

**ALASKA LEGISLATURE**

**1652**

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

Barbara Dubovich  
phone 279-3551  
fax 278-9829

I am Barb Dubovich and I represent the Alliance of Child Care Professionals. This group focuses on issues concerning children, families and providers of child care.

We are alarmed by the proposed budget cuts to child care and the resources for those who provide care for children.

The four specific areas of most concern are -Welfare Reform, -Families, -Training for low income caregivers and the fact that Resource and Referral agencies weave all these pieces together.

These cuts will devastate the only hope our state has of having an integrated child care system for families needing care. I have served on 2 subcommittees of the State Welfare Reform Child Care Team and know that plans for the future of our state depend heavily on Resource and Referral Agencies providing linkages for families, communities and providers. This plan will greatly enhance a parent's ability to access child care services **necessary** to enable parents to go to work!

The training program provided by R & R's is vital for child care staff who most often are part of the working poor of this state. It provides them with accessible and affordable training to improve their ability to work with children and helps to insure the safety of kids.

Ask any parent if they feel that is satisfactory for their child to be cared for by an individual who **lacks** training? Are parents willing to accept child care options where substandard care is being provided due to lack of training and funding? Are parents able to pay additional costs for child care?

Imagine a structure that has a platform which holds thousands of young children who receive care. Through Welfare Reform, we have said that thousands of additional children need to be added to that structure. We cannot dismantle the foundation that this platform sits on without creating unsafe and unstable conditions for children. We must be looking for ways to guarantee that this foundation is safe and secure!

I urge you to maintain the Child Care Grant Program, Resource and Referral Agencies and the Education and Training program! Anything less will be detrimental to children's safety and their parent's ability to go to work!

# The Republican Party of Alaska

Pete Hallgren, Chairman



March 22, 1997

## ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Public Hearing on State Operating Budget  
Legislative Information Office  
Anchorage, Alaska

### ATTENTION:

Rep. Mark Hanley, Co-Chair  
Rep. Eldon Mulder, Vice Chair  
Rep. Pete Kelly  
Rep. Terry Martin

Rep. Gene Theriault, Co-Chair  
Rep. Gary Davis  
Rep. Vic Kohring

### Members of the House Finance Committee:

I wholeheartedly support the Republican Legislative Majority's plan to reduce the Alaska state operating by \$ 60.0 million during this session. It is vital that the state continues along a path of fiscal responsibility to ensure that we do not plunge over the financial cliff when our reserves run out. It is also crucial that elected officials NOT BREAK THEIR CAMPAIGN PROMISES, otherwise, voter confidence in our democratic form of government is seriously weakened.

Remember how the voters rewarded Republicans in the last election when they kept their promises?

The voters of Alaska have sent a resounding mandate in electing the strongest Republican Majority to the Legislature since statehood last November. As the President himself has admitted, the era of BIG GOVERNMENT IS OVER!

We must continue to work to re-new investment confidence in Alaska by reducing the insatiable appetite for government to consume our tax dollars. Industry will be reluctant to invest here unless we reign in our runaway state government. Alaskans are strangled by a maze of bureaucracy and regulations which stifle and smother enterprise and individual initiative.

We have the unbelievable situation where government agencies use our tax dollars to lobby and publicly advertise to milk more tax dollars from the Legislature in Juneau.

We have the unbelievable situation where state workers in Alaska make approximately eight percent (8%) MORE THAN THEIR PRIVATE SECTOR COUNTERPARTS! This is backwards from what it should be.

We have the unbelievable situation where Alaska spends nearly FOUR (4) TIMES AS MUCH MONEY PER CAPITA than the national average (see attached statistics).

We have the unbelievable situation where lobbyists swarm the halls in Juneau to suck more money from state coffers into pet projects and programs for the special interest groups.

But who speaks for the little guy? Who speaks for the working man who doesn't have the time nor the money to fly to Juneau and express his opinions? I ask you to not forget the silent majority who sent you to Juneau to do a job, AND THAT JOB WAS TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT!

YOUR MANDATE WAS NOT TO RAISE TAXES!

1001 W Fireweed Lane, Anchorage AK 99503 • 907-276-4467 • 907-276-0423 (fax)

No doubt you will hearing the endless shrill cries from the liberal special interest groups who seem to have more vocal cords than numbers, and you must not flinch at this crucial time in our state's history. If you flinch, and do not stand firm **AND JUST SAY NO** to these special interests, our opportunity to finally reign in the bloated state budget to a sustainable level may be lost for a long time.

I would venture to say that 9 out of 10 people who complain to you not to cut government did not vote for you, and never will. Please don't forget that crucial point.

Alaska voters are an impatient bunch, we will not get another chance at this. Republicans who squander this chance may imperil our future opportunities to elect fiscally responsible legislators. The liberals know this, and are trying to crack your resolve on the budget. They know that if you cave in, they win. They win because Republican core supporters will abandon us, and either move to a third party, or just "stay home" during future elections.

The liberals are also running an all out assault to pass a tobacco tax. This is simply a Trojan horse to generate more revenue to feed government. You must understand that liberals routinely must **"PRACTICE" RAISING TAXES**. That's right, they practice raising taxes. One year it will be alcohol, the next year the oil industry, next tobacco, next tourism. **THERE'S NO END TO IT.**

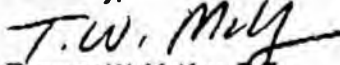
Who will be the next to be taxed? You and I? Our children? Our parents? Your business? My business?

In closing, I urge you to stay on track with the plan to cut \$ 60.0 million this session. I am convinced the voters will richly reward us in the next election. Remember, we represent thousands of Alaskan voters who are not represented by any lobbyist or special interest groups.

**WE CANNOT AND MUST NOT LET THEM DOWN!**

Thank for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. McKay, P.E.  
Vice Chairman  
Republican Party of Alaska

(907) 265-6890 (work)  
(907) 278-4467 (RPA office)  
(907) 278-0425 (RPA fax)  
(907) 522-9218 (home)

cc: Representative Gail Phillips  
Speaker of the House  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (MS 3100), Room 208  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 485-2689

Senator Mike Miller  
President of the Senate  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (MS 3100)  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4978

RPA State Central Committee

# Promises made... Promises kept

**Thank you Republican Legislators!**

*"Reduce government spending  
No new taxes"*

The Republican Party of Alaska hereby salutes the 19th Alaska Legislature for their government reform, economic development and anti-crime accomplishments and for standing firm against Gov. Tony Knowles' "higher taxes, increased spending" special session.

**REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP**

Senate President Drue Pearce House Speaker Gail Phillips  
Senate Majority Leader Rick Halford House Majority Leader Al Verrey

**REPUBLICAN SENATORS**

Senator Steve Frank Senator Lyda Green  
Senator Tim Kelly Senator Loren Leman  
Senator Mike Miller Senator Randy Phillips  
Senator Steve Rieger Senator Bert Sharp  
Senator Robin Taylor Senator John Torgc. r.

**REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVES**

Honorable Alan Austerman Honorable Ramona Barnes  
Honorable Con Bunde Honorable Gary Davis  
Honorable Joe Green Honorable Mark Hanley  
Honorable Jeanette James Honorable Pete Kelly  
Honorable Vic Kohring Honorable Pete Kott  
Honorable Terry Martin Honorable Beverly Mueck  
Honorable Elton Mulder Honorable Scott Ojars  
Honorable Sean Parnell Honorable Brian Porter  
Honorable Norm Rokeberg Honorable Jerry Sanders  
Honorable Gene Therrault Honorable Cynthia Tinley

*Proximately Signed by the Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Alaska*

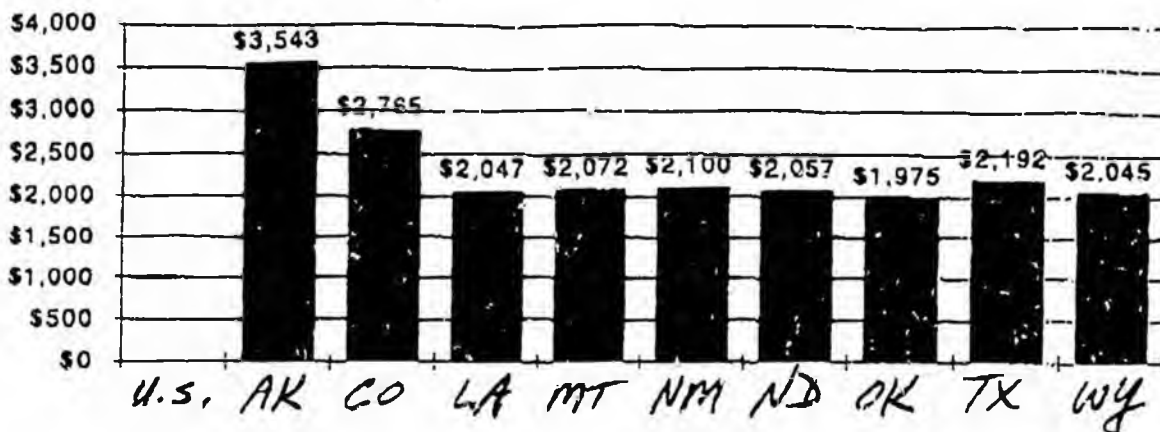
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*Robert K. Shisley* *Greg Gussard* *Patrick R. Martin* *Larry Baker* *Ken Jacobson*  
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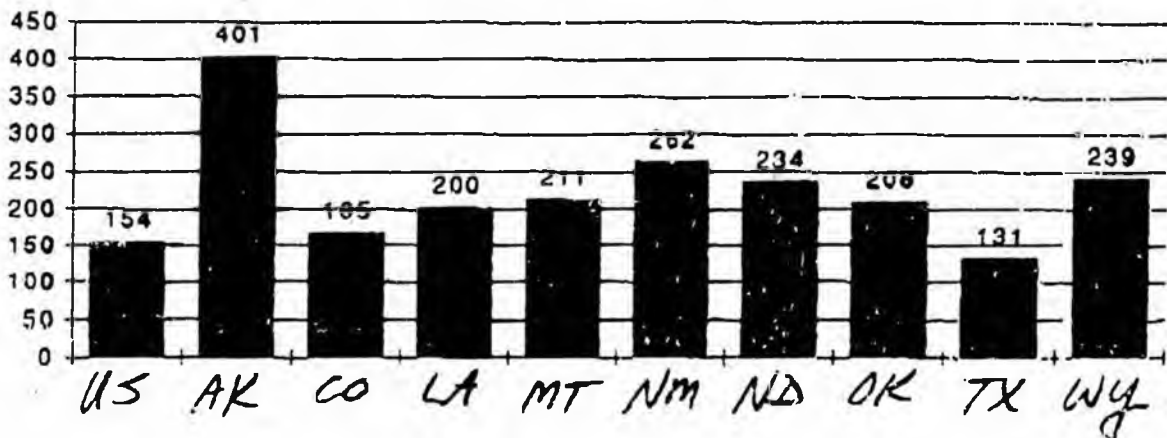
## Alaska State Spending Facts

- 1) Alaska spends \$ 8,523 per person overall, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 2,306, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 2,430, Alaska being 3.5 times higher than our peers.
- 2) Alaska spends \$ 1,921 per person on Education, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 744, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 853, Alaska being 2.3 times higher than our peers.
- 3) Alaska spends \$ 689 per person on Welfare, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 423, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 302, Alaska being 2.2 times higher than our peers.
- 4) Alaska spends \$ 844 per person on Highways, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 178, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 272, Alaska being 3.1 times higher than our peers.
- 5) Alaska spends \$ 71 per person on Police, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 21, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 20, Alaska being 3.3 times higher than our peers.
- 6) Alaska spends \$ 10,648 per person on Debt, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 1,193, while our peer states spend an average of \$ 1,474, Alaska being 7.2 times higher than our peers.
- 7) Alaska has 431 State Employees per 10,000 people, as opposed to the U.S. average of 154, while our peer states have 102 State Employees per 10,000 people, Alaska having 3.9 times more State Employees than our peers.
- 8) Alaska State expenditures for salaries and wages is \$ 1,510 per capita, as opposed to the U.S. average of \$ 408, while our peer states average \$ 492, Alaska paying out 3.1 times as much money as our peers for salaries and wages.
- 9) Alaska's per pupil school expenditures are \$ 8,374 per student, while the national average is \$ 4,960, and our peer states' average is \$ 4,282, with Alaska spending 1.96 times as much on education per student. Quantity but not quality???

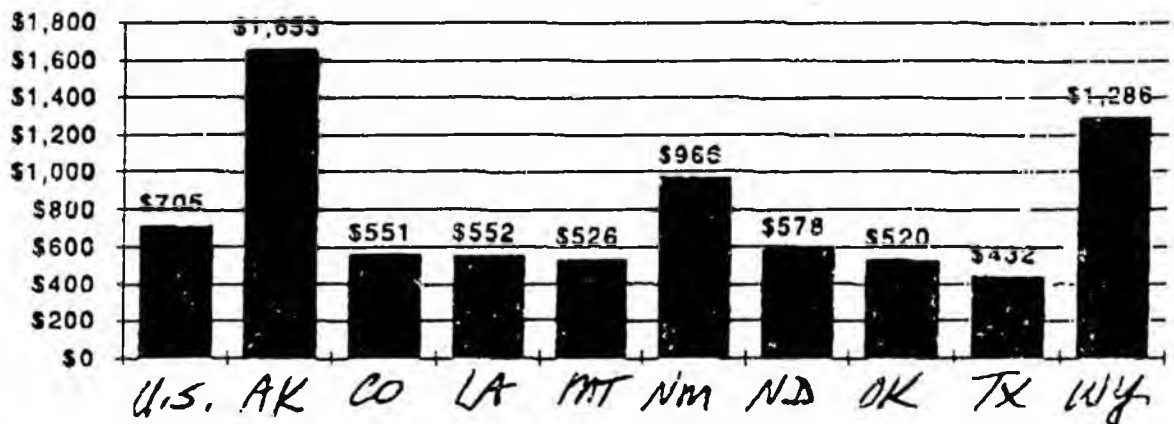
### Average Monthly Earnings -- State Employees



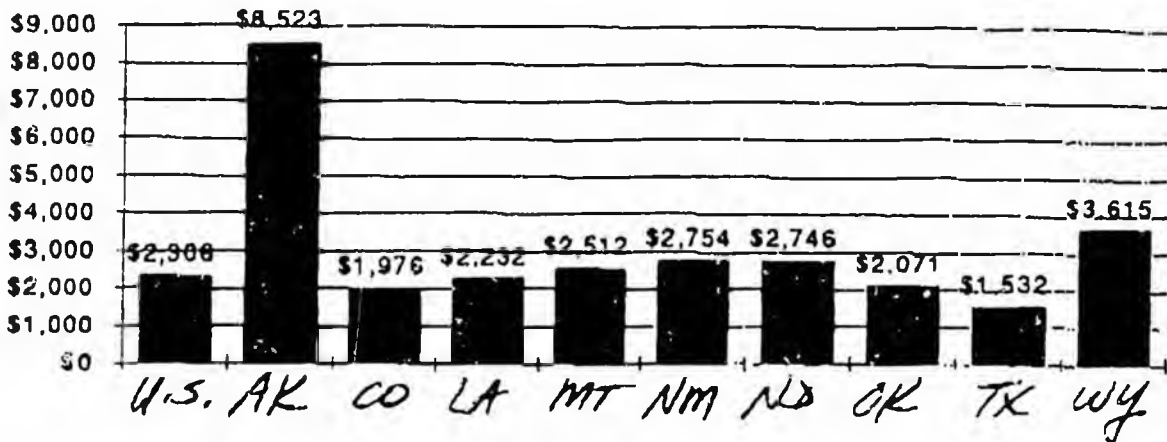
### State Employees per 10,000 Population



