverty and shiftlessness. Generations of Carolina families built homes and put their children through school raising tobacco. In Durham, N.C., home of Bull Durham and once the tobacco capital of the world, cigarette factory workers of re-

gett and Myers cigarette factory.

In 1964, nearly 6,000 workers manufactured tobacco in the Bull City. Today, fewer than 750 people retain tobacco manufacturing jobs. Instead, Durham now has nearly 15,000 health-care workers and calls itself "City of Medicine."

"We used to try to kill you,

college basket-
bears their nam-
ty.

Between 1861
Dukes, led by C
Washington Du
themselves from
co farmers into
of the largest to
in the world, th

Welfare means dividend break

I feel the March 8 "Ouch" editorial was unfair to Sen. Lyda Green and all federal income tax-paying Alaskans. This time of the year, most Alaskans and their children have to pay tax on the permanent fund dividend. For some Alaskans, the IRS takes over one-third of their dividend. No one protects tax-paying Alaskans from the government taking a bite of their PFD.

Welfare recipients are the only class of Alaskans protected from the government getting its share of the PFD. Welfare was originally set up to be a short-term program. Its purpose was to provide funds for food, shelter and clothing for those who needed temporary help getting back on their feet. Therefore, it does not seem logical to exclude the PFD as countable income in determining a monthly welfare check. Welfare recipients are already receiving governmental benefits that have no taxable consequences. Therefore, they receive full welfare benefits in the month they receive the PFD, and they do not pay any federal tax on their PFD. This means they receive a higher PFD than the average working Alaskan.

It would appear to me that the Daily News has forgotten the purpose of welfare. You stated in the editorial, "A millionaire real-estate mogul and a humble person in need of help should have the same ownership interest in the state oil savings account." People on welfare do receive the same PFD as every other Alaskan. The only difference is that the people on welfare don't have to give the government a share of their PFD.

I believe this rewards welfare recipients and hurts working Alaskans. It discourages welfare recipients from working and from becoming more financially independent. These types of programs have caused the welfare dependency we have today.

— Michael D. Croft

Tune out raunchy radio jocks

Having been a flower-child/hippie of the late 1960s, I don't consider myself a "prude." I still listen to Led Zeppelin, although now I hear the lyrics that my parents objected to back then. But I am increasingly annoyed with what I hear on

Send me to

A Daily News contest sponsor

How would you like a free trip to Juneau, to see your state government in action and campaign for an issue dear to your heart?

This is your chance.

Enter the Daily News' "Send Me to Juneau" contest.

The contest will give an ordinary citizen the chance to express concerns on public issues directly to decision-makers in the state capital.

We'll select one person to visit the state capital sometime in April, accompanied by someone from the Daily News editorial page.

• To enter:

Send us a letter explaining why you want to go to Juneau, what issue or issues you'd like to pursue and what you hope to accomplish. Feel free to include background material on yourself or your concerns.

We will select the application that, in our judgment, has the best potential to illuminate how the legislature responds to ordinary citizens.

We will give preference to points of view not already well-represented before the legislature through lobbyists and special interest organizations.

the airwaves, and I'm not addressing the lyrics.

At age 43, I don't consider it entertaining to listen to male and female jocks discussing breast sizes, oral sex, using a substitute for the "F" word, or hearing female jocks laugh at the raunchy comments of their male jock co-anchors.

I turned on my car radio one day to hear "Give me that friggin' dollar; my breasts are bigger than hers!" Another time, I heard a jock interviewing a 13-year-old boy asking him who he had "boinked" lately. And yet another time, a jock was interviewing an engaged couple and deriding the guy because he hadn't "boinked" her yet! He said, "What's wrong with you?" or something to that

Monday Anchorage Daily News 3-20-95

Knowles' silence says a lot

I am a very concerned Alaskan when it comes to our governor. In regard to school lunch reform, President Clinton, the Democratic leadership in Washington, D.C., and the press are telling me that by giving increased funds to the states (4 percent increase) our governor will not be fiscally responsible with this money and our children will starve.

I would have thought that Gov. Knowles would have responded by now and said something like "I, the governor of Alaska, care more for the children of Alaska than those in Washington, D.C. I, the governor of Alaska, am fiscally responsible and have the ability to take this block grant of money and appropriately distribute and manage this money so that those children who need free lunches and those pregnant women who need food and those infants who need formula will get them." Do I hear the governor saying anything like this? No, I hear silence.

Could it be that President Clinton, the Democratic leadership in Washington, D.C., and the press know more about the integrity and fiscal responsibility of the governors of states and especially our Gov. Knowles? At any rate, Gov. Knowles' silence does tell me a lot about Gov. Knowles. I thought Gov. Knowles was for state rights.

— Sally Williams

Welfare is meant to help out, not to support. It is about time we put some limits on it.

When watching the local news recently, I witnessed a woman and her two children. The woman stated she has been on

welfare since her first child was born four years ago. She wants to stay at home so she can raise her children and be a good example for them. After all, child care is so expensive. In order for her to do this, she stated, she must live on welfare.

Well, I have no sympathy for cases such as hers. The woman could have been a little more responsible and refrained from having a second child if she wanted to be a good example.

She, like many, could obtain child-care assistance and take minimum-wage employment, then work her way up into a better job like all of us have done. This would be setting an example of working to make it, which is better than teaching children that it is OK to live off of society. Some may say this is cruel, but I am so tired of working to pay my bills and theirs, too.

Welfare should be for those who truly need it. It is a form of assistance, not a paycheck.

— Michael Toitelson

Anglers, put up or shut up

I have talked to boaters as well as bank fishermen on the Little Su. Some boaters want boat-size, motor-size restrictions, and I'd say 100 percent of the bank fishermen have wanted boat/motor restrictions for years.

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to see the harm boats have caused to the Little Su, especially bank erosion. A prime example of a river being ruined by a new park is the Little Su and the Burma Landing Park. It has brought so many boaters to this poor, little river.

Granted, it's a beautiful park, and nice people run the park, but it's obvious that because of the nice park, we have Indianapolis Boat Speedway races up and

down the Little Su daily during the summer. Guides go back and forth over and over again, some 10 to 20 times a day.

I do not agree with Fish and Game putting a no-bait restriction on the Little Su. I do not agree with a one-king limit. I do not agree with a nighttime closure of Little Su — between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Sure, put restrictions on us, the sport fishermen.

Come on, sport fishermen, now's the time to be heard. If Fish and Game is going to restrict us, restrict the commercial fishermen as well, who are intercepting the northern river kings. Write the Daily News, and write Fish and Game in Palmer and our new Gov. Tony Knowles. It's time to put up or shut up.

Gary McDonald

Post-It brand fax transmittal memo 7871 # of pages: 3

To	S. Corbett	From	C. L. C.
Co.		Co.	
Dept.		Phone #	575-3270
Fax #	462-3505	Fax #	

Sen. Lyda Green
State Capitol
HESS Committee
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Po Box 90
Rusuan Mission, AK
99657
March 17, 1995

Dear Sen. Green,

I was working during your audio conference so I couldn't participate in it. However, I've already written to you and shared my views. This letter is a follow-up.

I continue to support your proposed changes to welfare requirements and benefits. The proposed 5 year limit seems adequate for recipients. Most trade, training technical schools and colleges have programs which can be completed in 4 years or less. Without a definite time limit to end their benefits, people will not take these changes seriously. I feel people should be responsible for their decisions and actions. I'm responsible for mine.

MAR 20 1995

Public assistance should be an emergency relief for people while they retrain or finish an interrupted education. Welfare encourages the lowered self-esteem and minimal self-worth if it's a generational lifestyle. With lowered self-esteem, children are at great risk of dropping out of school and seeking unhealthy lifestyles.

Assistance payments should be tied to a child's school attendance. As an example, I have 2 third grade children in my classroom who have excessive absences.

One child has 39 absences to date the other has 47 absences. Both children come from families receiving assistance and food stamps. The older children in their families have or had similar attendance problems. No one has graduated from high school in either families.

Russian Mission has a "florida job" which is begging to be filled. Because of the

Hooper Bay florida accident 2 or 3
years ago, my village doesn't
floridate its water. An adult
is supposed to visit the
classroom weekly with a florida
rinse the students swish around.
No one will take the job.
Why?

I have some questions.
Can pop, candy, chips and general
"junk" food be purchased with
food stamps? Are persons
receiving assistance and the
Alaska Perm. Div. supposed to
file a return with the IRS?

Well, these are some of my
opinions. I definitely want to
see cuts, limitations, and self
responsibility...in welfare.

Sincerely,
Anna C. Peterson

MAR 20 1995

Anna C. Peterson

CONSTITUENTS- March 17, 1995

Dist. 28 - N

MCKEOWN, TIM
P.O. Box 728
Talkeetna, AK. 99676

733-1416

Victims of Custody. Mediation rights.
Watered down proposal. CSED doesn't
bother to file. Administration jurisdic-
tion need: to automatically go to
mediation.


Dist. 28-D

BRUMLEY, BARB
P.O. Box 871254
Wasilla, AK. 99687

376-8080

Pins- She requested 1,000 pins. I explained
that we gave out 100 pins maximum.
(Portia)


Dist. 26-O

 KUTZER, JEAN
P.O. Box 871078
Wasilla, 99687

376-9562

Support for SB 98. What about a Debit Card
system, instead of paper, for Food Stamp
Program?

Dist. 28 - N

 SPENCER, BILL
P.O. Box 870394
Wasilla, AK. 99687

892-6745

Cut Welfare. Could not testify on Monday
as I was working. Do not give money for
Mark air bail out.

Dist. 26 - U

EVANS, MIKE
HC01 Box 6205
Palmer, AK. 99645

745-4400

Stop the Sutton Intertie. An alternative study
should be done.

13 March

Dear Lyda;

Before I got the postmaster job here at Russian Mission I was on welfare for about 2 years. Both of my parents were unemployed and I had two boys to support. So that helped us out. There are some people here for example that do get more than they need it's plain to see. Then there are the house people that report everything.

Maybe with the dividends the welfare recipients should get $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total amount. I don't think they should be totally cut off because a lot of people use that to get what's needed snowmachines etc.

For teenagers or unwed mothers living with parents should be included in parents benefits. After a certain amount they shouldn't get an increase for each additional child.

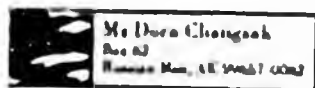
Benefits can't just be totally cut off with very few jobs in the villages. Community service for the young and able people would be a good idea.

