

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1650

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, () 1997-1998



March 12, 1997

City and Borough of Sitka

POLICE DEPARTMENT

304 Lake Street, Room 102 • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Lynn F. Lamm
Chief of Police

Business 747-3245
Fax 747-1075

Christine MCLEOD, Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
P.O. Box 6136
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Ms. MCLEOD,

I am writing in support of the SAFV Shelter in Sitka. The shelter and staff provide essential services for victims of Domestic Abuse cases and Sexual Assault cases. I have worked for the Sitka Police Department for almost ten years. I have great respect and admiration for the advocates I have worked with during my tenure.

SAFV provides an invaluable service for the Sitka Police Department by providing a shelter for victims in domestic cases. Your counseling and advocacy services give us the ability to provide a direction for a domestic abuse or sexual assault victim to turn.

I support SAFV's efforts to provide advocacy and educational services to teens. Every year I invariably conduct investigations involving teens, alcohol, and sexual abuse. These cases may vary from an alcohol related "date rape" to the young person being victimized by an adult who has been partying with them. These cases are usually difficult to prosecute. The young victim walks away from the situation with a sense that they were not believed and there is no justice for what has happened.

Young persons involved in domestic disputes often feel intense frustration and have very low self esteem. Any services dealing with teen education and awareness in domestics and sexual cases would be beneficial to Sitka. The community has little if any services relating to young persons in these instances.

I would like to offer any support I can to the SAFV shelter staff.

Sincerely,

Barry C. ALLEN
Sergeant, Patrol Div.



City and Borough of Sitka

POLICE DEPARTMENT

304 Lake Street, Room 102 • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Lynn F. Lamm
Chief of Police

Business 747-3245
Fax 747-1075

March 12, 1997

Christine MCLEOD, Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
P.O. Box 6136
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Ms. MCLEOD,

I am writing in support of the SAFV Shelter in Sitka. The shelter and services provided through SAFV have been valuable and essential. SAFV continues to do an outstanding job and is an invaluable asset to the Police Dept. and the persons SAFV serves.

SAFV and the Sitka Police Department are continuing a longstanding cooperative relationship. SAFV becomes an invaluable asset to the Police Dept. during domestic abuse cases. They provide essential services and assistance to victims of domestic violence that cannot be easily or readily provided by officers or other elements of the community.

SAFV provides other services and support for adults and children who have been victims or witnesses to domestic violence or sexual assault.

We are supportive of SAFV's proposal to increase advocacy and education with Sitka's teens.

The Sitka Police Department continues to actively support SAFV and the people SAFV serves.

Sincerely,

Lynn F. LAMM
Chief of Police



SITKA TEEN RESOURCE CENTER

"PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION"
P.O. BOX 1034 SITKA ALASKA 99833
(907) 747 3500 FAX (907) 747 3003

10 Mar 97

To: Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
Department of Public Safety
Box 11200
Juneau, AK 99811-1200

Dear CDVSA,

The Sitka Teen Resource Center (STRC) and Sitka Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) are in complete support of the Sitkans Against Family Violence programs. They are the primary service in Sitka that provides shelter, counseling, advocacy, and support for victims of domestic violence and sexual support.

The two above agencies, STRC and SCAODA, are in the process of merging and have been discussing future collaborations between our services and SAFV. This is an exciting opportunity and the spirit of cooperation shown by SAFV is a needed model here, as well as all over Southeast.

The teen center and SCAODA both utilize the services of SAFV as our primary referral source for abuse situations. Please carefully consider the needs of the SAFV program and its residents who rely on this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Budd".

Jeff Budd
Executive Director
STRC/SCAODA



Islands Counseling Services

1310-A Sawmill Creek Road ~ Sitka, Alaska 99835

Phone (907)747-3994 ~ Fax (907)747-6801

A Division of Sitka Mental Health Clinic, Inc.

March 21, 1997

Christine McLeod, Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence
P. O. Box 6136
Sitka, AK 99835

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages = 1
To SAFV	From SMHC	
Co.	Co.	
Dept.	Phone # 747-8994	
Fax # 747-7450	Fax # 747-6801	

Original Attached

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Ms. McLeod:

Please accept this letter as a statement of support of SAFV on behalf of both Islands Counseling Services, and myself, personally

Islands Counseling Services considers SAFV an invaluable asset to our community. There are many occupancies where a client of Islands Counseling is in need of a place where they feel safe. The shelter has never failed to provide a place to meet that need.

Over the years Islands Counseling staff have participated in cooperative projects with SAFV staff. We have had a strong working relationship with them over the years and we are continually impressed with their ability to deliver outstanding services to a very challenged clientele. Their staff has been very good at accepting referrals from us and have likewise made appropriate referrals back.

My staff and I wholeheartedly support continued funding of SAFV.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Boyd, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 (committee name)
 committee on HB 75, dated 3-22-97
 (bill/subject)

Signed: Corinne Erickson Emery
 Testifier Name

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 472 Cordova Alaska 99574
 Address
(907) 424-3581
 Phone Number

March 22, 1997

To: House Finance

Subject: HB 75

I would like to see funding kept for our social services. If funding is cut for these services we are going to see more problems such as crime domestic violence suicide and homelessness.

Our jails and prisons are already overcrowded with all of these people aren't going to get the help that they need. Also this going to cost the state more money.

Agencies that have reached out to people with problems will not be able to continue there services. This will cause people to turn to alcohol and drugs and this in return is going to cause many problems for our communities and our state as a whole.

Signed
Corina Emilia Enroy
Testifier name

Carl and Candy Norman
HCR 64 BOX 391
Seward, ALASKA 99664
(907)224 -3405

March 21, 1997

Dear Honorable Representative,

As I read of the proposed cuts to the State Medicaid Budget for FY98, I wonder just who is being represented by our elected officials in Juneau.

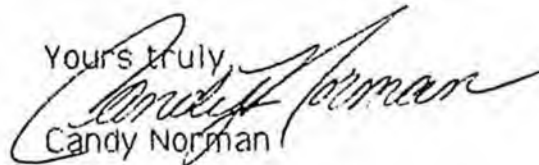
The very people who need these elected officials support are the ones being hit the hardest by the proposed cuts in the Medicaid budget. For these people there will be no getting an extra job to make ends meet; because some are physically and mentally challenged and finding any kind of employment is tough, sometimes impossible. They are desperate for the help the State Medicaid program provides them.

If the proposed cuts are implemented, many of the Medicaid recipients in the State of Alaska will be without even BASIC NEEDS. Is Dental, Visual, Hearing, Rehab, etc. a frivolous request??? If so, can We trust that our representatives will no longer be needing insurance at Our expense??

Please vote not to cut Medicaid to the Developmentally Disabled and restore the Medicaid Options you took away last year.

By the way, a 1996 increase of \$50.00 per day per-diem for legislators? A proposed \$307,000 increase in the legislature's spending budget for FY98? Can we afford this?

Yours truly,


Candy Norman

March 21, 1997

Carla Norman
Box 129
Seward, Alaska 99664
(907)224-7217

Honorable Representative,

I am very concerned about last years Medicaid cuts as they affect my quality of life. Now I am told you are considering more cuts.

I was born in Seward, Ak. in December of 1966. I attended Seward Schools and later went to AVTEC for secretarial training. My daughter was born in Seward, also.

In Jan of 1988, at the age of 21, I was in a car accident resulting in a life-threatening coma which lasted for 6 months. Upon 'awakening' I was unable to do even the simple things on my own. Because I was unable to do for myself, I had to live in a nursing home for 8 years. Imagine that, if you can. Only 21 and I had lost many things we all take for granted--the ability to get out of bed unassisted, to brush my own teeth, go into a bathroom alone, to eat when and what I wanted, to ride the horses I loved to ride, to take a step on my own and the hardest things of all, my ability to speak and to care for my daughter. This year, thanks to the Independent Living Center, Hope Cottage, and The Seward Community Resource Team I am finally out of the nursing home and into a Hope Cottage in Seward which I share with a caretaker and a mentally challenged friend.


I live on Approximately \$850.00 a month. Out of that comes \$400 per month in rent, my food, gas for the car and any other personal needs. I surely cannot afford medical insurance and desperately need Medicaid for my dental, visual and therapy needs. Please restore the options you took last year and help those who can NOT help themselves.

Thank You,


Carla Norman

FY98? Can we afford this?

Yours truly,


Candy Norman

March 18, 1997

To All Members of the
House Finance Committee

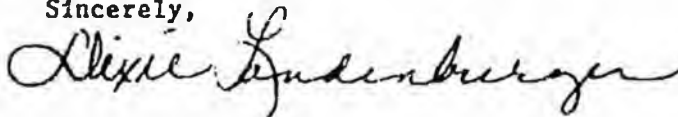
The proposed funding cuts to the Department of Health and Social Services will end up costing the State of Alaska more funds due to the aftermath of what these cuts will mean to communities in Alaska.

The chronically mentally ill are unable to function well independently in their communities and will end up becoming social problems that will place a burden on Police, Hospitals, and the Court system.

Currently, they are able to live as PRODUCTIVE and FUNCTIONAL citizens that contribute to the communities they live in. With management, they are empowered to become a part of the communities and give each other support and assistance and minimize social problems within the communities. This takes financial pressure off of the court system and the department of corrections. The communities are safe and stable.

This proposed cut is going to cost more, not less, to the citizens of Alaska. I strongly urge you to maintain the current level of funding to the Department of Health and Social Services.

Sincerely,



Dixie Landenburger
Box 274
Seward, AK. 99664

TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – REPRESENTATIVES HANLEY, THERRIAULT, MULDER,
DAVIS, FOSTER, GRUSSENDORF, DAVIES, KELLY, KOHRING, MARTIN, AND MOSES

FROM: ALEXIS LANGDON DANIELS

RE: ALASKA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER'S POTENTIAL BUDGET CUTS

I am writing to express concern for the possible budget cuts to Alaska Vocational Technical Center's (AVTEC) budget.

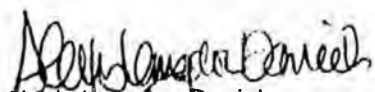
AVTEC has been operating on a budget below their means for several years now, without any capital budget authorization for over 3 years. That in itself is an inherent budget cut, as capital budgets are necessary for technical institutions to keep their training equipment and materials current. As a result of the lack of capital, the facilities are in need of much maintenance and repair, and the dormitories that house the students cannot be utilized to capacity because they are so outdated and inefficient.