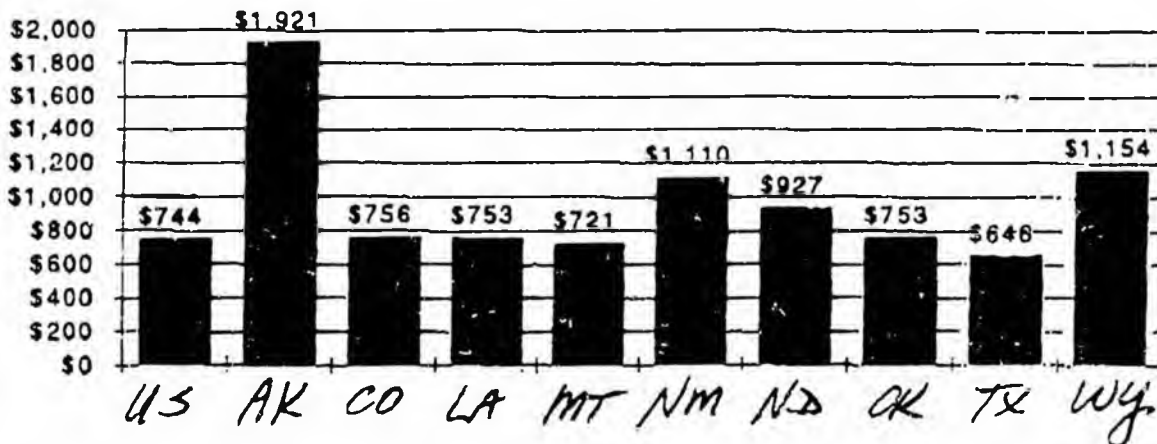
### Per Capita State Expenditures -- Intergovernmental Expenditures



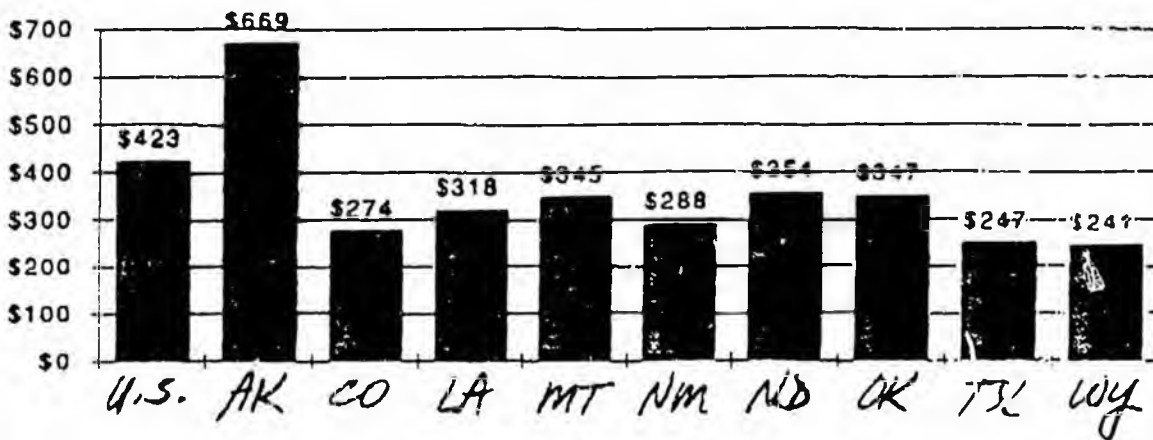
Per Capita State Expenditures -- Total



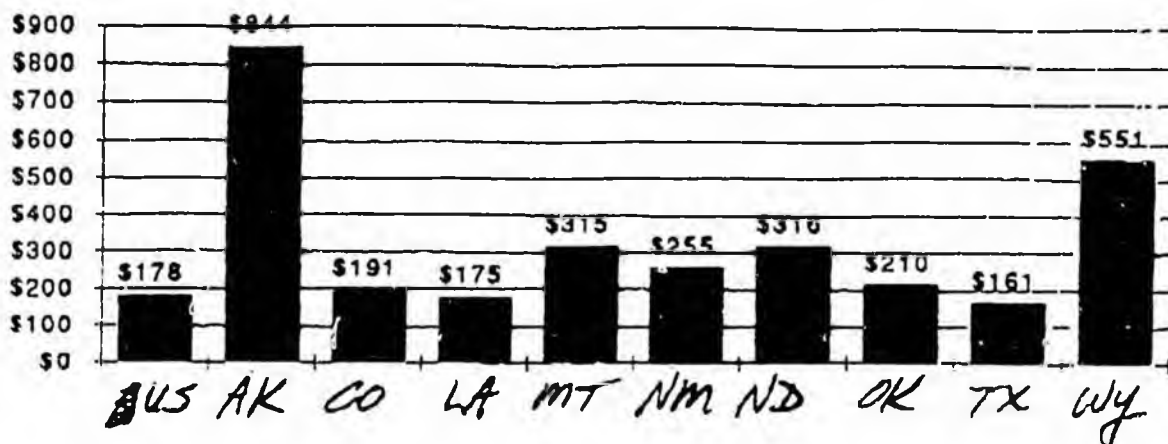
Per Capita State Expenditures -- Education



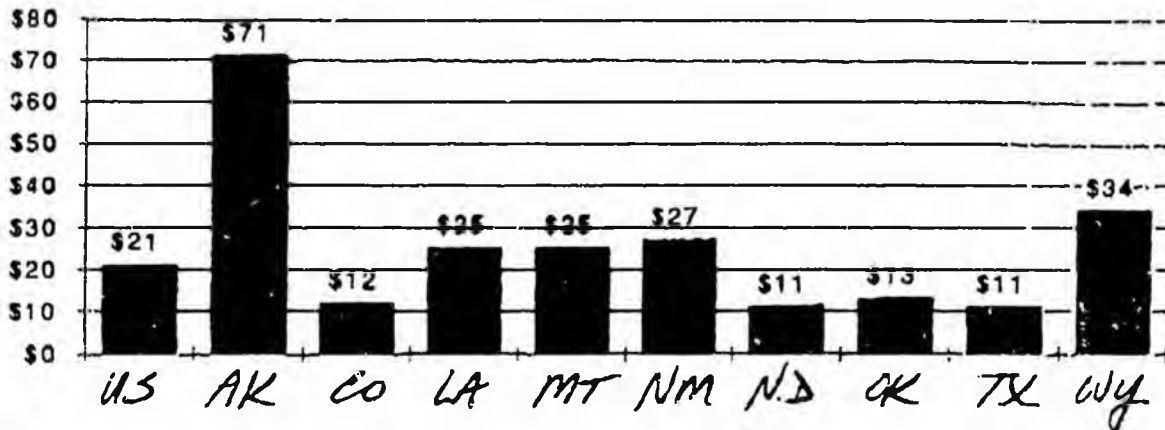
Per Capita State Expenditures -- Public Welfare



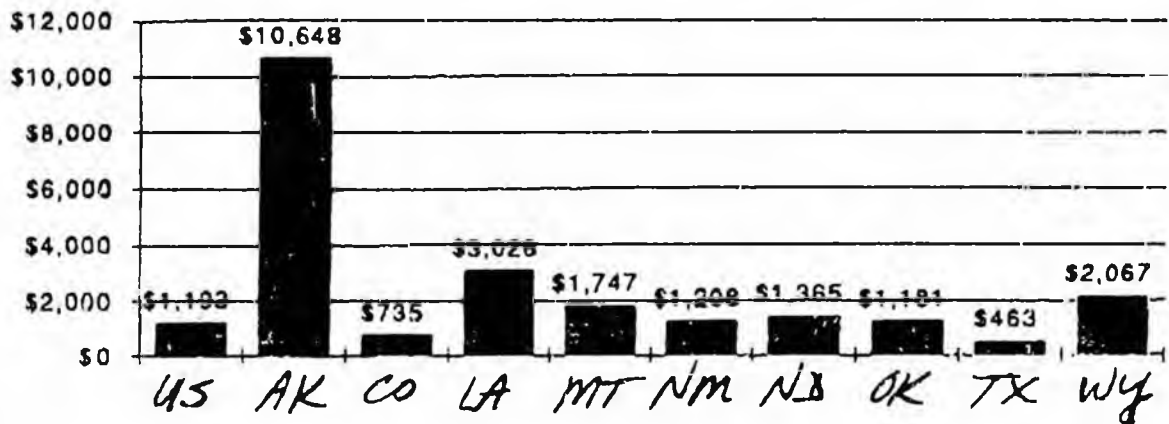
Per Capita State Expenditures -- Highways



Per Capita State Expenditures -- Police



Per Capita State Expenditures -- Outstanding Debt



**FROM: Johann Hamerski  
P.O. Box 110371  
Anchorage, AK 99511  
(907) 345-2056**

**TO: House Finance  
907-465-2418**

I wish to comment on how important it is to support the funding for National Geographic Society Programs for home schooling. I was home schooled and National Geographic played a pivotal role in my education. I read about runestones in National Geographic and was able to use that knowledge to create the theme for Anchorage using a runestone. I designed and coordinated the construction of the "Anchorage Welcomes You" theme park on the Glenn Highway and Airport Heights Road. I read all about the Antarctic in National Geographic and was inspired to travel there myself. Because I knew how important the history was on the Falkland Islands from reading about them in National Geographic I was able to save Shackleton's grave site and several other historic sites in the Antarctic. These are only a few of the ways I've used knowledge gained from National Geographic. In essence I consider I use some of it daily in my business life and as a home schooling family we are perpetuating the National Geographic tradition in our home. We have greatly appreciated the programs put on by National Geographic. We have attended several workshops the most recent one was this past fall put on by Debbie Chalmers. Her enthusiasm helped to light the spark of interest for our daughter in her world and we came home with various projects, maps and information. We have incorporated these materials into our daily work and get invaluable use out of the large world map. Please continue to fund and support National Geographic in the home schooling program. It is our link to the world.

**Ear  
Nose  
Throat**  
CLINIC

Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery  
Richard P. Raugust, M.D.  
Eric M. Tallan, M.D.  
Bruce G. Whipple, M.D.

Audiology  
Arthur F. Larson, M.S., CCC-A

March 17, 1997

Rep. Mark Hanley  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am writing this letter as a concerned physician on behalf of Alaskan Medicaid recipients. I have been informed that the legislature is currently considering modifications to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services budget that would eliminate 4.65 million dollars from the current Medicaid budget. As you know, this results in an additional cut of 4.65 million dollars of federal matching funds, resulting in a total cut of 9.3 million dollars. The cost of providing patient care is ever increasing, as technology advances and new treatments become available. Thus, in an environment of increasing medical costs, not only is the Medicaid budget not being increased or maintained, but is facing further cuts.

I would like to bring to your attention certain features of health care in Alaska, which are unlike any other state in the union:

- 1) Alaska has a large subsistence and seasonal population that cannot afford, or do not receive health care benefits.
- 2) There are no so-called charity hospitals that receive state monies to provide care to the indigent.
- 3) There are no teaching hospitals staffed by resident or student physicians to provide care to the uninsured population.
- 4) Alaska's Medicaid population consists primarily of children. As a result, the private sector is called upon to provide care to all uninsured and Medicaid patients without the assistance of government subsidy or the use of resident physicians or medical students. Moreover, if further cuts are made, the majority of those beneficiaries who will be affected are children.

Finally, I would like to point out my concern that lobbyists of nursing homes, hospitals, and other well-organized institutions

Representative Mark Hanley  
March 17, 1997

Page 2

will likely protect their portion of the Medicaid budget, forcing these cuts onto the physicians who provide the actual care, and the administrators that oversee and regulate hospital and nursing home services. I thus hope that you will reconsider the Medicaid cuts that have been proposed and the way in which these cuts are to be made.

Sincerely,



Eric M. Tallan, M.D.

EMT:ecr

cc: Bob Labbe  
P.O. Box 110660  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0660

**ATTENTION: Representative Mark Hanley**

1743 Willow Street  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
March 21, 1997

Post#	Fax Note	7871	Date	3/21/97	# of pages	1
To	State Legislature		From	Robin Randall		
Co./Fax	Mark Hanley		Co.			
Phone #			Phone #			
Fax #	465-2418		Fax #			

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am extremely concerned that services for people with disabilities are under consideration to be slashed. This can't be possible again!

The proposed cut that concerns me the most is the \$4 million Medicaid cut. Medicaid has recently taken some major hits to dental, vision and occupational therapy services, all of which are necessary for good health and quality of life. Now preventative medicine ie. mammograms and pap smears; and substance abuse and mental health rehab services are being scrutinized. Unbelievable! It's as our representatives in Juneau are making the statement that low income people including those with disabilities just aren't worth keeping alive! Someone needs to inform them that breast cancer is one of the leading causes of death in women in our state.

People with disabilities must have adaptive equipment in order to survive. Big ticket items such as wheelchairs and hospital beds are out of the reach for even the middle class, let alone the poorest of our citizens. This latest attack that will hinder the quality of life for people with disabilities has got to be stopped! Why is it so difficult to comprehend that allowing people to live at home costs our state about **ONE THIRD** the cost of institutionalization? That's a 66% savings; now that's what should be making sense. Medical and adaptive equipment are essential to achieve these results!

I will be at the hearing tomorrow, (Saturday) and hopefully get the opportunity to scream bloody murder!

Sincerely,

Robin Randall

**HB**

**75**

**(File 7)**

**HFIN**

**FILE**

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John B. Branson

Lake Clark

APR 01 1997 Port Alsworth, Alaska 99653

March 24<sup>th</sup> 1997

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am writing to you to urge you to fully fund the Office of History and Archeology at 1996 levels — or better, even, higher levels!

The scholars in this office do great work in helping to preserve for the historic legacy of Alaska for future generations. Their recent work on the Gold Rush is of great value to researchers and students of Alaska history.

The state needs to continue to fund the Office of History and Archeology at current levels because if the state does not, who will preserve our collective

history?

I am most distressed by your apparent lack of understanding of the various responsibilities that fall to state government.

Quite frankly I believe that the draconian budget cuts which you champion are excessive. I believe you should reconsider the reason you are in Tunisia. Please make state government work for all the people - please do not emasculate or destroy it.

Sincerely,

John B. Brown

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APR 01 1997

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capital  
Juneau, AK 99501-1152

Dear Representative Hanley:

After attending the statewide hearing on Saturday, March 22, 1997, I sincerely hope so dedication is given to the issues addressed by the people who testified.

Childcare for those who hope to leave the welfare system must be available. However, the quality of care must also be a priority! It is beyond my comprehension that funding for a entity such as Mark Air was made available in millions of dollars while child care businesses struggle to meet their budget expenses each month! The child care facilities employ hundreds of care givers and provide services to thousands of children. The care our children receive now will influence the care they give to others as an adult.