Before anyone is eligible for AFDC they should have a G.E.D. or Highschool diploma.

For mentally retarded or learning disabled a set amount would be better than nothing at all.

List of people, all arts and crafts. A set amount should be allowed before deducting off their benefits.

I'm trying to get more people to write or call the Juvenile office.



Sincerely
Dora Champagne

Lyla - I have welfare
proposals made, project
sheet to me.

Hang in there!

- Tell & I will be
in Junction on W&A
business next week.

If there's anything
you'd like us to bring
down, just holler!

Kathy Johnson

Senator Frank

3 - 15

The state has to inform you of her support for SB 98 - Welfare Reform. My husband is an ex-military recipient and says that he is long over due. He also agreed with the elimination of the dividend check issue, he felt it was more of a hindrance than a help. I asked him about the free lunch program and he agreed with me that it was not a necessity but a convenience. It seems to me their food stamp allocation should be enough to cover all the children meals. He also feels that the cut off of the program should be Sept not Sept 5th.

Questions

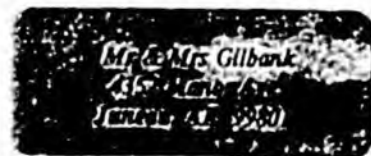
1. In the proposed pay out for state workers also going to include politicians?
2. Are you going to approve pay raises for non-union court workers of 6%?

Alaska needs to live within its means and not depend on federal funds. We do not support Governor's proposed budget and completely support a balanced budget.

BARBARA DRAWATER
Box 875082
WASILLA AK 99687

MAR 17 1995

15 March 1995



Oh 790-3455

Sen Lyda Green
State Capitol Room 433
Juneau, AK 99701

Dear Sen Green,

I support your efforts to reform Welfare. I am enclosing the attached form that was sent home with my 3 year old son from Gold Creek Play and Learn out of the Federal Building in Juneau.

I think changes need to be made or we will continue to foster a dependent society which is not fair to the working class.

In addition to the points outlined on the attached sheet I would like to remark on the newspaper article featuring your picture. If people in rural Alaska are on welfare because there are no jobs, then they need to move to where there are jobs. And University students on welfare should have to repay their education. If I can work my way through college and my husband has to pay back his loans why shouldn't it be treated as a loan that must be paid back?

Moreover for a few years of service in the military, not only is free medical provided for active duty members but they draw a pay check and are entitled to free educational benefits. Whats wrong with qualified personnel entering the military for benefits instead of being given them? I

MAR 17 1995

would like to see the State set up a phone number that people could call in to report waste, fraud and abuse of government programs anonymously. The Navy employs this tactic and they save alot of money since such calls investigated. This would be good for recipients who are misusing entitlements as well as govt agencies who are not following up to see if people are in fact qualified as reported. The school lunch program is just one of many agencies that comes to mind.

I also hope that the state is requiring both parents to support their children. The children should not suffer but if I'm paying to support single mothers then the fathers better be doing their part too.

Lastly, I realize that some families are riddled with problems such as alcoholism and mental illness. I am not adverse to my tax dollar going to support these people in counseling or rehabilitation programs if they are willing to make a concerted effort. I think we should all aim for a healthy family if we are to break some of the destructive family patterns that impede a family's economic independence.

Sincerely,

Harold Leibman

MAR 17 1966

March 15, 1995

Senator Lyda Green
Room 423
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Green:

Even though you are not from my District, I wanted to thank you and encourage you in your efforts to "shape up" our welfare system. I'm sure you are taking a lot of heat on this issue from welfare recipients and liberals, but we working Alaskans appreciate what you are doing. Unfortunately, we do have to work and so are unable to attend hearings to express our point of view, whereas the people on welfare don't have to work and are able to attend.

I am sorry that you dropped the issue regarding welfare recipients receiving Permanent Funds. That has always been one of my 'pet peeves' and I write to my Representatives every year about it. Alaska supports these people all year, their Permanent Fund should go towards reimbursing the State. I have a friend who has been on welfare for 8 years. Every year she and her three children receive approximately \$4,000 in

Permanent Funds. However, she has told me that they are not allowed to save that money; she has to spend it within a certain amount of time. Consequently, they have a big screen TV, VCR, computer, top of the line stereo etc. which is more than my family and I are able to afford. I'm sure you've heard all this before....

Thanks again and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

K. Sonnichsen

Kathy Sonnichsen

PO Box 224

Anchor Pt., AK 99556

MAR 17 1995

PO Box 51
Russian Mission, Ak 99657
March 14, 1995

Lyda Green; Committee Chairperson.
The Committee on Health Education and Social Services.
State Capitol
Juneau, Ak. 99801

Dear Chairperson:

I would first like to say thank you to Chairperson Lyda Green and the Health Committee for making this opportunity available for me to communicate my concerns. I feel that my life experiences highly qualified me to comment on the current welfare situation that is presently being abused in my area of the Wade Hampton District. Although much of what will be read in this letter would be viewed by local residents as one sided and native bashing, I would like you to read carefully and know that I hold the Yupik culture, exhibited by the elders of these communities, in very high regard. It is the disregard for culture and abuses of my anglo culture that disturbs me so much. I have always searched for ways to get my students to take more interest in their culture but it has become increasingly difficult.

I have been a teacher for ten years in the Lower Yukon, eight years of that in Russian Mission. I am an avid outdoorsman with extensive experience in subsistence activities, twenty one years of trapping experience in Montana and Alaska, and eight years experience in commercial fishing. I have also tried numerous entrepreneurial ventures, a number of them right here in Russian Mission. These are the areas that I would like to comment on with education being my major focus.

As an educator, it is my opinion that welfare has created the largest roadblock to successful education that we face in our area. I don't have to convince anyone of the deterioration to ones self esteem and self worth that dependence on welfare causes, but I feel I am obligated by my conscience to share with you what welfare does to my effectiveness as a teacher.

In the eight years that I have been here in Russian Mission I have watched the attitudes of students deteriorate and the dropout rate of students escalate at an alarming rate. It is not uncommon to hear a twelve year old student in my Jr. High class, when encouraged to do an assignment, say that he can't wait until he is sixteen so he can drop out. Our high school and

elementary teachers are hearing similar comments. The work ethic and lack of responsibility of our students has dropped to new lows, and is especially prevalent in the Junior High and High school. After talking to teachers at other sights in the district this is also true of many of their students also.

A large factor contributing to these attitudes can be directly attributed to the community's role models. In a village where over 50% of its members rely on government assistance of some kind, it is easy to see who the role models are. The people who have a job can't ride around on snowmobiles when ever they want or stay up watching videos until 4 am and sleep until noon. It is a common fact that if we want to get a hold of some one, that is not an elder, you probably shouldn't call before noon. Working people have to work to get that check, an increasing majority do not. Who do you think students are going to emulate when faced with a challenging assignment?

On a regular basis these welfare recipients are turning down job opportunities to substitute teach in the school, failing to apply for local jobs and certainly not taking advantage of ways to stretch the dollars they now receive. Right now there is a job that pays around a thousand dollars per year, no one has been willing to take that job for over one year. We recently had a full time job opening at the school. Five people applied, four of these people have at least part time jobs, and one person that is a not working at all applied. After acquiring the current figures on welfare payments in the form of AFDC and Food Stamps, I see that our students have legitimate reasons for setting goals that put them into the welfare roles. I have a lot of admiration for the people in this community that hold jobs and try to set a good example for their children.

Some startling statistics that I put together on dropouts in our village will show the increasing problem. I know of 23 dropouts in the history of our current high school. 19 of these dropped out in the last eight years and 14 of these occurred in the last two years. Of these 23 dropouts 2 hold part time jobs and 1 is a commercial fisherman.

These dropouts are comprised of 11 males and 12 females. These 12 females have produced 13 babies all of which collect welfare. Two mothers are responsible for 6 children each. All of these young people are from families that receive varying degrees of welfare. One heavily dependent family has produced five dropouts in a row and has a third grader that openly states that this is her goal also. Numerous comments have been made to me from students and community members about the goals of people to have children to create income.

Current legislation must be tied to education as in Senate Bill 98.

Reduction or loss of benefits to families that do not uphold the value of education as set forth by state education officials, should be a priority.

Right now the students work ethic is so poor that I see teachers, myself included, decreasing standards instead of increasing them, just to hold on to the students we have. This is especially true at the high school level. Most students truly do not know how to work and if pushed, the alternative doesn't look so bad as the look out the classroom window and see the 14, 15 and 16 year old dropouts who have little or no expectations put upon them from their parents, joy riding around the village on snowmobiles. That's right! 14 and 15 year old. Our school has tried and gotten very little to no support from state agencies for this problem which is against state statutes.

If all children were being strongly encouraged to be in school and to work for good grades from their parents, an impact that I believe Senate Bill 98 would accomplish, and if students truly saw a need to get a high school degree and further their education as the road to a successful life, it would bring significant changes to the success of our educational system. I'm not saying that these type of parents don't exist now, but as the number of parents that don't see a need for education grows, so does the negative effect that it has on students...all students including those from working families, as students are affected by their peers. Some of our most apathetic students come from working families. They see how hard their families have to work to support the family. In comparison they look at many families that have more on while welfare than working families.

Of the thirteen new Snowmachines in the village since September all of them belong to families that are receiving some form of assistance, seven of these families work at least part time, six of these families are on total assistance. No Snowmachines were purchased by nondependent families! I wish I could say that these Snowmachines were being used for subsistence activities but the vast majority of use is not subsistence. They are used for joy riding, traveling to other villages to visit, and getting wood for heat, (something that is easier done in the summer by boat). It is upsetting to see a family totally dependent on welfare getting a new Snowmachine over other year, when working families use the same one for five to eight years.

I would like to now address some areas of Senate Bill 98 that I think are needed and some that I still question as they pertain to Rural Alaska. For starters I believe that current welfare funding levels are too high and would like to explain why, with the availability of this "free money" the culture of the Yupik Eskimo is being lost. This is my opinion and that of numerous Yupik Eskimos that I've talked with.

One only has to look at the levels of subsistence food gathering and traditional crafts that are being utilized at the local level. If it were not for the elders, most of this would be lost. Although moose and salmon harvests are significant, if not excessive in some cases, the majority of the people here make very little use of other sources of food available all winter. Food such as beaver, whose populations are at an all time high, rabbits, ptarmigan and various fish such as Lush, Pike, Black fish and White fish. A few people have fish traps and nets under the ice but these are the elders and people with jobs. The only person that I know of that has trapped beaver this year is a man who works full time and so does his wife.