AVTEC fills a niche in postsecondary education that badly needs to be filled in Alaska. They train Alaskans to fill Alaskan jobs via "non-traditional" postsecondary education. AVTEC should continue as a going concern in light of the Welfare Reform Act, as they assist in the training necessary for the transition from welfare to work that some current welfare recipients may need, and continue to train a part of the Alaskan population that has the potential to fall back on welfare because of a lack of employability skills.

Additionally, AVTEC has provided retraining over the years for displaced workers in various industries, including the fishing and timber industries. They strive to be flexible to industry, meeting the changing needs of the dynamic Alaskan economy, and continued budget cuts and bureaucratic hoops have made it more and more difficult to meet these needs.

Please reconsider the projected cuts to AVTEC's budget, especially to the General Fund Program Receipts budget. They do what they can to get by on their existing budget, generating as much funds as possible from private industry and other sources. Such a budget cut would be a devastating blow to a very valid and worthwhile state agency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Alexis Langdon Daniels
P.O. Box 1098
Seward, AK 99664
(907) 224-5229

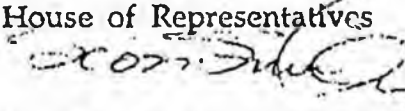
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

SCHOOL OF FISHERIES & OCEAN SCIENCES

FISHERY INDUSTRIAL
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

900 TRIDENT WAY, KODIAK, ALASKA 99615-7401 (907) 486-1500 FAX: (907) 486-1540

MEMORANDUM

To: Finance Committee, Alaska House of Representatives
From: Scott Smiley, Director, FITC 
Date: March 22, 1997
Subject: Abolishing Alaska Science and Technology Foundation.

I understand you are considering the abolishment of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF). A reason given was that ASTF expenditures represented "corporate welfare", and that their endowment of some \$100 million would be better spent building roads.

I believe this assessment is wrong. If R&D supported by ASTF is thought of as corporate welfare, then road building is corporate welfare too; it is just more difficult to define the corporate recipients. Either way, government has a responsibility to build the economic infrastructure, like roads, that improves the lives of its citizens. The ASTF endowment represents another kind of economic infrastructure, and an especially important one as we enter the 21st century.

The plan to abolish ASTF also ignores the difficulties challenging our fishing industry, the largest employment sector in the state. Profit margins for processors in Alaska are so low that few could afford R&D without assistance. A major component of the ASTF grant program has been the concept of shared risk. Because ASTF is willing to share some of the risk implicit in R&D, Alaskans have benefited from higher wages and more jobs. The low margins for the Alaskan fishing industry are largely due to a farmed fish industry that has rewritten the relationship between fish producers and consumers over the past 20 years. Only about half of world salmon production is now from wild caught fish. Pen reared fish account for the other half. While per capita consumption of salmon has risen, markets for the higher volume wild caught species, like pink and chum salmon, have often been captured by high quality pen reared fish.

About a third of all ASTF Grants have been in the area of seafood processing. The Fishery Industrial Technology Center (FITC) may be one of the most frequent recipients of ASTF funding in partnership with a large number of processors. Ordinarily, food research in the U.S. is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) however, USDA has a prohibition on funding food research on wild caught fish. They fund fish food research, but it is research on farmed fish. The other venue for funding fish research is the Saltonstall-Kennedy grant fund, but NMFS forgot to request an appropriation for S-K this year and the future of the program seems bleak. With the decline of federal funding, there are precious few other sources for R&D support. If ASTF is abolished, there will be grave consequences for our fishing industry. This industry is the largest employer in Alaska with upwards of 75,000 people involved.

There are several areas where R&D will be required by our industry in the next few years. First among these is the need for the development of new high volume products from salmon. Traditionally Alaskan salmon were canned. Later, with the implementation of the 200 mile limit, the Japanese purchased many Alaskan fish packing plants. Possibly the chief reason for this investment was to guarantee Japanese consumers a stable supply of fish. Today, more than 20 years later, the Japanese have found a number of other sources of high quality, cost effective fish. As Japanese purchases of wild Alaskan salmon dwindle, new markets will have to be found. R&D will be essential for the development of new product lines based on cogent market research, to satisfy these new markets.

R&D will also be required in the area of handling fish offal. The decision that roe stripping is a wanton waste of the salmon resource, coupled with concerns for water quality will likely stimulate demand for more effective ways to handle fish waste. Should a federal agency demand that fish waste not be released into tidal areas of Alaska, many of our fish plants might have to close unless new cost effective methods to handle the waste are developed. These methods could lead to increased income for the plants because of the potentially high value products that can be made from fish waste including omega fatty acids, bone meal, and fish meals - useful in feeding pets, livestock, farmed fish and shellfish, or supplying humans with their daily ration of protein.

Without funding to pursue this R&D, the Alaska Fishing Industry will lose even more ground to the worldwide farmed fish industry. This will translate into lost income and lost jobs for Alaskans. Alaska has considerable differences from the lower 48; that range from population density, to food habits, to weather, to infrastructure. Because Alaska's R&D needs are so radically different from those in the lower 48, we need our own research funding forum if Alaska is to advance economically. The ASTF endowment can fund this R&D within Alaska in perpetuity if managed appropriately. Without ASTF Alaska will fall further behind the lower 48 in applying technology to strengthening our economic well being. The 21st century will be more technologically demanding than the 20th. Alaska needs the ASTF R&D endowment to have a bright and economically viable future.

cc. Representative Alan Austerman, Kodiak
Senator Jerry Mackie, Kodiak

March 21, 1997

Honorable Albert Kookesh
Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol, Room 114
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Proposed funding cuts to DHSS Programs

Dear Representative Kookesh;

We, the citizens of Yakutat are extremely concerned about the proposed budget cuts that affect so many of our children, adolescents and families. We would like to urge you to do everything within your power to make the necessary changes to protect families and elders.

Because Governor Knowles has worked so hard this past year and a half to highlight the needs of young children, adolescents and families through the establishment of the Children's Cabinet and Special programs like COMPASS, Healthy Families, Medical Assistance and Child Care Assistance, we felt as if the State of Alaska's priorities were finally in the right place.

Unfortunately it appears that others do not share the Governor's vision *and* once again the state seems to be renegeing on their promise to ensure a positive change occurs.

If these proposed cuts are passed, and the State of Alaska's continued withdrawal of support for grassroots movements such a COMPASS shall only cause us greater concern as to the states initial commitment.

Please consider this:

In February of 1997, the State of Alaska, in partnership with the Danforth Foundation, brought together 13 community teams, (out of 49 that applied) with State Department Commissioners and out of state presenters to work intensively on developing *model community based* programs across the state.

Our commitments were based on mutual cooperation, collaboration team

building and sharing resources. We developed action plans and modest budgets to implement some very creative and dynamic programs, that were made possible by pooling resources and changing old ineffective ways of doing business.

We would like you to take another look at all the studies that have been done where it was reported and recommended by the State government to the Federal government that the best way to help rural communities in Alaska was to assist them to take it upon themselves to figure out the best programs needed in their communities, because they, the residents, know what is best and needed in their communities. If this many statewide community leaders were willing to collaborate together to work towards identifying and filling the cracks in the present system and did so by respecting their political and racial identities and really worked for the people in their communities in a collaborative effort for the good of all. We fail to see the reason why the house finance subcommittee can't do the same and realize that if we don't have healthy children... we have no future.

The undersigned individuals are respectfully asking you to take another close look at the responsibilities that are carried when making important decisions that affect all of our lives.

Sincerely,

Shelly Bremner

Shelly Bremner
Yakutat/Tlingit Tribe
Social Services

Monica Wolf

Monica Wolf
ANS Grand Sgt.-at-Arms

Signatures:


<i>Elaine Abraham</i>	<i>Yakutat Tlingit Tribe</i>	<i>Council member</i>
<i>Barbara Samson</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Alaska Native Brotherhood</i>
<i>Butt Adams</i>	<i>VTT</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Derrick Ford</i>	<i>A.N.S</i>	<i>Council member</i>
<i>Henry K. V. d.</i>	<i>VTT</i>	
<i>Ed. W. W.</i>	<i>Yakutat Tlingit</i>	
<i>Therianne Pelland</i>	<i>COMPASS MEMBER</i>	
<i>Wally Johnson</i>	<i>COMPASS MEMBER</i>	<i>VTT Soc. Services</i>
<i>Paul Warner</i>	<i>COMPASS team member</i>	<i>School Board / Head Start</i>
<i>Bruce Warner Jr</i>	<i>COMPASS team member</i>	<i>Student Rep.</i>

Kodiak Area Native Association



3449 Rezanof Dr. East
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Phone (907) 486-9800

To: House Finance Committee

From: Brenda Schwantes 

Date: March 21, 1997

Re: Out of touch with VPSO Program

Post-it [®] Fax Note	7671	Date	3/21/97	# of pages	2
To	Legislature	From	Brenda		
Co./Dept		Co.	KIADNA		
Phone #		Phone #	486-9800		
Fax #	465-2418	Fax #	486-9898		

Two days ago a VPSO had all his tires slit on his vehicle, several weeks ago a VPSO had to leave his vehicle unattended and while unattended his vehicle was spray painted with "pig" and other language, another VPSO went on leave for a week and when he returned home his home had been broken into and vandalized. This is a small sample of incidents relating to VPSO work.

A VPSO is on call and is expected to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A VPSO's starting salary is \$10.79 per hour. Usually, health care is not available for a non-native VPSO. Airfare to Kodiak ranges from \$60-\$140 round trip. Groceries, housing, and fuel is higher than more urban areas.

Why is the Legislature looking at cutting the VPSO Program? The VPSO Program needs more instead of less support. Unlike the Troopers, there are no supplies line items, there are no equipment line items, there are no phoneline items, there are no funds for operation and maintenance of vehicles, overtime is rare, and the legislature wants to cut the VPSO Program?

The following is a brief income salary survey of the Kodiak area;

Safeway Courtesy Clerk (grocery bagger)	\$6.00 hr	Age 14 or 15
	6.50 hr	Age 15 or 16
Safeway Cashier	7.50 hr	
VPSO	10.79 per hour	
Police Dispatcher	13.71-18.91	
Corrections Officer	14.27-19.68	
Trooper Dispatcher	15.84-	
Police Officer	17.56 - 24.22	
State Trooper Recruit	19.64	
State Trooper	Unavailable	

As you can see, a VPSO makes just a little over \$4.00 an hour more than a 15 year old grocery bagger, less than a dispatcher, less than a corrections officer, and a State Trooper recruit but is required to deal with what a Trooper deals with. A VPSO would have to be on the job over 17 years to make \$18.04 per hour, still less than what a beginning Trooper recruit makes.