I truly thank you and the House Budget

Committee for giving the child care community a reason to gather together and become one voice for children and families. "The Alliance of Child Care Professionals" will now educate ourselves on political issues that concern children and families. As representatives of our various organizations, we will make sure our members know where our State legislators stand on these issues.

The other areas of my concern are the length of the hearings. Our State is large and one day seems too little time for public input. It would also be nice to have at least a week's notice before a public hearing is scheduled. I received this information on Tuesday that the hearing would be Saturday. At least I know the Senate hearings will be April 3, 1997.

Respectfully,

Peggy Munger  
7701 Sans Creek  
Anchorage, AK 99515

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APR 01 1997

Neil Shishido  
P.O. Box 2155  
Cordova, AK 99574  
March 18, 1997

Mark Hanley  
Co-chairman House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (MS3100)  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I would like to call your attention to the allocation of \$250,000 for roof repairs at the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) in Seward contained in SB107 of the FY98 Capital Budget.

AVTEC serves a valuable function in providing valuable vocational training that is responsive to the changing needs of Alaska's industries. I am a recent graduate of the Diesel Engine Technology Program and have put that training to use in starting engine repair shop.

AVTEC depends upon legislative approval to maintain its buildings and to carry out its functions. I would like to urge you as co-chair of the Finance Committee to approve the needed roof repairs. I would also urge you to approve AVTEC's budget as contained in the Department of Education's budget request.


Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Neil Shishido

# Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.



March 17, 1996

Representative Mark Hanley  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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APR 01 1997

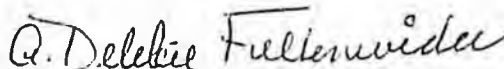
Dear Representative Hanley:

We have reviewed the proposed reductions regarding the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. Although we applaud the efforts of the legislature to trim spending and downsize the state government, we are concerned that the proposed budget reductions will negatively impact the opportunities that will ensure the success of welfare reform.

We are asking the legislature to reinstate the \$6.6 million in reinvestment funds into the Department of Health and Social Services budget for fiscal year 1998. The reinvestment funding will allow DHHS to increase efforts in assisting AFDC recipients transition into productive employment opportunities. It is essential that the Department of Health and Social Services receive *full appropriation of the \$6.6 million* in reinvestment dollars. These reinvestment dollars will assist in successful transitional services such as; work activities, child care and teen parent support.

To meet newly imposed federal work requirements the state will have to *double* current efforts with regard to work and training programs. Without these reinvestment dollars it will be extremely hard for DHSS to meet the significant challenges proposed by welfare reform. If we do not take a pro-active role in welfare reform and ensure that the needed resources such as, child care and welfare to work services are available to AFDC recipients the costs will only increase and will become even more burdensome upon the state in future years.

Sincerely,



A. Debbie Fullenwider  
Cook Inlet Tribal Council



Alaska Native Brotherhood  
Camp No. 2, Inc.

March 25, 1997

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APR 01 1997

House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capital - MS 3101  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representatives :

The Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB) Camp 2 recommends that the Division of Charitable Gaming budget be funded at the level presented to you by Governor Tony Knowles, which amount maintains operations at the current level. As you can see, that level for FY 97-98 is \$913,300.

The proposed decreased funding is \$500,000, which in our opinion, would effectively disable the Gaming Division to the point of being unable to monitor entities that are operating with a State issued permit. The proposed decreased funding will mean that the Division staff would not be able to closely monitor gaming operations to ensure that operators adhere to accountable requisites.

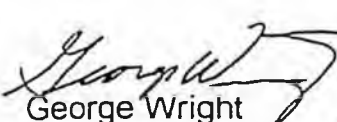
There is a feature in the entire matter that astounds us, that is the rationale of decreasing operations. The Division receives \$913,300 but generates \$2,045,873 for the State's general fund from gaming permit operators. If this is correct, why would the State Legislature want to decrease operations?


We ask the Finance Committee to consider maintaining the Division of Charitable Gaming at \$913,300 for FY 97-98.

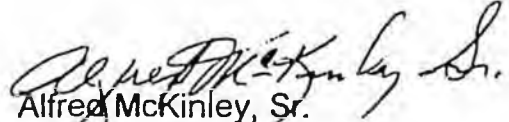
Lest we forget what happened to ANB Camp 2 when a manager in the late 80's and early 90's was convicted for taking \$1.5 million and left us with nothing!

The Department of Gaming prosecuted the individual and we are thankful.

Respectfully,

  
George Wright  
Member-In-Charge

  
Jeff Anderson  
President

  
Alfred McKinley, Sr.  
Second Vice President

*Distributed by Request Rep. A. Kookesh*

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

Belinda L. Sunderland  
P.O. Box 1033  
Unalaska, AK 99685  
Phone: (907) 581-1276 (w)  
Fax: (907) 581-1496

To: Fairbanks Legislative Information Office  
Fax (907) 456-3346

March 26, 1997

cc: Interior-Aleutians Campus, fax (907) 581-2505  
Joan K. Wadlow, UAF Chancellor, fax (907) 474-6725

Subj: Public Opinion Message

Though most of what follows is a reiteration of things said in the past, it is necessary right now to put it in writing to stress a point.

I am sure most people in this great land realize that nothing can function without the constant influx of money. Many also realize that nothing is free and are willing to pay their taxes to ensure services are rendered when wanted or needed.

The institution of education is no exception. Money makes the campus go 'round, and in the case of education in Alaska, it must fund an institution that is far-flung to remote areas with few people.

Those people who seek to further their education in such adverse conditions should be given their due when it comes to perseverance and diligence. Not only must they be patient with a system that only recognizes them on a rotational basis, but many times their pursuit of a degree is put on hold until particular courses may or may not be offered.

That brings me to the point at hand. The offering of distance education courses is contingent upon the availability of the course materials and an instructor, both of which rely upon funding. Here in Unalaska, we are fortunate enough to have a branch campus with personnel capable of teaching undergraduate and graduate level classes, albeit on a limited basis. For those people in other remote locations in the Bush, such a luxury is not afforded them, neither by people nor by funds.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is the fulcrum about which many quality satellite programs rotate. By cutting funding in any form from the university, each satellite community is in jeopardy of being cut loose from the privilege of advanced educational opportunities.

No matter how one looks at the process of funding and cutting, the larger picture of the future must be kept in focus. Give Alaskans the opportunity to educate themselves at home, and keep that work force (and subsequent consumer dollars) in the state. Too often I have witnessed graduating high school seniors leaving the state for better offers at colleges and universities Outside. Too often I have witnessed people coming to Alaska to "make the big bucks," leave with their money, and further their education outside the state.

We have some of the richest resources in Alaska. From oil to soil to minerals to trees to wildlife to people. Those Alaskans who transplant here or are born and raised here are the most familiar with these resources and how they should be cared for and handled. Educate them at home. Keep the engineers, foresters, agriculturists, miners and artists here to be the stewards we need for our vast resources. Nurture their sense of loyalty to home and hearth. The state cannot pay too much for its future and should not deny Alaskans the opportunity of getting a higher education because of funding constraints.

John T. Fellerath  
P.O. Box 84716  
Fairbanks, AK 99708-4716

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APR 01 1997

March 26, 1997

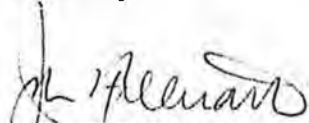
Mark Hanley - Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am writing to object to proposed further reductions in funding for the University of Alaska.

I am relatively new to Alaska but I am not new to the role state finances plays in public higher education. If Alaska wants to have a University, then Alaska needs to be willing to fund it adequately. Funding for the University of Alaska has been effectively reduced for many years. Further reductions are unacceptable. Universities are expensive just like many other important institutions that a state needs or wants. Please fund the University properly!

Sincerely,



John T. Fellerath  
Fairbanks, Alaska



# Alaska State Legislature

RECEIVED  
APR 01 1997

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

committee on HB # 76 - Budget, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
bill/subject

Dear Sirs;

Being mentally ill was never the way any of us wanted to be. It has been a very bumpy ride for many of us. Zyprexa is a good medication, but sometimes we can't do it all alone, we need a support system and case managers. Even Rehab services to recuperate when we suffer from a traumatic experience.

Please Don't cut the budget!

Signed: Darla K Root  
Testifier

Mental Health Consumer  
Representing (Optional)

11690 Lacy Loop # Wasilla AK 99654-5616  
Address

376-4596  
Phone No.

RECEIVED  
APR 01 1997



HAPPY HOME DAY CARE  
Owner: Mrs. Trudy L. Knudsen  
3101 Peterkin Ave. Anchorage  
AK 99508 (907) 272-0267

3/25/97

Dear Mr. Hanley,

As a licenced Day Care Provider, I'm writing this letter in H-O-P-E-S you will listen!!! Please DO NOT choose to get rid of The Child Care Grant Program!!!

We do not make enough money to buy the items necessary to make a home, a daycare! The grant program helps me purchase toys, supplies and educational materials that I could never otherwise afford.

I have four children of my own to raise and this has been a great way of staying home with them. However, I do not make much money per child in care, and now with the food program already cut, the incentives for becoming licenced are dwindling.

If providers can not make it worth their while watching other people's kids, the state will be putting out even more money to help us care for our kids!! Children naturally wear out and break toys & equipment through daily use. The Grant Program helps replace many things that otherwise would not be afforded.

Please help save the  
Child Care Grant Program!

Sincerely,  
Trudy Knudsen  
Happy Home Day Care

# Southcentral Foundation

RECEIVED

March 25, 1997

APR 01 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at the hearing held on March 22, 1997, on behalf of the 20,000 clients served by Southcentral Foundation in the Anchorage area. Three of the State funded programs within Southcentral Foundation will be affected by the proposed budget cuts.

First, the only day-treatment "clubhouse" program for severely and chronically mentally ill people in Anchorage, Southcentral Foundation's Quyana House will close due to the budget cuts. Of the 115 patients who are served by that program, approximately 60 will have to return to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute for inpatient care. Quyana House, which was initially started with a State grant has been operating successfully with no State grant funds, but relies on income generated by billing Medicaid for the services that the patients receive. With the proposed cuts to Medicaid, Quyana House will close.


Second, the only residential treatment program for pregnant substance abusing women will be put in serious jeopardy of survival and will have to reduce the number of clients it can serve. Dena A Coy, Southcentral Foundation's facility, fortunately has some funding from the Indian Health Service, but with the cuts you have proposed to Medicaid, we will no longer be able to serve non-Native clients and will have to reduce the program's capacity to about half the number served now. The result of this will be an inevitable increase in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) births. Rather than paying a small amount for treating these pregnant women, the State government will be faced with enormous bills incurred in trying to help the FAS babies that are born. Odd logic, don't you think?

Third, Southcentral Foundation's New Beginnings Program, which receives a modest \$40,000 grant from the Healthy Families program, will be cut in half. Fortunately, again, we do have a small grant from the federal government that will enable the program to continue, but it will effectively be decimated. The program provides home visits, case management, and other services to mothers and infants who are extremely high risk; it has proven its effectiveness in significantly reducing child abuse.

As a health care professional and an Anchorage constituent, I believe that the proposed budget will not assist in balancing the budget but only result in shifting costs from effective, focused, cost conscientious services to more expense, less efficient State funded programs. The losers unfortunately will be the neediest Alaskans.

Sincerely,

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

  
Katherine Grosdidier, MBA  
President/CEO

670 West Fireweed Lane, Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
(907) 265-4900 • Fax (907) 265-5925  
Dental (907) 265-4965 • Optometry (907) 265-4974





# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance  
 committee name  
 committee on proposed budget cuts to, dated 3/22/97  
 bill/subject State Parks,

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

I am a lifelong resident of Haines and member of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Advisory Committee. My comments are site specific and in regard to the new facilities constructed in 1996 at mile 19 of the Haines Highway. These facilities are located in the heart of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve and include a turnout, information center, caretaker's cabin and outhouses. A nature trail and viewing platform were planned to be added to these in 1997. They are specifically mentioned in the proposed budget cuts to State Parks. The present facilities are being heavily used by the local population, tourists and tourism related businesses and will help to further enhance opportunities in the tourism industry. The long term benefits and future of local residents and businesses need assistance from the State of Alaska through these type of facilities. Please make funding available for the continued operation and maintenance of the facilities presently in place and reconsider the proposed budget cuts.

Steven M. Fossman

Signed:

Steven M. Fossman

Testifier

Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Committee

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 532, Haines AK 99827

Address

(907) 766-2169

Phone No.

John H. Cloe  
2320 Canary Court  
Anchorage AK 99515  
(907) 243-1928

March 28, 1997

Reps Mark Hanley and Gene Theriault  
Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee  
State Capital, Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Sirs

I recently learned that House Finance Resource Committee decided to reduce the Office of History and Archaeology's budget by \$44,000.00, and I am concerned about the impact it will have of matching Federal funds and the office's ability to discharge its responsibilities outlined in Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Because of the complexities the Federal-State relations for historic preservation oversight and the press of business, I feel that the committee failed to understand ramifications of the budget reduction. Essentially, as I understand it, it would mean a loss \$66,000.00 in Federal matching funds. The Federal government funds 60 percent of the Section 106 compliance.

The Office of History and Archaeology would also lose two positions, and possibly its Federal certification. It would also mean delays in Federal construction projects due to the inability of the State to carry out its 106 responsibilities.

I have worked with the office in both a professional and personal capacity and find it to be dedicated and highly competent governmental agency.

Before any final decisions are made, please have your staff review the impact that the proposed budget will have on the ability of the state to perform its Section 106 compliance responsibilities. I am sending a similar letter to the Senate Finance Committee co-chairs

Sincerely,



John H. Cloe

cc: Rep John Cowdery and Sen Sean Parnell  
Office of History and Archaeology



**WILLIAM RANSOM WOOD**  
PRESIDENT (EMERITUS), UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA



Representative Mark Hanley  
716 W. 4th, Ste. 300  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133  
465-2418

The bottom line today is quite important - but over the long term useless if we lose sight of the goal line for tomorrow.

Fund the State Public Higher Education System adequately, at least on a par with the National level of General Fund appropriations for state systems of higher public education operations.

That National average typically is about 10% plus. Alaska's funding, unfortunately, is near the bottom of the fifty at about 7% year after year. WHY?

Can we afford NOT to invest in the future of Alaska's youth in Alaska?

Let's keep ASTF intact for its original essential purpose. It extends the practical application of knowledge in Alaska.

Wm. R. Wood

President (Emeritus)  
University of Alaska  
(1960-1973)  
Mayor of Fairbanks  
(1978-1980)

This form MUST be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below.

Form with fields for Name (Bessie C. Titus), Address (P.O. Box 58008 Minto, AK), Zip code (99758), Telephone number (907 798-7112), Signature (Bessie C. Titus), and Date (3/27/97).

To: Put a checkmark in the appropriate box(es).

Large form with columns for Committees, Caucus members, and Senate members. Includes checkboxes for various groups like Community & Regional Affairs, Finance, Health, Education, & Social Services, etc.

Subject: Fill out the boxes below OR enter a Subject.

Form for subject selection with checkboxes for Support, Oppose, and Amend, and a field for 'enter a general Subject (LIO staff may modify)'. Includes 'HB or SB' and 'Bill number' fields.