No one in this village is trapping seriously for money. Even with the depressed fur market there is money to be made trapping. Speaking from experience, it is a tough way to make money at this time, but there are people that have these skills but are choosing not to because it is easier to collect welfare.

Traditional foods are scoffed at by most of the youth preferring store bought prepared food, with a heavy emphasis on pop, candy and chips. A recent math project with my class revealed that some households are spending an excess of \$1000.00 on pop per year. People raised on these foods will have a hard time changing over to their traditional foods. Hence their culture fades.

I personally believe that it is less expensive to live in Russian Mission than it is to live in an urban area. I harvest a Moose each fall, and put up enough salmon in the August to supply us with the bulk of our meat supplies all winter, if I wanted a fresh fish it would take only a trip to the river. I am still eating potatoes that I raised in my garden last summer. I eat local blueberries in my pancakes and drink juice made from plentiful high bush cranberries in the area. The impulse buying that plagues all store shopper is diminished when ordering from expeditors in Anchorage at one fourth the cost of local stores. I honestly go for months without reaching for a wallet. So that in Anchorage!

A man that I talked to who lives fifteen miles from here at a local Missionary gold mine says that his family of six eat nutritionally balanced meals supplemented with local resources like fish, moose bear and beaver on a budget of less than six hundred per month. That is a far sight less than the thousand ninety dollars in food stamps a local welfare family of six receives.

If done correctly a person can shop from rural Alaska and mail your groceries at a remarkably low level as compared to what urban dwellers are led to believe. We can basically buy what ever we want and get it here for about

six to seven dollars for sixty pounds through the U.S. mail service. In trying to impress upon students these ideas for savings I have seen very little progress. They don't need to save money on food according to the figures I received from your office. One student replied to me yesterday "We have a lot of food stamps left at the end of the month because my mom works at the school." This is a responsible family in the village. There is entirely too much money spent on food stamps in the village.

I talked to one man today that has a family of five. I asked him if his family drinks much pop. His reply was that they usually buy about two six packs per day. Calculated out that is over three thousand six hundred each year on pop. I confronted him on his estimates and he still agreed. I asked him how he could afford to spend so much on pop! His reply was that "well they (meaning his kids) buy them with food. He wasn't too concerned! He is also totally dependent on welfare!

I would like to address another problem area, There are a variety of traditional crafts that could be turned out from this village, but with the exception of an elderly lady in her sixties, no one is pursuing them as a viable source of income, and very few people are even learning how to do them. The lady that is producing baskets, skin sewing, and bead work, sells all she can make. She is a great teacher and my wife, who is not native, is her best students. The local welfare recipients do not seem to take an interest in learning their cultural ways. Hence the cultural fades some more. There is a cooperative that has encouraged people to make and market their crafts but it has been relatively unsuccessful. Why work when the government will give it to them for nothing and if they do make some extra money and they are honest about reporting their income they will loose welfare benefits. This is another area that S.B. 98 will help, by allowing people to make some money without losing part of their benefits.

I've been on the coast and I know that these villages are more subsistence and craft oriented but they also share many similar situations. I also know that each village is unique and I don't want to offend people who do not fall into the above mentioned categories, but I feel I have accurately described our village.

The avenues that would lead to a more self sufficient lifestyle here are endless if people were forced to search them out.

A big one is gardening. I have been involved in a local garden project with my students for two years. First as a support service to the local gardeners and the Traditional Council's commercial garden, by raising hundreds of broccoli and cauliflower starter plants. Things fizzled out after funds

ran out to pay wages to the garden manager and workers. Then my 7th and 8th graders, with the help of a few volunteers and myself, revived the project and grew over 500 pounds of potatoes. The students sold the fresh potatoes to the community and school and split the \$500.00 profit between themselves. This is just one example of the potential for gardening and the impact it can have on the community.

As a person in Rural AK. that has tried to get locals interested in different ways to make money on numerous occasions, I have experienced limited success. I truly believe that my efforts can be best spent trying to change the current welfare system so that hopefully someday, someday soon, I can truly share what it is that I, and people like me, have to offer.

The one problem that I see with S.B. 99 would be the elimination of and individuals benefits after 5 years. Although I believe that this should be true, I cannot get over the fact that we have created this monster that has almost destroyed a culture and for someone to think that there will be opportunities for all able bodied welfare recipients in Rural Alaska after 5 years is very narrow minded. Jobs need to be created and people should have the option to work while staying in their general area. The government has created this cash dependency and will create a multiple of problems without offering some kind of job during and after the 5 years time period. This I think can be created in other legislation and I would support Senate Bill 96 as it stands.

I feel that the passing of Senate Bill 98 could be a major jump in the long journey of restoring independence and self worth to a group of Native people whose heritage was based on these qualities.

Comments I would like to make after listening to the teleconference on Monday 1/14/95

I have to say that it sounds like welfare recipients in urban Alaska are faced with a lot more financial problems than people in the bush, car insurance, rent, and food. Local welfare recipients are getting a steal on their rent. I pay in excess of eight hundred per month. Under ASHA, rent to the villagers with reduced income is minimal. They have no cars and food is plentiful if you want to take advantage of traditional food, at least in this village. I think that a serious look in to costs of living in individual villages needs to be a priority. Right now the government is being ripped off in a major way and it needs to be looked into. I realize that there are not enough jobs for people in the bush, but if we have to support them they had darn well better start doing something for it!

Sincerely

Len Fabich
Len Fabich

CORRECTION

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S)
HAVE BEEN REFILMED TO
ASSURE LEGIBILITY OR PAGINATION



Rev. 6-98

Central Microfilm Services
Department of Education
State of Alaska

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Comments I would like to make after listing to the teleconference on Monday 3/14/95

I have to say that it sounds like welfare recipients in urban Alaska are faced with a lot more financial problems than people in the bush, car insurance, rent, and food. Local welfare recipients are getting a steal on their rent. I pay in excess of eight hundred per month. Under ASHA, rent to the villagers with reduced income is minimal. They have no cars and food is plentiful if you want to take advantage of traditional food, at least in this village. I think that a serious look in to costs of living in individual villages needs to be a priority. Right now the government is being ripped off in a major way and it needs to be looked into. I realize that there are not enough jobs for people in the bush, but if we have to support them they had darn well better start doing something for it!

Sincerely

Len Fabich

Len Fabich

Mar. 13, 1995

SENATE Committee on
HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL
SERVICES

RE WELFARE MONIES
RENT / HOUSING
LANDLORD CONCERNS FOR RENTAL PAYMENT

PLEASE CONSIDER HAVING ANY
RENT / HOUSING MONIES SENT
DIRECTLY TO THE LANDLORD

" TOO MANY WELFARE RECIPIENTS USING
WELFARE MONIES FOR OTHER THINGS
THAN FOR RENT.

Present System } AHFC / HUD - Title 8, HOUSING
ASSISTANTS IS SENT DIRECTLY TO
ASHA } THE LANDLORDS
WORKS GOOD

" I HAVE BEEN STIFFED "
(NOT RECEIVED RENT
MONIES OWING ME ^{3P}
FROM WELFARE RECIPIENTS)
TO MANY TIMES.

THANK YOU
George Schmitt
28 yr. ALASKAN
LANDLORD
Anch.

To: Lyda Green
From: Julie and Mike Truskowski, Russian Mission School
Re: Welfare Reform Public Hearing, March 13, 1995

As teachers in a Dush community, it is easy to see where welfare reform is desperately needed. Many people on public assistance in the villages have come to see welfare as a right, something to be expected, instead of as a helping hand. This then translates into apathetic behavior. Not only do these people not live a traditional subsistence lifestyle, neither do they try to get themselves off welfare by training for a job. For some (not all) it has become a life of waiting by the mailbox for their monthly checks.

This attitude also transfers to the children. We see it in school in the form of low attendance by some and a general uncaring attitude about grades or school performance. School to these children becomes a "what are you going to do for me" situation.

We would like to see some "strings" attached to receiving welfare. There should be a limited number of absences and tardies allowed, and a grade requirement of "C" or better for families to receive welfare payments.

Also, we would like to see a cut-off of payments after a family reaches a certain size, and no payments to unmarried mothers under 18. Too often we hear these young mothers saying to their pregnant friends, "Don't worry about having a baby, you get paid for it" or "Don't adopt your baby to another family, you can get money for it". This attitude promotes welfare dependence, unnecessarily increases village populations (thus putting a strain on natural resources used for subsistence), and unnecessarily increases school populations (thus putting a higher burden on the State and Federal governments to pay to have these children educated). Most importantly, it produces poor parenting, which translates into many problems in school for the children of these young mothers.

We hope you vote to change the welfare system to one that will promote work and insist on some accountability to recipients. No more free money!!!

Thank you for your time.

Julie Truskowski
Mike Truskowski



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HESS
committee name
 committee on SB 98, dated 3-13-95
bill/subject

Mrs Lyda Green, I

Thank you for proposing a bill that makes sense for the future of our state. There are many of us out here who normally choose not to get involved in issues such as these because we feel we are a minority. I don't think so anymore after discussing this bill with others who work for a living. Thank you!

Signed: Christopher S. Carney
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HC 33 Box 3052 Wasilla, AK 99654
Address
(907) 376-5390
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the H.E.S.S.
 committee name
 committee on SB 98, dated March 12 1995
 bill/subject

Lyda Green

Am in full support of your personal Responsibility
 Bill. If we don't REYAMP NOW - EVERYONE from
 These states who ARE NO LONGER "ENABLING" WELFARE RECIPIENTS
 will be moving to Alaska! (Wisconsin, Virginia, Iowa, N.Y. etc)
 WE NEED pe-ple moving here who ARE AS CONCERNED WITH
 The "direction" ALASKA NEEDS TO MOVE IN, RATHER THAN THEIR
 OWN "WELFARE" Thanks. AND Keep up the GOOD WORK

Signed: *Lyda R. Green*
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HC 33 Box 3052 Wasilla, AK 99154
 Address
376-5390
 Phone No.

Constituent Contact Sheet

NAME: Ray & June BURKHART DATE: 3/14/95
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 204
Willow 99658
PHONE: 495-6337 S.S.N.: _____

REGARDING: SB 98 - Supports you ALL-THE-WAY.

SAID he WAS A REGISTERED DEMOCRAT WHO did
NOT vote for you. But, Support you on SB 98.