Maybe the Legislature should start talking about what it can do to support the VPSO Program instead of cutting the VPSO Program.

If you have any questions I would be happy to answer them. My home phone number is (907) 486-1015, my work number is (907) 486-9800, and my e-mail address is brendasc@ptialaska.net.
Thank you.



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

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

committee on HB 75 dated March 22, 1997
(bill/subject)

I have ~~eo~~ great concern about mental health budget being cut to the extent that it is. I feel that here in Cordova it has been very hard for sound alternatives to do all they can with there being talk now about cuts. I feel that if you do this, it will cost the state more money in the long run, because children and families will not get the help and care they need. So please help us to help ourselves and don't do any cuts.

Also here in Cordova sound alternatives as well as family resources do a wonderful job!

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier Name

Myself and Past President of Sound Alternatives Board for 5 years
Representing (Optional)

P.O. 215 Cordova Alaska
Address

907-424-3507
Phone Number



From: Pete Devaris, Owner

Phone: 907-789-7818

Fax: 907-789-4228

E-Mail: Bears@ptialaska.net

Date: 3-21-97

Pages
including this (1) one
cover page:

Save the Division of Tourism!

As the owner of as Alaskan Tour Company I ask that you consider my concerns and requests:

Do not eliminate the Division of Tourism. The Division of Tourism is critical to the survival of the Alaskan Tourism Industry. Alaska's tourism industry cannot stand any more cuts and remain effective at promoting travel our state.

State tourism marketing funds have decreased by 50% since 1989. The negative effects of these cuts are apparent. Alaska has disappeared from the top ten list of desired vacation destinations for American adult travelers.

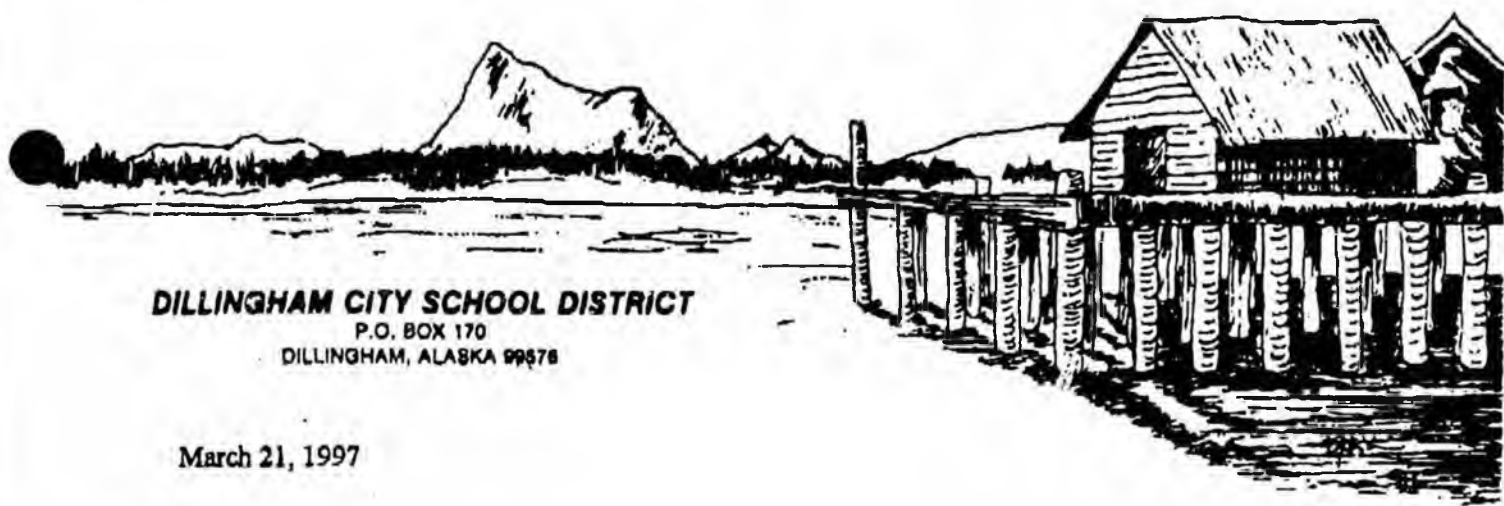
Lets get competitive and stop losing ground due to increased competition from other states, countries, and new destinations.

Alaskans statewide are turning to tourism to replace jobs lost in other industries such as timber.

Please! Lets work together develop Alaska's visitor industry. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Devaris, Owner



DILLINGHAM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 170
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99578

March 21, 1997

The House Majority
Juneau, Alaska

RE: PROPOSED HOUSE MAJORITY BUDGET CUTS FOR FY98

After spending nine years trying to improve the quality of education for Alaskan's children, I have decided to retire, frustrated because of the lack of support from the legislature. I have listened to many campaign speeches pledging support for educating our children and then watched said pledges become politically buried.

We are currently looking at cutting our budget by \$800,000 out of a \$5,000,000 budget. Our student activities have been supported for the last four years by a local Kids Kount organization, who are now unable to beg enough money to sustain our programs. We have also been told we will lose approximately \$183,000 in Impact Aid for FY98.

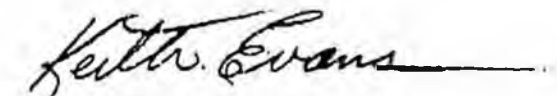
It is my understanding that you are now proposing a \$1,000,000 cut to the Department of Education, which would result in \$13.5 million in federal funds being lost. We at the local level will again be hit with more cuts.

How can a State as rich as Alaska, a State that gives over \$1,000 to each resident just to live here, say they can't afford to keep their Constitutional commitment to education.

We need more classrooms, we have many deferred maintenance projects, but it appears we cannot count on the State for the needed support.

I applaud you for your rhetoric, but deplore your actions.

Sincerely,



Keith Evans
Superintendent

KE:sw

Superintendent
842-5223

Central Office
842-5225 Fax 842-5634

High/Middle School
842-5221

Elementary School
842-5642

AquaFoods

CORPORATION

Tel: (907) 243-4533 3006 West 34th Avenue, Suite 1, Anchorage, Alaska 99517-2233

Fax: (907) 243-8998

March 21, 1997

The Honorable Gail Phillips, Speaker
Alaska House of Representatives
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

3-Pages to Fax: 907-465-3472

Reference: House Proposal to Eliminate the Alaska Science & Technology Foundation

Dear Speaker Phillips:

As reported in the 03/20/97 issue of the Anchorage Daily News, I was quite dismayed by the referenced proposal. Apparently it was developed without considering the crucial role ASTF serves toward diversifying and expanding Alaska's economic base. And, for the record I am a loyal party member; however, in the case of this House majority proposal, being *right* is not synonymous with *correct*.

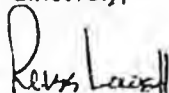
AquaFoods is a recipient of funding by the Alaska Science & Technology Foundation. Not as much as our investment of cash, time and efforts. But, without the additional funding from the Foundation for credible, costly market studies and food science for our line of value-added pink salmon meals, I would still be in my garage -- four years later, conducting crude, unmarketable experiments. Granted, we could have applied for a State assisted loan. However, investigation revealed that only ASTF could provide R&D funding in compliance with our confidentiality requirements. That being the final development of a proprietary pin bone problem solution and the secret ingredient formulas. All of which proved to be successful as illustrated by the document included with this transmittal.

I don't make any claims to being the salvation for Alaska's pink salmon industry crisis. But, by our development of -- with the Foundation's participation -- a consumer-friendly pink salmon product, we can now penetrate a lucrative U.S. market niche. This rapidly growing segment of the U.S. food industry had sales of over \$700 million in 1996. AquaFoods' conservative sales projections show that a five percent U.S. market share (\$35 mil) can be achieved in three years. Add our plans for product line extensions and entering foreign markets to the equation and its simple to figure how much sustained economic growth can be realized by Alaska's salmon community. Not to mention, the stiff grant repayment terms!

Therefore, I urge you and the legislators receiving copies of this transmittal to kill the proposal. Allow the Foundation to continue status quo. Without it, the Legislature will eliminate a valuable source for small business enterprise to succeed in Alaska.

Thank you for re-considering the issue.

Sincerely,



R. Russell Lowell
Chief Executive Officer

cc: attached

1997
SYMPHONY OF SALMON

New Salmon Product Contest
Winner

This is to certify that

Aquafoods Corp.

as a Winner of the Fourth Annual
Symphony of Salmon Contest

Alaska Pink Salmon Pocket Meal

Your new Alaska salmon product was judged to be a superior product by a panel of culinary experts under the sponsorship of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and the Department of Commerce and Economic Development.



Tony Knowles

Governor Tony Knowles



**ARCTIC OIL RESERVE
JOBS AND ENERGY
FOR AMERICA**

4220 B Street, Suite 201
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 563-2697
Fax (907) 562-6782
<http://alaskan.com/anwr/>

203 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 544-6355
(202) 544-6655
Fax (202) 544-5763

March 21, 1997

TO: Representative Gail Phillips, Speaker of the House
Representative Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Representative Gene Therriault, Co-Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: *Cam* Cam Toohey, Executive Director, Arctic Power

SUBJECT: FY 98-ANWR Education Funding Needs - \$600,000

As the legislature works to determine the state spending levels for FY 98, it is important that adequate funding be allocated for promotion of ANWR Coastal Plain development. Since Arctic Power's creation in 1992, the legislature has funded Arctic Power projects aimed at educating congressional members and their constituency through ANWR tours, congressional office visits and target states. These programs have proven to be tremendously effective and should be continued.

While great progress was made in 1995 with positive U.S. House and Senate votes, a sustained effort is needed in order to build on the existing base of support to achieve ultimate success. In the coming year, Arctic Power will continue the theme of Energy, Economy and Environment. We will emphasize Environment, by highlighting Alaska's successful and proven track record that oil development can be done safely, detailing advancements in arctic technology, and our protection of caribou and other wildlife.

Arctic Power is proposing a maintenance level education budget for FY 98 of approximately \$600,000. The funding would be used for DC education, target states, ANWR congressional tours, grassroots programs, media/PR activities and production of new written material. The \$600,000 request will cover education expenditures by both Arctic Power and the Governor's Office. State funds appropriated to Arctic Power are used for projects and programs only, private membership contributions are utilized to fund our staffing and office needs. Budget details are still being finalized and I will give you the exact figures soon.