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

Table with 5 columns and 10 rows containing a handwritten message: 'I urge you not to cut the maintenance of the Elliot Highway. Food and fuel prices would increase drastically and cause an additional financial strain on our community and even more so since many programs are suffering cutbacks please keep the Elliott Highway open I cannot afford higher prices.'



550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1325  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Tel (907) 274-7366  
FAX (907) 276-1691

March 27, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Bldg., Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

The Alaska Legislature (House & Senate) in its deliberations of the FY98 budget has recommended that the position of **Executive Director** be eliminated from the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority. As you are aware the Bond Bank has only two employees. One which is the Executive Director. The other operations of the Bond Bank is accomplished by six (6) contracts with private businesses. This allows us to use the contractors only when needed.

The Bond Bank has been in operation for over 20 years helping Alaskan communities with their capital improvement projects such as water, waste-water facilities, roads, schools, docks, and utilities. The Bond Bank was established by the Legislature in 1976 as a public-private corporation that assists smaller communities to acquire needed projects by buying their loans and selling the AMBBA bonds on the open market. The A rating of the Bond Bank means we can sell the bonds at a lower rate and the savings is passed on to the community in the form of lower interest rates.

The Bond Bank has returned over \$19,600,000 to the State's General Fund. The original investment by the 1976 Legislature was \$18,601,413. The Bond Bank is self-supporting and does not receive any general fund monies from the State. The Bond Bank paid over \$617,000 in FY96 to the State's General Fund.

The privatization-partnering aspect of the Bond Bank allows us to act quickly and professionally on projects. The elimination of this position would impede the current operations, long-term financing, and most definitely the progress of future financial programs such as Revolving Loan Funds, Equipment Leasing, State Infrastructure Bank (capitalized with federal seed money). The Bond Bank is already an established Authority that is capable of managing these programs. To have the duties of this position transferred to a State Department would be a step backward for the State of Alaska and would dismantle the present services. (See Attachments)

Thank you for your past support and again we need your assistance to reconsider your present action and restore this needed position.

Sincerely,

*Tom Freeman*  
Tom Freeman  
AMBBA Board Chairman

*Just maybe we can  
be more efficient than  
the Treasury Dept.*

RECEIVED

MAR 26 1997

**THE PARTNERSHIP  
TO REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS ACT  
OF 1997**

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S  
SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE**

March 14, 1997

**SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION***The Partnership to Rebuild America's Schools Act of 1997*

March 14, 1997

*"We cannot expect our children to raise themselves up in schools that are literally falling down."**President Clinton**1997 State of the Union Address*

**TODAY, THE PRESIDENT WILL SEND TO CONGRESS LEGISLATION TO HELP LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND STATES REBUILD THE NATION'S SCHOOLS.** As America moves into the 21st century, our schools should too. The President's new legislation — the Partnership to Rebuild America's Schools Act — meets his commitment to provide \$5 billion over four years, leveraging \$20 billion, to help local communities and states rebuild America's schools — through both upgrading and new construction to respond to population increases and shifts. The need for this is clear.

- **Record Numbers of School Buildings in Disrepair.** One-third of all schools—serving 14 million students—need extensive repair or replacement. About 60 percent of schools have at least one major building feature, such as leaky roofs and crumbling walls, in disrepair. [Source: General Accounting Office Report: "School Facilities: America's Schools Report Differing Conditions," June 14, 1996]
- **Student Population at an All-Time High.** Many school districts also face the need to build new schools to accommodate enrollment growth. Public school enrollment in grades K-12 is expected to rise 20 percent between 1990 and 2004. [Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1995*, p. 151]
- **A State and Local Responsibility, and a National Concern.** The federal government can, and should, play a crucial role in addressing this increasing problem of school disrepair by providing limited resources in a manner that spurs states, communities, and even the private sector to provide adequate school facilities for all children.

**KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PARTNERSHIP TO REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS ACT**

- **Allocates \$2.45 billion to help states increase school construction and renovation.** Using a new formula based on the Title I basic grants formula (and after providing \$100 million to Native Americans and the territories), the legislation allocates one half of the \$5 billion to states. In order to receive these funds, a state will have to provide assurances that it will increase, over a four-year period, the amount of school construction paid for with state, local and private funds.
- **Targets another \$2.45 billion to the needs of the 100 school districts that enroll the greatest numbers of children living in poverty.** Under the legislation, those districts that have the greatest school construction needs, according to GAO data, will be eligible for a direct allocation. Of the amount available for direct grants, 70 percent will be allocated by formula, and the remaining 30 percent will be distributed competitively to those districts that have the greatest needs and the best construction plans and are willing to provide the most support from non-federal sources.
- **Provides flexibility to states by reducing interest or other financing costs of new school construction and renovation.** This legislation provides funds to states and school districts to use as interest subsidies for school construction bonds; to reduce the servicing costs of other financing vehicles; to capitalize state revolving funds for school construction; or for other similar purposes. This flexibility meshes with a variety of state and local school financing mechanisms.
- **Leverages additional spending on school construction and renovation.** This legislation focuses on *incremental spending*. That is, recipients must demonstrate how the federal funds will be leveraged, so that the total amount spent on school construction in communities will increase.
- **Applies to a wide range of improvement projects, including construction of elementary and secondary school facilities, renovations to ensure health and safety of students, improvements of the basic infrastructure (e.g., electrical, plumbing and heating systems), increases in energy efficiency, improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, construction that prepares facilities for installation of modern educational technology, or construction necessary for the establishment of charter and community schools.**
- **Provides flexibility for state and local governments in using federal subsidies.** State and local recipients would have the flexibility to determine which construction activity is deemed the highest priority and funded by the federal subsidies. Such determinations would be based on a survey of state or local construction needs.



**J. K. PAULEY & SONS,**  
Trading Company

115 West Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • 907-276-2233 • Fax: 907-276-4309

FAX TRANSMITTAL

REPLY FAX NUMBER IS (907) 276-4309

SENATOR: Mark Hanley 3/29/97  
Juneau  
FAX: 465-2418

RE: State Legislature Consideration of drastic cuts to the Division of Trade & Development....

Dear Senator Hanley:

Being a small business owner and having been born and raised in Alaska, I've "trudged" through the many peaks and valleys of our State's economy. It seems just when things are going in a even or positive direction, the inevitable happens, and the "economic air" is knocked out of us!

Any basic investment theory will agree, diversification is the key to long term success. Relying on the majority of one or two items for our economic income, will no doubt result in eventual failure, (bottom of the valley).

Alaska is, and probably will remain for some time, a resource extraction State. Our resources are our economic income. Currently Oil, (majority of our eggs in one basket), is handled by the "Big Players". But our other resources such as seafood, timber and mining, (to a degree), still allows the individual citizen, (entrepreneur) to make an economic stand!

But without the help of the Division of Trade, we are solely left to our own. The large Oil Companies have vast budgets for marketing, R&D, and Political introduction. We only have the help of the Div. of Trade!

With the highly effective help to the many small Alaskan businesses, the Div. of Trade has helped put Alaska on the World Map as much more than a "Frozen Gas Stop". Lets not let Alaska slide back into that concept.

I HIGHLY request that you do not vote for a reduction in the Divisions budget. Over the past 5 years it has already been reduced by more than 30%. Cutting any further will have disastrous effects, not only on current situations, but on future trade business that ultimately eliminates our DIVERSITY!

Please consult with your fellow legislators and STOP any consideration to reducing the Div. budget.

Sincerely

  
Kim Paisley



March 27, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1102

RE: DNR - Forest Practices Budget

Dear Representative Hanley:

This letter is to lend our support to maintaining a functioning cadre of foresters within DNR, Division of Forestry. The House Finance subcommittee DNR budget included a reduction of \$150,000 in the Forest Resources and Practices (FPA) component. When the budget conference committee we respectively request restoration of the \$150,000 to the Division of Forest Budget.

The effective implementation of Alaska's Forest Practices Act requires sufficient DNR forestry staff to participate in pre-harvest inspections and to monitor implementation of Forest Practice standards. Sealaska Corporation alone filed 24 separate Forest Practice Notifications in 1996 and has filed 17 notifications in 1997. In addition it also requested over ten different variation inspections by DNR.

Sealaska recognizes that budget reductions are a reality. It and others in the timber industry are doing their part to carry the budget burden. For example, Sealaska, the Alaska Forest Association, and other timber interests have invested over \$400,000 to implement the monitoring requirements in the Forest Practices Act even though we were not required to assume the monitoring. We recognized our obligation is to help with monitoring in logged watershed to determine if the Act is providing necessary protections to fish habitat and water quality.

Sealaska is implementing other practices to reduce the State's fiscal burden to implement the Act including self reporting of violations, conducting its own compliance audits and other actions to improve the Act's administration.

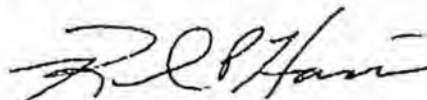
However, the industry can not do everything. The public expects that the State will have its people on site to ensure that before harvest begins all environmental controls are in place. The public also expects the State to monitor ongoing operations to ensure continued compliance and that per-operations requirements are implemented.

The industry, State agencies, fishermen and others are collaborating on revisions to the Forest Practices Act and Regulations. These revisions will augment the protection standards in one of the nation's most effective Forest Practices programs. We expect the changes will be implemented shortly. Division of Forestry personnel will need to inform operators of the new standards and provide assistance in their implementation. Reductions, particularly in forestry field staff, will detract from efficient implementation of these changes.

We appreciate your support of the Division's Forest Practices budget and the recognition of how important the Division's Foresters are to an effective Forest Practices program.

Sincerely,

SEALASKA CORPORATION



Richard P. Harris  
Vice President Resource  
Planning and Administration

cc: Loescher  
Kito  
Commissioner Shively  
Dean Brown, Acting State Forester

RPH:mlh



HEADQUARTERS  
**ALASKA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL**  
AUXILIARY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
R.D.G. 42-500  
ELMENDORF AFB, AK 99508

To: Rep. Mark Hanley, Chairman, Alaska State House Finance Committee.  
Rep. Gary Davis, Chairman, Finance Subcommittee (Public Safety).  
INFO: Sen. Bert Sharp, Sen. Randy Phillips, Sen. Dave Donley.  
Gentlemen,

The Civil Air Patrol was unable to testify by telecon in Anchorage recently to again present our request for financial support. We ask that you accept this written input instead.

The State provides us with about 5% of our total financial needs. 2% comes from the USAF and the balance comes from 1600 volunteers, 300 of which are pilots.

The State of Alaska support is very vital and our requested \$564,000. budget for this year is a "bare bones" amount. Included in this amount is unanticipated maintenance items at our facilities in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Kodiak, deferred maintenance, underground fuel tank removal, and basic hangar facilities.

We know that your job to reduce expenditures is almost insurmountable. But may we point out again the "big bargain" the State receives from this Volunteer Service, which is nearly Ten Million dollars a year.

In the budget constraint situation this expenditure is really saving us money considering how much another non-volunteer search and rescue activity would cost us.

Sincerely and thank you

William (Bill) Dam

Government Affairs Officer

Alaska Wing, CAP

277 0767

*Sorry there was a typo and the first Fax. This is correct*

29 March 1996

Kelli Mahoney  
925 Lone Cub Way  
Wasilla, Ak. 99654

To the <sup>House</sup>~~Senate~~ Finance Committee and members of the House and Senate from  
Mat-Su:

The legislature has gone too far in their haste to cut the budget at the expense of human beings. Legislators seem to believe that they were elected to cut the state budget at any cost. They do *not* believe that voters care about what happens to the politically invisible, the poor. They don't understand that when government spends money to prevent social problems, less must be spent on the results of those social problems. The legislators who create the problems by cutting money to prevent social ills know they won't be in office when those social ills are fully evident. The ones who really need to protest these cuts are those who will be hurt – in the long term, that means all of us. Here are some cuts that particularly horrify me.

Recently I toured Wasilla High School with a group of parents and teachers. In some classes, students sat on the floor, and desks were falling apart. In English classes there was one computer per 40 students. Yet the legislature wishes to cut \$750,000 from money for education, resulting in the loss of \$13.5 million in federal funds. Two and a half million will be cut from an already strained university budget.

After reduction of welfare, 400 to 500 ex- recipients must find jobs in the Valley alone. Yet the money for job training will be eliminated. The carefully planned and practical "One Stop" job assistance office will close its doors. For those lucky enough to get one of the non-existent jobs, child care programs will be cut \$1.7 million. So will programs that help keep child care safe and affordable for families working low paying jobs just to survive.

Poverty affects parenting in a negative way. After cutting money to help employ parents, we need even more money to help families deal with crisis and family stress. Yet the legislature wants to eliminate the Healthy Families program, one already proven to reduce the human and financial cost of family malfunction. When the legislature cuts the popular and humane rental assistance program, some of these families will not even have a home to visit. The legislature also wants to cut over \$600,000 from Child Support Enforcement efforts, already unable to meet the demand.

*There are unacceptable cuts in medical supplies for the disabled, poor and elderly.*

Alaska has a high rate of abuse to children, the elderly, and women already, even with current levels of income and homelessness. What have our legislators planned for the increasing levels of abuse? They will limit money to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse. They plan to deny victims of violent crimes any compensation. Adult protective services for the aged who are vulnerable to abuse, and the licensing of assisted living programs are also being axed.

With cuts we will have reduced training for law enforcement officers. We lose 24 new corrections officers, and violent offender beds that could be paid for with the help of federal funds. Village public safety officers will not be hired for at least seven communities without protection, and new prison guards will not protect our citizens from crime. Firefighter training that is proven to reduce deaths by fire will not be provided.

Laws protecting Alaskans from pollution and from unregulated landfills and industrial wastes will be weakened by reduction of the environmental crime unit.

Finally, the legislature wishes to eliminate the Compass program, one that assists communities in mobilizing to solve their own problems. The Mat Valley was fortunate enough to receive one of those grants and valley people were trained to mobilize--for what?

Please remember that to *most* Christians it is a fact that fact that God loves the poor. Remember what Christ said about those who do not feed and clothe the poor. I am ashamed to be an Alaskan during this Easter season. Recently an bishop was elected Alaskan of the year. What did this Bishop say about the proposed welfare cuts?

I remain yours on the side of justice,

*Kelli Mahoney*

Dennis J. Haas  
Lynnette Haas  
P.O. Box 2434  
S. Idotna, AK 99669

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

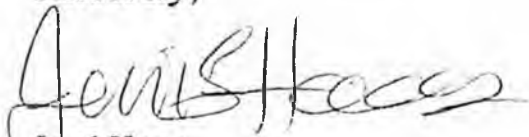
March 21, 1997

To: Mark Hanley

As a proud resident of the state of Alaska and sibling of a disabled child, I am apalled with the recent proposed cuts to Medicaid made by the House Finance Committee. Having first hand experience in caring for the disabled, I can attest that it is already a difficult task to care for their specialized medical needs. Any reduction to the services now available will further jeopardize the health of many disabled individuals. The quality of life for thousands of alaskans hangs in the balance of this decision.

I had always thought that Alaska was a state who had its priorities strait. We have a reputation to uphold here. We currently set the example for the rest of the nation with our programs available to the disabled. I also realize that some budget cuts need to be made. In order to do this effectivly, we must not catagorize the disabled along with the rest of the Medicaid/Welfare population. In order to balance the budget humanely, we must not do so on the backs of the disabled.