ACTION TAKEN: _____

RESPONSE TO CONSTITUENT: _____

PHONE MESSAGE		DATE 3/14/95	TIME 2:50	AM PM
FOR	LYDA		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	URGENT
TO	WILL FERNANDEZ			PHONED
OF			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RETURNED YOUR CALL
PHONE (376-8116 (H)	EXT.		PLEASE CALL BACK
FAX	MOBILE	PAGER (WILL CALL AGAIN
MESSAGE	376-7638 (w)			WAITING
PERSONAL ISSUE				
All-State Agent - Waverly				
AVERY				SIGNED <i>WFF</i>

Supports It 98 -
 Love it! Keep with it!
 I'm impressed.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFSS (Seniors)
 committee name
 committed on SB 98, dated 03-13-95
 bill/subject

I LIVE ON THE YENTNA RIVER
 I PERSONALLY KNOW TWO FAMILIES
 ON WELFARE WHO HAVE SIX CHILDREN
 ONE FAMILY BOUGHT A PEDIGREE PUPPIE
 FOR \$450.00. THEY SPEND THEIR CHILDRENS
 DIVIDENDS ON SNOW MOBILES AND OTHER THINGS
 WELFARE IS THEIR PROFESSION! HE IS ON
 DISABILITY BUT IS ABLE TO CUT FIREWOOD
 AND DO ALL THE CHORES REQUIRED TO LIVE IN THE
 Bush.

THE OTHER FAMILY RUNS A LODGE AND
 SELLS MEALS GAS AND LODGINGS. THIS IS
 A CLEAR ABUSE OF THE SYSTEM.

THANK YOU

Signed: Dennis Ellithorpe
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HC-89 Box 131 Willow AK 99688
 Address
266-9015
 Phone No.

Florene J. Carney
HC 33 Box 3052
Wasilla, AK 99654

March 6, 1995

Honorable Lyda Green
Senator
Room 423 State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Green:

I just read your proposals for revamping the welfare program in the State of Alaska. I want you to know that you have my full support. As you know, I work for the School District Central Administration and in that capacity I see an inordinate number of problem children. Almost invariably these children are accompanied by one or both parents who are totally dysfunctional. Drugs and alcohol are usually a factor and welfare figures into almost every situation. We must get to the point where we are teaching people to care for themselves, be responsible and then teach their children to do the same. Giving them money is not the answer - unfortunately, it is not being spent on the children. How about a food bank? Work programs are a great idea and should encourage the abusers to go out and find gainful employment. It is important to move away from the enabling that we have going on now.

I also feel strongly that we need to at least limit the number of hours the bars and liquor stores are open. Close at 1:00 A.M. perhaps. In the Valley we see a lot of the DUIs given to people who close the bars in Anchorage and then come to the Valley because they are open here. (Perhaps that is a Borough problem) Along that same line, making a law for it to be illegal to sell alcohol to anyone who has committed a drug related crime, including DUI, could be beneficial. When their drivers license is returned to them it could have a red background to alert the seller. If someone chose to purchase alcohol for that person, that could also be a fineable crime.

Lyda, I deal with parents almost daily who have a child in trouble and at 10:00 A.M. the parents are incapacitated by drugs or alcohol. Many times the child appears to be taking care of the parent instead of the other way around. I have never been one to march and bang a drum, but this situation is beginning to devastate our community.

Keep up the good work - if I can help you here, please call.

Sincerely,

Florene Carney

Florene Carney

C: Beverly Masak
Rick Halford
Gail Phillips
L. H. Mason

Douglas J. & Evelyn J. Scofield
P.O. Box 87-2906
Wasilla, Alaska 99687-2906

March 8, 1995

Senator Lyda Green
Juneau, Alaska

Re: Welfare Reform

Dear Senator Green:

I read the editorial of today in the Anchorage Daily News (Worker) regarding welfare reform as it relates to the PFD. HANG IN THERE!! Don't be discouraged by this liberal rag that masquerades as a newspaper!

Alaska's welfare is much too liberal. I personally know of four families that came to Alaska from Washington state and Oregon because our welfare was much better than theirs. One family, actually there are three families all related, that moved to Oregon because they got in trouble here and decided to leave. After three months in Oregon they moved back because they couldn't get welfare there or not as much as here

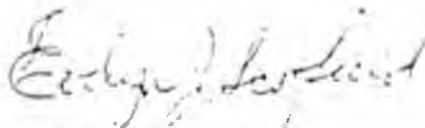
The other family, consisted of a 21 year old, pregnant woman, and her 60ish unemployed, boyfriend. They came in October from Washington state and immediately transferred her eligibility to Alaska. She got \$320 emergency assistance for rent which was supposed to go directly to the owner of a trailer she wanted to rent. The owner felt sorry for her and gave her the key to move in a few things until the check came to the owner (she and her boyfriend, were staying with his relatives). She and her boyfriend promptly moved in and cancelled the emergency rent assistance office saying she wasn't going to rent the place because it was a dump. She could only be evicted by filing a lawsuit against her. She knew she could live there free for two to three months before he could evict her. She also gave false information to the emergency assistance people. In the meantime she or her boyfriend were able to buy a new truck. Of course all three will be able to receive a permanent fund dividend check.

Now, does this seem right? More and more people will be moving here from states like Washington and Oregon who are cutting back on welfare. We definitely

MAR 13 1995

need to do something about welfare reform. Thank you for your stand on the PFD
Hold Harmless program and welfare reform.

Sincerely,



Eveiyn J. Scofield

wpiwinivda.liz

MAR 13 1995

Henry P. Guinotte

Box 579 - Palmer, Alaska 99645-0579

Telephone (907) 745-4332

FAX (907) 746-3435

March 13, 1995

Sector Lyda Green
Juneau

Dear Lyda

This FAX is about your bill to make some major adjustments in the state welfare payments. Unfortunately I won't be at the teleconference because I will be at the food bank giving out groceries, utility payments, and rent.

I want to encourage you to continue your good efforts.

Your bill in my thinking is a good one. It probably have changes as do all bills.

In the last seven weeks I have kept count of the people new to Alaska that have come to the food bank for all sorts of help... food, utility, rent, furniture, gasoline, etc. There were slightly over 100 people new to the state. These 100 are people who know the vocabulary and rules for social assistance. They have left their various state welfare programs in the south US to get the better benefits Alaska offers.

I have figures for only the Palmer area. The statewide figures would be much greater.

Almost all of the new Alaskans mention the \$1000 per person that Alaska pays its citizens. If the state were to eliminate the dividend payments to public assistance families this would reduce the number of people coming to Alaska for our great benefits. Just getting the word out, especially to California and Oregon, would reduce the influx.

Other states show statistics of how welfare has reduced because of tighter rules. The statistics reflect only the fewer cases the states have. The numbers printed are incorrect. In many cases the states reduce their own figures because people leave the tough states to go where things are better. Some are coming to Alaska.

Some of the senior citizens in the Pioneer Homes have reduced state benefits because of the cost associated with care in the Home. It is consistent to reduce payments to welfare recipients if this cost is gone to the fees in the Pioneer homes.

When the permanent fund checks come out it would be reasonable to assume that the requests for help at the food bank would go down. This is not so. I still get requests to pay rent, about \$600 on the average, and electric bills as high as \$100 dollars. If I knew why I would share it in this letter.

The welfare set, the experienced people, are good at laying guilt trips on people. This letter would be too long if I were to tell some of the stories I get each day. There are those people who are paid through state grants that fear their rights taken will get less money if welfare is reduced. I work 30 hours a week as a volunteer. Our food bank gets no state money.

I'm also concerned about the senior citizen tax exemptions. It is too easy for local government to decide. Keep in mind that I will be 65 years old in June. I still feel strongly that the exemption should be reduced to \$50,000. Everyone should pay some tax.

I make all of my comments based on what is good for the state, even when it will cost me personally.

Please feel free to make copies of this letter and send it to HESS, House and Senate, especially Cynthia Luoney.

It will be in Juneau March 27-29 for Alaska Alcohol League. Welfare is not an AML issue however, senior tax exemption is one issue.

Sincerely,



Senator Lyda Green
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

March 8, 1995

Dear Senator Green,

I am writing this letter in support of your proposed bill regarding welfare--or should I say, limiting welfare!

All I can say is **APPLAUSE APPLAUSE!** Finally, someone is going to try to fix this sad state of affairs regarding the out and out abuse of receiving welfare while the rest of us continue to support them! I am impressed! According to the news article I read, it sounded great to me. There are many of us that will be behind you 100%. It won't be easy I know--you'll catch a lot of flack and will make many people very angry, but most of those will be the ones receiving welfare to the extent of being ridiculous anyway. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



Nancy E. Williams
HC 33 Box 3054
Wasilla, AK 99654

P.S. Gee--maybe you can propose a bill to get the prison inmates to grow their own food, too. At least as much as possible--to alleviate some of the burden to taxpayers. It would keep them busy weeding etc.

MAR 13 1995

From: Steve Toth
To: Lyda Green
RE: Welfare
Date: 3/11/95

Dear Mrs. Green

I am not a Republican. I am also not in your voting district. I am thrilled however to see that you anyone down there is finally listening to us hard working Alaskans who are sick and tired of having this welfare "milstone" around our necks.

My Senator Judy Salo, just does not seem to get it...that we are tired of Welfare cheats coming here to Alaska and using up our financial resources. Please Lyda, keep pushing and don't back down. We need a much smaller state budget and ALL "ENTITLEMENTS" NEED TO BE SLASHED!

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE THE LETTER I SENT DOWN TO MY REPRESENTATIVE, Judy Salo

Thanks,

Steve Toth

Dear Judy

As a newly Re-constituted democrat, such as yourself, it has taken me a long time to understand what some Republican held positions on the balanced budget are, and what needs to be done with regard to welfare.

I have finally understood, that we as democrats by supporting Mr Lydon Johnson back in 1965 proferred on the lower classes a new type of slavery...welfare.....all in the name of trying to help the "underpriviledged." Well, I am here to tell you that I was wrong and so was Lydon Johnson. His "GREAT SOCIETY" has proved to be a total disaster, perpetuating an entire society of underclass people.....we enslaved people to the state.....for over 30 years we have made them wards of a state, wards that we can no longer afford to keep. I hate to admit it, but I was wrong for supporting this bankrupt philosophy and that you too have begun to realize how strongly we have forget the chains around their necks... perpetual dependency not on themselves, but on us, the STATE. It will be incredibly hard to wean these people from the teets of state generosity.

Our state over the years has become a magnet for a welfare underclass. Not only do we offer the HIGHEST welfare bene -

fits in the United State, but in addition, we give each one of them, and their children, an added bonus our Permanent fund checks. I have heard of dozens of instances where people have immigrated to Alaska just for our very lucrative welfare system...can you blame them?