In years past, both Arctic Power and the Governor's Office ANWR education efforts have relied on re-appropriations for funding. At this time, I have not identified a funding source for this request.

I will be in Juneau soon to discuss this request in more detail and answer any questions you might have, or you are welcome to call me at 563-2697. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

**TESTIMONY GIVEN BEFORE THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
VIA STATEWIDE TELECONFERENCE**

March 22, 1997

by

Richard Hebhardt, Superintendent
Skagway City School District
Skagway, AK

Chairmen Hanley and Therriault and Committee members, thank you. Good morning. My name is Richard Hebhardt. I'm the superintendent of the Skagway City School District, representing this morning not only the District but also the municipality. Mayor Plummer sends her regrets for not being able to be here this morning.

On behalf of both entities, allow me to begin by saying that the consideration the 20th Alaska State Legislature is giving to narrowing the state's fiscal gap is understandable. Fiscal responsibility is important, without a doubt.

Adequate and equitable funding for public education is, however, of the *utmost* importance to the future of the State of Alaska; thus we here at home believe the provision of anything less is unacceptable. Quality education, simply, should not be sacrificed in an attempt to balance the budget, in our view. Too much is at stake. Rather, the public debate should transcend political rhetoric and give honest consideration to remedying the

TESTIMONY
Page 2
March 22, 1997

funding inadequacies and inequities that exist, not intensifying them. Regardless of the funding mechanism or system ultimately devised by you or your colleagues, in short, it should take into account the erosive effects of inflation, as the operational costs of Alaskan school systems have increased nearly 30% since 1988 (while additional State support has been less than 2%). Also, it should, we feel, give full recognition to the fact that several municipalities (Skagway being one) *already* make a significant local contribution to public education -- begging the question here at home, "How much is enough? How much more can we give, without further diluting the provision of other necessary community services?" **Currently, the City of Skagway contributes 39% to the school's operating budget; next year, an astonishing 52%! In a word or two, our school/community believes it is absolutely imperative that a fair and more equitable state funding strategy be developed -- a responsible solution that fully acknowledges local *effort* and *capacity*. Necessity, we think, demands it.**

If not, the Skagway City School *core* educational program, for one, will continue to be adversely affected. Further postponement of the installation of a much-needed, long-awaited vocational education program as well as the hiring of essential teaching staff will no doubt occur, with insufficient funding. In short, the educational best interests of the youth of this community will not be addressed.

TESTIMONY
Page 3
March 22, 1997

For your information, the proposed budget reductions to the State Department of Education, which will result in a significant loss of federal funds, will only exacerbate the financial distress the District is experiencing.

In sum, as an alternative mechanism for funding public education is sought and debated in the coming weeks, we, one, look forward to your judicious deliberation of the issues as well as your keen sensitivity to school communities such as ours -- communities that already contribute more than their "fair share." Two, we encourage your support for: (a) the establishment of an *education endowment*, which has tremendous merit, in our view, as it appears to have the potential of fully funding public education within a reasonable time frame without jeopardizing the long-term public interest; as well as (b) measures calling for the establishment of an *education facilities fund* and an *increase in the tobacco tax*. Finally, as public education serves everyone's best interest in the final analysis, we believe legislators and the administration should work together to make the important decisions required in order to balance the state budget. Education is too unique and vital a concern to be addressed in any other way.

Thank you for the time you have given me.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFIN
 committee name
 committee on Budget , dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

My name is Sheryl Totelo and am a 6th grade teacher in Kaslof. I am concerned about proposed cuts for Alaska Science and Technology Foundation, which would eliminate funding for direct grants to teachers. This has provided educational opportunities for our students that are not otherwise available. As a teacher I have a small budget of \$500⁰⁰ to purchase all books, supplies ^{for all subjects} for a class of 30 students. These grants are ^{for} up to \$5000 and fund innovative projects through a competitive scoring and award process. These projects make learning relevant, exciting, and provide real-life connections to the community. I have received two of these grants in the past 4 years and can personally testify to the great benefits to the students who have participated in experiences. →

Signed: Sheryl Totelo
 Testifier
 self
 Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 1874 Soldotna, AK
 Address
262-4167
 Phone No.

made possible through grant funds. Students' attendance and achievement was significantly, positively impacted! They were engaged learners, motivated with relevant hands-on learning.

As educators, we need to provide our young people with motivating learning experiences that have something to do with what students will need to do in the real world tomorrow. Innovative approaches and projects often require funds to purchase materials and implement new programs. Direct grants for Teachers through Alaska Science and Technology Foundation makes this a possibility for teachers and their students.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed cuts to Alaska Science and Technology Foundation.

Thank you for considering this testimony.
Sincerely, Sheryl Setelo

Testimony for 3/22/97 House Finance Committee Teleconference

Submitted by: Brenda G. Wieffering, representing the Women's Resource & Crisis Center, 325 S. Spruce St, Kenai, AK 99611. Telephone: 283-9479.

* Thank you to Representative Davis and the committee for recognizing the importance of continuing funding for victims' services! Thank you also for recognizing that Batterers Intervention Programs serve an important role in providing for victim safety. We strongly support this type of integrated approach in our efforts to eliminate domestic violence.

* We do, however, request that the legislature allocate one pool of funds to the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, and allow them to determine where those dollars could be most effectively allocated. We trust that the Council will allocate that funding in accordance with legislative intent.

* We would also like for you to know that we still have needs which are not being met. For instance, our advocate staff earn \$19,000 per year — could you support yourself, with or without children, on that salary? We utilize 7.75 full-time-equivalent (FTE) positions for: staffing a 24-hour emergency shelter which services nearly 400 residents/4300 bednights annually; servicing 300- 400 walk-in clients annually (does not include shelter residents); accompanying clients to appointments and court appearances; making 3500+ follow-up calls and safety checks with victims; transporting victims to more than 200 appointments; providing 6800 individual sessions with victims; facilitating community support groups 3-4 nights per week; presenting educational sessions to school children and other community groups; providing 3100+ individual sessions with child victims; and, numerous other activities relating to victim services. Needless to say, staff exhaustion is a fact of life here. That, coupled with the low pay, results in a rather steady staff turnover rate. We need *at least* one additional position in order to keep up with the

Brenda G. Wieffering 3/22/97

workload, and also the means to pay our extremely hardworking advocates a salary they can support themselves on — \$25,000 per year is the average salary for these positions around the state and a reasonable expectation. That equates to an increase in funding of \$40,000 for bringing salaries up to par with colleagues, and an additional \$25,000 for adding one staff position, for a total increase of \$65,000. We would very much appreciate your consideration of these circumstances when appropriating the budget.

* Also, we urge you to maintain funding for the Department of Corrections to keep violent misdemeanants in jail. Most domestic violence offenders are charged with Assault in the 4th degree, a misdemeanor. These crimes are often quite violent. For example, a victim could be beaten severely enough to cause extensive internal injuries, multiple broken bones, and unrecognizable facial features. The perpetrator threatens to "finish the job." When a *first arrest* occurs for domestic violence it is rarely the *first occurrence of violence*, but simply the *first occurrence of law enforcement intervention*. Victims need to know that when their abusers are arrested there will be absolutely no chance the abuser will have the opportunity to "finish the job." Victims need time to make plans for safety. Halfway houses are not the answer — walkaway rates are high (Department of Corrections data indicate 6-7 walkaway/escapes per month). Please take action to ensure that victims are not placed in further jeopardy by the very system which is supposed to protect them. Support the mandatory arrest law by leaving the teeth (money) in it.

** Thank you for your past and continued support of victim safety. We appreciate your hard work! If you should have any questions, please feel free to call me.*

Brenda G. Wieffering 3/22/97
Brenda G. Wieffering, Executive Director, Women's Resource & Crisis Center, Kenai

3/22/97

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

An unnamed theologian said "the righteous will lead us to hell", which prompts an analogy that random dismantling of Alaska's structures, i.e., DEC change, repeal Coastal Zone statutes, could send us down the road to a stagnant economy and social hell. It almost appears to be a revolutionary "smash it, and let's see what happens".

Does the economic/social climate alluded to, cause our southern U.S. neighbors to view us as fools for whining about a fiscal gap, when there's no statewide tax and billions are received from oil & interest income?

We have heard over and over that Alaska will not grow, or cut its way out of the perceived fiscal gap. Why then, does the Legislature seem fixed on just such improbabilities?

Does this constant repetition about "fiscal gap" look like mass ignorance, or worse foolishness, when we as individual citizens pay little or nothing for state services?

Even worse we are not insistent that the Legislature provide resources to un-crowd schoolrooms, assure sufficient supplies, and repair disintegrating school buildings. All this inaction on our part, while we pay little, or nothing, for essential educational needs and fail to demand our government spend some, only a part, of its/our huge income for such basic needs.

Now Economist Reaume has cautioned that our failure to have a statewide tax, on individual citizens for essential public needs, can cause business investment to shy away from Alaska (Anchorage News, 3/16/97). Additionally, failure to maintain schools, and other quality of life infrastructure, can cause potential business to avoid such miser swamps.

Do we despair, or will my Alaskan neighbors and I come to our collective senses and insist more be spent on education and other essential, publicly financed services - and that all Alaska's citizens share the costs, responsibility and advantages.

James E. Fisher
James E. Fisher
171 Farnsworth, 99669
Phone: 262-9601 - fax: 262-9641

(\$\$32297.ltr)

Kenai LIO 3/22/97
Please fax this to House Finance as my testimony.
I couldn't come to LIO this AM since I must stay with Helen who is recovering from surgery.
J.E.F.

City of Nunapitchuk
P.O. Box 190
Nunapitchuk, Alaska 99641
(907) 527-5327
Fax (907) 527-5011

March 22, 1997

House Finance
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
FAX 465-2418

Re: RUBA Program

The Rural Utility Business Advisor program (RUBA) under the Dept. of community and Regional Affairs is a valuable asset of rural villages such as ours because they experiment and pave the way of managing rural utility systems such as water and sewer developments in each Community. Their monitoring of utilities to make sure they operate as infrastructures is an accomplishment and must continue to help small communities or else they will bust and go bankrupt and or fail without leadership. RUBA provides that leadership and show examples for a system that will support the financial viability of a project. Funding RUBA enables small communities a much needed support system
Thank-you.