Sincerely,

  
Joni Haas

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

March 23, 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

I have a serious concern about the legislative priorities as they appear now. It is unconscionable to suggest increasing your own budget, while decreasing areas of the budget that affect children and families.

If welfare-to-work is going to achieve its desired benefits and intended reform, support is need for parents:

- Parents need to work.
- Parents need to have access to quality child care for their children.
- Parents need to know their children are safe.

If we are going to stop this recurring pattern of welfare and unemployment, support is needed for children:

- Children need quality child care if we are to maximize their potential and develop their skills.

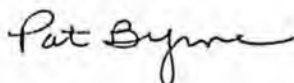
It is often said that "children are our future." Well, children are here now. We need to give them the maximum support now, so that in the future they will be astute, involved, contributing members in our community.

**Prevention is the key. It begins in the early years - with quality early education and with quality child care!**

**I respectfully request that you restore the funds needed for child care grants, for resource and referral, for education and training, and for developmentally appropriate materials for centers and programs.**

**Thank you for considering the children and families of our state.**

Sincerely,



Pat Byrne

Advocate for children and families

Teacher, Project P/PRIDE, Anchorage School District

President-Elect, Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children (AAEYC)

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

Paul Matheus and Toos Omtzigt  
1743 Coyote Trail  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

March 25, 1997

Mark Hanley  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
State Capital  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Co-Chair;

I am sure you have been receiving many letters, FAXes, and phone calls regarding the legislature's intent to cut funding for the University of Alaska. This letter also is aligned with those who are vehemently opposed to such cuts, but I would like to raise some points probably not addressed in most of those other letters.

The University of Alaska has taken decades to build, and at one point in time it actually had a good reputation for being a quality institution of research and higher learning. This reputation now is clearly in doubt, and citizens of Alaska are asking whether its legislators seriously care about this state of affairs, or whether they are aware that further cuts to its budget will have dire consequences. In fact, if we do not increase UA's funding it may still not survive as a respectable university system.

We believe it to be highly probable that the latest budgetary discussions reflect the shameful fact that our legislators have a very poor understanding of higher education and its role in society. No great, or prosperous, or ethical society has ever achieved its success without wisely investing in institutions of higher education and the endeavors that go on inside their walls— meaning that universities are not *universities per se* if they only function as glorified high schools. Yet the level of financial support being offered by the state seems to reflect a set of naive and short-sighted opinions by people who believe that the workings of a university are made up of rooms, chairs, chalkboards, and teachers orating non-stop as if they functioned as production workers, and as long as those items are minimally paid for, then university funding is adequate. This clearly must be a reasonable conclusion about the attitude in Juneau, otherwise it is inconceivable how the legislature could propose such cuts (while at the same time increasing its own operating budget — people have been clambering for smaller government, not smaller education. See the irony?)

It is sad, but the acts of our legislators regarding the university budget and other issues lately demonstrate that their concept of an efficient and functional society is one where market forces alone dictate what is important in our society. The rhetoric from Juneau is thick with the innuendo that the state should stop worrying about (and paying for) items which free markets "should" take care of. The examples are many: Why for instance, do we need a Department of Conservation— do citizens need governmental oversight of industries such as mining, construction, and logging? Of course not. After all, if citizens want to ensure that they have a clean healthy environment to live in, then their desires will be played out in market economics where the consumer's shopping power will only support clean developers, while those who operate unscrupulously will be purged because people will not buy their products. I hope you see how silly this reasoning is and how facetious I am being. I also hope that you can see how this thought applies to other issues, such as university funding.

Modern, societies need to use government to pay for services and facilities which the private sector does not provide because they are not profitable. This includes programs like welfare and the Department of Conservation. The current political agenda reflects some twisted belief that any service which is not profitable is unnecessary— for if it was necessary, then private industry would find a way to profitably provide it. This philosophy will undoubtedly go down as the great myth of the 1980's and 1990's (and by the way, citizens of other countries are laughing about it already). Government's role is to take care of the things which are not profitable, but which are good for our society, and government should be the people's tool to create the society it strives for and to make it as good a society as possible. In this light, one of government's most important responsibilities is to support higher education— because this is one of the main ways that our culture develops mature thought and perspective in adults. This means paying for a quality university system. The benefits of this investment do not

always show up as short term profits or gains. It is an investment into the betterment of our citizenship— and not just in the form of more highly skilled laborers, as legislators so crudely like to characterize a well-educated person. We are talking about education and training into facets of life (both directly and indirectly) that impact much more than just worker productivity. They directly influence the type of world we live in as social creatures.

So when you hear that some professor in Fairbanks is studying the way that bugs survive over winter, don't look at that as some esoteric researcher getting his/her kicks off the public dole. Instead, see it for what it truly is for our society— a person who is fascinated enough by the world to devote his/her life to understanding and explaining it in the most professional way possible and who is willing to teach others. But more important, see him/her as the person who inspires students to follow thoughts, ideas, and issues that are important to them. These are the types of people who then go on to be positive, contributing members of a good society. If you would like to put this into a more practical perspective, then consider this: The inspirational scientist interested in how bugs overwinter may not find a cure for cancer, but the person who does find that cure most certainly will have been a protégé of such a scientist. Simple math and simple minds do not see such connections.

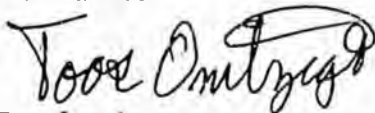
Finally, many of us find it difficult to understand how members of the current legislature approach the issue of university funding so cavalierly, since they are indeed a temporary body that is about to make a decision which will help destroy an entity which so many people and legislators before them have built up. The University is an investment made for us by preceding generations, and it really does not seem ethical for you to whittle away at this positive piece of our society which the state has invested so much into already. Which of you will stand up in twenty years from now and say, "I'm responsible," when all of the quality professors have left UA, when classes are being taught by temporary instructors (after all, that saves money, doesn't it?), when there isn't any real research being done to attract new students or quality faculty, and when no students want to go to our universities anymore because they simply consist of a few hollow rooms with chairs, a blackboard, and uninspired, underpaid instructors who are looking for jobs at other universities in states which give a damn. If you want to put the issue into market terms, consider the fact that we have to compete with other states and universities for students and quality personnel— not just to attract them, but to keep them— and that we just cannot do that without an investment. Good companies continually reinvest in themselves and they do what it takes to keep their valuable people happy. That seems to us to be something you should understand and consider with great care.

The University of Alaska has spent nearly a century building itself into a state university of quality and character. It would take very little to destroy it. Please have the foresight to give our university the support it needs to remain a quality institution and to rebuild itself from its recent onslaught. Hopefully, then we all may benefit in the long run from its many, but often intangible, contributions to our state. Indeed, is it not your job to help guide this state to a better long term future?

Sincerely,



Paul Mathews



Toos Omtzigt



RECEIVED

28 March, 1997

APR 01 1997

Representative Mark Hanley  
Legislature, State of Alaska  
State Capital  
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Dear Mark,

This expresses our concern over impending budget reductions to the State Historic Preservation Program.

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation is a non-profit, all volunteer, Statewide organization that is vitally dependent on the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) for support in carrying out our efforts to help preserve Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources. We currently have 229 paid members for 1997. Our partnership with the OHA allows us to expand the historic preservation at no cost to State or Federal funds, and I believe we have made a significant impact. The proposed cut to OHA however will seriously endanger our ability to aid in this worthwhile effort, and especially in the time frame of the Gold Rush Centennial.

Of notable concern is the fact that a reduction in State funding will reduce the Federal funding which is generally based on a 40% fund match from the State. Thus a reduction in State funding has a much larger impact on the preservation program. I understand that a \$94 thousand State cut will have a total reduction of \$235.2 thousand on the OHA State Historic Preservation Program.

I respectfully urge you to protect the State's Historic Preservation Program by not assessing these impending reductions.

Sincerely,

  
William F Coghill  
Executive Director

March 21, 1997

 John & Sherie Cheeseman  
127 Willcrest  
Soldotna, AK 99669

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

To: Mark Hanley

I am responding to the massive cuts to Medicaid proposed by the House Finance Subcommittee. It is presently difficult to provide care and assistance to children with disabilities.

I am a mother of two severely disabled children. These children are my life. I can't begin to tell you what beautiful human beings they are. However, they require very intense and constant (24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year) care. They are completely and totally dependent upon myself for every aspect of their care. It is very difficult and trying most of the time, but they are mine and I love them, therefore I'm willing to do it. However I find that it will be impossible to provide for my children's needs if there are any further Medicaid cuts. If I can't care for my children at home, I will have no choice but to institutionalize them. The cost for institutionalization would be in excess of \$280,000.00 per year.

Alaska presently leads the way in the de-institutionalization of people with disabilities, returning them to their families and home communities. The very foundation of the community service system will be eroded by any cuts in these essential services for people with disabilities. The quality of life that we've endeavored to provide for our disabled population will ultimately be destroyed.

Sincerely,



Sherie A. Cheeseman

**MARGUERITE A. McINTOSH, M.D., C.M.**

35670 Kenai Spur Hwy., Suite 104B  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
Telephone: (907) 260-3933

RECEIVED  
APR 01 1997

March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley  
Room #507, State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

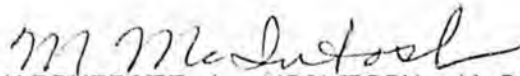
I am a family practitioner in Soldotna, Alaska. I have occasion to meet many special children who have various handicaps.

The importance of special programs for these children cannot be over estimated. They are in need of more, not less, services to make both their lives and the lives of their parents easier. For some of these children special programs can mean the difference between complete dependence and independence. Because my little boy Daniel, who is three years old, was diagnosed with autism one year ago - this point has really hit home with me. Through specialized training, my Daniel can become a productive member of society. Without the specialized training, he will be trapped forever in a world of silence.

Until you have a child with a special problem, you never know the incredible heroism of both children and the parents. These parents need all our support.

Please consider every dollar spent on these children as well worth it. Thank you for doing your job, thank you for representing all members of our society, including those who - through no fault of their own - were given a harder load to bear throughout their lives.

God bless you.

  
MARGUERITE A. MCINTOSH, M.D.

MAM/wkp

March 29, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 02 1997

Representative Mark Hanley  
State Capital, Rm. 507  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

I would like to preface this letter by stating that I am neither associated with any environmental organizations, consulting companies, nor do I work for the State of Alaska. I have spent a lot of time and effort writing this letter and have had first-hand experience with what I say. I am writing to you because I strongly oppose the proposed amount being budgeted for ADEC's Solid Waste Division for FY 1998 and I recommend that the funding level for this division be returned to that of FY 1997.

The proposed budget for ADEC's Solid Waste Division for FY '98 is \$690,000 (HB 75). This includes approximately \$400,000 from the general fund and \$270,000 from public program receipts according to a Legislative Fiscal Analyst I spoke with. This is a significant decrease from the enacted FY '97 conference committee budget of \$1,138,700 that included \$873,600 from the general fund and \$260,800 from public program receipts.

Although I am quite familiar with the Majority's reasons for cutting the state's budget, I am respectfully requesting that you carefully consider and respond specifically to my brief discussions of the following impacts that this cut will have:

1. Undesirable EPA scrutiny and regulation from Seattle.
  2. Unique Alaskan problems will not be advocated to the federal government and more stringent, costly, and sometimes completely non-applicable laws will be applied.
  3. The lack of environmental protection may be an embarrassment for lawmakers and the entire state.
  4. Most importantly, the threat to public health and safety will be compromised.
- 
1. This funding cut will render this division completely ineffective. This will in-turn cause EPA to take over the program and regulate Alaska from Seattle. ADEC will be able to fight off EPA for only a short period of time, all the while keeping ADEC from doing its real job, and eventually causing the entire division (and regulated communities) to be at EPA's mercy. It is not fair to Alaskans to make them deal with insensitive regulators from Seattle who have no interest in Alaska, who may visit the state only once or twice per year, and who have no understanding of unique Alaskan solid waste issues such as freeze-back permafrost technology, rural community issues, or oil industry wastes such as muds and cuttings.
  2. By rendering powerless the Solid Waste Division, the state will not be able to advocate unique solutions for unique Alaskan problems to EPA. Because permits are issued by the state, it is the state and not the permittee who petitions EPA for exemptions to federal laws. For example if ADEC's Solid Waste Division is cut as proposed, they could not

advocate for exemptions to federal laws requiring leachate (landfill wastewater) collection systems in permafrost landfills (leachate is frozen in these landfills) or permeability requirements for clays that do not exist in most Alaskan communities. The flexibility battle that ADEC has been fighting with EPA on proposed regulations will be lost. This loss will place major economic burdens on industries and communities throughout Alaska.

3. This cut may also produce political embarrassment. As you may know there is a growing organized effort in Anchorage for recycling and solid waste solutions. A large recycling summit took place on March 29 at the Egan Center. What message does it send to these people who are working together for solutions while their government is simultaneously working to push solid waste management back to the dark ages? These people (who aren't all Greenie Weenies) will be raising this issue to such emotional and political levels, that many lawmakers may not appreciate. Laying off the only professionals who deal on an objective level with scientific evidence to keep tempers down will not be advantageous.
4. I am sure that you are familiar with the significant solid waste problems that face Alaska. The numerous documented problems of unpermitted and illegal dumps, many Class II and III landfills, and not to mention some larger Class I landfills, pose giant fiscal, health, and safety threats for Alaskans and their communities. I have heard lawmakers say that closing the fiscal gap will be done without compromising the health and safety of the citizens of Alaska. It seems to me that the proposed cut to ADEC's Solid Waste Division is a very tangible threat to the health and safety of Alaskans. I would appreciate your comments on what I see as an obvious contradiction.

I recently learned that the Alaska Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) has advocated for the reinstatement of funding for this division as well. When the parties who represent the regulated community speak out against this cut, it should send a clear message that this cut is truly misguided. You would think that if there was any group who would agree with this cut, it would be this group. But they have taken quite the opposite position.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



Erik Fredeen  
4069 E. 20th Ave., #50  
Anchorage, AK 99508

RECEIVED

APR 02 1997

March 27, 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

I am very concerned about the funding for Kenai's Healthy Families Program (Parent Support Program). I feel the full funding of \$614,000 is very critical for the continuation of this program that serves over 40 families in the central peninsula area.

The goals of the program to help families stay healthy; help families be happy; and help families achieve their goals increased awareness in our community of this program and others available in the network system. This community values the services provided by these dedicated individuals as organizations are referring clients and word has spread even for self referrals. I strongly feel the funds appropriated for the Parent Support Program will save money for the State of Alaska in the future as we as citizens of the State provide services to help others become future better citizens. The Department of Social Services budgets potentially will be reduced due to the services provided to children at a younger age. They will grow up healthier and feel better about themselves.

As a member of the City Council in Kenai I appreciate your service to the citizens of the State of Alaska as a legislator.

Yours truly,



Linda L. Swarner

298 Rogers Rd  
Kenai, AK 99611

kccnyc@alaska.net

RECEIVED

APR 02 1997

March 24, 1997

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I'm writing in regards to the proposed Medicaid cuts that will effect Alaska's children with disabilities.

Please close your eyes. (This will take only a minute or two of your time, if you have a disabled child you will understand what I'm about to say.) Picture your own child with minor disabilities-maybe only blind from birth.... Next.... Blind including inability to walk and communicate. Then seizures (many in a day) and no control over natural bodily functions, and finally, retarded.