Lyda Green's S B 98 doesn't go nearly far enough. TONY's welfare charade is ridiculous. He wants to cut \$30 million out of welfare over a 5 year period...did I read that right? That's only 6 million a years...from an annual budget of \$250 million. You've got to be the most cynical clown in the state to propose such nonsense. Did I actually vote for this bozo? (Hate to admit to it). Its time for you Judith to support those of us who are truly for welfare reform. Never confuse "reform" for balancing the budget on the backs of the poor. If you did, then this cute phrase will have you looking "mean spirited and hateful" toward those who are truly dependant on welfare. Its time for you to show the leadership I put you there to demonstrate. I expect you to make serious cuts out of that \$250 million yearly budget. I am thinking in terms of 70 to 90%. If people truly want to stay on welfare, other states would be happy to provide them with it. Tough Love is what it has come down to. Its well passed the time where we demonstrate to our "welfare slaves" that they are FREE to live as they choose. They are free of the bondage into which we have put them through our generosity. We can no longer afford to keep them in perpetual servitude to us, The state.

Sincerely yours

Steve Toth

P.O. Box 112053 Anchorage, AK 99511



Alaska State Legislature

HESS

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

committee on SP 85, dated March 15, 1995,
bill/subject:

Responsibility in favor of Senate Bill 85--the Personal Responsibility Act of 1995. What's wrong with welfare isn't just its cost, which is bad. A bill of 1.5 billion for 1996 is indeed hard to understand. Most of us probably feel that spending money to help fatherless families through bad times, protecting children from real poverty and giving families a back up to get into the economic mainstream is justified.

But welfare has created some serious social problems. Current welfare programs are so generous that it enables young women to be casual about sex. They know that an out of wedlock pregnancy brings them financial independence. They have an income, housing subsidy, food stamps, medical and other benefits. Even married couples do not try hard to keep their marriage together because they, too, can receive the same above benefits. Letters to the editor of the newspaper who oppose this bill ask, "How would you who are in favor of this bill like to try and live on my \$854 I receive each month?" Not once did he mention such things as food stamps, housing subsidy, heating subsidies, free medical care and other benefits! I think a lot of working people would love to give it a try. At least they would not have to work!

Welfare was never meant for a person to live as comfortably as a working person. Why should it?---they are not working. We do not expect welfare recipients to live on it ---just to exist --- we expect you to go out and get a job so you can live better. As it is now, welfare offers such a comfortable living---often times better than working for a living and this should not be!!! Limiting welfare is a need to get them to work!!!
What's needed is to get them to work!!! The bill is the 5 yr. limit.--that is too long! Anyone can be trained in 2 yrs. time--they don't need 4 yrs. of college. Two yrs. will give anyone training enough to get a job.

Signed: Vern Ewer
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 2081 - Palmer - 99645
Address
756-7585
Phone No.

EW 24 PS 4 SHU 2 - 10 10

I would also say that all permanent fund checks should go to a Welfare Bank to help pay for this free living that they are engaging in. It could also be used to pay for their training. Welfare is not an entitlement---it is a gift! No welfare recipient should be receiving monies simply because they live in Alaska---let them help pay for the care we are giving them. A lady at the Anchorage town meeting asked, "Why do you feel that those of you who have the most need more and those of us who have the least need less?" My answer is this---"Because lady, you are daily receiving benefits from the state without working---why should you have extras --- welfare is not an entitlement!!!!"

Unless this state does something about welfare reform this year, Alaska will be inundated with welfare recipients. In 44 of the states now there is welfare reform. Welfare recipients are moving from state to state to avoid having their benefits cut or having to go to work. We must have this reform to not only cut back on the state budget but to make people responsible for their own lives that many of them created themselves.

Let's not let people who oppose it use the "children will suffer" as a crying towel. In all the pictures of people on welfare, I have yet to see a "starving child as in Africa". There are school lunches food stamps, etc.---this bill will not starve children unless the parent eats it all themselves!

I honestly hope that you legislators will not let an outcry against reform affect your thinking on this. Many women protesting reform were encouraged by Women's Resource Centers to testify. Even our Borough Mayor stated in a speech to the Resource Women that you legislators were picking on women and children! At the hearing in Wasilla today where I had to leave because I had to get back to work, there were only 2 of us there who were working people---the others were either working for the welfare office or were on welfare. They had time to come and testify because they didn't have to work. Others I know would have liked to attend but they had to work!!!

Protesting this bill tells us that being on welfare is a lot more comfortable than working-----this is not the American way!

It is time for a change---let's do it, Legislators!!!!



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health, Education and Social
committee name Services

committee on SB 98, dated March 13, 1995
bill/subject

I wish to speak in favor of SB 98, these changes are long overdue.

First of all, I want to make it clear that some welfare recipients are deserving and I'm happy to have my taxes support them. These are:

1. The persons who because of physical or mental illness are not able to support themselves.
2. Any person who needs help temporarily to help themselves over a hard spot. But I do feel 5 years is too long. 2 years is enough for a person to get back on their feet and get a job to support themselves. Welfare has become a way of life for many people who take the easy way out.

I have seen the worse side of welfare and know it is being abused. I have a real estate office and have worked with many AFDC recipients, mostly in areas of rentals.

I am aware of 2 different women who are on welfare and drive new cars purchased by the parents of the recipients. The car is kept in the parents name, insurance paid by them, any repairs, etc. also. The parents also supply many other things needed by the families, but the family still draws their welfare check and live as well or better than most of us.

One of our renters kicked her husband out one evening and the following day was on AFDC! (She brought us the papers showing she could pay the rent.) Many nights the police were called because of late, loud parties and the following day the mother would be sleeping at 10:30, 11 o'clock while a young child, (under school age) cared for itself. This woman would never have kicked the father out without welfare to support her.

We had one renter, a man, who had been on AFDC for several years and bragged to anyone who would listen that he wasn't a dead beat dad, he took care of his kids. He didn't--we did.

Many welfare families have made life and career choices that have led to

Signed: Mary Beach

Testifier

Mary Beach (4 many other welfare recipients)
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1365, Palmer, Alaska
Address

745-3420 (home) 745-3354 (office)
Phone No.

'welfare. Why should I pay for their bad choices?

Ex. Rep. Larson tells of several (I think 6) graduating girls. When he asked what they planned to do after graduation, they each said they were going to get pregnant and go on welfare! When young people's only ambition is to live on the dole, it's time to change our perception of entitlements!

Elton Sandvic took the legislature to task for raising their pay and trying to cut welfare. He also complained of other people who were not poor wanting to cut payments to people who had less than they do. He completely ignored one fact--the legislature and the rest of us are WORKING for what we have, and the welfare recipient is not! There is a big difference.

One comment we continually hear is that there are no jobs in rural Alaska, that the people must have welfare. If there are no jobs, some of these people may have to leave home and families to support themselves. The rest of us have had to face that choice, and we made it without whining.

I am 54 years old and work 3 or 4 days a week. My husband is 67 and has trouble with both shoulders and his back but still works 6 days a week. If I can do it, so can these people, Welfare should be temporary and not a way of life.

One very important reason to cut welfare is because almost every other state is in a race to see who can cut first and the most. That leaves us in a position to take care of all these people who will quickly leave their own state to come where benefits are higher. (they are already doing this.) In self protection, we must cut, unless we can afford to support everyone from the other states.

I do not begrudge the fact that these people do not have to work as much as I begrudge them the leisure time that this gives them. I took time from my work day to go to the hearing in Wasilla, only to find that, to the best of my knowledge, only three of us from approximately 18 persons, were working. ~~Some~~ (in the Welfare Industry, those who jobs depend on plenty of welfare recipients) and welfare recipients themselves. Mary Kvalheim was working, running the meeting, Verna Suwer had taken a short time away from her day care and I stopped in between appointments and had to leave to show houses. These people had the time to testify because we are supporting them.

I think, both for the state of Alaska and society as a whole, we have to cut welfare. Please do so and consider a cut-off at 2 or the most 3 years, not five.

Mary Penabaz

Constituent Contact Sheet

NAME: John Busama

DATE: 3-14-95

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: 562-3627

S.S.N.: _____

REGARDING: Would like to see welfare system reformed.
One major disincentive to go to work in current
system is the fact that if he goes to work,
for every dollar he makes he loses 50¢ from
each assistance program he's on. He is disabled
+ receives assistance from 2 federal + 1 state program
- each reduces benefit by 50¢ so he loses \$1.50
for each dollar he makes. These agencies don't talk
to one another so don't know or don't care - something

ACTION TAKEN: to do w/ the way federal reqs are set up.
One of the many "catch 22s" in current system.
Tried d the way welfare moms are able to
abuse the system.

RESPONSE TO CONSTITUENT _____

P. B. K.

Senator Lyda Green
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801


March 8, 1995

Dear Senator Green,

I am writing this letter in support of your proposed bill regarding welfare--or should I say, limiting welfare!

All I can say is *APPLAUSE APPLAUSE!* Finally, someone is going to try to fix this sad state of affairs regarding the out and out abuse of receiving welfare while the rest of us continue to support them! I am impressed! According to the news article I read, it sounded great to me. There are many of us that will be behind you 100%. It won't be easy I know--you'll catch a lot of flack and will make many people very angry, but most of those will be the ones receiving welfare to the extent of being ridiculous anyway. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



Nancy E. Williams
HC 33 Box 3054
Wasilla, AK 99654

P.S. Gee--maybe you can propose a bill to get the prison inmates to grow their own food, too. At least as much as possible--to alleviate some of the burden to taxpayers. It would keep them busy weeding etc.

MAR 13 1995

*
Mr. + Mrs. Leonard M. Fabich

PO Box 61

Russian Mission, Ak 99657

March 6, 1995

Phone 907-584-5528

Lyda Green; committee chairperson.

The committee on Health Education and Social Services.

State Capitol

Juneau, Ak. 99801

Dear Chairperson:

As a teacher in a Yupik village for 10 years, I want to express my opinion on the current welfare system. I feel, as many of the teachers I talk to in rural Alaska, that the dependence on welfare and entitlements is the #1 reason for the ineffectiveness of our local Native schools. Although you can point in a variety of directions for this ineffectiveness, most come back to the comfort level the majority of the people have under the current welfare situation. The role models that students see are varied, some work for their money, but most don't. It doesn't take long to determine who our students are going to emulate.