Sincerely yours,


Ivan N. Wassillie/Mayor

INW:cjw

CC: files



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

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

committee on HB 75, dated 3/22/97
(bill/subject)

Life in rural Alaska is difficult at best. To take away the supports that allow our citizens to deal with mental illness, developmental disabilities, vocational training opportunities, homelessness, domestic violence, alcoholism and drug addiction, youth at risk is a travesty. This is not responsible government. You are the voice of the people of Alaska - the people of Alaska whom I am acquainted with believed in you, our representatives to act responsibly.

Signed: Virginia B. Rhodes
Testifier Name

Sound Alternatives
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 160, Cordova, Ak 99574
Address

907-424-8300
Phone Number

March 22, 1997
Barclay Jones-Kopchak
Box 1126
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907) 424-7178

TO: The Alaska State Legislature

RE: Opposition to Proposed Social Services Cuts

I am deeply concerned over the proposed budget cuts to Alaska's social service programs. I am a long-time member of the Cordova Family Resource Center, willing to 'put my money where my mouth is'. The Alaska Legislature should hold itself to a similar standard. I know that it is not enough to mouth platitudes about supporting the family: it's community caring and actual dollar expenditures that make the difference. Volunteers give mightily to the Center but they can't do it all. The Center responded to 365 calls last year and reached out to many more. The Cordova Family Resource Center has been a decidedly positive influence in town because of the local and governmental support. Don't make their good works a thing of the past. Help them to continue to be dynamic agents for social health and well-being; support them with your voice and your vote for continued funding.

*Barclay Jones-
Kopchak*



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

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

committee on _____, dated _____
(bill/subject)

Budget cuts may be necessary but enough is enough! What the House Majority is proposing is irresponsible.

To cut the Healthy Families Program, jeopardize programs that solve childrens health & education programs and take away \$13.5 million of Federal funds by eliminating \$750,000 from D.O.E. is ~~irresponsible~~ irresponsible. Our school district is seeing an increase in special needs students. We are mandated to service these children and do so with less & less. For the House majority to propose the \$750,000 in quality schools & special services, including setting standards & assessing results is dangerous to

Signed: Julie Justice
Testifier Name

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 991, Cordova
Address

907-424-7303
Phone Number

the health & economy of the State of Alaska
Support the Governors Budget!

Mary Lauer
510 Kinhead
Sitka, Alaska 99835
907-747-5752 home; 907-747-7728 work
TFMFL@acad1.alaska.edu

PLEASE ENTER THESE COMMENTS AS TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE
FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON MARCH 22, 1997 @ 9:30

Alaska Vocational Technical Center is facing budget cuts of \$77,000 in its general fund budget. This cut will deeply affect delivery of programs at a time when the state faces an increased need for vocational training.

Through one program alone, the state mandated welfare-to-work program, demand for vocational training could increase dramatically. AVTEC is researching new areas of vocational training to meet these demands in areas not presently served, such as computer network maintenance training.

In addition to meeting the need for new areas of service, there is an ongoing need to meet the vocational needs of heavy industry, such as the Red Dog Mine. AVTEC is responsive to the training needs of industries needing short-term training, and is especially able to respond rapidly to industry's short-term special-interest training needs.

AVTEC served 1762 students during FY96. Of the students who enrolled in FY96, 84.4% graduated (1345) or completed their skills upgrade program. Based on previous years data the graduation rate is expected to be approximately 72% for full-term and 91% for short-term.

I am employed in continuing education full-time at the University and recognize that this is a phenomenal record of success. I believe that AVTEC's record of success will be greatly affected by any budget cuts at a time when training needs in the state are increasing—needs that they are perfectly positioned to fulfill.

Mary Lauer
AVTEC Advisory Board Member

Thanks, Mary Lauer

Representative Mark Hanley
Finance Committee Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature

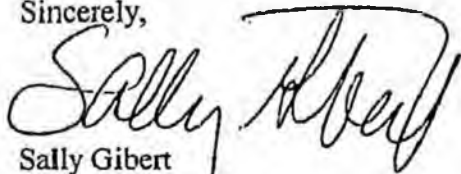
fax 907-465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley:

I understand you are considering a major reduction in the Child Care Grant Program. I believe this is a mistake. High quality child care benefits every child by better preparing them for the rigors of school and growing up as confident, productive individuals. Based on experience with my two children, age 5 and 8, the value of their preschool experiences in those precious early years cannot be overstated. Child care should not be reduced to child warehousing. Reducing or eliminating these funds will reduce the overall quality of child care and/or significantly increase individual child care costs. These two funds work well together and should remain intact.

Thank you for your consideration. I'd appreciate being kept apprised of the status of funding for Day Care programs.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
3018 Alder Circle
Anchorage, AK 99508

E-mail: sgibert@aol.com

ALASKA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Box 889
Seward, AK 99664

21 March 1997

Representative Mark Hanley, Chairman
House Finance Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

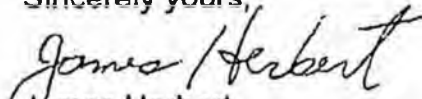
Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Teacher's Association urges you to maintain the budget of Alaska Vocational Technical Center at the current 1996-7 levels. As an organization of 34 teachers, we have worked hard at providing maximum service to our customers, the Alaskan vocational education student. The school has been creative in expanding education opportunities with partnerships with industry, Community Development Quota Associations, and other businesses. Staff has responded by delivering more services and putting in more voluntary time. Our union contract ratified last year reflect your strong efforts to limit financial expenditures and growth.

AVTEC's mission is to provide vocational training for employment in established and emerging fields in Alaska. We continue, in spite of budget limitations, to deliver trained, employable workers to businesses and industry all over the state. Investment in Alaska's future and her people requires concern and attention to economic viability. A trained and educated work force is the first and essential step on that path.

Our Association members are dedicated and supportive of AVTEC's mission. Without sustained funding at current levels program cuts and loss of services are inevitable. Please show your support for vocational education and Alaska's economic future by maintaining AVTEC's budget at existing levels.

Sincerely yours,


James Herbert
President, AVTECTA



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Health + Social Services dated Mar 22, 97
bill/subject

With the recent medicaid cuts, I can see that all the legislators in the sub-finance committee had a deaf ear to the KEY coalition. Please do not include cuts that will adversely affect people with severe disabilities. Families will be unable to care for their children and adults at home. The cost will be enormous. Please reconsider. Mr. Hanley - please pay attention!

Signed: Lynette Hoas
Testifier

Health + Social Services
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 2434 Soldotna
Address

262 7577
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on Health & Social Services, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

*Our residents of this state
 with disabilities can not stand
 cuts in their medicare.*

Signed: Fritz W. Miller - Fritz Miller
 Testifier

My Children
 Representing (Optional)

43750 Ross Dr. Soldotna, AK 99669
 Address

262-9695
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on ASTF, dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject

ASTF has given the MV Corp.
 erroneous information and cost a small
 Alaska Company \$0,000.00. Their advice
 was bad! And have made no
 communication or corrections

Please DO NOT Fund
 ASTF

Signed: Fritz Miller -- Fritz Miller
 Testifier

MV Corp.
 Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 826 Soldotna, AK 99669
 Address

262-9695
 Phone No.

Mary Lauer
510 Kinkead
Sitka, Alaska 99835
907-747-5752 home; 907-747-7728 work
TFMFL@acad1.alaska.edu

PLEASE ENTER THESE COMMENTS AS TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE
FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON MARCH 22, 1997 @ 9:30

Alaska Vocational Technical Center is facing budget cuts of \$77,000 in its general fund budget. This cut will deeply affect delivery of programs at a time when the state faces an increased need for vocational training.

Through one program alone, the state mandated welfare-to-work program, demand for vocational training could increase dramatically. AVTEC is researching new areas of vocational training to meet these demands in areas not presently served, such as computer network maintenance training.

In addition to meeting the need for new areas of service, there is an ongoing need to meet the vocational needs of heavy industry, such as the Red Dog Mine. AVTEC is responsive to the training needs of industries needing short-term training, and is especially able to respond rapidly to industry's short-term special-interest training needs.

AVTEC served 1762 students during FY96. Of the students who enrolled in FY96, 84.4% graduated (1345) or completed their skills upgrade program. Based on previous years data the graduation rate is expected to be approximately 72% for full-term and 91% for short-term.

I am employed in continuing education full-time at the University and recognize that this is a phenomenal record of success. I believe that AVTEC's record of success will be greatly affected by any budget cuts at a time when training needs in the state are increasing—needs that they are perfectly positioned to fulfill.

Mary Lauer
AVTEC Advosiry Board Member

Thanks, Mary Lauer



TELECOPY COVER SHEET
Ketchikan Legislative Information Office
Office - (907) 225-9675 Fax - (907) 225-8546

TO: House Finance Comm.

ATTN: _____ FAX: 465-2418 PHONE: _____

FROM: ~~Rice~~ Fran Feinerman + Aaire Stanton PHONE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Written testimony for TCN 70416b.

SENT: Date 3-22-97 Time _____

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL: Discard _____ Hold for Pickup _____

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2 (NOT counting cover sheet)

TRANSMITTED BY: Rice

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Subcommittee
 (committee name)
 committee on budget dated 3-22-97
 bill/subject:

As Chair of The Ketchikan Area State Parks
 Advisory Board, I'd like to register
 on board's dismay at the funding
 cut for the operating budget of State Parks.

The peculiarity of the cut is that it's
 in authorized budget & in amount
 of money we're allowed to collect.

Closing toilets and eliminating
 volunteers will take away
 income from St Parks, create
 user unfriendly message for
 visitors and reduce availability
 for locals. And does not increase
 general fund for other needed services.

Signed:

Frances Feinerman Phone: 225-6177

Testifier

Ketchikan Area State Parks

Representing (Optional)

1266 Muller St

Address

Ketchikan

Fax transmitted from Ketchikan Legislative Information Office

Phone: 225-9675 Fax: 225-8546

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
(committee name)
committee on Budget bill/subject: _____, dated 3-22-97

I am strongly opposed to proposed cuts in services to families in need. Please do not cut dollars for Healthy Families program, Child Support Enforcement efforts or for Juvenile Probation efforts. I am also opposed to cuts in state funds which match federal dollars for special services & School Districts or which provide federal funds for innovative community programs for children's health & education problems.