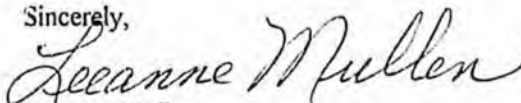
Hard to picture? It is for me as well, because my children are quite normal, all four.

My sister, Lynnette, however, has a child with all the same disabilities I described above. Katie has needed full attention 24 hours a day since birth. She is now 15 years old. Lynnette and her husband, Dennis, have found it difficult to find jobs that offer insurance that will cover Katie's special needs. In reality, employers do not want to hire people whose children are disabled, because insurance is too expensive for them. In the mean time, Medicaid is the only coverage they can depend on.

Please help separate the severely disabled from the general Medicaid welfare population. They need our help.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Leeanne Mullen  
243 S. Park St.  
Anchorage, AK. 99508  
(907)333-6117

Mary Ann Borchert  
1768 Chena Ridge Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709  
(907) 479-2087 Fax (907) 457-3900  
maborche@alaska.net

March 31, 1997

TO: House and Senate members, Alaska State Legislature

Dear Legislators,

I am writing about proposed cuts in university funding. My message: *one of the most basic things which the state of Alaska should be funding is education, including the university. To cut funding in this area is grossly negligent and will adversely affect the future of this great state of ours. We have an obligation to educate our young people with the best possible education which we can provide. This is a rich state. We can afford to provide an excellent university to our citizens, but we seem to be willing only to support it at subsistence level.*

This letter is to inform you of my concerns regarding the currently proposed budget cuts to the University of Alaska system. Cutting the UA budget can only prove to be a short-sighted solution to a long term dilemma. The greatest single resource in Alaska is its young people. Vital to their success is the availability of high quality education within the state. What we as Alaskans cannot afford is a university crippled by political manipulations of its financial support.

There are currently several arguments used by those proposing an eclipse of the UA system. One is that the university has not yet been affected by state budget cuts. In fact, funding has dropped 30% over the last ten years, while enrollment and services have increased by 10%. Another charge is that the university has not made an effort to become more self-supporting. Since 1991, tuition has increased by 50% and services have risen in price, while administrative costs have been reduced. Finally, some say that the state pays too much for the university. According to William Wood, past president of the university, Alaska appropriates a smaller portion of its general fund to the university than the average state in the Union.

In conclusion, the university is a resource whose intrinsic value cannot be measured, enhancing the educational, cultural, and economic health of this great state. I urge you not to support these proposed budget cuts, but, instead, to stand behind the University of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Borchert  
UA Alumna and former staff member (retired in 1995)

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

Terje G. Birkedal  
3450 Kachemak Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99515

Legislator Mark Hanley  
Chair,  
House Finance Committee  
State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

17-347  
D

Dear Legislator Mark Hanley:

As a member of the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation and an eleven year resident of Alaska, I am very disturbed by the budget reductions that have been proposed for the Alaska State Historic Preservation Program.

The House Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee proposes to cut \$24,000 out of the Office of History and Archaeology's budget. Because this state money is used as Latching money for \$141,000 in Federal dollars the effective cut is actually \$235,000; a reduction that will translate to a more than 40 percent cut of the State Historic Preservation Officer's core historic preservation program.

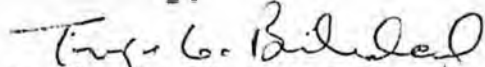
The fiscal benefit of this cut would seem to be slight compared to the losses. First, the legislature has targeted a tiny and already minimal program that brings \$6.00 of Federal dollars into the state for every \$4.00 of State dollars. Secondly, the reduction threatens one of the most successful models of decentralized State/Federal partnership, a program with a track record dating back over 30 years. The National Historic Preservation Act which established the State Historic Preservation Officers made these state officials the key parties in the implementation of the law. Cuts this deep could force the Federal government to take over the program in Alaska; something I am sure the legislature does not intend.

Since the proposed reductions cut deeply into the core functions of the State Historic Preservation Officer the result will be unavoidable delays in historic preservation compliance. What the legislature must realize is that these delays will greatly increase the cost of corporations and companies that do business on Federal land or require Federal permits to do their work. I saw this kind of delay wreak havoc on energy development in New Mexico in the late 1970's and it led many companies like Mobil and Utah International to become open advocates for adequate

funding for the New Mexico Historic Preservation Officer. In fact, the New Mexico Department of Mining and Minerals forced a strong alliance with the State Historic Preservation Officer and fiscal conservatives like Senator Pete Dominici (New Mexico) have been consistent supporters of historic preservation on the local and national front. It is also important to emphasize that the cuts will severely reduce the ability of the State Historic Preservation Officer to provide either direct monetary aid or technical assistance to local Alaskan communities who recognize the draw value of historic preservation in terms of tourist dollars (i.e. the Nenana steamboat, Kennecott, Skagway, the Olson House, etc.). The dedication of the Nenana as a National Historical Landmark several years ago brought out a local crowd of 5,000 in Fairbanks and numerous tourists with dollars in their pockets ever since.

In sum, the proposed cut makes no sense from any angle. The legislature should not cut simply for the sake of cutting; especially when the reductions hit a tiny yet important program that has already been brought to minimal levels through multiple prior budget "hits" over the years. If you have a specific problem with their operation or style of approach deal with the specifics don't do random chops.

Sincerely,

  
Terje G. Birkedal

To:  
re:

March 27, 1997  
Mark Hanley

Child Care Programs

20-393  
N

from: Janie Nusbaum  
2080 Diamond Drive  
Anchorage 99507-1359  
562-3326

As a licensed child care provider I have seen a large number of children through their early years before entering school. I've made a huge impact on their lives. They spend 10+ hours each day in my care. This is a most serious responsibility! I accept this, and daily do my very best to provide for them. I keep up to date on these issues of development, safety, hygiene, nutrition. I read, study, school, cook, clean. Teach, nurture.

The Food Program reimbursement I receive is so helpful to us all. With it comes newsletters w/ menus + tips on nutrition + hygiene. Grand ideas for children's participation + growing knowledge of which foods are best for them. Of course it allows me to provide top nutritional value for growing bodies. Parents are very thankful. Some finding it so hard to provide.

This program is regulated + I'm inspected. It works for all.

The Grant Program (CCGP) is a stipend to help defray my costs for developmentally correct toys + equipment. You may visit + see how wisely spent these funds are. Wonderful things to bring these children along, push them to reason. What a plus for self-esteem. Makes them excel, readiness for school. Without these funds, I would be unable to provide this

My self esteem too, is tied into this. "Decent wage" feeling makes me feel worthwhile. Losing these funds stabs at my self-image. I'm not just a babysitter!

How can I replace this - gaining? Must I drop my license + add to my group? I must meet my obligations. What corners to cut?

Your vote will help me decide  
Janie Nusbaum

**NORTHWEST MEDICAL  
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION**

2841 DeBarr Road, Suite 22 • Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: (907) 276-6301  
Fax (907) 264-1541

**Vernon A. Cates, M.D.**  
*General Practice*

**John W. Gerster, M.D.**  
*Internal Medicine*

**Robert D. Hanek, M.D.**  
*Family Practice*

**Allen Baskous, M.D., M.P.H.**  
*Family Practice  
Occupational Medicine*

**J.C. Cates, D.O.**  
*Family Practice  
Pediatrics*

April 1, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Hanley:

I was extremely dismayed to see you vote in House Finance to zero the Alaska Science & Technology Foundation and take its endowment. This is extremely short-sighted and would be a disaster for Alaska. ASTF is not a 'give-away' program. Its Board of Directors are leaders in the community, and carefully consider grant requests after reviews by peers in the field. It is doing precisely the type of controlled economic development Alaska needs after the oil runs out. Even Wally Kickett is a great supporter.

You may not be aware of the many good projects ASTF has helped with. Legislators tend to only hear from those we have declined to fund. But in my time on the Board, I have changed my staunchly Republican laissez-faire attitude after seeing what directed state investment can really accomplish. ASTF takes as its model the Michigan Fund, previous home of our Executive Director, which through a consortium of government and industry investment is helping Michigan rise from their dependence on the collapsing auto industry. Also on our Board is the founder of Teledyne, who single-handedly turned Austin, Texas into the software capital of the country, again, through directed fund investment. We in Alaska are a miniature of these large funds, and are learning from their experience.

Many of ASTF's projects are small, and by themselves will not save the future of Alaska. But in the aggregate, I think they can tremendously diversify the economy. I also see ASTF as a miniature of the potential of the Permanent Fund itself, an experiment if you will, of growing Alaska's economy. Virtually all ASTF projects lever many other dollars in matching funds as well.

Many of us applaud your efforts to cut a bloated state government. ASTF takes not one penny from the State Budget. Its endowment is co-mingled with the Permanent Fund, and only the interest may be spent. Indeed, if there are not sufficient good projects to fund, money is not wasted. An endowed fund is the essence of fiscal conservatism. But killing the goose that is laying golden eggs is wrong.

I have been very impressed with what ASTF has been able to do with relatively little funds. It also has a tremendous potential to do a lot more for this state. I will be in Juneau April 8-9 attending ASTF's Board meeting, and would be glad to sit down with you and talk about the Foundation, and the future of our great state.

Sincerely,

John W. Gerster M.D.

Vice-Chairman of the Board, Alaska Science & Technology Foundation

JWG/hs

18-361  
R

## Charles M. Mobley & Associates

200 W. 34th #534, Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
(907) 653-1937, FAX (907) 561-2415

mobley@alaska.net

Archaeological Survey

Cultural Resource Inventory

Historic Property Evaluation

Archival and Historical Research

March 26, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

Dear Representative Hanley:

I'm writing to ask you to support full funding for the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology (AOHA). This agency houses the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and that position's functions, and it is the most important heritage management position in the state. The SHPO is the only person that Alaska's citizens can rely on to watch that federal agencies and other parties don't unthinkingly destroy the archaeology and architecture that reflects our state's past. Nationwide, it is the strength and support of the SHPO by which other states and the federal government measure our commitment to Alaska's heritage.

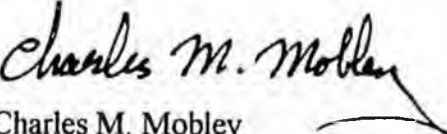
As a professional consultant specializing in cultural resource management, I interact with the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology's staff several times a month. They have many tasks and responsibilities by which they grease the wheels of Alaska heritage management, and there is no other state or federal agency that can pick up the slack if they should be downsized. They are underfunded as it is. Reducing their budget is pound-foolish, and arguably not even penny-wise. Costs of increased litigation alone, resulting from their lack of participation in the state's cultural resource arena, will more than offset any small financial benefit to the state budget, let alone the construction delays that will develop.

Even more important, I am **absolutely against** making up any budget shortfalls by simply upping the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology's *authorization to receive* money from other state and federal agencies to conduct contracted research. That is what I am in the business of doing -- contracting with state and federal agencies (and mining and oil and timber companies, Native corporations and tribal groups, etc.) to conduct contracted archaeological and historic architecture studies. My own state agency, the AOHA, is directly competing with me and my colleagues in the private sector for state and federal contracts. I've never appreciated it, and I don't look forward to the Alaska Legislature encouraging more of it by cutting the AOHA budget.

The SHPO helps enforce Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. That law requires that federal undertakings (by virtue of federal land, money, or permit) take into account their affect on significant cultural resources. Alaska's citizens, including your constituency, benefit from that action many times a year (see enclosed reports). If you underfund the AOHA, this sort of local heritage celebration may stop.

I ask that you not decrease the AOHA budget. I ask that you not maintain it as it is. I ask that you increase direct funding for the AOHA.

Sincerely,

  
Charles M. Mobley

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 69  
BARROW, ALASKA 99723  
☎ 907 852-2611 or 0200  
Fax: 907 852-0337  
email: bnageak@co.north-slope.ak.us

RECEIVED  
APR 01 1997



March 24, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley  
Mailstop 3100  
Room 507  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Proposed Elimination of the Solid Waste Management Program

The House Finance Subcommittee of the Alaska Legislature has proposed significant budget reductions for the Department of Environmental Conservation, including the elimination of the ADEC Solid Waste Program. I understand that the preliminary budget has passed the Finance Committee with the solid waste program budget eliminated. This budget is subject to Committee approval, at a meeting scheduled for the week of March 24, 1997.

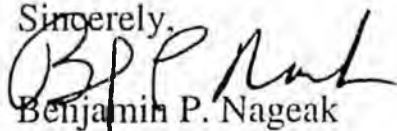
By eliminating the solid waste program, the North Slope Borough will be forced to operate under US EPA regulations. Flexibility for landfill design and closure will be lost. NSB landfills incorporate specific design features for the arctic environment, such features would not receive consideration. Alternative designs acceptable to ADEC will not be acceptable to EPA. For new facilities, such as a new Barrow Landfill, design will become subject to EPA Sub Title D regulations, which have many additional requirements that will add to costs significantly. For example, a liner will be required that will increase costs approximately \$50,000,00. For closure of sites, cover material requirements will increase costs, and use of alternative cover materials will not be allowed. Landfill inspection and compliance status determinations would be assessed by US EPA, who would also issue Notice

of Violation (NOV) and Enforcement Actions if federal standards are not met.

Over 280 landfills will become unregulated by this program's elimination. Class III landfills, of which the NSB has seven, will become deregulated and be re-classified as Class II landfills. This change will cause great expense to the NSB, to modify existing landfill site operations and to upgrade landfills to Class II standards. The Land Disposal Program Flexibility Act of 1996, by which the Governor can waive additional federal provisions for Class III landfills would have to be repealed.

I urge your support to reinstate the management of the State's solid waste management program in ADEC's budget.

Sincerely,



Benjamin P. Nageak

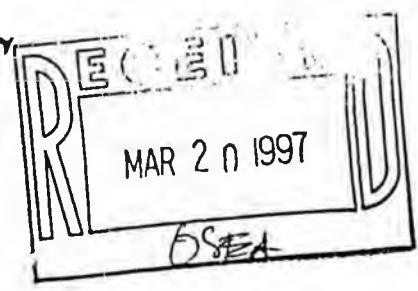
Mayor

North Slope Borough

cc: Rep. Reggie Joule  
James P. Sharpe, North Slope Borough  
Don Thornburgh, North Slope Borough



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101



MAR 4 1997

227LY TO  
ATTN OF: WCM-128

Michale Brown, Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 105  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795

Dear Commissioner Brown:

*Michale*

We understand that the House Finance Subcommittee of the Alaska Legislature has proposed significant budget reductions for the Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), including elimination of the Solid Waste Program. We also understand that the Senate Finance Subcommittee is considering similar actions. We believe such reductions and the elimination would severely limit ADEC's ability to implement effective environmental programs in the State of Alaska.

In light of these activities, I have determined that Region 10 shall temporarily suspend activity on its review and planned publication of a Final-Partial approval of the state's municipal solid waste landfill permit program. We published our Tentative-Partial approval (determination of adequacy) in the Federal Register on November 24, 1996. I am putting a hold on this project until it is clear what the intentions of the Alaska Legislature are with respect to the State's program.