It is a common response from my Junior High students and even younger, "I can't wait until I'm 16 so I can drop out!" Certainly as they look around and see the benefits to staying in school as compared to dropping out, there is not that much distinction between the two at the local level. It is hard to have high goals when no goals is the norm. I'm not saying that they make a lot of money, but it must be comfortable enough. On a regular basis these same people are turning down job opportunities to substitute teach in the school, failing to apply for local jobs and certainly not taking advantage of ways to stretch the dollars they now receive. Ways such as netting fish under the ice or trapping local animals for cash and meat. This has almost become a rarity in our village. Oddly enough it is people with jobs that take advantage of these opportunities. It has just gotten too easy for many and it is time that current levels of support was curtailed.

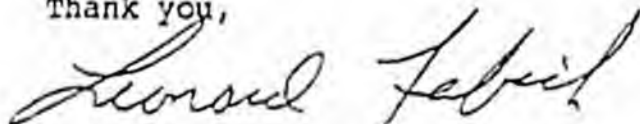
My wife and I both support the bill to garnish the permanent fund

dividend to welfare recipients, to cut welfare by at least 15% to 20% and to find alternatives to entitlements after 2 years of service.

I will have to say that to just stop paying people in two years would be catastrophic, but I would support a work fair project in the village. I would be the first in line to pay taxes to support a program that would decrease the dependence on welfare. There are many things that could be done in the village to earn the money from a work fair project. This would begin to allow people to set new goals, feel good about themselves and their community and exhibit positive role models for students.

Things like mandatory education for welfare recipients either high school or GED, cut off for recipients who allow their students to stay home or fail in school, and most of all the need to give something for the money they receive.

Thank you,



Leonard M. Fabich

RANDY PHILLIPS

State Senator
 PO Box 142
 Eagle River, AK 99577
 1 (907) 694-4949

1995
Report to the People
Senator Randy Phillips
Alaska State Senate

**While in Session:**

State Capitol
 Juneau, Alaska 99801
 1 (907) 465-4949
 Toll Free Anchorage Area
 1 (800) 478-4950
 Fax (Juneau)
 1 (907) 465-4979

1995 LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you for participating in my 1995 Legislative Questionnaire. Of the 7,580 questionnaires mailed, 941 or 12.4% were completed and returned to me. The final tabulated results are indicated below. Please note that the percentages shown for each answer represent a percent of the total answering that particular question and not a percent of the total questionnaires returned.

Legislature

Do you support or oppose moving only the Legislature from Juneau to Anchorage?

533/60% Support 354/40% Oppose **887 TOTAL RESPONSES**

Studded Tires

Recently it has been suggested by Alaska Department of Transportation officials that studded tires be banned in Alaska because of potential damage caused to the state highways.

Do you support or oppose a ban on studded tires in the State of Alaska?

207/22.8% Support ban 700/77.2% Oppose ban **907 TOTAL RESPONSES**

Welfare

Do you support or oppose changes in the welfare law that would prohibit a person, other than elderly or disabled persons, from receiving benefits for more than 2 years?

786/88.3% Support 104/11.7% Oppose **890 TOTAL RESPONSES**

Do you support or oppose changes to the welfare law that would require that paternity be established and a reasonable effort made to collect child support from the father prior to an unwed mother becoming eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)?

833/91.4% Support 78/8.6% Oppose **911 TOTAL RESPONSES**

Fiscal Policy Panel

Commonwealth North, an organization of Alaskans concerned with the the state's fiscal well-being, has proposed to the Legislature that a panel of Alaskans be appointed from the Legislature, the Executive Branch and the Public. This panel would obtain information and input from Alaskans all over the state and make recommendations to the Legislature and Governor for a 5 year fiscal plan. \$250,000 would be required to fund this panel.

Do you feel that such a panel would benefit the state?

347/38.5% Yes 555/61.5% No **902 TOTAL RESPONSES**

Regardless of your answer above, do you think the Legislature should appropriate \$250,000 for this purpose?

261/29.1% Support 635/70.9% Oppose **896 TOTAL RESPONSES**

MARKED WITH AMENDMENT
LOCATIONS

9-LS0692AE
Lauterbach
4/19/96

*Called
Legal
(Jerry)
3:35pm
4/20/96*

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 98(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act making changes related to the aid to families with dependent children
 2 program (AFDC); relating to the duties of the Department of Health and Social
 3 Services; establishing a workfare pilot project for AFDC recipients; establishing
 4 a diversion program for AFDC applicants; directing the Department of Health
 5 and Social Services to seek waivers of applicable federal laws; establishing and
 6 relating to the Alaska temporary assistance program and repealing the AFDC
 7 and job opportunity and basic skills programs upon the establishment of federal
 8 welfare reform; relating to work activities required under the Alaska temporary
 9 assistance program; authorizing qualified entities to contract with the state to
 10 administer all or part of the Alaska temporary assistance program; relating to
 11 child support; relating to certain licenses and applications for a license for
 12 persons who are not in substantial compliance with orders, judgments, or

1 payment schedules for child support; relating to an exemption to the State
 2 Procurement Code for certain services and contracts under the Alaska temporary
 3 assistance program; relating to disclosure of information that relates to day care
 4 assistance and the Alaska temporary assistance program; relating to eligibility
 5 for day care benefits administered by the Department of Community and
 6 Regional Affairs; amending Rule 90.3(c) and (h)(2), Alaska Rules of Civil
 7 Procedure; and providing for an effective date."



8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 • Section 1. AS 47.25 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 ARTICLE 1A. AFDC WORKFARE PROJECT.

11 Sec. 47.25.301. WAIVER APPLICATION FOR PROJECT. (a) The
 12 Department of Health and Social Services shall seek appropriate waivers from the
 13 federal government to implement the AFDC demonstration project described in
 14 AS 47.25.301 - 47.25.308. To the extent that the federal government approves the
 15 necessary waivers, the department shall implement the project. The purposes of the
 16 project are to promote personal responsibility and self-sufficiency.

17 (b) At a minimum, the department shall implement AS 47.25.303 so that there
 18 are experimental groups in at least three different areas of the state, with at least one
 19 experimental group in a municipality with a population over 25,000, one in a
 20 municipality with a population between 5,000 and 25,000, and one in a municipality
 21 or community with a population under 5,000. The department shall implement
 22 AS 47.25.303 with the minimum number of control groups that are required by the
 23 federal government for approval of the waivers applied for under this section.

24 (c) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, if changes in federal statutes or
 25 regulations occur after the effective date of this section and would have a major effect
 26 on the design, implementation, or operation of the project, the department shall

27 (1) apply for and implement only the waivers that relate to the parts of
 28 the project that are not substantially affected by the changes in federal statutes or

1 regulations;

2 (2) report to the legislature its recommendations for changes in its
3 statutory authority that may be needed in order to implement a fiscally responsible
4 project in light of conflicting or permissive changes in federal statutes or regulations.

5 Sec. 47.25.302. EARNED INCOME DISREGARD; WAIVER OF "100-
6 HOUR" RULE; AUTO ALLOWANCE. When determining the AFDC eligibility of
7 a family that is participating in an experimental group in the project under
8 AS 47.25.303 and when determining the amount of assistance to which the family is
9 entitled, the department shall

10 (1) disregard, for the first 24 months for which the family receives
11 assistance, \$200 plus one-third of the remainder of the earned income of each person
12 in the family unless federal regulations require that more earned income of a person
13 must be disregarded, in which case the department shall disregard earned income as
14 required by federal law; for a family that applies for AFDC after this paragraph has
15 been implemented, this 24 months begins with the month for which the family is first
16 granted AFDC; for a family that is already receiving assistance when this paragraph
17 is implemented, this 24 months begins with the first month during which this
18 paragraph is implemented;

19 (2) waive the requirement that, for purposes of assistance for a
20 dependent child of unemployed parents, the principal wage-earning parent must be
21 employed less than 100 hours a month; and

22 (3) allow the exclusion of \$5,000 of the combined equity of motor
23 vehicles used by the family for basic family transportation, transportation of a disabled
24 child in the household, or transportation of a member of the family to or from
25 employment, training, or participation in an activity required under AS 47.25.303; if
26 the combined equity of vehicles described in this paragraph exceeds \$5,000, the
27 department shall apply the excess equity amount toward the asset limit otherwise
28 applicable to the family.

29 Sec. 47.25.303. WORKFARE. (a) The department shall operate a workfare
30 project. Each member of a family in an experimental group in the workfare project
31 who is 18 years of age or older shall participate for 21 hours a week in an

1 uncompensated activity if assigned to the activity by the department. The department
2 shall assess the availability of activities that satisfy the purposes of this subsection in
3 the project area and attempt to develop additional activities where necessary. When
4 assessing the availability of activities that are suitable as uncompensated activities
5 under this section and in assigning persons to those activities, the department shall
6 consider activities recommended by governmental representatives of boroughs, cities,
7 and communities and others in the project area. The activities may include provision
8 of child care for other project participants, community work experience, work-related
9 training programs, high school completion, GED programs, or culturally relevant
10 subsistence activities. The department shall penalize the family for failure of a person
11 to comply with this subsection by disregarding that person as a member of the family
12 for purposes of determining the amount of AFDC assistance given to the family. The
13 period of time during which the department shall disregard the noncomplying person
14 for purposes of determining the amount of the family's AFDC assistance is

15 (1) until the person is in compliance with this subsection if the person
16 has not previously been disregarded under this subsection;

17 (2) the longer of six months or until the person is in compliance with
18 this subsection if the person has previously been disregarded under (1) of this
19 subsection;

20 (3) the longer of 12 months or until the person is in compliance with
21 this subsection if the person has previously been disregarded under (2) of this
22 subsection.

23 (b) If organizations exist in the project area that have had successful
24 experience in conducting employment placement services, community services,
25 remedial education services, and job training programs, the department may offer
26 contracts on a competitive basis or grants under the department's grant application
27 process to administer (a) of this section. A contract or grant under this subsection
28 must provide that the department shall make the determinations required under (c) and
29 (d) of this section and the contractor or grantee shall perform the duties assigned to
30 the department under (a) of this section with respect to uncompensated activities,
31 including assessment of their availability, development of additional activities,

1 consideration of activities recommended by governmental representatives, and
2 assignment of persons to specific activities after referral of those persons to the
3 contractor or grantee by the department. The department may, after consultation with
4 the appropriate contractor or grantee under this subsection, if any, use AFDC benefits
5 to subsidize payments or provide services to participants in community work projects
6 or work training projects; an amount distributed as a subsidy under this subsection is
7 not considered to be wages.