It is also ludicrous to cut revenue assistance to municipalities again. The municipalities are already facing tax increases to provide necessary services. It will be particularly painful in Ketchikan this year.

Signed:

Wilbur Shator
Testifier

Phone: 225-3406

Representing (Optional) _____

Address _____



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

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

committee on Budget, dated 3-22/97
 (bill/subject)

Signed: Patience Andersen Faulkner
 Testifier Name

Self + Family Resource Center
 Representing (Optional)

Box 2574
 Address

424-7535
 Phone Number

governor Tony Knowles
Office of the Governor
To: State Legislature
State of Alaska
Re: Patricia Anderson Faulkner
Cordova, Alaska

On: 22 March 1997

Re: Budget Proposal

The Budget is important to properly and fiscally operate the state agencies.

Healthy, employed residents feel very few increases or decreases in state, federal, or local government funding. But, statistics support that those residents are in a minority.

Many villages need clean, safe water; sanitary disposal of sewage and water; employment positions to stabilize community populations; education for youth to ensure adult employment; training for young adults and displaced adults (from industry closures and shifts); safe, healthy days for abused and neglected children; safe, healthy days & nights for women who are victims of domestic violence; financial support for families in need; affordable housing to include utility costs for all Alaskans. We need safe roads, safe communities, and safe homes.

Funding must be at a level that

reflects the response to the needs
of the citizens and residents of
Alaska.

Budget cuts that do not address
social issues will only plummet
the state into one of fear, disorder,
lensess, and violence.



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

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

committee on Operating Budget, dated 3/22/97
(bill/subject)

The cuts as stated are probably necessary and are not wished to have happen and it is with hope all cuts are made totally across all areas even within funding at the administrative level. Not just on the backs of the support and services area.

It has been proven thru early intervention, whether in the area of health, education, mental or physical it saves many dollars in the long run. Small businesses effect many more individuals than the large ones when only one business is effected. vs whole communities.

To maintain the wisdom of the state to make this or to continue this to be a safe and secure place to raise and bring up our future. Citizens it would not be reflective from slashing all the funding of these services

These cuts may at this point seem needed but if you reflect the future there would be an impossible task to reach what we as Alaskans have lost because of quick fixes to a dollar crunch today. If needed the restructuring of income sources may be at this time appropriate ie in tax, re-organizing priorities (making them joint or personal) having a community ownership along w/ state support.

Signed: Kris Stehman

Testifier Name

Adv Council on Deaf & Spec Ed

Representing (Optional)

Po 1729 Cordova Ak

Address

907 424 3145

Phone Number

Ted Howard

319 Peterson St.
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-5482
jstoh@ptialaska.net

March 21, 1997

Please enter my testimony into the record for House Bill 75.

I support wholeheartedly the proposed increase in budgeted funds for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

I have lived in Sitka for 11 years and for the past 4, have been a member of the Board of Directors for Sitkans Against Family Violence, the only local service for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Each year, we have seen the number of cases rise and felt the increased need for the services of the shelter. The price of "doing business" has gone up. Supplies and food have risen in cost, heating costs have escalated and insurance fees for our employees and for liability have swollen. Funding has not kept pace.

The Council has done a marvelous job parceling out the funds it has been given but each year the need has risen and the Council has found itself having to say no to deserving programs.

Please give the Council enough ammunition to fight this war on domestic violence. Please support House Bill 75.

Thank You,
Ted Howard

March 22, 1997

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I wish to address the "Special Projects Budget", specifically the matching funds the state provides the the Alaska Geographic Alliance.

I am aware that there is a possibility that the Alaska Geographic Alliance may not be funded for next year. This program is very instrumental in keeping Alaska, Geographic literate with the rest of the United States and the World. The partnership that it has with the National Geographic Society is critical. The \$50,000 that the state matches with NGS goes directly to education of our students. It also is instrumental in helping develop the Goals 2000 that the state is very busy in adopting.

At present, every state participates and supports this partnership. The networking that exists between participants and states is on going. For us to be out of this loop would be devastating to Geography Education.

I am a teacher for the Craig City School District. Our district has been actively involved with using the textbook: Alaska: a Land in Motion, a book written by members of the AGA. All districts in the state were able to participate in Geography Awareness Week because of the materials generated by this partnership. I have also been able to connect with the Girl Scouts and held inservices to help with their activities because of AGA. The AGA also is a driving force in The Alaska Geography Bee held annually.

I could go on and on but please, re consider this possible cut in education support!

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Lund
P.O. Box 155
Klawock, Alaska 99925

CITY OF ST. MARY'S

P.O. Box 163
St. Mary's, AK 99658
(907) 438-2515

March 22, 1997

To: The House Finance Committee

From: Walton Smith, City Manager of St. Mary's

Gentlemen, due to time constraints I was not satisfied with my brief comments to you by telephone a short time ago. I wanted to elaborate my concerns.

All of the proposed health, social services, legal system and tourism cuts have an impact upon our village and the villages of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. We lack the majority of basic services locally that your cuts will impact. But we will feel the effects as local residents have even greater difficulty in receiving these scarce services.

As you cut programs that serve individuals as well as cut programs to small communities, our village budgets are further restricted. At the same time, we have greater pleas for assistance from local residents. I cannot cut 30% of my manpower from a department that has only one worker.

My major goal has been to keep our water and sewer services funded and functioning. This task becomes more difficult each year. As you make cuts to other basic services, disposable income drops, and local people can no longer pay the city for water and sewer. As you cut other programs to villages, we cannot continue to subsidize the operation of these services.

I have a commitment to these services not only for us, but for the other communities of the Y-K Delta. Many of our villages do not have the benefit of flush toilets and circulating water systems. This is one of the most basic of human services. Most of the increase in life expectancy that has occurred in the world this century has been a consequence of the provision of good sanitation and the public health movement, not of sophisticated medical procedures. Yet these basic services seem to be the first that are cut when the budgets get tight.

You have indicated that you will cut the DCRA budget, particularly in the area of the RUBA program. While I know we cannot demonstrate with this program that we have "saved a system"; the program has provided invaluable services to villagers as well as State and Federal agencies. These services improve the planning, development, and management of village sanitation systems. This helps to insure that the State will be able to reduce assistance in the future that might otherwise be necessary to keep a system running. Your additional direct cuts to DCRA will eliminate some LGS positions that represent some of the most productive workers within DCRA-- a further cut to our villages.

I hope the House Finance Committee can review their current decisions on budget cuts and pursue alternatives to the gap between spending and revenue. We are few in number in the Bush, so we do not represent a great deal of power with our votes. We can only hope that our representatives collectively act from a stance of concern for residents rather than a concern for the votes of individual interests from their respective constituencies.

Thank you for your consideration.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on House Bill 75, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

My name is Catherine Vaara & I am the Direct Services Coord for Advocates for Victims of Violence, (A.V.V.). Here in Alaska, many of our communities are geographically isolated. In Valdez, as in other communities, people have moved here with the dream of landing a well paid job. The reality is that families find themselves socially isolated from their traditional support groups. A.V.V., like its sister organizations was established to aide victims of domestic & sexual violence. We work to prevent future violence through trainings & presentations. Our organizations are often the ONLY place where victims of domestic & sexual violence can find safety, where they can re-group, & really look for viable options. Our shelter at A.V.V. is 100 years old, and is falling apart. It is too small to provide the shelter needed for the population of Valdez, Tatitlek & the Copper River Basin, which is our service areas. We like other shelters for battered women & their children have been struggling with a budget that is 5% less than what it was in 1989.

- * We are the REAL life-line for many victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
 - * We are dedicated to ending such violence
 - * We are active in preventative programs
 - * Our communities are doing their best to create & maintain shelters for victims BUT we need State help.
- I would like to add the Dept of Corrections also needs to do its part in getting the message across - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A CRIME. - Offenders need to be made accountable for their violent actions. They also need to go to jail, where they are prevented from terrifying or harming their victims further.
- * Give victims the resources and time (often life saving time) to look at options, to be able to help themselves.

Thank you.

Signed: Catherine Vaara

Testifier

Advocates for Victims of Violence for the CDUSA
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 524, Valdez AK 99686
Address

(907) 835-2780
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB 75, dated 3-22-97
bill/subject

Good morning, my name is Vickie Williams in Valdez. I ask you to fully fund the Governor's budget request for the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault. Working as Advocates for Victims of Violence in Valdez, my principle job is to work with children who come from violent homes where there is no safety. We offer them that safety to help them heal & become strong. Without this safety & support our state funding gives those children, where will they go? Where will their safety be? The children of our society are our future. What will that future be? We're already beginning to see what inadequate intervention in children's lives can bring us. Increased crime, gang activity & numbing of feelings with drugs & alcohol to name a few.

This trend must stop, but to stop it can only be accomplished with adequate funding to provide the services that can help them & their families.

Thank you for listening -

Signed: [Signature] Vickie L. Williams
Testifier

Advocates for Victims of Violence
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 524, Valdez, Alaska 99686
Address

907-835-2980
Phone No.



O.T. KIDS, Inc.

PO Box 1118
Homer, Alaska 99603
U.S.A.

SUSIE AMUNDSON, MS, OTR/L
Executive Director

MARTIN ZELLER, J.D.
Business Manager

March 22, 1997

~~Dear~~ Members of the Alaskan House and Senate, *FINANCE Committee*

Thank you for allowing we Alaskans to have a voice today. *on HB 75 and HB 76-*

My name is Susie Amundson -- I own two small businesses in the Homer area and am an occupational therapist. In a nutshell, occupational therapy is a profession who serves individuals with disabilities and different-abilities to allow them to function more competently within their environment and with others. Our concern is people functioning as competently and as independently as possible.

I come to you to discuss the proposed Medicaid/ Medicare cuts in the Fiscal Year 98 Operating Budget. I have no Medicaid/Medicare clients on my professional caseload so I do not suck off the proverbial Medicare teat. My testimony serves as an advocacy for people on Medicaid.

I challenge each one of you to be forward thinking when you consider cuts to Medicaid and Medicare. As many of us know the reduction of service for visual, dental and hearing needs occurred a couple years ago. For people to function in the every day world, these are not extravagant necessities. If you don't see how these services can impact an individual's functioning in every day life, pop out your contacts or take off your glasses for 24 hours; or in the pretense that your teeth or mouth are too sore to chew, drink your breakfast, lunch, and dinner for a day; or better yet, place those foam ear plugs in your ears during your ^{next} fundraiser. Visual, dental and hearing services are not an option for a functional life.