If a state eliminates its solid waste program, the costs to the public for municipal waste disposal will clearly be higher than if the State has a program and has obtained EPA approval. This is because the most of the elements of flexibility that are in the federal municipal landfill regulation can only be used by States that have received EPA approval. In addition, the Anchorage landfill savings of \$12 million would not have been possible without the presence of a state solid waste program. Another potential result of eliminating the State's program is that, under the federal law, EPA may itself take enforcement actions against landfills if the State program is inadequate.

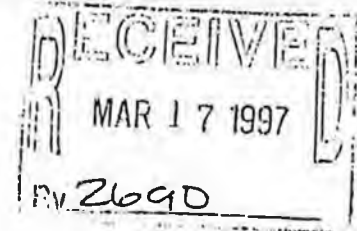
I am hoping this suspension will only be a short-term event and look forward to hearing the outcome of the Legislature's deliberations. If you have any questions, please call me or have your staff contact Steven Sharp, (206) 553-6517, here in Seattle.

Sincerely,  
*Chuck*  
Chuck Clarke  
Regional Administrator



REPRESENTATIVE KIM ELTON

March 17, 1997



Dear municipal managers and mayors:

I want to take this opportunity to give you a heads up on a proposal to eliminate the solid waste program administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation. The current Republican House majority budget proposal eliminates the program. That means over 280 Class I, Class L, and Class III landfills and garbage dumps will be unregulated, as well as more than 230 industrial waste sites.

Loss of the state program results in dramatically increased costs for landfill operators and municipalities because operators will be required to meet rigid federal standards rather than the more flexible state standards. Easily quantified ramifications include:

- 1) nearly \$55 million in project upgrades if state primacy is lost;
- 2) increased liability if unregulated landfills contaminate groundwater;
- 3) skyrocketing costs for clean-up;
- 4) increased health risks from uncontrolled disposal of honey bucket waste;
- 5) increased civil actions because the feds encourage enforcement of federal standards through the filing of citizen lawsuits.

Cutting the state program by eliminating \$800,000 in general fund dollars is not a cost saving--it is a cost transfer. The DEC budget subcommittee chair, Rep. Vic Kohring (R-Wasilla), told the subcommittee he wants to "get the state out of the business and let municipalities and users pay." Unfortunately, his approach saves less than \$1 million in state funds but will cost solid waste facility owners (public and private) and users much, much more.

I've attached a letter DEC just received from the EPA that discusses possible effects of this budget cut proposed by the Republican majority. Additional information about the effect of this cut on your municipality can be obtained from DEC. You may also want to contact House Speaker Gail Phillips (R-Homer), or House Finance co-chairs Mark Hanley (R-Anchorage) and Gene Therriault (R-North Pole) to discuss this proposed cut to state funds which dramatically increases your costs.

Sincerely,

  
Rep. Kim Elton  
House Minority Whip

# Alaska Forest Association, Inc.



111 STEDMAN SUITE 200  
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901-6599  
Phone 907-225-6114  
FAX 907-225-5920

RECEIVED  
APR 01 1997

March 27, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hanley: *Mark*

I understand the report of the House Finance subcommittee on the DNR budget included a reduction of \$150,000 in the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FPA) component, and another \$20,000 in resource management, which will affect the timber sale program in Interior Alaska. According to DNR, the FPA reduction will result in the loss of two staff people in the Coastal Region who work on FPA notifications, and all their FPA travel. This is of grave concern to the Alaska Forest Association and its members. It is my understanding that the Senate will not be making these cuts, and I am writing to ask that you consider restoring this component when the budget is considered in Conference Committee.

The Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FPA) was a compromise law that enabled the state to protect public values (especially fisheries) that were affected or potentially affected by timber harvest activities on private land. The private landowners agreed to forgo millions of dollars in potential profits from trees growing in riparian buffer zones as a means of protecting important fish habitat. In return, they received assurances that the state would provide a monitoring and enforcement presence so that the public would know that timber operators were complying with the terms of the Act. The industry has lived up to its commitment and has a right to have the state live up to its side of the bargain.

Specifically, the House cuts would affect AFA members by delaying operations in many instances and by preventing companies from having the assurance that any given action will be satisfactory to the agencies. Furthermore, inability of DNR personnel to go to the field to review variation requests could result in landowners having to leave trees behind that they could otherwise safely and legally harvest. This could result in many thousands of dollars (perhaps millions) in lost revenue. Given the terms of the Act and the agreements reached when industry supported the Act, this would be grossly unfair.

As examples, let me cite two companies, one large, one small, who would be affected by any significant reduction in DNR's FPA funding:

- 1) One company filed 24 notifications on 14 projects under the Act last year. They have already filed 17 notifications on 11 projects so far this year. The 1997 projects entail 4,600 acres and 58 miles of stream. As market conditions and project plans change, and as

previously unknown fish bearing streams are located in the project areas, the number of notifications on any given project tends to increase. The landowners desire to comply with the law, but they also need the agency to be able to handle the notifications and attendant inspections, lest the projects get delayed and the company lose money and market opportunities. Many jobs can ride on these projects.

This same company filed variation requests on 426 trees last year. The law allows a company to request a variation to harvest individual trees standing in riparian buffers. Before such a request can be granted, there must be a determination that removing the particular tree will have no negative effect on the integrity of the buffer. This often requires a field visit, and therefore will be affected by the funding reduction.

- 2) Another company filed notifications on 4 projects in 1995 and 6 in 1996. It has already filed notifications on 1 project this year and expects more. While the percentage of responses may be correspondingly reduced under the proposed cuts, it should be obvious that a smaller company will be hit even harder by delays, since a larger percentage of its business relies upon each project. Also, it is not a given that a smaller company will not feel a higher proportion of the reduction since economies of scale could actually make it easier for the agency to respond to requests from larger companies more quickly.

In summary, I urge you to protect the FPA segment of DNR's budget for at least three reasons: 1) fairness to those companies who are employing many people in the forest products industry and who agreed to forgo profits on timber grown along fish-bearing streams with the assurance of agency cooperation; 2) the state's recognized responsibility to monitor public resources that are generally affected by activities on private land; and 3) the need to provide some measure of legitimate state regulatory support for private forest products companies who employ many people directly and indirectly, and who contribute to the economy and the general fund revenue stream through taxes.

Thank you for your consistent interest in and support of our industry. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jack E. Phelps  
Executive Director

cc: Rep. Gail Phillips, Speaker of the House  
AFA Board of Directors  
Thyes Shaub, Shaub & Associates

RECEIVED

APR 01 1997

March 18, 1997

To: Mark Hanley

I am writing to you regarding the budget of developmental Disabilities. The Medicaid program is so very important to all of us in the State. If the proposed cuts take place, the following services would be totally eliminated.

1. Mammography
2. Prosthetic devices
3. Medical supplies and equipment
4. Targeted case management
5. Rehabilitative services

I am the wife of a disabled man in a wheelchair and the mother of a little girl named Tiffany, who is in a wheelchair and has cerebral palsy. I wish you could live one day of my life, then you would understand the challenges that I am faced with on a daily basis. You would never vote in favor of these changes. Life is a big enough challenge with a disabled person to care for. When you have these wonderful, special needs people in your life you do all you can for them. Then comes the reality of life, the struggles, the fight, the hard work, stress and physical abuse one's body takes, and hardly having time for yourself. I urge you not to support these cuts, as these services are vital to all of us. Without your help in this matter, I can not continue to support you with my vote.

Sincerely,

Danny, Trina and Tiffany Vail  
Soldotna

DANNY T & TRINA VAIL  
340 S KOBUK  
SOLDOTNA AK 99669-7800



RECEIVED  
APR 01 1997

March 18, 1997

Representative Mark Hanley  
Alaska State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska  
99801

Dear Representative Hanley:

RE: PROPOSED CUTS TO TOURISM BUDGET AND PROGRAMS

We were distressed to hear that the Alaska Legislature is considering entirely eliminating the budget for the Department of Tourism and drastically reducing funding to the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council.

We have witnessed the implementation of very effective marketing initiatives by the ATMC that have attracted millions of dollars in cooperative marketing contributions from the visitor industry. The Department of Tourism continues to play a pivotal role in coordinating industry activities, communications and state-wide visitor services.

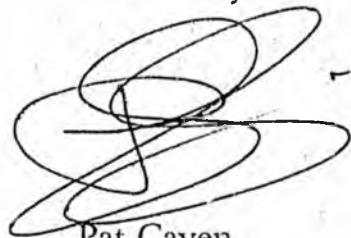
While it would appear that large corporations such as Alaska Airlines and Holland America will continue to have a presence in the market on their own, the proposed cuts will devastate small business and small Alaskan communities. These businesses rely on the activities of the Department of Tourism and the ATMC to maintain a marketing presence. The small business sector continues to create jobs and stable economic growth in the North.

The rural Alaskan travel experience significantly influences Alaska's popularity as a visitor destination. Competing destinations have been increasing their marketing activities and budgets, and we have been able to keep pace by attracting significant industry contributions. Maintaining these partnership contributions from the industry will require continued financial commitments from the State of Alaska.

The Yukon is a very small market and we have limited financial resources. Alaska's marketing investments dramatically impact our visitor industry. It is said that "when Alaska sneezes, the Yukon catches pneumonia!" We are catching a cold . . .

We urge you to reconsider planned budget reductions to the Department of Tourism and the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pat Cayen', written over a series of overlapping horizontal lines.

Pat Cayen  
Chairman

KLONDIKE VISITORS ASSOCIATION

cc: Honourable Piers MacDonald, Government Leader  
Yukon Territorial Government

Honourable Dave Keenan, Minister of Tourism  
Yukon Territorial Government

Barry Bellchambers, President  
Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon

Bob Engelbrecht, President  
Alaska Visitors Association

David Karp, Executive Director  
Alaska Tourism Marketing Council

Klaus Roth, Co-Chair  
Yukon Tourism Marketing Council

April 2, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 02 1997

To:

House Finance Committee/Senate Finance Committee/Senate Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee

Fax:

From:

Historic Ketchikan Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization which promotes economic development through historic preservation and heritage tourism. Historic preservation planning is critical to economic development in cities, such as Ketchikan, where most of the commercial and housing stock is over fifty years old. Basically, maintenance and restoration of historic properties keep them on the tax register. In Ketchikan, where tourism is a strong component of the economy, historic preservation planning has an even more vital role. Tourists pay for an authentic historic experience - they wish to experience the "character" of the town - what makes it unique. Ketchikan is very fortunate in that the "character" is mostly intact; Historic Ketchikan's programs are designed to strengthen and preserve the history of the community for residents and visitors.

The State Office of History and Archaeology supports the Historic Ketchikan program in a variety of ways. They provide necessary assistance for Historic Ketchikan projects. For example, Historic Ketchikan receives grant monies from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation which it re-grants to homeowners for House Restoration - to rehabilitate Ketchikan's existing housing stock. One of the necessary steps in the grant process is review of the property by the Office of History and Archaeology. This timely review is very important to Ketchikan's grant program!

The State Office of History and Archaeology assists Ketchikan's Certified Local Government. OHA's grants have funded the survey and inventory of the Stedman-Thomas District, the Grant Street Trestle and the existing canneries in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. A grant was also awarded to the CLG for the nomination of the Stedman-Thomas District to the National Register of Historic Places. Due to its inclusion on the National Register, property owners now have additional tax incentives for renovation projects. And, OHA provides assistance in using these federal tax incentives for building renovation. If the budget for the State Office of History and Archaeology is cut by \$94, the state loses \$141.2 in federal matching monies. This would mean less funds granted out for projects all over the state - including Ketchikan.

The centralized database of historic and archaeological sites is also important to maintain. It is significant that the Office of History and Archaeology works as a valuable partner with many other organizations and thus is a centralized source of information on a variety of history-related topics. Historic Ketchikan recently benefited from this network and received a grant from an outside source for a Heritage Tourism project.

Please allow the State's invaluable Historic Preservation Program to remain intact; it's important to all of us!

Sincerely,

*Jalene Kintner*  
 324 Cedar Street  
 Ketchikan, Alaska  
 99901

RECEIVED  
APR 02 1997

OFFICE OF

Mark Wilson

---

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

PO Box 220569  
Anchorage, Alaska  
99522-0569

PH: (907) 276-4115  
Fax: (907) 276-5859  
e-mail: wilson@alaska.net

April 2, 1997

To: Representative Mark Hanley  
From: Mark Wilson

re: Financial Support for the State of Alaska  
Department of Commerce and Economic Development  
subj: Division of Trade and Development

The remarkable growth in the Alaska exports over the past ten years has been accompanied by the demonstrably improved performance of the export trade service providers in Alaska.

Alaska exports valued at about \$2.2 billion, of which about \$2 billion goes to the Asian markets, are largely the products of the resource industries. With increasing potential, however, the "economic base" of Alaska is growing. From clothing manufacturing and the huge growth in value added fish products to specialized telecommunications, environmental remediation, arctic development of oil, mining and timber resources Alaska has much to offer the international business community.

As compared to the entire worldwide marketplace, a large part of the reason that Alaska business have been so successful in Asia is due to the substantial investment of the state's Legislature in the predecessor agencies of the Alaska Division of Trade and Development and into the offices and representatives in Japan,

Taiwan and Korea. Some thirty years ago the state had embarked on a plan to develop Alaska's industries. Through the Division of Trade and Development, the State made the commitment to develop offshore markets, establish personal relationships and provide the governmental infrastructure to constructively support the effort to assist small business over the long term.

The Division of Trade and Development is one of the very few state offices that is pro-actively helping Alaska small business grow. The bottom line is that the expansion of Alaska's markets means more stable jobs for Alaskans.

Our largest markets are outside of Alaska. For any single Alaska company the cost of finding those markets, connecting with qualified buyers, establishing formal protocol and understanding international rules and regulations is a daunting and expensive prospect. In the early years, Alaska business had little success developing international markets. With foresight, however, the government of Alaska invested in Alaska's future with the establishment of the Division of Trade and Development.

The Alaska Division of Trade and Development is becoming the organization we must have for the future. It is staffed by trained and experienced trade representatives, it is focused, efficient and effective -- operationally, it is budget conscious. Alaska's most successful and natural markets are in Asia. There is promise in Russia and other third world countries, too. The job of the Division of Trade and Development is to make the direct connection between the buyers and sellers of Alaska goods and products internationally.

But, these international markets require experienced professionals as never before. We need the experience of people who have built their professional lives in the international marketplace, who are competent, capable and creative. Today, the Alaska Division of Trade and Development has the people that will enable us develop the markets of tomorrow.

The Legislature is looking hard to cut state spending, an important and difficult undertaking. But, they are making a serious mistake in proposing to cut to the bone an agency like the Division of Trade and

Development. Historically, the offices of the state of Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development and, today, the Division of Trade and Development have been a repeated target of budget cuts. Now, the House budget plan calls for eliminating half of the Division's Trade Specialists. This move is decidedly anti-business.

Alaska is lucky. We have representatives in Japan, Korea and Taiwan. We have our foot in the door in Russia. We have the Trade Specialists with the business contacts and experience to make the solid connection between the markets and Alaska's small business. It is these people that make things happen, it is the Trade Specialists that deliver upon the government to government relations, the networking of business interests and the stability of long term commitments.

What we need now is for the Legislature to build upon the linkage we have established, not dismantle it.