8 (c) The requirement to participate in an uncompensated activity under (a) of
9 this section does not apply to a person who

10 (1) has paid employment of at least 20 hours a week; a person who has
11 paid employment of less than 20 hours a week shall participate in an uncompensated
12 activity assigned under (a) of this section for the number of hours that, when added
13 to the hours of paid employment, equals 21;

14 (2) is exempt from participating in an activity under AS 47.25.421 -
15 47.25.429 (JOBS program);

16 (3) is enrolled as a full-time student in good standing in a career
17 education program, college, or university, as defined in regulations adopted under
18 AS 14.43;

19 (4) is the parent or other relative of a child under six years of age
20 living in the same household who personally provides care for the child;

21 (5) is determined, according to regulations of the department, to be
22 physically or mentally unable to perform any reasonable activity that may be assigned
23 under this section; or

24 (6) is a parent who is providing care for a child who is experiencing
25 a disability.

26 (d) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, the department may not require a
27 person to participate in an uncompensated activity under (a) of this section unless the
28 department agrees to pay for

29 (1) costs of child care determined by the department to be necessary
30 for the person's participation; and

31 (2) transportation expenses determined by the department to be

1 necessary for the person's participation in the activity.

2 (e) In this section, "project area" means the areas chosen by the department
3 in which to operate the workfare project described in this section.

4 Sec. 47.25.305. COOPERATION. State agencies shall cooperate with the
5 department to the extent necessary to implement AS 47.25.301 - 47.25.308.

6 Sec. 47.25.306. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY. (a) The Department of
7 Health and Social Services, and its employees, agents, and grantees, are not liable for
8 civil damages as a result of an act or omission in the implementation, operation, or
9 administration of an authorized project under AS 47.25.301 - 47.25.308.

10 (b) The provisions of (a) of this section do not preclude liability for civil
11 damages as a result of recklessness or intentional misconduct.

12 (c) The provisions of (b) of this section do not constitute a waiver or limitation
13 of sovereign or other immunity.

14 Sec. 47.25.307. REGULATIONS. The Department of Health and Social
15 Services shall adopt regulations necessary to implement AS 47.25.301 - 47.25.308.
16 The regulations adopted by the department may include

17 (1) eligibility criteria for the project described in AS 47.25.301 -
18 47.25.308 that differ from eligibility requirements in AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.429 and the
19 regulations adopted under those statutes;

20 (2) a maximum number of participants to be included in the project,
21 if necessary;

22 (3) exemptions from requiring participation in the project because of
23 exceptional circumstances; and

24 (4) provisions for financial or nonfinancial sanctions for applicants who
25 fail to cooperate with project requirements.

26 Sec. 47.25.308. DEFINITIONS. In AS 47.25.301 - 47.25.308,

27 (1) "AFDC" means the program of aid to families with dependent
28 children under AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420;

29 (2) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services.

30 ARTICLE 1B. DIVERSION PROGRAM.

31 Sec. 47.25.309. DIVERSION PROGRAM. (a) The Department of Health and

1 Social Services shall operate a diversion program that is designed to increase family
2 income through employment and child support payments by offering lump-sum
3 diversion payments in place of ongoing financial assistance under the AFDC program.
4 A diversion payment may be offered to an adult applicant for AFDC who is job-ready
5 and who needs short-term financial assistance to meet critical needs in order to secure
6 employment and support for the applicant's family.

7 (b) Diversion program benefits may be paid only to an applicant's family that
8 appears, based on the information provided to the department on an AFDC application,
9 to be eligible for AFDC benefits and to include a job-ready individual. The
10 department may offer, to an AFDC applicant with the potential to participate in the
11 diversion program, a choice between

12 (1) having the AFDC application processed under AS 47.25.310 -
13 47.25.429; or

14 (2) having the AFDC application referred to the diversion project under
15 this section.

16 (c) The amount of the diversion payment must be sufficient to meet the
17 family's immediate needs as determined by the department and the participant. A
18 diversion payment may not exceed the amount the family would be eligible to receive
19 in the first two months of eligibility for assistance under AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 if
20 the family did not elect to receive a diversion payment under this section.

21 (d) As a condition of a family receiving a diversion payment under this
22 section, the participant must sign a binding contract between the participant and the
23 department that

24 (1) specifies the amount of the diversion payment and the needs it is
25 intended to cover;

26 (2) provides that, during the three-month period beginning with the
27 month in which the diversion payment was received, child support collected on behalf
28 of a child whose needs were considered in determining the diversion payment shall be
29 paid to the family; and

30 (3) provides that, if the family reapplies for AFDC assistance under
31 AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.429 during the three months beginning with the month in which

1 the family received a diversion payment, the diversion payment shall be prorated over
2 the three-month period and deducted from any AFDC benefit the family may be
3 eligible for under the new application.

4 (c) A family that receives a diversion payment may not receive another
5 diversion payment before the 12th month following the month in which it last received
6 a diversion payment.

7 (f) The department shall implement this section only to the extent that
8 implementation is not prohibited under federal law. To the extent that this section may
9 be implemented under federal law or under a waiver approved under federal law, its
10 provisions supersede inconsistent provisions of AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.429, and (d)(2)
11 of this section supersedes inconsistent provisions of AS 25.27.120 and 25.27.130.

12 (g) In this section,

13 (1) "AFDC" means the program of aid to families with dependent
14 children under AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420;

15 (2) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services.

16 * Sec. 2. AS 47.25 is amended by adding new sections to read:

17 Sec. 47.25.311. INELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE. (a) A person is
18 ineligible for assistance under AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 for the following time periods
19 upon administrative disqualification for making a false statement or misrepresentation
20 knowing it was false, or for knowingly failing to disclose a material fact, in order to
21 obtain or increase assistance under AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420:

22 (1) six months following the first disqualification;

23 (2) 12 months following the second disqualification; and

24 (3) permanently following the third disqualification.

25 (b) A family is not eligible for assistance under AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 if
26 the family includes an adult who has intentionally transferred an asset or assets at less
27 than fair market value for the purpose of establishing eligibility for assistance. The
28 period of ineligibility shall begin on the first day of the month following the transfer
29 of the asset or assets and shall remain in effect for a number of months equal to the
30 fair market value of the transferred asset or assets divided by the maximum payment
31 amount for the family as established under AS 47.25.320(a), or for 12 months,

1 whichever is less.

2 (c) A family is not eligible for assistance for the following time periods after
3 the day on which the adult applicant or a custodial parent in the family, without good
4 cause, refused to accept, or separated from, suitable employment and that refusal or
5 separation caused the family's need for assistance:

6 (1) one month for the first refusal or separation without good cause;

7 (2) six months for the second refusal or separation without good cause;

8 and

9 (3) 12 months for the third and subsequent refusal or separation without
10 good cause.

11 (d) The department shall implement this section only to the extent that
12 implementation is not prohibited under federal law. To the extent that this section may
13 be implemented under federal law or under a waiver approved under federal law, its
14 provisions supersede inconsistent provisions of AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420.

15 Sec. 47.25.315. ASSISTANCE TO MINORS WITH CHILDREN. (a) Except
16 as provided in (c) of this section, the department shall require, as a condition of
17 eligibility for assistance, that a minor parent must reside in a

18 (1) place of residence maintained by the minor's parent, legal guardian,
19 or other adult relative of the minor as the parent's, guardian's, or other adult relative's
20 own home; or

21 (2) foster home, maternity home, or other adult-supervised supportive
22 living arrangement; however, the minor may satisfy the condition of eligibility
23 imposed by this subsection by residing in a foster home, maternity home, or other
24 adult-supervised supportive living arrangement only if

25 (A) the minor parent does not have a parent, legal guardian, or
26 other adult relative who is living and whose whereabouts are known;

27 (B) there is no living parent, legal guardian, or adult relative of
28 the minor parent who will allow the minor to live in the home of the parent,
29 legal guardian, or adult relative; or

30 (C) the department determines that the physical or emotional
31 health or safety of the minor parent or the minor's child would be jeopardized

1 if the minor and the minor's child lived in the same residence with any of the
2 minor's parents, legal guardian, or other adult relatives.

3 (b) Notwithstanding AS 47.25.360, the department shall, where possible, pay
4 assistance on behalf of a minor parent who is subject to the requirements of (a) of this
5 section to the minor's parent, legal guardian, or other adult relative, or, as applicable,
6 to the head of the adult-supervised supportive living arrangement where the minor
7 parent resides.

8 (c) The provisions of (a) of this section do not apply if

9 (1) the minor parent lived apart from the minor's parent or legal
10 guardian for either one year before the birth of the dependent child or one year before
11 the minor parent submitted the application for assistance; or

12 (2) the department otherwise determines under regulations that there is
13 good cause for waiving the requirements of (a) of this section in the case of a
14 particular minor parent.

15 (d) In this section, "minor parent" means a person who is under the age of 18,
16 who has never married, and is either

17 (1) the natural parent of a dependent child living in the same
18 household; or

19 (2) eligible for assistance as a pregnant woman.

20 (e) The department shall implement this section only to the extent that
21 implementation is not prohibited under federal law. To the extent that this section may
22 be implemented under federal law or under a waiver approved under federal law, its
23 provisions supersede inconsistent provisions of AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420.

24 * Sec. 3. AS 47.25.320 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

25 (h) To the extent allowed under federal law or under a waiver approved under
26 federal law, the department shall reduce the shelter allowance used under AS 47.25.310
27 - 47.25.420 for a family whose shelter costs are lower than the standard shelter
28 allowance used by the department for similar families. The shelter allowance for a
29 family whose costs are below the standard allowance shall be an amount equal to the
30 family's actual verified shelter costs. In this subsection,

31 (1) "shelter allowance" means the portion of the benefit under

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AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 that is allocated by the department for shelter costs:

(2) "shelter costs" means

(A) rental payments or mortgage payments for the family's housing, including payments made for property or mortgage insurance and property taxes; and

(B) the cost of utilities, including heat, electricity, basic telephone service, water, sewer, and garbage services incurred for the family's housing; the department may establish different utility cost standards for different areas of the state and may use an average utility cost per month based on estimated level payments over a 12-month period.

(i) To the extent allowed under federal law or under a waiver approved under federal law, the department shall, for the months of July, August, and September, reduce by 50 percent the maximum assistance for which the family is otherwise eligible if the family's eligibility for assistance is based on the unemployment of the family's principal wage earner. However, if the commissioner determines that temporary economic conditions have resulted in decreased employment opportunities during those months and a reduction in assistance would impose an undue hardship on a family, the department may waive application of this paragraph with respect to that family.