The proposed cuts to mammography, prosthetics, and rehabilitative services are disconcerting. If we use a forward thinking, cost-effective approach...

re: mammography: A lumpectomy is cheaper than a mastectomy?
Mammography is the number one best detector of this breast cancer.

re: prosthetics: If someone receives a prosthetic arm after a fishing accident, the likelihood of that individual returning to work and adding to the economic gains of Alaska are much greater.

re: rehabilitative services for substance abuse and mental health: Which of us here wants one of our loved ones, (a child, a spouse, a friend) to be an accident

fatality because someone who needed help with alcohol addiction didn't receive it? *This becomes a public safety issue.*

These services are necessities and they allow individuals to be more independent in the world so health care and assistance funds are not needed later. Again I ask each of you be forward thinking for the future of us Alaskans!

I propose no cuts to the ~~Medicare~~/Medicaid program -- only a reinstatement of visual, dental, and hearing services. If we need more money for this program, I fully support a state income tax.

I want the commerical fishers from Washington, Oregon, and other states who come to Alaskan waters for their livelihood to make a year round contribution to our state. As well as the many seasonal employees who smile carrying paychecks from our state at the end of summer. And I want the workers in the oil industry who live in the Lower 48 ~~and other countries~~ to contribute to the economic development of our state with more than just a commerical airline ticket out of here. Let them help us with our economic development and social responsibilities.

Thank you.

*Susan Arnold
15, 01R/L*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Commit.
committee name
 committee on FY98 Budget cuts dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

I'm asking you to reconsider the proposed medicare cuts. I work with the chronically mentally ill as a skills trainer and I'm reminded daily of how essential our support is to the consumers stability and recovery. Without our support they risk jail, suicide, homelessness, institutionalization, or maybe all of the above. With the proposed cuts the current support services will be eliminated. I urge you to think in terms of human needs and not simply in terms of money. Thank you.

Signed: Judy Rozzell Flora (Judy Rozzell-Flora)
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

34710 Moonrise St, Homer, AK 99603

Address

907 235 6437

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Medicaid Cuts dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

My NAME is Rhonda Lanier. I currently work for the Community Support Program here in Homer. The Proposed Budget cuts in Medicaid are targeting the poorest and most vulnerable of our citizens. The loss of case management and Rehabilitative services will be devastating to these individuals.

Many people struggling with developmental disabilities and chronic mental illness are able, with the support of case management and Rehab services, to live independently in our communities. The loss of these services will force many into crisis resulting in hospitalization and jail if not suicide.

The money saved this year on Medicaid cuts will have to be spent in much higher proportions later, to house these individuals in state institutions, to create solutions for the increases in crisis that will result by robbing these people of the support systems they so desperately need.

In short the proposed Medicaid cuts are short sighted and offer no solution in the long term. If the budget is in such bad shape that such human services must be cut perhaps it is time to seriously consider a state income tax.

Signed:

Testifier

Rhonda J. Lanier
Rhonda J. Lanier

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 1064 Homer AK. 99603

Address

(907) 235-8124

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Medicaid cuts, dated 3/27/97
bill/subject

Proposed cuts in the 1997 budget for Medicaid concerns me in the statement it makes about our values. I, for one, do not support further cuts be made to social services or to the education of our youth. I believe we are already operating on a bare bones budget for these programs. Further cuts would only result in cost shifting to emergency response programs in my opinion. Cuts have been made every year for the last several and I now believe the effects will drastically impact the welfare of all Alaskan citizens by increasing homelessness, suicide, hospitalizations and illiteracy as well as the violence that intense need met by indifference breeds. I fear for our future if such cuts are made. I believe in looking at instituting a state income tax as a possible solution. I support programs that create work incentives. I do not support cuts that indicate a decision moving Alaska toward an

Signed: Chris Loring unemployed
Testifier Chris Loring society

Representing (Optional)

35035 Lowbush St. Homer AK 99603

Address

(907) 235-7475

Phone No.

APR-01-1996 10:24

GLN LIO

19076235591 P.01



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House ^{finance} ~~resource~~ committee
committee name

committee on Education dated 3-27-97
bill/subject

I am currently a student at the Homer high school. I am on student council. Most recently we have been discussing proposed school budget cuts. It seems to be the consensus of the student body, that further cuts would ^{adversely} affect us by a loss of teachers, larger classes, and a loss of the art education classes. I would appreciate you considering what I have to say. Thank you

Signed: Abby Leing
Testifier
Abby Leing

Representing (Optional)

35035 Lawton St. Homer AK 99603
Address

(907) 235-7475
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Tourism Information committee name

committee on House Bill 75, dated MARCH 22, 1997
bill/subject

COPIES AVAILABLE

(Mr. Ken Hanley and Therriault and members of the House Finance Committee. My name is Wanetta Aagaard)

I urge you to reconsider the proposed cuts and program realignments to the Alaska Division of Tourism

I am the Executive Director of the Kodiak Island Conventions & Visitors Bureau, a non profit destination marketing organization with 140 small business members in Kodiak, Kodiak, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Queenie, and Perseus.

I am not surprised at the magnitude of the proposed cuts. The Visitor Industry has been notified for some time that these kinds of cuts would be inevitable w/o some form of industry taxation.

Perhaps by design the proposed cuts and program realignments between, Division of Tourism and ATML functions put the Visitor Industry in a "Sword-in-the-Rock" position. - Choosing between two

Signed:

Wanetta Aagaard
Testifier

Kodiak Island (Conventions) & Visitors Bureau
Representing (Optional)

100 Marine Way Kodiak, AK 99585
Address

907-486-4787
Phone No.

Alaska Testimony
Been raised in
Alaska, born
and raised in
Kodiak
Marketing from
UPP for travel
industry report
Lived in AK for
2 1/2 years

Valuable programs, + a number of the same in course - ...

If a choice has to be made, I would choose maintaining the Division of Tourism. The Division has a proven track record in providing technical assistance and training, and working with communities trying to develop their tourism potential by providing a variety of cooperative marketing opportunities, that small communities could not achieve on their own.

All of the communities in the Kodiak Island Borough (KIB) are working together to overcome declining opportunities in the commercial fishing industry. Out of necessity many KIB residents are establishing new visitor industry businesses. Villagers are feeling the long-term impacts of limited entry, IFGs & new welfare reform - and are targeting tourism development to create business opportunities and jobs.

A viable State Division of Tourism is necessary to aid communities in the tourism development process, coordinate the many state agencies that are directly or indirectly involved in tourism, and ^{leverage} the efforts of communities to promote themselves through dollars raised from small business contributions and local taxes.

In the overall scheme of things Alaska is a piker when it comes to tourism promotion, the paltry amount we spend on tourism promotion is akin to "a cry in the wilderness," the proposed cuts & program realignments will make us the proverbial "tree falling in the woods" we may be making a sound, but nobody will be around to hear it. Thank you.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB 75 - Budget, dated March 22, 1997.
bill/subject

I support your proposed increase to DCRA Day Care Assistance; funds that will be available to directly provide child care for eligible parents while they work or train for employment. With the implementation of welfare reform these additional funds will be greatly needed to assure parent access to safe and healthy child care homes and centers.

I would ask you to reconsider your action to eliminate funding for the One-Stop program. This funding is essential for the development and implementation of systems that will bring increased coordination of multiagency programs & services to the residents of Alaska. This coordination will result in efficiency of resources including space, staff, supplies & equipment. One Stop is an idea whose time has come.

Signed: Jeri J Jensen
Testifier

Child Care Assistance Programs
Representing (Optional)

R1B - 710 Mile Bay Rd, Kodiak AK 99615
Address

486-9375
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

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

committee on HB 75, dated 3/22/95
(bill/subject)

Signed: Loren Pallas
Testifier Name

Children's Pallas
Representing (Optional)

Box 2008, Cordova, AK, 99574
Address

907 424-4323
Phone Number

March 22, 1997

To Whom it may concern:

I understand that steps are being taken to cut certain child care grants. Since I operate an established day care, I do see the need to keep these grants in existence. Many people who work simply cannot afford to pay for childcare. These grants which are now being provided enable myself to stay in operation. Without grant money to help fill the gap, it would be more difficult as a child care provider to provide good quality child care to the community of Cordova.

Sincerely
Joan E. Pallos
Children's Pallos
Box 2008
Cordova, AK
99574



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

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

committee on HB 71, dated 3-22-97
(bill/subject)

I would prefer to see the state find ways to increase revenues rather than ways to cut Program funding. All programs to assist those in need, and our young people and elderly are worthy of full funding - Please change the focus to ensure that education, Health + welfare Programs will be continued and improved. "Quality of life" is critical to Alaskans.

Signed: R Charlene Saunders
Testifier Name

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 451, Cordova, AK 99574
Address

(907) 424-7339
Phone Number



Alaska State Legislature

Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Com.
(committee name)

committee on HB 75, dated 22 March 97
(bill/subject)

To remove DEC's Solid Waste Disposal Program from DEC would effect every community in Alaska. To eliminate those people who know our systems and work with communities and allow the Federal EPA to regulate is distress. EPA does not know Alaska, EPA writes regulations and then finds communities with out even looking into the matters.

Getting water & Sewer tech training from DCRA is also distress to communities. DCRA works with our community on a daily basis. Not just water & sewer, to cut this funding will effect health & safety of

Signed: George R Keene
Testifier Name

City of Cordova & VFD - EMT 3
Representing (Optional)

PoBox 151 Cordova
Address

907-424-7627
Phone Number

thousand of community members.
 Please fund the RUBA program. It works
 to keep systems working & people safe.

Fire fighting training - fund this program
 what is the value on life.

As an EMT for 22 yrs, I know & have
 see villages with great fire trucks and
 no one knows how to use the truck & eq.
 To reduce this dept will cost lives not
 money.

Summary:

1. Don't remove Solid Waste Disposal
 from DEC!
2. Fund DERA - they help all
Communities.
3. Fund Fire training - it saves lives.

George R Keesey



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Budget
 committee name
 committee on Mental Health, dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I understand that Mental health in Alaska has plenty of money yet each year the budget gets cut. I would be interested in where all their money is.

My daughter has been Mentally Ill for 17 years I have had to fight for everything she gets, and that seems to be the case all over the country. API was cut to the breaking point and every year its cut more. The mentally ill are not able to fight for themselves so they are easy to ignore, they end up on the streets or worse and then they are invissable & everyone can pretend the problem doesn't exist but they do & most of them have families who love them, we give up on the system because the courts & laws make it so hard for us to get anything done for them.