A. W. BRINDLE  
H. A. BRINDLE

RECEIVED

PROCESSOR OF  
CHOICE ALASKA SEAFOOD  
SINCE 1912

APR 01 1997

## Wards Cove Packing Company

PHONE (206) 323-3200

89 E. HAMLIN STREET  
P.O. BOX C-5030  
SEATTLE, WA 98105-0030

Day Fax (206) 323-9165

March 19, 1997

The Honorable Mark Hanley  
Senate/State Capitol - Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Fax: (907) 465-2418

Dear Representative Hanley,

I am writing to express my support for the budget as submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). I find it ironic that the legislature would consider cuts in the funds provided to this essential agency. Ironic because the Department of Fish and Game administers a source of revenues to Alaska second only to petroleum.

Wards Cove Packing company has been processing salmon in Alaska under present ownership since 1928, and has operations from Ketchikan to Western Alaska. Over the past several years I have watched with concern as ADF&G has taken several cuts to their budget. In a consequence, that agency has had to abandon programs that have produced the harvest, escapement, or other life-history index data that managers rely upon to make management decisions. As the budget and programs have been reduced, there has also been an increasing appeal from fishermen and their families for supplementation from the private sector.

The private sector has supported several management programs in Bristol Bay, the most prominent of which is the University of Washington Fisheries Research Institute test fishing program at Port Moller. The data generated by Port Moller provide in-season run estimates that are remarkably accurate, and provides huge benefits for managers, fishermen, and the resource. This example, however, is also unique because the industry has a long history of support in that region. Recently, the private sector has been asked to support a new sea urchin fishery in Southeastern Alaska. ADF&G Has advised that, due to budget restraints, this 3 million pound per year fishery would not proceed without supplemental contributions. As funding for ADF&G is reduced, so are opportunities for new or emergent fisheries.

The seafood industry is vitally important to the Alaskan economy. It is the largest private sector employer in the state, with one-sixth of the states' employment attributable to fish harvesting or processing. Alaska has seen more salmon in recent years than at any time in recorded history, but maintaining the impressive number of returning salmon is no small accomplishment. Prudent fisheries management will ensure the continuation of this vital resource into the new millennium.

Page 2

While Alaska is enjoying the results of prudent resource management, Canada and the Pacific Northwest states faces serious problems with their salmon resources. The Department of Fish and Game is primarily responsible for the success of salmon fisheries in Alaska, and further reductions in the Departments budget can only reduce their ability to manage these indispensable resources. I urge your support for the budget as submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alec W. Brindle".

Alec W. Brindle  
President

AWB/cp

Author: brendasc@ptialaska.net at CC2MHS1

Date: 3/21/97 2:44 PM

Priority: Normal

FROM: Representative Alan Austerman at LAA\_TRANS

Subject: VPSO Program

TO: Rep. Hanley

Representative Austerman,

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. VPSO's are on call and are 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 non-natives VPSO's in villages, so the cost of an airplane ticket to Kodiak is between \$60-\$140 round trip. Groceries as you are aware are very expensive in small communities. Fuel and housing are very high as well.

Why is the legislature looking at cutting the VPSO Program? The VPSO Program needs more funding. There are no supplies line items, there are no equipment line items, there are no phone line items, there are no funds for operation and maintenance of vehicles, overtime is rare, and the legislature wants to cut funding? If a VPSO could earn a decent living in a village we would have less turn over and more interest in becoming a VPSO. It would be nice to see the Legislature providing support to rural communities as it does in supporting Troopers. Troopers at least have money to purchase pencils and paper, VPSO's do not. The following is a very brief income survey for the Kodiak area;

#### Kodiak Income Survey

Safeway Courtesy Clerk (grocery bagger) \$ 6.00hr Age 14 or 15  
6.50 Age 15 or 16

Safeway Cashier 7.50hr

Corrections Officer \$14.27 - 19.68

Police Officer 17.56 - 24.22

Dispatcher 13.71 - 18.91

State Trooper Recruit \$19.64

Distatcher 15.84

VPSO \$10.79

As you can see, A VPSO makes just a little over \$4.00 an hour more than a 15 year old grocery bagger. A VPSO makes less than a dispatcher, corrections officer, and State Trooper recruit. A VPSO would have to be on the job over 17 years to make what a beginning Trooper recruit makes. Actually, the VPSO salary schedule doesn't even go higher than \$18.04 per hour after 17.5 years of service. Think about it.

The more that you cut the VPSO Program, the more difficult it will be to provide public safety in rural communities. A starting salary of \$10.79 per hour isn't going to excite anyone about going to a village and spending 80-90% of their time dealing with domestic violence and alcohol related incidents.

Maybe you can talk about an increase instead of a cut to the VPSO program.

Brenda Schwantes  
brendasc@ptialaska.net

RECEIVED  
APR 01 1997

Became sick in 1989.  
Started Life Quest Case Management Services in 1992  
Started Intensive Rehab Services in 1996

### **Before Life Quest Services Started**

Homeless  
No concept of money management. Spent moneys on trivial things or gave moneys away.  
API 3 times  
Providence Hospital 1 time  
Illinois State Institution  
St. Maries Mental Ward  
Santa Cruz Mental Health Ward  
Suicide attempts  
Depression and isolation of frequency of 7 days per week.

### **Improvements amde with servciies in last year**

Maintained housing  
Have stayed out of any Mental Health Institutions for the past 2 years.  
Cut down on Meds.  
Takes better care of self: Exampes: bathing, grooming pride in apt.,  
In last year have begun to recognize and manaage symptoms, with less thoughts of suicide.  
Decrease isolation to 2 days a week.  
Plans for the future include attending college in Summer.

### **Feelings of what is going to happen if Services stop.**

Support systems, transportation

Include all other feeling and fears you have.

*Back into Institutions*

Became mentally ill in 1993. Was admitted to Georgia Medical Center where I stayed for 3 months.

API 2 times

Providence Hospital 1 time.

**Improvements made with service in last year**

Learning new behaviors

Recognizing and managing symptoms

Contributing to society by working in a particular business.

Taking care of animals without harming them.

Taking responsibility for my actions.

Life Quest Services are important to me because I would not have transportation to meet my personal need. I need IRS and Case Management Services to assist in keeping me stable and out of the hospitals.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE  
 committee name  
 committee on BUDGET/MEDICAID, dated 3/25/97  
 bill/subject

I hereby register opposition to any proposal which would cut Medicaid funding for substance abuse treatment services. If you have to cut the Medicaid budget, **substance abuse treatment coverage should be the last to go, right down there with basic health services for children. Because the bottom line is that substance abuse treatment for adults is a basic health service for Alaska's children.** It affects whether their parents get up in the morning and get them off to school. It impacts their education, safety, and nutrition, all of which impacts future employability. Is mother passed out, or is she awake and able to feed them? Who is watching the children while the parent is out? Some junkie friend who molests them? Are the children sitting in cars at bars in freezing weather? Are 10-year-olds driving their drunk fathers home? Does the car heater work and do they have coats? These are very real issues for children of substance-abusing parents in this state.

I've lived in this valley 25 years and here's what I've seen. Most people go to treatment because they are ordered by the courts or DFYS. Most of them grew up in alcoholic homes themselves and don't know any other way to live. **Medicaid coverage for substance abuse treatment gets people into treatment who wouldn't otherwise, especially women with children.** Some don't get sober the first time around, but the money you invest in their treatment is definitely worth it in the long run. **Because every minor glimpse into a sober lifestyle we can give these people creates possibilities for themselves and their kids.** It improves the chances for them and their children and saves Alaska money in the long run.

**This state has a huge, huge drug and alcohol problem, and until we address it with every gun we have, we haven't a prayer on controlling costs in other areas of skyrocketing need, such as Department of Corrections, DFYS, welfare, and juvenile detention. These costs will continue to skyrocket with each new generation until Alaska addresses substance abuse with every resource and every dollar we can find.**

Signed: Margaret Rose Carney  
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
P.O. Box 870431 Wasilla AK 99687  
 Address  
907-376-3133  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance  
 committee name  
 committee on HB # 76 - Budget, dated 3-24-97  
 bill/subject

I feel very uncomfortable about the hole  
 things a people in lifequest need the  
 attention and help from lifequest  
 you all think busis in alaska are  
 highly numberd ~~in~~ and on the streets  
 wait until this happens.  
 This is very sad what do you think  
 you would vote for if you were a  
 helpless client,

Signed: Marvin Clayton  
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
mile 7.05 park's way willow AK 99688  
 Address  
995-1155  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE  
 committee on BUDGET/MEDICAID, dated March 24, 1997  
 bill/subject

To Whom it May Concern,

The elimination of services #14 & #15  
 on the "Table of Medicaid Priorities" will  
sabotage current efforts to get Welfare  
 recipients back to work, and will cost  
 a great deal of money elsewhere  
 in the system. Please review the  
 attached information and take  
 counsel from people who recognize  
 the impact that this decision will  
 have on our community.

Signed: Michelle Overstreet  
 Testifier

Concerned Citizen for Welfare Reform  
 Representing (Optional)

1210 Lake Lucille Dr. Wasilla  
 Address

376-7627 (m) 376 4000  
 Phone No.

# THE FACTS: Alcohol and Other D

## AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

- The total economic costs to the United States of substance abuse is estimated to be approximately \$166 billion per year. Of the \$166 billion, \$99 billion (60%) are costs related to alcohol abuse, and \$67 billion are related to other drug abuse. (Brandeis University, 1993)

- In Fiscal Year 1994, addiction to and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other substances will account for at least \$77.6 billion in Federal expenditures on entitlement programs. (Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1995)

- Four out of ten Americans (76 million people) are affected by alcoholism in their family. (National Center for Health Statistics, 1988)

- Successfully treating alcohol problems costs 10 times less than the current cost of alcohol abuse to society. (Institute of Medicine, 1990)

- Marijuana use among eighth-graders has more than doubled since 1991. One in eight eighth-graders (13%) used marijuana in 1994, while nearly one in five high school seniors (19%) used marijuana at least once a month (Monitoring the Future Study, University of Michigan, 1994)

- For every 1 dollar spent on alcohol and other drug treatment, taxpayers save \$7 in the direct costs to society associated with drug addiction and abuse. Additionally, treatment pays for itself on the first day of delivery of treatment services to an addicted individual. (California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Evaluating Recovery Services: The California Drug and Alcohol Treatment Assessment, 1994)

## AND CRIME

- In a national survey of prison wardens, more than nine out of ten wardens stated that they believe that "expanding the use of drug treatment in prisons or in the community" will make a major (39%) or a moderate (52%) difference in reducing crime in their community or state. (U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, 1994)

- More than 60% of men arrested for burglary, larceny-theft and stolen vehicles in the Drug Use Forecasting program in 1990 tested positive for drug use (Bureau of Justice Statistics)

- A RAND study found that substance abuse treatment is seven times more effective in reducing cocaine use than domestic law enforcement. (RAND Corp. Drug Policy Research Center, Controlling Cocaine: Supply vs. Demand Programs, 1994)

- A recently-released comprehensive drug and alcohol treatment follow-up study of approximately 3,000 individuals (CALDATA) found that criminal activity declined 66% following treatment, and the longer the individual remained in treatment, the greater the reduction in criminal activity.

- Individuals sentenced for drug offenses constitute the largest and fastest growing category in the Federal prison population, accounting for 61% of the 1993 total, compared with 38% in 1986. One in five Federal prisoners are low-level non-violent drug offenders with no previous record. (Department of Justice, 1994)

- Glouster, MA Prevention Network has implemented a comprehensive community-wide substance abuse prevention program that has resulted in a 63% decline in heroin arrests, a 21% decrease in narcotic cases in the court system, and a 25% decline in DWI arrests.

# Drug Addiction

## AND HEALTH CARE COSTS

- 25 to 40% of all general hospital patients are admitted for alcohol-related problems. (Brandeis University, Substance Abuse: The Nation's No. 1 Health Problem)
- One in five hospital days and \$7.4 billion of Medicaid inpatient hospital costs are linked with abuse or addiction to alcohol or other drugs. (Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1994)
- Nearly one-third of all AIDS cases are related to intravenous drug use, and 70% of all pediatric AIDS cases are related to maternal exposure to HIV through drug use or sex with a drug user. (Centers for Disease Control, 1993)
- Hospital emergency room admissions due to heroin use jumped 86% between 1990 and 1993. During the same period, cocaine emergencies rose by 53%. (Drug Strategies, 1995)
- Substance abuse will cost the Medicare program one trillion dollars over the next 20 years. (Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1994)
- Approximately one-half the cost of alcohol and drug addiction treatment is offset within one year by subsequent reductions in the use of medical services by the primary patient and his or her family. (Luckey, 1987)
- More than 5% (221,000) of the 4 million women who give birth each year use illicit drugs during their pregnancy. (1994 National Pregnancy and Health Survey, National Institute on Drug Abuse)
- The state Alcohol and Other Drug Authority in Minnesota has reported that, for chemical dependency treatment clients, the state has saved approximately \$22 million in annual health care costs. (National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Invest in Treatment for Alcohol and Other Drug Problems: It Works, 1994)

## IN THE WORKPLACE

- United Airlines estimates that it has a \$16.95 return for every dollar invested in a drug-free workplace program. (ASIS O.P. Norton Information Resources Center, "Substance Abuse: A Guide to Workplace Issues," August, 1990)
- The cost of alcohol and other drug use in the workplace, including lost productivity, medical claims and accidents, amounts to \$140 billion per year. (Brandeis University, 1993)
- 38 to 50% of all workers' compensation claims are related to the abuse of alcohol or other drugs in the workplace. (National Council on Compensation Insurance, 1993)
- Employed drug abusers are 3 times more likely to be late for work, 33% less productive, and likely to incur 300 percent higher medical costs and benefits when compared to their non-abusing counterparts. (Drug Strategies, 1995)
- Approximately 17% of all workers abuse alcohol or other drugs. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1991)
- More than two-thirds of regular drug users are employed—more than 8 million workers—and 15% say they have gone to work while under the influence of drugs in the past year. (Brandeis University, 1993)
- A substance-abusing employee is absent 10 times as often as a non-abusing employee. (Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 1992)
- Up to 40% of industrial fatalities and 47 percent of industrial injuries can be linked to alcoholism and alcohol consumption. (Bornstein and Mahney, "Occupational Medicine," 1989)
- One out of every four American workers has a substance abuse problem or a family member with an alcohol or other drug addiction. (The National Institute on Drug Abuse, cited by the Center for a Drug Free Workplace, January 1992)

*This refers to  
other healthcare  
costs - NOT  
the cost of the  
tx!*



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE  
 committee name  
 committee on BUDGET/MEDICAID, dated 3/24/97  
 bill/subject

To: Rep. Masek,

Dear Ms. Masek,

I am a voter in your district. I appreciate the efforts that this legislation session has made to bring state spending under control. However options 14 + 15, which would reduce medicaid spending for substance abuse treatment, are short sighted. When we take treatment opportunities away from those who need it, we are simply "stepping over dollars to pick up dimes." By spending money on rehabilitation services we'll save money down the road in health care costs, incarceration costs and the cost of the pain + suffering caused by substance abuse. It may be attractive to cut this money out of the budget but in Alaska with its extreme rate of substance abuse, it would be foolish. Thank you

Signed: David J. Medicino  
 Testifier  
Self  
 Representing (Optional)  
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