Amend #1
X

• Sec. 4. AS 47.25.360 is amended to read:

Sec. 47.25.360. GRANTING OF ASSISTANCE. Upon the completion of the investigation the department shall decide whether the child is eligible for assistance under AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420, the amount of assistance, and the date on which it starts. The department shall notify the person having custody of the child of its decision. Except as provided in AS 47.25.315(b), the [THE] assistance shall be paid monthly to the person having custody of the child upon order of the department.

• Sec. 5. AS 47.25 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 47.25.364. TIME LIMITS ON BENEFITS. (a) A family is not eligible for more than 24 months of assistance under AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 during any 60 consecutive months that occur after the effective date of this section.

(b) The eligibility of a family described in (a) of this section shall be extended

1 beyond 24 months if the family

2 (1) includes an individual who is the caretaker or spouse of a caretaker
3 of a dependent child or who is a pregnant woman, who is

4 (A) determined, under regulations of the department, to be
5 physically or mentally unable to perform gainful activity; or

6 (B) a parent who is providing care for a child who is
7 experiencing a disability; or

8 (2) has cooperated with the department and every adult in the family
9 who has been assigned to an activity under AS 47.25.303 or 47.25.421 - 47.25.429 has
10 substantially complied with the requirements of the program to which the person was
11 assigned but

12 (A) a temporary and verified physical condition, as supported
13 by appropriate medical documentation, prevents adults in the family from
14 attaining and maintaining employment that would provide the family with net
15 income equal to or greater than what the family would receive from the
16 assistance grant;

17 (B) the department failed to provide services required under
18 AS 47.25.303(d) or 47.25.427 with respect to the family; or

19 (C) despite all appropriate efforts, the adults in the family have
20 been unable to find employment that would provide the family with total net
21 income equal to or greater than what the family would receive from assistance.

22 (c) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, a family that becomes ineligible for
23 assistance solely by operation of (a) of this section nevertheless remains eligible for
24 medical assistance under AS 47.07 for a period of 12 months after losing eligibility
25 for assistance under (a) of this section.

26 (d) The department shall implement this section only to the extent that
27 implementation is not prohibited under federal law. To the extent that this section may
28 be implemented under federal law or under a waiver approved under federal law, its
29 provisions supersede inconsistent provisions of AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420.

30 * Sec. 6. AS 47.25 is amended by adding a new section to read:

31 Sec. 47.25.366. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. (a) The department shall reduce

1 the assistance for which an assistance unit is otherwise eligible under AS 47.25.310 -
2 47.25.420 if a minor parent in the assistance unit fails, without good cause, to meet
3 standards of adequate levels of school attendance, as defined in regulations of the
4 department. The reduction under this subsection shall be achieved by disregarding the
5 needs of the person who failed to meet the school attendance standards. The person's
6 needs shall be disregarded until the minor parent complies.

7 (b) The department shall implement this section only to the extent that
8 implementation is not prohibited under federal law. To the extent that this section may
9 be implemented under federal law or under a waiver approved under federal law, its
10 provisions supersede inconsistent provisions of AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420.

11 * Sec. 7. AS 47 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

12 CHAPTER 27. ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

13 Sec. 47.27.005. DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT. The department shall

14 (1) administer the Alaska temporary assistance program by providing
15 assistance with basic living expenses and self-sufficiency services to needy children
16 and their families under this chapter;

17 (2) establish, by regulation, program standards that will provide
18 incentives to work, incentives for financial planning, and opportunities to develop self-
19 sufficiency while providing assistance with basic living expenses;

20 (3) prepare, submit to the federal government, and amend, if necessary,
21 a state plan designed to assure that federal money is available to the state for the
22 operation of the program set out in this chapter to provide assistance for basic living
23 expenses and self-sufficiency services to needy children and their families consistent
24 with the state objectives identified in (2) of this section;

25 (4) adopt methods of program administration to ensure consistency with
26 the federal requirements under any successor federal program that replaces the aid to
27 families with dependent children program;

28 (5) make reports to the federal government as required under any
29 successor federal program that replaces the aid to families with dependent children
30 program, in the form and containing the information required, and comply with the
31 provisions that the federal government determines are necessary to ensure correct and

1 verifiable information on the program;

2 (6) provide to the legislature an annual executive summary of the
3 information required to be reported to the federal government under (5) of this section;

4 (7) conduct studies and research in order to evaluate and monitor the
5 effectiveness of the state program; and

6 (8) adopt regulations and take action to implement, interpret, and
7 administer the provisions of this chapter.

8 Sec. 47.27.010. ELIGIBLE FAMILIES. The following families may apply for
9 assistance under the Alaska temporary assistance program:

10 (1) a single parent who has the physical custody of one or more related
11 dependent children;

12 (2) a caretaker of one or more dependent children who is a relative to
13 at least the fifth degree;

14 (3) a woman in the last trimester of pregnancy; or

15 (4) a two-parent family with physical custody of one or more related
16 dependent children.

17 Sec. 47.27.015. DISQUALIFYING CONDITIONS. (a) A family is not
18 eligible for assistance under the Alaska temporary assistance program if the family
19 includes an adult who

20 (1) has received benefits under the Alaska temporary assistance
21 program, or a program of another state operated under a federal assistance grant
22 program for needy families, for a total of 60 months as the caretaker or spouse of a
23 caretaker of a dependent child or as a pregnant woman, unless the caretaker or
24 pregnant woman is

25 (A) determined, under regulations of the department to be
26 physically or mentally unable to perform gainful activity;

27 (B) a parent who is providing care for a child who is
28 experiencing a disability; or

29 (C) a family determined by the department to be exempt from
30 this paragraph by reason of hardship; the number of families for which an
31 exemption is in effect under this subparagraph may not exceed 10 percent or

1 the maximum percentage of families allowed an exemption under federal law,
2 whichever is greater; or

3 (2) is determined to be fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody, or
4 confinement after conviction, in this or another jurisdiction, for a crime that is
5 classified as a felony or a class A misdemeanor under AS 11 or the criminal laws of
6 the jurisdiction where the criminal activity was committed.

7 (b) A family is not eligible for assistance under this chapter for a period of
8 120 months beginning on the date the adult applicant for the family is convicted of
9 having fraudulently misrepresented the applicant's residence in order to receive
10 assistance in more than one state under a program financed with federal money under
11 any successor federal program that replaces the aid to families with dependent children
12 program.

13 (c) A family is not eligible for the following time periods if the family's
14 demonstrated need for assistance is due to a refusal of or voluntary separation from
15 suitable employment by the adult applicant, or a custodial parent or caretaker, without
16 good cause:

17 (1) one month for the first refusal or separation without good cause;

18 (2) six months for the second refusal or separation without good cause;

19 and

20 (3) 12 months for the third and subsequent refusal or separation without
21 good cause.

22 (d) A family is not eligible for assistance for up to 12 months if the family's
23 demonstrated need is due to an intentional transfer of an asset or assets at less than fair
24 market value for the purpose of establishing eligibility for assistance. A period of
25 ineligibility shall begin on the first day of the month following the transfer of the asset
26 or assets and shall remain in effect for a number of months equal to the fair market
27 value of the transferred asset or assets divided by the maximum payment amount for
28 the family as established under AS 47.27.025, or for 12 months, whichever is less.

29 (e) An Alaska temporary assistance program applicant or participant who is
30 administratively disqualified for making a false statement or misrepresentation knowing
31 it was false, or for knowingly failing to disclose a material fact, in order to obtain or

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increase assistance or services under this chapter is not eligible to receive assistance under this chapter for a period of

- (1) six months following the first disqualification;
- (2) 12 months following the second disqualification; and
- (3) permanently following the third disqualification.

Sec. 47.27.020. APPLICATION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE.

(a) An applicant for assistance under the Alaska temporary assistance program shall complete an application in writing, or by electronic means, and in a form specified by the department. The applicant must be a pregnant woman or an individual who has physical custody of the dependent child or children. The application must be complete and must provide all of the information about the family and the child or children that is requested by the department. The applicant shall provide all supporting documentation for verification that the department determines to be necessary to establish eligibility.

(b) On the application, each applicant shall attest to whether the family, at any time, has received assistance from another state program that was established with federal money under any successor federal program that replaces the aid to families with dependent children program and whether the family has ever been disqualified from receiving assistance under a successor federal program that replaces aid to families with dependent children for the period for which the application has been submitted.

(c) An applicant shall agree to cooperate with the department to establish a family self-sufficiency plan and to participate in work activities when assigned by the department.

(d) An applicant shall acknowledge the assignment of support rights as required by AS 47.27.040(a) and shall agree to cooperate with the child support enforcement agency of the Department of Revenue to the extent required under AS 47.27.040(b). The applicant shall agree to report all child support payments received directly by the family, during or for a period for which the family is receiving assistance under this chapter, to the department within 15 days after receipt of those payments.

Amend
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1 (e) An applicant shall update the information requested in the application at
2 regular intervals as established by the department in regulation. The department may
3 conduct reviews of an application and audit the information provided as necessary to
4 determine eligibility.

5 Sec. 47.27.025. FAMILY ASSISTANCE. (a) The department shall provide
6 assistance for basic living expenses to families that establish eligibility based on a
7 determination of need that considers the family's available income, assets, and other
8 resources, as established by the department in regulation. Each dependent child in the
9 family is eligible for assistance except as otherwise provided in AS 47.27.015 or
10 47.27.027(b), and assistance received as a dependent child does not count against
11 eligibility for assistance under this chapter as a caretaker or spouse of a caretaker of
12 a dependent child or as a pregnant woman.

13 (b) The amounts of assistance for basic living expenses may not exceed the
14 following:

15 (1) for a dependent child living with a nonneedy relative caretaker,
16 \$452 per month, plus \$102 for each additional child;

17 (2) for a dependent child living with at least one needy parent or
18 relative caretaker, \$821 per month, plus \$102 for each additional child and \$102 for
19 a second needy parent if the second parent is physically or mentally unable to perform
20 gainful activity as defined by department regulation; or

21 (3) for a family consisting solely of an eligible pregnant woman, \$514
22 per month.

23 (c) The department shall, for the months of July, August, and September,
24 reduce by 50 percent the maximum assistance for which the family is otherwise
25 eligible if the family's eligibility for assistance is based on the unemployment of the
26 family's principal wage earner. However, if the commissioner determines that
27 temporary economic conditions have resulted in decreased employment opportunities
28 during those months and a reduction in assistance would impose an undue hardship on
29 a family, the department may waive application of this paragraph with respect to that
30 family.

31 (d) The department shall reduce assistance under this section to the extent that