We need more money for Mentally Ill not less.

I don't know how you ~~can~~ sleep at night knowing 3/4 of the street people are mentally ill, & when its 2 o'clock they are ~~asleep~~ sleeping & dying on the streets!

I love my daughter & I want her taken care of, we cannot cut what personell & facilities we have left. if you do cut Medicare why dont you just admit you dont care & shut the whole thing down. Life Quest & the police are the only help I get.

Signed: Carol Bragg
 Testifier

~~2222~~ Mental Health

Representing (Optional)

HC 33 Box 2998 AB Wasilla Alaska 99654

Address

907-373-2991

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on DHSS/Healthy Families , dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

I am opposed to cuts in the budget that will negatively impact the most vulnerable families in our state. The Healthy Families program provides homevisiting support to families who are expecting or who have new infants. It is well established that if money is spent on preventative services, the long term savings is astounding. We provide education and hands on assistance to families in an effort to increase their success + self-sufficiency. It works!

When people have the tools they need to provide for their families, the family is so much more likely to remain together, be stable and productive. Supporting children + families is critical for the future. For every \$3 spent on Healthy Families, \$6 will be saved on special education, corrections, medical and foster care needs at a later date. Prevention is cost effective. Funding for WIC, domestic violence shelters and medicaid, as well as mental health funding can not be cut if we want to avoid future crises.

All Alaskans have rights and most want to be productive members of society ~ women, children and people who have disabilities or mental health challenges must not be further stressed by budget cuts.

Signed: Kristin Vernola
Testifier

Mat-Su Community Families
Representing (Optional)

HC 32 Box 3480 Wasilla, Ak. 99654
Address

907-373-7716
Phone No.

Please -
support the
Governor's
Budget !!!



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Rules Committee
 committee name
 committee on 786, dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I do not believe cuts to budget as far as mental health are in the best interest of the state of Alaska. I would not have the limited services that now exist. The quality of life would change for me and those people like me. Case management and other services are important in keeping the quality of life for me at present levels.

Signed: Christopher J. Woodard
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 1107 Palmer 99645
 Address

746-1922
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on 75 / 76, dated 3 22 97
bill/subject

I have waited 2 hours this morning to testify before you concerning the budget proposals. Our LIO is overflowing and listening to others on line, I realize how many folks are affected by the harsh cuts, to essential services, that are being made. I hesitate to write this because I truly believe it won't be read - but my voice is this: when Medicaid is cut it affects many areas - the Developmental Disabled as well. Folks that, for some reason, are missing a limb now be able to have access to a basic need to be independent through prosthetics. I am a mother of 5 sons - 2 have disabilities. We don't qualify for Medicaid services because my husband chooses to work. We PAY, in huge lumps, into the welfare system through taxation, I want you to be conservative BUT - remember these folks are people with feelings - dreams - & joys. To keep basic care from these folks is not your job as our elected representative. →

Signed: Susan K. Gilbert
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 872414 Wasilla AK
Address
907 376 2599
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

My name is _____ committee on Budget cuts, dated 3/22/97
bill/subject

I am a middle manager in a social service agency for families in the Mat-Su Borough and a formerly homeless mother of 5. Cutting prevention services is not financial wisdom. Cutting monies with matching federal funds is counter productive in the profoundest sense. Before getting my present job - I was homeless with 4 small kids and a newborn. Without the WIC program - my kids would never have tasted juice or cheese. Without child care assistance I would have paid ~~7~~ over my hourly wage for childcare. Now, I own my home, am 3 credits from a Bachelor of Social Work degree, and have 3 children in college. Without Alaska Works + childcare programs, you will be releasing families into a stream of poverty as if they were catch and release trout. Without preventative medical assistance and public health services - we pay increased costs in treatment of disease and disabilities. Without child protection services at DFYS Healthy Families + youth probation - social costs will rise. Social Service workers in Mat-Su are already swamped.

Signed: Kelli Mahoney
Testifier

Mat-Su resident
Representing (Optional)

925 Lone Air Way, Wasilla, AK 99654
Address

376-8486
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Bill #75 , dated March 22, 1997 bill/subject

On behalf of the Palmer Senior Citizens Center I would like to voice our opposition to a proposal to cut an additional \$50,000 from the Department of Senior Services budget component for Protection and Community Services. This cut would likely result in a position reduction of an Adult Protective Social Worker or an Assisted Living Licensing Worker. Currently, there are not enough workers to adequately perform these vital services to the most vulnerable adults.

Case loads and responsibility for these programs has risen dramatically. Alaska has the second most rapidly growing senior population in the Nation and this trend is projected to continue each year.

A reduction of a Protective Services or Licensing Worker will result in programs such as the Palmer Senior Center being inundated with adults living in abusive or high-risk situations. We already experience this on a regular basis. Because we have no authority to act in these situations, we rely heavily on Protective Services and Licensing to resolve the crisis in the best interest of these vulnerable adults. If these cases are not investigated in a timely manner, one institutionalized person will cost the State more than \$50,000.

Please reconsider the proposed cut and fund OSS at an amount adequate to preserve the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable adults.

Signed: Jill Eblen, Care Coordination Supervisor
Testifier

Palmer Senior Citizens Center, Inc.

Representing (Optional)
8315 Chugach Palmer, AK 99645

Address
(907) 745-5454
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 committee name
 committee on MEDICAID - MENTAL HEALTH, dated 3/22/97
 bill/subject

I wish to share my concerns regarding the cuts proposed for Medicaid funding which will directly impact services to the mentally ill, severely emotionally disturbed, disadvantaged & disabled. Alaskans, all Alaskans, have a State Constitutional right to basic care. The proposed cuts will negate those rights for some specific individuals.

Mentally ill and/or severely emotionally disturbed children, adolescents, and adults "do not choose" to be such. Community resources and services need to be increased not decreased. Case Management and Rehab services are vital to supporting the progress and success toward self-reliance.

Please reconsider the cuts to mental health.

Signed: *James H. Stute*
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 874275 Wasilla, AK 99687
 Address
376-3609
 Phone No.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE *House Finance Subcommittee*
Closouts - Budget Impact
 COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON 131 DATED 3-22-97
 BILL/SUBJECT

If you cut Tourism Marketing you are directly as well as indirectly effects everyone in the state of Alaska.

Our community as well as other communities would be affected drastically.

My job is directly related to tourism if I don't have this job I can't come to Anchorage to spend my money. Whether related to business or for pleasure.

Along with Tourism is our State Parks. our Parks are directly related to Tourism. Tourism directly as well as indirectly effects everyone in the State of Alaska.

SIGNED Candy Thoyse
 TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

P.O. Box 44 Tok, AK 99780, 907-883-4511
 ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill #76, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

The proposed medicaid cuts will be a grave detriment to the mental health services I receive. Without these funds my quality of life will suffer greatly. Please reconsider your recommendations!

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
 Testifier

Bill Missoff

Representing (Optional)
Charles Boarding Home

Address Old Glenn Hwy Palmer, AK 99675
745-3412

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HOUSE BILL 76, dated MARCH 22 1997
bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made
to the mental health monies.
I am already suffering
from previous cuts (glasses,
+ fee + h) I am concerned that further
cuts would remove the services I
receive to treat my mental illness
I believe the result would be
API

Signed: Martin Hesper
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address BB
424 E DODD WOOD ST PALMER AK 99645

Phone No. 746 5012



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCES
 committee name
 committee on House Bill # 76, dated MARCH 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies because of the great need for these funds.

I speak because I represent those who have difficulty expressing themselves.

Signed: Rachel Hanson
 Testifier
Life Quest
 Representing (Optional)
230 West Park
 Address
376-2411
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill # 76, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies because of the great need for these funds. Many of the people I represent would have a lesser quality of life, without the supports these funds provide.

Signed: Elizabeth Gabriel
 Testifier
Life Threat
 Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 873841
 Address
352-3324
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill #76, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I Do not want to cut
 To Be made to the mental Health money's
 Because of the Great ~~Need~~ Need for These
 funds I am a consumer of
 these funds

Signed: Billy Nick
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
230 East Paulson

Address
378.7964

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on House Bill #76 . dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I do not want the cuts to be made to the mental health monies because of the great need of these funds.

I am a consumer of the services

Signed: [Signature]
 Testifier
Like auest
 Representing (Optional)
230 E. Paulson W. Sitka AK 99654
 Address
376-2411
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on # 76 , dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

Please reconsider cuts to substance abuse
 rehab. services which would eliminate services
 to addicted both mothers and their children.
 Thousands of Alaska children and adults
 are affected by alcohol related defects. The
 prevention and support for fine healthy
 beginning of each child's life (reducing
 fetal alcohol syndrome and child abuse/neglect)
 will ultimately increase the productivity
 of our state's citizens. Pay for prevention
 now or pay millions later.

Signed: Charles K. Himsin
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 3693 Palmer AK 99645
 Address
(907) 746-3921
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Wasilla-Big Lake Area
committee name

committee on Mental Illness . dated 3/22/94
bill/subject

Please. Please and more please - Do not
cut any \$'s for Medicare, Medicaid, Mental
illness - We are living with out median,
dental care & vision, and much more
housing cut. I can go on and on. I'm a
working full time person. I don't apply for
many benefits. But what comes out of my
very small pay check hurts more. I help
many mental ill & senior citizens out of my
own pocket. Because some can't afford median
look for monies else where like out of your personal
pay check. Most of these people live from day to
day month to hand. always a dollar short always
owing. Don't cut are benefits.

Signed: Dianne Huckstep
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 521455 Big Lake AK 99652
Address
376-7822
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on HB 26 Budget, dated March 22, 1997
 bill/subject

I am adamantly opposed to the proposed cuts in Community Mental Health Grants and Community Developmental Disabilities Grants, as well as, Institutions and Administration.

While you have willingly funded the deinstitutionalization of many of Alaska's citizens from Harborview Developmental Center and Alaska Psychiatric Institute, you are now pulling the rug out from under long term supports for these individuals. You have misled and lied to many parents and advocates who suspected this would happen after "safety nets" such as HDC and API were closed and downsized. These actions are unethical and I strongly advise reconsideration of this budget.

Signed: Melissa Saunders
 Testifier

Melissa Saunders

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 874505 Wasilla, AK 99687

Address

745-4211

Phone No.